



Grafham Gossip

**SEE PAGE FOUR
ARAGON SINGERS
ARE COMING TO
GRAFHAM ON
DECEMBER 9th!**



Issue 18 Early Deadline: December 9th

Editors' note...

Thank you for your contributions this month.



We are making a few changes and enhancements to the *Grafham Gossip* and the website. Firstly, our e-mail address is changing to **gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk**. Please make sure you change it in your address books!

Secondly, we want to make the website more accessible and more useful. One way to do this is to have a group of people each in charge of a small section on the website and responsible for maintaining it. For example, one person could look after the events at the Village Hall, one for the Football Fixtures etc. Anyone who is interested should contact us. You can be any age and you don't have to be a wiz on the computer; we would arrange a training session!

We are also going to set up a Wiki on the website. This means that from your home computer you can add information, comments, or anything you like to the website. If you want to see an example of how this works visit www.wikipedia.org.uk.

Lastly, if you would like to receive the *Grafham Gossip* in colour via e-mail, please subscribe to it online at www.grafhamvillage.org.uk. We will continue to deliver hard copies to every household.

Please note that our deadline for next month is very early, so that our distributors will be able to deliver before the end of the school term.

We hope you have a very Happy Christmas!

The Editors

gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham All Saints Church

1st Sunday (December 4th): 11.00 Advent Family Service

2nd Sunday (December 11th)
11.00 Eucharist.

3rd Sunday (December 18th):
8.00 Eucharist (BCP). 16.30 Carol Service

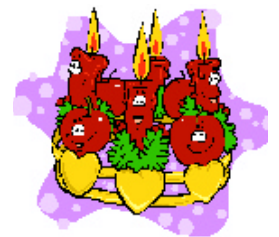
Christmas Eve (December 24th): 16.00 Crib Service (see below)

Christmas Day (December 25th): Christmas Morning Family Eucharist

Contacting the clergy:

Canon Jonathan Young (01480) 891695

Dr John Hare (01480) 453172



TRAVELLING NATIVITY SET

A Nativity Set will be visiting homes in Grafham this Advent. This event is based on the Mexican tradition, Pasada, which commemorates the journey Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem and their search for somewhere for Jesus to be born. The Nativity Set will start its journey at the Family Service in Grafham on December 4th. Each family will keep the set for one night and take it on to the next family the following day. The last family will return the set to church on Christmas Eve for the Carol Service. With the figures will be some books about the Christmas story suitable for children of different ages. Some families may wish to invite others into their homes to sing carols; some may wish to set out the crib scene and reflect on the Christmas story. The figures are robust enough for children to handle. Each family will receive a small gift as a reminder of their kindness in providing a shelter for the Holy Family. If you would like to shelter the Holy Family for an evening, please sign up on the form in church or contact Jill Tyack at 19 Breach Road, Tel: 810157

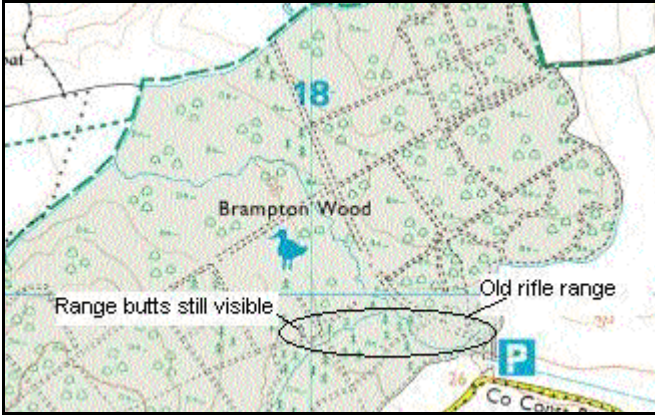
PARISH NEWS... Next Parish meeting is December 13th at 7.30pm



- Envelopes were distributed to all households inviting residents to contribute to a collection to provide play equipment in the Children's Play Area, in memory of Jean Gowen, former Chairman of Grafham Parish Council. Unfortunately, the Parish Council have had several hiccups in collecting these envelopes. Could we therefore apologise to anyone who has not had their envelope collected and ask that if anyone would like to make a contribution that they deliver their envelope to 4 Chestnut Close. We have purchased a tree which will be planted in the Children's Play Area, but also hope to raise enough money to add a piece of play equipment to the Play Area. If you are not able to deliver your donation, please phone the Parish Clerk - 810162 - and she will arrange to collect it from you. To those who have already given, our sincere thanks.
 - Neighbourhood Watch - signs have been displayed around the village indicating this is a neighbourhood watch area - have YOU got your sticker in your window yet?
 - Victim Support - Huntingdonshire and Fenland are seeking donations. If anyone would like to contribute please contact the Clerk for the address.
 - So much glass, so much paper... Since our mini-recycling system was put in place in the Village Hall car park, we have produced 11.56 tonnes of material. This has raised almost £400 for the village. WELL DONE to everyone who is supporting the recycling banks. Keep up the good work! To help a little more, we should be getting an extra litter bin which will be placed next to the recycling bins so if you carry your glass and paper to the car park it will be easier for you to get rid of the carrier bags too.
 - For those who have noticed the large puddle outside the Cinammon, we are doing our best to investigate and resolve this. Once we have, Bloor Homes will be finishing the path and the Post Box may be moved slightly to make it more accessible.
 - **TRAFFIC CALMING** - A public meeting was held on Tuesday October 25th to discuss options available to residents and the Parish Council. 60 residents attended this meeting. In the light of comments made by residents, the Parish Council put forward its proposals to remove all thumps in Breach Road and Buckden Road, to retain the chicane at the Northern end of Breach Road, to retain the three thumps in Brampton Road, but to consider the possibility of 'moving' one thump closer to Van Diemens Way. It was also proposed that we request red road surface in place of thumps with 30mph roundels. These suggestions were put before the Area Traffic Engineer who has confirmed it would be possible to remove the thumps and retain the chicane, but we could not have the red road surface with roundels because of Department of Transport guidelines and legislation. With regards to 'moving' a thump, it could be removed, but any new thump would have to be requested as part of a new application to be submitted at the next bidding round in 2006. The Parish Council will now submit a written request to the Area Joint Committee who will discuss the matter on December 6th.
 - **VACANCY FOR PARISH CLERK** - The village is about to lose the service of our excellent Parish Clerk. So, we are seeking a replacement to take up this post. The Clerk's role is a responsible one; administering the affairs of the Parish Council, advising on policy matters, guiding the Chairman on procedural issues and ensuring that Council decisions are in accordance with the relevant rules, regulations and procedures. You will see from this that the job is certainly not simply a 'scribe'. An effective and efficient Clerk, whilst not in a voting/decision making role, is essential to the smooth operation of the Council and as such has a significant influence in the affairs of the village. The role is part time and paid by the hour. The clerk works from home for an average of one hour per day (about 20 hours per month), although this may vary slightly dependant upon the Council's activity workload. Applicants will need to have:
 - Good organisational and administrative ability
 - Ability to manage accounts and prepare budgets
 - Computer literacy
 - Good communication skills
 - The ability to work both independently and within a group
- Above all the Parish Clerk will need to have a sound sense of humour and the ability to communicate with a wide range of personalities. The post is available now and would run in parallel with the current Clerk for a few weeks to ensure a smooth handover. Training Courses are available and the new Clerk, if inexperienced would be encouraged to attend. Further details are available from the current Parish Clerk on 810162.

Grafham Gen

Research into the Brampton Wood Rifle Range, found evidence that the first Huntingdonshire Rifle Volunteers were using a range in Brampton Wood in 1860. Further research indicated the War Department erected a new Brampton Wood range in 1904. This was constructed by the Norwich Engineers. The range was used by the Hunts Militia, local yeomanry and the Northampton Depot. The range butts can still be seen in the wood to this day. **Sam Malt**



Grafham Social Committee invites all 'over-60' Grafham residents to the annual **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**



The Weatsheaf Inn, Perry
Tuesday December 13th 12.30pm.

For more details and to reserve your place contact: Pat Watson at 10 Field Close on 811166

Babysitters

Olivia Sinfield (Grade B in GCSE Child Development)
age: 16
Tel: 811831

Felicity Jenkinson (Grade B in GCSE Child Development)
age: 16
Tel: 812328

Danielle Meyer (experienced babysitter and also speaks french - able to help with homework)
age: 16
Tel: 811279

Alison Young
age: 16
Tel: 811577

Announcements

Is there anyone in Grafham who travels into Cambridge everyday who would be able to give my daughter a lift into Impington or Histon? We are more than willing to share journey costs. Please phone **Jenny or John Meyer on 811279**.

Friendly guinea pigs for sale. £10 each. Phone **Emily on 810157**

Our green wheelie bin went missing on November 11th. It was outside our house after the collection when it disappeared. Please can everyone have a look in case it turns up outside or near their house? It belongs to 5 Van Diemens way. Tel: **810043**. Thanks Carole and George Baber.

OUSE VALLEY DIAL-A-RIDE

We operate a door-to-door service with pre-booked seats in wheelchair accessible minibuses for the community and pre-arranged trips to places of interest. For information please phone **Noel or Gillian** on 01480 411114 or call volunteer **Ann** who lives in Grafham on 01480 810223.



Grafham Social Committee invites you to MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS for retired residents from 10.30 am on Wednesday **December 14th** with Pat Watson
10 Field Close

District Councillors Shirley Menczer and Peter Downes are available in the Village Hall Car Park between 11.15 and 11.45 on the first Saturday of each month.

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THE ARAGON SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

at
All Saints Church Grafham



**Friday 9th
December 2005
at 7:30 pm**

£1 Schoolchildren
£5 Adults
(including glass of
mulled wine and
mince pie at the
interval)

All proceeds are going to the restoration of the church.

For tickets contact:

Pat Watson 01480 811166 or
Jill Tyack 01480 810157



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Village Farm, Church Road, Grafham. Now offering double and twin ensuite **bed and breakfast** accommodation in cosy self contained barn conversion located



around attractive courtyard giving guests the freedom to come and go as they please. Ideal for those **family gatherings** where you just can't squeeze everyone in at home!

Huntingdon Tourist Board Recommended.

Information and booking contact Sue Homewood on tel/fax **810867** or e-mail brian.homewood@tesco.net.

FIVE-PARISH ADVENT FAIR

for Easton, Ellington, **Grafham**, Spaldwick, Barham and Woolley. All five parishes benefit financially from the fair and it will be a great social occasion!

Ellington Village Hall, from 2.30pm - 5.00pm on Saturday December 3rd

Stalls, games, refreshments and raffle

If you would like to help, call 455080 and start looking out for bric a brac, toys, gifts, presents, craft items, raffle prizes, bottles for the Rector's stall etc. Also jams, chutneys and donations for our wonderful cake stall. It is useful to have contributions in advance so they can be priced efficiently. Happy to have anything left at the Rectory in Ellington. Any ideas for games and entertainment? Give us a call!

KSSC OFFERS YOU AMSTERDAM DELIGHTS TOUR 26 MAY - 29 MAY INCLUSIVE 2006

Adults: £185 Children (under 12): £99

THIS AMAZING PRICE INCLUDES:

- Return Coach Trip (departing TH at 8am 26/5/06)
- Return Euro Tunnel Fare
- 3 Nights Accomodation at 4* Grand Hotel Amstelveen
- Continental buffet style breakfast

Also included is a stop in the very beautiful city of Ghent on return journey for lunch and the Tunnel Duty Free Shops.

Contact: Tina Theodorou, Kier Reginoal Ltd. on 01767 640111 ext. 3729 or e-mail: tina.theodorou@kier.co.uk



A deposit of £40 per person is required ASAP to secure your place and balance 10 weeks PRIOR to departure (by March 17th 2006). Please note minimum number required for trip to go ahead. Monies are non-refundable. Cheques payable to Kier SAports and Social Club. Please add £2 to the tour price for non KSSC members.



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CONSERVATION OF AN OLD CATTLE POND

We have an old cattle pond in our horse field at the end of the caravan camping field and we are told it is very old. It is home and nesting site to a moorhen, surrounded by a rabbit warren, has many very large frogs and has an impressive stand of bull-rushes. However, it had become overgrown with brambles and stingers with very little light reaching the pond which was also silted up.



At the end of the summer, when the moorhen had finished raising her brood and before the frogs hibernated, Sam Malt and his team of conservation volunteers came in to give it a face lift. They cleared the brambles and stingers and dragged inches of mud from the bottom. It has now been opened up to the light and there is already water filling the new depths. A lot of the mud from the bottom has been used to make an island in the middle of the pond for the moorhen next year and the bulrushes have been left to grow and spread.

We hope that as spring approaches we will see the vegetation recover without obscuring the light from the pond and we hope that the water will remain throughout the summer. If this happens, we should encourage the frogs, maybe dragonflies and hopefully newts as well as remaining host to the moorhen.

This is a big thanks to Sam and his team. If anyone is interested in helping him in these worthwhile local projects call him on 810844(daytime) or 811654(evening).

If anyone would like to see what has been done, or come in the spring call Carole or George Baber on 810043.

INTERESTED IN WILDLIFE?

The **Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group** meets every first and second Sunday of the month to carry out woodland conservation.



For more details, contact **Sam Malt** on **810844** (daytime) or **811654** (evening).

Hunts DC

HDC are offering the elderly and vulnerable access to a Community Alarm system. This would plug into the telephone line and enable people to call assistance in an emergency. There would be a small weekly charge for this service.

HDC are also offering Disability Grants to qualifying applicants towards the cost of aids and adaptations they may need to use the main facilities of their homes. The grant will be means tested. If anybody is interested they can contact me on **819110** for further details. **Chris Shurlock**

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GIFT VOUCHERS

Exciting things are happening for young people in Grafham!

A new Working Party has been formed to look at ways in which we can meet the needs of a young people in Grafham. This is in response to the Parish Plan carried out recently. We have used comments made by young people in the Parish Plan to come up with several ideas which we feel will address their needs. What we now need is for all the young people in Grafham to give us their opinion on our ideas. You can do this by completing the questionnaire attached. If you require more forms, you can either photocopy them, print them off the website: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk and click on 'newsletter', or ask me, Katrina Goodwin: 17 Brampton Road, 810297. Please, please, have your say, so that we can provide what *you* want, not what we *think* you want. Thank you. Katrina Goodwin.

If you have any other ideas please call Philip on 811516