

CRANHAM VILLAGE MAGAZINE

With Cranham Parish and Benefice News and Information

February '24



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*Any views and opinions expressed in the Cranham Magazine are
attributable only to individual contributors*

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A Letter from The Clergy



ASH WEDNESDAY AND ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

This year 2024, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and St. Valentine's Day fall on the same day – February 14th. A happy coincidence?

Ash Wednesday makes us think of penitence and giving things up while St. Valentine's Day concentrates upon love and romance. These two seem, somehow, to be opposites but are they really so opposed one to another? I would suggest that they have more in common than meets the eye!

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the 40 days and 40 nights of Lent when we think of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His earthly ministry – a ministry of love which transformed the world. When the Lord was asked which were the greatest commandments His reply was deeply profound – simply, to Love God and to Love our neighbour as ourselves.

Would that the world with all its current wars and conflicts take greater notice of that eternal message. So, maybe as Lent and St. Valentine's Day approaches, we should all try to be more caring and loving to one another. To use these Lenten Days to examine our lives in order to remove the hatred from our hearts and to fill the vacated space with love?

Rev'd David Reynish

Cranham Parish Council website

lots of info including the minutes of meetings

<https://cranhampc.org.uk/>

Worship in Cranham - February 2024

Sunday 4th 11.00am Benefice Holy Communion at Edge

6.30pm Evening Worship Sue Hartley (LR)

Sidesman Chris Collier

Readers Chris Collier

Nicole W

Sunday 11th 11.00am Holy Communion Revd Andrew

Sidesman Roger Moore

Readers Roger Moore

Nicki Clapton

Sunday 18th 6.30pm Evensong (BCP) Sue Hartley

Sidesman Mark Crowther

Readers Mark Crowther

Martin Whitaker

Sunday 25th 11.00am Morning Prayer Liz Eden (LR)

Sidesman Nicole W

Readers Ian W

Clive Hayden

Please see pages 6 for other Benefice Service's

(LR = Lay Reader)

Church Flowers

4th & 11th Feb Liz Cattle

No Flowers during Lent - Feb 12th to March 18th



Church Cleaning

3rd Feb Kate Ryan

10th Feb Linda de C

17th Feb Sue Stick

24th Feb Di Blandford

9th Mar Berry Berry



Refreshments will be served after the following services:

Sunday 11th Feb 11.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th Feb 11.00am Morning Worship

Sunday 10th Mar 11.00am Mothering Sunday



St. Mary's Mums – Dads, Grandparents, Childminders and most importantly tots and babes (!)

For families with pre-school children, we meet every Wednesday in term time 9.15-10.45am in the Church Rooms, St. Mary's, Painswick....it's free and you can drop in for all or part of it.

Please pray for this group as it meets every week, that we can share God's love in this place.

If you love baking, please get in touch if you're able to bake a cake / biscuits for us to share. Thank you so much.



*Victoria Soutar – 07900 451248,
Liz Eden, Revd Sarah*

Benefice Services - February 2024

For detailed Cranham services please see page 4

4th February 2nd Sunday before Lent

11.00am	Edge	Benefice Holy Communion	Revd's Sarah & Paul
6.30pm	Cranham	Evening Worship	Sue H. Lay Reader
	Richmond	Wednesday 7th February Holy Communion	Revd Andrew & Mary S

11th February Sunday next before Lent

9.30am	Edge with Harescombe	Morning Worship	Mike C. Lay Reader
9.30am	Pitchcombe	Holy Communion	Revd. Davis R
11.00am	Painswick	Family Worship	Revd Sarah & Vics S
11.00am	Cranham	Holy Communion	Revd. Andrew

Ash Wednesday 14th February

12 noon	Painswick	Communion with Ashing	Revds. David & Sarah
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18th February 1st Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Harescombe with Edge	Holy Communion	Revd. David R
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Morning Worship	Karen with Revd. Helen
11.00am	Painswick	Holy Communion	Revd. Andrew
6.30pm	Cranham	Evensong (BCP)	Sue Hartly (LR)

Wednesday 21st February

	Resthaven	Holy Communion	Revd Sarah & Karen
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25th February 2nd Sunday of Lent

9.30am	Pitchcombe	Holy Communion (BCP)	Revd Sarah
11.00am	Sheepscombe	Holy Communion & Baptism	Revd. Andrew
11.00am	Cranham	Morning Worship	Liz Eden Lay Reader
11.00am	Painswick	Beacon Praise	Revd Paul & Mike C

www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Extracts from The Messenger – February 2024

Unexpected youth club thriving in Gloucester

When Gloucester City deanery started focusing on new ways to engage with secondary-aged young people, they had no idea that within a year God would give them what they needed to start a thriving and expanding youth club.



At the start of 2023, Barrie Voyce, Senior Youth Connector for the Diocese of Gloucester, visited the deanery to help them think around ways to connect with youth and teenagers in their area. Together, they hit upon the idea of ensuring that the excellent relationships the church has with primary school children were not lost as they got older. The deanery decided to prioritise being there for the Year 6s as they dealt with all the challenges of transition and ensuring that they had a safe space to meet with their friends.

Inspired by this idea, the Revd Rachel Beck, Vicar of Gloucester St George's Tuffley, paid particular attention to a couple of Year 6 children who came along to their church's family drop-in and attended the summer holiday club.

Led by Laine Lewis, ordinand on placement, the church invited them back for games, chat and doughnuts on Monday evenings in September. The initial plan was to trial a group for four weeks, chat to the three or four children they'd invited and see if there was an appetite to meet more often going forward.

Barrie says, "What started out as a simple conversation with the deanery about connecting with teens in our parishes has grown into something much bigger. Showing these young people that the church cares about them and wants to provide for their needs has seen the group of young people grow and grow! It's fascinating to see how God has worked through the personal invitation given to these children to speak to ever-growing numbers of young people."

Every week, more and more 11–14-year-olds turned up – the original group inviting their friends and those inviting more. For an hour each Monday evening, the church hall is full of youth playing games, making things and chatting to the encouraged, if slightly surprised, volunteers.

Rachel says, “We’ve accidentally started a youth group! We are full of praise and thanksgiving to God for this, of course, and are very excited by it, whilst also having a few challenges and questions about how to sustain it and help the young people as they develop in faith.”

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/unexpected-youth-club-thriving-in-gloucester

Archbishop of Canterbury to visit Diocese

This May, we will be welcoming the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, to our Diocese as part of the Big Mission Weekend in May. From Friday 24th to Sunday 26th May, the Archbishop will be visiting various locations across the Diocese followed by a special service in the Cathedral on the Sunday afternoon.

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/the-big-mission-weekend-with-the-archbishop-of-canterbury-24-to-26-may-2024

Explore Gloucester Cathedral from anywhere in new virtual tour

Take a virtual tour of Gloucester Cathedral to explore its most-loved spaces and delve into its past in the more hidden areas.



Using modern technology, this new way of viewing the entire Cathedral has opened up this 1,000-year-old sacred space to everyone, anywhere in the world. The virtual tour is available on the Cathedral’s website, allowing users to journey through almost every corner of this remarkable building. Take a look around the Nave, Quire and Lady Chapel before delving into other historic areas such as the medieval Library, iconic Tower and subterranean Crypt. Crated by local company, Virtual360toursghos, the virtual tour will allow everyone to navigate through these areas at their own pace, from wherever they are in the world.

Read more: gloucester.anglican.org/explore-gloucester-cathedral-from-anywhere-in-new-virtual-tour

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Get the latest news from the Diocese on WhatsApp

Every Friday, get a WhatsApp message from the Diocese of Gloucester with our top three inspiring stories, videos or events, straight to your phone. Simply visit: <https://bit.ly/OneDioceseWhatsApp>

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

The spectacular music of Harry Potter

Gloucester Cathedral, 2nd February, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

Featuring music from the Harry Potter films – performed by the International Film Orchestra.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/the-spectacular-music-of-harry-potter

Gaia by Luke Jerram

Tewkesbury Abbey, 2nd to 20th February

Measuring seven metres in diameter, Gaia features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. The artwork provides the opportunity to see our planet on this scale, floating in three-dimensions.

gloucester.anglican.org/gaia-exhibition-by-luke-jerram

Movement Worship night

St Lawrence Church, High Street, Bourton-on-the-Water, GL54 2AW, 2nd February, 7.30pm

Movement Worship nights are specifically designed for youth and young adults, gathering together to meet with God in a dynamic environment with contemporary worship and life applicable teaching that is practical, relevant and useful.

gloucester.anglican.org/movement-worship-night

Quiet Days for anyone in ministry

Brownshill Monastery, Brownshill Road, Stroud, GL6 8AL, 27th February, 10am to 4pm

A gentle day of prayer and reflection. In the beautiful countryside of Stroud, enjoy a chance to stop, reflect and make space for God to speak.

gloucester.anglican.org/quiet-days-for-anyone-in-ministry-2

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Have your say

Visit Facebook **Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at **kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk**, follow us on Twitter **@glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website **gloucester.anglican.org**

These extracts are from The Messenger, a monthly communication produced by diocesan communications office at Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY. The full 'Messenger' is available on www.gloucester.anglican.org and can be emailed to all parish and church representatives who request it. The extracts printed here are provided by Church House and published without alteration and therefore do not necessarily reflect the views of the Cranham magazine editorial team.

A Carolling Christmas

(in the February magazine as we were still singing carols in January!)

Carols abounded in Cranham throughout the Christmas season. We started with the annual, rousing Carol Concert thanks to the Village Orchestra and Village Choir (who between them left just enough room in the hall for the audience!). Next, on a thankfully dry evening we held carol singing in 3 different venues around the village, with mulled wine and mince pies served along the way. It was lovely to have a good gathering at each place, and a generous £280 was collected for Christian Aid.



The church overflowed with families at the Crib service, with a remarkable sense of reverence and worship amidst the happy chaos. Church was full again on Christmas morning where, thanks to members of the choir and some musically gifted visitors, the singing was memorable.

And we are unique in Cranham in holding our main carol service after Christmas Day, this year on Saturday 30th. When the world has put Christmas back in the attic it feels so important that the church is still celebrating the birth of Jesus. Thanks again to Beryl and the choir for another service of wonderful music and worship – and yet again a full church.

The Christingle service in January, largely prepared and led by children from the school, was the final chance for 'Away in a Manger' this year!

All this involved an impressive quantity of mulled wine, uncountable mince pies, and the generosity of many people's time, creating a wonderful celebration of Christmas as a village together.

Helen Sammon (and others!)

Edge Church

Snowdrop-ins

Displays of craft, Edge local history and the Church renovation with tea, coffee and cake will be available inside the church

Friday 2nd February 10.00-4.00
Saturday 3rd February 10.00-4.00
Sunday 4th February 10.00-11.00
Church service 11.00-12.00 everyone welcome
& 12.00- 4.00
Friday 9th February 10.00-4.00
Saturday 10th February 10.00-4.00
Sunday 11th February 10.00-4.00



Christingle Service in Cranham

It was the first time that we had held our Christingle service in January, rather than during Advent, but it felt right and good to be keeping the light of Christmas shining at this time of year. The service, which has the potential to be chaotic (if not dangerous with children and lit candles!) was meaningful and worshipful, as well as fun and engaging for all. It was planned by a team of 7 of us, all of whom prepared and led different aspects of the service.



Children from the school helped members of the church prepare the Christingle 'kits' on the Friday, and other children wrote beautiful and thoughtful prayers which they read at the service. The children also read all the Bible readings, and Emily, a teenager from the village, bravely dressed up as the giant orange! After songs, readings and prayers, focussing on each part of the Christingle, we all moved to form a circle and passed the light from one to another. In the candlelight, quietly, we sang 'Away in a Manger' – perhaps our last carol of the Christmas season this year.

Revd Helen Sammon

In memory of Dorothy Vowell who died on Christmas Day 2023 aged 103

Dorothy was born at Hilltop in Cranham on 15th Dec 1920, her parents were Bert and Rhoda Hannis, Their small holding was the field that is now Cranham Cricket Club. A few years later the family moved down hill, purchasing a plot of land on which they built a bungalow today known as Brackenhurst.

Dorothy's best friend was Kitty Daniels nee Gyde, Dorothy often told the tale of an event that took place during WW2, when returning from a shopping expedition to buy new shoes, they were caught in an avalanche of shrapnel, and as they took shelter in the woods, the safety of the new pair of shoes rather than their own that was uppermost in their minds.

Dorothy met her husband Alf during WW2 when he was stationed at Cranham corner, to man the guns at Brotheridge. The couple married on 26th Dec 1941, they would have liked to set up home in Cranham, but post war restrictions, and a shortage of building materials put paid to their plans to build a home on the Knoll. The couple moved to Stonehouse with their two daughters Wendy and Barbara.

Dorothy has been a great asset to Cranham History Society researchers, with her memories and identifying photographs etc. Dorothy always loved coming back to Cranham to visit, especially Cranham Feast every year. Dorothy was a great knitter, and over many years has raised a great deal of money for charities with her knitting. She was responsible for many of the poppies that decorate Cranham church each remembrance day.



Dorothy with her granddaughter

By Ann Green and Jan Whitton

Cranham Common News

Winter scrub management

We have run two successful work parties this winter, and collectively cleared some dense areas of scrub on both sides of the road up to the Knoll. The brush cutting team have also been hard at work controlling the spread of bramble patches.

These work parties are essential for maintaining the optimal balance of grass and scrub for the benefit of all flora and fauna, and every pair of hands enables us to achieve more.

There are two more workparties in February so please make a note of the dates and come and join us if you can.

SATURDAY 3rd February 9.30am - 12.30pm

SUNDAY 25th February 9.30am - 12.30pm

Butterfly Transects

There are other ways to get involved in the common. Natural England would like to invite a small number of volunteers to undertake regular walks over the common counting butterflies, to help monitor the butterfly populations. Training will be given.

If this is something you are interested in, contact Liz Hayden (details on next page) and I will put you in touch with Jesper Knapton (NE) to find out more about what it involves.

Could you help support bees and butterflies by planting a wildflower area in your garden?

As we anticipate the return of spring and thoughts of garden planting are beginning to take shape, everyone is invited to support an initiative to create wildflower areas in gardens. Collectively our gardens make up a huge area of land and if everyone could dedicate a small area to wildflowers it could create a very large area of nectar resources for bees and butterflies. This is part of a bigger initiative to create wildlife corridors to join up isolated populations of wildlife throughout Gloucestershire and support connectivity between conservation sites.

Natural England are offering wildflower seed harvested from the common available for anyone in the village to plant in their own garden.

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How to plant wild flower areas

This is mixed seed from the common so will contain a mix of local native species of flowers possibly with some grasses.

It can be planted in a pot, on bare soil or in an established lawn. To plant in established lawn you need to scarify the grass intensively to expose bare areas before sowing the seed, and then roll or tread the seed into the soil. Seed can be sown at any time from now until April.

Please note that wildflowers thrive in poor, unimproved soils so they are not likely to thrive in ground that has been fertilised or spread with compost or manure.

If you would like to participate and have some wildflower seed, please contact Liz Hayden.

Old Photographs of the Common

The CCMC is trying to gather old photographs of the common to try to create a record of how it has changed over time. If you have any old photos of common, where possible with approximate dates, please send them to Liz Hayden.

Liz Hayden

Chair, Cranham Common Management Committee
(chair.ccmc@gmail.com, 07974 386341)

Flicks in the Sticks

Just a note:

There is no 'Flicks in the Sticks' in February as it's Panto time....
it will be returning in March.

Fix my Street

website to report potholes and fly tipping etc

<https://www.fixmystreet.com>

**News from The Friends of the Black Horse
Cranham Ltd. January 2024**



The Friends of The Black Horse Cranham Ltd. Management Committee wish all our community a very Happy 2024.

What a way to start this year! The interior building works are storming ahead and the exterior volunteer led works are making incredible progress to clear and maximise the car park and the gardens, improving accessibility to the pub. At the moment a lot of this work has been quite physical but there will be plenty of opportunities to offer your skills, whether that's growing plants, gardening, painting, making soft furnishings and goodness knows how many other jobs. We will let you know, have no fear! We are really seeing what is possible when our community works together.

Building update from Mark Donaldson

Stroud based Qubit Construction were appointed on December 4th 2023 to undertake the refurbishment works after a competitive tender process was completed.

Work then commenced on 11th December with the isolation and strip out of plumbing and electrics. Ceilings, floors and walls have been removed and opened up to allow for a full electrical re-wire and fire alarm to be installed, ensuring the building is safe and compliant. We have engaged with a structural engineer to identify areas requiring attention including the cellar ceiling joists, first floor stairs and bar/lounge wall. Over the following weeks The Black Horse will see new lime plaster to the walls in the bar, internal repointing of exposed stonework and new windows throughout. Ensuring the fabric of The Black Horse is preserved and restored, has always been a key priority in the decision-making process and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to The Black Horse in Spring 2024.



Volunteering Progress Report from Dave Tibbles

A Black Horse Volunteers Group WhatsApp was set up in November which has now grown to 63. There have been 5 sessions so far. We started with the gable ends of the pub being cleared of ivy shortly followed by the removal of all the furniture ready for construction to get started.

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FOBH - from page 16

Some of the dry stone walling around the pub needed to be rebuilt, so this was taken down and stacked nearby, ready for rebuilding. Part of the walling has been removed permanently along the pathway to the first floor in order to establish an easy accessible entrance to the restaurant area from road level. This aligns with our commitment to improving access to all. Rebuilding of the dry stone walling has already begun.



Good progress has also been made in the car park. The free use of a digger and dumper has enabled us to increase the number of parking spaces by clearing earth and undergrowth from the edges of the car park and all the dislodged kerb stones around the perimeter have now been reset.



Undergrowth surrounding the pub has also been removed or reduced and we can now see the lay of the land immediately around the pub. This work has spawned all sorts of ideas from our volunteers to help us evolve plans for more sessions over the coming months.

We have also had some requests to organise mid-week sessions which we would like to get going on soon. If you would like to be added to the group

please contact Dave on **07914 427027**

Our government funding and community investment will be fully utilised in the building work described above so we are in the process of searching out more grants to fund further internal and external improvements. This includes an additional project enabling wheelchair access and purchasing internal and external furnishings. Our available budget can be increased by more of the community joining The Friends of the Black Horse Cranham Limited or existing members purchasing additional shares at £50 a share. **Please email: theblackhorsecommunity@outlook.com to express your interest.**

We are so grateful for the extremely generous donations of time, skills, expertise, equipment and products including a beautiful piece of solid oak for our new bar top.

The Management Committee of Friends of the Black Horse Cranham Limited
Lou Kemp, John Patient, Marcia Lynall, Carrie Rodgers, Matt Prentice,
Richard Overs, Dave Tibbles, Mark Donaldson

**SAVE!
DATE!**

Saturday 2nd March 2024



**Race Night at
Cranham Village Hall**

MORE DETAILS OF THE EVENT COMING SOON

All proceeds in Support of

 **Cheltenham
Gloucester**
HOSPITALS CHARITY

and

**The Big Space
Cancer Appeal**

Cranham Village Lunch

This will be held on

Monday 12th February 12.15 for 12.30pm in the **Scout H.Q**

booking would be helpful if you did not attend the January Lunch.

Menu for this month will be:

Fruit juice

Shepherds Pie and Gravy with Carrots and Cabbage

Jam Sponge and Custard

Tea/coffee



Cost will be £5.00; we look forward to seeing you.

Thank you, Nicky.

(nickyovers@hotmail.co.uk, 07884 432886 or 812429)

Cranham Church – Saturday 9th March

An Organathon !

Following the success of the Coro Camino concert on 13th January (approx. £1,200 raised – thank you everyone!), our next Organ Restoration Fundraising event will be an Organathon.

Beryl Berry and Sylvia Ardron, together with other local organists, will be aiming to play the organ continuously all day on Saturday 9th March.

Please put the date in your diary and come along at some stage during the day to have a cup of tea / coffee whilst listening to some lovely organ music. The organists will welcome your encouragement of their efforts.

More information, including as to how you can sponsor this event, will follow in the March edition of the Parish Magazine and in other village communications.

If you can play the organ, or know someone who can, please let Sylvia have details: sylviaardron@gmail.com

Brimpsfield & Mid-Cotswold Garden Society



The Garden Society's Saturday coffee mornings start again on 3rd February with a talk by Sally Oates on the Stroud Seed Bank, a not-for-profit organisation that collects seed locally and makes it available to gardeners in return for a small donation. Come and learn how to save seed and preserve varieties suited to our local conditions! As usual, the talk will be in Brimpsfield Village Hall, with coffee and home-made cake available at a modest cost from 10.30am and the talk starting at 11am; everyone is welcome!

The earliest snowdrops were in bloom before New Year this winter, and by the time you read this there should be good displays across the Cotswolds. We are fortunate in this part of the country to have several fine snowdrop gardens on our doorstep, with the opportunity to spend a day out admiring carpets of these seasonal blooms, as well as other early spring-flowering plants. Painswick Rococo Garden is open every day in February and Colesbourne Park is open at weekends through the month; Cotswold Farm opens on Mondays, and for the National Garden Scheme on the weekend of 17th-18th, and other National Garden Scheme openings include Downton House, Painswick, on Mon/Tues 5th-6th, and Trench Hill, Sheepscombe, on Sundays 11th and 18th. Times, prices and any last-minute changes (be sure to check if the weather is bad!) can be found online.

If your snowdrops need dividing, do this once the flowers have died down but while the leaves are still green, as they will re-establish most successfully that way. You can replant the bulbs, more widely spaced out, to make a more impressive display, and pot up any surplus to give away to friends and neighbours – they are always a welcome gift!

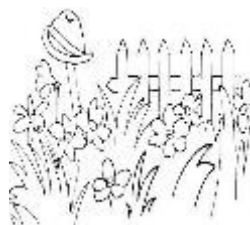
Cranham Open Gardens

Well, there's something new!!

A small group of us have got together to start planning an 'Open Gardens' in the village this summer. The idea is for this to be very much 'Cranham style'—planned as a village community event rather than advertised widely. We're not boasting fancy, perfect gardens in any way, but a chance to let others from the village see our little patches!

Do you have a garden that you enjoy?

- Neat or natural?
- Finished or work in progress?
- Small or rambling?
- Or just fun!



And if so, would you be interested to open it for others to see?

The dates will be **Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th June**, open from 1- 5pm (if you could only do one day that is fine)

Your only commitment would be to be at home to welcome those who visit.

Any proceeds made will be shared between development of our Village Pound, and Christian Aid – helping rural farmers in Malawi.

If you could share your garden, or would like a further chat please contact :

Liza Darroch 07905 037288 liza.darroch@gmail.com

Helen Sammon 07554 992892 helen.sammon@gmail.com

And, of course, there will be fabulous teas served!

Cranham Cubs 2023

A year of recognising our part in our community

2023 has been an exciting year for our Cranham community as we experienced the successful rejuvenation of Cranham Feast and the purchase of the Black Horse. Neither of these would have been possible without the strong community that exists in Cranham. As we look back over the history of the village there are many examples of where villagers past and present have come together to strengthen our community. The Black Horse is the latest example of where we have secured a community asset for the benefit of present and future generations. We can now boast ownership of the Pub, the Common, the Playing Fields, the Village Hall, the Cricket Club and the Almshouses.

What has this all got to do with the cubs I hear you ask? The answer to this is simple; Playing our part at the heart of the community has always been core to what scouting is about and I think it is this value that drives my own involvement with the association. As such one of my main objectives with the cubs is to instil in them a pride of being a part of this community, recognising the importance of maintaining it and the hardwork required to do so.

As such some of the main achievements of Cranham Cubs this year has been our participation in wider village events, including:

- * Scrub Bashing (as part of our winter sleepover)
- * The Kings Coronation picnic
- * Our own monster camp site for the School's monster trail
- * Our leading of the Cranham Feast parade
- * Participation in the Remembrance service parade.
- * Not to mention our own contribution to the village social scene – Grovefest!

In addition to this we have awarded nearly 300 badges throughout 2023 including 4 of the most prestigious badges we can award – the Cubs Scout Silver Award. These were awarded to Laurie Withnall, Hugo Hughes, Olivia Conway and Layla Geeson.

Continued on page 23

Cranham Cubs - from page 22

So, what does 2024 offer for our current and future cubs? In short, more of the same. We already have our Winter camp dates and Grovefest inked into calendars and we are preparing our programme for the first term. We hope that where relevant we can continue to support and help our vibrant village and we are always happy to turn out and help!

As you plan your own new year resolutions you can make sure that you will *Be Prepared* for whatever excitements you have planned.....Wishing everyone a very happy New Year.

Charlie Overs

Dec 2023

Cranham Feast AGM

Will be held on

Thursday 21st March 2024

7:00pm

in the

Committee Room at the Village Hall
(before the CLHS meeting).

All welcome to join us in planning the
2024 Cranham Feast and Deer Roast.

More details in the March Parish Magazine.

Ebworth

We had some wild and windy weather over Christmas which meant post storm checks of our trees. Thankfully we had very little trees blown over which will be down to the excellent management the woodlands at Ebworth has had over the last hundred years. The regular thinning's have given the trees space to grow and develop healthy crowns and root systems.

We have completed the planting of 500m of new hedge row on Overtown Farm. Planting more than 3000 native tree and scrub species of 16 different species! A big thank you to Cranham Beaver Scouts who helped us plant some of those trees. We were also helped by groups from Cotswold Outdoors, Tony Gee civil engineers and of course our regular group of volunteers. The new hedgerows will provide excellent protection and food for wildlife and will also give shelter to the livestock on the farm. You can see one of the new hedgerows from the public bridleway which runs above Old Overtown Farmhouse.



Big flocks of fieldfare, redwing and common gull can be seen feeding on the fields of Overtown Farm. They will be looking for invertebrates in the organic soils and animal dung. We have also had a report of a lone lapwing joining the fieldfares. It's always worth looking out for golden plover at this time of year and there is also a striking, very pale buzzard about.

The woodland ride creation and thinning works are still ongoing in Workmans Wood so please do follow any safety signs, diversions or instructions from contractors.

Tom Griffin

Area Ranger, Ebworth and Crickley Hill, National Trust

♣️ ♦️ ♠️ ♥️ **Sheepscombe Bridge Club** ♣️ ♦️ ♠️ ♥️

Sheepscombe Bridge Club meet at 7.00pm at the Sheepscombe Village Hall to play bridge on Thursdays. The second, fourth and fifth (if there is one) Thursdays in the month. September to May and then a summer break.

We are a mix of villagers and people from nearby. We think we have a fairly relaxed and friendly club and would welcome a few more players. Several long-term members from Cranham are sadly no longer with us.

Pairs welcome but we almost always have 'singles' who would like a partner. If you think you may be interested, please contact:

Joy Edwards - joyattheplough@gmail.com or

Hugh Tarran - h.tarran@tiscali.co.uk (814081)

Footnote: If you've played bridge before but not for a while, please feel free to get in touch if you'd like a chat. We are not a highly formal club. Further we'd also welcome people who could help out occasionally when we have a spare player.

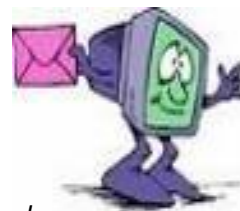
*All articles or enquiries with regards to the **Cranham Magazine** only should be emailed to:*

All general articles: editors@cranhammag.co.uk

All church articles: church@cranhammag.co.uk

Advertising enquiries: advertising@cranhammag.co.uk

Distribution enquiries : distribution@cranhammag.co.uk





The Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club (CNFC) promotes interest in the natural history, environment, antiquities and cultural heritage of Gloucestershire, the Cotswolds and elsewhere.

The Club is one of the oldest of its kind in England, its first meeting taking place on 7th July 1846 at the Black Horse Inn, Birdlip.

Our current activities include:

Excursions: 1-day excursions travelling either by coach, or by car - sharing where possible, to historic houses and gardens, museums, churches, industrial heritage sites and other places of interest. Longer excursions take place in spring or late summer to a region of the British Isles.

Special Interest Guided Walks: The subjects of these walks are diverse: botany, geology and landscape, wildlife and conservation, history and archaeology.

Meetings: We offer stimulating monthly afternoon talks, October to May, at two venues: Painswick Beacon Hall, 2.30pm on the first Wednesday of month, and Box Village Hall, 2.30 pm on the third Tuesday of the month. Members (£2) and Visitors (£5), all welcome.

Publications, Records and Archives: We publish an annual record of our activities in the 'Proceedings', together with articles and papers on subjects related to the Club's interests, with contributions from members. A full set dating back to 1846 is accessible in person at Gloucestershire Archives and online.

Further Club information can be found on our website or facebook page:



www.cotsnatsfield.club



Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club

Membership of CNFC is £25 per annum for an individual or £40 for two or more people at the same address. For more information contact Clare Woodman on **CNFCMembershipSec@outlook.com** or **01452 812767**



An Illustrated Talk

Wednesday February 7th at 2.30 pm

History of Stroud Workhouse

Speaker: Chas Townley



‘A danger to sick
people’

Venue: The Painswick Centre (Beacon Hall),
Bisley Street, Painswick GL6 6QQ.

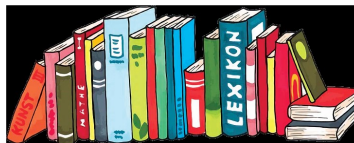
Free parking in Stamages Public Car Park GL6 6UZ.

Free refreshments.

Member's Charge £2; Visitor's Charge £5
All Welcome

Painswick Community Library

by Michael Buckland-Smith
(Volunteer at Painswick Library)



Painswick Community Library is in the centre of Painswick in the large, first-floor room up the stairs at the Town Hall. The library is run entirely by volunteers, as distinct from the bigger libraries operated by the County Council, such as Stroud and Cheltenham, although most of our funding is provided by the council.

We are lucky still to have both, because many public libraries have been closed, due to cut-backs. The library is worth investigating, if you haven't already dropped in and registered for a library card. There is an extensive collection of fiction and crime novels (some in large print), smaller reference, poetry, local interest and biographical sections, plus a thriving children's section, with books suitable for children just learning to read to young teens.

Our New Books committee keeps a ready supply of new publications available, often following recommendations made by our readers. The library supports its own book club, a writers' group and various other activities, such as weekly 'story time' readings for young children. Users are welcome to drop in during opening hours, to browse the bookshelves, use the two public access PCs and the free WiFi, or read the newspapers and magazines on display including The Painswick Beacon, Village Voice and Cranham Village Magazine etc.

Comfortable armchairs are provided. We don't offer tea or coffee, but you can bring your own. There are WCs downstairs. Free parking is usually available in Stamages car park, only a few minutes' walk away. There are even a few free spaces outside the Town Hall (1-hour limit) and the Town Hall's small car park behind can be useful for readers with mobility difficulties (with a stairlift inside for access to the library). It is also worth noting that the library is plugged into the county's interlibrary loan system. If we don't have the book you are after, we can find it in any of the other 34 libraries have it available, to order it to be delivered to Painswick for you to collect and return. There is also an app to register your details on-line, select Painswick as your preferred location, and then search for books yourself by name, author or subject-matter, after which you will be prompted by email once the book has arrived, and reminded again when it's due for return.

Let's face it; we have all collected books over the years that now take up too much space at home. It's a lot easier to use the library and it's free!
(apart from small charges to use the photocopier and laminator).

Continued on page 29

From page 28

Painswick Community Library opening hours are currently:

Mondays: 14:30pm - 16:30pm

Wednesdays: 10:30am - 12:30pm & 14:30pm - 18:30pm (try out our new evening hours)

Fridays: 10:30am - 12:30pm & 14:30pm - 16:30pm

Saturdays: 10:30am - 12:30pm

For more details, see: <http://painswickcommunitylibrary.org.uk>

Tel: 01452 814744

Painswick Library Book Club:- 3rd Monday of the month 1.30 – 2.30pm contact

Pat Andrew for more info email: painswick.library.bookclu@gmail.com

Croc n'Roll alternate Wednesday afternoons (£1.00 per session)



Our next collection will be on **Wednesday 14th February** from 10am - 12noon. We are collecting in the car park on Stamages Lane. If you have difficulty getting to this donation point, please let us know and we will do our best to help.

If you wish to make a bank donation, you can do so using the following details:

Stroud District Foodbank CIO

Sort code: 09-01-29

Account: 21994911

Thank you.

The Foodbank Team

Mobile: 07950 651228

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Saturday 24th February

Cranham Village Hall



Money Advice



I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, Christmas was expensive, my spending has gone up and what I have coming in just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. What can I do?

First of all it's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult, and crucially there is support available.

The first step is to **collect all the information you have about your debts**, this might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, **make a list of your debts and write down the details of each**. This could include who you owe the money to (this person or company is your 'creditor'); when you first missed a payment; and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the creditor has taken to get the money back, eg. sending you letters.

It might feel overwhelming when you see all of your debts written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you are sorting them out.

If you are behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

While you are looking at money going out, do remember to consider money that could be coming in. It's always worth checking if there are any benefits that you are entitled to, including support with your energy and living costs. There's a benefits calculator, advice on how to reduce living costs and information on other ways to increase your income, plus further advice on dealing with debts, on the Citizens Advice website – www.citizensadvice.org.uk

There is also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers. You could also contact your local council to see if they can offer support.

We know that times are incredibly tough but please remember, you don't have to face this alone. If you cannot access the website or need further help you can contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Thursday, or Email us using the form on our website (www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk).

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TO DISCUSS FUTURE NEEDS & REQUIREMENTS

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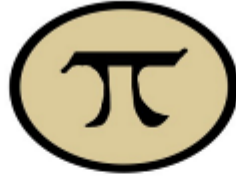
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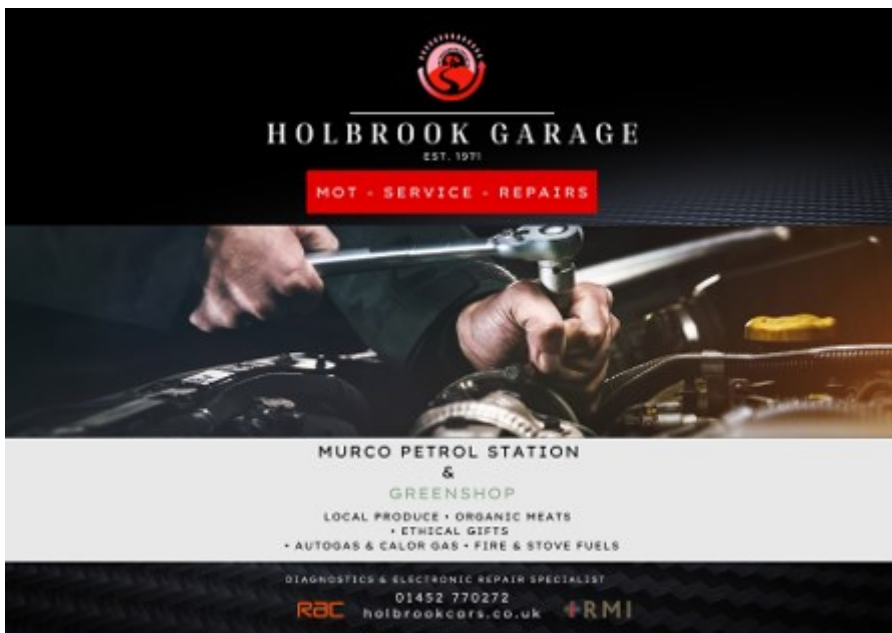
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REGULAR EVENTS (although all may be subject to cancellation or change, so please check directly with the organisers)

Village Lunch	Monthly on a Monday 12.15 for 12.30pm (Nicky Overs 07884 432886)
Sportily Hangout	Note - Not currently running
Youth Space	Note - Not currently running
Orchestra	Mondays 8.00pm - V Hall (Beryl Berry 813200)
Post Office	Tuesdays 10.00am - 12noon - V Hall
Rachel's Pop Up Café	Tuesdays 10.00am - 2.30pm - V Hall
Rachel's Pop Up Café	Fridays 9.00 - 12.30pm - V Hall
Cranham Art Group	Tuesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm - V Hall (Lyn Barker 813025)
Choir	Tuesdays 7.30pm - V Hall (Virginia Pittman 07989 712263 virginiapittman3@gmail.com)
Handbell Ringers	Contact Jenny Barraclough 07977 997375 for information (jenny.barraclough@btinternet.com)
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Wednesdays - Scout Centre - times as follows: Beaver Scouts (6 to 8 yrs) 4.45 to 5.45pm Cub Scouts (8 to 10 yrs) 5.50 to 7.10pm Scouts (10 to 14 yrs) 7.30 to 9.00pm
Table Tennis Club	Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm - V Hall (Clive Hayden 07833 635762 chayden814@gmail.com)
Cranham Ramblers	Alternate Thursdays 9.30am - V Hall (Joan Charman 812708)
S'Combe Bridge Club	2nd and 4th Thursdays 7.00pm - Sheepscombe V Hall (Contact Joy Edwards 812588)
Parent and Toddler	Fridays 9.15 - 10.45am - V Hall (Contact tbc)
Explorer Scouts	Fridays 7.30 - 9.00pm - V Hall (Ian Coupland ian@couplandclan.co.uk)
Church Bell Ringers	Alternate Saturdays 9.30am - Church (Rob Garratt 07703 503547)
Garden Club	Brimpsfield , Phone Francis Ellery 01452 862412 for further info

No new people in the village this month!

Welcome!

However, If we have missed anyone, please accept our apologies and make yourself known and we will include you next time.



MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

All articles for the forthcoming month should be forwarded to the editors by email to

editors@cranhammag.co.uk (preferred option).

Articles should be forwarded as either a WORD or WORKS document and preferably in Ariel or Calibri font size 10 on A5 size paper settings. Articles may also be sent manually typed or hand written.

Please refrain from using ADOBE EDITOR as all articles have to be edited prior to inserting into the magazine.

All hard copies should be forward to **Baggend (at the Knoll)**.

All items to be included within next months magazine will need to be in the hands of the editors by the following dates:

WEDNESDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2024

Magazines will be available for distribution:

on **Sunday 25th February** or thereabouts.

The date will be confirmed to the distributors by email.

.Sue & Ian Shaw

814839

editors@cranhammag.co.uk

CRANHAM DIARY

FEBRUARY 2024



1	Thurs	Ramble	Village Hall	9.45am
3	Sat	Commons Working Party	Common	9.30am - 12.30pm
		Garden Society Meeting	B'field V Hall	10.30 for 11.00am
4	Sun	Benefice Holy Communion	Edge Church	11.00am
		Evening Worship	Church	6.30pm
6	Tues	Rubbish/Food Waste		
7	Wed	Stroud Workhouse Talk	Painswick Centre	2.30pm
11	Sun	Holy Communion	Church	11.00am
12	Mon	Village Lunch	Scout HQ	12.15 for 12.30pm
13	Tues	Recycling/Food Waste		
14	Wed	** Magazine Contributions Due **		
		Foodbank Collection	Painswick	10.00am - 12noon
15	Thurs	Ramble	Village Hall	9.45am
18	Sun	Evensong	Church	6.30pm
20	Tues	Rubbish/Food Waste		
24	Sat	Old Photos of Cranham	Village Hall	2.30pm
25	Sun	Commons Working Party	Common	9.30am - 12.30pm
		Morning Worship	Church	11.00am
27	Tues	Recycling/Food Waste		
29	Thurs	Ramble	Village Hall	9.45am

MARCH 2024

2	Sat	Race Night	Village Hall	7.00 for 7.30pm start
14&28	Thurs	Rambles		
9	Sat	Organathon	Church	All day
21	Thurs	Cranham Feast AGM	Village Hall	7.00pm

For Regular Events - please see page 42