

Grafham Gossip

Issue 32 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday February 15th*

Editors' note...

In last month's issue, did you notice that we used January 2006 instead of 2007 to look up the deadline date and mobile library dates? If that's our worst mistake we must be doing okay! We hope it did not inconvenience too many library visitors and we held the deadline open for an extra day, just in case anyone was confused.



By special request, the **deadline dates** for the next few months are:

Midnight on: Thursday Feb 15th, March 22nd; April 19th; May 17th; June 21st and July 12th.

Please continue to tell us about any events in Grafham or locally and let us know if you had a good time, then we can share your experiences through the *Grafham Gossip!*

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Village Hall Improvements

Your Village Hall Committee has now completed the replacement/upgrading of all the internal doors in the village hall which were showing signs of wear and tear after over ten years of use. The money for the new doors came mainly from the income from the bottle banks in the car park and we are grateful to all who have and continue to use the bottle bank. The doors were fitted by our local carpenter, Douglas Dawson (890311) and the stained and polished by David Antony (811909). For our next project we have been asked to install a Village Hall sign on or adjacent to the hall. **If you have any thoughts on what would be the most suitable design/location please e-mail the *Grafham Gossip*** - we would welcome any suggestions.



Many thanks for all your support and bottles!

Alan Watson

Grafham All Saints Church

4th Feb(1st Sunday) 11.00 - All Age Worship - Candlemas - Please bring your Children's Society collecting tubes and Christingle Colouring Competition entry with you!

11th Feb(2nd Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist

18th Feb (3rd Sunday) 08.00- Eucharist 11.0 - Sunday Worship

25th Feb (4th Sunday) 11.00 - Children's Eucharist with Baptism

4th March(1st Sunday) 11.00 - All Age Worship

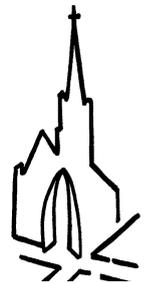
Newcomers and visitors always very welcome!

Please come in and join us!

Contacting the Clergy: Canon Jonathan Young 891695

Rev. Martin Kettle 890284 or mob.07876 755587

Churchwardens: Jill Dighton 811862; Jill Tyack 810157



View from the Pew!

Contrary to what the 'popular' press would like us to believe, Christmas is still an important festival in the lives of many. In fact, for Grafham, statistics reflect what happened across the rest of the country; church attendance figures (combined) for our Carol Service, Crib Service and Christmas Day Eucharist were up by 11% on 2005.

It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm for celebrating the season being repeated at our Epiphany Christingle Service on 7th January.

Thank you to everyone (plus the two dogs) who supported our services!

Talking of dogs - watch out for details of a forthcoming 'Pet Service' in 2007!

Did you know that there is a green pin-board just inside the church on which prayer requests can be posted? Paper and pens are supplied. Just a few words of explanation are fine - names are not needed. Requests will be added to the prayers on Sunday morning. Leave the rest in God's hands.

Let your Sunday afternoon stroll take you to see the new 'picture gallery' that is accumulating in the church. Pictures taken over the last few years including the Fun Days, Flower Festivals and other events can be seen. You may even spot yourself on one or two pictures!

Finally, DON'T FORGET to return the Children's Society collecting tubes to the 4th February Service. ALSO, all entries for the Christingle Colouring Competition must be in on the 4th for a chance to win that prize!



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

Melodramatics Presents the Pantomime

Beauty and the Beast



Mandeville Hall Kimbolton from 28 Feb - 3 Mar
 Wed and Fri : 7.30pm Adults £6 Concs. £4
 Thurs: Rotary Gala Night 8pm All Tickets £8
 Sat: 12.30 and 4.00pm Adults £6 Concs. £4
 Sat: 8.00pm All tickets £6

Tickets available from Watson's Kimbolton from mid-January tel. 01480 860444

Beast Spotted Lurking in Kimbolton

An ugly beast transformed by a wicked spell is currently lurking somewhere in Kimbolton in search of true love.

Yes, at last the annual Melodramatics' pantomime is coming to the town. This year the group is performing it's unique interpretation of the original fairy tale of 'Beauty and the Beast'. The Beast, played by Martin Findlay, is cast under a wicked spell and has to find true love to break the spell. Beauty's father (David Watson) in search of a fortune to support his family falls foul of the Beast's temper and is threatened with death. The Beast's incompetent assistant Spaldrick, (Anne-Marie King), ably assisted by Trinny and Tranny, persuade him to imprison Beauty (Rachel Day), rather than put her father to death. Beauty's nanny, Nansy Pamsy (John Hill) of course has to go along as well.

Will love win the day? What other misfortunes will they meet on their way?

Come and meet all these strange and interesting characters in their performance at the **Mandeville Hall** between **February 28th and March 3rd 2007**. Tickets, priced from £4, are available from **Watson's of Kimbolton** (tel: 01480 860444; e-mail: davidwatson50@aol.com).

Book early to avoid missing this one off show!

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



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Sorry...this photo of **Lottie, Emily and Georgie** was missed out of the article, from last month's *Grafham Gossip*, in

which the three girls said 'Thank you' to everyone who donated so generously - £125 - in aid of **Children in Need**.



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PARISH NEWS...

This month a further £413 was received from the District Council as revenue from the re-cycling bins.

As Alan Watson has said, this money is being put to good use in refurbishing and maintaining the village hall and I would like to add the Council's thanks to Alan's to all of you who use the bins. If you don't use them, please can I ask you to think about doing so.

The Council is expecting that work on removing the thumps is due to commence very soon. The parking and pathway improvements to Breach Road are also scheduled to begin within the next week or two.

Margaret Life, Clerk to Grafham Parish Council

*Next meeting: Tues 13th February 2007 at 7.30pm
Full minutes can be found on the village web site.*



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I am pleased to report that up until January 14th there have been no reported incidents in the village.

However, distraction burglary has occurred in neighbouring villages by two white males in their mid twenties with an Irish accent posing as Water Authority employees. Also, a middle aged lady with a dog has been asking for support for an animal rescue charity but stressing she is not allowed to accept cash. She then obtains bank details from people by getting them to complete direct debit mandates. **This is yet another scam.**

The **Police Call Centre** is **0845 4564564** or call **Crimestoppers** anonymously on **0800 555111**

James Snell

07951 069565 or e-mail: **Jamie2701@aol.com**



Grafham Cricket Club

When I wrote the last *Grafham Gossip* cricketing article in

December for the January 2007 issue, it was at the end of the second match in the Ashes series where there was perhaps a scintilla of hope that England could redeem themselves. But as we all now know that was a false scintilla. So rather than wading through the last three matches of the Ashes series, plus the 20/20 game and the opening one match to seek the lessons learned, I will take the advice of the 20th Century Austrian philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein who wrote, "what we cannot speak about we must pass over in silence."



We are planning to hold the **Annual General Meeting** of Grafham Cricket Club on **Wednesday January 31st 2007 at 8.00pm** at the **Cinnamon House** restaurant. At the AGM we elect officers for the running of the club, and discuss issues concerning the forthcoming season.

We are also looking for new players, young, old, haven't played in a long time, to those who want to try after seeing those marvellous Australians. You do not have to commit to a full season of games, playing a few times a year will help. If you would like more information please give me a call: **Chris Dighton Club Chairman 01480 811862.**

A HELPING HAND - a FREE easy to use guide to COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Cambridgeshire County Council has just published their **Community Transport Guide** for 2006 / 2007 and it's completely **FREE**. The guide is easy to read and understand. It describes the various types of community transport schemes, how they operate and **who can use them**. It also has information on other modes of transport e.g. bus and rail services, how to get a bus pass and an explanation of the concessionary fare scheme. It also lists transport schemes by district; the type of scheme available; details of other agencies involved in community transport and advice for those with mobility difficulties. **A community transport scheme may serve your area and you may be eligible to use it.**



For a **FREE copy** contact **Gavin Moulton**, at Cambridgeshire County Council, ET1015, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge CB3 0AP, tel: **01223 717755** or email: **gavin.moulton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

ADVANCE NOTICE! GRAFHAM AND LOCAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

**GRAFHAM WILDLIFE AND
CONSERVATION GROUP
LED BY SAM MALT**



**SUNDAY 18TH MARCH
GRAFHAM VLLAGE HALL**

**DONATIONS TO GRAFHAM
CHURCH RESTORATION FUND**

MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH!

The **Mobile Library** (route H103) visits **Breach Road, Grafham** from **11.35 to 11.55** on alternate **Wednesdays**.
Visits this month are: February 7th and 21st.

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

BY POPULAR DEMAND THE BUS TIMETABLE RETURNS!**Yes, Grafham does have a Bus Service!**

GRAFHAM - HUNTINGDON			HUNTINGDON - GRAFHAM			401
		S		S	SCH	
Grafham	7.50	10.00	H'don bus station	12.50	15.20	16.40
Perry	7.55	10.05	H'don Hinch Hosp	13.00	15.30	16.50
			H'don Hinch School		15.40	
Gt Staughton	8.00	10.10	Ellington	A		
Kimbolton PO	8.06	10.16	Spaldwick	13.15	15.55	17.05
Kimbolton Newtown	8.07	10.17	Easton bus shelter			A
Stow Longa	8.11	10.21	Stow Longa	13.25		17.15
			Kimbolton Newtown	13.30		17.19
Spaldwick	8.15	10.25	Kimbolton PO	13.31		17.20
H'don Hinch school	8.30		Gt Staughton	13.35		17.24
H'don Hinch Hosp	8.35	10.40	Perry	13.41		17.28
H'don bus station	8.45	10.45	Grafham	13.45		17.33
HUNTINGDON - PETERBOROUGH			PETERBOROUGH - HUNTINGDON			405
second Wednesday of each month			second Wednesday of each month			
H'don bus station	9.00		P'boro Queensgate	13.45		
Easton	9.15		Ellington	14.20		
Spaldwick	9.20		Grafham	14.25		
Stow Longa	9.24		Perry	14.30		
Kimbolton PO	9.30		Gt Staughton	14.35		
Stonely PO	9.31		Stonely PO	14.38		
Gt Staughton	9.35		Kimbolton PO	14.40		
Perry	9.45		Stow Longa	14.46		
Grafham	9.50		Spaldwick	14.50		
Ellington	9.55		Easton	A		
P'boro Queensgate	10.30		H'don bus station	A		
HUNTINGDON - ST NEOTS			ST NEOTS - HUNTINGDON			408
Thursday only			Thursday only			
H'don bus station	9.00		St Neots Market Sq	12.00		
Ellington PO	9.15		Eaton Socon	12.03		
Easton	9.20		Hail Weston	12.10		
Spaldwick	9.25		Gt Staughton	12.15		
Stow Longa	9.30		Dillington	12.20		
Ellington PO	9.37		Perry	12.23		
Grafham	9.45		Grafham	12.30		
Perry	9.52		Ellington	12.35		
Dillington	9.55		Easton	A		
Gt Staughton	10.00		Spaldwick	12.45	13.15	
Hail Weston	10.05		Stow Longa	A	A	
Eaton Socon	10.10		Ellington		13.25	
St Neots Market Sq	10.15		H'don bus station		13.40	

NOTES:

A sets down on request

S Saturday only

SCH runs on Monday to Friday when schools are open

On weekdays the 400 service leaves Huntingdon at 17.40 and will set down on request in Grafham.



Diamond Wedding Celebration

Just prior to Christmas saw the Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebration of Harry and Florrie (*Grafham residents*) who married on 22nd December, 1946 in North London. Their celebrations had started earlier in the week with a tea party, hosted by Francis Knight, for their senior citizen friends. Their next highlight was a special card received from Her Majesty the Queen congratulating them on their anniversary and wishing them a very Happy Christmas.



The actual celebration party was held on Saturday 23rd December when their "children" arranged for all their family, friends and neighbours to share their 60th Wedding Anniversary in the village hall. They had intended to have afternoon tea with their family before the evening party but unaware to them a neighbour had arranged a special departure from their house. Through the kind courtesy of Calibre Wedding Chauffeur



Services of Brampton, a reproduction Ford Barnsdale wedding car, with chauffeur and ribbons, was driven to their house. At the appropriate time all their neighbours appeared, with cameras and flags, to wave them off for the short journey to the village hall. A comment was heard from Florrie to Harry, which we cannot report!

Over seventy guests sat down to a fork buffet, provided by Angels and the evening concluded with a disco. The party was arranged like a wedding reception with Harry and Florrie being asked to take to the floor for the first waltz. As with any party that involves their neighbours the evening showed enjoyment, entertainment and friendship in the dancing. It was clear that "Strictly Come Dancing" had nothing on certain neighbours' dancing performances. **A Grafham Reporter**



Grafham Bookworms



The next meeting of the Grafham Bookworms is: Tuesday 27th February at 8pm at Tina's ~ "Kalostone" 5 Home Close Tel: 01480 811366

*The current read is: **The Constant Gardener** by John Le Carre.*

We are looking forward to welcoming new members. Please note we also discuss the latest films! So if you are a film buff, please come along! Contact Tina Theodorou 01480 811366 for further information.

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)



The Christmas raffle in aid of MAGPAS raised £545. Thank you to everyone who generously donated prizes and bought tickets.

The response to my request for books to sell in aid of BSPA funds was fantastic! We now have a wide range of books and are extremely grateful to Shirley Wimbleton for running this scheme. Doctors Leonard and Blundy are now enjoying the 'luxury' of their own consulting rooms!

There was a generally high level of patient satisfaction with our surgery services according to the November survey. However, the delays sometimes experienced whilst waiting to see the doctor remain a problem. This is quite difficult to resolve as consultation times are not an exact science, complex problems may require longer than ten minutes. The doctors remain committed to keeping as closely as possible to the appointment times but please remember that if you have more than one problem to discuss, do book a double appointment in order to minimise delays to other patients.

The fight to retain all services at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital continues and there are some positive signs for the retention of A and E which has ramifications for other services. If A and E closed there would be a significant reduction in surgical and medical admissions. Then the authorities could try to justify further ward closures on the grounds of insufficient use. It is therefore essential to continue the campaign to keep full A and E services. Less clear is what might happen to obstetric services and the retention of that service must be fiercely defended as well.

We continue to hear much about Care in the Community and the desirability of discharging patients quickly, even after major surgery. Whilst this may sound attractive, it neatly sidesteps the question of who will do the caring once patients are home. Quite where all the skilled professionals, community nurses and carers capable of working independently and confidently with high-dependency patients are to be found, remains a serious question. Additionally, early discharges will involve our GPs in a substantial level of post-operative supervision. This significant increase in workload must impact on their routine patients' needs. This problem will be compounded should the forecast shortage of GP nurses become a reality. My concern is that much will be expected of family and friends who, however willing, may not have the necessary expertise.

Finally, a plea to Grafham residents. There are some 800 Grafham patients registered with the practice. Is there someone prepared to act as a village representative on our Committee? We have four meetings a year and welcome enthusiasm and ideas. Anyone interested should contact our secretary, Betty Millard on 810087.

A precis of an article by Sue Paul
For complete article see www.bandlp.co.uk

Read the Grafham Gossip in colour! Visit www.grafhamvillage.org.uk Email us if you can help with the web site!

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) **811654** (evening)



Grafham Social Committee invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am** on **Wednesday, February 8th** at **Jean Futter's, 2 Thorpe Cottage, Ellington Thorpe**



YOUNG PEOPLE! PARC is a new project being set up in Grafham to help make the village better for you! So if you've got ideas about what you want to see or do, then contact: Katie Low: katie@young-lives.org.uk 01480 494333 or text: 07910 097109.

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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

Kirsty Elliot - successful in babysitting course - Age 15 Tel: 810550

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

Kate Kelley - successful in babysitting course - Age 14 Tel: 812179

Anna Fozzard - Age 14 Tel: 812021

