

Grafham Gossip

Issue 44 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday 14th February*

Editors' note...

We are a bit short of news and gossip this month so please write in and keep us up to date.



We'd like to say a big 'Thank You' to everyone who already delivers the *Grafham Gossip* around the village and wondered if there is anyone willing to deliver the *Grafham Gossip* to one side of Breach Road every month. Please email us if you are able to help.

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

So far, so good in Grafham.

However neighbouring villages have had problems.

Groups of youths have been causing anti-social behaviour in Buckden.

In Gt Gidding, a BT cable was stolen which affected telephone services for surrounding villages.

Cyclists riding without lights are being targeted by the police due to the number of complaints received from the general public – either a verbal warning will be given or a fixed penalty notice issued.

The following phone numbers are for information:

All emergencies: 999

Police Control room: 0845 4564564

Minicom helpline for the hard of hearing: 01480 422493

Anti Social Behaviour 01480 388379

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111(anonymous reporting)

James Snell 07951 069 565

Jamie2701@aol.com



Grafham All Saints

3rd February (1st Sunday)

11.00 - All Age Worship - Christingle.

10th February (2nd Sunday)

11.00 - Eucharist.

17th February (3rd Sunday)

11.00 - Family Worship NB: No 8am service today.

24th February (4th Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist.

2nd March (1st Sunday)

11.00 - All Age Worship for Mothering Sunday.

**Please come along and join us -
we look forward to welcoming you!**

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



**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE -
SUNDAY 3RD FEBRUARY
GRAFHAM ALL SAINTS CHURCH 11AM
In aid of the Children's Society**

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: **February 12th and 26th.**

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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

There will be a series of **Lunchtime Eucharists** followed by a frugal lunch on **Fridays** during Lent at the following churches, starting at **12 noon:**

15th Feb - Barham

22nd Feb - Ellington 29th Feb - Spaldwick

7th March - Easton 14th March - Alconbury

Donations towards Bishop's Lent Appeal

Annual General Meeting for

Grafham Social Committee

Monday February 18th at 8 pm
at the Cinnamon

All Welcome

For details tel. Karen 01480 810961

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA) *A precis of an article by Sue Paul*

I would like to offer our congratulations to Dr Bundy who will be taking maternity leave at the end of February, until January next year. We are lucky to have another lady doctor to replace her for those ten months and we look forward to welcoming Dr Joshi.

The surgery staff would like to thank all those patients who so kindly sent Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes - they were greatly appreciated.

A splendid total of £510 was raised by the MAGPAS Christmas raffle and we again offer our thanks to all who so generously donated prizes and supported by buying tickets.

There are some very disquieting and alarming developments taking place at Primary Care Trust [PCT] level which, if they go ahead, will profoundly affect the way in which primary care at local surgery level is delivered. These developments have not been the subject of public scrutiny or debate and appear recklessly to abandon a system which has served us so faithfully for six decades. That system is the GP who delivers continuity of personal and holistic care and is dedicated to maintaining the patient's well-being and who has been guaranteed independence within the healthcare system to do what he or she believes to be in the best interests of the patient. To put into context the value a GP provides, consider the relative costs to the PCT; an outpatient appointment costs some £300 whereas the cost of a GP appointment is, on average, £20 - fantastic value I'm sure you agree.



Alas, the government does not perceive it that way and are now encouraging PCTs to use commercial companies to set up and provide 'GP' services. In Birmingham, the Health Authority has already drawn up plans to terminate the contracts of 76 existing GPs and award them to the private sector. "The NHS can learn a lot from companies like McDonalds" said the author of the report. In Northumberland there is currently a threat to terminate GP contracts which could leave thousands of patients without access to a doctor. Once the private sector is involved the long-term personal relationship built up between doctor and patient is lost. Private sector companies are driven by the need for profit and not what is necessarily best for the patient and private sector companies are showing interest in taking over some services in our area. Despite all the evidence showing the incredible value for money that GPs provide, despite all the evidence produced by government sponsored questionnaires showing an extraordinarily high level of patient satisfaction with existing GP services, the government seems determined - without any consultation - to jeopardize it all. It seems to me that the only losers will be dedicated doctors and previously satisfied patients. What would all these changes do to staff morale, and what incentive would there be to GPs to invest further in their practices?

Ten years ago we were told the NHS would only be safe in the hands of New Labour. Since then, there have been a succession of failures but each time we are assured that next time, the government will listen - it never has. We are constantly told that there should be 'patient choice' but how can we possibly 'choose' when we are not told what they are planning? Their arrogance and duplicity is breathtaking and very depressing. There are more detailed articles on this subject held in the surgery, please do go in and read about what is happening - and then write to the PCT with your views, it really is essential that we register our concerns and disapproval.

In my next letter I will talk about GP opening hours and the apparent government campaign to discredit and impugn their integrity.

For original article see www.bandlp.co.uk

What do you think? Ed. Email us for our 'Letters to the Editors' page!

PANCAKES



Ingredients
120g/4oz plain flour
pinch of salt
2 eggs
210ml/7fl oz milk
90ml/3fl oz water
1 tbsp vegetable oil

Method

1. Put the flour and the salt in a bowl and mix.
2. Make a well in the centre and crack in the eggs.
3. In a separate bowl mix together the milk and the water.
4. Beat the eggs into the flour with a wooden spoon and gradually beat in the milk and water mixture to get a smooth liquid.
5. Stir in the oil and allow to stand for 30 minutes before using.

The next part is for adults only!

Preheat a lightly greased frying pan until really hot. Pour about 2 tablespoons into pan (7 inch) for each pancake. Cook until pancakes begin to bubble. Flip once and cook for 1 to 2 minutes longer.

Serve with freshly squeezed lemon juice and sprinkled with sugar. This recipe can be varied by adding chopped fruit or chocolate chips to the batter.

This year Pancake Day is on
Tuesday 5th February.

PARISH NEWS... The PC meeting scheduled for 8th January was cancelled because of a lack of business to conduct.

The next meeting will be held on 12 February at the Village Hall.

Margaret Life, Clerk to the PC

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



View from the Pew!

Everyone who came into church during Christmas could not fail to be impressed by the magnificent seasonal floral decorations on display. Congratulations to all who worked

very hard to make your church and churchyard look so beautiful and inviting. We hope you were able to come along to some, if not all of the services on offer over the festive season. Yet again, it is pleasing to report that attendance figures for the three main services were as high as last year, with the crib service now showing as being extremely popular - thanks go to Jill and Emily Tyack for making it such an enjoyable service/party! We are also grateful to our incumbent Jonathan, who, with great energy, dashed from one service to another throughout the festival.

We were back again within All Saints for the Feast of the Epiphany on 6th January. We heard about some of the myths and traditions connected with the journey of the wise men to see Jesus and were reminded that we are all 'pilgrim people' who have set off on our own journey to find Christ.

We hope that you will be able to join us in the pews on 3rd February when we will be holding a Christingle Service. These services have become increasingly popular over the years and appeal to all age groups.

Ash Wednesday falls during the following week and this will herald the start of Lent. This year we are holding a Lent Course in Grafham. The 5 session course will begin on Wednesday 13th February starting at 7.30pm and will be held at 3 Van Diemens Way each following Wednesday. The theme of the course will be 'The Lords Prayer - praying it, meaning it, living it' We do hope you will be able to come along. Further details available from Jill on 811862. Please see advert. Also, please note advert for the series of Friday Lent Lunchtime Eucharist's followed by Frugal Lunch at churches within the group, starting on 15th February at Barham church - 12 Noon.

As usual, Mothering Sunday will happen during Lent and this year it will coincide with our Family Worship Service on 2nd March. Again, please note advert! It would be great to see as many Mums/Nans as possible coming along to receive the traditional floral tributes from children.

Meanwhile, fundraising to mend the crack carries on apace. Thanks go to everyone who is, in any way, committed to the cause!

It has been suggested that, by this summer, it may be possible to start thinking about getting the investigation work under way. This work is needed in order to find out what is causing the crack. Being able to do this will all depend on various factors including obtaining the special permission needed to dig up the church floor and its environs as well as having sufficient funds to cover the costs. It is hoped that more definite news regarding this stage of the project will emerge soon.



Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent - the 40 days leading up to Easter - was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday Christians went to confession and were "shriven" (absolved from their sins). It was the last opportunity to use eggs and fats before embarking on the Lenten fast and pancakes are the perfect way of using up these ingredients.

The world's biggest pancake was cooked in Rochdale in 1994!



Babysitters **Olivia Sinfield** Grade B GCSE Child Development -Age 17 Tel: 811831
Jessica Homewood -babysitting course -Age: 16 Tel: 810867

Danielle Meyer - speaks French and can help with homework - Age 16 Tel: 811279

Anna Fozzard - Age 15 Tel: 812021

Kate Kelley -babysitting course -Age 15 Tel: 812179

Kirsty Elliot -babysitting course- Age 15 Tel: 810550

Felicity Jenkinson - Grade B GCSE Child Development - Age 17 Tel: 812328



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**

MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

2ND MARCH 11.00 am
AT
GRAFHAM ALL SAINTS



Please come and join us for this traditional, popular service
ALL MUMS AND NANS VERY WELCOME!
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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**



Grafham Social Committee invites

you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents
10.30am on Wednesday, February 13th at **Philippa Patel's, 3 Field Close**



Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group



meet 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)

GRAFHAM LENT COURSE

'The Lords Prayer' praying it, meaning it, living it
 5 Sessions on Wednesdays throughout Lent starting:

Wednesday 13th February at 7.30pm
at 3 Van Diemens Way
 Further details from Jill on 811862

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**



Grafham Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club

The next meeting is at **8pm on Tuesday 26 February** with **Margaret Life, 6 Home Close, Grafham** tel: **01480 819577**
 All welcome!



Grafham Church Flower Club

Are you interested in flower arranging? Would you like to improve? Here's your chance! **Every 3rd Tuesday** of the month at **8pm** in the **Village Hall** we will be learning to make different floral arrangements for display and in the home. If you are interested in helping with flowers in the church for festivals, Christmas etc. please come along. There is a charge of **£2.00 per session.** Contact: Hazel **01480 810326** for details



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Grafham Gossip deadline dates for the next few months are midnight on the following **Thursdays**.

February 14th, March 13th, April 18th, May 15th

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

To advertise e-mail us: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk
Community notices **free**, business adverts **£3.00 per advert**, 50p of which goes towards **Grafham All Saints Restoration Fund**.

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Calling all GCSE, AS, A2 students!

Can you make use of any of the following?
Adam no longer needs them! **Phone Jill on 811862**
Letts Study Guides: **GCSE Chemistry**
Letts Study Guide: **GCSE Exam Secrets - Business Studies**
Letts Study Guide: **GCSE Business Studies - Questions & Answers**
BBC Bitesize Revision; **GCSE Business Studies**
Hodder & Stoughton: **Revise GCSE Physics**
CGP Revision Guide: **GCSE Business Studies**
CGP Revision Guide: **GCSE Double Science - Physics**
CGP Revision Guide: **GCSE Double Science - Chemistry (Foundation Level)**
Pearson Revision Guide: **GCSE English and English Literature**
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Edexcel **AS Economics Units 1, 3**
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