Useful Local Contacts

Anglian Water Emergencies		03457 145145
Borough Council:		
- St Edmundsbury Offices		01284763233
Local Member Sara.Mildmay-White	Sara.Mildmay-White@stedsbc.gov.uk	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



Dec 2018/Jan 2019



166

It is amazing to think we are now fast approaching the festive season and Advent is nearly upon us. As Keith reports, the weather has at last started to revert to a more customary mode. In keeping with the festive theme, this double edition of The Bradfield Grapevine highlights the village events that are being planned and the scheduled celebratory church services – hopefully many of us will be able to meet and celebrate together at most if not all of these events! It is a wonderful time of the year to renew friendships and meet new people. On a very sad note we learned of the passing of Flo Balaam who was such a well loved and respected member of the village. Our thoughts are with Doug and the family.

This month we say farewell and best wishes for their futures to three couples that have been very active and supportive members of our community. David and Penny Bamber have permanently moved back to London, John and Pat Bender are moving to pastures new and David and Dyane are making acquaintance with Norfolk! They will all be sadly missed and have done much to make this village the special place it is. A friendly welcome will be waiting for those who take their place within our community.

Finally, seasons greetings and thank you to all our advertisers who support this magazine throughout the year and make it possible to deliver it free to you all. Most of all to you – have a wonderful and joyous Christmas and a calm 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 2018

Sunday 2nd December Advent Sunday	10am Communion	Cockfield
	4.30pm Family Christingle Service	Felsham
Sunday 9th December 2nd Sunday of Advent	10am Communion	Felsham
	4.30pm Carol Service	Gedding
Sunday 16th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	10am Communion	Bradfield St Clare
	4.30pm Carol Service	Bradfield St George
Monday 17th December	7pm Carols by Candlelight with the Long Melford Handbell Ringers	Lt Whelnetham
Tuesday 18th December	7pm Carols on the Green	Cockfield Great Green
Wednesday 19th December	7pm Carol Service	Felsham
Sunday 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent	10am Communion	Bradfield St George
	3.30pm Carol Service	Bradfield St Clare
	4.30pm Carol Service	Cockfield
Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve	3pm Crib Service	Cockfield
	9pm Communion	Felsham
	11.30pm Communion	Cockfield
Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day	10am Communion	Bradfield St George
	10am Communion	Gedding
Sunday 30th December 1st Sunday of Christmas	10am Carol Communion	Bradfield St Clare

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

Bradfield Woods

December Activities

Suffolk Wildlife Trust

PLEASE BOOK FOR ACTIVITIES

Book on line at:-

www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org

or 'phone 01473 890089

Sat 1 Dec

Adult course: Maintenance and sharpening of green woodworking tools

Get to grips with the sharpening and maintenance of common and unusual green wood working hand tools. With Chris Perkins, local craftsman and green wood worker.

10am – 4pm - £45

Mondays 3 and 10 Dec

Wild Tots for families with children under 5 years

10am – 11.30am - £4 per child.

Thurs 6 Dec

Wild and well for adults

Spend a morning in the woods practicing mindfulness and nature connection techniques, cook your lunch over the fire, spend the afternoon whittling or crafting round the fire.

10am – 2.30pm -£15

Mon 17 Dec

Wild Tots winter party for families with under 5s

10am – 11.30am -£4 child

Wed 19 Dec

Wild in the woods for teens and adults with additional needs and disabilities

Woodland activities

10am - 2pm -£7

Thursday 20 Dec

Whittling and woodworking for teens

Make reindeer and Santas

10am - 2pm -£10

Friday 21 Dec

Solstice lantern walk for families

Make a lantern and follow the lantern lit trail through the woods, finish with hot chocolate by the fire

3.30pm-5pm - £4 children, £2 adults



Bin collections in December 2018 and January 2019

Thursday 6th December	Black bins
Thursday13th December	Blue and brown bins
Thursday 20th December	Black bins
Friday 28th December	***Blue and brown bins***
Friday 4th January	***Black bins***
Thursday 10th January	Blue and brown bins
Thursday 17th January	Black bins
Thursday 24th January	Blue and brown bins
Thursday 31st January	Black bins

FEBRUARY 2019 ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertisements for the February 2019 issue of The Bradfield Grapevine should be sent to either of the two Editors, whose names and addresses appear on the front page, by Monday 21st 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

News from St Clare Church



December and the season of Advent and Christmas is here! Advent Sunday (2nd December) is the beginning of the church's liturgical year and if you're lucky another window to open on your Advent Calendar. St Clare celebrates with a Candlelit Carol Service on 23rd December at 3.30pm. Following the readings and the carols we will have mulled wine and mince pies for everyone. Please come – carols sound so much better with many happy voices!

The last Sunday in the month is the 30th December and at 10.00am we have a Carol Communion and again we plan to have something to drink and nibble at the end of the service! If you come it is another chance to sing more Christmas carols.

As always we try to make St Clare Church look festive, so if you have any greenery please leave it in the porch on Friday 21st December or bring it on Saturday 22nd at 10.00am to help us decorate the church.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support throughout the year; opening and closing the church, contributing flowers, buying and donating books for sale, supporting our fundraising events and buying produce donated to the church. A special thanks to those who keep the church so beautifully clean and care so well for our churchyard.

On behalf of the PCC, may I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

"All glory be to
God on high
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth
From heaven to men
Begin and never cease"



- Margaret Newlands (Church Warden)



CHRISTMAS 2018

For the Village





by the Village

Now for something completely different!!!!!!

The Village Christmas Tree will be erected outside Bishops Farm on Pitchers Green, Bradfield St Clare on ***3rd Dec and lit up through Chrstmas until 12th Night FOR ALL TO SEE AND ENJOY!***

And for one evening only this year THURSDAY 20th December 6.30pm 'CAROLS AT PITCHERS GREEN'

Led by Deneside Ramblers – as last year

Everyone in the village is welcome – please bring a plate of finger food to share (festive savoury or sweet), home baked or shop bought – this village loves food!

Bring a torch and perhaps wellie boots and of course ***singing voices!***

Mulled wine and hot chocolate will be provided

Plenty off road parking space to celebrate together

PLEASE come along to meet up with neighbours old and new and enjoy some nibbles

Cheers to everyone for a Happy Festive Season!

Eastgate VETERINARY GROUP

The best way to care

Healthy Pet Club

Comprehensive care for your pets

- Friendly local practice
- Convenient late night and weekend appointments
- 24 hour emergency service
- Free nurse clinics
- Puppy parties (socialisation for your puppy)
- Free parking
- Free advice to help you choose your perfect pet



Meet our friendly staff at your local Eastgate or visit online at:

www.eastgatevets.co.uk
www.facebook.com/eastgatevets

Cotton Lane Clinic
Cotton Lane
IP33 1XW

01284
753961

Dates for your Diary



- Monday 3rd December – Village Christmas Tree erected outside Bishops Farm
- Friday 7th Dec & 4th Jan – Whist Drive – 7.30pm – Village Hall
- Saturday 8th December – Kit Café - 10.00am to1.00pm – Village Hall
- Thursday 20th December – Carols at Pitchers Green – 6.30pm
- Sunday 23rd December – St Clare Church Carol Service – 3.30pm
- Sunday 30th December – St Clare Carol Communion – 10.00am



TOMLINSON GROUNDCARE

Sales ●Service ●Parts ●Repairs
1 Brettenham Road
Buxhall, Stowmarket, IP14 3DL
www.tomlinsongroundcare.co.uk



01449 736060

Opening Times

Mon– Fri 7.30 am to 5.00 pm
Saturday 7.30 am to 12.30 pm

Visit our LARGE SHOWROOMS



This advert is too small to be able to show you all we have to offer, please visit our website or come and have a cup of tea/coffee and discuss your requirements.

Main Al-Ko and John Deere Dealers

PARKERHOME

PROPERTY REFURBISHMENT AND RENOVATION

Local, Electrical Services with 30 years experience

- Part P Certified
- Domestic Alarm Systems
- Re-Wires
- Electrical Alterations
- Testing and Inspections
- 24 hour call out
- Fuse Board/Consumer Unit Changes
- Electric Heating Systems
- Reliable
- CRB Checked

01284 386899 / 07810 353426

www.phihome.co.uk

NICEIC DOMESTIC INSTALLER

"HAVE A FAMILY HOLIDAY ON THE BEAUTIFUL"



ISLE OF WIGHT

SELF CATERING 5 BEDROOMED HOUSE – SLEEPS 9
IN QUIET RESIDENTIAL ROAD IN FAMILY FRIENDLY RYDE
ONLY 5 MINUTES WALK TO SUPERB BEACHES
THE HOUSE IS VERY WELL FURNISHED AND EQUIPPED
HAS A LARGE GARDEN WITH TWO OUDOOR EATING AREAS
A GAS BARBEQUE IS SUPPLIED
BICYCLES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE GARDEN SHED
OFF-ROAD PARKING

VISIT

www.myiowholiday.co.uk

DKC PLUMBING SERVICES

Oil fired boilers servicing
Breakdowns
Heating systems
General plumbing
24h call out
Fully insured

5star plumber by ratedpeople
David 07740272791

Bradfield Weather



'Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower.'
Albert Camus 1913 – 1960

As predicted last month, Oslo, whilst very interesting, was cold with even the odd flurry of snow. Now the cold weather has arrived here, if the past couple of days is anything to go by, – 4C at 11.00am yesterday morning. The end of October produced only one further day's rain to give 36mm for the month, compared to our average of 56.5mm. Although recent early mornings have been quite misty the days have remained warm until this week. With some very windy days, we have seen the leaves finally falling, much later than usual. There have also been several wet days this month giving, to date, 53.5mm of rain, so we look likely to reach our average of 61.1mm.

- Keith Payne 22nd November 2018



Bradfield St George Village Hall

Bradfield Night
Friday 7 Dec: 7 - 11 pm
Bar, snacks and mince pies
All welcome

Quiz Night
19 Jan 2019
Teams of 4, £1 per head
7 for 7.30pm start
All welcome, just turn up

Bradfield Night
Friday 1 Feb: 7 - 11 pm
Bar and hot food
All welcome

The CleanPlumber
experience the difference

Installations, Service & Repairs Domestic & Commercial…

- Gas, Oil and LPG Boilers
- Central Heating
- Power Flushing of Radiators
- Gas Safe and Oftec registered
- Showers & Bathrooms
- Property Maintenance

A leaking tap to a brand new system – we can help you

Call us now on
01284 765453
www.thecleanplumber.co.uk

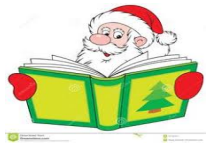
www.thecleanplumber.co.uk

Contributions to The Bradfield Grapevine

One of the great pleasures for the Editors of The Bradfield Grapevine is receiving contributions from villagers. Often these come in voluntarily – without any arm-twisting! ***Please keep them coming!***
Recipes, poems, short stories and accounts of exciting things you have been engaged in are welcome and always much appreciated by fellow villagers.
Just let Peter Newlands or Margret Lovick know if you would like to contribute. You can submit by email to: ***pjrmrn@aol.com***



The Library Van



NEXT VISITS: 9.40 – 9.55 am on 19th December

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

♥ ♣

Whist Drive



Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

Friday 7th Dec & 4th Jan

7.30pm

Entry £2.00 including refreshments,
tea or coffee.
If preferred, bring your own drinks.

Cash Prizes & Draw

Raffle Prizes Welcomed!

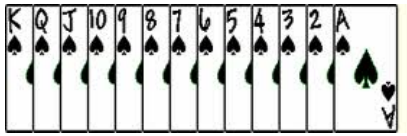
Come along and bring your friends

In aid of Village Hall funds

♦ ♠

WHIST DRIVE

November



Seventeen players turned out on a chilly Friday night for the November Whist Drive and, for once, we had more gentlemen than lady players. The games were very enjoyable and there were some lovely draw prizes that raised £39 for village hall funds so thanks to all who bought tickets and donated prizes.
The results were: Ladies winner Val Nunn with 174, second place Siobhan on 172 and third Val Offord with 168.
The Men's first place went to Jim with 168, followed by Derek on 166 and third prize went to Ian with 162.
Wooden spoon prize for lowest scores went to GIna for the ladies and Steve for the men both scoring 142 points.
Interestingly last month Jim got the booby and came first this month, whilst Steve received the booby this month having won the previous month ... just goes to show how up and down the game of Whist can be!

- Val Nunn



OTHER CHURCH SERVICES

St Edmund King & Martyr - Bury St Edmunds

Monday 24th December – 6.00pm Children's Mass
– 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Tuesday 25th December - 8.30am & 10.30am Christmas Mass
Wednesday 26th December – 11.00am Mass

Gospel Hall - Bradfield St George

Sunday 16th December – 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 25th December – 10.00am Christmas Day Service

YOUR RELIABLE LOCAL ELECTRICIAN

City & Guilds

Lee Jardine
Electrical Services

NICEIC DOMESTIC INSTALLER

- 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

THE LOG STORE

FIREWOOD MERCHANT

100% Kiln Dried Ash logs
Logs split and cut to 25cm in length
Less than 20% moisture

01284 388468

simon@thelogstore.com

Supplied in handstacked crates which can be delivered directly into a garage or carport to avoid unnecessary handling

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 Treework

ALL GROUND AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE UNDERTAKEN
Visit :-

www.mbairdlandscapes.co.uk

CALL MARK on 01284386865 or 07725625760

ORGANISE YOUR INVOICING

- **Free To Use. Register Today.**
- **Print Invoices**
- **Track Payments**
- **Contact Management**
- **For Self-Employed and Small Businesses**



brightinvoicing
Making Invoicing Easy

Visit **www.brightinvoicing.com**

tldesignworks

Start your website today

Small Business/Personal/Club/Association
hosting - design - backup

01983 613237

www.tldesignworks.co.uk **hello@tldesignworks.co.uk**

BRADFIELD ST CLARE

Community Against Crime!

Thankfully, our village enjoys a very low crime rate and long may that continue! Neighbourhood Watch and the use of social media to share/receive crime and suspicious activity alerts has never been so effective!

The 'Nextdoor' website (nextdoor.com) is proving hugely successful with over 400 neighbours in our rural area using it to share not only crime alerts but also other very useful community information - **neighbours looking after neighbours!**

Or register with andrewtucker7@btinternet.com (our 6 rural parishes' NHW Network Coord) to receive timely and only very local police & neighbour alerts, currently reaching nearly 700 very local rural residents.

As well as always reporting crime/suspicious activity to police on 999, 101 or on-line as appropriate, please take a minute to **also notify our good neighbours through social media or via andrewtucker7@btinternet.com**

Secure your property and vehicle
See and report crimes/suspicious activity
Share with your NHW Coord & neighbours

Thank You!

DAVID, DYANE AND STEVEN SAY FAREWELL



We came to St Clare for a temporary home but we began to love the village and its people, especially as everyone made us and Steven feel so welcome. So we stayed and stayed and stayed ……

However life never stands still and we needed to move to a permanent home and found it.

We have delivered the Grapevine for perhaps the last time and we give everyone our best wishes and thanks for your kindness, friendship, fun, excitement and many happy memories.

- David, Dyane and Steven Wood



BRADFIELD ST CLARE VILLAGE LITTER PICK

A huge thank you to everyone who picked up litter on our Village Litter Pick on 17th November.

Thank you also to the organisation of the Kit Café who fed us with bacon butties and hot drinks after all our endeavours!

Let's keep our village tidy!



KIT CAFÉ



Everyone seemed to enjoy our “Peace Tea Party’. Many thanks to all those who helped make the afternoon really special, whether by lending memorabilia for the exhibition or providing refreshments and helping.
We also opened the café for the litter pickers and provided bacon butties and a hot drink for all their hard work.
Our café will be open for a Christmas Coffee Morning on Saturday 8th December from 10.00am to 1.00pm – just drop in. “Mince pies anyone?”
We shall be open again in the New Year on Saturday 19th January – same place, same time, and same friendly welcome. Do come along; all ages catered for!
We are very happy to announce that Parker Homes, a local building firm, have offered to sponsor us. We are very grateful for this very generous offer – thank you!



Val Nunn 388830 or 07483245825
Pat Hipwell 386636 and
Dyane Woods (who is sadly leaving the village)

SHOE BOXES

A HUGE THANK YOU from all the children around the world who will receive one of the Samaritans Purse Christmas Child shoe boxes. In all our village contributed 14 boxes. Thanks to the many people througout the villlage who contributed by filling the boxes with gifts and also donated £5 per box towards expenses - wonderful generosity.

- Pat Hipwell

VILLAGE FRIENDS – Felsham Village Hall

Village Friends is an over 60's friendship group that meet once a month for a chat and tea. There is usually an option to join in a quiz, games or engage in a craft activity. You can listen to or join in a music session and sometimes listen to a speaker or watch a demonstration or enjoy lunch out

Do come along and join us

Meetings in 2019 will be held in Felsham Village Hall usually on the third Thursday of the month from 2.00p.m. Transport can be arranged and there is no charge for those attending the meeting.
Our December meeting on Thursday the 13th of December is our Annual Christmas lunch, open to all elderly people in our villages. Christmas lunch is followed by entertainment, a sing song and raffle. A fun afternoon for all - we would love to see you there.

Just let us know if you would like to come

Contact: Sue Jell 01284828892 - susanmjell@gmail.com
Lynn Cardale 01284386327 - lcardale@hotmail.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY WI

At our November meeting we celebrated our 55th birthday. A toast was drunk of course, and without a speaker we played ‘silly games’ with our treasurer Sarah Fletcher coming up with a really good one!
After refreshments Pat Amond acted as Quiz Master for an absolute snorter of a quiz with the highest score 7 out of 16! Sue Smith told a lovely story as a new girl of taking over as President in her previous village. Trying to help with the singing of ‘Jerusalem’ she recorded it only to find out on the night she pressed the wrong button and out blasted Madonna singing ‘Like a Virgin’. The ladies were not amused!
On a sad note we have to say goodbye to two of our most active and loyal members, Pat Brender and Dyane Woods. We will miss them and wish them every happiness in their new homes.
On an even sadder note we were told of the death of Flo Balaam. She was a founder member of our WI. She will be remembered as a gentle lady with a lovely smile. She was a wonderful cook amongst other talents. Who will forget her millionaire’s shortbread, victoria sponge and above all her lemon fridge cake. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.
Our December meeting is our Christmas Lunch at The Bear in Beyton.
New members and visitors are always welcome. Please contact Enid Hunt (Secretary) on 01284 386565 or any other member.

Bradfield St Clare Parish Council – 13th November

The councillors welcomed Dianne Bullard (Neighbourhood Watch village contact), Andrew Tucker the area NHW organiser and P.C. Fox the Community Engagement Officer for our area.

The following business was discussed:

- Both lighting units at the junction of Bury Road and Bradfield St George Road remain alight for 24 hours every day. Cllr Evans at Suffolk County Council will once again be contacted over the issue
- The long standing problem of the blocked drain near the water tower remains unresolved. A parishioner has cleared the ditch alongside. Cllr Soons will once more raise the issue with Cllr Evans at SCC
- Cllr Hignett informed the meeting of a restricted/ book in advance bus service we can all use. Details are on the village noticeboard. Contact any Parish Councillor or call 01440 712028 to register for Option 1 – Bury St Edmunds Service.
- Both Councillor reports are available on the village website.
- P.C. Fox reminded everyone to contact the police on 101 for non-emergencies and 999 for emergencies. He can be contacted on ceoburystedmunds@suffolk.pnn.police.uk. He hopes to attend meetings when available
- Andrew Tucker gave advice never to buy anything from a 'cold caller' and to report the individual to Suffolk Trading Standards on 0345 040506 or inform Suffolk Police on 101
- The review of electoral arrangements and the cost of contested elections in May 2019 were discussed
- The draft precept for 2019-2020 was approved
- The Kit Café will be given a grant of £400 from the Borough Locality Grant
- The footpath sign near the water tower needs replacing. The Clerk will report this on the Highways Reporting Tool

Next meeting – Tuesday 12th February 2019

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year from your Parish Councillors

Flo Balaam

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Flo Balaam. Flo was a big part of this village for many years. She cleaned the church, was a PCC member, gained a long service medal for the selling of poppies and was a founder member of the local WI. For many years she worked on the Hardingham's fruit farm. She cooked lovely cakes, washed up and was always on call to help until illness took her form our midst. She was a real jewel.

Our condolences to Doug, Linda and family.

Below is her special recipe

Lemon Fridge Cake



8 sponge cakes
4oz margarine
6oz caster sugar
3 eggs
2 large lemons

Beat the margarine and sugar until fluffy
Add egg yolks, lemon juice and the grated rind of both lemons
Whip the egg whites and fold in
Cut up the sponge cakes lengthwise and use to line a dish/basin
Cover with some mixture and then fill with alternate layers of sponge and mixture until the dish is full
Cover closely with foil
Place in the fridge for twelve hours
Turn out and cover with whipped cream, cherries, nuts and angelica

News from Home Field





All the cattle have been brought in to the yards this weekend (17th November), which is 10 days later than normal. We used to aim for 5th November depending on the weather. Leaving them out too long can cause them to lose condition and too wet can cause poaching (deep hoof prints in the grass and muddy gateways) which affects the grass the following spring. This year I think I left them out a week or so too late and they lost a bit of condition but with the dry weather conditions it was a balancing game. They are now in the yards which we have the use of for another winter and are being fed big bale grass silage. Maybe they will need some concentrates later on. With the forecast for next week turning colder with an easterly wind, they should appreciate the straw beds as well.

We used to run the cattle into the yards and then out again the following spring but as I've got older, the cattle have got quicker, the gateways wider and the road traffic more frequent. So a few years ago I built a 'Bovine Movement Unit' comprising of an old buckrake hitched onto the tractor with 3 hurdles forming two sides and the back gate. A corral is made in the corner of the field and the cattle are pushed in. The B.M.U. is then reversed up and depending on size 2,3 or 4 cattle are loaded in. The buckrake is lifted up and the tractor is driven slowly down the road to the farm. The theory is that the cattle are slowly pushed forward by the back gate and follow the tractor. They can see all around so don't get stressed and can only go forwards. They do sometimes turn around but my helpers either side cajole them to turn back – thank you to Debbie, Megan and Alex. I know how much you enjoy the job (or not!)

I can now hear everybody saying, "Are these the same cattle that back in the October writings were going to be sold, moved on etc.?"

Yes they are one and the same and no I can't really explain what happened but it will be nice on a cold winter's night to walk through the cattle yards with them all tucked up and content and continue my reminiscences.

Lucy the sheep is also in the yard with the cattle; her mode of transport slightly different. She was sedately walked down the road by me on a borrowed dog lead – one of those retractable ones. Thankfully no cars were encountered but I had the feeling we were being videoed or was it 'being framed'?

I see that Jersey milk is now available at Maypole Green Farm from Suffolk Farmhouse Cheeses. Are the cows coming home litre by litre?

- Glyn



KIT CAFÉ
Peace Tea Party



Amidst all the other poignant commemorations of the Remembrance weekend, the lovely ladies of the Kit Café held a tea party for the village in the Village Hall

In addition to the always excellent cakes, sandwiches, scones and cups of tea; the ladies had put together an evocative exhibition of wartime memorabilia, photographs, medals, books and much more. It was so interesting to read about the experiences and memories of local people and lovely to chat to lots of visitors.

We even had a chance to do some 'adult colouring in' to finish off the poppies for the giant 100 sign!

The afternoon ended with guests joining Revd. Sharon in the singing of wartime melodies.

A huge thank you to Val, Pat, Dyane for all the hard work (and of course the cooking) that made the afternoon such a success.

- Margaret Fayres