

Grafham Gossip

Issue 35 Deadline: **Midnight Thursday May 17th**

Editors' note...

Thank you for all your contributions this month. We have another very full issue!



We'd like to remind you that District and Parish Council Elections will take place on **Thursday 3rd May**. There are three candidates for one district council seat and eight candidates for seven parish council seats, so your votes count. For more information, visit <http://www.huntsdc.gov.uk/Councils+and+Democracy/Council/Elections/>

Vote between 7.00 am and 10.00 pm in the village hall.

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH Monthly Report

There was a theft from a vehicle at Grafham Water Sailing Club on 28th March – two males were seen acting suspiciously near a tipper truck and drove off in a red Cavalier car – no registration number could be obtained.

On Tuesday 5th June at 7.30pm in the village hall the annual Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be held.

Given the number of incidents that have happened over the past few months, I hope that as many people as possible will attend to show that everyone is behind the scheme.

Representatives from Cambridgeshire Police will be in attendance to give a presentation on crime related issues and explain how the scheme works. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during the public part of the meeting or privately at the conclusion.

English Heritage has commissioned a project whereby every listed building in Cambridgeshire is being photographed by volunteers.

However, if you live in a listed building the photographer has to seek permission from you first. If you are concerned about this please contact Alan.Mackender-Lawrence@cams.pnn.police.uk Eventually all buildings will be shown on a website www.imagesofengland.org.uk

If you have anything to report call: the **Police Control Room 0845 4564564** or **Crimestoppers** to report any incident anonymously **0800 555111** In any emergency **999**

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



Grafham All Saints - Church Services

6th May(1st Sunday) 11.00 - All Age Worship - 'Celebrating Church Helpers' All welcome

13th May(2nd Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist (Rogation Sunday)

20th May(3rd Sunday) 8.00 - Eucharist 11.00 - Family Worship

27th May(4th Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist (Pentecost)

3rd June(1st Sunday) 11.00 - Family Worship (Trinity Sunday)

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!

Firstly, the churchwardens, PCC and congregation at Grafham would like to express their thanks to Jonathan and Martin - our clergy - for all their hard work over the Easter period. It is an arduous time for those involved in organising worship, Lent groups and frugal lunches from Ash Wednesday through to Easter Day, whilst still providing the usual round of services throughout the parishes. Thank you both.

Secondly, we would all like to say a huge 'thank-you' to everyone who participated in decorating the church with flowers ready for Easter day. What a magnificent sight (and scent) met us on that morning! Well done to you all, including Emily and Lottie for creating an imaginative Easter garden and Karenza for all her support and advice. The talents of the new flower club were very much in evidence.

Additionally, it is very pleasing to report that attendance at Grafham church for Easter morning was up on last year by 46%! It is obvious from the comments in the visitors' book that our church is very much admired. Thank you to everyone who works lovingly to maintain our beautiful building and churchyard.

With these sentiments in mind, the service planning group has put together a 'must not miss' service for 6th May at 11am called 'Celebrating Church Helpers.' It is hoped that everyone who, in any way, does anything to help keep the church operating by cleaning, flower arranging, gardening, maintenance, catering etc will come along. As usual, all will be very welcome, it will not be a long service and refreshments will be available afterwards.

Looking still further ahead - to the 1st July - have you decided which of your pets to bring along to the special 'Pet Service'? 'Well, family service planning team - you've committed yourselves now - there's no turning back! We can't wait to see the fur/feathers fly!'



The Discovery Club at Grafham Water Centre

a multi-activity club for 8-14 year olds. Choose 3 or 5 days for your children to participate in numerous land and water based activities, **make lots of friends and have fun!** Great discounts for siblings! Spaces available in summer half term - call us **01480 810521**.

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

A precis of an article by Sue Paul

I am sure you have read that following sustained pressure, the government capitulated over its position on the future of Hinchingbrooke Hospital. It has agreed to repay £9million of the £11million that the hospital had overpaid as the result of a major administrative mistake. The fact that this has taken so long reflects no credit at all on the Department of Health [DoH]. But, had matters been left, it would have taken 25 years to repay the debt whilst attracting a further £8million in interest payments!

The good news continues. There would appear to have been an outbreak of commonsense at the DoH with the decision to abandon a system called Resource Allocation Budgets, a process involving punitive fines for those hospitals who, not necessarily due to mismanagement, found themselves in deficit. Quite how fining hospitals could be expected to solve such problems is certainly a mystery to me. Also in this area, Hinchingbrooke Hospital which has been paid less per patient treatment than Addenbrookes Hospital will see a welcome improvement from next year when each hospital will get the same.

But the picture at the local surgery level is not so rosy. For the second year running, Mr Brown the Chancellor has cut back on public spending by making no inflationary increase for primary care. This makes no allowance for the inevitable inflationary increases in our practice's costs and it puts enormous pressure on the staff, whose only concern is to provide the highest level of care. Also, our doctors traditionally continue to do many things for patients that they do not get paid for by the NHS and they may now, reluctantly, have to charge more realistic figures than in the past.

Turning to the dispensary, it is now to be open all surgery hours and hopefully this will prove helpful to those who found the restricted opening hours difficult.

As we 'go to press' Doctor Irwin is about to run in the Paris Marathon and we wish him every success - let's hope it is not too hot for him to run. You will remember he is running for an excellent charity that helps adolescent children in Birmingham Children's Hospital and it is never too late to make your contribution.

There will not be an article in next month's issue I'm afraid, due to a clash in holidays and deadlines. If anyone has suggestions for topics to include in future editions do please let me, or any committee member know.

For complete article see www.bandlp.co.uk



Could you give a dog a home? Outside of Wood Green's catchment area, rescued dogs are 'lent' to breeders and dog owners in the hope of rehoming them. Sara Collins and her daughter Ambere breed dogs and are currently looking for homes for the following rescued dogs: **A Great Dane**, Aurora possibly 2 years old in September. **Two Chinese Crested dogs**, Ralf and Sassy that must stay together, male and female, 3 and 4 years old. Ralf is a little shy but very friendly. **A Collie/Rottweiler cross**, a soft, lovely little dog, very gentle and loving. One year old Passion was dumped in Hull at 2-3 days old and has been hand-reared by Ambere. **A female Labrador**, 2 years old and in need of some training. Maddison was bought from a breeder and appears to have been beaten at some point in her life. If you would like a dog (or two) then contact Sara and Ambere. Email: rural-retreat@hotmail.com

Francesca Jackson

The end of evolution or unnatural selection? *Kit Hawkins*

Around the world, human activities are driving the evolution of other species in dramatic and often unintended ways. A population of yearling Pacific salmon in North America have been observed to have reduced in average length by 2cm since the 1950s, seemingly as a result of dam construction. Rather than migrating straight out to sea as would normally be expected, many salmon now prefer to over-winter in reservoirs behind the dams and make the trip the following year, resulting in an individual of reduced size. If the dams were removed, it is unclear whether these slow-growth salmon would be able to compete against their larger cousins.

Worldwide there are an estimated 1.4 billion domestic cattle and, as such, would never be thought of as endangered; however, a recent study has highlighted the fact that modern cattle are becoming so genetically impoverished that they are in serious evolutionary trouble. Since cattle were first domesticated over 8 000 years ago, over 1 000 different and distinct breeds have been created as man has attempted to pass the best characteristics of each generation into the next. However, in the last 50 years, the rise of modern agricultural practices has contributed to wiping out this impressive diversity, as artificial insemination using sperm from just a few stud bulls has resulted in intensively farmed breeds losing genetic diversity.

In some of the most striking examples of unnatural selection, human disturbance has been shown to have turned back the evolutionary clock. Last year, a study reported that two diverging populations of Darwin's famous Galapagos finches are now collapsing back into one as human settlements on the islands expand. The locals' habit of filling bird feeders with rice may mean that the birds no longer require different-sized beaks which are specially adapted to specific diets.

So where will this end? Have we unwittingly voided evolution by exerting too much pressure on the natural environment? Would these species be as successful in the absence of human interference, or are these genetically highly mobile species the only way that evolution will survive the anthropogenic onslaught? Whatever the outcome, it is possible that the natural world faces one of its biggest challenges yet.

Can you help?

I am looking for a native speaker from Grafham for informal conversation practice. I would like to improve my English, both spoken and written. You do not have to be a professional teacher. Pay for this service will be negotiated. Contact **01480 842465 daytime till 4pm - ask for Ladia Derka.**

For sale to a good home

Teak Wall Unit approx 1750mm wide by 1800mm high - photo on the village notice board. **VGC £50** Ring Pat or Chris **01480 819110**

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PARISH NEWS...

Traffic through the village is still very high on the agenda. Cllrs Philip Allingham and David King have had a meeting with the Highways Agency to discuss the options open to the council and to find out what help we can get to try to keep traffic speed down, for example, widening the footpath at the junction of Brampton Road and Buckden Road and altering the shape of the junction to make it necessary for traffic to turn this corner with much more care. The Community Police have agreed to come to the village to monitor traffic speed as and when their resources allow. Obviously, this will only be useful if they can come during times when traffic volume is high. The improvements to the footpath in Breach Road are virtually completed and it is hoped that everyone is pleased with the look and the improved safety aspects. The area on the other side of the Cinnamon has still to be tidied up and the post-box has still to be moved to a more convenient position. Progress with this has been very slow due to the number of different bodies that have had to be involved and the complete lack of response from the Post Office.



Some residents have been complaining about the offensive smells coming from the chicken farm. District Councillor Peter Downes and the Parish Council have written to the new owners of the farm and we understand that a programme of improvements has been agreed with the Environmental Health Officer. Complaints can be put to the Environmental Health Officer who can be contacted at the District Council on 01480-388388.

The poor condition of the road between Grafham and Brampton has been brought up by some people. Apart from the potential for damage to vehicles, there is also a risk to cyclists especially children. Until such time as the repairs are carried out, please take extra care when driving along this road.

Comments have been made about certain people who walk their dogs around the playing field, allow them to foul the area and do not clear up the mess. This is an extremely anti-social habit and one which puts at risk the health of children and other people using the playing field. It is also an offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. If you see anyone committing this offence please let the Parish Clerk know by telephone or email. Contact details are shown below.

Margaret Life

Full minutes are on the village web site. Next meeting: Tues 8th May at 7.30pm. Annual meeting of the Parish Council and Annual Parish Assembly.

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
- Katrina Goodwin** **01480 810297** goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com
- Dan Hart** **01480 819086** dchart.hart@btinternet.com
- David King** **01480 812430** davidking@hawkeyesystems.com

Election Day

As you may be aware **3rd May** is **Election Day for district councillors**, but did you know that it is also **Election Day for the Grafham Parish Councillors**? The Council has seven members and all are up for election, so please support the village and make sure you vote.

As a council we have a number of ongoing projects that we have initiated to bring improvements to the village. For the youth the mobile skate park and more recently the Parc project; where the Parish Council are funding a youth worker to guide our children in organising their own events. We are currently in the middle of raising funds by applying for grants to build an all weather facility on the playing field, which will provide tennis, basketball and 5 a side football, something for everyone to enjoy. We are also nearing completion of the parking improvements on Breach Road.

The Council are looking into a number of other projects including the ongoing road calming issue, and we are currently in discussion with Hunts District Council and the police to improve this situation. So please support your Parish Council and vote on 3rd May.

Philip Allingham, Chairman

District Councillors **Shirley Menczer** and **Peter Downes** are available at the village hall between 11.15 and 11.45 on the first Saturday of the month. At other times contact: Shirley.Menczer@huntsdc.gov.uk **tel 01480 436769** Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or tel **01480 398082**

The Mobile Library (route H103) visits **Breach Rd, Grafham on alternate Wednesdays from 11.35 to 11.55**. Visits this month are: May 2nd, 16th and 30th. Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225** <http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>

Election Day - Thursday May 3rd - 7am to 10pm
Vote for your district and parish councillors in the **village hall.**

By the time the May **Grafham Cricket Club**
Gossip is on

your door mat, this year's cricket season preparations will be over. The nets at St Ivo Indoor Leisure Centre have proved successful, and Grafham hopefully has attracted a few new players. The weather in early April has been June like, perfect outdoor cricketing weather, but the sceptical English cricketer expects the sun to turn to rain before the season begins in earnest.

Grafham has not been the only team struggling to find players, several teams in our Bedford league have folded, or amalgamated, so that they can put out a team each week. What's the cause, it's difficult to say, there is perhaps not just one cause; e.g. cricket is no longer played in state secondary schools, or there are other attractions that dilute interest in committing yourself to just one hobby.



I looked at the photographs of Grafham Cricket teams of the Mid 1950s and early 1960s shown at the Exhibition of bygone Grafham by Sam Malt and the Wildlife and Conservation Group, and mused, no A14, out of town shopping, black and white BBC, ITV, no home computers, internet, cyberspace, just the foaming head of keg-drawn bitter settling in the glass, in the Montagu Arms after an afternoon and evening at the crease and in the field. But there was still a niggling doubt, I bet even in those days they had difficulty in finding players; the golden age of Dr Who and Z cars was about to start.

Grafham's Home Games are on 19th May vrs the Smiths Arms, and 26th May against the Aryan Afghans. Please come to watch and support us. **Chris Dighton, Club Chairman 01480 811862**

Letters to the Editors... Don't waste our money....on village hall signage!

In the February issue of the *Grafham Gossip* Alan Watson asked as chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) for thoughts on their next project to install a village hall sign, which prompted me to write my letter to the *Grafham Gossip* (March issue.) I was somewhat surprised then to read on the village notice board in the Parish Council Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March, that a paper had been distributed identifying steps not only to deliver a village sign, but also a sign at the village hall which could incorporate a second public notice board! Does this mean that our Parish Council has taken the village hall sign project away from the VHMC in the knowledge that money earned from the Recycling/Bottle Bank Project was to go directly to financially running the village hall?

Regrettably the Parish News section of the *Grafham Gossip* didn't include this item, which begs the question why not? In fact many years ago the Parish Council agreed, after requests from villagers, that a shortened version of the PC minutes would be circulated in the Church Magazine, a forerunner to our *Grafham Gossip*. This prompts the question, do we want our household rates precept used to finance a village hall sign, incorporating a second notice board? I feel not, for we already have a notice board on the outside of the village hall, which if really required, could be accessible to the public by removing the lock! Surely the existing village notice board, being in the central point of our village covers the needs both to villagers and visitors. The only criticism I have heard is how untidy the three sections become because users do not remove out-of-date material!

A correspondent raised in the April issue that our village hall is poorly signed, which is incorrect, for the current "brown" sign does direct you down Brampton Road, whereupon the last building situated in a large gravel area surrounded by a sports field must be the village hall. This directional "brown" sign was purchased by the Parish Council and installed by the County Council being appropriate for the situation, meeting all planning requirements.

Although it would appear our Recycling/Bottle Bank Project credits will not be used, please don't waste our precept money on village hall signage as everyone I have spoken to feels we have enough signage to the village hall, we are when all said and done, a small village and can surely recognise a village hall? **Keith Gowen**

Climate change - separating the facts from the fiction

I read with interest Kit Hawkins' article on climate change in the April *Grafham Gossip*. I do not think there are many, if any, sceptics over the fact that global temperatures are rising and that the work being undertaken by Kit and other environmental specialists into the impact of this climate change is very necessary. However, I and many others are sceptical over the weight being given to Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) - a greenhouse gas - as a major cause of the temperature rise. Perhaps some non-contentious scientific facts would help.

First, according to the World Meteorological Office, around 99% of the global CO₂ is dissolved in the oceans and as the temperature of sea water rises more CO₂ is released into the atmosphere. The rise and fall in atmospheric CO₂ is therefore likely to be the result, not the cause, of changes in global temperature and indeed historically changes in the levels of atmospheric CO₂ have lagged by some decades the corresponding changes in global temperatures.

Second, although CO₂ is a greenhouse gas its impact on the retention of terrestrial radiation and subsequent climatic warming is very small compared to water vapour/ water droplets (H₂O). Around 3% of the atmosphere is water vapour; only 0.03% is CO₂ - 100 times less. More importantly, the ability of gases to absorb energy is minimal compared to the energy required to change water droplets into water vapour. One calorie raises the temperature of 1 gram of water by 1° Centigrade; to change 1 gram of water to water vapour (without a change in temperature) requires 540 calories. H₂O by some margin is the prime greenhouse gas.

CO₂ therefore is the result of global warming not the cause, and is a very minor player in greenhouse warming. I remain very sceptical over the expenditure of billions of pounds on CO₂ reduction when taxpayers' money might be better spent reducing other factors, starting maybe with the politically sensitive question of population control.

Alan Watson

e-mail your comments and letters to gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Charity Race Night - Malawi Education Link 7.00pm April 28th Village Hall call 810550 for details

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

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:

Monday	Line Dancing.....	19:30 - 20.30	Karenza	812556
3rd Tuesday of the Month ...	Flower Arranging.....	20:00 onwards ...	Karenza.....	812556
Wednesday	World Tang Soo Do Association	19:00 - 20:30	Mr Carter.....	393308
Thursday	Ladies Keep Fit	19:30 - 20:30	Diane Whiting.....	437442
Friday	World Tang Soo Do Association	19:00 - 20:30	Mr Carter.....	393308
1st Sat of the Month	District Councillors Surgery.....	11:30 - 12:30	Peter Downes.....	398082

For more details including hire charges or to book the Hall contact: **Pat/Alan Watson on 811166**



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 to 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 All Saints Church

cordially invites you to our 'Celebrating Church Helpers' service on **Sunday 6th May at 11am**. We hope you can join us for this short celebration in recognition of the support given by so many to Grafham Church. Refreshments afterwards.



Grafham Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club



The next meeting is: **Tuesday 22 May 2007 at 8pm**
Host: **Sue Kelley (812179) 3 Church Road, Grafham**

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).



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am** on **Wednesday, May 9th at Frances Knight's, 18 Church Road**



Grafham Church Flower Club

Every **3rd Tuesday** of the month at **8pm** we meet in the **village hall** to learn how to make different floral arrangements for home and for larger displays. 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.



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 in amicable company. For more details ring **Sue Rice 896139** or **Ann Davies 891372**



Forthcoming KSSC trips:

Friday 21 Sept-Mon 24th - Long weekend in Berlin departing Stansted Airport **06.25** arriving Berlin **09.10** & departing Berlin at **21.55** arriving Stansted **23.25** Price **£209 approx** (may vary if Ryan Air alter prices). Price includes: * return flights * Berlin transfers *3 nights hotel B&B (2 sharing) at 4* grade centrally located hotel *NB: single supplement of £13 per night. Excellent value! Deposit of **£45.00** required payable to **ECT Travel**
Wed 7th Nov A Wicked and Wonderful Vision of Oz at the Appollo Victoria Theatre 7.30pm performance **Tickets £29.50 p/p** (Face value £60) - amazing group discount!
Fri 7 Dec - Mon 10 Dec Xmas Trip to Bonn 3 nights and 4 days **Coach departs Tempsford Hall at 7.30am Fri 7th returns there Mon approx 11pm Price £210 p/p approx** Excellent value for a 5* city centre hotel! Price includes: Return coach journey/Return Euro-tunnel crossing/3 nights 5* hotel (B&B based on 2 sharing) in Hilton Hotel, Bonn, Germany www.hilton.co.uk/bonn NB: single supplement of £18p/p per night
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Babysitters

Alison Young - 16yrs Tel 811577
Anna Fozzard - 14yrs Tel 812021
Jessica Homewood-babysitting course- 15yrs Tel 810867
Kate Kelley -babysitting course -14yrs Tel 812179
Kirsty Elliot -babysitting course - 15yrs Tel 810550
Felicity Jenkinson - Grade B GCSE Child Development - 17yrs Tel 812328
Danielle Meyer - speaks French and can help with homework - 16yrs Tel 811279
Olivia Sinfield Grade B GCSE Child Development -17yrs Tel 811831



Aromatherapy Massage

Massage is a very practical way to relax, help the body function better, to de-stress and to improve sleep. Aromatherapy oils can be used holistically or symptomatically to enhance these benefits. Trained and qualified in aromatherapy massage; I use a short consultation to choose oils to suit the person's needs at the time. Foot and hand massage **£7** Shoulder, neck, back and arms **£10** Both the above or whole body **£15**
Introductory offer - try either of the first two options for £5
 Contact **Carole Baber** on **01480 810043** or **0776 666 2197**

Bank Holiday Fun At Grafham Water Centre!

Have a go at windsurfing, sailing, canoeing or kayaking on Grafham Water at one of our "Drop in Sessions" on **Bank Holiday Monday 28th May**. Anyone over the age of eight is welcome. A great opportunity to learn something new! For more details call
Grafham Water Centre on 01480 810521

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More than Just Plants

Looking good in the garden and for sale in **May**: hardy geraniums; aquilegia; campanula and many more. All plants can be planted this year, and come up every year to fill your garden with colour. Why not visit the garden and take a look.
 Perennials - Herbs - Shrubs Prices from £1 - £2.50
 Visit the garden at **2 The Pightle** (off Inhams Way) Grafham
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