

Grafham Gossip

Issue 39 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday 20th September*

Editors' note...

There are quite a few events taking place in and around Grafham in September. You should find all the details in this month's *Grafham Gossip*. Good luck to everyone starting a new term or a new adventure!



Editors,
gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham All Saints - Services

2nd Sept (1st Sun) 11.00 - All Age Worship

9th Sept (2nd Sun) 18.00 - Flower Festival Songs of Praise - to celebrate the culmination of the Flower Festival and Fun Day (NB No 11.00 Service)

16th Sept (3rd Sun) 11.00 - Family Worship 18.30 - Licensing of Authorised Lay Ministers Service at Ely Cathedral - Speaker: John Bell (NB No 8.00 Service)

23rd Sept (4th Sun) 11.00 - Eucharist

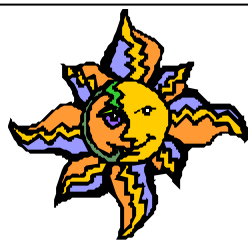
30th Sept (5th Sun) 11.00 - All Age Worship for 'BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY!'

7th Oct (1st Sun) 11.00am - Harvest Festival

First-timers and visitors very welcome

Contacting the clergy: Fr Martin Kettle
Fr Jonathan Young 01480 890284 or
01480 891695 07876 755587

Churchwardens: Jill Dighton 811862 Jill Tyack 810157



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

Grafham Gen Sam Malt

A brief history of Ellington's Water Supply

Water mains were laid from Hinchingsbrooke water tower in Huntingdon to supply Ellington, Brampton, Easton and Spaldwick. This work was carried out in 1947 with a booster station and water tower at Ellington. Water pressure improved later to these villages when the Bromholme Lane station came on line.

Before mains water, Ellington's supply consisted of three good public wells and private wells. Ellington Thorpe had to wait until the mid fifties.



GRAFHAM AND ELLINGTON PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

MANY NEW PHOTOGRAPHS

**SUNDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER
ELLINGTON VILLAGE HALL
10.00AM - 4.00PM**



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

**FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS TO
ELLINGTON CHURCH AND VILLAGE HALL FUNDS
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE**

View from the Pew!

The pews have been very busy during July and August. Many congratulations to Rachel and Steve on their wedding on 21st July. Rachel looked stunning in her dress. So too did Bo! Congratulations also go to James, Jessica and Oliver on their baptism on 12th August. September is looking to be quite busy too. Here are a few things that you might like to mark up in your diaries now:

8th and 9th September - Flower Festival Weekend. Please stroll in and see the floral arrangements in church over this weekend. The theme this year will be 'Musicals'.

Don't forget, on **9th September** there will be a **Fun Day** on the playing fields (see advert). This will be followed by a **Songs of Praise Service at 6pm**. Everyone very welcome - as usual.

There will be a special service in **Ely Cathedral** on **16th September** as three people from our deanery will be licensed for Authorised Lay Ministry. Sarah and Doreen from Ellington will be licensed as Worship Leaders and Amba from Spaldwick will be licensed for Children's Ministry. This is the culmination of one year of study for them and a very important day, not only for them but our churches too. We wish Sarah, Doreen and Amba many blessings as they further God's mission here on earth.

The **30th September** will see an additional service within our usual round of monthly services. Nationally, 30th September is called '**Back to Church Sunday**'. This year, Grafham will be participating and holding a service at **11am**. If you haven't been to church for ages then this is the service for **YOU!** This will be an informal service without Communion. People stop going to church for hundreds of reasons. Going back, even to the occasional service can be daunting. So, this may be a great way to 'return to the fold'. Look out for the adverts around the village. You may even get a special invitation from someone who knows you!

7th October at 11am will be our **Harvest Festival** service followed by the Harvest lunch. Keep a look out for more information in the next *Grafham Gossip*.

Now for some disappointing news. We have just heard that our application to English Heritage (EH) for a grant to help mend the crack in church has been unsuccessful. We didn't even make it through to the 'second round'. The demands on the funds at EH are many and we knew that we would be up against strong competition. It is now crucial that we get going on our own fund-raising plans. On **Wednesday 12th September at 7.30 in the church** there will be a '**Friends of Grafham Church**' meeting to create a committee and decide upon future fund-raising events. (Please see separate advert). We do hope that you will be able to come along and hear all about what is happening with the crack, and what we, as residents, can do to help. Please mark this date on your calendar and join us if you can. Your support and ideas will be most welcome. Attending the meeting does not mean you will be automatically enrolled onto a committee!

The PCC, congregation and clergy would like to wish all those starting at either university or new schools during September every good wish for the future. You will remain in our prayers.



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**

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

'FRIENDS OF GRAFHAM CHURCH'

On Wednesday 12th September at 7.30 there will be a meeting in the Parish Church of All Saints, Grafham.

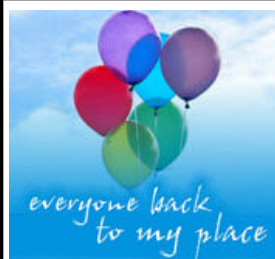
At this meeting, details will be given of the situation regarding the nature of the problem facing the church building and what has been proposed to rectify it.

Also, it is hoped that a committee will be established to begin the fund-raising required to help pay for the repair.

This is an important time for the future of the church building in your village.

Your support, ideas, views and suggestions will be very much appreciated as we try to preserve this building for future generations. Thank you

If you are not able to attend but would like to register your interest in being on the 'Friends of Grafham Church' Committee, please contact Jill on 811862.



We'd love to welcome you to a special service at:
ALL SAINTS GRAFHAM
on
30th September
at
11.00am

An informal service without Communion especially for those who would like to 'Come back to Church'

Everybody Welcome

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**Monthly Report**

James Snell

Once again I can report that there are no reported incidents in the village which is good news indeed. However, the police have asked us all to be very aware given the number of events that have been happening in neighbouring villages.

Little Paxton had four distraction burglaries and on each occasion the victim was led to believe that the intruder was from the Water Board and that it was flood related. Police have reinstated that utility companies have positive identification and to always check with the authority that the person is authorised to gain access.

In Ellington a white lorry has been calling offering spare gravel for driveways - the police are seeking the registration number. If you are approached please let them know. Thefts of garden furniture from sheds and garages are being continually reported.

There was forced entry into a generator in Perry Road, Buckden and the battery stolen.

Ramsey and Sawtry are experiencing a large number of horse tack thefts.

Countryside Watch have reported a number of illegal encampments being set up in rural areas and open spaces.

e-mail jamie2701@aol.com tel 07951 069565

Crimestoppers: **0800 555111**

Police Control: **845 4564564**

Emergency : **999**

Following the theft of lead from the roof of Spaldwick Church (July), please be vigilant in relation to the security of our church buildings. Call in frequently and look out for any unfamiliar vehicles, especially at night. If your suspicions are aroused, do not 'have a go,' but call the police. (From an August pewsheet, Ed.)



AVON

Your local Avon representative is
Julie Thomas-Morgan
tel. 01480 812590 or 07899 845355

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

A precis of an article by Sue Paul BSPA

It has been a fairly quiet month for matters concerning the Primary Care Trust (PCT), but next month I expect to elaborate on some developing trends resulting from funding cutbacks that are being caused by the huge debt we inherited when we were forced to merge the PCTs - debts that we in this area had no responsibility for at all. The impact on our services is both significant and of some increasing concern.

The results of the GP Patient Survey conducted throughout England earlier this year have now been officially published. Those who might wish to delve into more detail can go to the website at

www.dh.gov.uk/gppatientsurvey2007

The results for Cambridgeshire are above the national average for patient satisfaction, but I'm pleased to report that our surgery is between 4 - 17 % above the Cambridgeshire average, an indication of how fortunate we are!

We welcome Jayne Wiles who is being trained as a phlebotomist, she will be job-sharing with Wendy once her training has been completed.

The date set for this year's annual Flu injections is:

Buckden: Sat. 13th Oct. from 8am until 2pm

Little Paxton: Sat. 13th Oct. from 9am - 12 mid-day

The same format as last year will be followed.

Appointment sheets will be available in the surgery in early September to enable you to book a suitable time.

The touchscreen booking-in system is working well and I'm delighted to report that anecdotally, women are having fewer problems than the men, who apparently take longer to read the instructions and then follow them carefully.

Work will begin on the refurbishment of the surgery in September, when inevitably, there will be some disruption. The staff will do all they can to minimise any problems and it will hopefully, all be very worthwhile when it is finished.

For original article see www.bandlp.co.uk



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



Grafham Cricket Club

In normal seasons, (where rainy days can be counted on the fingers of one hand); issues at this time of the season would be about promotion, relegation, mid table safety, but not this year! The issue is rain, how much before the weekend, during the weekend, is the surface safe to play on? What other fixtures are being cancelled? If the entire league's fixtures are consistently postponed, all teams earn the same points. Some games have been played so this is not the case; Grafham is in the bottom spot, but in close contact with the team above. Since the last issue of the "Gossip", Grafham have fully played three of their allotted matches, with a fourth abandoned when the rain became persistently too heavy to continue.

Grafham enjoyed its first and only victory to date against the Aryan Afghans. The match was played at Mowsbury Park on July 14th. Grafham won the toss, and elected to bat. The outstanding features of the Grafham innings was Ian Dickson's dogged 24 not out; some wayward bowling, and poor wicket keeping, which allowed Grafham to progress to an all out total of 130. In the last game against the Aryan Afghans Grafham let their advantage slip, when aggressive batting, punished short of a length bowling, leavened with some dubious umpiring decisions. Consistent and accurate bowling by John Fozzard and Adi Love pinned down any aggressive intent, and regularly took wickets; John taking 5, and Adi 2 respectively. Ben Dickson opened his bowling account by taking a wicket with his first ball, and finished with 3. Celebrations with fruit juice were duly carried out at the "Chequers", on the way home.

The next match was Lidlington at home, who had comprehensively beaten Grafham a few weeks earlier. Grafham opened the batting and soon were 42 for 6, but a spirited 14 by Katherine Budd, and a "they shall not pass" attitude by the remaining tail pushed Grafham's score to a 108 for 9 at the end of the allotted 40 overs. The first 20 overs of Lidlington's innings bowled by John Fozzard and Adi Love yielded 25 runs for 3 wickets, with 7 maidens, but although a further 4 wickets were taken by Ben Dickson and Gareth Harris, Lidlington squeezed to victory with just 2 balls remaining. The next week was to be the "Single Wicket Competition", but "Down came the Rain".

The following week was an away game against league leaders Putnoe. Putnoe this year have changed their home ground away from Mowsbury Park to a ground share with Bromham Nomads. The Bromham ground is the epitome of a village cricket ground. The ground is located on a hill, surrounded on three sides by mature trees including beech, with a view across a valley of arable and pasture, criss-crossed by low hedgerows, punctuated by small copses of ash and sycamore melting towards a blue horizon. Bells ringing in a nearby church: a wedding had just taken place; a be-ribboned white Rolls was making a slow passage along a cart track by the cricket field; the sun was hot, a peerless day for any summer.

Grafham won the toss, and batted first, and soon were in trouble against swing bowling, finishing all out for 53. During this innings John Fozzard badly pulled a calf muscle, and retired hurt. As John is our leading strike bowler this diminished our bowling attack. Putnoe as league leaders had an expectation of winning without loss. This expectation was rapidly undermined with Ben Dickson and Tom Clayton taking 5 Putnoe wickets before Grafham's total was passed. Grafham left after tea, with Putnoe's captain expressing his incredulity at Putnoe's batting performance.

The next game was against Mowsbury Park at Home. Rain was forecast for the evening. Mowsbury batted first scoring 148 for 5 before the rains came early. Conditions caused by the strong southerly wind created difficulties for the bowlers from the Ellington end. Commendably Adam Dighton finished with 2 wickets for 34 off 9 overs with 3 maidens, with Adi Love completing his 9 over spell with 1 wicket for 22 with 1 maiden. Two exceptional catches were taken by Grafham; a one handed catch by Colin Grundy at mid-off, and painful head high catch at square by Adi Love.

For the parents of the Junior Cricketers, thanks for the kind words in last month's "Grafham Gossip".

Home Fixtures in Sept Roxton II on **1st September** and St Andrews (Last League game of the season) on **8th September**.

Chris Dighton, Club Chairman 01480 811862



Junior Cricket I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all children who attended the Grafham Junior Cricket evenings - and their parents whose job it was to bring and collect them! Also thanks to Tom Chester and Ben Dickson. This year was such a big success that we held an extra (non rain affected) session after the publicised dates. It is hoped that we will be able to repeat this success next year. I was very encouraged to see the amount of improvement shown by all who attended. Although I will not be able to personally take the first couple of coaching evenings next year, we are currently training another member of Grafham Cricket Club to take over (Ben Dickson).



The picture is clearer on the website. Click on 'Latest Newsletter'. Editor

Next year we hope to offer more to the Juniors of the area who wish to play cricket - it is hoped that we can organise Kwik Cricket games with other local clubs (Alconbury and Warboys Cricket Clubs have expressed an interest!). Moreover I hope to take the next level of my coaching certificate whilst at university, which will mean more games and more advancement of skills for those who attend. However the main aspect of the evenings will remain unchanged: to have fun!

Don't forget to keep practising over the winter!

Adam Dighton (Head Coach) Grafham Cricket Club: Junior Cricket **01480 811862**

We'd like to teach the world to sing!

A couple of Grafham villagers belong to a national top ten barbershop chorus Vocal Academy, who believe singing is fun and very good for your health and social life. They are introducing a **free 8 week evening course for men** - both for both regular male singers and complete novices who would like to harmonise. It starts **Wed 5th Sept at Sawtry Junior School**. It will cover basic vocal techniques and you will learn several popular songs in close harmony. Each sessions will be from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. So that's 12 hours of tuition completely **FREE** and lots of fun - guaranteed! For regular singers, this course will give you the chance to try something new or just brush up on your vocal technique. For complete novices, this course will help you find your voice and boost your confidence. You get a CD of the voice parts, sheet music and lots of guidance. **For more details or to enrol** contact **Derek Davies 01767 315487** or email: singingcourse@btinternet.com



New Style Safari Supper! Saturday 27th October 2007

Following the success of the Annual Safari Supper held in February of this year, Grafham Social Committee has decided to hold a "Special" Safari Supper in order to raise funds for the marquee roof, (*see column on right*). Some residents have suggested we try an alternative style event; participants will meet at one house at the beginning of the evening for champagne and "The Draw". Everyone will know in advance whether they are doing a starter, main course or providing pudding and wine. No one will know where they will be going for their starter or main course (except for those hosting these courses!) until "The Draw". Everyone will meet again at one house at the end of the evening for puddings and coffee, as this seems to be popular and is a nice way to finish the evening. In order for this alternative style to work it is essential that the "Champagne Draw" start promptly at 7:30 pm. The cost for this hugely enjoyable evening remains only £15.00 per couple! For more details and/or to sign up please contact;
Pat Watson 811166 or Phillipa Patel 811656

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am on Wed. Sept 12th** with **Philippa Patel** at **3 Field Close**.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

The event is this month, please don't miss it. There will be coffee, teas, cakes, biscuits and a lot of friendly company. Bring your friends and family.



The date for your diary is:

**Saturday 22nd September from 3 - 6pm
at Grafham Village Hall**

Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group

meet on the first Sunday of the month to carry out woodland conservation. 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**.



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**



Grafham Village Marquee

Following a number of very wet summers (many years ago) a marquee was purchased, funded by a house-to-house collection in the village, for use at village/parish events. Thanks to a small, but very enthusiastic group of volunteers, the marquee was available for hire (at VERY competitive rates!). This generated some income, which helped cover the cost of maintaining and repairing the marquee. These volunteers have now either moved away or are no longer able to commit as much time and it has not been possible to hire out the marquee as frequently this summer as in the past. We have been attempting to recruit more volunteers but have been unsuccessful to date. If anyone would be interested in taking on the management of the marquee please contact **Karen Stewart 810961**. If we are unable to recruit volunteers the committee will not be able to hire out the marquee, as it is essential that it is both put up and taken down properly. The marquee will next be put up for the **Grafham Fun Day on September 9th**. If anyone would like to go along to see what is involved and to learn how to put up the marquee please call **Alan Watson 811166**.

Grafham All Saints Church says: 'Very best wishes to all the sons and daughters of Grafham who will be starting university - September 2007. Keep in touch!'

GRAFHAM 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 - **an ideal venue for children's and family parties**. There is a playing field for sports activities and the hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities. **For more details** including hire charges or to book the hall **contact Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166**

The **Mobile Library** (route H103) visits **Breach Rd, Grafham** on alternate **Wednesdays** from **11.35 to 11.55**. Visits this month are: **September 5th and 19th**. 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 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 -**15yrs** 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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 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.
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Massage is a very practical way to relax, help the body to function better, to de-stress and to improve sleep.
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