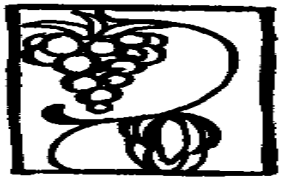
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



July 2025 No:237

Dear Neighbours,

July has arrived, bringing the sunshine, soaring temperatures and plenty going on in the village! We hope everyone who joined in the various events last month had a great time. The Open Garden was a real highlight, and there's a round-up inside for anyone who missed it (or just wants to relive the day!).

Looking ahead, don't forget *An Evening with Charles Garland* on July 25th. With his varied and interesting career across TV, theatre, and writing, it's shaping up to be a brilliant evening. Grab your tickets before they go!

You'll also find our regular updates, including KIT Café news and a request from the parish council, plus a few extra bits to enjoy while keeping cool in the heat.

Here's to a sunny, sociable July - enjoy the warm days (or make the most of the shade and light evenings!) and we'll see you out and about!

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Sarah Pittard
Tel: 07816754163

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear Friends

I have some lovely news this month - which is that our new Assistant Curate, Fiona Malby, will be starting her curacy with us in July. She was ordained deacon at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday 28 June, which was also the day before St Peter's day, the saint after whom both parish churches in Cockfield and Felsham are named. I am very excited about having a new curate and I'm sure that she will receive a warm welcome from everyone in all the villages in our benefice.

You may be wondering what a deacon is. In the Church of England before you are ordained as a priest you are first ordained as a deacon and spend 12 months focussing on service and outreach in the community. It's also a great way of getting used to wearing a clerical collar.

I'm sure we'll forgive Fiona for coming across the border from Essex to work with us! Fiona has been a primary school teacher and a street pastor. She has trained for ministry at the St Augustine's College of Theology in Kent, which is based at Malling Abbey. We have been praying for Fiona for some time now, and hope that she will soon be out and about in our communities, getting to know people and learning what it means to serve those she is ministering to.

I seem to have been at a lot of ordination services over the years, and they always remind me of my own ordinations to be deacon and then priest, and how much I felt the Holy Spirit was with me on those days. We celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit last month, and we are now into what is known as 'ordinary time'; within the rhythm of the Church's year. But it is never ordinary in the Cockfield Benefice! It's great to be part of such lovely communities, and I am praying that the rest of the summer and all our events are blessed with good weather and lots of fun.

with every blessing,

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

ps. thank you for all your support at the Open Garden in aid of Bradfield St Clare Church on 15th June, it was much appreciated!

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - June 2025

Saturday 5 July	2-4pm Knit&'n'natter at Bradfield St Clare Village Hall
Saturday 5 July	Quiz Night at Gt Whelnetham Community Centre. £5 per person. BYO food and drink. Up to six people on a team.
Sunday 6 July Trinity 3	9.30am Holy Communion at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St George 6pm Celtic Communion at St Peter, Felsham
Saturday 12 July	3-5pm at The Hive, Rougham Road, Bradfield St George, IP30 0AZ. All children welcome with their parents/carers for outdoor activities!
Sunday 13 July Trinity 4	9.30am Holy Baptism at St Nicolas, Stanningfield 10am Morning Prayer at St Peter, Cockfield 11am Holy Communion at Bradfield St Clare 6pm Praise and Worship at St Thomas, Gt Whelnetham
Tuesday 15 July	11am Holy Communion followed by soup and sandwiches at Felsham Village Hall
Thursday 17 July	12.30-3pm Village Friends at Felsham Village Hall. This month is fish'n'chips and entertainment so an earlier start time. Booking essential, contact Canon Sharon.
Sunday 20 July Trinity 5/St Mary Magdalene	11am Patronal Morning Prayer at St Mary Magdalene, Lt Whelnetham 6pm Evening Prayer at Bradfield St Clare
Sunday 27 July Trinity 6	9.30am Holy Communion at St Thomas, Gt Whelnetham 10am Worshipping Together at Bradfield St George
Sunday 27 July	12.30pm for 1pm Cockfield Church Summer Lunch at 'Clovelly', Cockfield

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 17 July
12.30-3pm as this month it's 'Fish'n'chips'
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall
Booking Essential!

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, 19th July from 11am – 1pm

This café is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE Why not make a date in your diary?

Firstly we must apologise for the late cancellation of our June opening. We were hoping to install the kitchen units but unfortunately it wasn't as simple as we first thought. This meant that the hall was too cluttered with partly completed cupboards and shelves, leaving little room for our tables and chairs. As it turned out the weather was stiflingly hot on the 21 st June and it would have been very uncomfortable to work in the kitchen.

All being well the work will be completed before our next opening and the new storage room outside is being erected right now. This will give us a lot more space inside.

So please make a date in your diary to come and visit us on 19th . There are always lots of tasty treats available. Pop in for a quick bite to eat, cup of tea or coffee or stay for the whole two hours.

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

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, 4 th July 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 we had a tie with Margaret and Val winning on 169 points.

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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Jazz Open Garden

What a glorious afternoon we spent on 15th of June, in the lovely garden of Christian and Alice Ward-Thomas and their very pleasant helpful sons. We thank them for their generosity and warm welcome to us all.

The whole event was masterminded by Lorraine, who did the lion share of the work, happily assisted by Mike. We would like to thank all who looked after the games, the stalls, the tea ladies, the many cake bakers, the gate ladies, and the car park boys. The many helpers to erect and dismantle the many gazebo's. Thanks to Richard Wheatley and The Jazz Breakers for Music and Jen Larner and her Circle Dancers. On the day a team of 36 to make it all run smoothly. Also, we need to thank Sarah for all her inspiring poster and ticket work.

Nothing would have been possible without you all, if you feel I haven't thanked then I'm sorry, thanks anyway.

Prize Winners:

John Atkinson / Bowl for the Bacon (Score 180) - £20 voucher donated by Thurston Butchers.

Anton Frisby / Beat the Goalie – Football donated by Alice.

Pat Hipwell / Adult Treasure Hunt – Garden kneeler donated by Yvonne Wheatley.

Ava Ambrose / Under 16 Treasure Hunt – Aeonium 'Velour' plant donated by Alice.

Due to generous donations only £200 went out as expenses!

I would like to personally thank Lorraine and Mike, who I saw going home about 7:30 that night, for all they do for our church and village. I happily banked £1,745 for our church.

Margaret

News from HOME FIELD



I'll start this month with the lambing report starting with Egg. She lambed 11th of May a few days earlier than I thought, giving birth to twins (1 ewe, 1 ram). Thankfully I had heeded my own warning from last year and had brought the sheep back from the front field to home. Not that she needed any help, but you never know. Next came No7 who had a single ram lamb followed by Lucy on the 19th of May who had twin ewe lambs all with no assistance. I know I said last year that this would be Lucy's last lambing, but this is definitely her last. She is a brilliant mother, but her udder is near enough on the floor and the lambs do struggle to suckle initially. She is 8 years old and will be now retired as a 'pet'.

Finally in the first wave of lambing, more ripple than wave, Chicken had twin lambs (1 ewe, 1 ram). They were born perfectly OK, but she would not/could not release her milk. After a hormone injection to release the milk which did not work, I tried warm flannels massaging etc, but nothing happened. By this time her lambs were very weak so into the kitchen under a heat lamp they came. The ram lamb took a bottle of colostrum (powdered first milk) but the ewe was so weak she had to be stomach tubed. Eventually both revived and the stronger ram lamb was put back with mum but bottle-fed milk. She had all the maternal instincts and looked after them but couldn't feed. The ram lamb was on a litre of milk in four feeds/day but died after 3 days. The ewe lamb, again on 4 feeds, was put out with mum at five days old and was going very well. I foolishly named her Ada and she soon learnt to come to the bottle, but after two weeks she decided to die. They call the first milk fresh colostrum "Liquid Gold" and I'm sure their lack of it contributed to their fate.

We are now waiting for Lola to lamb. She went to the ram quite late after her holiday away, so the dates say about the 18th of June but only she knows. Let'ss hope for a second ripple.

On the allotment everything seems very slow in the dry heat. The potatoes Marfona have just finished flowering and look about two weeks ahead of the Charlotte which were planted at the same time. The sweet peas have started flowering but seem to prefer the fat hen stalks to the long willow canes I put in. This is all very well until you pull the weeds out and take half the sweet peas with it. The marrows, squashes, courgettes etc. planted out "after the last frost" are finally growing away. Sweetcorn, runner beans and sunflowers have started to pull away, basically anything that managed to get its roots down before the hot dry spell is OK. It'ss going to be re-drills for carrots, beetroot, swedes, and parsnips. The garlic has been harvested and hung in the shed. This will be planted straight into the allotment next year not into pots then transplanted. The bulbs were a decent size, but the roots were excessive. I think they grew in the pots then stopped then started again. Next year if I remember they will be planted in the allotment straight away.

No apologies for the mention of waves and ripples; it's a ploy to make it rain. Hope I haven't overdone it and we end up with a tsunami.

Glyn

Bradfield Weather

May 2021	May 2022	May 2023	May 2024	May 2025
62.5 mm	32 mm	40 mm	94 mm	19 mm
June 2021	**June 2022**	**June 2023**	**June 2024**	**June 2025**
46 mm	38 mm	27 mm	20 mm	[18mm to 19th]

Our 32 yr average for rainfall for the three months Mar-May is 124.65mm, this year we have had 37mm. Thus far in June we have had 18mm and it's interesting looking at the soil moisture content in the charts that Tom-across-the-road kindly sends me. The cumulative 6mm of rain we had but spread over a few days made very little difference to soil moisture whereas the 6mm that fell in one go meant moisture content did increase, if only for a couple of days. If you're looking at your lawns you don't need me to tell you how badly we need some rain and another heat wave is on its way!

However, as with last month, I am not going to be overwhelmed by gloom. Have you noticed the insect population this year? It's terrific. In our garden, walking through 'Roger's Garden' (the mass planting of perennials and grasses) there are clouds of butterflies, the sound of buzzing is almost deafening and we've been inundated with the beautiful luminescent green Rose chafer beetles. A friend told me recently about a friend of their's method of killing them as they were eating her flowers. Please don't do this! They eat pollen and don't cause any damage to plants – on the contrary, their offspring in the form of grubs do a valuable job of converting garden waste to wonderful compost as well as being a tasty meal for many garden birds. There are very few insects we should be concerned about in our gardens – even the aphids which are now being obliterated by ladybirds and other predators!

Enormous thanks for everyone who supported the Open Garden and Jazz afternoon. It was such a wonderful atmosphere and we thoroughly enjoyed discussing all things gardening with so many of you. So many people were involved and worked so hard to make it happen and our hugest thanks to all of them but particularly Lorraine and Mike and Margaret – all we had to do was get the garden ready!!

Alice Ward-Thomas (26/06/2025)

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

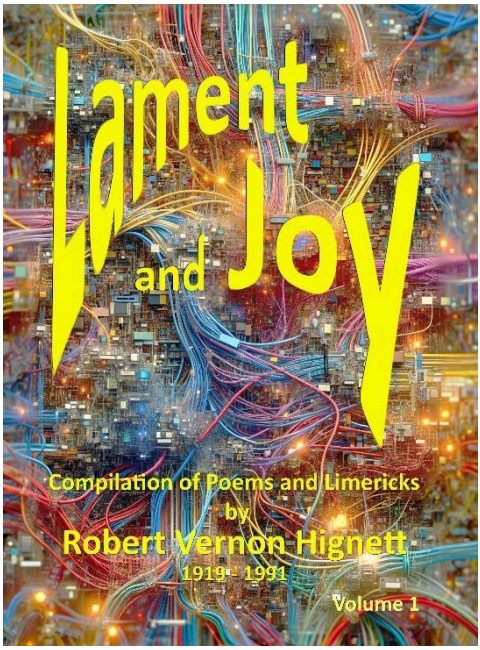
BIN COLLECTIONS

Tuesday 1 July	Brown Bin
Wednesday 2 July	Black Bin
Wednesday 9 July	Blue Bin
Tuesday 15 July	Brown Bin
Wednesday 16 July	Black Bin
Wednesday 23 July	Blue Bin
Tuesday 29 July	Brown Bin
Wednesday 30 July	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:
https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0F9VLWJTK

Bradfield St. Clare Village Hall Refurbishment Fund Raising Event:

An Evening With Charles Garland. Friday 25th July 2025 in BRADFIELD ST. GEORGE VILLAGE HALL

People who have visited our Village Hall recently will know that the refurbishment is nearly complete, but we urgently need funds to complete the project with equipment needed for the kitchen area. We have generously been given some kitchen furniture from a parishioner, but we still need funds to complete the installation and other items.

The evening with Charles Garland will take place in Bradfield St George Village Hall as it has greater capacity and has a bar that will be open from 7pm. The evening will comprise Charles telling us of his upbringing as a vicars son and his diverse career as a dancer, restaurateur in London's Belgravia before joining the BBC from making tea on Hi-De-Hi to becoming producer of David Crofts last TV comedy series 'Oh Doctor Beeching'. He was series editor of Dads Army and has several anecdotes he could reveal. As an author he has had books published including 'Painted Angel' and a hilarious collection of whimsical verses titled 'My Labrador Eats Poo'.

Charles will begin his presentation at 7.30 with a break for light refreshments and top up from the bar and then provide further examples of his work with some visual and sound clips and he will answer questions if time allows. The evening will also include a raffle.

Venue: **Friday 25th July 2025 Bradfield St George Village Hall**

Time: **7.00pm for 7.30pm**

Tickets: **£10 each** inc. light refreshments, obtainable from Gerry Bullard 07710293669 by call or SMS or by email gerry@ghbullard.co.uk.

Payment can be made if it is easier by Bacs transfer to BSC Village Hall A/c, Sort Code 08-92-99, A/c No. 67238899

For any queries or further information give me a call on 07710293669.

Gerry Bullard

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Bradfield St Clare Parish Council

The Parish Council are looking into whether it is possible to get a bus service reinstated in the village to and from Bury St Edmunds. A full service would be fantastic so that commuters could use it every day, but we are also mindful of those without vehicles in the village who would find it helpful to have a 'market day' bus service on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, as it was many years ago before funding was stopped.

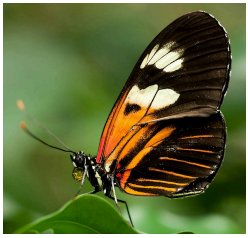
Central Government has released some funding to local County Councils specifically to be used for bus services, and if possible we would like to put a case forward for the reinstatement of a bus service in Bradfield St Clare.

To help us with our application we would like to demonstrate villagers' support for the service with your comments and thoughts. Our Parish Clerk would be pleased to receive this information by email at bradfieldstclarepc@gmail.com or if you prefer please do give Nicola a call on 07817 170906.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Bradfield St Clare Parish Council

Join the Big Butterfly Count



This summer, why not take part in the Big Butterfly Count? It's a simple way to enjoy nature and help conservation efforts at the same time.

From 18 July to 10 August, people across the UK will spend 15 minutes counting butterflies and day-flying moths in gardens, parks and green spaces. You don't need to be an expert - just spot, count and send in your results.

The information collected helps scientists understand how different species are doing and how they're affected by changes in climate and habitat.

It's a great excuse to pause, enjoy some fresh air and look more closely at what's fluttering around.

To take part or download an ID guide, visit:
👉 **www.bigbutterflycount.org**

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Now playing…



Jerry Cantrell

Best known as the guitarist and co-vocalist of heavy rock legends Alice in Chains, Jerry Cantrell has also carved out a strong solo career that's well worth exploring.

We saw him live in June - we queued from 4pm in the sunshine, made friends in the line, and got close to the stage for a great night of music.

Jerry is currently touring his new album *I Want Blood*, but a great place to start is *Brighten* (released in 2021). It's a melodic, emotionally rich album with a warm, classic rock feel, laced with Cantrell's signature haunting tones.

Give *Brighten* a listen… you might find yourself diving into more of his solo work. And if you're after something heavier, give Alice in Chains a try.

We love discovering different music and welcome any recommendations!

Sarah & Adam (please send suggestions to stclaregrapevine@gmail.com)

Ps - don't forget we're hosting the quiz night in BSG… details below!

Events Coming Up

SATURDAY 19 JULY - Bradfield St George Quiz Night - Bradfield St George Village Hall - £2 per person (Teams of 4)

FRIDAY 25 JULY - An evening with Charles Garland - Bradfield St George Village Hall - Tickets £10 from Gerry Bullard - 07710293669

Raising funds for Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

'Allo! 'Allo!'

Dad's Army

Oh Doctor Beeching

An Evening with Charles Garland

Writer, Composer, Television Producer and Director

Tickets £10 inc. light refreshments

Friday, 25 July 2025

Bradfield St George Village Hall

7pm for 7:30 start

Bar & Raffle

Purchase tickets from Gerry Bullard

07710293669

gerry@ghbullard.co.uk

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