

Grafham Gossip

Issue 38 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 23rd August

Editors' note...

The next issue of *Grafham Gossip* will be delivered after the schools go back in September. The deadlines dates for the next few months are on the back page. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



SPECTACULAR CRICKET CLUB!

A big thank you to Adam and Chris, for once again running a fantastic cricket club this year. We all enjoyed it, especially bowling and catching Adam and Chris out! Thank you also to all the other adults who helped.

Gregory Goodwin,
Timothy Doughty
and Joe Shore



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Monthly Report

I am sorry that I am unable to produce a report this month with the required early deadline and a clash of my own holiday. A report will be displayed on the notice boards at the Green and outside the Village Hall.



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**

The July report will be on the website towards the end of the month. Editor.

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am** on Wednesday **August 8th** with Pat Watson at **10 Field Close**.



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

Grafham All Saints - Services

5th August (1st Sun) 11.00am - All Age Worship
12th August (2nd Sun) 11.00am - Eucharist
19th August (3rd Sun) 8.00am - Eucharist 11.00 - Family Worship
26th August (4th Sun) 11.00am - Eucharist
2nd September (1st Sun) 11.00am - All Age Worship
First-timers and visitors very welcome.

Contacting the Clergy: Fr Jonathan Young, The Rectory, Ellington PE28 0AU Tel. 01480 891695. Rev. Martin Kettle (curate) The Vicarage, Alconbury PE28 4DX tel. 01480 890284 or mob. 07876 755587.
Churchwardens: Jill Dighton 01480 811862 Jill Tyack 01480 810157



View from the Pew! Congratulations to Emily Tyack, confirmed by Bishop John

on 24th June. Alconbury Church was full for the service which saw several people from this group of parishes baptised or confirmed. It is always uplifting to worship with a church full of people, especially when they have come along to give support to those who have chosen to be confirmed in their own faith. As usual, Bishop John gave a cracking sermon then stayed to chat and partake of the fine refreshments offered.



The following week saw a lot of frantic effort by various folk in the village to complete the English Heritage Grant Application by 30th June. This is a request for funds to help pay for the work required to mend the crack in the church. We will know in December if our application has been successful but even if it is, we do not expect anywhere near the amount needed to pay for the work. To that end, it is essential that we begin our fund-raising efforts as soon as possible. (Please see article on 'Friends of Grafham Church'). Hopefully, by now, you will have seen some of the lovely pictures taken at the Pet Service on 1st July. (See village website and photo album in church). A big 'thanks' go to all who came along and made it a very enjoyable occasion. It was wonderful to see so many children, new faces and pets. Despite all the predictions to the contrary, the animals behaved very well! Jonathan did a splendid job blessing them in turn; he still has all his fingers intact too! Also, just a reminder that we are in search of musicians to help enhance the music we use in church. At the moment we have a drummer and a guitarist who have kindly offered their help. It would be great if we could find a bass guitarist and a woodwind or brass instrument player too, then we could begin some practice sessions. The seasons press ever onwards and the time for holidays is upon us, however, it will be 'business as usual' for church services during August. Now our thoughts are turning to the **Fun Day** and **Church Flower Festival** with an evening **Songs of Praise** on **9th September**, and our **Harvest Service** on **7th October!**

The PCC, congregation and clergy of Grafham All Saints wish you all a very happy and safe holiday season.

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**

PARISH NEWS . . .

At the recent (*July*) meeting of the Parish Council (PC), a presentation was given by a representative from Brampton Parish Council. This presentation concerned a campaign which Brampton PC are supporting to get a crossing over (or under) the A1 from West End, Brampton to existing bridleways on our side of the A1. This crossing will be for the use of cyclists, walkers and horse-riders only. You will shortly receive a leaflet from Brampton PC which explains the case for the crossing and asks for your support.



Your Council is extending an open invitation to all residents to come and view the plans for the all-weather sports facility. Further details are in this edition of the *Grafham Gossip*. Councillors will be on hand to answer any questions.

The Council does not meet in August and the next meeting of the full council will be in September. However, Councillors are always on hand to deal with any issues and queries. Contact details are as shown below.

Margaret Life, Clerk to the PC

Full minutes on the web site Next meeting: September

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

Dan Hart **01480 819086** dchart.hart@btinternet.com

Grafham Cricket Club

Since the debacle of Grafham's last away match at Lidlington on June 9th we have not played a game. The two home games were rained off, with the square and outfield resembling Wicksteed Park's boating lake. The next away game at Roxton, should have been called off before we travelled, but the Roxton captain insisted that the pitch was playable, "after all it was in better condition than the Lidlington pitch!" There was a moment when we wanted to agree with this plea, but the roller width groove in the potential playing track was an inch lower than the unrolled part of the pitch, which convinced everybody in the Grafham team that the playing surface was too soft, and too dangerous. Above this discussion the grey clouds were gathering, and within ten minutes of leaving Roxton the windscreen wipers were in action.



The next weekend was Grafham CC's away weekend in Lockton North East Yorkshire. It was true to say that the fixture was in doubt, but cricketers are if nothing else an optimistic lot, but Yorkshire hospitality and ale also provide a guiding incentive. The moment you turned off the Whitby road onto the Lockton village road, the cricket ground is in full view. Also in full view; there stood on the cricket square, the glass eye of a small pond, whose surface was shivering in a light Yorkshire breeze. No cricket: even the lady in the village shop knew the sorry state of the Lockton pitch.

The time was not wasted, some played a round of golf, and others visited picturesque Yorkshire villages, while others walked on the local moor, described by a Lockton citizen as the "Yorkshire Grand Canyon".

Looking forward to the next weekend, from the time this article is being written, the weather forecast is not good, but that twinkle of optimism is still burning.

Next Home Game: **18th August 2007** Grafham vrs Mowsbury Park. **Chris Dighton, Club Chairman** **01480 811862**

Junior Cricket As parents who bring their children to the junior cricket evenings held on Tuesday will know, we have added two extra weeks, to substitute for the night called off for bad weather. A report and picture; if the chairman can find the pictures in his digital camera will appear in September's *Grafham Gossip*.

Adam Dighton, Junior Cricket Coach: 01480 811862

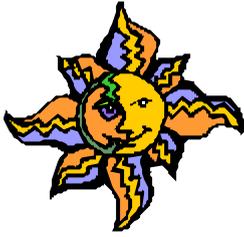


Since advertising for any interest in starting a Mothers Union branch in Grafham, I have had some people ask me what the MU does and what membership entails.

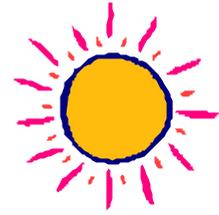
The MU is an Anglican-led, world-wide organisation with 3.6 million members across 77 countries. It is the UK's largest Christian Charity. Members are united in their support of marriage and family life. **Membership is open to both men and women.**

Across the world, the MU has paid workers and volunteers working within their own areas so they speak the language, understand the culture and customs and have first hand knowledge and experience of the problems faced by those around them.

Continued at the bottom of the next page



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



Continued These MU representatives provide vital support in their communities enabling people to gain essential skills, develop and encourage sustainable self-help projects and run training seminars for local MU members and the local community. They run classes in literacy, numeracy, health, hygiene, parenting skills, HIV/AIDS and poverty alleviation.

As well as supporting these workers, the MU is a very active and respected lobby group. It has successfully lobbied parliaments on issues concerning parental rights, international debt relief and child poverty. It works alongside the United Nations.

By joining the MU for just a few pounds per year, you join an organisation that cares for families all over the world and also within your local area.

Projects running within Cambridgeshire include support for women's refuges and support for families visiting Littlehey prison, involvement with Oakington Immigration Reception Centre, Cambridge and Ely Child Contact Centres, providing holidays for stressed families, running parenting groups and providing much needed essentials for local homeless girls and women.

The MU supports members in five dioceses abroad, linked to Ely: Juba, Maridi, Yambio and Yei in the Sudan, Kigali in Rwanda.

Your local branch meets generally once a month or every other month. Each meeting begins with a very short service. There will be news on how the supported projects are progressing in the Sudan and Rwanda, and from local projects. This is usually followed by a talk from a visiting guest. The meeting closes after refreshment and a chat. Local MU groups also find themselves involved in helping out at locally organised events in a variety of ways. Please note that the Mothers Union is completely distinct from the Women's Institute.

The Mothers Union goes some way to making sure that we don't become too centred upon our own lives and helps us to look towards the needs of others both across the globe and locally. It sees its challenge as to 'love mercy, seek justice and walk humbly with our God'. Admirable sentiments in this selfish world in which we live.

If you should be interested in joining a Mothers Union branch, please do 'phone me on **811862**.

Members would be welcome from any village within our group of parishes. *Jill Dighton.*

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

A precis of an article by Sue Paul BSPA

We welcome Lorraine Cronin, whose arrival has brought the number of our receptionists up to five. We very much hope she will enjoy being part of the team. There are now two receptionists in the morning and two in the afternoon, plus our senior receptionist.

Our thanks go to Richard West and helpers for his sterling fundraising work on the BSPA Tombola stall at the Village Festival Fair - well done!

The doctors are in the process of obtaining quotes for the refurbishment of the surgery reception area which will include lighting, painting, carpeting and new blinds all of which should make your (hopefully brief) wait, a more pleasant experience.

A touch-screen booking-in system has been installed to hopefully eliminate frustrating queues at busy times. I can vouch for its simplicity. However, for those who might feel a bit intimidated by this modern technology, there will still be a friendly face behind the desk to help!



The BSPA is in the process of organising an evening of presentations specifically aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of available support for those who passionately want to maintain their independence in their own homes. We also expect it to be of interest to younger people with concerns for ageing relatives. We plan to have presentations by:

a 'Falls Prevention' co-ordinator, a 'Hospice at Home' speaker, for those needing palliative care, a representative who will talk about 'Assisted Technology at home' and demonstrate available aids to assist in the maintenance of independence, a speaker on Acupuncture.

This evening presentation is scheduled for **Wednesday 10th October**, more details to follow .

Depressingly, there is to be another - no doubt expensive - Review of the NHS which, based on previous experience will mean yet more reforms with all the frustrations that these entail. Sadly improvements rarely materialise because there seems to be no coordinated policy for using even existing resources. I wait to be convinced that the fulsome reports in the local papers about Hinchingbrooke Hospital being 'saved for 30 years' turn out to be true. Experience says that we should read these reports with a healthy dose of scepticism.

In my view, there are two important elements pivotal to keeping Hinchinbrooke open. Devolving specialist consultations in areas such as Dermatology, Minor Surgery and Gynaecology to specially trained local surgeries and making a success of 'Care in the Community'. This latter term includes the care of all those with chronic conditions, the elderly and all post-operative care and supervision of those given early hospital discharge. However, where the suitably trained and qualified staffs are to be found and how they are to be funded is yet to be addressed! We await developments.

For original article see www.bandlp.co.uk

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE

'FRIENDS OF GRAFHAM

CHURCH' COMMITTEE

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. No particular skill is required - only the desire to ensure that this Grade 1 listed building is saved for future generations to use and enjoy instead of becoming a redundant, decaying ruin. (Previous 'Friends of Grafham Church' committee members very welcome.)

Also, if you do not feel able to commit to joining a committee but would like to help, please call 811862 for further details.

LETS

Do you have items to dispose of but don't know how or jobs which need doing in the house but are too small for any builder? Have you skills or knowledge you would like to share?

LETS, or local exchange trading systems, exists to help people get together and share skills and possessions without any money changing hands. Such schemes now exist in 400 places in the UK and there is talk of starting one in this area.

Plants, books, pictures, furniture, baby sitting, travel advice, D-I-Y, garden maintenance, health tips, doing accounts, transporting goods, are just a few examples of the many possibilities that can be offered.

Most LETS groups meet from time to time to share food, trade goods and skills and have fun, but there are also individual transactions between members. The value of each offer is worked out centrally, so there is no haggling, and each member receives a generous allowance of the local 'currency' to get them started. It is impossible either to get rich or to get seriously into debt.

For more details, here are two websites to put into Google:

LETSsystems - the Home Page and **LETSlinkUK**

If interested, please contact **Tony Hodgson 01832 293 383** or **Jan Downey 01480 860 991**.

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

Please contact: **Wendy 01480 811441**



Calling all Grafham Residents

Grafham Parish Council would like to invite all Grafham Residents to a meeting to discuss our proposed plans to build

An All Weather Sports Facility

on
 Tuesday 31st July
 Grafham Village Hall
 7:30pm



We hope that you will be able to come along, view the plans for this facility and ask any questions you may have about it.

FURTHER MUSICIANS REQUIRED

Bass guitar player and either woodwind or brass instrument players now sought! We are looking to enhance the music offered in some of our church services and would like to hear from anyone who can play the above instruments! Please ring Jill on **811862** for more details.



Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group meet on the first Sunday

of the month to carry out woodland conservation. **Could you assist our Granting Officer with paperwork?**



Please talk to **Sam Malt** for more details about the group **810844**(daytime) **811654**(evening)

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**.



If you have just 2 hours every other month going spare, we'd like to hear from you as we currently have vacancies for:

2 Church cleaners.

This is 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** on **810157** for details



Ellington and Grafham W.I.

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



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



Read the Grafham Gossip in colour on the website below

Grafham Village Hall - Hire Charges

The annual accounts for your Village Hall show that we made a small operating loss over the last 12 months mainly due to increases in electricity and other essential day-to-day costs. Your committee has therefore reluctantly decided to increase the hire charges - the basic rates were last increased to £6 per hour (£12 for non-residents) some years ago. With effect from 1st September 2007, the hire charges for village residents will be £7.50 per hour, and for non-residents £15 per hour, with corresponding increases in the 10pm to midnight rates.

The Village Hall Annual General Meeting will be held at **7:30pm on Tuesday 24th July**. As always your views and comments on any matters relating to running of your Village Hall will be most welcome.

Alan Watson, Chairman
 Grafham Village Hall Committee

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

Visits this month are: **August 8th and 22th**.

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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



Grafham Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club



There is no meeting in August. The next meeting is Tuesday 25 September at 8pm with Tina (811366)

at 5 Home close

Sept read: High Fidelity, Nick Hornby ISBN 9780140293463

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- **15yrs** Tel **812021**



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01480218581 or email: rose.wood@tiscali.co.uk

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**
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 Contact **Carole Baber** on **01480 810043** or **0776 666 2197**

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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.

Deadline Dates
 Grafham Gossip deadline dates for the next few months are midnight on the following Thursdays, but we welcome articles earlier if you have them ready.
 August 23rd, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, December 13th or preferably December 6th if possible.
 Thank you for all your contributions! *Editors, Grafham Gossip*

To advertise e-mail us: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk