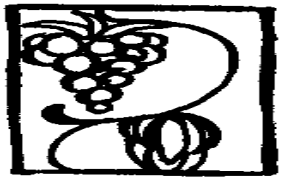
THE BRADFIELD GRAPEVINE



May 2024 No:224

Another full month for our village again. Lots of people attended the Kit Cafe and enjoyed tasting Pat's Tactless Cake, the recipe featured in a previous Grapevine, it's always good to catch up and take five minutes in our busy lives. (Does anyone else have a favourite recipe they would like to share?)

There will be another of Clive's quizzes on Friday 17 May, this one will be for **Breast Cancer UK,** please remember to book your place with Clive, details appear later in this edition.

Rosie and Richard, energetic residents in our village are taking on a mammoth challenge in the summer, it would be lovely to support them if you feel able to. We wish them luck with the training and challenge ahead and look forward to hearing more about it in the months to come.

The Produce Stall is open again for the summer outside Linden House. Margaret is always happy to accept donations of produce or useful items that can be sold - and bought , all proceeds go the St Clare Church

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 28 September, BARN DANCE at BISHOPS FARM,Benefice Fundraiser Pay Bar and BBQ. Additional information and tickets to follow.

Margaret Lovick
Tel: 01284 386662

Debbie Thomas
Tel: 01284 386302

Email: stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Letter from the Rectory

Dear friends

May is a wonderful month. We see our countryside alive with so many colours, and the promise of summer on the horizon. May is also a wonderful month in the church as we celebrate both the Ascension and Pentecost.

Ascension Day, which this year falls on 9 May, is the fortieth day of the Easter Season, and is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68 CE. We learn from our Bible that Jesus met several times with his disciples during the forty days after his resurrection to instruct them on how to carry out his teachings. It is believed that on the fortieth day he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended into heaven.

The disciples were obviously sad to say goodbye to Jesus, their teacher, but they had been promised help by Jesus before he ascended, and that help came on the day of Pentecost. This occurred ten days after the Ascension, when the disciples sat together at the feast of Pentecost (which was traditionally a Jewish celebration of the early weeks of harvest).

There was the sound of a rushing wind and 'tongues of fire' descended on each of the disciples. These tongues of fire were the Holy Spirit and it gave the disciples the confidence to do the things that Jesus asked of them. St Peter, who had denied Jesus three times before he died, was able to stand up in front of the crowd that gathered that day and speak very eloquently about Jesus and why he had lived amongst them. About three thousand were baptised as Christians as a result!

Pentecost is often known as the 'birthday' of the Church and we will once again celebrate this event in all our services on Sunday 19 May. Do come and join us if you can!

with every good wish

Sharon

Rev Canon Sharon Potter, revsharon2@gmail.com,
01284 828599 or 07825 086063

Cockfield Benefice Services and Events - May 2024

Sunday 5 May Easter 6	9.30am Communion - Stanningfield 11am Communion - Bradfield St Clare 6pm Celtic Communion - Felsham
Thursday 9 May Ascension Day	8am Songs of Praise at the top of Lavenham Church Tower followed by breakfast at 8.30am 10am Holy Communion at Lavenham Church (for more details go to www.cockfieldbenefice.com)
Saturday 11 May Messy Church	3-5pm at venue tbc For all children accompanied by parent(s)/guardian(s) (contact Rev Canon Sharon for more details at revsharon2@gmail.com)
Saturday 11 May	7pm The 'Emergers' concert at Cockfield Church (contact Sue Cole on 01284 828212 for more details)
Sunday 12 May Easter 7	10am Morning Prayer - Cockfield 10.30am Communion - Bradfield St George 6pm Praise & Worship - Gt Whelnetham
Thursday 16 May	2-4pm Village Friends - over 65's club at Felsham Village Hall
Sunday 19 May Pentecost	9.30am Morning Prayer - Stanningfield 10am Praise God Together - Felsham 10.30am Communion - Cockfield 6pm Evening Prayer - Bradfield St Clare
Saturday 25 May	10am-12.30pm Plant Sale & Coffee Morning at Cockfield Church
Sunday 26 May Trinity Sunday	9.30am Communion - Gt Whelnetham 10am Communion - Gedding 10am Worshipping Together - Bradfield St George

A service of Celtic 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***

NOW BACK FOR 2024

Plant and Produce Stall - Linden House

The stall has been generously supported both by donations to sell and people to buy. If you are passing stop and have a look - there may be something you need!
All proceeds from this support St Clare Church. £60 raised this month. Thank you

VILLAGE FRIENDS

The next meeting will be on
Thursday 16 May
at Felsham and Gedding Village Hall

Do come along for tea and a chat plus monthly raffle!
Village Friends is an over 65's friendship group of men and women from various villages who meet once a month
All welcome, no need to book!

If you require transport please contact:
Canon Sharon 01284-828599 or 07825 086063
revsharon2@gmail.com or
Susan Metcalf 07925 867221
st.metcalf@btinternet.com

Organised by the Cockfield Benefice

Rosie & Richard's 186 mile Pembrokeshire Coastal Path Hike

This year we decided we needed a life challenge, and what better way to do it than for charity. This July we will be hiking 186 miles with our portable home (a tent!) on our backs, along the Pembrokeshire coastal path.

We're raising money for Macmillan which is a charity close to our hearts. Macmillan help, support and care for those affected by cancer, offering that ray of hope during what can be the darkest times. More information on Macmillan can be found on their website www.macmillan.org.uk or by calling their free support line on 0808 808 00 00.

Planning

We're hoping to complete the hike in 10 days, and will be stopping off at a different campsite each night along the route. We're starting at St Dogmaels in the North and finishing at Amroth in the South. The first day or so will be fairly remote and very hilly, so we're doing that part first while we still have feeling left in our legs! The later part of the route is more touristy and will have more options for cafes and shops for us to top up on food and drink.

There's a couple of places between Dale and Milford Haven which are tidal, so we'll need to make sure we get those at the right times otherwise it could be a long wait before we can cross, or a much longer detour to go around (unless I can convince Richard to carry an inflatable kayak!). There's also a couple of army firing ranges at Penally and Castlemartin that could be closed at certain times. This is where I might lose Richard as he goes looking for the tanks!

Something we can't plan for is landslides along the coastal path - there was one at Wiseman's Bridge late last year and a temporary detour route put in place. Hopefully we won't have any large detours while we're there.

Training

We've been out and about doing 10 mile training hikes with our backpacks filled with our tent, sleeping bags, mattresses, cooking equipment and collapsible chairs. Our bags, including snacks and water, are currently weighing in at 9.5kg (Rosie) and 13kg (Richard).

So far on our training hikes, I've managed to sprain my ankle but still walked the last 4 miles (and also, more importantly, didn't spill the tea I was holding at the time). For what we may lack in ability, we make up for in stubbornness.

During the next couple of months we'll be alternating between upping the bag weight and walking further. Our aim is to be able to easily walk 20 miles with a 15kg bag by July. It's going to be difficult fitting in training while working full-time but we'll be using the May bank holidays for extra hike days, and will be on the treadmill regularly doing shorter walks with heavier backpack weights.

There's going to be a lot more weight added to our bags as we get nearer the hike, so if you spot two strange-looking people around the village who are struggling to walk, please be nice and don't laugh at us too much!

If you would like to donate to our Macmillan hike, the JustGiving page is https://www.justgiving.com/page/buckingham-rambles

We'll also be adding to the JustGiving page with our training and hike updates, and hopefully some funny moments along the way.

Ne’er cast a clout ‘til May be out !

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Next Charity Quiz

Friday 17 May 2024
Bradfield St Clare Village Hall
At 7.30pm

No Specific entry fee - we will leave that to your discretion. There will be a small prize for the winners.

Teams of four, bring your own drinks, tea and coffee making facilities will be available.

It is hoped that this will be a quarterly event and May's will be in aid of Breast Cancer Uk.

Due to limited space and the popularity of the evening you must book your table please, call Clive Leal on
07717 823 525

With Grateful Thanks to Denny Brothers

The editors were saddened to read about the closure of Denny Brothers, who printed our Grapevine for many years. We were so grateful for their professional support and coping with the sometimes random and odd requests from one editor in particular! We wish the printing team well for their future. M&D

KIT CAFE
keep in touch.

Our next opening will be: Saturday, 18th May from 11 am – 1 pm
This café is FREE and OPEN TO EVERYONE Why not make a date in your diary?

Please come and join friends and neighbours (past and present) for coffee, tea, cakes and savouries. Pop in for five minutes or stay for the whole two hours. There are games, colouring books and pencils to keep our younger visitors amused. We have quite a selection of books in the hall too so please feel free to take some home to read. There are also a few jigsaws that can be borrowed/exchanged. There is something for everyone at the Kit Café and you can be sure of a very warm welcome, delicious treats, endless cups of tea and (our much admired) coffee plus plenty of lively chat.

Any offers of help in the kitchen or setting up would be most welcome. Equally donations of cakes or savouries would be much appreciated. It's always nice to see somebody turning up with a sample of their favourite recipe!

For further information please contact Val on 07483245825.

As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer." — William Shakespeare.



Bradfield Weather

March 2020	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	March 2024
16.5 mm	34.5 mm	30.5 mm	86.5 mm	43mm
April 2020	**April 2021**	**April 2022**	**April 2023**	**April 2024**
17mm	3mm	10mm	48mm	32 to 19th

It has finally dried up! No longer am I slopping up the garden through standing water, we're finally able to get the mower into all areas and plants are getting their heads out of the ground and wondering whether to say 'Yippee'. This week (to 21/04) has been cool with a cold wind – some of the trees are wondering whether they've said 'Yippee' a little too soon and the apples are trying to hang on to their blossom long enough for the bees to pollinate them. Bees don't like flying in strong wind so we need some calm days to be sure of a good harvest.

BUT we've avoided bad frost and soil temperatures are rising. I'm indebted to Tom Rouse who has a brilliant weather station over the road – March's average soil temperature was 8.3 degrees C and so far April's is 11.1. This is good news as far as growing is concerned – it's that lovely time of year when, if you're silly enough to garden in the rain/hail/gale, and you're feeling into the soil it's becoming lovely and warm. With the residual moisture in the soil, many of our perennial plants are looking perky and it's a great time to get out there planting and dividing your plants. Generally, gardeners are commenting that everything is at least a fortnight early.

Before this turns into a gardening article I'd better just say: the 30yr average for rain in both March and April is 35 mm. In recent years we've tended towards cool dry springs. This spring has tended towards warm and wet – we shall see what the next few weeks brings us. Incidentally, I saw my first swallows in Northumberland on 10/04 – only two, but perhaps two swallows does not a summer make (there seem to be so few these days I'm hugely excited to see any). Alice Ward-Thomas (21st April)

News from Bishops Farm

Spring update and future technology.



It's been a busy few weeks at Bishops Farm. After a constant battle between wind and rain events all the spring land is now planted with either malting barley or peas. The barley is all now emerging at different stages and the peas have chitted so we expect to see them through soon so I do hope it warms up quickly as peas will not like poking through into cold night temperatures. The winter crops of wheat and barley and the grass leys have been top dressed with Nitrogen fertiliser, new water pipes have been installed for a new herbal ley that the cattle will graze this spring, fencing has started around the new herbal ley and the cattle are still tucked up inside given how cold it still is. Their turnout weights will likely be the highest we've had yet but we'll know on turnout as we run them through the crush again before putting them out to graze.

We'll try to roll the spring barleys post emergence this year to help them to tiller and also smooth out some of the rough seedbeds. There's certainly some wet holes and cloddy

seedbeds on the farm this year after the excessive winter's rainfall.

We're having to do a lot of work around the pipeline route this spring, so our planted areas are smaller than usual on most fields with a lot of short work and running land up to and around the pipeline.

Technology is forever evolving, and my latest professional development course has been undertaking the theory and practical drone pilot's licence. Drones have been discussed for a number of years now for use within agriculture as there is great potential for them to be utilised for certain tasks. From a research and development manufacturers perspective, the company I work for sees a strong fit for drones to support crop trial assessments and data capture from a different perspective, from above. Often the above view of a block of trials can show you much more from the plot treatments than is visible from the ground. As an Area Manager, having a drone will allow me to support activities with Agronomists and farmers across the Eastern counties particularly when it comes to assessing on farm trials of new products.

We also have some development drones based at our research facility in Warwickshire expanding our knowledge and developmental use of drones for aerial crop protection applications. The current major limitation is flight time and battery life, along with a drones limited ability to carry additional weight such as a tank of spray solution. Moreover the legal product approval process has been designed and developed around crop protection products being applied through a traditional boom applicator such like the one we have mounted

on our tractor here at Bishops Farm so the legalities of product approvals will also need to develop.

Despite these limitations, drones are being used elsewhere in the world for aerial applications and this technological advance could drive a more sustainable use of crop protection chemistry as naturally the limitations I just stated will drive for ultra low volumes of use which will result in less product applied, less transport costs and less packaging and waste.

Camera technology combined with drones is also something we are experimenting with for specific targeted spot treatments using camera sensing and species identification algorithms. As a company we manufacture a distinctive portfolio of herbicides and so this technology also has great potential for applying selective herbicide chemistry directly to target species without having to ‘broadacre’ apply to the entire crop. So we see great potential in this technology also.

When we take the last 6 months as an example of weather patterns, it has been very difficult to travel with a land travelling crop sprayer because the soil has been too wet for so long. Drone sprayers therefore may be part of the solution in the future allowing us to negate from using tramlines in our crops. I think we may see this technology appear first however in orchard and high value veg crops grown on much smaller areas before we see drones flying over the 1.4million hectares of winter wheat that’s planted annually in the UK!

Tom Rouse

Dairy Farm House

The Library Van Dates 2024

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:

1 May	28 September
29 May	16 October
26 June	13 November
24 July	11 December
21 August	

BIN COLLECTIONS

Wednesday 1 May	Blue Bin
Tuesday 7 May	Brown Bin (may be a day late due to Bank holiday)
Wednesday 8 May	Black Bin (may be a day late due to Bank holiday)
Wednesday 15 May	Blue Bin
Tuesday 21 May	Brown Bin
Wednesday 22 May	Black Bin
Tuesday 28 May	Blue Bin may be a day late due to Bank holiday)

www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/bindays

Village Hall Whist Drive



Twelve players attended our April Whist Drive making three full tables. Scoring was very close but the winner this month with 168 points was John. In second place was Ean on 166 and Shirley took third place with a score of 164. The booby prize this month went to Gerry on 136.

If you enjoy playing cards please consider coming along. Entry is £2 per player with all proceeds handed out in prize money. Tea and biscuits are served at the half way stage. Whist Drives are held in the village hall on the first Friday of every month, the next one being **Friday, 3rd May at 7.30 pm.** 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.**

For further information ring Val Nunn on 07483245825.

Churchyard Clear Up

Thank you to Fenella, Angela and Betty for their support with the Churchyard Clear up. Watch this space for a new date for tidying up the hedges and the brambles. Margaret

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BUNTING!

Perhaps you've forgotten or are not even aware that we have miles of colourful bunting made many years ago by all the people in the village. It will brighten any event, birthdays, barbeques, garden parties etc. It can be hired for a £15 donation - all proceeds going to the Church and Village Hall. Also available small, matching tablecloths (card table size). Contact Val Nunn 07483245825.

The cost of printing the Grapevine continues to rise. Space is at a premium, therefore it is important that this magazine reflects what the people in the village want from it. The editors would appreciate any feedback on what is important to you and what you enjoy most in the Grapevine. We strive to bring you essential information balanced with articles that reflect what goes on in the countryside around us. Please email your thoughts to stclaregrapevine@gmail.com

Kind regards,
Margaret and Debbie

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	Mrs Debbie Thomas - 01284 386302 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	Mrs Jo Churchill - 01284 752311 www.jochurchill.mp@parliament.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