



Grafham Gossip

Issue 30 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday December 14th*

Editors' note... *A Merry*

Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers! Can you find where the Snowmen are hiding? There's one on every page!

The January Issue will be delivered when the schools go back at the start of the Spring Term.

Thanks for all your news - keep sending us those emails!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



FIVE-PARISH ADVENT FAIR
Saturday December 2nd
Grafham Village Hall
from 12 noon



See page 2
for more
details!

Grafham All Saints Church



Please come and join with us for **Advent, Christmas and Epiphany!**

3rd Dec (1st Sunday) **11.00** Family Service. The Pasada sets off around Grafham! The first Sunday of Advent - when we will be sending the Pasada Travelling Nativity on its journey again.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN! Come along and hear all about what Pasada is - it's a lovely story and a chance for you to get involved in its journey! Don't miss out! If you would like to take part in hosting the Travelling Nativity Set for one night please come along or contact **Jill Tyack** on **810157**. 😊

10th Dec (2nd Sunday) **11.00** Eucharist.

17th Dec (3rd Sunday) **8.00** Eucharist (**No 11.00 am service**)

16.30 Traditional Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

24th Dec (4th Sunday) **15.00** Crib Service - the Travelling Pasada returns to church! (**No 11.00 am service**)

23.30 Midnight Mass at Ellington Church

25th Dec (Christmas!) **11.00** Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion 😊

31st Dec (5th Sunday) **10.00** Group Service at Alconbury Memorial Hall hosted by Alconbury Methodist Church. Refreshments.



2007

7th January (1st Sunday) **11.00** Family Service Christingle Celebration - please join us and hear all about what a Christingle is and what it means!



The clergy, PCC, churchwardens and congregation of Grafham All Saints would like to wish you all a very blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Contacting the Clergy: Canon Jonathan Young **891695** Rev. Martin Kettle **890284** or mob. **07876 755587**

Churchwardens: Jill Dighton **811862** Jill Tyack **810157**

District Councillors **Shirley Menczer** and **Peter Downes** are available at the Village Hall between 11.15 and 11.45 on the first Saturday of each month. At other times they can be contacted: **Shirley.Menczer@huntsdc.gov.uk** tel.**01480 436769** **Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk** tel.**01480 398082**

Web site: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk **E-mail:** gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

FIVE-PARISH ADVENT FAIR

For Easton, Ellington, Grafham, Spaldwick, Barham and Woolley

Stalls, games, refreshments, raffle



Grafham Village

Hall

from 12 noon

Saturday December 2nd

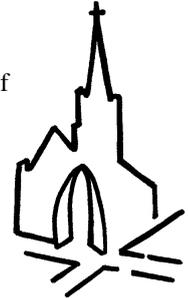
- Ploughman's lunches.....Pat and Alan Watson 811166
- Teas.....Val Hunt 812390..Pat 812153
- Raffle.....Martin Thompson
- Cake Stall.....Romi Good 890287..Mary Milton 890459
- Honey, pickles, jams.....Peter Gould 891043
- Craft Stall.....Jill Tyack 810157
- Gifts and presents.....Sarah Woodruff 891496
- White elephant stall.....Doreen Bullock 891452
- Toy stall.....Amber Harbour 890565
- Bottle stall.....Jonathan Young 891695

This is the main fundraiser for the five parishes so please support it. Stall holders would be pleased to receive contributions direct or they can be left at the Rectory (1 Parson's Drive, Ellington) preferably by Sunday 26 November. Prizes for the main raffle and for competitions also needed. Please support the event by displaying the yellow flyer or a poster, telling your friends, giving generously and coming on the day.

Contact Sue Young 455080

Cracks Cause Concern!

Many of you may have already heard, but sadly, our lovely church here in Grafham is showing signs of serious structural problems. These problems are manifesting themselves as large horizontal cracks on the nave side of the north aisle. They extend through stonework into the corner of the chancel and beyond. Over the last year, it has become apparent that these cracks are becoming severe. Preliminary survey work has proved inconclusive as to the cause of the cracks. Likewise, at present,



there is no determined cure for what appears to be a difficult situation. In any event, it is likely that the cost of rectifying the problem in order to secure the future of the church building for successive generations will be immense. If we are to try to save this beautiful Grade 1 listed building we will need much help. In order to obtain repair grants etc we will firstly need the help of someone who is available to devote quite a lot of time and energy to the filling in of grant applications and be available to take telephone calls from church architects, civil engineers and charitable bodies. If you feel you may have time to devote to this worthwhile project, or if you have any experience in managing such a project, we would love to hear from you.

For further information, please contact either Canon Jonathan Young on 891695 or one of the Churchwardens: Jill Dighton on 811862 or Jill Tyack on 810157.

At the moment, the future of this wonderful local landmark is uncertain. We will endeavour to share any news we hear regarding the church via the *Grafham Gossip*. Having said all that - it's definitely 'business as usual' as you can see from our list of services for the season of Advent and Christmas! Please remember the plight of your church building in your prayers.

Thank you, Grafham PCC



GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

Your Village Hall has a Public Entertainments Licence for Music, Dancing, Performing Arts and can accommodate 92 guests seated in rows or 150 at a dance/disco. There are 15 small tables, 5 large trestle tables and some 95 chairs. The kitchen contains a cooker, microwave, fridge and freezer and there is crockery and cutlery for over 90 settings. **An ideal venue for children's and family parties.**

The Hall also has small changing rooms with shower facilities used by Grafham Cricket Club who play on **Saturday afternoons** during the **summer months**, and by Grafham Football Club who play on **Sunday mornings** during the **winter months**.

The Regular Weekly Activities are as follows:

	Time	Contact
MondayLine Dancing.....	19:30 - 20:30	Karenza812556
Wednesday ..World Tang Soo Do Association....	19:00 - 20:30	Mr Carter.....393308
Friday World Tang Soo Do Association....	19:00 - 20:30	Mr Carter.....393308
ThursdayLadies Keep Fit.....	19:30 - 20:30	Diane Whiting.....437442
1st Sat of the Month:		
District Councillors Surgery.....	11:30 - 12:30Peter Downes..... 398082

For more details or to book the Hall contact Pat/Alan Watson on 811166

Web site: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk E-mail: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Letters to the Editors

Julie Turner writes...

The Fish and Chips Quiz Night supper last month was a success. It had a great turn out. Terry's team won and I think a lot of alcohol was consumed, yet a good night was had by all.

Also there was great support for the Macmillan coffee morning held in the Village Hall. I am not sure how much in total was raised for charity but it was another good turn out for the village!

The road leading into The Wyvern should be finished within the next couple of weeks. Please say thanks to the villagers for bearing with us with our cars parked on Breach Road during this period.

For any children due to start school at Spaldwick in September 2007, forms can be collected from the school office - the cut off date is 1st December.

I also have some information to add to last month's 'Did you know?' article. Crystal Clear window cleaners come once a month to the Wyvern and will do other places in Grafham if you phone to book. We have been using them for the last four years and have never had a problem with their reliable service. Mobile 07787 776489

E-mail your letters to gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



PARISH NEWS...

The Village Crier made headlines of the County Council's budget problems which have resulted in a withdrawal of the funds needed to remove the thumps in Brampton and Breach Roads.



Because this is such a controversial issue, the Parish Council is negotiating with the County Council and is offering to pay for the work to be done. This is on the understanding that the money paid will be returned to the Parish Council at the beginning of the next financial year.

So far, a verbal agreement has been reached and we are waiting for written confirmation of the details.

On 30th November there will be a poll to elect a new Parish Councillor to fill the current vacancy. There are two people standing for election and they are KATRINA GOODWIN and COLIN BARKER. Please don't forget to vote. The poll will take place at the village hall between 7am and 10pm.

Margaret Life, Clerk to Grafham Parish Council

Full minutes on village web site. Date of the next meeting is Tuesday 12 December 2006 at 7.30pm.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The only reported incident this month has been the theft of two caravans from the Caravan Park after the barrier was broken down. Because this is an ongoing investigation by the police, no further comment can be made.

In Ellington there was an arson attack on an unoccupied building.

The Bobby scheme which I mentioned last month has met with a large number of enquiries. So much so, that I am now advised that there is a charge of £20 to call out for advice and so it is no longer a free service. I hope most of you managed to get in before the charge was levied!

All that remains is for me to wish you a peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year.

James Snell tel: 07951 069565 e-mail jamie2701@aol.com



The Mobile Library (route H103) visits **Breach Road, Grafham from 11.35 to 11.55 on alternate Wednesdays.** Visits are on: December 13th and 27th.

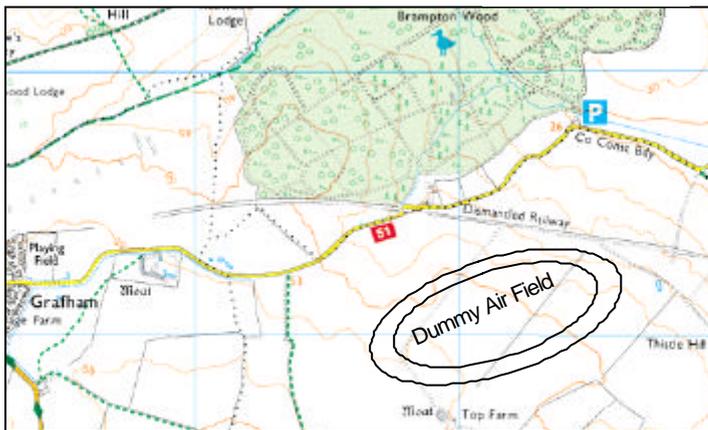
For renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>

Web site: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk E-mail: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham Gen Dummy Airfield

As America entered World War II and their personnel started to arrive at R.A.F. Kimbolton, a dummy airfield was constructed to the East of Kimbolton Airfield, in between Brampton Wood and Top Farm Buckden. These were landing lights only, running from East to West, powered by a generator and turned on as a German air raid was imminent, to protect R.A.F. Kimbolton. This station was operated by three American Service Men. **Sam Malt**



Grafham Social Committee would like to thank residents for the wonderful turnout on November 4th at the Fireworks Night. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the event so successful. It's the first time we have run out of food. (It won't happen again!)



The next village event will be the over sixties Christmas lunch on December 6th.

For details phone Pat Watson 811166. In February there will be a Safari Supper. Look out for details in the January issue of *Grafham Gossip*.

To advertise in this space e-mail us: **gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk** Advert size depends on available space



JULIE TURNER IS RECOGNIZED AS A SANDALS AND BEACHES RESORTS SILVER AGENT

Julie Turner has earned lifetime Silver level status in Sandals and Beaches Resorts' Certified Sandals Specialist (CSS) programme. She joins an elite group of travel agents recognized by Sandals and Beaches Resorts as experts on the Caribbean's leading chain of luxury ultra all-inclusive resorts. Travel agents with a CSS recognition are required to complete a training programme on a yearly basis, that ensures customers they are the experts on all aspects of Sandals and Beaches Resorts. These Travel agents are also selling a high level of holidays to our resorts and are experts in recognizing when our product best suits their customers needs.

"I am proud of this accomplishment," said Julie "Holidays are memories in the making and we take our responsibility to clients very seriously. Customers want to be confident that the information they receive is based on expert knowledge and having the CSS (Status) designation does just that."

According to Leah Marshall, Senior Sales Manager of Sandals and Beaches Resorts in the UK, training and highlighting the best representatives of our brands is a key strategy for the Caribbean-based resort chain.

"At Sandals, our goal is to exceed client expectations every time," said Leah.

"And Julie is an essential part of this effort. She knows the intimate details of each resort and is able to match customers to the perfect Sandals or Beaches holiday. We congratulate Julie on the hard work that brought her to this level and wish her all the very best."

Sandals Resorts has earned a worldwide reputation for providing couples with the most romantic holiday experience in the Caribbean. Currently, there are 14 Sandals properties located in Jamaica, Antigua, St. Lucia, The Bahamas and Cuba. Each offers stunning beachfront locations; a choice of à la carte restaurants, from white-glove dining to barefoot elegance; all premium brand wine and spirits; luxurious accommodation in a range of categories; unrivaled watersports including the Caribbean's largest PADI certification programme; Butler Service for truly indulgent pampering; Preston Bailey Signature WeddingMoons™ and signature Red Lane™ Spas, with services and treatments inspired by the region. Coming in February 2007, the five-star, all suite Mediterranean Village will debut at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa, offering couples in love the ultimate romantic getaway. Sandals Resorts has set the industry standard for luxury all-inclusive holidays and has been voted the World's Best at the World Travel Awards for 12 years in a row. For more information, see your local travel agent, call on 0800 742 742, or visit www.sandals.co.uk

About Beaches - A Place to Play in the Sand: When it comes to family holidays, no other resort company in the world offers more than Beaches Resorts. With four spectacular locations on the most beautiful beaches in Jamaica and Turks & Caicos, Beaches Resorts is the ultimate family getaway and the most comprehensive holiday available in the Caribbean, including gourmet meals, premium brand drinks, luxurious accommodation, even tipping. Fun for the whole family means outrageous water theme parks, Xbox® Game Oasis Video Game Centres, and exclusive Kids Camps with a full schedule of age-appropriate activities and childcare provided by expertly trained Ultra Nannies. As a proud sponsor of Sesame Street, Beaches offers another exclusive for families - the Beaches Resorts Caribbean Adventure with Sesame Street, where kids can spend their holiday with their favourite friends from the Sesame Street gang. With additional amenities including Butler Service for truly indulgent pampering, Red Lane™ Spas with services and treatments inspired by the region, and the WeddingMoons™ and FamilyMoons™ programmes to make that special day just perfect, Beaches offers something for everyone. Beaches Resorts is part of the Sandals' family, the Caribbean's largest operator of luxury, ultra all-inclusive resorts and has been voted the World's Best Family All-Inclusive Resort for eight years in a row. For more information about Beaches Resorts, call your local travel agent 0800 742 742 or visit www.beachesresorts.co.uk.

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Grafham Cricket Club

Grafham Cricket Club held its annual dinner at the Cinnamon House restaurant in the village on Saturday 11th November 2006. This is the time when the family and the players relive the exploits and nostalgia of the cricket season just past. It is also the occasion when the club presents its awards to the players and the working supporters of the club. The following awards were won:



Award	Award Winner
Best Bowler	John Fozzard
Best Batsman	John Fozzard
Single Wicket Winner	Adam Dighton
Best Fielder	Gareth Harris
Most Improved Player	Adam Dighton
Player's Player	Adrian Love
Club Member of the Year	Adrian Love

Flowers were given to Christine Harris as recognition for her efforts in providing the cricket teas for the home games. Flowers were also given to Jill Dighton for assisting Christine.

The club would also like to take this opportunity to thank Eric Bailey for preparing the square, and for cutting the outfield. It is not false modesty to say that the Grafham cricket field is the best pitch in the league, and it is all down to Eric's hard work throughout this and previous seasons.

It was also on this occasion that Peter Jennings decided to announce via the Club Captain, Adrian Love that it was time to hang up his bat and pads for the last time. Peter has played for Grafham for many years, and was a member of the Grafham team that won the Coote Cup in 1985; a genuine high spot in the club's history. Peter was and is a fine batsman and wicket keeper, a mine of tactics and advice on the field, a gentleman ambassador for the club off the field. Peter wants to retain his association with Grafham, and has offered to continue being secretary of the Club. Peter will be sorely missed when the next cricket season starts.



It is probably a little early, but Grafham Cricket Club wishes all of Grafham and those that read the *Grafham Gossip*, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Club Chairman: Chris Dighton Junior Cricket Coach: Adam Dighton

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

Sue Paul BSPA

Congratulations to Dr Irwin who recently participated in the Great North Run, completing the Half Marathon in 1 hour 54 minutes and raising a splendid £623 for Marie Curie Cancer Care. Thank you to everyone who sponsored him so generously.



This year the surgery changed the format for the Saturday Flu jabs to an appointment system to try and minimise waiting times for patients. This proved a great success and no less than 570 patients were seen and treated in 6 hours - a triumph for everyone involved in the team!

Plans are afoot to convert a room on the ground floor of the surgery into a fourth consulting room to accommodate our expanded team of doctors - more on this as plans develop.

There are now pamphlets available in the surgery about the Living Well course. They are designed for people with a long-term health condition and the objective is to teach self-management skills to enable them to cope better with their condition. I have spoken to someone who has completed this course and found it enormously useful. Each programme lasts 6 weeks and takes two and a half hours each week; it is friendly, informative - and free! Well worth considering.

As usual at this time of year we are selling raffle tickets in the surgery on behalf of MAGPAS. This charity which has recently celebrated 35 years of saving lives in Cambridgeshire, provides doctors and Community First Responders to attend any serious incidents outside of hospitals, often road traffic accidents. It is funded solely by voluntary contributions and is now also able to use the police helicopter to take seriously ill patients to hospital.



The campaign to protect the services delivered by Hinchingbrooke Hospital continues and it remains very important for us to maintain local pressure and involvement. The Hunts Post is a good source of information about meetings to be held to discuss new ways of delivering local health care. It is only by attending these meetings and expressing our views and aspirations that we can hope to influence the outcome. The opportunities are there - we must grasp them!

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Join Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group

on the first and second Sunday of the month to carry out woodland conservation.

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



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Grafham Social Committee invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents at 10.30am on Wednesday, December 13th at Pat Watson's, 10 Field Close

Clint Thomas-Morgan

15 Inhams Way Grafham Huntingdon PE28 0UT
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Babysitters

Alison Young - Age 16 Tel: 811577.

Kirsty Elliot - successful in babysitting course - Age: 14 Tel: 810550

Olivia Sinfield - Grade B GCSE Child Development - Age: 16 Tel: 811831

Jessica Homewood - successful in babysitting course - Age: 15 Tel: 810867

Felicity Jenkinson - Grade B GCSE Child Development - Age: 17 Tel: 812328

Danielle Meyer - speaks French and able to help with homework - Age: 16 Tel: 811279

