

Grafham Gossip

Issue 37 Very Early Deadline: **Midnight Thursday 12th July**

Grafham All Saints - Services

1st July (1st Sun) 11.00 Pet Service - All Age
Worship - All pets and their owners welcome!

8th July (2nd Sun) 11.00 - Eucharist

15th July (3rd Sun) 8.00 Eucharist
11.00 - Family Worship

22nd July (4th Sun) 11.00 - Eucharist 15.00
Songs and readings in Woolley Churchyard
ruins followed by tea at New Manor Farm.

29th July (5th Sun) 10.00 - Group Eucharist
at Spaldwick. Patronal festival of St James

Contacting the clergy:

Fr Jonathan Young
01480 891695

Fr Martin Kettle
01480 890284 or
07876 755587

Churchwardens:

Jill Dighton 811862
Jill Tyack 810157



View from the Pew!

Jan Downey, a local Lay
Reader, took our Pentecost

service on Whit Sunday. Thank you Jan for a lovely service, as always!

Thanks also to Beth Webber, a very young lady and guest in the village who was asked to read on the morning of the service. Undaunted, Beth rose fantastically to the challenge! Fancy joining the reading rota Beth? Newcastle isn't that far! We were pleased that Revd Martin Kettle could be with us on 3rd June to talk about the doctrine of the Trinity - an intricate subject, even for seasoned theologians.

Emily Tyack was confirmed by the Bishop on 24th June at Alconbury. Hopefully, more about that service in our next issue. Also, our next issue will reflect upon the outcome of our **Pet Service** on **1st July** 11am! Did the organising team have 'Dibleyesque' nightmares soothed only by bingeing on Crunchies and treacle? Did anyone dare bring a dog called 'Satan'?! On a serious note, we can now say more about the structural problems within the church. The initial visual inspection, by the structural engineer and architect, suggests subsidence around the junction between the nave, chancel and north aisle. To prepare to resolve the problem will involve several initial phases of work. Firstly, measurements of the cracks on a weekly basis to ascertain the rate of movement. Secondly, further investigation by way of two trial holes dug possibly by archaeologists, to look at footings and foundations. At the same time, bore holes made to check drainage and sub-soils. Thirdly, an area of plaster removed to enable inspection of roof eaves and masonry. Inspections will also be made of walling between roof stair and buttress. Only after all of this, can the engineer offer a remedy. There is no 'quick fix' and the work will be very costly. Measurements must be taken over the next year or so and an application made to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for permission to dig up the floor. The good news is the engineer has said he has "No concerns about overall structural stability at this time". So, what next? Well, there are several people in our village working to complete a grant application (by 30th June - so hard pressed) to English Heritage for funds to help pay for the exploratory and remedial work. We will hear in December, if our application has been successful. If so, we will undoubtedly not receive enough money to pay for all of the work. The residual amount will need to be found by other means. If we value our village church, not just as a place of worship or a sacred space, but as "a Grade 1 listed building of Architectural and Historical importance" and as a place synonymous with village life here in Grafham, then now is the time for us to work together as a community in order to prevent this medieval structure eventually being lost for ever.



Editors' note...



Photos of the Parc Project Games Day are on the village website on a new page, 'Gadding About In Grafham'. We hope to use this page to display your articles and photographs of village events. **Please check that people in your photographs are happy for them to be printed here and put on the website.** There is only one more thing to say this month; you must experience the **Pet Service in Church 11.00 1st July!**

**SEE PET SERVICE NOTICE
ON PAGE 5**

NB The very early deadline for the next issue - Thursday 12th July.

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH Monthly Report



On June 5th we held the annual Neighbourhood Watch meeting, and despite only 3 councillors and 11 residents attending I think we all gained something from the excellent presentation given by Alan Mackender Lawrence from Cambridgeshire Police. There are approximately 250 houses in Grafham and it does lead me to wonder how many people are behind the scheme - I am hoping that many of you felt it unnecessary to attend because we have such a low crime rate. Let's hope it remains so.

Once again there were no reported incidents in the last month. However, we have been asked to be very aware of the increasing number of thefts from sheds and garages in neighbouring villages, particularly of garden furniture.

The Trading Standards Office (TSO) have asked that if literature is posted through our doors offering any sort of service, but only showing a mobile number, that we let the TSO have the leaflet.

In Buckden a vehicle parked outside the Vine Public House was broken into, in Kimbolton a cycle was stolen from outside a shop and Perry Post Office has been broken into twice.

Enclosed with this issue of *Grafham Gossip* is a booklet published by the police entitled "Be Safe, Be Secure" which I hope you will find of interest.

As always you should report any incidents to the **police call centre on 0845 4564564** or **Crimestoppers** anonymously on **0800 555111**. Any emergency should go straight to **999**.

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

PARISH NEWS... The Council's attention has been drawn to the problem of vehicles which speed excessively along Buckden Road and past the Anglian Water car park. The speed limit along this stretch of road is 60mph, but vehicles have been seen to reach much higher speeds. At the moment it isn't clear what actions may be taken or requested, but it is agreed that the situation could have, potentially, lethal consequences. The Parish Council will be liaising with the police,



Highways and Anglian Water Services to try to improve signage and warning of the hazards along this road. The Parish Council will be putting in another bid for funds for traffic management through the village from the next round of grants available through the Jointly Funded Minor Improvement Funds.

The major pot-holes in the road from Grafham to Brampton have now been filled.

A further £450 has been received from the District Council for the use of the re-cycling bins. This money is paid over to the Village Hall Management Committee to be used for the benefit of the villagers.

Margaret Life

Full minutes on the web site Next meeting: Tuesday 10 July 2007 at 7.30pm

You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly using the details below.

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@ascgeomatics.co.uk **Katrina Goodwin** 01480 810297 goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com

Dan Hart 01480 819086 dchart.hart@btinternet.com

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

Grafham Cricket Club

Health and Safety, three words that can make any benign manager foam with incandescent frustration; that have become a by-line for comical risk aversion; delay and indecision. I am old

enough to remember the derision that greeted Mike Brearley's skull cap that protected his temples, which he wore in the 1977 Ashes series. Traditionalists berated batsmen who subsequently wore helmets as cowardice, as a signal for the end of cricket as a manly sport. How quickly outlooks change, now most batsman at all levels of the game wear helmets.

I say most because against the Aryan Afghans on May 26th 2007, Andy Page, opening our batting, was hit in the forehead, just over one eye, by a ball that reared up unexpectedly, just short of a length. Andy went to hospital and had eleven stitches. (Our thanks go to Paul Goodwin and Ben MCCutcheon who provided much need assistance to Andy). Andy is ok, and was playing again for Grafham two weeks later, with helmet.

Adam Dighton replaced Andy at the crease, and he and John Fozzard, built a partnership of 30, but the high point of the Grafham innings was a not out knock of 38 by Ben Dickson, partnered by Katherine Budd, who made 17 not out. This last pair put on 60 runs, leaving Grafham with a defendable total of 155.

Things looked promising for Grafham at the opening of the Afghan innings, with Adam taking 3 wickets in his first 2 overs, but then the Afghans dug in. Adam finished with figures of 3 for 24 off 10 overs. The other Grafham bowlers were expensively treated, and although John Fozzard finished with 2 wickets, no further break through could be made. The Afghans scored 159 for 5; winning the game by 5 wickets.

Unfortunately Andy was not the only Grafham casualty of the match, as Ian Dickson's ring finger was broken as he attempted to catch a firmly struck ball while fielding at mid wicket.

The next week Grafham played Mowsbury Park at Mowsbury Park Bedford. A lot of the regular players were unavailable for this match, so thanks to Ben Dickson's friends we were able to field a team. Grafham managed to make 56 runs, and to take 3 wickets before Mowsbury over took this total.

The next game against Lidlington was also away, and in the past has always been a close and enjoyable game. Lidlington's outfield is renowned for its small potholes, cracks that perhaps are an entrance to Middle Earth. This year the outfield was covered by a layer of sand in an attempt to bury these hazards. The more perceptive readers of this article will realise that the Lidlington sentences are displacement activity, not scene setting. This match was our worst ever performance by far this season, not even extras made double figures!

July Home Fixtures 28th July 2007 Grafham Vrs Lidlington

Chris Dighton, Club Chairman 01480 811862



URGENT APPEAL

Please see 'View from the Pew' for details

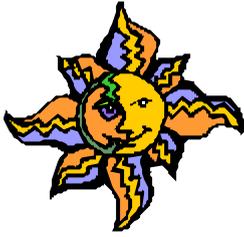
If you would like Grafham Church to remain as a viable local heritage and religious site please consider joining the committee:

'FRIENDS OF GRAFHAM CHURCH'

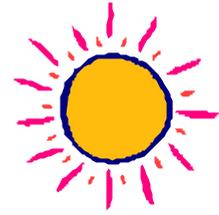
This committee, over the coming months, will be looking at ways to raise the much needed funds for essential work to be carried out on your parish church. Committee membership is open to all, regardless of having any faith - or none. If you have the necessary skills or experience needed for fund-raising or would like to be involved and join in the fun, please contact: Jill Dighton on 811862 in the first instance.

Please help to maintain this beautiful and sacred corner of Grafham for future generations to enjoy.

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



Grafham Fun Day



Sunday 9th September
At Grafham village hall and playing field

Stalls

Under 10's Fancy Dress Competition
 (judging at 12:15)

Races Competitions

Live Music and shows

Climbing wall (from Grafham Water
 Activity Centre)

Visit from the Raptor Foundation

Bouncy Castle

Ploughman's lunches / cream teas

And much much more!



The fun starts at 12pm, so come along
 and enjoy the afternoon with us!

*There will also be a flower festival in the church over the
 weekend of Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th September.*



Any donations of tombola and/or raffle
 prizes can be given to Susan Brydon at
 9 Haycraft Close or Val Hunt at 10
 Breach Rd.

Donations of small cakes,
 biscuits and scones on the
 day would be very much
 appreciated.

Proceeds from the day will go towards restoring the Church

LITTLE GIDDING CYCLE OF PRAYER During the week **Mon. 23rd July to Sat. 28th July** there will be a series of **cycle rides** varying from twenty to forty-five miles, all except one starting at **10.30 am** from **Little Gidding**. Wherever possible the rides will be along country lanes visiting picturesque villages. Each will have as its destination one or more places of spiritual, cultural or ecological interest. Places to be visited include Hemingford Grey, with a picnic by the river-side church and a short recital in a beautiful garden; Laxton in Northamptonshire where there is a long-established, land-based community; Holme Fen; Buckden, where we shall see the old Bishop's Palace, returning by Grafham Water and Brampton Wood; Helpston, home of John Clare, the peasant poet; Oundle School Chapel with its Piper windows, Wadenhoe beside the Nene and Leighton Bromswold, the church designed by the poet George Herbert. **One ride** will leave **Kimbolton at 9.30 a.m.** and travel through Bedfordshire villages to Turvey Abbey, a Benedictine community, and Olney home of the hymn writer John Newton, author of Amazing Grace, and the poet William Cowper. The cycle rides are open to children over eleven and all adults. A Cycle of Prayer is an opportunity to relate our inner life of the spirit to the outer life of a physical journey. As we find ourselves in the natural rhythms of cycling we may reflect upon the wider rhythms in which we take part. These may include a rhythm of prayer. Our cycle rides are part of our spiritual pilgrimage in which we explore the meaning of life and our purpose in being on this planet. The week of cycling follows the **annual pilgrimage** to Little Gidding which takes place **Sat. 21st July 3 p.m.**, led this year by the Bishop of Ely, the Right Reverend Dr. Anthony Russell. The procession to the church will be followed by Evensong at which the Bishop will preach and lay a wreath on the tomb of Nicholas Ferrar whom the pilgrimage commemorates. **Sun. 29th July** following the Cycle of Prayer, there will be the quarterly service of Evensong 6 pm at St. John's Church, Little Gidding. **For further details on any of these events** please contact Tony or Judith Hodgson, Ferrar House, Little Gidding, Huntingdon, PE28 5RJ **01832 293 383**; email: info@ferrarhouse.co.uk; www.ferrarhouse.co.uk

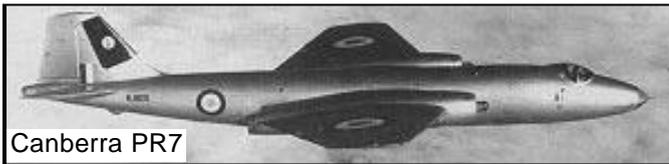


Grafham Gen

Air Crash 13th June 1958

The morning of Friday 13th was but ten minutes old when a mid-air collision occurred over Spaldwick village, lighting up the sky with a large explosion. The aircraft involved in this fatal collision were a Canberra PR7 WJ823 of No. 58 Squadron, RAF Wyton and a Lockheed T-33A 56-1604 from the USAF 20th Fighter Bomber Wing at Wethersfield. All four airmen were killed. The RAF Canberra crashed opposite the Easton turning off the A14, then the A604; both aircraft were on routine training flights.

Sam Malt



Canberra PR7

Letters to the Editors...

With reference to the recent correspondence regarding *Dog Fouling within the Churchyard*, the main problem seems to stem from the "Grockles" (non residents). Whilst cutting the churchyard grass, just prior to the Easter Holiday and over the Mayday holiday, I requested two different people to remove their dog droppings from the churchyard. This actually occurred whilst I was working there. The first visitor, who had arrived here via the Anglian Water Car Park and Walks very politely obliged and apologised. The second, on the Mayday holiday, was very abusive and threatening to say the least, refused and walked on. I followed them as far as the Caravan Park which was where they were staying.

Most, if not all Grafham residents are very particular about the upkeep of the church and the graveyard and are respectful of what the church means to the village as a whole.

Some of the residents, like me, are dog owners and sometimes walk their dogs through the churchyard and I am sure they would not knowingly allow their dog to foul the area without disposing of the problem in the correct manner.

Perhaps some contact from the Parish Council to the Caravan Park, Anglian Water Authority, and the Cycle Hire shop is called for? I am sure that they would do their best to help us with this problem!

David Anthony, Breach Road

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

Grafham PARC Project Games Day

On Sunday, 17th June at Grafham Village Hall many young people from the village enjoyed an afternoon of free games provided by the Grafham PARC Project. Games included the human demolition zone, gladiator joust and surf simulator.

Members of Grafham PARC Project organised the event to give young people in the village something to do. The event was funded by Cambridgeshire Youth Bank, and is the second event this year organised by the PARC Project in Grafham. The event was supported by the Parish Council who generously provided the village hall free of charge to encourage the young organisers. Other games on offer included speed football, sumo suits, air hockey, table tennis, pool and croquet.

For photos see www.grafhamvillage.org.uk



Buckden Surgery Patients

Association (BSPA)

A precis of an article
by Sue Paul BSPA

There are some seriously disquieting developments in connection with Hinchingsbrooke Hospital since I last wrote - it would appear that my euphoria was both premature and misplaced. To the alarm of our GPs and despite assurances to the contrary, some services are being eroded and stealthily removed to Addenbrokes Hospital. Over the past few months out-of-hours specialities such as ENT, Ophthalmology and Urology have already gone down the A14 and there are threats to Neurology as well. Some consultants are rumoured to be leaving and will not be replaced and some back-up services such as Pathology and Haematology are also going. These losses seriously degrade and will significantly destabilise Hinchingsbrooke because the fewer the services it can offer, the lower its income will be and this will become an excuse for the Government to close it.

Hinchingsbrooke Hospital has always had a reputation as a top performer when compared to other hospitals. It makes above average use of beds, sees more outpatients and provides more day surgery at lower costs than average. However it is suffering hugely from 'unfair' competition from Addenbrokes which has Foundation Trust Charity status and is ruthlessly exploiting this, as the system appears to reward profligate expenditure. There is no incentive to be prudent as to the number of tests they do and indeed, the reverse obtains - the more they do the more they are paid and the greater our common Primary Care Trust [PCT] debt becomes. This is relevant to us not just because our local hospital is being endangered, but the huge and rising debt impacts on our own GPs who are told not to refer patients to Hinchingsbrooke but to find "alternative pathways" - this means they should use community clinics instead. Inevitably, it follows that as fewer and fewer patients are sent to Hinchingsbrooke, it will become ever easier for the Government to close it.

Our area is designated a relatively healthy and wealthy community by the Government so they have already cut back on funding to our GPs. GPs are paid by the Government who negotiate their Contracts and Pay to provide basic, enhanced services and, despite inflation and increased administrative costs, they have received no increase for the second year running. This situation has led to both frustration and compromise in our GPs desire to continue to offer an excellent standard of care. Finally, private companies wait to take over NHS services and with their corporate might could initially undercut the current provider with only profit as their long term incentive. Overall, a much darker future faces us and I will try to bring the relevant issues to your attention as matters develop. On a happier note, the Buckden Surgery bookstall that was started by Shirley Wimbleton in January this year has already raised a magnificent £500 for funds. A very big thank you is due to all who have donated and bought the books whilst most especial thanks go to Shirley who runs it with devoted efficiency.



For complete article see www.bandlp.co.uk

Send us your news and gossip! Email
gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

GRAFHAM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Proudly invites you to our first ever
PET SERVICE
SUNDAY 1ST JULY 11.00 AM

For all creatures, great and small, and their owners! (Please make sure that all your guests are kept under control at all times and in suitable cages if necessary!)



Do you have a little spare time for a mind and body work-out? All it takes is approx. 2 hours every other month. If so, we'd like to hear from you as we currently have vacancies for: **Two Church Cleaners.** It's a great way to help keep fit as well as contributing to village life. Why not bring a friend or partner and make it a shared experience? All materials supplied. Please ring Jill Tyack **810157** for details. (Kim and Aggie need not apply)



Calling all musicians! Can you play an instrument of any sort? Do you mind playing in front of people? Along with the help of Peter, our resident organist, we are looking to develop the music we offer in a few of our church services and would love to hear from everyone who can play an instrument of any kind. The emphasis will be on having fun too, with a chance to meet other musicians and share your skills. This call is open to all ages and all styles of instrument. For more details 'phone **811862**



Do you recognise this symbol?

It is the symbol of the Mothers' Union. Maybe your Mum or Grandmother was a member. The MU currently has 3.6 million members in 76 countries. The MU is now open to both men and women. It seeks to provide support and care for families, both in local communities and through links around the world. At present, one of our nearest branches is in Brampton, but I would be interested to hear from anyone who might consider joining a branch in Grafham, possibly in the Autumn. Please 'phone Jill on **811862**.
(Mothers Union member over for 12 years)



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, please come along. There is a **£2.00** charge per session. For details call **Karenza Rosier 812556** or **Jill Tyack 810157**.



Advance Warning! The **Five Parish Advent Fair** has been fixed for **8th Dec** in **Grafham Village Hall**.



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).

Could you help with paperwork?

Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group would like someone to assist our Granting Officer with paperwork. Please talk to **Sam Malt** for more information.



Ellington Village Gala

Fri 29th June "Boules" night at the Mermaid - **Tim Rea 896088**.
Sat 30th June a fantastic afternoon with a full programme of entertainment for all ages and **in the evening a picnic on the "Green"** with a great band.
Sun 1st July is our **Sports Day** with again a full programme of events for all ages, including the famous "Ellington Egg Catching" All weekend is our **Flower Festival at All Saints Church** with the theme "**Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Stories**" and our **Gala Songs of Praise** will finish off the weekend.
Come along and have a great time!

Ellington and Grafham W.I.

Join the growing team! We meet on the first Tuesday in the month. For more details ring: **Sue Rice 896139** or **Ann Davies 891372**



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am Wed. July 11th** at **Pat Watson's 10 Field Close**.



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

Visits this month are: **July 11th and 25th**.
Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**
<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>

Grafham Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club



The next meeting is: **Tuesday 24 July 2007 at 8pm**
Host: Linda & Robin tel. 812440 Venue: 26 Wyvern
July read: East of Eden
John Steinbeck and David Wyatt ISBN 9780140292947

Babysitters **Olivia Sinfield** Grade B GCSE Child Development -17yrs Tel **811831**

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, can help with homework - **16yrs** Tel **811279**
Anna Fozzard- **14yrs** Tel **812021**



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

Grafham Water Centre

Take a breath of fresh air, try something new this year! Whatever your experience or ability, Grafham Water Centre has the appropriate course for you, from taster sessions to tuition for the more advanced. Sailing, windsurfing, canoeing, kayaking and powerboating. Join us on a course or book personal tuition. Call **01480 810521** for more information and a brochure.

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For more information 'phone Sylvia Younger
01480218581 or email: rose.wood@tiscali.co.uk