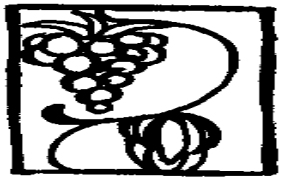
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



September 2026 No:249

Dear Neighbours,

It wouldn't feel right to begin this month's Grapevine without acknowledging the loss of Pat Hipwell, who was such a loved member of our village community. She was a regular contributor to these pages and will be greatly missed.

Her passing has been a reminder of just how important our community is and how much we value the people who make it what it is.

This month's Grapevine continues to keep you up to date with everything happening around the village. We also welcome our new Church Warden, Adrian Keitley-Webb, with his first report.

As always, thank you to everyone who has contributed. If you have news to share, an event to publicise, or would like to advertise in a future edition, please do get in touch. Every contribution helps keep the Grapevine going.

This month's Grapevine is dedicated to the memory of Pat.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends,

The beginning of September often feels like the start of the New Year – and that's probably because it heralds the start of the new academic year. I'm sure there are many of you with children who can't wait for the new school term to start, or perhaps some of you who will find it hard if your child is just starting school. Letting go of our children at key points in their lives can be both exhilarating and frightening at the same time.

I am in awe of the children I meet through my ministry in our local primary schools, for it seems to me that they have a lot more to contend with than I did when I was at primary school over 50 years ago (I'm sure some of you can remember your primary school days too!).

One of things that the children really enjoy is sports day, and I'm sure that some of them have enjoyed watching major athletics competitions on TV (or however they watch them!). In schools today sports day is not so much about the winning but the taking part, and the pupils trying their best. It reminds me of St Paul, who uses the analogy of a race when speaking about being a disciple of Christ. He encourages us to be disciplined, to endure through hardship, and to focus on an eternal spiritual prize rather than temporary worldly rewards.

Rewards are great to receive, but we should heed Paul's words in that the rewards of this life are temporary and not the main goal. For Christians, the main goal is to follow Jesus, to care for our neighbour as ourselves, and to seek God's wisdom in all we do.

If you'd like to know more about what it means to be a Christian, why not join our 'Start' course which is taking place in October. Send me a message if you are interested.

May the Autumn months bring you the spiritual rewards you have been seeking, and may God bless your endeavours.

Yours in Christ
Sharon

Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com
01284-828599 or 01284 828599

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - September 2026

Saturday 5 September	2-4pm 'Knit & Natter' at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall, refreshments and a space to craft/knit/crochet/sew. All welcome!
Sunday 6 September Trinity 14	9.30am Morning Prayer at Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic-style Communion at Felsham
Tuesday 8 September	11am Holy Communion at Felsham Village Hall followed by a soup and sandwich lunch
Sunday 13 September Trinity 15	10am Morning Prayer at Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship at Gt Whelnetham
Thursday 17 September	2-4pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall
Friday 18 September	7 for 7.30pm Quiz at Gt Whelnetham Community Centre. Up to six per team, byo drink and nibbles. £5 per person. Contact Luke 07789 922395, Margaret 01284 386340 or Rosemary 01284 834371 for more details.
Sunday 20 September Trinity 16	9.30am Holy Communion at Stanningfield 10am Café Church at Felsham Village Hall 10.30am Holy Communion at Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 27 September Trinity 17	9.30am Holy Communion at Gt Whelnetham 10.00am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George

A service of Celtic-style Morning Prayer is usually held every Tuesday at Cockfield at 9am and at Stanningfield every Thursday at 9am.*Please note these services may be subject to change – for up-to-date service times see the benefice website at www.cockfieldbenefice.com*.

VILLAGE FRIENDS

an over 65's friendship group

We next meet on:
Thursday 17 September
New members welcome!
2-4pm at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

If you would like to come please contact:
Canon Sharon 01284-828599 or 07825 086063
revsharon2@gmail.com
(drivers are able to provide lifts, just let Canon Sharon know)

Organised by the Cockfield Benefice

John Skelly Fish Limited

Brings fresh fish from Lowestoft to you locally in Bradfield St Clare

When: Every Friday

Where: Bush Cottage @ 9.40am and Village Hall Car Park @ 9.50am

KIT CAFE

keep in touch.

Our next opening will be:

Saturday, 19th September from 11 am – 1 pm

Tea, Coffee (as much as you can drink)

Cakes, biscuits, sausage rolls, scones

This café is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE

Why not make a date in your diary?

There is something for everyone at the Kit Café and you can be sure of a very warm welcome and plenty of lively chat.

If anyone would like to contribute a cake or savoury item we would be most grateful.

Village Hall Whist Drive



Our next whist drive will be held on
Friday, 4th September

Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Tea and biscuits are served at the half way stage. 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.**

Last month's winner was Jus with a score of 168.

We are always on the lookout for new players. So if you or anyone you know enjoys playing cards please come along. Whist is a simple game and lots of fun but it's much more enjoyable when there are a few more tables.

For further information ring Val Nunn on 07483245825.

Local Family Run Business Specialising in Waste Water and Drainage Solutions



Kingspan
Klargester
We Build It Ltd

- Septic Tank Emptying
- Sewage Treatment Plant Maintenance
- Installations & Septic Tank Upgrades
- Blocked Drains
- Foul & Storm Water Pump Maintenance
- CCTV Drainage Surveys
- Oil Interceptor Hazardous Waste Disposal
- 24/7 Emergency Spill Response
- UV Structural Lining & Patch Repairs
- High Pressure Water Jetting

CARGATE
engineering
Tel: 01284 386538 | Email: info@cargateweb.co.uk
www.cargate-engineering.co.uk
Lower Gorse, Rougham, Bury St Edmunds, Bury Saint Edmunds IP30 9HX

Pat Hipwell

It is with deep sadness that I write of the passing of my dear friend and yours Pat Hipwell. We laughed together, we generally got on well, and we enjoyed each other's company.

But, she was a marvel, she never stopped thinking of others, she made marmalade by the gallon, knitted hats for babies in hospital by the score, made poppies for remembrance day, cooked shortbread and biscuits by the tinful.

She was at one time church warden, she was the brains behind kit cafe, always hosting the W.I and other clubs at her home.

In her earlier life she lived with Peter and her family in India, something of which she was very proud. She was also a school teacher.

A full life, I could write more, but I wanted you all to know what a great loss Bradfield has suffered.

God bless you Pat.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this sad time.

Margaret



Bradfield Weather

July 2022	July 2023	July 2024	July 2025	July 2026
2.5mm	72.5 mm	86 mm	48 mm	0 mm
August 2022	**August 2023**	**August 2024**	**August 2025**	**August 2026**
15.5 mm	66mm	13 mm	39 mm	TBC

As usual, I've looked up last year's report as I sit down to write this and in 2025 I was commenting on the drought taking its toll on trees, that we'd lost a couple of young ones which we'd failed to water sufficiently and that the lawn was crunching underfoot. Well, this year… (head exploding emoji!).

2026 has been the toughest gardening year I remember. Our last frost was on May 14th, which set back for the third time, much of the young growth of some herbaceous plants and almost immediately afterwards we had warm temperatures and it stopped raining. I've lost count of the heat waves – are we up to five now? It's been curious to live a Mediterranean life, hiding indoors during the main part of the day and only venturing out to rescue near death plants with a watering can in the late afternoons.

Huge thanks to all those of you who were able to attend our garden opening at the start of August. I was amazed how many people turned up. From the many conversations I had with fellow gardeners on the day, I think a large number came because the year has been so difficult and it was interesting to see what was thriving, surviving, miserable and dead. And enormous thanks to Lorraine, her fabulous team and everyone who baked for us – with 251 mouths to feed we'd have been completely stuck without you!

Although not directly connected to weather/gardening, I can't not mention how sad we all were to hear of Pat's passing. She was so very kind to me when we first moved here in 2000 and always so supportive as we chaotically navigated bringing up our boys and trying to help with village life where we could. The success of our Tea in the Tulips events was entirely down to her organisation, powers of persuasion and advertising (and I'm pretty sure she also organised excellent weather for them). I started typing her memoirs for her last year – they were fascinating and had me roaring with laughter frequently over the years she and Peter spent in India. I shall miss her greatly.

Alice Ward-Thomas (26th Aug)



Thanks

Such a small word, but it means so much. I am so very grateful for all the kindness shown to me, from so many of you.

For the visits, flowers, the cards, books, the prayers and words of great comfort, from so many of you.

I am much better, and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Margaret Lovick

M.BAIRD DIGGERHIRE & GARDEN SERVICES





- **Mini Digger Hire + Operator**
- **Garden Clearance Services**
- **Patio and Driveway Laying**
- **Strimming Grass/Hedge Cutting**
- **Turf Laying/seeding**
- **Fencing and Tree Work**

ALL GROUND AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE UNDERTAKEN
Visit :-www.mbairdlandscapes.co.uk
CALL MARK on 01284386865 or 07725625760

Church Warden Report

Margaret Lovick, Mike and Lorraine Morley, have all retired as Church Wardens of St Clare Church. They are all great stalwarts of our lovely village community and Church. Their work for the Church and Village is considerable, giving so much of their time with devotion and hard work, over many many years.

I have taken over from Margaret as Church Warden and I would personally like to thank Margaret, Rev Sharon and her team for their support and guidance in this transition. I know I have big shoes to fill!

All 3 will be so missed as Church Wardens, but Lorraine remains on the PCC which is great news. I wish them health and happiness and look forward to seeing them around.

On a personal note,

My family joined your village March 2024, we only moved from Monks Eleigh where I have lived all my life. We thank you all, for your warm welcome and wide smiles.

Please do visit our church, as it's a special place and offers a safe space to reflect and escape from the busy lives we all lead and an opportunity to meet people from the villages in our benefice.

AKW

Suffolk Churches Ride and Stride

The Suffolk Historic Churches Trust - Ride and Stride event will take place on Saturday 12th September.

There are 4 people from the village taking part, so please do sponsor them.

www.justgiving.com/campaign/suffolk-churches-ride-and-stride-2026

Library Van update

The route 6 library bus still stops at Bradfield St George (Holly Bush Corner at 9:35 - 9:50) and Cockfield (Windsor Green (10:05-10:25) on the following days:

Wed 16 Sep 2026	Wed 11 Nov 2026
Wed 14 Oct 2026	Wed 9 Dec 2026

Contact: help@suffolklibraries.co.uk Telephone: 01473 35124

BIN COLLECTIONS

Saturday 5th Sep (due to bank holiday)	Black Bin (+food waste)
Friday 11th September	Blue Bin (+food waste)
Friday 18th September	Black Bin (+food waste)
Friday 25th September	Grey with green lid (+food waste)
Friday 2nd October	Black Bin (+food waste)

For more information, including links to download all leaflets can be found here:

https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bins/better-recycling/

The Voluntary Network

Sometimes it's the little things that make a huge difference. The Voluntary Network is a small charity making a big impact, helping vulnerable people stay independent, connected and less isolated. We want more people to know about the support we offer — and how we may be able to help in your community.

Our Befriending Service supports people aged over 60, and demand is growing. We are looking for friendly volunteers who enjoy a chat and could offer someone an hour a week, either in person or by phone. Volunteering is flexible, and befriending often becomes a rewarding friendship for both people involved.

We also provide a reliable, affordable transport service for social, work and medical journeys, as well as onward bus or rail connections. For many people, this service is a real lifeline — and our drivers are known for their friendliness and care.

To find out more about our services, or to volunteer, please visit our website. www.thevoluntarynetwork.org or call 01638 608022

Nicole Smith
Community Engagement Officer, The Voluntary Network

Lee Jardine
Electrical Services

- All Domestic Electrical Work
- Rewires/New Installations
- New/replacement lights and sockets
- Electric Showers/Hobs and Ovens
- 24 Hour Emergency Call Out
- Landlords Compliance Certificates

Tel: 01284 361 986 Mob: 07444 272 472

Email: lee.jardine@outlook.com

Big British Garden Survey

There's still time to take part in the **Big British Garden Survey**, a nationwide project from the National Garden Scheme and the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology.

Whether you have a large garden, a small plot or an allotment, every garden can make a valuable contribution.

Simply register your garden online and, if you wish, record the butterflies and other insects you spot. There is no obligation to make regular recordings, so you can contribute as much or as little as you like before the survey closes on **30 September**.

To find out more and register your garden, search online for **Big British Garden Survey**.

Autumn Village Quiz

October 9th at 7pm

Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

We are having to replace the fire door in the Village Hall and need to raise funds for it.

There is no fixed charge for entry, just donations please

Tables of four, though we can always accommodate strays!

Please indicate your intention to attend by calling or texting Isobel Payne on 07888 649809

Useful Local Contacts

Anglian Water - Emergencies	03457 145145
Borough Council	St Edmundsbury Offices - 01284 763233
Local Member	Sara Mildmay-White - 01359 270580 Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsbc.gov.uk
Bradfield St Clare Village Hall Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn - 01284 388830 / 07483245825
Bradfield Grapevine Magazine	Sarah Pittard - 07816754163 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	Bobby Bennett - 07813551959 bobby.bennett@suffolk.gov.uk
Dentist (Emergency)	By appointment Sat and Sun pm 0300 130 3065
Doctor – Suffolk Doctors on Call	Ring your own Surgery
	Or alternatively call 111
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	Peter Prinsley - Labour peter.prinsley.mp@parliment.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	Father Sean Connolly 01284 754358

Hire Bradfield St Clare Village Hall for just £12 per hour!

Contact Val Nunn for bookings (details above)