

Grafham Gossip

Issue 34 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday April 19th*



Editors' note...



Thank you for all your contributions to this month's *Grafham Gossip*! A Happy Easter to all our readers!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham Church Flower Club

Are you interested in flower arranging? Would you like to improve? Here's your chance!

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at **8pm** in the **Village Hall** we will be learning to make different floral arrangements for display and in the home. If you are interested in helping with flowers in the church for festivals, Christmas etc. please come along. There is a charge of **£2.00 per session**. Contact: **Karenza Rosier 01480 812556** or **Jill Tyack 01480 810157** for details.



Grafham All Saints Church

1st April(1st Sun) 11.00 -All Age Worship for Palm Sunday

2nd April(Monday of Holy Week)12 Noon -Lunchtime Eucharist

6th April(Good Friday) 19.30 -Good Friday Meditation
- A service of quiet reflection

8th April(2nd Sun) 11.00 -Easter Day Eucharist for All
- non-communicants very welcome

15th April(3rd Sun) 11.00 -Sunday Worship

22nd April(4th Sun) 11.00 -Eucharist

29th April(5th Sun) 18.00 -Evensong at Little Gidding with Refreshments and Talk by Revd Paton on Climate Change

6th May(1st Sun) 11.00 -All Age Worship -Celebrating 'Holy Helpers' - all those who do something at church!

The clergy, PCC and congregation wish everyone a Happy Easter!

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!

Our pews were full for the Christening of gorgeous Oliver Lowther, Doris Garner's great-grandson; always a very special day for a family and for the family of the church as well.

Looking globally, we participated in Fair Trade Fortnight by hearing about and buying fairly-traded produce in our churches. At the time of going to press, most of the goods have been sold. We have heightened our awareness of trade issues for Third World producers and continue to support the progress of Fair Trade. Both of these remind us that the church family extends across our world.



Our replacement notice board has now been inaugurated (see photo). We all managed to get fairly wet during the ceremony - especially as a certain camera failed to work and a 'curtain call was required!'

Nine people participated in the frugal lunch held on 14th March in church as part of the events for Lent. Thank you to those who kindly organised this.

It was lovely to see so many at our Mothering Sunday Service; some who were visiting their Mums and Nannies also joined us and the children's corner proved popular. We were all glad of the coffee and Simnel cake before making our ways home clutching our posies protectively against a biting snow flurry!

Later on, many of us met up once again at the Village Hall where Sam Malt had organised an exhibition of old photos of Grafham and surrounding villages. It was great to hear the reminiscing that went on. Thank you for all your hard work Sam. It was a very enjoyable and informative way to spend the afternoon. Many hope that you will do it again soon. Thank you also for generously donating the collection to the church restoration fund - a tidy sum of £126.40p was raised. Thank you so much Sam.

Lent is drawing to its end and we will soon be entering into the events of Passion Week. On 1st April we have our Palm Sunday Service. On Monday 2nd April, there will be a lunchtime Eucharist service and the week draws to a close with a short, quiet, reflective service on Good Friday 6th April at 7.30pm. Then Easter bonnets need dusting down ready for the Easter Eucharist on 8th April at 11.00am. Those **View from the Pew! continued on page 2**



RED NOSE DAY MANIA

In Grafham the kids felt we needed to do something for those less fortunate than ourselves. We organised a sponsored cycle ride or walk around the reservoir. About eighteen people turned up on the day, some in fancy dress from charity shops! We had arranged for a photographer to take pictures. We all had a fantastic time! We raised over £79, which made everyone who had helped organise the event or take part in it feel good. All the kids were happy to do something for Comic Relief. We wanted to help people in Kenya, Tanzania or anywhere in Africa as well as here in the U.K. We were aiming to improve hygiene, education and to provide houses for families to live in, to help keep families together. We just hope we have made a difference to some one's life. None of this could have been possible without the *Parc Project* and the group of adults involved in it. In this case one adult, Lorna helped us organise the sponsored cycle ride and walk. Thank you.



Hannah Melton

Parc Project - Katie Low: katie@young-lives.org.uk
tel 01480 494333 or text 07910 097109

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We have had two disturbing instances in Brampton Road since my last report.

A break-in happened overnight with entry being made through the garage into the rear of the property. Also on a weekend afternoon a male aged around 40 with an Irish accent appeared in the back garden and when challenged by the owner told him he was seeing if any gardening work needed doing. The intruder then ran off at speed.



The police were informed and visited both properties to investigate further.

In adjoining villages a white transit van (part index HJ07) has been acting suspiciously and purporting to sell power tools. Also, a series of thefts and break-ins have occurred and been reported in Alconbury (which is not too far from Grafham).

I am organising another Neighbourhood Watch evening at the beginning of June, and if anyone has ideas they would like included please let me know as I am in discussion with the police to set this up. Full details to follow next month.

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

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

View from the Pew! *continued* not wishing to take communion will be particularly welcome. If you have visitors, bring them along! If you have any stories about how your Lent abstinence went (or didn't), we'd be happy to hear them! Did any of that Fair Trade Chocolate prove just too much of a temptation?



Plans for two very special services are in progress - please note in your diaries Sunday 6th May, a 'Holy Helpers' service. We would like everyone who has any association with the church to attend; our cleaners, flower arrangers, maintenance, ground staff etc - very often the mainstay and unsung heroes of church life. Also, it's time to start grooming the goat or polishing the pooch ready for the Pet Service on 1st July. Details to follow. Finally, we have had enquiries regarding the enormous crack that has appeared within the church. The latest news is that the church architect is liaising with us on the way forward. We are about to appoint a specialist engineer who hopefully will be able to tell us why the crack is appearing and what the remedy might be (and the cost of course!) **See you in the pews!**
The clergy, PCC and churchwardens wish you all a joyous Easter!

All Saints Church Grafham - a new Electoral Roll is being prepared. If you wish to be included please complete a form - available from **Grafham Church** or **24 Cedar Close** and return it to **Ann Wright, Electoral Roll Officer, 24 Cedar Close, Grafham** no later than **4th April**.

Rural Action Group (RAG) information - see p 5

Climate change - separating the facts from the fiction

Kit Hawkins

Climate change is a subject that has recently attracted much public attention, but is, perhaps surprisingly, one that divides public opinion. Despite the publication of key studies such as the Stern Review and the International Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) fourth assessment report, many "climate sceptics" remain unconvinced. Certainly, while it is true that the earth's climate has fluctuated greatly in the past (temperatures are believed to have reached 5°C above present global means in the last interglacial period, 125,000 years ago) it is the rate of current change that is of greatest concern. An increase of 2°C is regarded as being the critical limit for many habitats and species, beyond which adaptation is unable to keep pace with change, yet it seems that we may have already committed ourselves to a global temperature rise of at least that; the most likely scenarios now predict a total increase of between 1.9°C - 4.6°C as a result of human actions ("anthropogenic forcing"). But, how does this affect us? In the short term, summers will become warmer and drier, with winters becoming warmer and wetter. Sea levels will rise, as a result of both thermal expansion (water occupies a greater volume at warmer temperatures) and increased melt water into the oceans, with a concomitant increased risk of coastal storm surges (like the 1953 East Coast event). It is also likely that climate change will hit the British economy; the Stern Review predicts that a global 5 - 6°C rise may cause an estimated 5 -10% loss in global gross domestic product.

What can be done? Luckily, we are at a critical point where the outcomes decided upon by the current generation may be able to reduce the potential impacts. We need effective and global co-operation, while realising that the industrialised nations must accept responsibility for their historic actions. Ill thought out policies such as attempting to limit emissions from vehicles by increased road taxing are ineffective unless governments invest heavily in sustainable forms of personal transport and alternative fuel technologies. The debate is on, and it is fraught with contention. The science is not.

Congratulations !

For the second year in a row
Grafham Wildlife and



Conservation Group led by Sam Malt, has won the Regional 'Green Heroes' Award 2007 from the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers (BTCV). Last year the BTCV Award was presented at Buckingham Palace. This year's venue has yet to be announced.

Buckden Surgery Patients

Association (BSPA) *A precis of an article*

On Sunday 15th April, Dr Irwin will run the Paris Marathon to raise funds for the Adolescent Project at Birmingham Children's Hospital, a charity suggested by Molly Smith, a Buckden patient. She had three months extensive treatment there.



(Sponsorship forms available at the surgery.)
We warmly welcome Sharon Wagstaff who returns to the practice as a nurse.

Online booking of appointments and repeat prescriptions - first, obtain your confidential password and pin number from the surgery. Then visit the practice website www.bandlp.co.uk follow the links, choose a date and time or place an order for a repeat prescription.

The Primary Care Trust (PCT) is backing the proposal to retain all services delivered by Hinchingsbrooke Hospital albeit at significantly reduced volume. The Consultation Document published in February outlines four options. Only Option 2 produces the necessary savings to ensure the long-term future viability of the hospital. The plan relies on patients embracing changes whilst GPs, community nurses, physiotherapists etc, get the staff, training and funding to meet increased demands on time and skills.

Historically, Hinchingsbrooke has had 20% higher than the national average for the referral rate of patients - not the 40% figure that was published earlier. Option 2 requires significant reduction in outpatient appointments, A and E attendances and a shift towards community-based services. At Buckden we already enjoy specialist dermatology and minor surgery services offered by Dr Fagnoli and it is proposed that other surgeries develop clinics covering specialities including ENT, gynaecology and the supervision of problems connected with chronic conditions like diabetes.

Doctors, nurses and healthcare workers at Hinchingsbrooke have agreed to be more flexible to help reduce the anticipated £39.2million Trust deficit.

I recommend that you read in detail the proposed changes - copies of the Consultation Document are available at the surgery. You can be part of the consultation process - this ends on Tuesday 22nd May. The final decision will be announced on Wednesday 27th June.

For complete article see www.bandlp.co.uk

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am** on **Wednesday, April 11th** at **Pat Watson's, 10 Field Close**



Grafham Reunited

On March 18th, a photographic display in Grafham Village Hall gave villagers and locals an opportunity to reminisce about the 'good old days'.

The Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group displayed photographs, maps, newspaper clippings and other historical pieces of Grafham and local villages providing the chance to look back into our history. Some who have since moved away from the village returned to see the display. More recent photos included Grafham Feast and Family Days and brought joy to faces when they spotted themselves, relatives or friends from years ago. Sam Malt who leads the Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group said: "It was like a reunion of Grafham, a very successful day, beyond my expectations!"

Donations were collected and £126.40 was raised towards Grafham Church Restoration Fund.



On April 29th there will be another photographic display in Ellington Village Hall, 10am - 4pm. This time the photographs and memorabilia will have more of an Ellington bias.

Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group



meet on the first and second Sunday of the month to carry out woodland conservation. For details contact **Sam Malt 810844** (daytime) **811654** (evening).

Forthcoming KSSC trips:

Saturday 16th June - BBC Good

Food/Garden/Home show - NEC **£30 p/p** Price includes return coach journey and entry into all 3 shows and celebrity chef cook-in

Saturday 23rd June - Kew Gardens - Giant Water Lily display during June **£28 p/p** price includes return coach and entry fee

Saturday 7th July - Hampton Court Flower Festival Show **£35 approx** (return coach and entry ticket)

Fri 27 July - 29th - Long weekend in Paris **£133** Price includes coach/ferry/2 nights in 3* city centre located hotel

Friday 21 Sept-Mon 24th - Long weekend in Berlin **£200 approx** - depending on flight prices Price includes 3 nights in 4* star hotel

Saturday October 13th - Day trip to Citi Europe Calais **£25 approx** (shopping/wining/dining) experience

Saturday 27th October - Les Miserables, London **£30**

Saturday 17th November - Phantom of the Opera, London **£30**

For further information and to receive flyers for any of the above events please contact **Tina Theodorou 01767 640111 Ext 3729** or email for info at tina.theodorou@kier.co.uk



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

Visits this month are: April 4th and 18th.

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

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

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

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. For details ring: Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



Grafham Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club



The next meeting is: **Tuesday 24 April 2007 at 8pm**
 Host: **Karen Stewart (810961) 2 Home Close, Grafham**
 Read for April: **The Man who mistook his Wife for a Top Hat** by Oliver Sacks ISBN 9780330294911 £8.99
 Additional Reads: **This book will save your life** by A M Homes ISBN 978186207935-5 £7.99, **Notes on a Scandal** by Zoey Heller ISBN 780141029061- £7.99
 All books are in stock at Waterstone's, St. Neots and apart from the April read are available from www.amazon.co.uk/

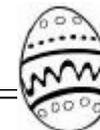
Malawi Race Night in Grafham

Get yourself to the Village Hall on Saturday April 28th for a Race Night in aid of funds for a volunteer project in Malawi!



Each year, Hinchingsbrooke School takes a group of volunteer students to Malawi to help build schools and houses and generally endeavour to improve a community's standard of living. Much funding is required to pursue the project and as such, Kirsty Elliot, one of the volunteers, is arranging a Race Night. All the money raised on the night will go towards the project. Kirsty will be funding her own travel expenses.

The time is yet to be confirmed so keep an eye out for a flyer through your door.



Grafham Fun Day

Sunday 9th September

Grafham Village Hall and playing field -12pm to 4pm
 Put the date in your diaries now - this year's Fun Day will be the best ever - more will be revealed later!

If you would like to help with organising the Fun Day or would like to help on the day, please give Katrina a ring: 810297



Grafham Cricket Club

The World Cup, Cricket Not Football In January, England were no hoppers,

perpetual losers to Australia and New Zealand in the one day series "The Commonwealth Cup" held after the Ashes series. Then in February, a winning streak; "The Commonwealth Cup" held high by the massive arms of Freddie Flintoff. Disbelief drowned in a winning carousel; maybe...if not winners, semi finalists, the World Cup, such fantasies are bylines made of. The World Cup campaign so far; played 2, won 1, lost 1, both matches played in a spirit of the day after the night before. Canada; cricketing minnows, loomed like spectral sharks in the second game, not until the final overs did Canada once again resume their minnow shape. While behind this game was the subliminal undertow of "The Pedalo Incident". Kenya a team who more comfortably beat Canada, could decide England's fate; Super Eight or exit. Ireland has shown what self-belief and team spirit can achieve. Kenya, England's next opponents also seem to have that togetherness, although New Zealand in their match with Kenya, showed professionalism that vanquishes without angst.

Beauty and the Beast was a belated Christmas pantomime held in the Mandeville Hall in Kimbolton in early March, with the last night being Saturday March 3rd. On this last night, Grafham Cricket Club ran a raffle to raise funds for the Club. The raffle was organised by Christine Harris; the Nigella Lawson of cricket teas, ably assisted on the night by Tom Chester, Ben Dickson, Adam Dighton and myself, with posters by John Fozzard. We raised a magnificent £129. To all who bought the tickets, and gave prizes on the night, the Club gives sincere thanks.

Being part of the front of house allowed us to see the pantomime, and there as one of the panto dames .. er fairy was one of the Grafham cricket team, complete with wand. Andy was excellent in his role, totally convincing.... what more can one say!

April is the month where we start to prepare for the coming cricket season, kit is looked at, replaced, refurbished, and is also the time for indoor nets, that time of re-discovery of the muscles that have lain dormant since the end of the last cricketing season. The fixture list has been received for the forthcoming season, sent now by e-mail; a quick perusal reveals familiar teams, new teams, the season is getting closer.

Grafham Cricket Club is looking for new players for the forthcoming 2007 season. We currently play in the Bedford and District League. Last year we played in Division 2. If you are interested in playing cricket for Grafham and want more information please contact one of the following Grafham CC members and players.

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 **1st April** 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm
 Sunday **15th April** 12.30pm to 2.00 pm Sunday **22nd April** 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm

There will be a nominal charge for each session.

Chris Dighton Club Chairman 01480 811862



Babysitters

Felicity Jenkinson - Grade B GCSE Child Development - **Age 17** Tel: **812328**
Danielle Meyer - speaks French and can help with homework - **Age 16** Tel: **811279**

Jessica Homewood -babysitting course -**Age: 15** Tel: **810867** **Anna Fozzard** - **Age 14** Tel: **812021**

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

Kate Kelley -babysitting course -**Age 14** Tel: **812179** **Kirsty Elliot** -babysitting course- **Age 15** Tel: **810550**





PARISH NEWS...

As reported in previous newsletters, the state of the hedge in Brampton Road in front of the new houses has been causing concern to some residents. The inner side of the hedge, having been cleared of weeds and brambles and replanted with new bushes, is looking much cleaner and tidier than it has for some time. The outside is the responsibility of the parish council and, after discussion, the council agreed that this side should similarly be cleared of all the rubbish and bramble which actually makes up the greater part of the hedge. Once this is done new planting can take place and, hopefully, the hedge can begin to re-establish itself and become an attractive feature on the roadside. The verge in front of the hedge will be re-seeded to improve the area further.

The council received a message from the MUM Campaign which is concerned with the future of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Maternity Unit and the main points are reproduced here.

"You will have heard that the Maternity Unit at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital is under review - the public consultation document was issued last week, with the consultation period lasting until mid-May. The MUM campaign is a group of local parents who feel strongly that this excellent local facility must be kept open in its current form. We are asking parents in the district to write personal letters on response to the public consultation which we hope will give a very clear picture of the strength of feeling about keeping the maternity unit in its present form. If you would be interested in being more involved with our MUM Campaign to save full maternity services at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital or would like more information about our organisation please visit our website <http://hinchingsbrooke-mum.org> contact **Jenny Barrett 01480-215658** email jenny@hinchingsbrooke-mum.org or write to **MUM, OO Box 245, St Neots PE19 1WX.**"

If you would like to see a copy of the full message please contact the Clerk at margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk (01480-819477).

The PARC project for the young people in the village has got off to a really good start. By the time you read this, they will have had a fancy-dress walk around Grafham Water and raised funds for Comic Relief. They are coming up with some good ideas for further events and want to encourage lots more children and young people to join in. **Contact Katie Lowe at Katie@young-lives.org.uk or on 01480 494333** if you want to know more.

Margaret Life

Next meeting: Tuesday 10th April 2007 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
Philip Allingham Chairman **01480 811516** allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk
Mike Tyler Vice Chair **01480 811244** mtyler@bedford.gov.uk
Gillian Findlay **01480 812255** gillfindlay@btconnect.com
Ian Gardener **01480 812821** ig@ascgeomatrics.co.uk **Dan Hart** **01480 819086** dchart.hart@btinternet.com
Katrina Goodwin **01480 810297** goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com
David King **01480 812430** davidking@hawkeyesystems.com

Letters to the Editors...

I read the letters regarding a village sign in last month's Grafham Gossip with interest. I personally feel that a village signpost, in the middle of the village would be a wonderful idea, both Perry and Ellington have these signs and they give the villages identity. Our village hall is poorly signed at the moment, the sign from Breach Road is very small. Signage wouldn't cost the earth, so bah humbug - let's promote our village at every opportunity!

Jill Allingham

e-mail letters to gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Rural Action Group (RAG)

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

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

29th April: (Sunday) 6pm Talk on Climate Change by Revd Richard Paten, preceded by Evensong at **Little Gidding.**

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



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More than just plants Open from Easter

Most of the plants for sale can be seen growing in my garden. A visit will give you the chance to judge heights and colour combinations. Visit during the changing seasons and it will enable you to create a garden that will give colour and interest all year round. Most of my plants are fully hardy, easy to grow, low maintenance and drought tolerant.



AVAILABLE NOW - A mix of colourful perennials, ground cover plants, some shrubs and grasses. Visit **2 The Pightle** (off Inhams Way) **Grafham**. Call **Lynn 01480 810951** email morethanjustplants@msn.com

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Usborne Books At Home Award Winning Childrens Books

Happy Easter! If you haven't already bought chocolate for Easter, why not check out <http://www.usbornebooksathome.co.uk/> and buy a book as a present instead. Don't pay postage and packing by ordering online, just e-mail the product code, title and price of the book to me and I will deliver free of charge (surrounding villages only). Alternatively, contact me for a catalogue to browse through in your own time.

World Book Day took place on Thursday 1st March. If your children still have their £1 tokens, I am happy to redeem them against an Usborne book until the end of April. Contact:
Sharon Boddington, Usborne Organiser tel: 01480 810310 email: Sharon@mylittleyellowduck.co.uk

