

# Grafham Gossip

Issue 47 Deadline: *Midnight Thursday 15th May*

## Grafham All Saints

4th May (1st Sunday) - 11.00 All Age Worship including Well/Font Dressing and also the introduction of our Birthday Club!

11th May (2nd Sunday) - 11.00 - Child friendly Eucharist for Pentecost

18th May (3rd Sunday) - 8.00 Eucharist  
11.00 - Service of the Word

25th May (4th Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist

1st June (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - All Age Worship with Baptism

Everyone welcome - we are a friendly bunch!

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



## Editors' note...

As May approaches it looks as if Summer may be on the way! Let us know what's happening in and around the village.

Just to keep you informed, as this issue is about to go to print we've heard news of a 'flasher' on the cycle track close to Grafham.

**Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk**



## Model Railway Show



Saturday 10th May  
Village Hall  
Brampton Road  
Grafham  
10:30am - 4:30pm

Five Working Layouts from N to 0 Gauge including Helston (3mm) & Kings Wharf (N) plus Light Refreshments

**Admission: Adult £2 Children £1 Senior Citizen £1.50**

All proceeds to All Saints Parish Church Urgent Restoration Fund



## SUNDAY 4TH MAY

**COME AND JOIN IN AS HISTORY IS MADE!**

**GRAFHAM CHURCH 11AM FAMILY SERVICE**

**CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A 'FONT DRESSING' CEREMONY EVERYONE WELCOME!**



## Calling Local Cake Bakers

Val Hunt would love you to **bake a cake** for her Buffet Car at the forth coming **Model Railway Show** which is raising funds for urgent restoration work needed at our Parish Church.



**Val can be contacted on 01480 812390**  
Please help as the fund needs to raise £60,000

## sAs Save All Saints Association Grafham

There are only two weeks to get your tickets for a not-to-be-missed evening of splendid entertainment at **More Gin Vicar?**

Come for a sociable evening with your friends and neighbours . Be entertained, charmed, amazed, amused, stunned and impressed by the incredible variety of talent to be seen and heard. With more than a dozen acts, a Ploughman's included and a bar it's much better value entertainment than TV.

**Tickets now on sale from :** Karen Stewart 810961  
Keith Chisolm 810694 Lynda/Robin Yeomans 810440

**PS If only...** You may have read a local news sheet that gave the good news of a grant by Grafham Parish Council of £300 towards the All Saints restoration. But to put the record straight, SAS are hugely pleased that this takes their fund-raising over £1,500 in less than six months, rather than the £15,000 reported. This means that on your behalf we will be able to make a worthwhile contribution to the cost of the investigation to be carried out later this year. Much of the bulk fund-raising for repair will still need to come from the future grants applications being planned by All Saints Parochial Church Council.

## More Gin Vicar?

Village Hall Saturday 17th May  
**7.45 for 8 pm start**

more than a dozen acts!

Drums Guitars Saxophone  
Singing Circus Dance Accordion  
Odd Odes Magic Drama  
Bar

**only £7** including Ploughman's Supper

## PARISH NEWS... April 2008

Planning permission for the fence and lighting around the all-weather sports facility has been granted. There are to be slight amendments to the type of fencing and the lighting will be down-lights which will minimise upward spillage. This is a significant step in the process.

Trees are to be supplied by the District Council to replace the bramble cleared in the hedge in Brampton Road. Also, willow sticks are to be provided which will, in time, form a living fence. Bramble regrowth will then be managed annually. The Grafham Conservation Group is too busy with other projects to manage the hedge so an alternative solution will be sought.

The Ash tree removed from the hedge at the playground will be replaced by an Ash but further away from properties.

Councillor Allingham has details of a bulk buying scheme for heating oil. If you would be interested in taking part in such a scheme please e-mail Jill Allingham at [allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk).

Discounts of up to 5p per litre may be possible.

The next Parish Council meeting is the AGM and will be held on 13th May. The Annual Parish meeting (APM) for villagers is traditionally held immediately before the AGM at 7.30. This is your opportunity to attend and find out what the council has achieved during the past year, how funds have been used and to ask whatever questions you may have.

**Margaret Life**, clerk to the PC

*Full minutes can be found on the village website. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 13th May at 7.30*

*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](mailto:margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk)

**Philip Allingham** chairman **01480 811516** [allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk)

**Ian Gardener** **01480 812821** [ig@ascgeomatrics.co.uk](mailto:ig@ascgeomatrics.co.uk) **Katrina Goodwin** **01480 810297** [goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com](mailto:goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com)

**Dan Hart** **01480 819086** [dchart.hart@btinternet.com](mailto:dchart.hart@btinternet.com) **David King** **01480 812430** [davidking@hawkeyesystems.com](mailto:davidking@hawkeyesystems.com)

**Mike Tyler** vice chair **01480 811244** [mtyler@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:mtyler@bedford.gov.uk)



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Not such a good month.

A small holding in Church Road has had two break-ins with damage and theft - this is now an advanced matter with the police and no further comment can be made. The car registration number was obtained which has assisted the police with their enquiries.

Criminal damage to a vehicle in Brampton Road.

Three break-ins and burglaries in Brampton. One of these was forced entry and an attempt made to steal a boat valued at £30,000. However, they were disturbed. Also in Brampton three youths were seen throwing an object at double glazed windows causing damage.

There has been a lot of press concerning identity theft and up to date advice has now been issued:

"Consider registering with the CIFAS Protective Registration Service. CIFAS Protection Registration may be placed by individuals against their own address when they have good reason to believe it may be used by a fraudster, for example, when a passport has been stolen. For a full explanation of the CIFAS Protective Registration Service, go to <http://www.cifas.org.uk> and follow the link to Protective Registration. Alternatively you can phone **0870 010 2091** (Mon-Fri 8am-9pm Sat 9am-5pm)"

The following announcement has been issued by PC Mark Barry who is from the Huntingdon Neighbourhood Team:

"As you are all aware the spring and summer months are approaching, this generally means that young adults, teenagers and children stay out later, have parties, drink and increase their social activities. In some cases this can lead to additional anti-social behaviour from drunken youths being loud and aggressive, and to criminal damage.

This behaviour needs to be reported to the police so that we can act on it and progress other avenues in order to put a stop to this behaviour. In some cases it may mean giving various trouble makers Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and monitoring their behaviour over the next six months. In other cases it may be that visible presence or the CCTV van can be used to deter any unwanted behaviour. But, in order to take positive action like this we need your help, we need accurate descriptions of offenders for example: hair cuts including colours/styles, makes and colour of clothing, types of hats worn, colour of trainers, height, build, if they are carrying anything, are they on bikes, do you know their names? Did you hear them calling out names? Do they have vehicles? If so the registration and colour would be required. All this information may help the police and PCSOs to identify the individuals and take the necessary action. Thank you for your help."

Finally - last month I reported the two males seen walking around with a horses and a dog - this turned out to be a false alarm as the people in question were guests of someone living in the village!

All incidents should be reported in the first instance directly to the police and not me

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

**Police Control room: 0845 4564564 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](mailto:Jamie2701@aol.com)



## View from the Pew!

The scene was one more associated with idealised Christmas card views - but it was Easter day! The snow lay deep (in places), crisp and even. Who on earth was going to turn up to church when the alternative might be an extra long lie-in due to 'the wrong kind of snow' or a chance for a long-awaited snow-ball fight? Forty Grafham folk along with visitors chose to fill the pews on Easter morn and the first sight that met their eyes was the realistic Easter Garden (picture on p 4) skilfully built by Emily, Lottie and Holly. Once inside, there was more beauty to behold in the form of the wonderful floral displays lovingly assembled by the flower-arranging team. The barren Lent weeks were behind us at last and led by our visiting priest, Revd David Cockerel, we were able to shout with great joy, that 'He is risen indeed, alleluia!' Angie spoilt us and supplied the chocolate that some of us had forgone over those 40 days. Thank you to everyone who participated in making the church so welcoming and full of Easter joy. As far as the Church of England is concerned, Eastertide goes on for weeks. So, it was not out of order to be having our Easter Egg Hunt on 6th April. This was Mary and Phil's idea - and no one was going to disagree with them! Again we woke to a covering of snow - but again the church was soon full and buzzing! Congratulations to Nathan who bagged the whopper prize egg. All the children found loads of hidden eggs and apologies to parents who tried getting their offspring to eat lunch afterwards! Adults took advantage of the sunshine to 'help' find the eggs and before long everyone was back in church pitting their wits against Emily and Jill's word-search. The service was rounded off by our usual chance to chat over coffee, supplied by Frances and Paul. A big thank-you to everyone who made the service such fun - especially to Mary and Phil who worked hard in preparing the hunt. Make sure you come along to the **Family Service on 4th May** where history will be made when everyone has a chance to participate in 'Font Dressing' (See Advert). Then, on **11th May, our Eucharist service for Pentecost** will be one where all ages will be particularly welcome.

We have had a 'thank you' letter from the Children's Society for the £34.60 raised via the collecting tubes after our Christingle Service. Well done everyone.

We have now heard from the DAC with permission to do the exploratory work needed to ascertain what is causing the crack in the church. Sadly, we read that the District Council has not seen fit to help us out with a grant to help towards paying for the exploratory work. However, we give our grateful thanks to the Parish Council who has given £300 towards the cost and its three cheers for the SAS who have vowed to carry on their sterling work of fund raising. We are all looking forward to the planned events very much.

**On sale NOW** - don't forget to check out the plant table in the church porch. Over the weeks, there will be even more plants for sale at very reasonable prices - proceeds in aid of church funds. **Contact Jill Tyack** for details. Rumour has it that our re-elected Churchwardens are trying to source some low exhibition screens and a small bookcase. If you know of anyone who has any - surplus to requirements - please let one of the Churchwardens know. Now what are they up to?



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

It is an absolute joy to begin with really good news! Doctor Emma Blundy gave birth to a healthy baby boy on Sunday 6th April at 11.45pm, weighing 8lbs 7ozs. He is to be called Seth Joseph and both mother and baby are doing well.

We welcome Michaela Giles working with Wendy as a phlebotomist. At about the same time one of our practice nurses, Sharon Wagstaff left and her job is being advertised, but the current market for practice nurses is not good.

The chiropodist is available on alternate Thursday mornings, so please bear that in mind when booking appointments. The formal announcement about the Darzi Polyclinic, open seven days 8am to 8pm for registered and walk-in patients to be built in St Neots, should be viewed with some reserve I feel. The expansion of these clinics is not conducted as a result of evidence-based proof of their success, nor as a result of robust political debate but more as a policy move towards creeping privatisation. Commercial companies are very anxious to be involved and actively tender to run these clinics. They are not motivated by a sense of philanthropy but by the need to generate profit for their shareholders. Our GPs are subject to a comprehensive annual audit by patients to quantify their performance and there exists evidence confirming their 'value for money'. No such evidence has been forthcoming on Walk-in Clinics. Without an equally detailed audit, comparisons are impossible and the justification for their extension highly questionable. What evidence does exist suggests they are used primarily by the 'walking-well' whereas the elderly, chronically sick and patients with complex problems remain loyal to their GPs, thus destabilizing the delicate balance within a practice.

In a further recent development, the government is proposing a much wider role for pharmacies to diagnose and treat minor illnesses and care for diabetic patients etc. This will require new treatment rooms, staff and equipment and it seems unlikely that small pharmacies will be able to afford this - once again the larger super-markets and drug companies are likely to benefit.

If all these developments go according to plan, they will erode the natural balance and number of patients going to their GPs and change what we think of as primary care at the surgery level beyond all recognition.

I conclude with the last part of a letter I have sent to Mr. C Banks, Chief Executive Officer of Cambs Primary Care Trust. "Since resources would appear to be limited, could you please explain why so much is being spent on the Clinic in St Neots and why, despite a detailed Audit in 2006/2007, you have been unable to provide money to pay for our Practice's entitlement of four part-time District nurses instead of just two and why we have recently lost our local Practice Health Visitor?"



For original article see [www.bandlp.co.uk](http://www.bandlp.co.uk)

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**

## Grafham Fun Day



The Fun Day this year will be on Sunday 7th September 12 pm til 5pm. If you would like to help any way please ring **Jill 811516** or **Katrina 810297**

**Put the date in your diaries now!**

If you are able to donate any raffle prizes - maybe vouchers for local services or anything suitable please contact Julie **julie@luxuryholidaysabroad.co.uk** or tel **01480 819326**



There is also to be a Flower Festival in the church Sat 6th - Sun 7th September and a historical photographic display by Sam Malt and Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group. **More details to follow!**

## VOLUNTEERING

- ....a way to meet new people
- ...a way to get more involved in your local community
- ...a way to develop new skills
- ...a way to use your time and skills for the benefit of others

### WANT TO KNOW HOW?

Come to the  
**Volunteers Week Celebration Event**

at Saxongate, Huntingdon on 7th June 2008 10am - 2pm  
to meet volunteers and staff from local organisations  
and find out how you can get involved

or phone your local volunteer bureau on  
**01480 414766**

**MAKE VOLUNTEERING A WORTHWHILE PART OF YOUR LIFE**

## GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

Our present treasurer, Steve Booth, is moving on to other things and the Village Hall Committee requires a volunteer to manage the accounts. The task is not overly onerous - monthly hire income to be paid into the account and expenses to be paid by cheque. The committee only meets 2/3 times a year to review policy and set the hire rates. If you would like to know more please contact **Steve** on **811952** or myself.

**Alan Watson, Chairman 811166**



## Grafham Bookworms Social, Film and Debate Club

The next meeting is at 8 pm Tuesday  
29th April with Tina Theodorou  
5 Home Close tel: 811366  
**All welcome!**



## ELLINGTON GALA - JUNE 28TH MORE DETAILS NEXT MONTH!

### The Friends of Buckden Towers

are holding their annual **Plant Sale** on **Saturday 24th May from 11am – 4pm**. Admission is £2.50 (children free) and there is ample parking – all funds raised go to the restoration of Buckden Towers. Further information can be obtained from **01480 810344** or **http://www.fobt.org.uk**

*Send us your news, views and gossip!  
Email: [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)  
Please remember to check with the people in your photographs that they are happy for their pictures to be put on the website and printed in the Grafham Gossip.*

Pictures of the Easter Egg Hunt are on the website - Gadding About in Grafham!

Read all about it in 'View from the Pew.'



The Easter Garden



The Golden Egg!

**COFFEE MORNING**  
 In aid of Save All Saints  
 Association to be held in the  
 Village Hall  
 Friday 27th June  
 10.00am to 12.30pm



**TT Tours offers you a day trip**  
 to Hampton Court Summer Flower Show  
**Saturday 12 July 2008**  
 Coach leaves Grafham Village Hall car park  
**at 08.00 Leaving Hampton Court at 5pm**  
 Cost approx £30 - £40 p/p (depends on  
 numbers - minimum of 35 needed)



**OPEN HOUSE SALE DAY 27th April**  
 Jewellery, handbags and clothes for sale  
**10am - 4pm** at Tina's "Kalostone"  
**5 Home Close Grafham 01480 811366**  
 All welcome...please come along...lots of  
 fab jewellery for sale at greatly reduced prices  
 and refreshments provided!



**Price includes return luxury coach journey and Flower Show entry ticket. To reserve your place call**  
**Tina Theodorou 01480 811366 / 07711 012957 or email tina.theodorou@tiscali.co.uk by no later than 31May 2008**

**Grafham Social Committee**  
 invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents  
**10.30am on Wednesday, May 14th at Frances Knight's, 18 Church Road.**



**YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS YOU!**  
 Regional winners of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Green Award 2006 & 2007  
 Join Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group  
 Call Sam Malt on **01480 810844** daytime  
**01480 811654** evenings  
<http://www.grafhamconservationgroup.btik.com>



**The Mobile Library** (route L108/120)  
 visits **Breach Road, Grafham** on **alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05.** Visits are:  
**May 6th and May 20th.**  
 Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**  
<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>



**SAs Save All Saints Association Grafham**  
**Looking forward to June 21st June 2008 from 7 pm**  
**All Saints Church and Churchyard**  
**A Swinging Summer Strawberry Serenade**  
 In the beautiful surroundings of our medieval church  
 On a blissful warm summer evening  
 Come with your friends and enjoy

- \* the sounds of Huntingdon Swing Band
- \* Pablo instrumental and vocal group
- \* strawberries
- \* a glass of fizz
- \* extra fizz to buy

**All for £10 (students £8)**  
 Tickets obtainable May onwards from:  
**Karen Stewart 810961**  
**Keith Chisolm 810694 Robin Yeomans 810440**  
 Outside and/or inside depending on the weather

**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**



**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**



**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**  
**Emma Robson Studying childcare level 3 17yrs 811701**



**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**



## 'My Love For Dogs'



We offer dog-friendly, home boarding for your canine friend with home comforts and a secure garden. Holly, our beautiful golden Labrador puppy, loves to play with new friends. Rest assured your dog will have at least two long walks a day either on the nearby heath or in fields surrounding our village of Steeple Morden, near Royston. We are insured and police checked. Call **Amanda Bishop 07903 806 750**



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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 and a member of the International Federation of Professional Aromatherapists; I use a short consultation to choose oils to suit the person's needs at the time and combine this with Swedish massage.

**Gift Vouchers now available for any of the treatments**

Shoulder, neck, back and arms **£12**  
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## 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**



## Deadline Dates

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

May 15th June 19th July 10th

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

To advertise e-mail us: [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)  
Advert size depends available space. Community notices are **free**,  
business adverts cost **£3.00 per advert**, 50p of which goes towards **Grafham All Saints Restoration Fund**.

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**Calling all GCSE, AS, A2 students** Free to a good home! (Donations to Church funds gratefully received)

**Letts Study Guides:** GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Exam Secrets - Business Studies, GCSE Business Studies - Questions/ Answers **BBC Bitesize Revision:** GCSE Business Studies **Hodder and Stoughton:** Revise GCSE Physics **CGP Revision Guide:** GCSE Business Studies, GCSE Double Science - Physics, 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  
**Phone Jill on 811862**