

# Grafham Gossip

**Issue 33 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday March 22nd***

## Editors' note...

You've done it again -  
bombarded us with items  
for this month's *Grafham Gossip!* Thank  
you for all your contributions - please read  
on!



**Editors, [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)**

**PS** You must view **Grafham's History** - see  
*below on 18th March, Mothering Sunday!*

## **GRAFHAM AND LOCAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY**

**FIND OUT WHAT LIES UNDER GRAFHAM  
WATER - SEE VIEWS FROM THE PAST**

**SUNDAY 18TH MARCH  
GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL  
10.00AM - 4.00PM**



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

**DONATIONS TO GRAFHAM CHURCH  
RESTORATION FUND**

## **Rural Action Group (RAG) Stepping Out in 2007!**

Every day the media reminds us of the plight  
of our planet. Each one of us is being asked  
to think more and more about how we, as  
individuals, can contribute towards preserv-  
ing what God has given us. The issues are  
far-reaching and sometimes complex but that  
does not prevent us from being concerned  
about them. We can all be involved in learn-  
ing more about what is happening to our  
world even from a local perspective.

**Rural Action Group cont. p 2**

## Grafham All Saints Church

4th March(1st Sunday) 11.00 - All Age Worship followed by  
the Inauguration of the replacement Notice Board  
11th March(2nd Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist  
18th March(3rd Sunday) 8.00 - Eucharist  
11.00 - Sunday Worship for Mothering Sunday  
25th March(4th Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist  
1st April(1st Sunday) 11.00 All Age Worship for Palm Sunday



Details of Lent courses/events available on weekly pew sheets

Contacting the Clergy:

Fr Jonathan Young (rector),  
The Rectory,  
Ellington PE28 0AU  
Tel. 01480 891695

Fr Martin Kettle (curate),  
The Vicarage, Alconbury PE28 4DX  
01480 890284 or 07876 755587

Churchwardens:

Jill Dighton 811862 Jill Tyack 810157

## **View from the Pew!**

The pancakes have been and gone - so that means we must  
be in Lent!

Those who have given up chocolate for Lent,  
won't mind knowing that during Fair Trade  
Fortnight we had a host of Fairly Traded choco-  
lates and other goodies for sale after services.  
Well, Lent is all about temptation after all!

Congratulations to the winners of our  
Christingle Colouring Competition. First Prize  
went to Emily Tyack with an imaginative repre-  
sentation of the Christingle symbol. Second

prize went to George Stanfield - our youngest entrant (5 yrs)  
who showed mastery of the felt tip pen. Well done both.

Runners-up also received prizes. The winning entries can be  
seen on display, in church.

Jill D's Aunt Vera says 'Thank you' for making her so welcome  
at February's All Age service. Vera, now almost 91 years  
young and one of 14 children, told us how she has wor-  
shipped at St Mary's, Godmanchester all her life and is still  
verger. Vera is certain that her longevity and lifelong ability to  
serve others is due to her enduring faith. We enjoyed hearing  
Vera's story and look forward to seeing her again.



**View from the Pew! continued on page 2**

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](mailto:Shirley.Menczer@huntsdc.gov.uk)  
tel.01480 436769 [Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) tel.01480 398082

**Web site:** [www.grafhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.grafhamvillage.org.uk) **E-mail:** [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)

**Rural Action Group cont. from p 1**

With this in mind, a local group of Christians began meeting during Lent 2006 to discuss and pray about not just world issues, but those that affect our local environment too. The group decided not to 'disband' once Lent was over, but has continued to meet. Now the group, known as R A G (Rural Action Group), has put together a programme of events for 2007 and would very much like to invite anyone is interested in rural/global issues to join with them for some or all of their events. For further details, please contact: **Jill Dighton 811862 or Tony Hodgson 01832 293383**

Your local church should hopefully be displaying a list of 'local producers' - local farm shops etc. If not, please contact **01480 891600** for details.

**First Monday** of every month **7.30pm Barham** RAG meeting **tel 01480 891600** for details.

**25th Feb: Fair-trade Fortnight** - some local churches may have fairly-traded produce to sell

**26th Feb: (Monday) Christian Aid lunch** with Lent Course at **Brington 12-2pm**

**5th March: (Monday) 7.30 RAG meeting at Barham.** Attendees to bring along written recipes that use seasonal food for different times of the year (if ingredients can be locally sourced, even better!)

**4th April: (Wednesday) 7pm Passover Supper at Little Gidding.**

**Forthcoming topics:** Affordable local housing/Housing Association issues. Just one of the forthcoming topics for serious consideration in the future. **Watch this space!**

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)



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**View from the Pew! continued from page 1**

Make sure not to miss the 1st Sunday in March (4th) service when our replacement notice board will be inaugurated. This resplendent item has been paid for by an anonymous benefactor and will adorn the entrance to our churchyard for many years to come. It has been made from sustainable resources. To our anonymous donor: We offer you our heartfelt thanks and acknowledge that as St Paul puts it 'You excel in this grace of giving' The Lord's blessings be with you - whoever and wherever you are.

Inside the notice board you will see the certificate acknowledging that we have been able to pay our parish share for last year. No mean feat for a village the size of ours. Well done to the congregations of Grafham.

On the run up to Easter there will be several services that might appeal and bring back childhood memories. On the 18th March, there will be a Mothering Sunday Service where all ladies will be presented with posies. We also partake in the tradition of eating Simnel Cake! Our 1st April (first Sunday) service will celebrate Palm Sunday (donkey appearance sadly doubtful). As Passion Week draws to its close, there will be a 'Quiet Service' on Good Friday Evening; a good chance to put all one's thoughts into perspective in a peaceful, tranquil setting. More about Easter services in next month's issue.

After years of loyal service, David Paul, has reluctantly decided that he must cease helping to maintain the church and its environs here at Grafham. David and Sue moved to Buckden a few years ago but David continued in his commitment to All Saints. David: Grafham gratefully thanks you for all you have done over the years. Your advice and hard work have been much appreciated and helped to make our church somewhere peaceful, pleasant and much admired. God bless both you and Sue.

In true Grafham tradition, help is at hand. Enter Mel Wright, who has very kindly offered to step into David's shoes. The sigh of relief from the PCC was heard in Perry! Mel: You are a star!

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated towards the Children's Society at our Christingle Service by filling the Candle tubes. A healthy sum of £35.77p (and 2 cents!) was raised and has been forwarded to the Society.

If you have just read this and asked yourself 'Does all this really go on at Grafham Church?' can we suggest that you might be missing something? Come and find out for yourself! We'd love you to join us in the pews!

**KSSC DAY TRIP**  
**IDEAL HOME EXHIBITION**  
**EARLS COURT, LONDON**  
**SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2007**



Coach departs Tempsford Hall at **08.00** and leaves Earls Court at **16.00**. Cost approx **£25. 00** This includes return coach journey and show entry fee.

Please contact **Tina Theodorou 01767 640111 Ext 3729** between **08.00 - 16.30 Monday - Thursday** or email: **tina.theodorou@kier.co.uk**

There is a minimum number required for this trip to go ahead - so please reserve your tickets now!

# Grafham Cricket Club

John Fozzard who won the Club's Best Batsman and Best

Bowler awards in 2006 went on a trip to Australia over the Christmas holidays to see his son James, and this is what he wrote:-

I am a keen participant and lover of the game of cricket (being of Yorkshire blood what else would you expect?) I have been a member of Grafham Cricket Club for about ten years and more recently have been joined by my son James.

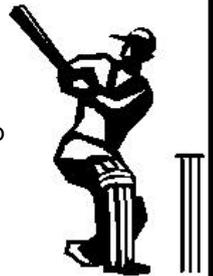
Over the Christmas period I had a chance of a lifetime, to visit James whilst he is enjoying a "gap year" in Australia. I met up with him and his mate, Robert, in the wonderful city of Melbourne. Before I go any further and you guys out there reading this are thinking how on earth did he manage to do this without his wife and family, I'll tell you it was Elizabeth who encouraged me to visit James (it did not take long to persuade though!)

Before we left for Oz we had managed to get four tickets for the first four days of the Melbourne Boxing Day Ashes Test - we couldn't wait. I am not going to tell you about the cricket, there's not much to tell, but I will explain some of the wonderful experiences we all enjoyed.

On entering the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) our breaths were taken away, I had never imagined how magnificent the stadium could be, and then to be filled with just over 95,000 spectators, truly awesome. For those who can remember, it was the test match that the great Shane Warne achieved his outstanding feat of taking 700 test wickets. All 95,000 cricket fans stood and applauded a true great cricketer, no other sport would rise to this. My fondest memory of the test match was The Barmy Army. For all our woeful performances on the pitch these guys were absolutely fantastic, we may have lost the battle on the wicket but the Brits won the singing, chanting, clapping, cheering and bantering on the terraces. If not for them it would have been an agonising three days to say the least.

It was this attitude towards the game that once again reminds me why cricket is a game to be loved and enjoyed. Having been at Grafham CC for a number of years I know the club and its players have the same attitude - long may it continue. Come and see for yourself, we're always looking for new players.

P.S. James can't wait to see you all again and start once more where he left off in June - 26 not out.



**John Fozzard**

As you see from John's article we are looking for new players for the forthcoming season. Don't be shy call:

**Club Captain Adrian Love 01480 811827**

**Club Vice Captain Colin Grundy 0784 338 4276**

**Club Treasurer John Fozzard 01480 812021 or Club Chairman Chris Dighton 01480 811862**

Pre season nets have been organised at **St Ives Leisure Centre** for :-

Sunday **25th March 2007 2.00pm to 3.30 pm**

Sunday **1st April 2007 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm**

Sunday **15th April 2007 12.30pm to 2.00 pm**

Sunday **22nd April 2007 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm**

There will be a nominal charge for each session.

**Chris Dighton Club Chairman 01480 811862**

**PARC** is a new project in Grafham to help young people get more involved



in their communities. During our meetings we will be listening to what young people aged 11-19 want to see in Grafham and supporting them to achieve realistic goals.

Want more in Grafham for young people?

However, we need adult volunteers!

To find out more about the project please contact **Katie Low** :  
katie@young-lives.org.uk or tel 01480 494333 or text 07910 097109

**Parc meeting dates:** Wednesday 28th February, Wednesday 14th March and Wednesday 28th March All 5.15pm - 6.15pm in the Village Hall

**The Mobile Library** (route H103) visits **Breach Road, Grafham** from **11.35 to 11.55** on **alternate Wednesdays**.  
Visits this month are: March 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](http://www.grafhamvillage.org.uk) **E-mail:** [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

In the month-long period ending February 11th there has been one reported break-in at a property in the village - entry was gained but nothing taken. The police have been informed; so as it is an ongoing investigation no further comment can be made.

There has been a spate of thefts of lead taken off the roofs of churches in the area but nothing reported in Grafham. The police have asked for us all to be vigilant in this matter and to report immediately anyone seen who appears to be a builder, so that they can check his/her status.



Anglian Water has been asked to issue a press release following more distraction burglaries with people posing as inspectors from the water board. Concern is being expressed because the older section of our community, anxious of burst pipes in the inclement weather, is being targeted. If the press release materialises I will post it on the web site and in the next newsletter.

Postal scams are continuing in the Huntingdon area with false Italian lottery win notifications, and Nigerian funds being suggested as available.

If you have anything to report call:  
the **Police Control Room 0845 4564564** or  
**Crimestoppers** anonymously on **0800 555111**

**James Snell**

Tel. **07951 069565** or e-mail: **jamie2701@aol.com**

## Safari Supper Grafham Social Committee

A big **thank you** to all residents who took part in the **Annual Safari Supper** held on **February 3rd**. Many "regulars" were away on the **Safari** weekend this year, and we thought that we might not have enough people to run the event at one point. We need not have worried! Lots of new residents signed up and the event was a **tremendous success**. It was wonderful meeting so many different people! **Thank you Alan and Pat Watson** for all your hard work hosting the "**Desserts and Coffee**", (where everyone met up at the end of the evening.) The Safari Supper is a fundraising event and this year raised **£230.00**. All funds raised from activities organised by **Grafham Social Committee** are used to help fund other village events and activities such as the **Fireworks Night** and the **Over 60's Christmas Lunch**.



## Do you play Canasta...

or would you like to learn? We are looking for Canasta players of all abilities. Please contact: **Wendy 01480 811441**



## Grafham Social Committee



invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am** on **Wednesday, March 8th** at **Philippa Patel's, 3 Field Close**



## Operation Christmas Child - 2006

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who contributed to the shoe box appeal. Forty four boxes were completed and sent via Huntingdon Methodist Church to under-privileged children in eastern Europe and Africa. Well done and many thanks. Wishing you all a happy and peaceful 2007.  
Kind regards, **Moira Young**



## Access to the Countryside

Do you want to help shape the future of **countryside access**? Why not apply to be a member of the **Local Access Forum**? For details/information and application pack tel. **01223 717445** or visit **www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/laf**  
Closing date for applications is **16th March**.

## Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

We are sorry not to have the usual precis of Sue Paul's article but you should find the full version on the surgery website. **www.bandlp.co.uk**



## Clint Thomas-Morgan

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Letters to the Editors...

A Village Hall Sign.....No Thank You!

I read with great interest the second part of Alan Watson's Village Hall Improvements item in February's issue of the Grafham Gossip regarding the Village Hall Management Committee's (VHMC) next project of a Village Hall sign. I recall this matter being mentioned at their last AGM by one of the Committee and thinking then what a complete waste of our money. We have a Village Hall directional "brown" sign at the Breach/Brampton Road junction, which directs you down Brampton Road whereupon the last building situated in a large gravel area surrounded by a sports field must be the village's hall. Surely anyone can recognise a village hall?

Being fortunate to have access to my late wife's files it is clear that when this funding project was set up the Parish Council, under Jean's Chairmanship, agreed that all Recycling/Bottle Bank Project income would go directly to the financial running of the Village's Hall. This funding agreed by her fellow Councillors would greatly assist in keeping our village hall solvent for previous VHMC minutes clearly indicated a predicted deficit possibly in the region of a £1000 per annum. As the Village Hall has a Charities Trust status, which would appear to mean that it is not permitted to make a profit (apart from holding a contingency for the unforeseen), then any funding of this proportion enables in a small way to keeping our Village Hall financially sound.

Please don't waste our money earned from the Recycling/Bottle Bank Project credits in this way. If however the financial situation is sound then why not refresh the building with a coat of paint and file this idea, along with the village sign project, as dead?

**Keith Gowen**

*"It's always worth showing pride for our village"*

About the proposal, in Alan's article, for the Grafham village hall sign - sounds like a sensible suggestion, it's always worth showing pride for our village and boosting our visibility to passers by, but since these are the best intentions behind a village sign, why not have one signposting the village itself, and not the village hall. It's pretty obvious what the village hall is, and people see it on their way out of the village, not while they're passing through it. To put a village sign, signposting 'Grafham', on the grassy roundabout in the middle of the village would be a much better use of the available budget.

**A Grafham Resident**

Let us know what you think, e-mail your responses to [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)



**PARISH NEWS...**

The traffic thumps have been removed from Breach and

Buckden Roads and, although a lot of you are mightily relieved, it has already been noticed that traffic speeds have begun to pick up through the village. Your Parish Council is acutely aware of the need to replace the thumps with a less disruptive traffic-calming method and have put up several ideas for consideration during the interim period before further funding is likely to be approved. They will be approaching the police to find out if they would use some form of speed-detection equipment on an ad hoc basis in the village. Also, the Highways Agency will be asked about placing more prominent 30mph signs at each end of the village and whether the SLOW signs painted on the road can be re-painted over red tarmac.

Several people have expressed concern about the maintenance work carried out on the ancient hedge in front of the new properties in Brampton Road. We are all very keen to preserve this hedge. In order to keep it thriving there needed to be some fairly major pruning of dead and diseased material. In particular, there is a tree at the side of the site which has been given a thorough short back and sides, technically known as pollarding. Although this tree looks as though it has been killed off, pollarding is a recognised method of pruning to encourage growth. Also, around the side and in front of the fencing, new planting has taken place in accordance with a request from the Parish Council. The front of the hedge, which is the responsibility of the Parish Council, has now to be tidied up. We hope that the Grafham Conservation Group will take this on.

**Margaret Life**

*Next meeting: Tuesday 13 March at 7.30pm. Full minutes can be found on the village web site.*

**Contact your parish councillors through the clerk or contact councillors direct. Details are as follows:**

**Margaret Life** Clerk to the Parish Council **01480 819477** [margaret\\_life\\_grafham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk)

**Philip Allingham** Chairman **01480 811516** [allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk)

**Mike Tyler** Vice Chair **01480 811244** [mtyler@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:mtyler@bedford.gov.uk)

**Gillian Findlay** **01480 812255** [gillfindlay@btconnect.com](mailto:gillfindlay@btconnect.com)

**Ian Gardener** **01480 812821** [ig@ascgeomatrics.co.uk](mailto:ig@ascgeomatrics.co.uk) **Dan Hart** **01480 819086** [dchart.hart@btinternet.com](mailto:dchart.hart@btinternet.com)

**Katrina Goodwin** **01480 810297** [goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com](mailto:goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com)

**David King** **01480 812430** [davidking@hawkeyesystems.com](mailto:davidking@hawkeyesystems.com)

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 **Grafham Bookworms**

The next meeting is **Tuesday 17 April**. More details in next issue - **no meeting in March**.

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**Babysitters**

Alison Young - Age 16 Tel: 811577  
 Olivia Sinfield Grade B GCSE Child Development - Age 17 Tel: 811831  
 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

