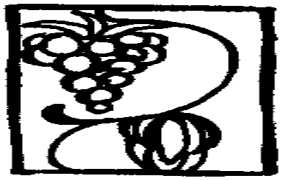
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



August 2025 No:238

Dear Neighbours,

August is here, and there's still plenty to dip into. Whether it's a cuppa and a chat at the KIT Café, a few friendly hands at the Whist Drive, or testing your trivia skills at the Charity Quiz Night on August 22nd (get your team ready — it's bound to be a fun one!), there's something for everyone.

This issue also includes the latest weather report from Alice and an update from Tom at Bishop Farm, giving us a glimpse into what's been happening out in the fields.

A big thank you, as always, to everyone who contributes to the Grapevine. It wouldn't happen without you.

Wishing everyone a lovely August — and see you at an event or two!

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends

Just recently at our Church services we have heard once again the story of the Good Samaritan. For those of you who are not familiar with this story, it is a parable that Jesus used as the answer to the question from a lawyer, 'Who is my neighbour?' Essentially, Jesus illustrates the point that everyone is our neighbour, regardless of creed, colour or culture.

It is a very famous parable, we often hear it and assume that everyone lives by it. However, I find this a challenging parable because I know that there are some people in our population who are never going to treat everyone as their neighbour, which is upsetting for me.

I understand the reasons for this. It's a mixture of fear, of resentment, of memories of the past, and a whole host of other reasons. There are, of course, differences in our genetics depending on where we have grown up in the world. Some cultures are difficult to understand for those of us brought up in the UK.

But what Jesus tells us is that we are all part of the same human race created by God the Father. We need each other, and we need to treat each other as though our lives depended upon it.

It is so sad to see the destruction of communities in countries such as Gaza and Ukraine, and I know that many of you would agree with me. Some of you may think that God cannot exist because God lets these conflicts continue.

What I know, as a Christian, is that God is there in the midst of the conflict. God does not control us - we are not robots subject to God's every whim. But our God I'm sure is weeping over these terrible battles as much as we are. So we will continue to pray for peace, peace in our communities, peace among nations, so that our children's children will inherit a peaceful planet where every human being is valued simply for who they are. Wouldn't that be a beautiful world to live in?

with every blessing,

Sharon
revsharon2@gmail.com
01284-828599, 07825 086063
Cockfield website: www.cockfieldbenefice.com

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - August 2025

Saturday 2 August	2-4pm Knit&'n'natter at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall. All crafters/knitters/crocheters welcome!
Saturday 2 August	5.30pm-6.30pm Simply Saxophones & Guests at St Peter's, Cockfield. Free entry (donations welcome) Wine & Nibbles available.
Sunday 3 August Trinity 7	9.30am Holy Communion at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Celtic Communion at St Peter, Felsham
Sunday 10 August Trinity 8	10am Morning Prayer at St Peter, Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Praise and Worship at St Thomas, Gt Whelnetham
Tuesday 12 August	11am Holy Communion followed by sandwiches & coffee at Felsham Church
Sunday 17 August Trinity 9	9.30am Morning Prayer at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together at St Peter, Felsham 10.30am Holy Communion at St Peter, Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Thursday 21 August	2-4pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall - all welcome. This month we welcome the Barn Owls Choir.
Sunday 24 August Trinity 10	9.30am Holy Communion at St Thomas, Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George
Sunday 31 August Trinity 11	10.30am Benefice Communion at Bradfield St Clare

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. For any other matter contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com, tel: 01284 828599 or 07825 086063.

VILLAGE FRIENDS

An over 65's friendship group

the next meeting will be on
Thursday 21 August
2-4pm
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

This month our guests are the **Barn Owls Choir**

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

Bradfield St Clare Parochial Church Council is looking for a new Treasurer.

Do you have some time to spare and have a head for figures (and computers!)?

You do not need to be a member of the worshipping community as you can be co-opted onto the PCC. The PCC meets 4/5 times a year. For an informal chat if you are interested please contact Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com, 01284 828599 or 07825086063.

KIT CAFE

keep in touch.

Our next opening will be:

Saturday, 16 th August 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.

For further information please contact Val on 07483245825.

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Contact Ben on 07899 299699 or email ben.jenko14@gmail.com

Village Hall Whist Drive



Our next whist drive will be held on
Friday, 1st August

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 Ean with a very impressive score of 185!****

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.

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CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

BRADFIELD ST CLARE
VILLAGE HALL

Friday 22 nd August at 7.30 pm

?????????

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

There will be a raffle.

IN KEEPING WITH PAST QUIZ NIGHTS THE ENTIRE PROCEEDS OF THIS EVENT WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY.

50% TO PROSTATE CANCER UK
50% TO CANCER RESEARCH UK

Please book your table in advance by calling Sue or Clive Leal on 07717 823525 or 01284 386403

We look forward to an enjoyable evening in your company.

August update from Bishops Farm

No 2 years are ever the same in farming but there is a lot of comparisons being made this season to 1976 when the UK experienced major heat waves and a prolonged drought period similar to what we have experienced this year. Now I am not old enough to remember 1976, but I am certain 2025 is a year I will recall at some point in later life as one to learn from.

The UK has seen around a 40% reduction in average spring rainfall, however we were fortunately blessed with almost the same percentage increase in sunlight radiation. You need both elements to build yield, ideally in a more balanced proportion but what the lack of rain has done to overall yield, the sunshine has improved quality so far which is a sign that the rest of harvest will follow suit.

Mike and Sam cut the Winter Barley over 2 days 15th and 16th July. Which is around a fortnight earlier than normal (not that there's such thing as normal nowadays). The crop was drilled 5th October so about a week behind optimum therefore the crop lost 3 weeks of growing time this season (1 week at the beginning and 2 weeks at the end). So not surprisingly yield has been impacted coming in at 8.15t/ha. In the last three harvests we've had an average yielding year (9t/ha 2024); a 15% above average year (10.3t/ha 2023) and a 10% below average year (2025). which is where the crop agronomy is so important to balance from season to season.

Moisture generally drives weed growth, disease pressure and crop lodging risk and so I have been able to cut back by around 50% of these costs this spring and still kept a clean and standing crop for Mike to combine. Mike always tells me if it falls over I will have to combine it… so maybe that could actually be my way to get into the driver's seat one year? Only joking, flat crops are bad crops! Expect significant yield and quality reduction …

From a quality aspect, the barley weighed in at around 70 HLW (hectare litre weight – how many kg's of grain would fill 100L grain volume). We use this to calibrate the yield monitor on the combine to give accurate Yield mapping results. This is reasonably high for Barley, so a sign that the sunshine drove good bold grain fill.

Considering the cost of fuel, fertiliser, seed, wearing metal and crop protection that goes in to growing a crop nowadays that 10-15% swing in either direction from average can be the profit for the year, or in a year like this potentially a loss for the year with current barley price hovering around £130/t. (It's been double that price in the last 3 years so you can imagine how challenging it is to factor in that level of price volatility to a farming business. Too often farming is either a year of boom or a year of bust and it always amazes me the resilience and modesty that most of our local farmers carry to ride those peaks and troughs.

If I think back to my economics modules at college, farmers it would appear still are and always will be price takers not price setters. We grow and produce things the world needs yet have no ability to influence the value of that produce in a global supply chain that is governed by global politics and economics way above my understanding. Basic supply and demand would suggest when the supply is down the price is up, so tell me why is the supply currently down and the price also currently down?

We still have the entire winter wheat crop to combine, the spring barley, spring beans and spring oats to go at too so the task of harvest 2025 has only just begun but at least the first crop is in the shed for another year. Following winter barley will be our cover crops ahead of spring cropping, a new sown 2-year grass ley for 2026 winter cattle fodder and the task of reinstating the pipeline route and rectify the soil damage that that project has brought to the farm. Mike has already sown a deep rooting multi-species cover crop on the route to help rebuild soil structure ahead of pulling those areas down and back into commercial cropping. Todays rain (21 st July) will be extremely welcome to these areas of the farm.

Tom Rouse
Dairy Farm House

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

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Bradfield Weather

June 2021	June 2022	June 2023	June 2024	June 2025
46.5mm	38mm	27mm	20 mm	23 mm
July 2021	**July 2022**	**July 2023**	**July 2024**	**July 2025**
61.5mm	2.5mm	72.5 mm	86 mm	24mm to 21st

At the time of writing I'm in a state of ecstasy as we've had about 19mm of rain in the past few days – some of the yawning chasms in the ground are filling in and for once our Editor isn't having to chase me for this report, as I'm not filling watering cans to rescue plants nearing death so there's a spare moment to write!

Lack of rain aside, it has been a lovely summer with some truly hot days (too hot for me – Tom's weather station has recorded a high of 38.7°C, I don't know if that's 100% accurate but blimey that's warm!) but warm evenings enabling late suppers outside, watching the sun set and the bats emerge. It's the time of year to take part in the Big Butterfly Count which takes all of 15 minutes anytime until the 10 th August. After last year's survey, Butterfly Conservation has declared a butterfly emergency and they are appealing for our help more than ever. It really is very straightforward and an excellent excuse to sit peacefully so do please have a go if you can - just Google Big Butterfly Count and it'll tell you how to go about it.

It has not been a good year for lawns, but IMHO (in my humble opinion, apparently common abbreviation amongst the youth!) lawns are over-rated. We haven't mown ours for several weeks and it's looking better than many I've seen. The grass has sent up short seed heads and we'll leave these to drop naturally and help regenerate the grass and reduce the 'weeds', the seed heads also protect the leaf blades underneath from scorching. There's a lot to be said for idle gardening.

Alice Ward-Thomas (22/7/25)

The Library Van Dates 2025

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:

Wednesday 20 August	Wednesday 12 November
Wednesday 17 September	Wednesday 10 December
Wednesday 15 October	

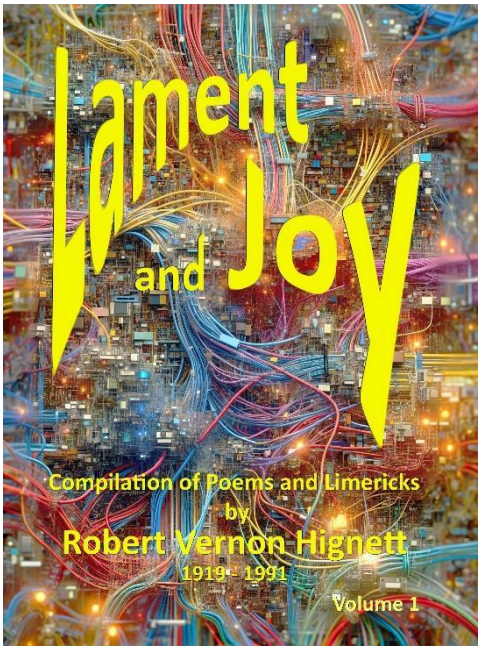
BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 6 August	Blue Bin
Tuesday 12 August	Brown Bin
Wednesday 13 August	Black Bin
Wednesday 20 August	Blue Bin
Check dates (Bank Holiday)	Brown Bin
Check dates (Bank Holiday)	Black Bin

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

Parish Council Meetings

- 12th August 2025
- 11th November 2025



Lament and Joy – A Tribute in Poetry

A new eBook by local resident Malcolm Hignett, Lament and Joy brings to light the heartfelt and humorous poems of his late father, **Robert Vernon Hignett (1919–1991)**.

From tender love poems and wistful reflections to quirky limericks and playful tales, this evocatively illustrated collection celebrates one man's hidden world – discovered after his passing and brought to publication only now, thanks to new creative tools and the passage of time.

Poignant, playful, and deeply personal, Lament and Joy is a moving tribute to love, memory, and the enduring power of poetry.

eBook available now on Amazon Kindle:
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Now playing…

Ozzy Osbourne / Black Sabbath

With the passing of Ozzy Osbourne this week as I write this, it goes without saying that we've lost a true legend of rock and metal. I encourage you to spin a classic Ozzy solo album or something from Black Sabbath in his memory—or seek out footage from his brilliant final performance at the *Back to the Beginning* gig held in Birmingham at the start of July.



I'd also like to say thank you to everyone who came and supported myself and Adam when we hosted the quiz at BSG in July. We mixed it up a bit and delivered 'The Quiz of Destiny' with some interesting extra elements and a live music round. It seemed to go down well - hope everyone had fun!

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 Village Halll Bookings	Mrs Val Nunn - 01284 388830
Bra dfield 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	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
	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	Fr David Bagstaff - 01284 754358