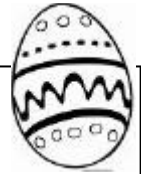


Grafham Gossip

Issue 45 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday 13th March*



Grafham All Saints

2nd March (1st Sunday) -11.00 - All Age Worship for Mothering Sunday - See notice on p 2
 9th March (2nd Sunday) -11.00 - Eucharist
 16th March (3rd Sunday) - 8.00 Eucharist
 11.00 - Family Worship for Palm Sunday
 21st March (Good Friday) -19.30 Evening Meditation for Good Friday
 23rd March (4th Sunday) -11.00 Easter Day Worship with Communion
 30th March (5th Sunday) -11.00 Group Service at Ellington
 6th April (1st Sunday) -11.00 - All Age Worship and Easter Egg Hunt!
 Come along and join us - Bring family and friends too!



Editors' note...

Do you have a view on any of the articles in the *Grafham Gossip*? Let us know! We are still looking for someone to deliver the *Grafham Gossip* to one side of Breach Road every month. Please email us if you can help.

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

On January 25th the Local Policing Team went out and issued and enforced fines to cyclists without lights and for riding on a (non-bike way) foot path. This is the start of a new initiative. **If you have any comments about this problem please contact 0845 456 456 4** Forced entry was made into a property in Brampton Road via the garage between 10am and 1pm on January 31st – the first reported incident in the village for several months.



A neighbourhood panel meeting is being held at **7.30 on Thursday 6th March at Brampton Primary School**, The Green, Brampton where you will have the opportunity to meet the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team and discuss any matters of concern. Just turn up – no booking is necessary.

Additional police were on patrol over the week-end of February 10th as part of a new initiative to tackle the problem of underage drinking leading to anti-social behaviour in and around the Huntingdon area.

Thank you to the many new residents who contacted me for Neighbourhood Watch stickers – I still have some available, if you are prepared to display one in your window.

Telephone numbers for reference:

All emergencies: **999**

Police Control room: 0845 4564564

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

Anti Social Behaviour 01480 388379

Crimestoppers: 0800 555111 (anonymous reporting)

James Snell 07951 069 565

email **Jamie2701@aol.com**

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 811862 Jill Tyack 810157**

Grafham Social Committee

are arranging a "Champagne" Draw Safari Supper
Saturday April 26th £15 per couple
Deadline Friday 18th April

Names to / for more information, please contact

Pat Watson 811166 Philippa Patel 811656

Frances Knight 811727



Sunday 6th April
11 am
Family Worship
and
Easter Egg Hunt

All Welcome



A
 Reminder!



Please return all Children's Society collecting tubes to our Family service on 2nd March *Thank you!*

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 **398082** and **Patricia.Jordan@huntsdc.gov.uk** tel **457802**

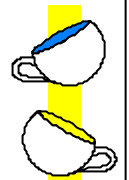
Send us your news and gossip! Email: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.

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



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am** on **Wednesday, March 12th** at **Karen Stewarts', 2 Home Close**



Grafham Church Flower Club

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at **8pm** we meet in the **village hall**. For details call Hazel on **01480 810326**



Grafham Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club



8 pm Tuesday 25th March at Robin and Linda Yeomans
 26 The Wyvern tel: 812440 All welcome!

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**



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!
 Floral tributes given to all ladies present

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)



View from the Pew!

During the Eucharist service on 27th January a hole appeared in the nave floor! Fortunately, no-one was hurt. After receiving a visit and advice from our architect, we were allowed to carry out emergency repairs.

Our grateful thanks go to Martin Tyack who made a superb job of filling in the offending hole and relaying the brick flooring. The collapse of a redundant underground pipe was identified as the cause. With the floor so quickly back in place, we were able to hold our Christingle Service on 3rd February. It was wonderful to see so many people in the pews for this popular service. (Please could all **Children's Society Collecting Tubes** be returned to church on **2nd March** - Thanks)



At the time of writing, Lent is in full swing and the crocus-lined church path looks glorious in the sunshine. The final two March meetings of the **Grafham Lent Group** will be on **5th and 12th March at 7.30** - please come along and join us if you would like to see what a Lent Group is about ('phone 811862 for details). We hope you can come along to our **Mothers Sunday Service on 2nd March**. As usual, there will be floral tributes for all ladies present and a chance to partake of some traditional Simnel Cake after the service. As Easter approaches, we have a **Non-Eucharist Palm Sunday Service on the 16th March** and the Easter theme is endorsed on **Good Friday** with an **Evening Meditation beginning at 7.30pm**. On Easter Day we will be holding an **Easter Day Worship with Communion at the usual time of 11am**. If you have relatives or friends staying with you, please feel able to bring them along to our services. We love seeing visitors! Looking slightly further ahead to our **Family Service on 6th April**, Mary and Phil will be organising an **Easter Egg Hunt** for children. Everyone very welcome, as always. Our thanks go again to the 'Save All Saints' Committee and those who supported the Burns Night. A considerable sum was raised towards the restoration appeal through everyone's generosity: *Thank you all so very much.*

Letters to the Editors...

I am appalled at the information published within the recent edition of the *Grafham Gossip*. Full credit to Sue Paul for bringing this to the attention of everyone! I find it amazing that there has been no talk or mention of the so called Private Practice taking over such an essential part of our GP's workload. Like most people I cannot find fault with the surgery at Buckden or the services it provides. To take such fundamental services away from the GP is insane in the very least. Why on earth should the government be allowed to do this? Why have we heard no reports from our beloved opposition parties? Are they in tacit agreement with these proposals and are hiding their heads in the sand hoping the problem will go away? If not, what will they do in the hopeful very near future, when we hopefully have a change of government? Will the Liberal Democrat and Conservative MPs help us and out vote this stupid idea? At the very least all MPs, irrespective of their affiliation, should be raising their voices in protest at this absolutely insane idea.

If it is not broken do NOT fix it!

David Anthony

(Sue Paul's BSPA article should be back next month. Read it on www.bandlp.co.uk Editor)

SAs

Save All Saints Association Grafham

We want to give a huge thank you to all the people who helped with the sell-out 25th January **Burns Night Supper**. So many people gave generous amounts of their advice, time, equipment, sponsorship, raffle prizes, cooking, table-waiting and washing-up skills, floral, speaking and singing talents. So the evening became very much a community effort. Well done to all of you.

Everyone seems to agree that we had an enjoyable time. The food was hot, the haggis spicy and moist, the bagpipes stirring, the toast speeches drew laughter and loud applause and the talk bubbled. There has even been a suggestion that it is worth repeating the evening next year - and we hope to do so.

Once more we have been stunned to find that your generosity means the event raised a further **£793 towards the Save All Saints Fund**. So the Fund now stands at **£1444** - not bad for the efforts of only three months.

We hope some of you will be encouraged to run your own event towards the fund, so let us know in case we can be of any practical help.

Looking Ahead As well as finalising our draft constitution, the Steering Committee has been developing plans for the rest of the year. These are well on track with a **Strawberries and Fizz Concert planned for 14th June**, and outline plans being explored further for events in September, November and December. But you don't have to wait until June...

your village needs you (and your talents) for

More Gin Vicar?

**An Evening Of Grafham Talent
Village Hall
Saturday 17th May 8 p.m.
Bar, Bread and Cheese
only £7 towards SAS fund-raising**

This will be a relaxed and varied programme of words, music and surprise entertainment. You will be amused, moved, thrilled and amazed by the unexpected talents of villagers and their friends. We already have a number of 'turns' pencilled in. But we need YOU to really make this another fun success. **Will you offer to sing a song, tell a tall tale, recite a monologue, play a banjo solo, do a dance - or whatever is your particular party piece?** A few minutes only is fine. It should be a wonderful evening.

PLEASE volunteer a turn by contacting:

Karen Stewart	810961
Jane Stewart	810841
Tina Theodorou	811366
Keith Chisholm	810694
Keith Gowen	810995

Tickets on sale in April

Sid Bolton lived in Breach Road, Grafham for some fifteen years and was a well-loved character of the village. He died in 2002.

This article first appeared in The London and UK Events Datebook magazine, a publication dedicated to the events industry with particular emphasis on the charity sector.

Charity begins... next door?

It was one evening towards the end of August when he came across ... not just down but thoroughly fed up. And it wasn't like him. At all!

For some ten years I had been going in to see Sid, and I had never - ever - seen him downhearted. Even after the lovely Olive departed, of course he was desperately saddened, but there was also almost a sense of relief. His wife had had a painful time towards the end and both were prepared for and at peace with the inevitable. Self-pity wasn't in Sid's makeup at any time during those years after Olive's death. He had Benny the dog, shredded wheat with blackcurrant jam, my books, sport on the telly, the paper, his pipe and more Teachers than a sizeable comprehensive. At lunchtime he was revered in the pub and evening after evening we would jaw and jaw in his front room. He was in the Royal during the war and, apart from the odd bit of green-grocery, a publican from then on. Our interests were parallel and my library was his library military history, travel, biographies, food, booze, sport, natural history, the rural life.

He was a great storyteller and he didn't have to make them up. Many, of course, were from the war. His favourite ship was HMS Penelope, the Pepperpot, due to the 2000 or so shell and shrapnel holes she took in the Anzio landings. He never forgot his luck in going topside for a pee just a few minutes before she got torpedoed. I believe it was some 750 out of 900 who didn't make it. The padre, when told to abandon ship, said 'there are those who need me more down there' and went below to both the wounded and his death. But most of the stories were about the trade, the old-fashioned pub trade of rural Essex during the 1950's to 80's. Poachers, policemen, gamekeepers, marriage guidance, Lord Astor, Irish navvies, the works. I just wish that I had recorded them. What a treat - the Tales of an Essex Publican. This was a time when publicans wore ties and greeted every punter with a cheery hello; departees were hailed with a 'thank you' and 'safe journey'.

Sid was a rotund, bearded fellow with a cheeky smile, an impish sense of humour and the sort of approach to life and interest in others that enamoured him to all. The kids in the village loved him as a sort of adopted, honorary grandfather. They grew up with him. Years later in the pub those same youngsters would joke, chat and play pool with him. He taught them how to lose graciously.

So it went on. We would take around shepherd's pie, homemade burgers, spag bol and such like - no formal arrangement, just as and when.

Continued at the bottom of the next page

PARISH NEWS . . . Following the public meeting on 27th January to discuss issues surrounding the proposed all-weather sports facility, the Parish Council published full details of the project on the village website. These details can also be found on page 5 in this issue of the *Grafham Gossip*.

Further to this, and as a result of letters of complaint from one resident to Huntingdon District Council, Biffa Waste Services (the funds provider) and Rural East, the floodlighting has been reviewed. HDC are insisting on the use of a more expensive system and this means that the project will only be able to afford four lights and not the six planned. The only difference in the systems is the price and the fact that HDC already uses this type of lighting.

The Parish Council had planned to bank excavated soil on the Brampton Road side of the site in order to add to the noise-barrier. However, this may not now be possible and the far more expensive option of removing the soil from the site may have to be considered. All other questions have been answered and settled and the PC is waiting for the decision of the District Council.



It looks as though work may be about to start on the junction improvements at Buckden and Brampton Roads.

The PC has had no notice from the District Council, but some road markings have appeared. The Parish Council is keen for this improvement to take place, as it will slow down traffic turning left into Brampton Road.

The Cambridgeshire Quality Panel and the National Association of Local Councils have awarded Quality Status to Grafham Parish Council. The Parish Council had decided on this course about a year ago in order to protect the village against the possibility of losing the independence of its council. Certain funding streams and other opportunities will be available only to councils with quality status.

A copy of the certificate will be placed on the village notice board and in the village hall.

The hedge in front of the new houses in Brampton Road will receive maintenance cut very soon. This needs to be done before the birds start nesting or it will have to wait until autumn.

Again, this year, Grafham was unsuccessful in its bid for funds for a traffic calming system. The scoring system on which the award depends appears to be very random, but the PC will try again next year.

There have been a few complaints about the smell coming from the chicken farm. The Environment Agency is receiving such complaints and the Parish Council will back these up with letters of its own. However, in the first instance, the Environment Agency must have complaints from individuals.

Margaret Life, Clerk to the PC

Full minutes can be found on the village website. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 11th March.

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

Continued from page 3, Charity begins... next door? At first he came in on Christmas Day but in later years we went round. Champers in the morning, a tray with the full works at lunch, Stilton and port pm and the inevitable golden glass or eight later on. He was our Agricultural Policy Advisor and would water when we were away. We swapped candles in power cuts. He gave us rhubarb which entitled him to pinch our tomatoes. He was my best friend.

Sid was happy, content with his lot. But then gradually it began. His hearing was never that good - the asdic couldn't have helped - but it deteriorated. He had problems hearing the telly. Nobody else in the village did. His eyesight started to fail to such an extent that he could only read headlines. He even stopped reading books. The pub closed for many months only to reopen as a marvellous, but hopelessly useless for Sid, Indian restaurant. His eating dropped off. Other problems came and walking and climbing the dratted stairs became more irksome.

We tried, we all tried. Hearing aids, book magnifiers, special telly, cleaning help, cash card, downstairs bed, doctor appointments ('oh, I don't want to bother him'). All the things that could have helped him, helped him help himself and helped those that helped him were dismissed. He wasn't going to cause anyone any trouble! Just leave it be. Of that generation.

We almost got near to bullying. Perhaps we should have done. Perhaps not. The morning after that August evening, Sid was taken to hospital and he died shortly after. On reflection, he had pointedly said that evening - as he always did - that he didn't regret anything and that he would live his life over the same. Following Anzio, he knew that he had been lucky just to have that one chance. He had worked hard, perhaps played even harder. The old body seemingly had just had enough. But his last years were as happy as his first and he knew that in that he was more fortunate than many. Time to go.

My point? By no means am I a charity pro but surely it's not always money, resources, and practical help that older folks need. It's time. It's a look over the fence. A chat. Not a once a year jolly coach trip but all through the year. And that's what next-door neighbours throughout the country can do. No money. Just a little time. Often.

'Give the cat a goldfish, let's have another' was a favourite precursor to a glass. His favourite toast was 'sod 'em all bar six, you need six for pallbearers'. Hence I was slightly taken aback when they wheeled the coffin in on a trolley. But Sid would have had a right laugh about it.

The old bugger!

Tony Burrin

THE PROPOSED ALL-WEATHER SPORTS FACILITY

A meeting was held on Sunday 27th January in order to address several concerns that were not resolved following the public meeting held in July last year.

The Parish Council, in response to correspondence from some of the residents of Inhams Way, personally invited those residents to attend the meeting.

The Parish Council addressed the following issues:

- the potential for noise pollution
- possible nuisance from flood-lighting
- the possibility of misuse of the facility
- the effect on the carbon-footprint of the village
- the management of the facility

NOISE POLLUTION The plan includes fencing that is specifically designed for its purpose and is made of materials that suppress the noise from tennis balls or footballs etc which rebound against it. This type of fence is made for the tennis court environment and the contractor's website gives information on the materials used and on the construction. The plan provides for the banking of excavated soil on the Brampton Road side of the site and for replanting trees on the bank. However, it is not clear currently, whether this will be permitted.

FLOOD-LIGHTING This is perhaps the biggest issue for people living near to the proposed site, in terms of the usage and the cost.

At this stage no specific times have been set beyond which the lighting should not be used. The Council's position is that, during the summer months the lighting will be used very rarely. During the months when the days are shorter, it is more likely that the lighting will be required. However, there will be a limit on the times of usage. The lights are energy-efficient and they are designed specifically for the environment in which they will be placed. They are angled downwards onto the playing area and there is very little light leakage.

MIS-USE This facility is being proposed as a direct result of the parish plan in which the villagers called for recreational facilities for the young and also the not-so-young. It is a facility primarily for our community. Anyone who misuses it or causes offence or nuisance will not be permitted to use it again.

Grafham village is a peaceful and pleasant place to live. In providing this resource we will be giving our young people a source of enjoyment and exercise.

As the project evolves and the way it is used becomes more clear, it may be possible to apply for funding which will provide sports coaching on the site.

Grafham's cricket club, the village's tennis players and a potential rugby side have already shown interest in the facility and we intend to actively promote and encourage groups from within the village to make use of it.

THE CARBON FOOTPRINT The provision of a sports facility is our response to the government's call for more sports activities to be made available to our young people, to improve health and to ease the boredom of living in a very rural community with few facilities, if any.

A venue on your doorstep means that you won't have to travel into Huntingdon or St. Neots to play tennis or join in other sports or to take and pick up your children.

The construction and materials are all environmentally sound and further details can be found on the website of Anglia and Midland Sports Limited who are the project managers for the site. The web address is www.amss.co.uk/muga.html

At the meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council would post a full specification onto the village website at the earliest opportunity.

MANAGEMENT The Village Hall Management Committee have agreed to manage bookings for the site in the short term and Philip Allingham (PC Chairman) and his wife Jill have offered to provide this service in the longer term.

Acceptable charges for using the facility and lighting will have to be set and agreed.

In nearby Catworth there is a similar facility that has been in use for about a year. The experiences of the Catworth villagers have all been positive. Their facility is generally used until around 9pm. They do not lock it. There are signs giving information about booking the facility and how to obtain the key required to operate the lighting. There are no problems with anti-social behaviour or nuisance of any kind. Your Parish Council strives to mirror this achievement in Grafham.

Contact details for the Chairman of the Parish Council are: Philip Allingham Bramble Cottage, 15 Breach Road, Grafham
Tel. 01480 811516 E-mail: allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk



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

Visits this month are: **March 11th and 25th.**
Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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

Lunchtime Eucharists followed by a frugal lunch - **Fridays**
during Lent at the following churches at **12 noon: 29th Feb -**
Spaldwick, 7th March - Easton, 14th March - Alconbury
Donations towards Bishop's Lent Appeal

GRAFHAM LENT COURSE

continues **7.30 on Wednesdays** throughout Lent
at **3 Van Diemens Way**

Further details from Jill on **811862**

The Lords Prayer' praying it, meaning it, living it

GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL has a
Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing,
performing arts and a playing field for sports activ-
ities. For more details, including hire charges or to
book the hall **contact Pat / Alan Watson 811166**

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Calling all GCSE, AS, A2 students! Can you make use of any of the following? 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 Language/ Literature
- Pearson Student Handbook** for GCSE English
- WHSmith GCSE Exam Practice:** Geography
- Longman Study Guide:** GCSE Key Stage 4 Mathematics
- Letts Revise Business Studies - AS Level**
- Letts Revise English Literature - AS Level**
- Edexcel AS Economics Units 1, 3**
- Edexcel A2 Economics Units 4 5B, 6**

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c.thomasmorgan@dsl.pipex.com

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

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 are **free**, business adverts cost **£3.00 per advert**, 50p of which goes towards **Grafham All Saints Restoration Fund**.