

Grafham Gossip

Issue 43 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday 17th January*

Grafham All Saints

Christmas Services

23rd December (4th Sunday) 16.30 -

Carol Service

24th December (Christmas Eve) 16.00 - Crib Service

- the Posada Travelling Family returns to the church.

25th December (Christmas Day) 11.00 - Christmas

Day Service with Holy Communion

30th December (5th Sunday) 11.00 - Five Parish

Group Eucharist at Spaldwick

January Services

6th January 2008 (1st Sunday) 11.00 - All Age

Worship - Epiphany

13th January (2nd Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist

20th January (3rd Sunday) 8.00 - Eucharist

11.00 - Family Worship

27th January (4th Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist

3rd February (1st Sunday) 11.00 - All Age Worship

- Candlemas

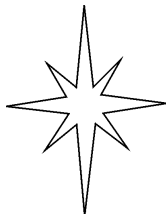
First-timers and visitors very welcome

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...

Contrary to our previous note, we were able to get the January issue printed before Christmas so once again we wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



Children's New Year's Eve Party from 1-3pm

With the popular entertainer Mr Marvell
(aimed at under 8 years)

£5 per child to cover entertainment costs

Tickets are required and available from

Tracie Lord - 2 the Wyvern

Email tracielorduk@aol.com

Julie Turner - 8 The Wyvern

Email julie@luxuryholidaysabroad.co.uk

Infants under 2 and half are free yet still
require a ticket (for numbers)

Parental supervision is required



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I am pleased to tell you that there were no reported incidents in the village again.

However, in Ellington, there was one break-in (a little too close for comfort) so we must all remain vigilant.

Following the withdrawal of the community support officer by Cambridgeshire Police Authority I am delighted that Alan McKender Lawrence (previously employed) has agreed to run the weekly reporting on a voluntary basis which will help all of the villages affiliated to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to be informed of all incidents.

I have a new supply of stickers for windows, so if anyone who has recently moved into the village would be prepared to display one please call me.

I hope you have a good Christmas and New Year.

James Snell 07951 069565

Jamie2701@aol.com



All emergencies: **999**

Police Control room: 0845 4564564

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

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111 (anonymous reporting)

Change of Day and Time for Mobile Library

The Mobile Library (route L108/120) visits **Breach Road, Grafham** on alternate Tuesdays from **10.45 to 11.05.**

Visits this month are: **January 15th and 29th.**

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225** <http://hip-web.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>



View from the Pew!

It was our privilege to host the Lights to Remember Service on 18th November. With our friends from the Marie Curie Cancer Care organisation, we remembered those known to us who have died. Names of our loved ones were read out as candles were lit in their memory. There was time to reflect and recall that special person in an atmosphere of love and support. The Marie Curie organisers extend their thanks to us for making them so welcome and for the £250 that was raised for the organisation on the evening.



Our very grateful thanks go to Sam and the Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group who put on a wonderful photographic display in the village hall on 25th November. There were even more photos and memorabilia this time and loads to talk about. The donations offered on the day have been very kindly given towards the church restoration fund. Thanks once again team, for your dedication and generosity.

On 2nd December, our service marked the start of the Posada Holy Family's journey around the village. We heard about Advent traditions and were encouraged to think about the message of Advent for the weeks leading to Christmas. The list of families asking to host the Posada was almost full by the end of the service and at the time of writing we have heard that many have thoroughly enjoyed setting up the nativity scene and reading the stories. Book early for 2008, especially if you missed seeing our latest addition - the knitted camel - what a cutie!

Yet again, the Advent Fair on the 8th was good fun - despite the rain. Many thanks go to Sue Young for all her organising and hard work. Also, thank you to the men who put up the marquee before the rain set in. The amount raised will benefit the five parishes. Thanks everyone!

Then to round off the day, we had the first of the events organised by the 'Save All Saints' Committee - the Evening of Christmas Cheer with wine-tasting, cheese and carols. Apart from Mr Tyack, most of us were way off the scent when it came to recognising the mystery wines! Well done Martin! Grafham All Saints is very grateful to the fund-raising committee for organising such an enjoyable evening. Well done! Early indications are that the fund-raising has got off to a good start. Now, we are all looking forward to yet more festivities at the Burns Night.

And whilst on the subject of fund-raising, we have heard from the Hedley Trust (a part of the Sainsbury's Family Trust) that the restoration grant we applied for in September has been successful. We have been allocated the sum of £1,500 towards investigatory work on the crack. This of course still leaves a considerable amount to be raised just in order to find out what is causing the problem, but every donation helps. The Hedley Trust has been thanked for their kindness. Hopefully, in next month's issue, there will be more news regarding the exploratory work to find out why the crack has appeared.

Thanks also to everyone who purchased 'Fair Trade' items during Advent.

Please come along and join us in the pews during 2008. We start the year off with a service for Epiphany on 6th January. Every blessing for 2008 from Grafham All Saints.

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

A precis of an article by Sue Paul



Those of you who have visited the surgery recently will have observed the refurbishments designed to make the waiting room a more relaxing and attractive area. The number of notice boards has been reduced, carpets replaced and the chairs recovered.

Shirley Wimbleton started the book stall on 4th January 2007 and to date has raised a staggering £1,200! We are so very grateful to her and to all those who have supported the stall by either donating or buying books. We anticipate that some of the money raised will be used to buy pictures to enhance the waiting room walls, which we hope will be an improvement from the notice boards!

You may have heard an interview on Radio Cambridgeshire recently, with Irena Milloy from Buckden. She had been for a routine mammogram at Hinchingbrooke Hospital and was shocked to be told that 15 ladies had failed to turn up for appointments that day alone, although 10 to 12 was the expected average. Each failed appointment not only wastes money, but also has the potential to cost a life. I have personal experience of this process and if anyone reading this has missed an appointment - please make another one and be checked, it might save your life.

"Provides Care in the Community" is a body whose brief is to design Care Packages for those needing support after leaving hospital. The introduction of this plan is in two phases, the first is to cover the winter period and the second accompanied by a significant expansion will start in April. Those experiencing the system are given a questionnaire so that problems can be identified and hopefully rectified. The PCT goal remains a determination to reduce delays to patient discharges, returning them home as soon as possible. Money and resources are available for recruiting and training occupational nurses, physiotherapists and health care assistants. Also, there will be community matrons in Huntingdon, St Neots, St Ives and Ramsey to supervise health teams in their areas. An "expert patient group" will liaise on each care package before the patient is discharged. The meeting I attended made the plan seem both laudable and reassuring, but on closer examination it was more aspirational than factual. If you have practical experience of this system, I would greatly welcome feedback over the next six months.

Finally, the BSPA Committee always welcomes any suggestions about ways in which we can help make your Surgery visits as pleasant as possible and we all wish you an enjoyable and healthy New Year.

For original article see www.bandlp.co.uk

PARISH NEWS . . . The Parish Council has been informed that there is no plan to make all Police Community Support Officers redundant. However, the roles are expected to change and more focus will be placed on policing the rural communities. This should mean that there will be greater protection for small villages like ours.



There have been a few complaints recently concerning the aroma from the chicken farm. Patricia Jordan, our local District Councillor, came to the last PC meeting and told us that responsibility for monitoring the chicken farm has now gone to the Environment Agency. If you have any complaints or observations, please contact the Environment Agency.

I expect that Christmas will have come and gone by the time you read this, so when throwing out all those bottles and cans, please make as much use of the recycling facilities at the Village Hall as you possibly can.

Best wishes to you all from the Parish Council, for a happy and prosperous new year.

Margaret Life, Clerk to the PC

Full minutes soon to be found on the website, Ed.

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 mt Tyler@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

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

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**

Huntingdon Shopmobility

Huntingdon Shopmobility is a non profit-making organisation that offers a service to people who have mobility problems either permanent or temporary.

We have been open for a year now and have had more than one thousand users. **We have, for hire,**

twelve scooters and three wheelchairs which can be used around Huntingdon town.

People can either join as a member for **£15 per year** (free use each time thereafter) or **£3.50 for casual use of scooter and £2 for wheelchair.**

We open 9.30 - 3pm Tuesday to Saturday.

Shopmobility can sometimes be seen at other events around Huntingdon to make access to disabled people easier.

For further details phone **01480 432793**



Five Parish Advent Fair

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Five Parish Advent Fair at Grafham Village Hall on 8th December in any way.

Thank you to those who made items, gave things to sell, gave to the raffle and bottle stall, the stall holders, the lunch and tea makers, those who prepared the hall and put up




the marque, those who so willingly cleared up at the end and everyone who came to spend money and have a good time.

Despite the awful weather, just over £1,000 was raised from which all five parishes will benefit.

Sue Young

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

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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.


January 17th, February 14th

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


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

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sAs

Save All Saints Association Grafham

We're overwhelmed by the generous support of the Grafham village community for our fund-raising activities.

We're overwhelmed by our young people's generosity. Before the Association could even start its own first fund-raising, Ben Stewart and his friends in their group Plead Insanity had donated £125 from the gig they recently organized.



We're overwhelmed by your support for the Evening of Christmas Cheer. Seventy-five people enjoyed Tony Burren's flavoursome wines, the chance to chat and laugh over tasty cheeses, sing carols together and win some really worthwhile raffle prizes. After the mystery wine competition we now know who is the mystery Grafham wine expert! Huge thanks to all who helped and especially Tony. The main aim was to launch the Association, with fund-raising being a bonus this time. In fact we are amazed by the £463 you raised by coming to the event.

We're overwhelmed by your response to The Burns Night Supper on 25th January 2008. The mention in last month's *Grafham Gossip* and to supporters at the Christmas Cheer evening has meant that, even before they have been printed, we have already sold the 70 tickets that is the limit we can manage to cater for. We hadn't anticipated this generous level of response and hope that doesn't leave too many other disappointed supporters.

Karen Stewart (810961) has opened a reserve list for any one who would like to be contacted should there be returns.

Tickets will be distributed to those who have bought them by early January.

Karen has been unable to contact one person who paid for tickets at the Christmas Cheer (name 'Frost'?). If you think this is you and don't receive your tickets as expected, please phone her.

If you have bought tickets please remember:
7.45 pm for 8 pm start;
please bring your own choice of drinks and glasses;
tartan encouraged but not essential

So once again... THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

Babysitters

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



Read the *Grafham Gossip* in colour on the website below!

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks to all who contributed to the 2007 Christmas shoe-box appeal. This year, as a village, we collected 44 boxes (2 more than last year) which are being distributed to children in Swaziland in time for Christmas. Again a big THANK YOU to all who got involved in this very worthwhile charity. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Moira Young



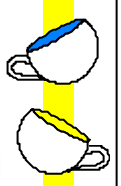
Grafham Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club

The next meeting is 8 pm
Tuesday 29th January 2008
at **Sue Kelley's, 3 Church Road, Grafham**
Tel: **01480 812179**. All welcome!



Grafham Social Committee invites

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



Grafham Church Flower Club

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



The members of **Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group** wish everyone a

happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Join us on the first and second Sunday of the month to carry out woodland conservation. Please talk to **Sam Malt** for details **810844**(daytime) **811654**(evening)



Ellington and Grafham W.I.

Join the growing team! We meet on the first Tuesday in the month for interesting talks, lively discussions, social evenings and outings in amicable company. Call **Sue Rice 896139** or **Ann Davies 891372**

