

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



March 2023 No:212

Hopefully another comprehensive edition for you this month! Spring is definitely a recurring theme - what a glorious time of year and a sign of things getting busy. Flowers in the hedgerows and the trees beginning to bud and, mostly this month, in bright sunshine Enjoy reading Alice's first weather report. Makes you feel like toging up and going for a walk

The village quiz was a great success, as always a convivial atmosphere and a generous amount of money raised for the Village Hall and Church. Kit Cafe was, as usual, a very sociable affair, even the Cribbage board came out! The large selection of savouries and cakes is always a delight - you wouldn't get that choice at home on a Saturday morning - well worth a visit.

A couple of more sombre things are reported in this month's magazine. An increase in the amount of dog poo and what appears to be the destruction of the signs politely asking for people to be responsible in clearing it up. It's a beautiful area to walk, such a shame if it's spoiled by stepping in dog muck. The other incidents to report are the three break-ins on the Bury Road. The report is a synopsis of the police report on the Neighbourhood Watch/Nextdoor group. Please can we all be vigilant, check and secure your sheds. It's upsetting when we actually live in a very safe and friendly area.

On a bit more cheery note - we are writing this on Pancake Day - savoury or sweet? Some of each we say 😊

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends,

I know that it feels a bit early to be talking about Spring but I have seen spring shoots coming up all around the garden, and at times it does feel as though Spring is well and truly on the way. I have also seen plenty of snowdrops on the paths that I have been running just lately.

We can all marvel at the way in which the earth recovers from winter and I'm sure many of us are looking forward to warmer times when we can turn our heating down or off. This will be a welcome relief for those who have really struggled with their energy costs over the winter.

I think that many of us are struggling in all sorts of ways with life at the moment, not least with the news that reaches us about the Ukraine war and the earthquakes that have devastated parts of Turkey and Syria. Seeing and hearing about such misery and pain can overwhelm us, and we cry out to our God to help those who are in the midst of these crises.

As we move through Lent, my prayer is that we can give thanks for the many blessings that we have here in this lovely part of Suffolk. The communities that we have are, on the whole, so kind and generous. We are very lucky, and I thank God every day that I am so privileged to be here. And we continue our prayers for those who are experiencing pain or suffering, that they may experience the love of God in their lives too.

Yours in Christ,

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter

revsharon2@gmail.com 01284-828599 or 0782508

Cockfield Benefice Services & Events – March 2023

Saturday 4 March	2-4pm 'Vintage Messy' at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall.
Sunday 5 March Lent 2	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 March Lent 3	9.30am Said Communion BCP – Cockfield 11am Communion CW – Bradfield St George 4pm Praise and Worship – Gt Whelnetham
Sunday 19 March Lent 4/Mothering Sunday	9.30am Morning Prayer CW – Stanningfield 10am Family@Church – Felsham 11am Communion CW – Cockfield 4pm Taizé Service – Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 25 March 	Crafts - Food - Stories All children welcome with carer/parent. 3-5pm. Venue tbc. Contact Canon Sharon for more details.
Sunday 26 March Lent 5/Passion Sunday	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 & every Thursday at Stanningfield at 9am.

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

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

tel: 01284 828599 or 078250 086063

Take a look at our facebook page!

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 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



February has seen the start of a new pattern of services at our church. This year our communion service will be held on the first Sunday of the month and Evening Prayer will be held on the third Sunday. Full details of all the services in the Benefice can always be found in the Grapevine.

This month we also started to host **Vintage Messy** in the church on the first Saturday of the month from 2 to 4pm. Whatever your skill in crafts – or in my case, lack of skill – come along, have a cup of tea and a piece of cake and enjoy a crafting session. There are always others ready to help if you need advice or inspiration.

On the 10th February the Parochial Church Council – PCC - teamed up with the Village Hall committee to host a quiz in the village hall. Another sell out! Everyone seemed to enjoy it and we raised £360 shared between the church and the village hall. Many thanks to Clive Leal who shared writing the questions with me, to Sue Leal who scored and to all ‘usual culprits’ who arranged the room and prepared all the lovely refreshments.

Tomorrow is Shrove Tuesday, followed by Ash Wednesday, as we enter Lent. Keith asked me today why we eat pancakes on Tuesday. A quick check on Google confirmed my belief that it started as a tradition to use up all the rich foods in the larder – eggs, milk and flour – before the austerity of Lent began. Similar to the idea of Mardi Gras– Fat Tuesday – which is celebrated in many Caribbean islands with the colour and splendour of Carnival.

As tradition dictates, there will be no flowers in the church until Easter Sunday. We look forward to seeing the wonderful efforts of our flower arrangers as Easter arrives. Isobel Payne

Please be alert!

Burglaries in Bradfield St Clare THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY

Sheds at two properties on Bury Road were entered sometime between 10pm Thursday 16 and 7.30am Friday 17 February. Several power tools and garden tools were stolen.

If you have any information about these burglaries please contact Suffolk Police quoting crime reference 37/10075/23 and 37/10119/23

via www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/existing-report-update or telephone 101.

****please note in the event of an emergency you should always call 999.**

(We have since heard that a third property was also entered and similar items were stolen the same evening/night)

Note from Parish Council

If you are planning a car journey locally or indeed one further across the UK, and want to check to see if there are any roadworks/road closures on your journey then you may find looking at the one.network website helpful in planning your journey.

Dog Fouling Signs

Dog fouling signs have been erected on the footpaths around our village, the intention being to encourage residents in our parish to be more considerate to others and the beautiful countryside we are so lucky to live in.

It is indeed disheartening to see that of the five signs put up one was destroyed and eventually disappeared, another taken up and discarded into a ditch and another interfered with regularly. However, what is more disappointing is the obvious lack of community spirit that these wanton acts demonstrate.

It should be pointed out that the damage done has been to council property and should evidence ever come to light concerning the miscreants it will be reported to the council and our local Community Police Officer.

In the meantime if you are happy to wipe dog poo from your shoes and/or carpets then,

'HAPPY WIPING'

Chairman Bradfield St Clare Parish Council

Food Bank

Please remember that the Food Banks are still grateful for contributions.

Bradfield Woods



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

Booking essential for all courses see suffolkwildlifetrust.org

For more information and booking

Please book at:
www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org
or 'phone
01473 890089

MARCH EVENTS at Bradfield Woods:

Saturday 4 March - Green woodworking skills - using your axe

Learn to use your axe effectively with Will Wall 10am – 4pm

Tuesday 14, 15, 28, 19 March - Forest School Assistant Level 2 course

A 4 day course certified by AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group for people who wish to assist with the delivery of a Forest School programme. 9.30am – 4.30pm

Sunday 26 March - Kuksa bowl carving

Spend a day with local craftsman Nick Gosman in this wonderful ancient woodland learning how to carve a Kuksa bowl. 10am – 4.30pm

Sat 1 April - Basket weaving

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

Booking essential for all courses see suffolkwildlifetrust.org



News from Homefield

I have just been out for my early (well, before breakfast anyway!) morning walk around Homefield. The sun is beginning to shine and there is a gentle breeze and the birds are singing away even though it's only mid-February. Farmers around are drilling and my thoughts turn to the allotment. I've spread my compost from last year's builders bag and cross rotavated it in. (I wasn't angry, just went the other way for a change). It did produce a lovely tilth, partly due to the potatoes breaking up the soil and partly because I have now hand dug all the land after four years. I was so impressed I planted two rows of early potatoes, wrapped in 'old grass silage' and covered with soil. The grass silage should repel the slugs and keep the tubers warm, well it's worked before. The winter onions and garlic are beginning to move now, as is the rhubarb, emerging from its straw bed. Looking back to last February's writings the allotment is bare. We had beetroot, parsnips, leeks and turnips still in the ground and the allotment was very wet. This year the beetroot and turnips frosted and the leeks and parsnips failed. We have still got a few onions and garlic bulbs hanging in the shed, quite small but very mighty in flavour. The stored potatoes are varied in quality. The sharp frosts we had earlier somehow got into the potatoes in the hessian bags, I sorted through and put some of the good ones into paper sacks - which was a mistake. I assume without any airflow the 'good ones' quickly rotted - hopefully a lesson learned.

The sheep have been very quiet of late and haven't caused any problems, with the drier weather we've only had one foot problem. The sheep now come to my whistle for their feed. We call it the *invisible dog*, still working on the 'come bye' and 'away' but that will come. It was Stephen (ex-ram lamb) who had a problem with one foot and he was relatively easy to catch. I must admit I hadn't realised how heavy he was, but I managed to sit him on his bottom. The problem was a slightly overgrown toe which was packed with soil and hardened, everytime he put his foot to the ground it hurt. After cleaning it out and trimming the nail it was sorted and he walked away as good as new. One worrying trait has been the number of helium balloon skins that have been blown into the trees and hedges etc. Lucy managed to get one hooked on her horn which caused her quite a lot of distress and frightened the other sheep causing them to run manically around the field. Thankfully, she didn't try to eat it, when the outcome could have been fatal. A big thank you to Isobel for her intervention to help remove it.

Glyn

Can you believe it?!!

British Summer Time begins

01.00 on Sunday 26 March 2023.



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BIN COLLECTIONS FOR March 2023

Tuesday 22 February	Blue Bin
Tuesday 28 February	Brown Bin
Wednesday 1 March	Black Bin
Wednesday 8 March	Blue Bin
Tuesday 14 March	Brown Bin
Wednesday 15 March	Black Bin
Wednesday 22 March	Blue Bin
Tuesday 28 March	Brown Bin
Wednesday 29 March.	Black Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays



BRADFIELD WEATHER

Start as you mean to go on. Or perhaps not as I realise I've already made a mistake in my first ever report - think it was something to do with decimal places.... On 20th January I should have said we'd had 72.5mm of rain thus far (not 46mm); apologies. In the last week of January we measured an additional 7mm bringing the total for the month to 79mm.

It's interesting (well, I think it is!) to compare the previous years so I have gleaned the below from Keith's record keep (thank you Keith).

	<i>2019`</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>
<i>January</i>	<i>21mm</i>	<i>53mm</i>	<i>90mm</i>	<i>14mm</i>	<i>79mm</i>

The 30yr average for January is 50mm, so we were a bit above that. BUT the ground is dry, too dry for this time of year. Usually we are bemoaning standing water, poached paddocks and wondering if the bulbs will have drowned in the puddles above their heads as they wait to break through the grass here at The Lodge. Instead, I'm watering pots with gaps around their edges from soil that has shrunk.

Thus far in February there has been almost nothing to measure, probably 2mm at best.

Having said all that, I'm relishing these beautiful days - the snowdrops and aconites have been wonderful, the crocuses are in full bloom and the little species tulip are poking their heads through the ground. And in terms of a 'good winter' we've had a decent amount of sub-zero temperatures to help break up the ground, germination and defend against plant pests and diseases. So let us not complain about lack of rain (but please send us some overnight for several nights...)

Alice Ward-Thomas 20th Feb



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



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

During our January opening the winner of our cryptic Christmas and New Year Quiz was announced. The answers were displayed so if anybody missed it and would like to know contact Val or Sue and we will forward the answers to you. From all those returned there were just five all correct entries so well done if you were one of those! From those five the winning entry drawn out was Siobhan and Derek from Felsham who were presented with a bottle of Prosecco and a large box of Thorntons chocolates. We were very pleased with the response to our quiz and several people said they enjoyed filling in the answers with friends and family over Christmas. We raised £70 for the village hall and hope to compile a similar quiz on a different theme shortly.

As I write this we have just locked up from our February opening. Thanks to all our helpers and those who provided some delicious cakes, biscuits and savouries. It was lovely to see so many friends and neighbours catching up. Without a local pub or shop it's our only way of getting together in a relaxed environment, meeting new friends and neighbours and catching up on all the news with old ones. So if you haven't tried it yet please come along. You can be sure of a warm welcome. KIT stands for 'keeping in touch' but it's much more than that. This month there was a table learning to play cribbage! We also have books and jigsaws

available for you to take home or you could bring along some of your old ones to exchange.

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

WHIST DRIVE

Sixteen players attended our February whist drive, a nice even number for once of 8 ladies and 8 gentlemen. It was a great night with some very close games. We had one new player, Carolyn, who came along with Jus. As you will see she did very well! Hope to see you again Carolyn.

The winning players were:

Ladies: Vera and Jus tied for first prize on 166 so shared the proceeds of first and second prizes. Close behind was Carolyn with a score of 163 winning her the third cash prize. Joy took the wooden spoon on 140.

Gentlemen: Another tie in first place for Jim and Ray who each scored 167. Third prize was then won by John on 165. Last month's winner took this month's booby ... Steve (whose luck finally deserted him). Better luck next time Steve.

Whist Drives are held in the village hall on the first Friday of every month, the next one being **Friday, 3rd March 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 07493245825.

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*The brown buds thicken on the
trees,
Unbound, the free streams sing,
As March leads forth across the
leas
The wild and windy spring.
-Elizabeth Akers Allen (1832-1911)*

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