

Grafham Gossip

Issue 49 Early Deadline: Midnight Thursday 10th July

Grafham All Saints

6th July (1st Sunday) - 11.00 All Age
Worship

13th July (2nd Sunday) - 11.00
Eucharist

20th July (3rd Sunday) - 8.00 Eucharist
11.00 Service of the Word

27th July (4th Sunday) - 11.00 Eucharist

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

Everyone very welcome including visitors and holidaymakers Please don't be shy - come in and join us - we love seeing new faces!



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

COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Save All Saints Association
to be held in the village hall
Friday 27th June 10.00am to 12.30pm



christian aid CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION

Thank you to all the people in Grafham who generously gave this year to Christian Aid by way of the door-to-door collection in the village. Thank you also to those who gave of their time to deliver and collect the envelopes. We raised **£330.60**, which is £34.00 more than last time. It is very unfortunate that Christian Aid Week comes straight after Save the Children and then Red Cross weeks, and we can all be forgiven for thinking "Oh not again" but Christian Aid makes a difference to many lives and every pound is needed and well spent. So, thank you again. Diana Thomas,
Grafham Christian Aid Committee

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**

Editors' note...

There's an early deadline date for the August issue, which must be ready for distribution before the school holidays. The deadline dates for the next few months are on the back page.

Thanks for all your letters; we have a full page this month!

Views outlined in the Grafham Gossip, including past issues, are not necessarily ours.

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



Junior Cricket Night

Grafham Cricket Club will be running a free junior cricket evening for boys and girls from ages 7 to 12 years. It will take place on the village playing field; the coach in charge will be Adam Dighton, who holds an ECB level 1 cricket coaching certificate. Also attending will be other members of the club, to assist and talent spot!

Tuesday 1st July Start at 6.00pm and finish at 7.30pm
Tuesday 8th July Start at 6.00pm and finish at 7.30pm

Should there be rain in the afternoon, the evening session will be cancelled as the rain makes the grass dangerous to practise on. Come and join us - it's a fun evening.

Adam Dighton 01480 811862



Save All Saints Association Grafham

sAs

Here is yet another big thank you to all who enjoyed and gave so many fine and varied performances at the **More Gin Vicar?** evening in the village hall last month. There really was an amazing range of talent, including some engaging singing and playing from younger members of the village, vintage performances on squeeze-box, guitar and saxophone, humorous monologues, magic both beguiling and gruesome and a rendition of 'Nellie The Elephant' whose like may never be heard again. It may have been the emotion, the laughter or the wine, but several of the audience were heard to promise (witnesses available) 'Next time I'll do a ...turn.'



We really do believe that everyone had a lot of fun - they also helped to raise a further £572 towards the SAS Fund. By the time you read this there will have been a Coffee Morning in the village hall and a Swinging Summer Strawberry Serenade in the churchyard (except that the weather forecast doesn't sound too helpful). So we hope to be able to make a really worthwhile contribution to the costs of the initial investigation phase of the All Saints' repair work.

PARISH NEWS...

June 2008 The Parish Council is back to full strength with the election unopposed of Mrs Tracey Ibbett. Tracey's contact details are included below with the other councillors. The pathway between Breach Road and Field Close/Alsyke Close has become very weedy and untidy. The council has decided to find out the cost of replanting the verge along this pathway with either grass or wild flowers.

Further information is coming to light about the plans for the chicken farm. The new owners have a five-year lease and are planning to cut the numbers of chickens housed by up to 30%, grow them over a longer period and allow them more freedom. The council hopes that, if this is the case, the environment there will be much cleaner and healthier for all concerned.

The compost giveaway proved popular and all the compost received was taken by residents.

The all-weather sports facility came a step closer this month with the completion of the purchase of the playing field. As a condition of the purchase, the land can only be used as a recreation facility for Grafham village for a period of 80 years.

Margaret Life, clerk to the PC



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

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

David King 01480 812430 davidking@hawkeyesystems.com

Mike Tyler vice chair 01480 811244 mtyler@bedford.gov.uk

Tracey Ibbett 01480 812310 Traceyllbett@talktalk.net

Grafham Cricket Club

May has been a good month for Grafham Cricket Club; all 4 games played in this month had been won leaving Grafham

top of Bedford League Division 2. To every upside there is a downside and June is not such a good month, as the two games played so far have been heavily lost.

The first game in June was against GGSG 1: played at Mowsbury Park Bedford on a pitch that resembled tapioca pudding, caused by heavy overnight rain. Nevertheless GGSG 1 amassed a score of 259 for 7 off 32 overs. Jack Sene and Tom Chester took two wickets a piece, but all the bowling figures made uncomfortable reading from a Grafham perspective. It was decided at the tea time talk that Grafham

could not make the runs, so we would go for batting points and deny GGSG bowling points. This Grafham did by cautiously batting to 78 for 5 off the allotted 32 overs, with Chris Brown scoring 27, ably supported by Jack Sene 16 and Adi Love not out 16. After this match Grafham were still top of the league.

The next game was against Lidlington; away. Early tight bowling by Adam Dighton and Ben Dickson kept Lidlington's openers tied down with Adam finishing on 27 for 2 off 10 overs. Lidlington gradually accelerated their scoring and finished with 222 for 8, with their score being built around their batsman number 4 Ian Temple who scored 104 not out. There was to be no repeat of last weeks' tactic of batting for points. The highlight of the Grafham innings was Colin Grundy's 29, who hit a massive 6 into the adjoining field. The other innings of note was Tom Clayton's 11, batted over a long period with the intention of delaying the inevitable, but in the end Grafham were all out for 86 off 29 overs.

The next home game in July is against Lidlington so perhaps July will be another May for Grafham.

Home games in July. **Saturday July 12th 2008 Grafham vrs Lidlington**

Saturday July 26th 2008 Grafham vrs Mowsbury Park

Chris Dighton: Club Chairman 01480 811862



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH On May 23rd over 150 youths gathered in Hinchingsbrooke Country Park and by 7pm alcohol had been confiscated from youths aged 14 – 17. The police believe their early intervention prevented any serious problems. Forty-eight GAP (Guardian Awareness Programme) forms were issued. Once a youth has received 3 of these, an officer visits the family. The police have said parents should be aware that action will be taken against children for misuse of drink. On some occasions the police have telephoned parents to collect very drunk children.

There are no reported instances in Grafham but there were four thefts from properties in Brampton.

Yellow Pages should give notice of directories being left on door steps to minimise attention drawn to unoccupied properties. **In the week starting July 4th deliveries will be made to the following postcodes:** PE2, PE5, PE7, PE8, PE18, PE27, PE28.

There has been an increase in vehicle thefts throughout the whole area – if you leave your keys in your vehicle your insurance may not be validated.

There will be an increase in Neighbourhood Policing over the next few months with both high visibility and plain clothes officers.

All emergencies 999

Police control centre 0845 4564564

Minicom for hard of hearing 01480 422493

Crimestoppers 0800 555111 (anonymous)

Anti social behaviour 01480 388379

To stop unwanted mail 0845 7034599

To stop unwanted phone calls 0845 0700707

James Snell 07951 069 565

email **Jamie2701@aol.com**





Grafham Fun Day



Sunday 7th September

At Grafham village hall and playing field PE28 0UR

Stalls - all the old ones plus lots more new ones!

Live music and shows

Climbing wall (from Grafham Water Activity Centre)

Visit from the Raptor Foundation

Bouncy Castle

Ploughman's lunches / cream teas

Kids lunch boxes

And much much more!



Donations of small cakes,
biscuits and scones on the day
would be very much appreciated

Donations of tombola and/or
raffle prizes can be given to
Val Hunt at 10 Church Rd



The fun starts at 12pm and goes on until 5pm,
so come along and enjoy the afternoon with us!

Proceeds from the day will go towards restoring the church

Flower Festival

There will also be a flower festival in the church over the
weekend of Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September.

The theme is 'Proverbs'.

For details call Jill Tyack 810157 or Hazel Powell 810326



Also in the church, over the weekend, Trips up the Tower...

... and on Sunday 7th September a historical
photographic display, with more new photographs, by
Sam Malt and the Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group
10.00 until 4.00



Letters to the Editors...

I have NO objections to the poultry farm

I note with interest the recent news in the June edition of the *Grafham Gossip* that you have finally hounded this local business into submission. I would like to point out that I have lived in Field Close for four years and have NEVER had issues with the so called sickening smell (apparently one villager was physically sick as reported in previous editions) and it has never been an eyesore in all the times I have passed it on my bike so please do not publish items in this manner as if they are the opinion of all as they most certainly are not.

As with all these things, such as the humps/thrumps fiasco, ill informed and ill advised people make decisions based on their own self serving interests.

The noise pollution from the thrumps FAR outweighed any that were supposedly from the farm. NONE of which I could confirm as again I have NEVER had any noise pollution issues regarding the poultry farm. Bizarrely enough poultry farms are common in rural areas so I would suggest those that find them so offensive might consider relocation to a more suburban area.

The reality is now this area will eventually be turned into more cottages as you quite clearly know, which in turn will lead to more traffic along a well used cycle route. Where exactly will you stand on the noise pollution issue then?

The problem with local rags such as yours continuing a vendetta against the poultry farm is that the alternatives are quite often less palatable but at this stage it is too late to leave well alone.

Kind regards, Spencer Burgess

What's there at the moment is not a farm. It's a factory.

I would like to reply to a letter from Teresa Hollands. It was printed in last month's "Letter to the Editors."

In her letter, Ms. Hollands raised some interesting points regarding the application for planning permission on the site where the chicken farm now stands. I would like to respond to the points she raised. **1. Development of agricultural land** Let's be honest, we all know what a farm looks like. What's there at the moment is not a farm. It's a factory. The site resembles a small industrial unit. It's not been agricultural land for more than twenty years.

2. More traffic and a change to the rural aspect I think there are more big lorries visiting the chicken factory at all hours of the day and night and driving through Grafham now, than there would be if the site had holiday homes on it. If the chicken factory were to close there would be no more lorries. The four big sheds that currently house the chickens can hardly be called "picturesque". A landscaped estate with lodges set amongst trees would enhance the rural aspect. It would look so much nicer. **3. Impact on domestic amenities** At the moment, the chicken factory has no impact upon domestic amenities, with no benefits at all to Grafham. Build ten more holiday homes, there will be more tourists. The little shop on Church Road may re-open. There would be more customers for all local businesses. It would have a positive impact upon domestic amenities. **4. Water resources** The chicken factory uses a lot of water. I mean a lot! Demand for water would decrease if there were holiday homes there.

That's a good thing, right? **5. Vermin relocation** This wouldn't be the first chicken factory to close down. Other villages have found solutions to the problems rats cause when their food supply is removed. There must be specialist out there to help deal with this. We'll soon find someone, it's definitely not a problem. The problem is not closing the chicken factory, it's keeping it. There's been problems with it for years. The smell can be unbearable. There are days when the stench is so bad it makes people ill. That's not an exaggeration. I know of one chap who is regularly forced to leave his place of work because he's been made to feel so sick. I know of three other people who have moved away to escape that stuff that floats in the air when they're cleaning out. I think it's a mixture of feathers, droppings and dead birds. It's not healthy whatever it is. So ten holiday homes on the site, would seem to me to be a much better idea. Who would, or could disagree with me? Then there's the noise from lorries and the fork lift truck during the night. You can forget about sleep. It usually starts about 11pm and continues till the early hours. Do farms make noises like that? Or factories? Or better still, holiday homes? I don't know of too many holiday parks who regularly have lorries and fork lift trucks on site, continuously revving their engines all through the night. Do you? **So my two wishes are 1- for the chicken factory to close down, 2 - planning permission by given to build a holiday park there.**

Tab Hunter



Beautiful village

I would like to say a big thank you to the Parish Council for appointing Martin Clayton of Shire Gardens to manage the upkeep of the grass within the village. I have never seen it looking so good, Martin obviously takes great pride in his work as can be seen. The seat he installed outside the church, together with the shrubs finishes the job to perfection. Well done!

Yours sincerely, David Anthony

If you have any views please email: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk Editors

View from the Pew!

By the time you read this, your church will have had many visitors again. The pews have been busy in recent weeks and we also witness a steady flow of casual visitors to this wonderful Grade 1 listed building. We all enjoyed being involved in Felix's baptism and there wasn't a spare pew-seat to be had! Yet another baptism is about to happen and a wedding of two of our regular worshippers. We wish them all every blessing and are so proud that they have chosen Grafham All Saints for their services.



Did you know about the 'children's corner' in the church? There are toys, books and puzzles for children to use during longer services, also a sofa and small chairs. We have a set of cloth bags on pegs near the 'children's corner'. Inside are small toys to be taken to pews should adults wish for their children to stay with them. The 'children's corner' is available during the day, so if you fancy a short walk, pop in and have a look.



Plans are in motion for a children's service each month. This may begin in the autumn - so watch this space for details. Yet again, our sincere thanks go to the 'Save All Saints' committee for organising the successful 'More Gin Vicar' event. It was an enlightening evening - so many talented people living in Grafham! It was superb 'value for money' entertainment along with the supper too. Well done to everyone - especially the young performers; Grafham is very proud of you all. Now we look forward to the Coffee Morning and the Strawberry and Fizz night - for what promises to be another entertaining evening.

The PCC now has three estimates for the exploratory work to find out the cause of the crack in the church. One estimate will be chosen shortly. The exploratory work alone will be costly so it is 'full steam ahead' with fund-raising. A recent nationally conducted 'YouGov' survey found that 66% of those surveyed agreed that they would be concerned if their local church fell into disrepair; 40% said their church plays a key part in their community's history and heritage. It is uplifting to read that so many people still see churches as significant buildings and worthy of saving.

Finally, don't forget to check out the plant / book stall in the church porch; and if it's a special gift your after - why not choose a Grafham Cookery Book - £5 - inside the church?

Ellington and Grafham W.I.

We meet on the first Tuesday in the month. For details ring Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



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**



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am on Wednesday July 9th at Pat Watson's 10 Field Close.**



GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

has a Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing, performing arts. The hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities and a **playing field for sports activities.** For more details or to book the hall **contact Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166**



Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group

<http://www.grafhamconservationgroup.btik.com>
 Regional winners of the BTCV Green Award 2006 & 2007 invite you to carry out woodland conservation. Contact Sam Malt **01480 810844** daytime **01480 811654**



The Mobile Library

route L108/120 visits **Breach Road, Grafham on alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05** Visits are: **July 1st, 15th and 29th.** Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**
<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>



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**



Spaldwick Primary School

Olympic Gymnasts Louis Smith and Daniel Keatings, and their coach Paul Hall, from the Olympic Gym in Huntingdon, visited Spaldwick School for a special assembly to help celebrate an ACTIVE Curriculum Week. During the week pupils and teachers took part in a range of sports challenges including Aerobics and Orienteering. Spaldwick Pupils have created their own Greetings Card Collection through 'Treefree', an environmental art project in which every child was able to submit a painting of a natural image. The final packages should be available for parents to buy at our annual Summer Fun Day.

After their performances at the Music For Youth Regional Festival at Bedford in March, twelve children aged 6 and 7 of the Spaldwick Blackbird Ocarina Band, led by music teacher Kirsty Body, have been selected to compete in the National Finals at Birmingham in July. The performers are already getting very exciting about playing at such an impressive venue and are hopeful of then being invited to play at the Royal Albert Hall!

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

Therese Ward has joined the Practice Nurse team and Heidi Bland the District Nurse team. They are both much needed and most welcome. We hope their stay will be both long and enjoyable.

For complete article by Sue Paul see

www.bandlp.co.uk

WINE TRAINERS TOURS

Inaugural Tour In association with
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Visit to **CHILFORD HALL**

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next few months are midnight **Thursdays**

July 10th, August 14th, September 18th

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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.