

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



February 2023 No:211

The cold snap was slightly shocking to the system as up to Christmas the weather had been relatively mild. However, a real bonus of the cold weather has been the amazing sunrises, stunning frosty verges and trees and the glorious sunsets. The first snowdrops and aconites have also been spotted - doesn't it just lift the spirits?

This month's Grapevine is full of the usual information and reports. It's wonderful to see how much we have to look forward to in the coming year; alongside the regular monthly events such as KIT Cafe, Whist and a brand new regular event Vintage Messy, later in the year there are quizzes, Jazz in Garden and a return visit of the Shantfolk to look forward to. Hopefully there is something there that will appeal to everyone.

We (as Editors) would like to take this opportunity to say a truly heartfelt thank you to Keith Payne for all our weather reports over the years. We sincerely value all the contributions that he has made to our village magazine and Keith's contributions have provided a genuine long term record of the peak and troughs in St Clare. We will miss his wry humour and subtle jokes. We extend a warm welcome to Alice Ward-Thomas who has kindly agreed to take on the mantle of Weather Reporter! Alice introduces herself on a later page.

This magazine is purely for our village - we hope that it provides the information and articles that you want to read. We cannot do it without your support so please feel free to send in contributions or ideas of what you would like to see.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends,

Gosh it's February already! I can't wait for the avalanche of Valentine's Day cards that will drop through my letterbox!

Seriously though, I have been reading some surprising facts about St Valentine, one of them being that he is the patron saint of beekeepers and epilepsy, as well as the plague, fainting and travelling!

The story of Valentine is very sad. He was a Christian priest in the 3rd Century in Rome and was martyred for his faith. At the time, Christians were being persecuted under the Emperor Claudius II who was trying to get more men into his armies. Claudius believed that men did not want to sign up because of their wives and girlfriends and so he banned all engagements and marriages in Rome. Valentine defied Claudius and continued to conduct marriages in secret.

When this was discovered, Claudius ordered that Valentine be put to death. Valentine was arrested and beaten to death, with his head being cut off on February 14 around the year 270. It is good to remember St Valentine on 14th February, even if we have not received flowers or chocolates!

Love is a powerful emotion, but it's hard to imagine our lives without it. St Paul spoke eloquently about love in his first letter to the Church in Corinth. He said:

"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

May the love that you feel for those special people in your life continue to bring you joy and happiness.

Yours in Christ,

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter

revsharon2@gmail.com 01284-828599 or 0782508

Cockfield Benefice Services & Events – February 2023

Saturday 4th February	2-4pm 'Vintage Messy' at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall.
Sunday 5th February 3rd before Lent	9.30am Communion CW - Stanningfield 11am Morning Prayer CW - Cockfield 11am Communion CW - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Six-to-Seven - Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 12 February 2nd before Lent	9.30am Said Communion BCP – Cockfield 11am Communion CW – Bradfield St George 4pm Praise and Worship – Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 19 February Sunday next before Lent	9.30am Communion CW – Stanningfield 10am Family@Church – Felsham 11am Communion CW – Cockfield 4pm Evening Prayer – Bradfield St Clare
Wednesday 22 February Ash Wednesday	11am Communion & Ashing - Felsham
Sunday 26 February Lent 1	9.30am Communion CW – Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together – Bradfield St George 10am Communion BCP - Gedding

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
A prayer group meets via zoom every Wednesday at 2pm via zoom
For more details contact Canon Sharon at 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

4th Feb, 4th Mar, 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

Church Warden's Report



How quickly the year turns around. My last report was written in November, looking forward to Advent and Christmas. Now we are at the end of January and Christmas seems like a long time ago.

Our carol service was very early last year – the 4th of December – and so was really an Advent service. This meant that we sang Advent hymns rather than the traditional carols that we are used to. A bit different, but if you missed those traditional carols, our service this year should feature them.

We were fortunate enough to host the Crib service for the Benefice - and on Christmas Eve too. Our little church looked so pretty, with a real tree, holly, ivy and crab apples lining the windowsills and candle lanterns lighting the path. Thank you to everyone who helped with the decorations. It was lovely to see so many children at the service, joining in with reading and drawings and enjoying the sweets and cakes afterwards. A proper start to Christmas!

In 2023 our service dates and times have changed. Please note that the Communion service will be on the first Sunday of the month at 11am, not 10am – hopefully a help to those who struggle with early mornings. Evening prayer will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 4pm until the clocks change for summer and then at 6pm.

As always we need to raise money to pay our way. On Friday February 10 there will be a quiz in the Village Hall, hard work and profits to be shared between the church and the Village Hall. Tables of

4 are ideal, but if you can't manage that, come anyway and we will put people together. Refreshments will be provided, but bring your own drinks. Tickets from me on 01284 386169, or Val Nunn on 01284 388830

Later in the year we hope to hold an evening garden event with jazz and food. And if you missed them in November 2022, we've booked the Shantfolk for a return performance this November. They proved enormously popular, so watch this space.

Having worked in Exeter and then here in Suffolk with homeless men and women, I would ask you to spare a thought – and hopefully a donation of food – for those people sleeping rough on our streets during the bitter nights that we have experienced lately. Food donations can be left in the church porch or at the house of Sue and Clive Leal.

Isobel Payne

WINTER QUIZ

Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

10th February 2023 at 7pm

Tickets £7 each to include refreshments.

Tables of 4

Please contact Isobel Payne on 01284 386169

or Val Nunn on 01284 388830 for tickets

All proceeds to be shared between the Village Hall and the St Clare Church

The Government's new Emergency Alert system is under trial and due to be launched sometime this year. Once the system is launched, if there is a danger to life nearby your mobile phone or tablet will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe (see attached pic for the alert display format).

The Government does not need your phone number to send you an alert.

For most people, the chance of receiving an alert will be low.

Emergency alerts will only be sent by:

- the emergency services
- Government departments, agencies and public bodies that deal with emergencies

You may get alerts about:

- severe flooding
- fires
- extreme weather
- public health emergencies

Your phone or tablet may:

- make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent
- vibrate
- read out the alert

More information here:

<https://www.gov.uk/alerts>

Final Message from Australia



Happy new year to you all.

If you cast your mind back to the Christmas addition we were having some not so Aussie weather while we pushed to get all harvest done. Well, this is what has been going on for me in the last few months to end the harvest trip.

So, November 13th we at last started cutting some wheat, this is their main crop on the farm with around 9000 acres to cut, with the aim to cut around 250-500 acres roughly a day (100-200ha). With all the summer storms we were having we were worried about the yield drop but the first block was doing 3-4 tonne per Ha which is an amazing crop as they normally have 2-2.5 tonne per ha. So it looked promising.

While we moved up to our biggest block the yields dropped a bit but this is due to a number of things; Soil type, lots of rye grass and wild oats, but still doing over 2 tonnes per Ha. Of course, when we were getting in the swing of it all, and doing some nice 16-18 hr days, we had a storm one night that put the brakes on, but that only meant one thing! Pub time! And a nice lay in to catch up on sleep in the morning.

With such a challenging year a number of us have been stuck, literally! I was the first one to completely sink the chaser and tractor, had one combine go down and one of our trucks, so we are getting good at pulling things out with our quad track. Weather did slowly improve at the end of November by hitting 33-36c heat.

The last day brought us a 40C day with 40 Kph winds and lightning storms. Recipe for fire, when the fire risk is so high they put a harvest ban on so no one can cut anything or they will get fined and if you are one of them and do and your combine goes up you can't claim on your insurance whatsoever, so it's a day of in the pool and plenty of drinking

With only 6 weeks left it started to feel weird that before I knew it I'll be heading home but by far the weirdest thing was that it was 30+ in December and will still be cutting till the Christmas week. I was lucky to be able to have a few days on one of the combines to fill someone's place which was nice as it's been around 4 years since I've been in one, I was lucky to be able to do a lot in Norfolk a while ago.

In the last 2 weeks left of harvest and on the home straight it seems the Aussie climate was telling us that we needed to go even closer to Christmas. With two more harvest bans, break downs, grain bin problems and some unexpected storms, we had to come away from the wheat for a few days and go and get the chick peas done. These are mainly grown to put slow releasing nitrogen into the ground, very slow and dusty cutting that's for sure.

We finally finished up doing the last two fields of wheat and went back north to just finish the whole harvest up with the Oats.

So just some quick facts-

Started cutting 20th October

Finished 16th December

Whole farm is 50.000ha (123,552 acres)

Cropping 17.000ha (42,000 acres)

Being over here for harvest has definitely shown me a lot of things, how one of the biggest grain grower deals with things and the problems they have faced and what they are dealing with now.

Massive scale farming which you only see In Australia and lastly how lucky we are back at home when we can actually just walk or drive 20 mins to some shops and not 1hr drive just to get to the nearest big town as it is for them where I was.

Lastly, I hope you enjoyed reading about my time in Western Australia harvesting. It's been fantastic to write about it and tell you all how it is over there. Until you come no-one ever understands how big it is here, and thank you to the Grapevine editors for letting me share my travels. Until next time....thanks for reading
Dan Goodwin

Bradfield Woods



We are a Covid secure organisation with safe practises in place in accordance with government guidelines

FEBRUARY EVENTS at Bradfield Woods:

11- 19th Feb – Build a nest box week
10am – 2pm £10 per box

All welcome, no need to book

Wednesday 15th Feb – Holiday club 9am – 3.30pm Booking essential

Sunday 19th Feb – Spoon carving course
10am – 3pm Booking essential

Saturday 4th March – Learn to use your axe course 10am – 4pm Booking essential

For more information and booking

Please book at:

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

or 'phone

01473 890089

A Christmas miracle at Bishops Farm...

Winter was certainly upon us in the lead up to Christmas, with several days of below zero temperatures following what to that point had been extremely mild. I spoke about controlling aphids and virus yellows in my last article, this prolonged cold spell was ideal for killing off aphids and we can now rest easy with no/low risk of our cereal crops developing symptoms of virus this spring. The frosts did wonders also to our soil in terms of what we call freeze-thaw, where the soil expands and contracts during the freezing and thawing. This will help with soil friability in the spring where we are planning to establish spring crops.

However, like every coin there is an opposite side and the negative impacts of the cold weather have left our Sugar beet crop in a poor state. The frosts have damaged a large part of the root crown where the majority of sugar is stored. The harvesting team who we rely on externally were stood down for nearly two weeks as the harvester couldn't even cut into the soil that was frozen solid. The factory at Bury has had processing breakdowns as the frosted beet is more difficult to process now, so coupled with the lost harvesting time our crop has been pushed even further back down the list of those to be harvested. Sugars are reportedly down as low as 9% from 17%+ so it is likely we will see a reduced adjusted tonnage from the factory. It was around 2010 the last major cold spell that affected beet harvesting; and the decision was made to plough the frosted beet in because the cost of harvesting would have been more expensive than the cheque we'd have received from British Sugar! Fingers crossed this won't be the case this year....

The daily livestock tasks were also more challenging in the cold weather; after 10 days of bedding up and defrosting water troughs in below zero conditions we were grateful for the milder weather that came over Christmas!

However, we are eternal optimists here at Bishops Farm and the days are now getting longer which means spring is around the corner. Blue tits and robins are all chirping away in the garden and around the farmyards and believe it or not, the clover in our herbal leys is already starting to grow. For the eager-eyed among you I reported in my last article we had nothing for our visiting sheep flock to graze this winter. However, that decision was overruled when a spurt in autumn growth on our silage grass field by the Church allowed for over a fortnight grazing for 200 ewes.

For the even more eager-eyed among you, you may also have spotted a miracle lamb was born during its time here! Somehow it got through that freezing winter spell and was very much part of the flock by the time the sheep were moved on. This particular flock is not due to lamb until March so where this little one came from nobody is quite sure.... Clearly a ram was not accounted for one-night last summer!

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing how the farm and fields change over the coming months. Tom
-Dairy Farm House.

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BRADFIELD WEATHER

Change in all things is sweet - Aristotle

Although just a part of the inevitability of life moving on, it is with a certain sadness that I write this, my last weather report. My plea in the previous edition of the Grapevine proved successful! It was somewhat appropriate that I learnt at the Advent Carol Service of the coming of this totally willing volunteer – no arm twisting necessary- who will introduce herself later.

That last edition of the Grapevine was actually written mid November and with more rain in the second half of the month it proved to be by far the wettest month of the year at 109.5mm against our average 60.4mm and the highest rainfall in November since 2000.

The significant weather-related event in December was the arrival of some 2cm of snow on the 12th, which hung around for the best part of a week, with the temperature barely rising above freezing night or day during that period, until all washed away by heavy rain to deny us a white Christmas. Two more days of heavy rain in the latter part of December, including New Year's Eve, gave us a total of 69mm for the month compared to an average of 57.5mm, only the second month in 2022 that we exceeded our average.

Our total rainfall for 2022 came in at 443mm, the equivalent of 17.5 inches. Unsurprisingly, in the 30 years since recording started in the village the only year lower than this was 1996 at 414mm. Our 30 year average is in fact 607mm. Although I have no records it has been widely reported that, despite the cold snap in December, 2022 was also the warmest year since national records began.

As a final piece of totally useless information, I calculate I have measured some 5679mm of rain in the 9 and a half years whilst doing this report!

With grateful thanks to my successor and wishing her all the very best for the future. **Keith Payne January 2023**

Introducing our new Weather Reporter....

Hello Keith, Have you been inundated with rain measuring volunteers?"

"Totally overwhelmed"

"I thought you might have been. If no-one else pipes up I've always been quite interested in the rain..."

"Great. I'll give you our rain gauge!"

Or something along those lines... at the Advent Carol Service!

But joking apart, first of all, a huge thank you to Keith for his informed and entertaining reporting of our weather for the past nine and a half years. I can't promise to be as informed but I shall do my best at remembering to take and record the measurements - after the past summer every drop really does count!

I'm Alice Ward-Thomas and we live at The Lodge, Bury Rd so the rain I measure will be what falls here - pointing that out isn't quite as weird as it may seem; there have been plenty of occasions when it hasn't rained here but has at the village centre!

There's been quite a bit of measuring to do thus far in January and we've had 46mm to date (20/01) - still plenty of time to go and I don't think the water table is back up to where it should be yet. The dew pond down the bottom of the park here totally dried up this summer and isn't yet back to its usual January level. This week has been frosty again with overnight temperatures well below freezing - much ice breaking of water troughs and no good for getting on with the garden jobs. But the first of our crocuses are flowering and the snowdrops and aconites are just showing their heads, so hopefully by the time you read this spring will be stirring (if not quite throwing off the bed covers just yet).

Alice Ward-Thomas 20th Jan 2023

BIN COLLECTIONS FOR February 2023

Tuesday 31 January	Brown Bin
Wednesday 1 February	Black Bin
Wednesday 8 February	Blue Bin
Tuesday 14 February	Brown Bin
Wednesday 15 February	Black Bin
Wednesday 22 February	Blue Bin
Tuesday 28 February	Brown Bin
Wednesday 1 March.	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:

8 February	28 June	18 October
8 March	28 June	15 November
5 April	23 August	14 December
3 and 31 May	20 September	



Our next opening will be: Saturday, 18th February, 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. 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.

We are very pleased to announce that our County Counsellor, Sarah Mildmay-White, who is a regular visitor to our openings, has secured us a grant of £300. This is very much appreciated and will help secure the future of our drop-in café.

This is YOUR café and was set up by our community in Bradfield St Clare. We named it KIT café to stand for Keep In Touch so that neighbours and friends can come together and share news, meet those new to the village and enjoy a cup of tea, coffee and slice of cake in the relaxed and friendly atmosphere of our village hall. If anyone has any ideas on how we can make the café even more enjoyable please don't be shy. We'd love to hear about it.

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.

Village Hall Whist Drive

Seventeen players attended our January, 8 ladies and 9 gentlemen. It was a very enjoyable night with four tables plus one 'flirt' table. We also welcomed two new players, Adam and Sarah, who both played well and said they thoroughly enjoyed the games.

The winning players were:

Ladies: Shirley took the first prize on 164, closely followed by Vera in 2nd place with 163 and third was Jus came on 161. Joy took the wooden spoon on 141.

Gentlemen: Steve won the first prize with 168, Gerry came second on 166 and Jim took third place with 161. Brian took the wooden spoon this week with 141.

Whist Drives are held in the village hall on the first Friday of every month, the next one being **Friday, 3rd February at 7.30 pm**. Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. 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 07493245825.



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01284 386538 (Head office)

If you are a writer or poems, composer of quizzes, have an interesting hobby or have read a really good book and could write a short review please feel free to share with us.

Deadline for Grapevine is the 18th of the preceding month.

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A JOLLY GOOD READ

The Hidden Life of Trees

Peter Wohlleben

Peter Wohlleben provides an interesting theory that trees form a social network, how trees make families together and communicate with each other. The blurb on the book says that 'A walk in the woods will never be the same again'. I believe this to be true. Whether you buy into his theories or draw your own conclusions, this is a book that will certainly give you something to think about, and especially where we live make you look at the countryside around you very differently!

Spiced Carrot and Apple Muffins

100ml oil

100ml natural yoghurt

50ml runny honey

2 eggs

1 tsp vanilla extract

200g self-raising flour

1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

1½ tsp ground mixed spice

1 apple, grated

1 carrot, grated

50g sultanas, raisins, chopped nuts or seeds (optional)

Method

STEP 1

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and line a muffin tin with nine cases (alternatively, use squares of baking parchment). Mix the oil, yoghurt, honey, eggs and vanilla in a jug. In a bowl, combine the flour, bicarb, mixed spice and ¼ tsp salt. Pour the yoghurt mixture into the flour mixture and add the apple and carrot, as well as any extra ingredients you're using. Mix with a spatula until well combined, then spoon the mixture into the muffin cases.

STEP 2

Bake for 20-22 mins, or until a skewer inserted into the middle of a muffin comes out clean. Leave to cool for at least 5 mins. Can be stored in a tin for three days or frozen for two months; defrost overnight before serving.

Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Commemoration

As part of the celebration of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Village Hall Committee decided that part of the grant given to them by the District and County Council should be spent on planting trees in her memory as it was her wish to create 'The Queens Green Canopy'.

In early December a number of saplings of various species were planted on the west side of Church Lane in line with a tree, planted in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The planting was carried out by Will Wall and Sue Holden Lorraine and Mike Morley, John Kirk and Gerry Bullard. Special thanks to Lorraine and Mike for allowing the trees to be planted beside their field.

The trees were kindly donated by the Woodland Trust and to record the event brass plaques will soon be provided at the bottom and top of the lane bearing the inscription "This Avenue of trees, donated by the Woodland Trust was planted in December 2022 in Celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee as part of the "Queen's Green Canopy"

Answers for the Christmas Quiz - hope you have kept them in a safe place!1. Jo March 2. An Angel gets its wings 3. The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe 4. 364 5. Marshmallow 6. A Cloak of Invisibility 7. Four 8. Albus Dumbledore 9. Donald Trump 10. Tiny Tim.

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@stedsbcb.gov.uk
Bradfield St Clare Book Club/Village Hall Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn - 01284 388830
Bradfield 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