

Grafham Gossip

Issue 46 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday 18th April*

Editors' note...

There's a lot to read in this issue of the *Grafham Gossip*, let us know your favourite articles.

You could join our mailing list, then you'd be sent a link by email when it's available to read online! Hope you all have (or had) a very happy Easter!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



Grafham Social Committee are

pleased to announce that the marquee is available for hire again at very competitive rates. For details and/or to book, please call Frances Knight tel. **811727**



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



All Welcome

Dogs on leads please

Your Parochial Church Council is very disappointed that the matter of dogs in the churchyard has to be raised again.

Please respect the churchyard by having your dog on a lead and keeping to the marked public footpath. If your dog should foul, please clear up.

There is a disposal bin in Church Road. Thank you for your co-operation.



District Councillors **Peter Downes** and **Patricia Jordan** are at the village hall from **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, views and gossip! Email: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



Grafham All Saints

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 with Easter Egg Hunt!



13th April (2nd Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist

20th April (3rd Sunday) - 8.00 Eucharist

11.00 Service of the Word

27th April (4th Sunday) - 11.00 Eucharist

4th May (1st Sunday) - 11.00 All Age Worship

New-comers always very welcome - guaranteed!

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

Sunday 30th March 6.30 - 8.00 pm

The X Factor

Multi Media Youth Event (age 12+)
at Leighton Bromswold Church

featuring:

Acts, Music, Drama, Dancers

(with local Christian Youth Rock Band)

Grafham Social Committee

"Champagne" Draw Safari Supper

Saturday April 26th £15 per couple

Deadline Friday 11th April



Names to / for more information, please contact
Pat Watson 811166 Philippa Patel 811656
Frances Knight 811727

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

Visits are: **March 25th, April 8th and April 22nd.** Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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



PARISH NEWS... March 2008 The PC's planning application for lighting and fencing around the all-weather sports facility is due to be heard on 17th March. It is expected to be approved subject to conditions concerning the landscaping, tree planting and fencing type.

Trees and hedging plants are to be provided by the District Council for planting in Brampton Road. In particular to replace hedge which has been killed off by the weeds and bramble that was rampant in the hedge in front of the Luminus properties.

Some work needs to be done to clear the ditch in front of the hedge before this planting can take place and Luminus Group will arrange this. Two or more trees will also be planted near to the playground but away from any properties.

The Parish Council would like to remind you that there is an open forum at the beginning of every council meeting for you to come and talk to the council if you have any concerns about events in the village, matters for improvement or council's actions. The council takes this part of the meeting very seriously and will give as much time as is needed to discuss your concerns. If you don't feel you want to attend a meeting, you are welcome to contact any of the councillors by telephone or e-mail. All contact details are reproduced in this newsletter.

The Parish Council were very sorry to receive the resignation of Gill Findlay this month. Gill joined the council two years ago and we have all enjoyed working with her. We thank her for her contribution and work during these two years and wish her the best for her future.

As a result of the resignation, there is a vacancy on the council and the appropriate paperwork will shortly be displayed on the notice board. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council, please write in the first instance to the clerk at the address shown below

Margaret Life, clerk to the PC



Full minutes can be found on the village website. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 8th April

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

Ian Gardener **01480 812821** ig@ascgeomatrics.co.uk

Katrina Goodwin **01480 810297** goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com

Dan Hart **01480 819086** dchart.hart@btinternet.com

Mike Tyler vice chair **01480 811244** mt Tyler@bedford.gov.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH In the last week of February there was a spate of bin fires

and arson attacks on the Oxmoor Estate, Hartford, Hinchbrook and Godmanchester. In Oak Drive substantial damage was caused to a building. The police have asked for members of the public to report immediately any young people playing with lighters or matches or any sort of petrol bomb or similar article. The bins being targeted are the general waste bins (black) and recycling bins (blue). The police advice is keep bins in the garden and do not put out until collection day.

I have been asked to quote the following:

As part of the proposed A14 expansion/bypass a number of agencies will be doing preparatory work. One of these is an environmental consultancy who will be assessing the impact on wildlife, particularly badgers. They will be establishing badger territory and sett locations by non-invasive means. To do this they place food containing small plastic beads outside setts and then find the beads after they've been through the badger. These harmless beads may be noticed by members of the public and could be mistaken for poison. If there is any doubt as to the identity of the beads please call the police on **0854 456456**

Please be aware that wild birds will start nest building in March. Once construction of nests has commenced it is an offence to damage or destroy the nest - e.g. by hedge cutting/tree felling (Wildlife country act 1981) For further information regarding wild birds and law please **contact PC 1387 Paul Carter via the control room.**

In the week end of 2nd March over three separate days two middle aged men and a teenage boy were seen hanging around suspiciously in the village and later it was discovered they had a small white lorry parked by the nature reserve down Brampton Road. They also had two horses and a dog. The police went out on the Sunday night to check all of this but they could not see the people. If anyone sees these distinctive people again **please call the police** - part of the registration of one of the vehicles is OU52.

Nothing is able to be done currently about the speeding of vehicles leaving the village down Buckden Road, however, an incident occurred whereby a resident living in the High Street was estimated to be doing a speed of 80MPH - this has been reported to the police and I have been asked to remind everyone that the limit is 60MPH. Finally, **please call the police direct and not myself to report all instances in the first case** - I am then happy to log it on the monthly report as a warning. However, it is not my responsibility to be first point of contact.

Telephone numbers for reference: All emergencies: **999**

Police Control room: 0845 456456 Anti Social Behaviour 01480 388379

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

Crimestoppers : 0800 555111(anonymous reporting)

James Snell 07951 069 565

email Jamie2701@aol.com



Grafham Cricket Club

Grafham Cricket Club is looking for new players for the forthcoming 2008 season. We currently play in the Bedford and District League. Last year we played in Division 2. If you are interested in playing cricket for Grafham and want more information please contact one of the following Grafham CC members and players.

Club Captain: Adrian Love 01480 811827
Club Vice Captain: Ben Dickson 01832 710701
Club Treasurer: John Fozzard 01480 812021
Club Chairman: Chris Dighton 01480 811862

Pre Season nets have been organised at St Ivo Leisure Centre, Westwood Road St Ives Cambs for the following dates:-

Sunday 30th March 12.30pm to 2.00pm
Sunday 6th April No Nets
Sunday 13th April 4.00pm to 5.30pm
Sunday 20th April 2.00pm to 3.30pm

There will be a small charge towards the cost of hiring the nets.
 Please come and join us.



sAs Save All Saints Association Grafham

More Gin Vicar?

An Evening Of Grafham Talent

Village Hall
 Saturday 17th May 8pm

Bar, Bread and Cheese
 only £7 towards SAS fundraising

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 now have an encouraging number of promises of turns. But we would like more. So we still need YOU to complete the bill. **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 to

Karen Stewart 810961
 Jane Stewart 810841
 Tina Theodorou 811366
 Keith Gowen 810995
 Lynda/Robin Yeomans 810440

Tickets now on sale from

Karen Stewart 810961
 Keith Chisolm 810694

Looking Ahead Problems of performers' availabilities for the **Strawberries and Fizz Concert** have caused a move from 14th to the evening of **21st June**, when it will be led by **Huntingdon Swing Band**.

View from the Pew!

We were blessed with a large congregation for our traditional Mothering Sunday Service. Our thanks go to Vera Arnold who was with us. Vera is 92 years young and still verger of St Mary's Church, Godmanchester. She and her sister Joan are the only surviving members of a family of fourteen brothers and sisters. Vera and four of her sisters were in service as young ladies. She told us about what life was like during that time, and how often the girls managed to get home to see their mum. We also offer our thanks to Hazel and Diana for assembling the pretty floral tributes for the ladies. The Simnel Cake and Wendy's Welsh Cakes soon disappeared too - so all went to make for a very enjoyable and memorable service.

Ten people met weekly in Grafham during Lent and studied the Lords Prayer, led by our Rector, Jonathan. It was a thought-provoking, worthwhile course which also provided time for warm fellowship, aided by a roaring log fire! Easter is behind us now, and we pray that you all had an enjoyable and refreshing time.

Note for all young people of 12 years plus of our village: Why not come along to 'The X Factor' - Multi Media Youth Event at Leighton Bromswold Church on **30th March at 6.30pm**? (See separate ad for details) The evening will feature a variety of acts as well as music from a local Christian Youth Rock Band. Sounds like this is going to be worth experiencing!

If you were not able to join us in the pews over Easter you will be most welcome at our **Family Service on 6th April** when Mary and Phil will be organising an **Easter Egg Hunt! Children will be especially welcome.**

Yes - despite the earthquake and high winds your church is still standing! By the time you read this, a Faculty Application will have been submitted to obtain permission for exploratory work to proceed later in the year. This will hopefully determine the cause of the crack in the church.



Read the Grafham Gossip in colour on the website. Join our mailing list and receive a link by email as well as a paper copy through your door!

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

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

Dr Bundy has left us as planned, at the end of February on maternity leave and we eagerly await news of the safe delivery of her baby. Whilst she is away, her work will be covered by Dr Alexandra Steffes and we very much hope she will enjoy being part of the team.

By the time this letter is published, new blinds will have been fitted in the surgery and all that remains to complete the renovation is the choice of pictures. As noted last month, there will be a competition to choose the best four photographs of local views, so please submit your pictures on a CD to the surgery and the Patients Association Committee will choose the best. These will be printed onto canvas blocks and will hang in the Waiting Room - please do include your name so that they can be attributed appropriately. The closing date will be the end of April so there is just one month to go and we would welcome as many entries as you can give us!

Patients attending the Buckden Surgery during a week in February were asked to complete a questionnaire about all aspects of their visit and their overall experience of the surgery. The results have now been collated and show a high level of satisfaction, well above the national benchmark figures - please do see the copy available in the surgery. Initiatives to improve telephone access and to reduce patient waiting times have proved effective with a significantly increased approval rating since the previous survey.

As patients we can continue to play our part by avoiding routine telephone enquiries between 8am and 10am and, when booking appointments, remember the maxim 'one problem, one appointment' so if your problem is complex please book a double appointment.

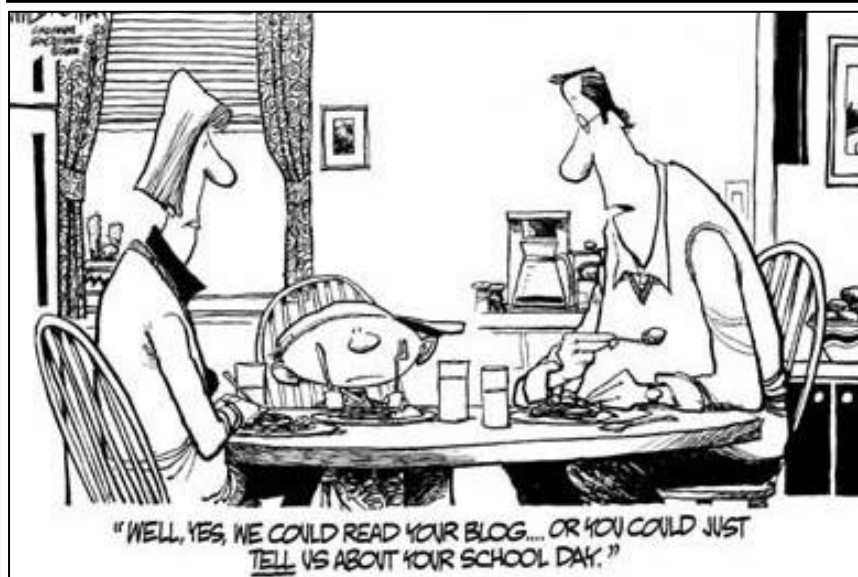
On the wider front, the Primary Care Trust [PCT] has decided that the Cambridgeshire Darzi Walk-in Health Centre is to be opened in St Neots and it will be open from 8am to 8pm seven days a week. Obviously some people may find this useful but it does need to be put in the context of GP services generally and specifically in the context of the allocation of limited resources and value for money. These centres will be run by the least expensive doctors and there will be little or no continuity of care i.e. a different doctor each time you go. Please remember that after extensive research, 84% of people are satisfied with their GP availability. GPs are a highly valued and cost effective branch of the NHS. Consultations in walk-in clinics and those using NHS Direct cost more than the same consultation with your own GP, and, in many cases these initial consultations lead to a referral back to the patients own GP - which more than doubles the cost. There is strong evidence to suggest that it is predominantly the 'walking well' who use these new clinics, whereas the elderly and chronically sick and those with complex problems remain with their GPs thus distorting the patient balance within a practice. I believe that these centres will significantly destabilize general practices throughout the areas in which they are to be set up and that will have a detrimental effect on local GPs who have invested their professional lives in their practices. Commercial firms are determined to be involved and indeed Boots the Chemist already employs the former Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt as an advisor. Is this the start of selling off primary care to the private sector?



These new clinics are going to cost an enormous amount of money to set up and this can only come from money already allocated to the PCT's budget - there is no new money for them. At our local level, we can see from where this money is being taken. So, when our GPs are taking care of an increasing number of acutely ill patients needing careful monitoring and regular blood tests etc. the PCT is unwilling to pay for the nursing staff to do this work. The surgery used to have four part-time district nurses, but now the PCT will only employ two part-time nurses who have to work extremely hard with the increasing workload they are given with increasingly early discharges from hospital. On top of that, we have lost our Health Visitor as well, and so we now have to be covered from St Neots. And, despite a detailed audit justifying the urgent need for more nurses, for the last two years the PCT has failed to finance the costs involved - and matters are getting ever more acute.

For original article see www.bandlp.co.uk

Sue Paul



"WELL, YES, WE COULD READ YOUR BLOG.... OR YOU COULD JUST TELL US ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL DAY."

I Meant To Do My Work Today

I meant to do my work today,
But a brown bird sang in the apple tree,
And a butterfly flitted across the field,
And all the leaves were calling me.

And the wind went sighing over the land,
Tossing the grasses to and fro,
And a rainbow held out its shining hand -
So what could I do but laugh and go?



Richard Le Gallienne

Have you seen this creature?

Is this a relative of the Loch Ness monster, living in our very own Grafham Water, or could it just be a grey (and very large) swan? If you should spot a strange creature when you next visit the reservoir, please let us know erofeb yaddim no eht tsrif fo lirpA! *Editor*



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am on Wednesday, April 9th at Pat Watson's, 10 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 Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club



8 pm Tuesday 25th March with Robin and Linda Yeomans
26 The Wyvern tel: 812440
8 pm Tuesday 29th April with Tina Theodorou
5 Home Close tel: 811366 **All welcome!**

Grafham Fun Day

The Fun Day this year will be on **Sunday 7th September 12 pm til 5pm**

Put the date in your diaries now!

If you would like to help with the Fun Day in any way please ring Jill on 811516 or Katrina 810297



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**. For details call Hazel **01480 810326**

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. For details ring Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



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**. The hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities and **a playing field for sports activities**.



For more details, 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 for disabled people easier. For further details phone **01480 432793**



The first of April is April Fool's Day!

*The first of April, some do say
Is set apart for All Fools' Day;
But why the people call it so,
Not I, nor they themselves do know.*



(recorded in Poor Robin's Almanac 1760)

Remember you can only play tricks before mid-day or you become the fool!

*April Fool's gone past,
And you're the biggest fool at last!*

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**

Kirsty Elliot -babysitting course - Age 15 Tel: **810550** **Kate Kelley** -babysitting course - Age 15 Tel: **812179**

Felicity Jenkinson - Grade B GCSE Child Development - Age 17 Tel: **812328** **Anna Fozzard** - Age 15 Tel: **812021**



Aromatherapy Massage

Massage is a very practical way to relax, help the body to function better, to de-stress and to improve sleep.

I am trained and qualified in aromatherapy massage; I use a short consultation to choose oils to suit the person's needs at the time.

- You can choose from:**
- Foot and hand massage **£7**
 - Shoulder, neck, back and arms **£10**
 - Both the above or whole body **£15**

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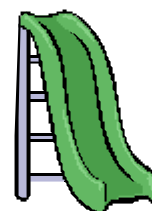
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CGP Revision Guide: GCSE Business Studies

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

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

April 18th, May 15th

Thank you for all your contributions!

Editors, Grafham Gossip

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

To advertise e-mail us:

gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Advert size depends available space