

Grafham Gossip

Issue 41 Early Deadline: *Midnight Thursday 15th November*

HAPPY 40TH!

Grafham All Saints - Services

4th November (1st Sunday) 11.00 - Family Service for All Saints Day

11th November (2nd Sunday) 10.55* - Remembrance Day Service (No Holy Communion) *Please note early start

18th November (3rd Sunday) 8.00 - Eucharist.

16.00 - 'Lights to Remember Service'

with Marie Curie Cancer Care (NB - No 11am Service today)

25th November (4th Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist

2nd December (1st Sunday) 11.00 - All Age Worship.

The Holy Family 'Posada' begins its journey.

First-timers and visitors very welcome

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

Churchwardens: Jill Dighton 01480 811862 Jill Tyack 01480 810157



Editors' note...

Now that the half-term holiday has gone, quickly chased by Hallowe'en and Fireworks Night, we will soon be counting down to Christmas! **(Don't forget the children's Hallowe'en party 4.30 till 6.30 on 31st October.)**

As usual for our village, there are several activities and projects that you can get involved in over the next few months so be sure to read carefully, not to miss anything!

If you have any thoughts after reading this issue of *Grafham Gossip* please let us know.

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



Send us your gossip!

Email:

gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham Fireworks Night

Saturday November 3rd

Food and drink available from **6:30pm**

£3 Adults

£1 Children

Hotdogs - £1.50

Potatoes - £0.50

Soup - £0.50

Mulled wine - £1.00

Squash - FREE

Boom Audio presents
Live Music From

PLEAD INSANITY

www.myspace.com/pleadinsanitybanduk2007/
www.pleadinsanity.co.uk



PARISH NEWS...

On 25th September, the Parish Council held its first meeting after the summer break. At the Family Fun Day, some designs for a village sign were displayed and the most popular was an ironwork design which would incorporate representations of Grafham Water, cycling, the church, trains and birds. Further investigations will now take place to ascertain likely costs and the possibility of grant funding.

There have been several complaints and observations concerning the unsatisfactory condition of grassed areas and hedges in the village, in particular the playground. Some of you will know that the Parish Council has been let down by the contractor engaged to do this work. So it has been decided to get quotes from other contractors and to include the maintenance of hedges and footpaths in the contract. This will be moved forward as quickly as possible to bring the affected areas back to a proper condition.

The current speed limit along Buckden Road past the Marlow Car Park is 60mph. The Parish Council has been approached to try to get this reduced to 50mph because of the hazards along the road i.e. farm and house entrances, car park entrance and exit and two sharp bends before the straight section past Grafham Water.



At the meeting held on 9th October, two PCSOs (*police community support officers*) were present. They advised the Parish Council that they had issued warning notices to vehicles that were parked illegally and causing obstruction by parking on footpaths. Fixed penalty notices will be issued to vehicles which are found to be parked illegally on a second occasion. Please be aware that if you park on the footpath, there should still be room for a pedestrian with a double buggy or for a wheelchair user to pass your vehicle on the path.

Margaret Life, Clerk to the PC

Full minutes on the web site Next meeting: Tuesday 13th November

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

Carbon monoxide the silent killer!

What is Carbon monoxide? Why is it a problem?

What preventative measures can I take to protect against carbon monoxide exposure?

Does the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) recommend the use of carbon monoxide alarms?

What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure?

What should I do if I think any of my appliances are spilling carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels, including gas, oil, wood and coal. Carbon-based fuels are safe to use. It is only when the fuel does not burn properly that excess CO is produced, which is poisonous. When CO enters the body, it prevents the blood from bringing oxygen to cells, tissues and organs.

You can't see it, taste it or smell it but CO can kill quickly without warning. According to HSE statistics, around twenty people die from CO poisoning a year. Taking sensible precautions could dramatically reduce this risk.

The HSE strongly advises that oil appliances and flues are installed and serviced regularly, by an OFTEC-registered installer. If you live in rented accommodation, your landlord has a legal duty to carry out an annual oil boiler service and maintain appliances. He must provide you with a copy of the completed oil service certificate.

The HSE strongly recommends the use of audible carbon monoxide (CO) alarms as a useful back-up precaution but they must not be regarded as a substitute for proper installation and maintenance of oil appliances.

You can be particularly at risk from CO poisoning when you are asleep, because you may not be aware of early CO symptoms until it is too late. Having an audible CO alarm could wake you and save your life.

Early symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning can mimic many common ailments and may easily be confused with food poisoning, viral infections, flu or simple tiredness.

Early symptoms to look out for include: tiredness, drowsiness, headaches, giddiness, nausea, vomiting, pains in the chest, breathlessness, stomach pains, erratic behaviour, visual problems.

If you are in any doubt that any of your appliances are spilling carbon monoxide, switch off the appliance and do not reuse until remedial action has been taken. Open all doors and windows to ventilate the room - do not sleep in it. Contact an OFTEC-registered installer to make the necessary checks and repairs.

Who is the HSE? They are the Health and Safety Executive and they are responsible for enforcing health and safety regulations in Great Britain.

This article was collated by **Clint Thomas-Morgan** (OFTEC-registered) with information taken from <http://www.hse.gov.uk>



Plant Stall in Church Porch If you are splitting plants and have some to spare please throw them in my direction. I can pot them up but please include a name and any helpful info. *Thank you, Jill Tyack 19 Breach Rd*

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

'Lights to Remember'

Sunday 18th November
at 4pm

All Saints Church, Grafham



On Sunday 18th November, we will be holding a special service to remember all those known to us who have died. This year, it will be our privilege to be host to the friends and organisers of the 'Marie Curie Cancer Care' organisation who have asked to join in this service with us. During the service, there will be an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of a loved one and names of the departed will be read out. If you would like to have a name read out during the service, please complete the form in church or telephone details to Jill Dighton on 811862. Please feel able to invite family and friends to this service they will be very welcome.

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CHEER SATURDAY 8TH DECEMBER GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL 8P.M.



As you will see elsewhere in this edition, the newly reformed **Friends of Grafham Church** is holding its first event on *8th December*. We want the village to raise funds and have fun doing it. So the evening will be a wine tasting and a chat about wines from a local wine merchant, with a splendid range of cheeses to help



the wine along. The evening will finish with favourite carols around the Christmas tree.



The cost will be only £5 so please put the date in your diary now. Tickets and further details will be available later in November.

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 Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club



The next meeting is Tuesday 30th October at 8pm with **Margaret Life (819477)** at 6 Home Close. For details of future meetings, please call **Tina (811366)**

Ellington and Grafham W.I.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month. For more details call Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



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



GRAFHAM AND ELLINGTON PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAY

NEW PICTURES OF GRAFHAM STATION!

**SUNDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL
10.00AM - 4.00PM**

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



**DONATIONS TO GRAFHAM CHURCH
RESTORATION FUND**

FREE ADMISSION - REFRESHMENTS

All Saints Church Grafham

2nd December at 11.00 am

The Holy Family Travelling Crib scene begins its journey around the village.

If you would like to host the crib scene overnight, please come along to this service and add your name to the list. Hear all about the Posada tradition.

The travelling crib set contains all the figures to create a nativity scene in your own home - for one night - as well as story books, quizzes and games.

Then simply put the set back in its box and hand on to the next person/host on the list!



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am** on **Wednesday November 7th** with **Pat Watson** at **10 Field Close**.



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**

Grafham Church Flower Club

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at **8pm** we meet in the **village hall**. For details call **Karenza 812556** or **Jill 810157**.





**Sunday 11th November - 10.55 am
ALL SAINTS CHURCH - GRAFHAM**

Service of Remembrance for those killed in conflict.
'Lest we forget'

During October, November and December a selection of **Fair Trade produce**, gifts, Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars etc will be on sale after services at: ALL SAINTS CHURCH - GRAFHAM **Come and buy fruit for Christmas puddings, cakes and gifts for family and friends.**



Goods supplied by Just Sharing of St Ives and sold on their behalf

View from the Pew!

Your church has been very busy again witnessing

some lovely family events. On 29th September Emma and Paul

were married. We were relieved that the rain held off for the arrival of the bride's party that included a very handsome Arran! On 13th October, we gathered again for the thanksgiving service for 40 years of married life of David and Wendy. There were many smiles and much happiness at both occasions. We send Emma and Paul, David and Wendy our love and very best wishes and thank them for letting us join with them on these special days.

On 30th September the church was bedecked with balloons as we took part in the nationally-organised 'Back to Church Sunday'. It is estimated that over 1,700 churches took part. It was encouraging to see new faces within our congregation and to have the opportunity of welcoming them along with friends we have not seen for a while. Archbishop Rowan Williams hoped that approximately 17,000 people would reconnect with God on this day. To any Christian, reconnecting with God can be a very profound time with the possibility of a life-changing experience and this, thankfully, transcends statistics.

Our Harvest Service was very well attended. There were beautiful flower arrangements in every direction and the service had all the traditional elements of Harvest Thanksgiving. Our new departure this year was the introduction of a 'Bring and Share Lunch'. The organiser's fears were totally unfounded as there was plenty to go round (twice)! We even had freshly cooked chips in church (it's a long story!)

So now we look forward to our future services. On 4th November we will celebrate our Patronal Festival of All Saints at 11am. On 11th November we have a Service of Remembrance for those killed in conflict. This will start at 10.55 prompt to incorporate the two minutes silence. Please note that there will be no Holy Communion at this service

On 18th November we will be holding a very special 'Lights to Remember Service' at 4pm. We will be joined by friends and organisers of Marie Curie Cancer Care. At this service we will remember those known to us who have died. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance of our loved ones as their names are read out. Please see the enclosed advert for this service or the notices and forms in church. We look forward to welcoming our friends from Marie Curie Cancer Care to Grafham as we offer them our love and support. (Please note there is an 8am service this day but no 11am service).

A reminder also that from October 21st until Christmas, there will be a selection of Fair Trade produce including dried fruit, gifts, Christmas cards etc on sale after services.

Now, looking even further ahead, you may like to jot these dates in your diary! Don't forget to pay a visit to the Grafham and Ellington photographic display in the village hall on 25th November - 10 till 4pm. The photographs are presented by Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group led by Sam Malt. They include some new pictures of Grafham Railway Station.

2nd December will see the Holy Family (Posada) begin its journey around the village as Advent starts. Come along to hear what this is all about and join in. A reminder about the Advent Fayre in the village hall 8th December! Also some more dates : 23rd December - Carol Service, 4.30pm.

Christmas Eve 24th - Crib Service, 4pm (Posada returns to church) and finally 25th December - Eucharist, 11am. Details of Christmas services next month!



David and Wendy - married 40 years!



The Mobile Library (route H103) visits
**Breach Rd, Grafham on alternate
Wednesdays from 11.35 to 11.55.**
Visits this month are: **November 14th and 28th.**
Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**
[http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/
index.html](http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html)

Macmillan Success



The Macmillan afternoon tea was once again a success. Villagers gathered for a friendly chat in a welcoming atmosphere. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. A big thank you to my loyal helpers and contributors. A total of **£230.00** was achieved, £130.00 from the afternoon tea and £100.00 from donations. Thanks again to all of you who attended and those who contributed with donations. Hope to see you all next year. **Mrs S Doyle**

Five Parish Advent Fair

8th December, Grafham Village Hall, 1 - 4pm

The Parishes of Grafham, Ellington, Easton, Spaldwick, Barham and Woolley are again holding their **Advent Fair** in **Grafham Village Hall** on **8th December** from **1.00- 4.00pm**.

Please think of anything you can do to help. Can you make items for the craft stall or provide materials for someone else to do so? Could you find bottles for the bottle stall, large or small, or provide raffle prizes? Can you make pickles, chutneys, jams or freeze items for the cake stall in advance? Can you look out gifts and presents, toys and white elephant treasures? Could you organise a game or competition? We would welcome any new ideas and more offers of help to **Sue on 455080**. Main collection point from now can be **The Rectory, 1 Parson's Drive, Ellington** or contact the individual stallholders below.



Ploughman's Lunches, mulled wine	Pat/ Alan	811166
Teas	Romi	890287
Cake stall.....	Val	812390
Honey, pickles, chutneys and jams...	Peter	891043
Gifts and Presents.....	Sarah	891496
Craft stall.....	Jill	810157
Treasures and white elephant.....	Doreen	891452
Toys.....	Amba	890565
Bottle stall.....	Jonathan	891695
Raffle.....	Marian	890561
Children's tombola.....	Sylvie	891964

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The biggest concern for all of us is that a decision was taken by Cambridge Constabulary to make redundant, from September 24th, all the community support officers. This now means we no longer have a specific officer assigned to Grafham. Alan Mackender-Lawrence, who has been so supportive to Grafham said, "It is with much sadness that I will be leaving this very important and vital role of delivering real time crime reduction information to you all."

I have copied this notification to the chair of the parish council and the parish clerk and hope that they will have voiced their concerns about this matter to the relevant authorities.

Since I took over the scheme two years ago the community support officer has been the person that alerted me to all incidents in Grafham and the neighbouring villages. Now we will have to rely on knowledge gleaned from central resources.

I have registered for a scheme called e-cops which should provide us with up to date information but it is too soon to let you know how this is working.

If any resident wishes to raise any issues this will have to happen through the main police control room.

Police Central Control: 0845 4564564

Minicom helpline for the deaf and hard of hearing:
01480 422493

Crimestoppers : 0800 555111 (anonymous)

All emergencies: 999

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

'FRIENDS OF GRAFHAM CHURCH'

The '**Friends** of Grafham Church' is up and running again. The **Friends** is about raising funds to help preserve our ancient church. Visitors to Grafham comment fondly on the simple beauty of a church building that has been expanded and preserved by the hard work of generations of villagers. Now it's the turn of this generation. Without expensive repair work the cracks will continue to grow and disaster could be round the corner. In the short term an investigation is needed so that the problem can be identified precisely (costing about £10,000) and a long term solution found (perhaps a further £50,000). Any success gaining grants depends on showing that the community actually cares and can raise a proportion of this money.

The **Friends** needs the help of you all. The **Friends** is a group concerned solely with the ancient building, separate from the church community, though we liaise closely. We think the church building is the most important part of the prettiest corner of Grafham. We believe its existence is crucial to Grafham being a village and community rather than just a collection of housing estates. We want to help preserve the village's heritage because it is an important part of what makes Grafham a worthwhile place to live. We ask for your support for events we plan and any ideas you may have for fund-raising. Perhaps you would consider running a small fund-raising event yourself or volunteering to help with events or swell the committee.

A **Friends** steering committee has now been re-formed. Karen Stewart has agreed to be Chair. We are busy making plans to raise funds whilst having fun too. Our early plans are to hold an Evening of Christmas Cheer on 8th December (see the separate notice in this issue of the *Grafham Gossip*), followed by a Traditional Burns Night Supper on 25th January. When we have caught our breath we can think beyond that. If you can help please contact **Karen** on **01480 810961**. Meanwhile watch this space.

"A BIG THANK YOU..."

to every one of the 70 people that attended the 6th Annual HCCA Grafham Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper at the Village Hall on Saturday 6th October 2007. Many new faces attended what turned out to be another great evening of fun and light-hearted entertainment. I hope the revellers didn't disturb too many people on their way home!" **Nic Evans**

Make a date for next year; the 7th annual HCCA Grafham Quiz Night and Fish and Chip Supper will be held **Saturday 4th October 2008**. Tickets are available from **Nic Evans 01480 812102**.

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

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

'ALL FREE TO A GOOD HOME'

I've got to move and have loads of stuff to get rid of. This ranges from a **Flexa wooden cabin bed and desk unit** to a **Peugeot 405 Diesel** and a **homebrew microbrewery** with an 18 gallon batch capacity and 23 crates of toggle top bottles to go with it!

All free to a good home and more stuff to go as I get to it.

Ian Campbell tel: **812959** email: campbell.clan@tesco.net

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Shoulder, neck, back and arms **£10**
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Contact Carole Baber on 01480 810043 or 0776 666 2197

Deadline Dates

Grafham Gossip deadline dates for the next few months are midnight on the following Thursdays - we welcome articles earlier if you have them ready.

November 15th, December 13th or preferably
December 6th, January 17th, February 14th

Thank you for all your contributions! *Editors, Grafham Gossip*

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

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