Useful Local Contacts

Anglian Water Emergencies		08457 145145
Borough Council:		
- St Edmundsbury Offices		763233
- Local Member	Mrs Sarah Mildmay-White	01359 270580
Bradfield Grapevine Magazine:		
- Editors	Mr Peter Newlands	388637
- and	Mrs Margaret Lovick	386662
Bury Stray Cat Fund		388455
Charity for the Relief in Sickness:		
- Secretary	Mrs Vicky Spall	386357
County Council:		
- Suffolk County Council Switchboard		01473 583000 -
Local Member Karen Soons	karen.soons@suffolk.gov.uk	07864 601887

Dentist (Emergency) – by appointment, Saturday and Sunday afternoons	0300 130 3065
Doctor – for Suffolk Doctors on Call out of hours service ring own doctors' surgery or -NHS Choices	111
Community First Responder – Group Co-ordinator – Debbie Lamond	07810 353426
Electricity – UK Power Networks Supply Faults	0800 783 8838
Footpath Warden – Mrs Fenella Fraser	388310
Gospel Hall – Mr Keith Arknett	01359 240910
Library (Mobile Van Driver – Steve Adams)	07837 581371
Village Book Club Co-ordinator – Mrs Pat Brender	386597
Member of Parliament – Mrs Jo Churchill	752311
	www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.uk
Neighbourhood Watch Contact – Mrs Dianne Bullard	386598
Parish Council Clerk – Mrs Nicola Smith	07817170906
Parish Council Website:	http://bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net
Police	101 (non-urgent), 999 or 01473 613500
	Twitter Name : @stedspolice
Post Office – Bury Delivery Office	358201
Schools and Colleges:	
Cockfield Primary School	828287
Thurston Community College	01359 230885
West Suffolk College	701301
St Clare Church – Rector – Rev Sharon Potter	828599
- Church Warden – Mrs Margaret Newlands	388637
St Edmunds R C Church – Fr Mark Hackeson	754358
Suffolk Wildlife Trust – Bradfield Woods	01449 737996
Village Hall – Bookings – Mrs Val Nunn	388830
- Secretary – Mrs Isobel Payne	386169
Village Recorder – Mrs Val Nunn	388830
West Suffolk Hospital	713000
Women's Institute Secretary – Mrs Enid Hunt	386565

THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE





CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR 2017 – 2018 (155)

Well thank goodness Black Friday has passed and the proper Festive Season is about to start! By now you will have received a personal invitation through your letterbox to the two exciting 'Taste of Christmas' events due to take place near the Village Sign on 2nd and 21st December from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

Mike explains to us the positive effects of the dry warm Autumn on the farm and Keith in his report emphasises just how far removed the weather has been from what we would normally expect at that time of the year. John's tree poem reminds us not to be too annoyed at the constant labour of clearing fallen leaves during the Autumn months.

Staying on the farming theme, Glyn has explained the developments on the farm and the gradual move to a new phase for Debbie and himself. We wish them well as they enter into their new ventures.

Returning to the thoughts of Christmas and the New Year, you will be very interested to read Paul's account of a Supermarket planning for the festive season - bet you will not guess correctly what is always the best selling item! Dyane provides us with a recipe for a scrumptious sounding old-fashioned Christmas pudding and Penny explains how to cook a pheasant as an excellent choice for the New Year celebrations.

On a positive but serious note, the Parish Council is able to give us some good news about their efforts to have speed limits imposed in our village.

St Clare Church will be holding major services over Christmas and in the New Year and it would be wonderful if many in the village can join together at this time.

You will discover that we now have a FREE Christmas card delivery service for within the village. Details can be found in this edition – many thanks to David and Dyane!

Finally, the joint editors wish you all a joyful Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Margaret Lovick
Linden House
Bradfield St Clare
Tel: 01284 386662

Peter Newlands
Dairy Farmhouse
Bradfield St Clare
Tel: 01284 388637
pjrmrn@aol.com

Cockfield Benefice Services – December 2017

Sunday 3rd December Advent Sunday	9.30am Communion BCP	Gedding
	11am Communion	Cockfield
	4.30pm Christingle	Felsham
Sunday 10th December Second Sunday of Advent	8am Communion BCP	Bradfield St Clare
	9.30am Benefice Family Service	Felsham
	4.30pm Carols by Candlelight	Gedding
Sunday 17th December Third Sunday of Advent	11am Carol Communion	Cockfield
	3.30pm Carol Service	Bradfield St Clare
	6pm Carol Service	Bradfield St George
Monday 18th December	7pm Carol Service	Lt Whelnetham
Tuesday 19th December	7pm Carols on the Green	Gt Green, Cockfield
Wednesday 20th December	7pm Carol Service	Felsham
Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve	10am Morning Prayer	Bradfield St Clare
	3.30pm Crib Service	Cockfield
	9pm Communion	Felsham
	11pm Communion	Cockfield
Monday 25th December Christmas Day	10am Family Communion	Bradfield St George
	10am Communion	Gedding
Sunday 31st December Holy Innocents	10am Carol Communion	Bradfield St Clare

Daily Prayer

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9am Cockfield	5pm Felsham	5pm Bradfield St Clare	5pm Gedding	5pm Bradfield St George

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

There will be some Christmassy 'Messy' activities in Felsham Church during the Christmas Market on Sunday 3rd December, 12-4pm.

Cockfield Benefice Services – January 2018

Sunday 7th January Epiphany	8am Communion BCP	Cockfield
	9.30am Benefice Family Service	Felsham
Sunday 14th January Second Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am Communion BCP	Gedding
	11am Morning Prayer	Cockfield
	4pm Plough Sunday Evening Prayer	Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 21st January Third Sunday of Epiphany	9.30am Morning Prayer	Gedding
	11am Communion	Bradfield St Clare
	4pm Evening Prayer	Bradfield St George
Sunday 28th January Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)	9.30am Communion	Bradfield St George
	11am Communion	Cockfield
	6pm Six2seven	Felsham

OTHER CHURCH SERVICES

Roman Catholic Church

St Edmund King & Martyr Westgate Street Bury St Edmunds

Friday 8th December 19.00 Advent Carol Service
Thursday 14th December 19.00 Community Choir Concert
Sunday 24th December 18.00 Children's Christmas Mass
Sunday 24th December Midnight Mass 24.00 with carols from 23.30
Monday 25th December Mass at 8.30 & 10.30

Gospel Hall

The Gospel Hall, Bradfield St George

Sunday 17th December - 3.30pm - Carols by Candlelight

Bradfield Woods

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

PLEASE BOOK FOR ACTIVITIES

Book on line at:-

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

or 'phone 01473 890089

Mondays throughout 2017 & 2018 - Wild Tots
Woodland play for families with under 5's
Snack and hot drinks through the winter 10 -11.30am- £4 per child

Monday 18 December
Wild Tots Winter Woodland Party
Woodland party for families with under 5's 10 -11.30am - £4 per child

Wednesday 20 December
Natural decorations
10.30am - 12.30pm
£4 children, £2 adults

Thursday 21 December
Young wardens
10 –15 yrs
Practical conservation finishing with a fire 10.30am - 1pm £4

Thursday 21 December
Solstice lantern walk
Make a lantern then follow the lantern lit trail around the wood and finish with hot chocolate by the fire 3.30pm – 5pm - £4 children, £2 adults

Wednesday 27 December
Woodland wellbeing Walk
After the excesses of Christmas, join us for a mindfulness walk in the woods
11am –12.30pm 15 years Free



News from St Clare Church

The season of Advent will soon be here and once again the church will be lit up for everyone to enjoy. This year we have four services in December and begin the Christmas period with our candlelit Carol Service at 3.30pm on Sunday 17th December. There will be familiar carols to sing, a chance to hear the Nativity Story and some treats for the children from the Christmas tree. Mince pies and mulled wine will there to enjoy at the end of the service. Christmas Eve will be very special this year since we have a morning service at St Clare – more carols to sing and a chance to share together our anticipation of the very special day to follow. We hope to see you once again at this service, as there will be more treats to share!
On 31st December we have a Carol Communion Service where you will have an opportunity to request carols of your choice. It will be fun to have the church used so regularly during this happy season, please try to come to one or more of these events and enjoy some time together. Don't forget marmalade and notelets are available to buy in the church – just pop in when you can!
We need to make the church look festive with the holly and other greenery the decoration of the Christmas tree and the laying out of the crib. If you can help (no experience necessary!) please come to the church at 10am on Saturday 16th December or leave any greenery in the porch beforehand if you are too busy.
The Food Bank Box will be ready for donations at our Christmas services. Non-perishable food items and at this time of the year we also welcome tinsel, wrapping paper and crackers – Christmas time can be especially difficult for so many families. Please help to give them a treat. Pat Hipwell will have a second box outside Clare Cottage from 1st December.
Details of all services in January are in the schedule published in The Bradfield Grapevine and on the church noticeboard. Of special note is the Plough Sunday Service at 4pm on 14th January. Please remember Revd. Sharon is in the church each Thursday at 5pm if you would like to pop in to this brief service.
This time of the year is traditionally a focus for sharing food, fun and laughter with family and friends. Please take some time to reflect and think about all those who are lonely, lack enough food and maybe have no warmth or shelter. Some may even be not far away from us.
We hope and pray for times of peace and understanding in 2018

St Clare PCC wishes everyone a very Happy Christmas!



A Supermarket Prepares for Christmas.



As I pen this insight into a retail Christmas the planning is long over and we have our sights set on Easter. A far cry from where we are now and looking forward to the clocks going forward and the light evenings returning.

Like many of our surrounding neighbours we also work through seasons but the retail year bounces from Easter to Christmas to Easter.

The Christmas planning starts in January when all sales data is captured from the previous year and projections are done immediately for the next year taking into account when the last time Christmas fell in the same way. i.e. on what day does Christmas day fall on and will there be any trading restrictions like this year when Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday restricting shops to only six hours of trade. Trade any more than this and risk the wrath of trading standards and a huge fine.

Once all the sales data is captured orders are then placed and the poor Turkeys begin their fattening regime. Heston Blumenthal is then tasked with what new and strange new delights he will deliver for our customers. The warm toffee Martini looks lovely for this year!

Christmas is the sidelined until September when the case volumes begin to increase and the first mince pies arrive.

Every supermarket will have a different plan as no two back of house areas are the same and all will face individual challenges. Some will have 2-3 20-40ft trailers arrive to cope with the extra stock. These trailers are great as they only cost a few pounds to rent per week but don't move them too often as this costs thousands.

As we move into the Autumnal months the mince pies, crackers, gift wrap and gift packs are all stock pilled but before we start to move it we still need to execute Halloween which is growing in popularity every year and see out Guy Fawkes and then.....

"Christmas is coming! "

We pay our respects to Armistice Day before the full point of sale and promotional signage gets rolled out along with the Christmas trees and wreaths arriving for outdoor displays.

The shops then look great with a real seasonal feel, bright and festive and quite rightly so as we want our customers to get into the spirit and loosen those purse strings.



Bin collections in December 2017 – January 2018

Thursday 7th December	Black bins
Thursday 14th December	Blue & Brown bins
Thursday 21st December	Black
Friday 29th December	***Blue & Brown bins***
Friday 6th January	***Black bins***
Thursday 12th January	Blue & Brown bins
Thursday 19th January	Black bins
Thursday 26th January	Blue & Brown bins

The Library Van





The Library Van calls every 4 weeks on Wednesdays at the Village Hall.

NEXT VISITS: 9.40 – 9.55 am 20th Dec 2017 & 17th Jan 2018

To contact the mobile library van driver Steve ring him on: 07837 58137

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Edging into December the average transaction grows as we all add a little extra into the trolley, a few bits here and there, lots of which gets eaten ahead of time and will need restocking. (We have all done it!)
Despite all these seasonal wonders, bananas remain the number one selling line.
Ecom and all home deliveries slots are fully booked and have been since September. We even do a few deliveries on Xmas Eve although these do have risk attached with stock availability.
Mid December all Christmas ambient stock is in with dining rooms and meeting rooms becoming biscuit and cake storage areas. My office turns into a hamper order area and we then welcome back our seasonal temps who have been away at university.
We are obviously busy on the shop floor but we also want to ensure our teams are looked after. We have great dining room Partners who lay on a full four course Christmas lunch in our dining room during the day then we do it all again at midnight for the night team before doing it once more for our retired pensioners. My role is to serve the food and top up the wine. The best job this time of year and a great way to say thank you to everyone for their hard work.
Its then week 1- this year a full seven days trade plus Christmas Eve. Fresh volumes peak with all four chillers full to capacity. Deliveries continue 24/7 with the hope its cold outside as the weather can act as a support to temporarily hold stock. The Turkeys arrive in gas filled bags, this year on Thursday before all being lined up and labelled ahead of collections. On average a branch will have 500 birds along with 1000's of entertaining orders, all of which have to be organised for the right day and time.
Now all that is left is to fill the shop open the doors and let the mayhem begin with the aim to make every customers Christmas.
As the doors close on Christmas Eve a silence falls over the shop as the team head home to have some well deserved time off with their friends and families. The only noise to be heard is the cracking of the freezer units.
A supermarket is an eerie place once the doors are shut.
Then its boxing day evening and it all begins again preparing for New Year.

Just an insight into a retail Christmas but here's to wishing the Grapevine readers a very Merry Christmas.

- Paul Foster



Editha's Christmas Pudding

(Circa 1925)

Ingredients:

8oz (225g) each of:

- Prepared suet
- Soft fresh bread crumbs
- Self-raising flour
- Raisins
- Currents
- Sultans

4oz (110g) chopped peel
4oz (110g) soft brown sugar
8oz (225g) Tate and Lyle golden syrup (other brands available!)
1 level teaspoon of mixed spice
Grated rind and juice of one orange and one lemon
3 eggs size 5 (medium)
¼ pint (150ml) of Mackeson stout (other brands available!)
or ½ wineglass of rum
(Replace alcohol with cold tea or milk if preferred)

Method:

Sift flour with spice, mix in all the other dry ingredients
Beat eggs and add fruit juices, syrup and stout
Stir into dry ingredients and mix well, adding a little milk if too stiff
Divide between two greased 2pint (1.2litre) basins
Cover and steam for 6 hours
Cover with dry paper and fresh cloths before storing
Steam for 2 hours before serving

(2 puddings serving 6-8 each)

- Dyane Wood

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IP33 1XW

01284
753961

Christmas Children's Shoe Boxes



A huge thank you from the children who will receive them for all the donations for the shoe boxes – a wonderful response!

I think we sent a total of 18 including those done by individuals.

Very well done!

- Pat Hipwell

TOMLINSON GROUNDCARE

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Village Christmas Card Delivery Service

With no Bradfield Grapevine for us to until the New Year, Dyane and David Wood are offering a collection and delivery service of your Christmas cards to your friends and neighbours resident in the village.

COLLECTION DAY:
Sunday 10th December between 11.00am and 4.00pm

DELIVERY DAY:
Tuesday 12th December

If you will not be at home for collection day please leave your cards in a water/snow proof bag in a visible place close to your door.
Make sure to address the envelope so we know where to deliver it!

This is a free service but a small donation to **BARNARDOS** would be much appreciated.

Please telephone Dyane and David on 01284 388657 if you would like to take part and leave a message with your name and address if we are not there to take your call. *Happy Christmas!*

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David 07740272791



In Praise of Trees



Where would you be without us trees,
Finding it hard to breathe, that's where you'd be;
For we take the air and make it clean,
Filtered through our leaves so green.

Refuge provided for nature's own,
And a place for birds to make their home;
Things of beauty, tall and proud,
We stand cloaked in our verdant shroud.

Then at seasons end displays we unfold;
Of glorious colours, such sights to behold;
So when next you complain of leaves on the ground.
Or maybe consider cutting us down;
Remember the part we play in your lives'
Providing beauty and splendour and the means to survive.

- John Kirk

FEBRUARY ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements for the February 2018 issue of The Bradfield Grapevine should be sent to either of the two Editors, whose names and addresses appear on the front page, by Friday 20th January. The cost is £4 per insertion for small ads, £36 per year for half page boxes or £20 for 6 months.

Payment to Bradfield St Clare Village Hall Account
Contact: Peter Newlands or Margaret Lovick

more of an impact on some people than it does other in the village, and it is because of this reason that the Parish Council decided not to raise the precept by more than £1,000. However, if any individuals in the village feel that they want to, and are able to, make further donations to try to get this project concluded as soon as possible then we would be very pleased to hear from you, if you would contact our Clerk Nicola on bradfieldstclarepc@gmail.com, or 07817 170906.
We thank you for your understanding whilst we are raising funds to implement the actions agreed by the Speed Limit Panel and therefore improve the safety of roads within our village.
Bradfield St Clare Parish Council

- Your Parish Councillors



BROADBAND IN THE VILLAGE

Fibre broadband is now available throughout the village but you won't get it unless you ask!
In the main part of the village, cabinet 9 is now equipped to deliver fibre broadband to your house.
In Bury Road, most houses are able to receive fibre directly to the premises – officially referred to as FTP.
In both cases you need to take the necessary action to receive the much enhanced download and upload speeds available.
First of all check out your own position by logging onto this site:
www.openreach.co.uk/orpg/home/index.do
When requested, put in your TELEPHONE NUMBER (the post code is less accurate!) – You will then know if fibre is available to you.
Then check with your broadband provider that they are willing to offer you fibre – this is particularly important if you have FTP, as fewer of them can do this. BT is always able to but some others may do so as well. If you need to change providers this is not too difficult.

THE MAIN MESSAGE IS THAT YOU NEED TO TAKE ACTION
DON'T EXPECT TO BE TOLD!

Bradfield St Clare Parish Council

Dear Villagers

The Parish Council are very pleased to announce that following submission of a report to the Speed Limit Panel in October 2017, we have been advised that the Panel have agreed to "(a) a 40 mph speed limit along Bury Road between the last house and the field boundary south of the church access, and (b) a short 30 mph, around 350m long, on Bradfield St George Road to include the houses. Officers would be allowed to agree the exact points of each limit".

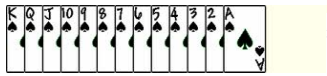
The Parish Council has been trying to get the speed limit in the village reduced for many years, and finally we are on the first steps to achieving this. Once we have a speed limit of 40mph or less in the village we can then ask the Police to do random speed checks. This is something that we are not permitted to do with the current speed limit of 60mph throughout the village. With these first stages of success comes the issue of how the changes in speed limit will be funded. We are advised by the Highways Department that the costs will be in the region of £12,000-£15,000. This includes all of the works to include the Legal Notices etc. We are awaiting a breakdown of those costs to see if our Clerk, along with the External Funding Officer at Suffolk County Council, can attract any private funding to our project. Projects of this nature have to be privately funded and that is usually via County Councillor funds, Parish Council funds and private/grant donations. The County Councillor, Karen Soons has advised that she has at least £6,000 to add to our project fund. The Parish Council has reserves in the region of £2,500 to go toward the project.

Bearing this in mind, the Parish Council proposed at its meeting on 14 November 2017 to raise the Parish Precept for 2018-2019. The Precept is a sum of money that each household pays as part of their Council Tax bill. The Borough Council collect the monies and pass the total precept amount onto the Parish Council. The Parish Council proposed to raise the precept from £1785 per year to £2785 per year for 2018-2019. To put this into context, so it perhaps makes more sense, it would mean that a Band D household will pay an increase of £0.274 per week (£14.29 per year).

The Precept may need to stay at this level for 2-3 to raise enough funds. It is anticipated that the project would not be ready to be implement for at least 18 months in any event, so we have some time to raise funds.

The Parish Council appreciate that for some people the increase may have

WHIST DRIVE



With several regulars absent last night we were pleased to have 19 players for the November whist drive. Lovely to see John Parsons again and also Trudy, neither of whom had been able to make it for a while. This again meant we had to use the dreaded 'dummy' to make up 5 tables of four. Contestants fear the dummy more than any Halloween ghost or witch but it does make for some interesting games.

Ladies winner was Val N with 182 with Vera coming second on 164 and Anne third with 160 points. Wooden spoon was awarded to Joy who scored 136. Men's winner was Ray with 169, followed by Trevor on 165 and closely followed by Derek with 164. Wooden spoon went to Keith with 135.

Next whist drive will be on Friday 1st December when there should be some Christmassy draw prizes. New players very welcome.



By now you will have received your invitation to

A TASTE of CHRISTMAS 2017



Saturday 2nd December

6.30pm – 7.30pm

DECORATING!

A chance to help decorate the Village Christmas Tree and Noticeboard – PLUS

"ATMOSPHERIC BEAMS"

A private view of light beams with fog, animated and programmed to music

Thursday 21st December

6.30pm – 7.30pm

VILLAGE CAROLS!

A chance to sing around the Crib with an accordion playing the Carols – PLUS

"FESTIVE ANIMATIONS"

Festive symbols and animations projected onto Old School House to open and close the event!

FREE FOOD AND DRINK AT EACH EVENT - *COME AND ENJOY!*

Bradfield Weather



'November is the pearl grey month,
The changeling between warm crimson October
And cold white December'

Alison Uttley

The latter part of October produced no rain to speak of and we finished with a total of 12.5mm against the average of 58.4mm. Apart from 10 mm in 1995 this is by far the lowest score for October, in the 25 years that village records have been kept.

November has brought some frosty mornings, some beautifully sunny but cold, clear days: with the trees seeming to retain their leaves later than usual this year, there has been a fine display of Autumn colours. November rainfall to date has been just 17mm with an average for the month of 62.6mm.

- Keith 21/11/2017

Dates for your Diary



- Friday1st Dec & 6th Jan– Whist Drive – 7.30pm – Village Hall
- Sat 2nd Dec & Thur. 21st Dec – Taste of Christmas – 6.30-7.30pm
- Sunday 10th Dec & 7th & 21st Jan – Bingo Nights 8pm - Village Hall
- Sunday 17th Dec Carol Service – St Clare Church – 3.30pm
- Tuesday19th Dec & 16th Jan – Book Club - 7pm - Village Hall
- Sunday 14th Jan – Plough Sunday – St Clare Church – 4.00pm

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SUFFOLK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION



Contactless card fraud protection sleeves

Radio-frequency identification (RFID) is the technology used by our bank cards that enables contactless transactions.
We have had a few enquires regarding the availability of protection sleeves for credit and debit cards. This followed on from a recent TV programme suggesting that Neighbourhood Watch could provide these.
Neighbourhood Watch do not officially provide these RFID cards to its members but there is a recognised organisation linked to NW that does offer them for sale.

The details can be found on the OWL website:
https://owlprotect.uk

There are other readily available options from top sellers such as Amazon and eBay as well



Pheasant for the New Year

I cook the pheasant on about 180C Gas 5
(Approx. as I cook it in the Aga)

Ingredients:

- 1 pheasant
- Sliced onions
- Stock of your choice
- 1 tablespoon of cornflower
- Red wine
- Salt and pepper to season

Method:

I put the bird on the sliced onions in a cast iron baker.
When cooked I rest it covered with a tea towel to keep warm.
To make the gravy put the baker onto the hob and stir some stock slated with 1TBS of cornflower into the onions, scraping up all the cooking juices and stirring until it comes to the boil.
Add a glut of red wine if you want & salt & pepper strain into a serving jug.

I serve the pheasant with roast potatoes, swede, parsnips and button onions
Also Angels on Horseback! (Oysters wrapped in bacon!)

- Penny Bamber

Latest News from Pitchers Green Farm



After 41 years at Pitchers Green Farm the decision has been made to hang up the clusters and stop milking cows; I never thought I would write that line. The milking cows and dry cows are off to 'Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses' where they will be milked by a computerised Robotic milker and either sold through a vending machine or made into cheese.
The cows were interviewed a while back and must have made a good impression because everything seemed to happen very quickly (just hope there is no dodgy CVs). After the relevant notices had been given the cows were moved over a few a day to allow time to be trained to the Robot
The last tanker collection on 25th November looked very sad, only about 200 litres. Debbie and I visited the farm before the final decision and were impressed with the whole set up. It is very similar to ours; just my job has been taken over by a machine (I knew that line would be written).
The cows were all very relaxed and chilled out, no escapees as yet but that could /will change!
All the youngstock will stay over winter along with 2 cows, Kirsty and Precious to provide milk for the baby calves and some for the house. Also staying will be Kylie and Nicola who are both dry and due to be calved in February/March. This will help me with the "weaning" process.
Overheard as the last four cows were being loaded up on a fresh morning *"Can't wait to go. I hear this Robot actually warms its hands up first"*

- Glyn

Bradfield St Clare Women's Institute

At our meeting on 8th November, Sarah Osbourne demonstrated how to make wreaths for Christmas. It was an inspirational occasion and several members plan to make their own!
We look forward to our next meeting which will be our annual Christmas Dinner!
New members are always welcome and we are pleased to see invited visitors. Please contact **Secretary Enid Hunt – 01284 386565**

Arable Farming at Bishops Farm





'What a splendid Autumn'

Well you will be glad to hear I am not moaning about the weather this month! After one of the driest Octobers on record, it has provided one of the best Autumn planting time I can remember.

As I wrote in the September Bradfield Grapevine, we started planting winter barley on 21st September. The fields had been ploughed and power harrowed prior to being planted by the combination drill. Two varieties again this year, the six row hybrid 'Bazooka' which was our best yielding barley last year, I have increased the area planted to 21 acres. The other variety is the two row 'Glacier' that we have grown for four years and we have planted 30 acres. Once planted the fields were rolled to provide good seed to soil contact and also to stop the fields from drying out. Then we applied a pre-emergence herbicide to control blackgrass and broadleaved weeds. On barley it is the only opportunity to try to control blackgrass as there are very few chemicals that can be used once the crop has emerged.

Soil temperatures were still high in September as the crop germinated in two days and was up in a week. At present the crops look good. Although there is some mildew disease within the crop, winter frosts should kill this.

We started planting wheat on 1st October. Two varieties again this year, KWS Siskin, which performed well last year as a first wheat – that means a wheat crop following a break crop like beans or sugar beet. The other variety is a new one, KWS Zyatt, a group two hard milling wheat suitable for biscuit making. It can be grown as second wheat - one grown after another cereal. Our second wheat was planted conveniently with the fields ploughed, rolled and power harrowed. The first wheats we did not plough the fields but cultivated twice and power harrowed. There are two reasons for this after a bean crop that fixes nitrogen in its root nodules; we try to keep the available nitrogen close to the surface to feed the following wheat crops. Secondly in our barley infested blackgrass fields, ploughing with its inversion action turning the soil over brings even more blackgrass seeds to the surface. Cultivating gives a better chance of controlling seed close to the surface leaving remaining seed deeply buried for another year. Wheat was planted, rolled and sprayed by mid October, emerged in two weeks and looks well.

The sugar beet crop was also harvested in October. Lifting had to be delayed for a week due to the ground being too hard. After 5mm of rain the crop lifted perfectly. Our sugar beet are harvested by a contractor, Clem Warber, using a six row harvester. This was a very efficient operation with 25 acres lifted on one day; 850 tonnes. This year we had two heaps. One adjacent to Sheepgate lane on Simon Hardingham's grass – thank you Simon! The remainder was put on the concrete pad at Bishops Farm. The beet were lifted on Sunday and all delivered to the factory lunchtime on Wednesday.

The good dry Autumn weather continued. The sugar beet field was flat lifted to remove compaction caused by the harvester. Then the field was disced and power harrowed by John Kirk who kindly helped me while Dan was away at the Agro Olympics in Germany – thank you John! I then drilled the field with Siskin wheat rolled and applied the pre emergence herbicide. The crop is now emerging and looking great.

We also planted winter beans this Autumn. For the past three years we have grown spring beans but have changed to the winter variety for three reasons. Winter beans are a larger seed and therefore potentially a larger yield. Blackgrass control is easier in winter beans and they are harvested earlier in August. The variety we have planted Is called Wizard. Our big concern was rooks and crows eating the seeds. So far no problems; with scarecrows planted in each field and a couple of dead crows hung up the black beasts have stayed away!

Anglian Water have started delivering sewage sludge onto the farm making a stockpile at the bottom of Sheepgate Lane – 380 tonnes to be delivered. While the weather stays relatively dry this will continue. If we get significant rain it will be halted so we don't damage the bridleway.

As you can see, a very busy few weeks work but rewarding. What a splendid Autumn!

Here's wishing everyone a Happy Christmas from Bishops Farm. We hope to see you at the 'Taste of Christmas' evenings.

- Mike Morley



Buttons

Last year time and money was spent trying to rid the churchyard of rabbits because of the damage they caused.

Well this year!! We have Buttons, the Church Farm cat and he has single paw cleared the place.

Well done and thanks to our four legged friend!

- Margaret Lovick