

Grafham Gossip

Issue 50 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 14th August

Editors' note...

Well, school's almost out and the busy summer time's about to start which can only mean that Grafham Fun Day's on its way! Be part of one of the traditions that makes Grafham the village that it is and get involved by helping out. See page three for more details. Would you like to view the *Grafham Gossip* in colour? Visit www.grafhamvillage.org.uk to download this month's and previous issues.

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk





GRAFHAM FUN DAY AND FLOWER FESTIVAL

SEPT 6TH AND 7TH - SEE P3 FOR DETAILS



Junior Cricket Night

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those children who attended the Junior Cricket Nights at Grafham and their parents who were able to bring them along. I am grateful for the support of club members and thanks also to Ian and the other dads whose help was much appreciated. Thank you for your gift which will be very useful when I start back at Uni. It was great seeing you all enjoy yourselves! The evenings were very successful, with over 30 children taking part each week; it was very encouraging to see the young players improve their skills so significantly during these practices. There are still some places on the follow-up 'Skills Plus' Courses that I will be running; information about those can be found below. Thanks again and keep practising - who knows, we might be able to form a junior team at this rate!

Adam Dighton Grafham Cricket Club - Level 1 Coach



Skills Plus Sessions

From the 5th August for four Tuesdays at 6pm I will be holding 'skills plus' sessions for children who would like to further improve their cricketing skills (**5th, 12th, 19th and 26th August**). Each session will last for one hour and ideally will have just 6 to 8 players. This will allow me to spend more time with individuals. For each hourly session there will be a small charge of £2.50 - payable on the day. If you would like to book a place please ring me on either of the contact numbers below. Booking will be on a 'first come first served' basis. Tel. Adam **07936140700** or **01480 811862**

If there is rain on the afternoon of the Skills Plus Session, the evening will be cancelled.



Grafham All Saints

27th July (4th Sunday) - 11.00

Eucharist

3rd August (1st Sunday) - 11.00 All

Age Worship

10th August (2nd Sunday) - 11.00

Eucharist with Baptism

17th August (3rd Sunday) - 8.00 Eucharist

11.00 Service with Baptism

24th August (4th Sunday) - 11.00 Eucharist

31st August (5th Sunday) - 11.00 Group Eucharist
at Barham for Barham's Patronal Festival

7th September (1st Sunday) - 18.00 Flower

Festival Songs of Praise - **No 11.00 service today**

Everyone very welcome including visitors and holiday-makers. 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

Volunteers needed

Cambridge Mencap is seeking volunteers to support a child or young person with a learning disability.

You could support someone to play games, enjoy arts and crafts, play in the park, go swimming, or just watch a DVD in the young person's home. Your support could help the young person develop their social skills, interests, independence and self-confidence, whilst also providing valuable respite time to parents and carers.

If you could spare a few hours one evening a month you could do something new or something you already do and enjoy, whilst making a BIG difference to a young person's life and a family's life.

Interested? Find out more by contacting
Robert Wallace, Volunteers Support Coordinator
Phone: **01223 883140** Text: **07835101621**
Email: **robert@cambridgemencap.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

Website: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk E-mail: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

PARISH NEWS...

July 2008 The all-weather sports facility became a reality this month with the award of the funds. Huntingdon Town Council is satisfied that all planning conditions have been met and the contractor is preparing to commence work very soon. The Parish Council hope that you will be able to see significant progress at the family fun day in September.



The goal posts on the playing field are in quite a poor condition. The Parish Council wants to retain goal posts on the field and will be looking at the cost of repair (if possible) against the cost of replacement.

Further recycling funds have been received and the bottle and paper banks are producing an income averaging £800 each year. This is valuable income for the village hall. So thank you for using the banks, please continue to do so.

If you use the footpath between Field Close and Breach Road you may have noticed that it has become very weedy and untidy. The Parish Council have costed the replanting of the verge along this path and will be having it re-seeded with grass which can be easily maintained.

Margaret Life, Clerk to the PC

Full minutes can be found on the village website. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 9th September 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@ascgeomatics.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** TraceyIbbett@talktalk.net

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

James Snell 07951 069 565

email Jamie2701@aol.com

During June and July there has been an increase of thefts, across all villages, of garden furniture, plants, pots and cycles, also a marked increase in car damage and break-ins. From cars the main item currently sought is Sat. Nav. systems - police advice is to remove the system from view when not in use and to consider a security device. Also, to keep a note of your stereo/CD player serial number.

The police are again reminding us not to keep car keys by the front door or in view through a window.

Recorded events in Grafham: break-in at Grafham Water Sailing Club, boat parts stolen; a Vauxhall Astra parked in Church Rd had radio/CD player stolen; a vehicle parked in Cedar Close, nearside rear window was smashed by vandals.

In neighbouring villages there was: a burglary at a property in High St Ellington; four break-ins at Brampton; nine in Huntingdon; twelve in Godmanchester and two in Alconbury.

I have been asked to draw your attention to a new scheme "SMARTWATER" which is a revolutionary property marking system that can be used by residents and businesses. SMARTWATER is an invisible liquid that can be applied to possessions; it acts as a "forensic fingerprint" which links owners to their property and criminals to the crime scene. The solution glows brightly under ultra violet light and is impossible to remove completely. It can be used to protect all valuables, e.g. mobile phones, jewellery, televisions, bicycles, computers, Sat. Nav. systems, DVD/CD players and garden tools. You can purchase individual kits from the SMARTWATER website which is www.smartwater.com or call their helpline on **0800 328 6268**.

I apologise for the delay in sending out new information packs. I will deliver them as soon as I receive them.

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



Grafham Cricket Club

Although this is the middle of the cricket season, Grafham has played no games since the article in last month's issue of *Grafham Gossip*. The main cause is the wet weather, but there are also fewer teams in the league, so not every weekend has a game. Cricket not being universally taught in government schools is having an impact at all levels of the sport. Not that you would have thought cricket was on the wane if you had witnessed the enthusiasm of the children on the Junior Cricket Nights.

So in search of a game of cricket Grafham travelled to North East Yorkshire to play its annual friendly game against Lockton. Needless to say Mother Nature had other thoughts. Travelling across the moors from Whitby, we went through a thunderstorm that surely was the herald to the start of Armageddon. The storm was on Saturday; the match was scheduled for Sunday. Cricketers are eternal optimists:



"If we get several hours of sunlight in the morning, and it does not rain; a game is possible."

Next morning started bright and sunny, but ended... Guess? The Lockton cricketers provided Grafham with a handsome tea of sandwiches, homemade cakes, cream and apple pie. This was eaten to the drumming of countless raindrops on the pavilion roof. "Next year lad, we'll try and do better with the weather," one of the Lockton cricketers said to me. It was not the wish for better weather that cheered me up, it was the fact I could still be mistaken for a lad.

Home game in August: **Saturday 9th August 2008 Grafham vrs GSG1**

Chris Dighton: Club Chairman 01480 811862

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



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
If you want to help out contact Katrina Goodwin 810297

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!

Unfortunately, the historical photographic display, by Sam Malt and the Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group, cannot take place due to lack of space in the church.



Letters to the Editors...

Wireless Security

It has come to my notice that there are some people in the village with little or no security who are leaving themselves open to abuse. The following is an extract from an article found on: <http://www.pcanswers.co.uk>

Many people consider wireless security a subject just for the paranoid, but without some kind of encryption, passers-by could be using your network. Even if you prevent them from obtaining shared resources, they could still connect to the Internet and download material, which could get you into trouble. WEP (Wired Equivalent Privacy) security was designed to be a light-touch encryption that gave similar protection to using a wired network. However, it's now relatively easy to crack. It's not a good idea to rely on WEP encryption for any length of time.

Wi-fi Protected Access or WPA security is a more secure choice. Most wireless kit is capable of supporting it, but you may need to obtain a firmware update for your router or access point to add this feature. Visit the manufacturer's Website to find out the details. For WPA support in Windows, you need to be using Windows XP with SP-2 applied or SP-1 with the WPA upgrade. The walkthrough shows you how to configure the router and your clients to use WPA.

Grafham villager

Chicken Farm

Would you please permit me the opportunity to respond to a letter previously printed in the *Grafham Gossip*. Having lived here for only four years, and a considerable distance from the chicken farm with only an occasional passing journey hardly constitutes a constructive comment. No doubt the *writer of the letter* is amongst the community of commuting villagers and spends very little time here! With the prevailing wind south westerly, most of the dust and associated smell blows across Westwood Lodge and the Caravan Site so he is hardly likely to notice it. There are many recorded instances of complaints from village residents lodged at Pathfinder House over the the last nineteen years, not four, and if he cares to investigate with the help of Peter Downes he will find this is a fact. The last operators of the farm, Sullivans, were fined many thousand pounds for permitting the fouling of the ditch during their clearing operations. They were also warned about leaving the slurry tanks uncovered and insecure. Proper method of control? Not likely! This is not a farm, it is a chicken producing factory! The current owners are going some way towards making the operation more tolerable, I hope they succeed where others have failed. Huntingdon District Council, in particular the Environmental Health department have recorded the noise volumes overnight to monitor the situation on many occasions. I live within 100 yards of Field Close and even I notice the smell, at times. I have no particular objection to the chicken farm, providing it is correctly operated, if this proves to be the case and the situation improves, great, then we can concentrate on looking after our village in other ways!

Grafham villager

Poultry Farm

I was really pleased to see that my letter in the June *Grafham Gossip*, elicited responses both for and against the change of use of the poultry farm. The aim of the letter was to generate debate and awareness of what might happen to our village and as the response indicated gave no indication as to whether I am for or against the development. It was simply a list of factual information.

Personally, we nearly didn't buy our home, because of the poultry farm and its presence probably devalues the house. We are very near neighbours and drive past it at least twice a day, but that doesn't mean that I would like to see the inherent character of the village change. Thus I will continue to consider any future development objectively and not simply from my own perspective.

If anyone has any views on how the village can monitor the situation, I'd be most interested to hear! I think it is important that the views of the majority are heard.

Teresa Hollands

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

sAs

Save All Saints Association
Coffee Morning
Thank you!



Thank you to all who attended the recent coffee morning. A wonderful amount of **£140** was collected which will make a valuable contribution towards the cost of the initial investigation of the crack in the church. Thanks also to those who made the cakes and to Pat Watson and Frances Knight who helped on the day. We will hopefully hold another coffee morning, possibly in December.

Are you interested in growing
your own vegetables?

Would you like an
allotment locally?

Please contact
Clint Thomas-Morgan

01480 812590
07799 640476



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am on Wednesday August 13th** with **Diana Thomas, Wesley House.**



Wanted

Someone to come and help with homework for a Year 7 soon to be Year 8 boy with mild learning support requirements. We are not looking for a tutor more of a mentor. Would ideally suit a Year 12 student, a teacher (working or retired) or anyone with an interest in mentoring a 12 year old boy. Rates of pay according to experience. Hours – ideally twice a week in 1 to 1½ hour sessions. Interested? Please phone **811279**

Ellington and Grafham W.I.

Join the growing team! We meet on the first Tuesday in the month for interesting talks, lively discussions, social evenings and outings in amicable company. Call Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



Grafham Church Flower Club

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



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: **July 29th, August 12th and 26th**
Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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

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**



Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

Flu vaccinations will be given at Buckden Surgery on Saturday 11th October between 8am and 2pm. You will be able to book from mid-August.

For the rest of the article see www.bandlp.co.uk

View from the Pew!



On 22nd June we were joined by family and friends of Helena and Rowley as they gathered to witness them both being baptised.

There are two more baptisms planned for August so the total of children baptised since June will be five. Colleen and Robert were married on 5th July. All music for their service was provided by a very talented ladies' string quintet. Colleen's gown was gorgeous and we marvelled at the huge rose-buds in the corsages! We offer our sincere thanks to Colleen and Robert for suggesting guests should forsake the usual wedding gifts in favour of making donations to the Church; the guests responded with amazing generosity, warmth and enthusiasm for which we are truly thankful. **Thank you all.**

The SAS' Strawberry and Fizz Serenade on 21st June was held in the church due to inclement weather. The church swayed to the sound of Huntingdon's Swing Band and then 'rocked' to the riffs of Pablo's Army. And the building is still standing! Yet another fantastic night's entertainment and judging by the comments and applause, no-one wanted the evening to end. Well done to everyone who gave their time to make this event so enjoyable. Also, on 27th there was a very successful coffee morning, enjoyed by many. We offer our appreciation to the hard-working SAS committee for organising these events and a huge 'thank you' to those who joined in the fun - all with the aim of raising money towards fixing the crack in the church. What is also so pleasing to hear is that these fund-raising events have provided a social backdrop for the creation of new friendships and the re-establishing of old friendships within the village. We look forward to welcoming as many people as possible into the church over the weekend of the **Flower Festival (6th/7th September)** and hope you can join us for the **Songs of Praise Service at 6pm on Sunday 7th after the Fun Day.**

Date for your diary: On 28th September we will be holding another **'Back to Church Sunday'** service. This is an ideal service for those who have not been to a church service for ages or for those who are yet to experience a service at Grafham All Saints. You can be assured of a genuinely warm welcome. (But you don't have to wait until then of course!)

Bookcase required. Is there anyone out there who has a fairly small bookcase they no longer need? If so, one of our Churchwardens would like to hear from you!

To everyone who will be travelling or holidaying over the summer, Grafham All Saints wishes you safe journeys and spiritual refreshment.

Babysitters Anna Fozzard 15yrs **812021**
Felicity Jenkinson -Grade B

- GCSE Child Development 19yrs **812328**
- Kirsty Elliot -babysitting course 17yrs **810550**
- Kate Kelley -babysitting course 15yrs **812179**
- Emma Robson Studying childcare level 3 17yrs **811701**
- Jessica Homewood - babysitting course 17yrs **810867**
- Danielle Meyer speaks French, help with homework 19yrs **811279**
- Marie-Claire studying child development 15yrs **811279**
- Olivia Sinfield Grade B GCSE Child Development 18yrs **811831**



Holiday Homes and Exercise for your Pets



If you are going on holiday and need somewhere for your small pets to stay, contact Holly Homewood on **01480 810867**. Price £1 per hutch per day but more than 2 animals in each hutch will be £1.50 per day.

Or if you have a dog but need someone to walk it then contact Lottie May on **01480 811203**. Price £2 per walk or £10 for 7 days.



Buckden Private Hire and Minibus Service

Also covers St Neots, Huntingdon, Brampton, the Paxtons, the Offords, Kimbolton, Perry, Grafham, Spaldwick.

01480 812929 0774 044 0969



A prompt, reliable, courteous service, local and long distance, hospitals, airports and stations, contract work



Had a quote? See if we can beat it!

Three six seat cars Eight seat minibus



organic vegetables from our farm to your door

move to a healthier, fresher diet of seasonal vegetables delivered free to your doorstep

our award winning vegboxes start from only **£7.90**

for more details visit www.rivernene.co.uk or call **0845 078 6868**



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 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**
Whole body **£17**

Carole Baber (M.I.F.P.A) 01480 810043 or 0776 666 2197

'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**

Send us your news, views and gossip!
Email: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk Please remember to ask permission from people in your photos before they are put on the website and printed in the Grafham Gossip.

To advertise

e-mail us: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Advert size depends on available space. Community notices are free, business adverts cost **£3.00 per advert**, 50p of which goes to the Restoration Fund of All Saints, Grafham



Independent

NUMBER

ONE

Local-based in Grafham

Travel Advisors

For a truly personal service and professional friendly advice on all your travel and holiday requirements

Call **Julie Turner** on
Direct Number : 0845 375 2132
Email : julie@holidayspecialist.co.uk
www.holidayspecialist.co.uk



Late Deals • Far Away Holidays • Cruising
City Breaks • Weddings & Honeymoons
Family Holidays • UK & Theatre Breaks



JEZ ASHCROFT

*Coving & Artexing Any Pattern Available
Tacking Sticking
Dry Lining & Decorating*

FREE ESTIMATES

Tel: home 01480 812461
mob 0770 803 1493



BSM Driving Instructor
DSA Approved

Living locally in Grafham
Call **John Sisseman** for details
Tel mob 07806 941675
office 01223 362727

Grafham Plumbing and Heating Services

The local choice

for all of your Oil Fired Boiler Engineering

including

**Boiler Servicing & Replacements
All Maintenance & Repairs Undertaken
Oil Fired Central Heating Installations
Oil Tank Replacement/Relocation**



No call out charges 9.00am - 5.30pm Mon-Fri

All Work Guaranteed

professional, friendly and reliable
01480 812590 - 07799 640476
c.thomasmorgan@dsl.pipex.com

Grafham Gossip

deadline dates are midnight on the following **Thursdays**

August 14th September 18th

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