

Grafham Gossip

Issue 21 Deadline: March 17th

Editors' note...

See page five for our new feature: *Letters to the Editors*. If you have anything to say about what's printed in the *Grafham Gossip* or anything village related please do write in!



The Editors gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Melodramatics Presents

Treasure Island

Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton

Wednesday 1st March: 7.30pm
 Thursday 2nd March - Rotary
 Charity Gala Night: 8pm
 Friday 3rd March: 7.30pm
 Saturday 4th March: 12.30pm,
 4pm, 8pm



Tickets: Adults £6.

Children (with 'Pirate Bag')/Concessions £4

Saturday Evening All tickets £6.

Thursday Rotary Charity Gala Night

All tickets £8.

Available from *Watsons Electrical*,
 High Street, Kimbolton.

Tel: 01480 860444.

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.436769

Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
 tel.398082

Grafham All Saints Church

1st Sunday (March 5th): 11.00 Family Service

2nd Sunday (March 12th): 11.00 Eucharist

3rd Sunday (March 19th): 11.00 Eucharist

4th Sunday (Mothering Sunday - March 26th):

8.00 Eucharist 11.00 Mothering Sunday Family Service

1st Sunday (April 2nd): 11.00 Eucharist

Pram Services - 14.15 1st Friday (March 3rd) Grafham and 3rd Friday (March 17th) Easton.

On **Sundays** in Lent there is an opportunity to worship with other churches in the 'Leightonstone' area at 18.00.

March 5th Catworth

March 26th Great Gidding

March 12th Eatson

April 2nd Buckworth

March 19th Kimbolton

April 9th Ellington

On **Fridays** in Lent there will be a lunchtime Eucharist at 12 noon followed by a frugal lunch:

March 10th Ellington

March 31st Easton

March 17th Grafham

April 7th Buckworth

March 24th Spaldwick

During Lent there will be discussion/Bible study meetings as follows (each for five weeks):

Thursdays from **March 2nd** 20.00 - 2 Woolley Road, Barham

Mondays from **March 6th** 11.15 - Alconbury Methodist Chapel followed by frugal lunch.

Wednesdays from **March 8th** 19.30 - 10 Old Glebe, Alconbury

Fridays from **March 10th** 19.30 at Ivy House, Spaldwick

Pasque Harmony Ladies Choir - The Colours of My Life

On Saturday May 13th at 19.30 Pasque Harmony Ladies Choir will hold a concert in Grafham Church in memory of Ron Andrews who died last November. Proceeds to be shared between Macmillan Cancer Care and the Church. More details next month.

Contacting the Clergy:

Canon Jonathan Young (01480) 891695

Dr John Hare (01480) 453172



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evenings: 01480 811654

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Babysitters



Alison Young -

Age: 16. Tel: 811577

Jessica Homewood -

successful in babysitting course.

Age: 14. Tel: 810867

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

Danielle Meyer - speaks French and able to help with homework.

Age: 16. Tel: 811279

Olivia Sinfield - Grade B GCSE Child Development. Age: 16. Tel: 811837

Felicity Jenkinson - Grade B GCSE Child Development. Age: 16. Tel: 812328

Bem Estar

Feeling tense, stressed, over-worked, aching muscles?

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A Keep Fit class at Grafham Village Hall for all levels. It is enjoyable and you work at your own pace/level. Term begins Thursday January 12th at 19.30 and is thirteen weeks long (ending April 6th). Fees are £3 per class/£39 for the term and payable in advance. Cheques acceptable. Everyone Welcome!



Grafham Gen

Spitfire Crash at Ellington Thorpe During World War Two

On the foggy morning of 6th December 1943 at 10.50am, Spitfire VB AD181 crashed at Ellington Thorpe, killing pilot 2nd Lt. Frank P. Viviano. The spitfire from the American 67th Reconnaissance Group 8th Air Force crashed by the large oak tree growing just past the Ellington Thorpe Garden Nursery. The spitfire had been on a routine cross-country navigation flight from its base at R.A.F. Membury, Wiltshire to Peterborough, then on to Nottingham and the return flight to R.A.F. Membury. The cause of the crash was undetermined.

Sam Malt



MOBILE SKATE PARK

Coming to Grafham One Evening Every Month!

Starting on Friday March 10th at the Village Hall

6.30pm until 10pm

For 11 to 19 year olds



Come along and have some fun
It's completely free!

Are you interested in **buying heating oil as a group** with several other households? If so, let us know and we will pass your details on.

Grafham Social Committee invites you to a COFFEE MORNING for retired residents at 10.30 am on Wednesday: **March 8th** with Philippa Patel 3 Field Close



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Tarmac layers are in our area attempting to gain business by avoiding giving a proper quote. The vehicle they are using is an Orange cab LDV long wheel base truck and there are about 4 people concerned.



The Police have also become aware of a credit card scam whereby people receive a phone call from the Security and Fraud Department from Visa or Mastercard and are advised that their card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern. You deny the purchase and the caller then says not to worry and they will credit your next statement. If you state the last three digits on the back of the card to verify the card is the correct one they are then able to use your card to purchase items via the internet or phone.

jamie2701@aol.com

James Snell

Ellington and Grafham W.I.

Join the growing team!

We meet on the first Tuesday in the month for interesting talks, lively discussions, social evenings and outings in amicable company.



For more details ring:

Sue Rice 896139 or Ann Davies 891372



Grafham Bookworms



Host: Margaret Life
Date: Thursday 2nd March
Time: 8pm

Venue: 6 Home Close
Grafham

RSVP: 01480 819477

Current Book : The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon

Next read: After You'd Gone - Maggie O'Farrell

Grafham Bookworms are extending to films as well. So, new and existing bookworms and film buffs all welcome!



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** on **810844** (daytime) or **811654** (evening).



The Mobile Library (route H103) visits **Breach Road, Grafham from 11.35 to 11.55 on alternate Wednesdays.**

Visits are on: 8th March; 22nd March; 5th April; 19April.

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

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

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

PARI SH NEWS...

Election Results



The following people were elected to the council:

- Gillian Findlay of Inhams Way
- I an Gardener of Haycroft Close
- David King of Breach Road
- Mike Tyler of Wesley House, Church Road

The council is looking forward to the next meeting and moving forward for the benefit of the whole village.

Results from young person's questionnaires - 16 Young people completed and returned the questionnaires

- 4 people wanted a monthly club for 7 to 11 year olds.
- 5 people wanted a monthly club for 11+ year olds.
- Nobody wanted an outdoor shelter for 14+ year olds
- 11 people would use an all weather surface facility to play sport regularly
- 7 people would use a mid-week evening bus service. Most of these only occasionally.

The results were discussed by the Youth Group and we decided not to go ahead with either of the monthly clubs or the mid-week bus service as they would not be viable with the small number of people interested. We concluded that a bus service could be arranged occasionally for special events organised by the village.

We decided that we would continue to look into building an all weather surface sports facility in the village, as there was sufficient interest from young people and their parents. We will keep you informed of the progress we make with this.

Despite the lack of interest for a monthly club, we have decided to take advantage of a mobile skate park, which will visit Grafham monthly, commencing on Friday 10th March (see page three). The park is supervised by four youth workers. It is being funded by Cambridgeshire Youth Services and is completely free of charge for a period of six months. We will review the success of this venture after this period of time to assess whether to continue it long term. Why not give it a go?



Katrina Goodwin



**KEW GARDENS AND THE PALACE
Saturday June 3rd 2006**

Coach departs Tempsford Hall, Tempsford at 8.45am and leaves Kew at 4.30pm

£20 p/p includes return coach trip, entry to both Kew Gardens & the Palace (non-KSSC members £22).

Contact Tina Theodorou 01767 640111 Ext. 3729 or tina.theodorou@kier.co.uk **NB:** money will not need to be paid until April 2006

Please note there is a minimum requirement for this trip to run. Should the minimum not be met the trip will be cancelled and all monies refunded



Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
starring **Dave Willetts**
Milton Keynes Theatre

Thursday May 18th 2006
7.30 performance
Stalls Row P at £17 a ticket

Contact Tina Theodorou 01767 460111 Ext. 3729 or tina.theodorou@kier.co.uk

Other trips include **Amsterdam Delights** May 26-29 (must be booked by **March 17**), **Ideal Homes Exhibition at Earls Court, London** April 1, **Hampton Court Flower Show** July 8th, **Day trip to Calais** October 14, **BBC Good Food Show, NEC Birmingham** November 25. All KSSC profits are split between the Keech's Cottage Hospice for terminally ill children and the MS Society. Contact Tina for more information.



Letters to the Editors

Having received my latest copy of Grafham Gossip I am very grateful for all those who contribute to keeping the rest of the village informed on a regular basis. I do however have one minor point to note following a regular posting about Councillor Surgeries.

Each time we read that our District Councillors are available for 30 minutes in our Village Hall Car Park. Isn't it about time they stopped offering a 'seedy perception' of politics and actually hired the Village Hall, therefore contributing financially to the running of the facility, as with all other users of Grafham Village Hall? I wonder if this will provoke any other thoughts on the matter?

Kind regards,
Nic Evans

We have indeed booked the Village Hall and paid for it on many occasions. Sometimes the Village Hall is not available on a Saturday morning. When the weather is fine and warm, it is just as pleasant to sit outside and talk to those residents who wish to raise matters with us.

We would refute the accusation that we are 'offering a seedy perception of politics'. Our regular monthly surgeries are entirely non-political; we never talk politics to those who come; we try to do our best for anybody with a problem . . . and we do not think this is in any way 'seedy'.

Peter Downes and Shirley Menczer

The Phantom Camel Flipper of Brampton Lane

Carolyn and I often take a walk from Grafham along Brampton Lane, sometimes to the railway bridge and sometimes to the Brampton Wood car park. It's a pleasant walk, as long as an ear is kept open for the traffic.

We've noticed an increase in the amount of rubbish accumulating on the verges, sadly it does appear to be a growing problem, but today's walk highlighted a specific culprit, I believe.

Close to the Brampton Wood car park I spotted a discarded carton of Camel cigarettes. Close by, but looking a little more worse for wear, was another carton of the same brand. Camel is an American brand and, I suspect, is not commonly found here. Yet, here were two cartons in close proximity.

On the way back home, in the short distance between the car park and the railway bridge, we spotted 11 of the discarded Camel cartons. Undoubtedly there were many more out of immediate eyesight.



They were in various states of decay, suggesting someone regularly throws them whilst driving or walking along that part of the lane.

So, who could be conducting this one-man attempt to bury Brampton Lane in Camel droppings? Could it be one of our American guests from a local base? Could it be a local person with a taste for "something exotic?"

To them, and to anyone who defiles the verges by throwing litter instead of carrying it to a bin, please consider the effect on the wildlife and on the beauty of our country lanes.

Cheers,

Steve Booth



Grafham Cricket Club

I have been with Grafham Cricket club since 1972. I am trying to locate the old score books for the club to write a short history. I want to ensure the village is aware we are a thriving club that actually has more players in it from Grafham than at any time since 1972. I also want to ensure that any person in the village or local to the village who want to come and join us are aware of who to contact.

Our current membership is small which means in the traditional holiday periods we sometimes struggle to get a team. I have some score books from the 1950s and I am researching who lived where, to accurately record the history, so if you can help with books or anecdotes let me know.

Did you know the cricket field has moved three times since the 20s? Did you know a ball was allegedly hit from Grafham to Kettering (it was struck onto a passing train)? Can you complete this story? Did you know Grafham CC raised nearly £1,600 for the victims of the Tsunami last February?

The current chairman is Gerry Harris. The current treasurer is John Fozzard. I am the current captain. Grafham, this is your club and we want to hear from you. **Adrian Love**

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