

# Grafham Gossip

**Issue 55 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 15th January**

## Grafham All Saints

Come and join the celebrations!

21st December (3rd Sunday) - 8.00 - Eucharist

16.30 Carol Service (Note: No 11.00 service)

24th December (Christmas Eve) - 16.00 - Crib Service

25th December (Christmas Day) - 11.00 - Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

28th December - (4th Sunday) - No service at Grafham 9.30-Eucharist-Ellington 10.00-Sunday Worship Alconbury

4th Jan 2009 (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - All Age Worship

11th January (2nd Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist

18th January (3rd Sunday) - 11.00 - Children's Service

Featuring a Christingle Service for Everyone

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

1st Feb(1st Sunday) - 11.00 - Family Service - Candlemas

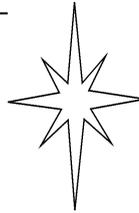
The Clergy, PCC and Congregation wish you all a very Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Christmas and New Year!

### Contacting the clergy:

Fr Jonathan Young (rector) 01480 891695

Fr Martin Kettle (curate) 01480 890284 or 07876 755587

Churchwardens: Jill Dighton 811862 Jill Tyack 810157



## Editors' note...

You probably received this month's issue of the *Grafham Gossip* through your door before Christmas and so we must say a special 'Thank you!' to our distributors for the great service provided throughout the year.

We hope all our readers enjoy the rest of the Festive Season!

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



## Children's New Year's Eve Party

**10.00 until 12 midday**

With Mr Marvell (aimed at under 8 years)

**£4 per child** to cover entertainment costs

Tickets from **Tracie Lord** – 2 the Wyvern  
**01480 819500 or 07598 330411**

Infants under 2 are free yet still require a ticket (for numbers)



## sAs Save All Saints Association sAs

### Burns Night Supper

**Saturday 24th January 2009**

**Grafham Village Hall 7.45pm for 8pm start**

**Bring your own choice of drink**

**Tartan encouraged**

The evening could be even better than the sell-out 2008 event, with everything you could hope for from the best of Burns:

- Piping in and addressing the haggis
- The traditional Scots 3 courses
- Toasts and entertaining speeches
- Music from the pipes to greet and entertain you



Most of the tickets have been sold but those remaining are now available to all comers from **Karen Stewart on 810961**

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**

## Happy New Year



### New Years Eve Party

(an event for the whole family, music and fun)

**Grafham Village Hall**

**31st December from 8pm**

**Tickets: Adults £5.00 Children Free**

Free soft drinks and nibbles  
Bring your own alcoholic drinks



For tickets please call **Jill** on **811516** (limited numbers)

## Five Parish Advent Fair

The Five Parish Advent Fair held on 22 November was a great success and raised £920.00.

Representing Grafham, Val,

helped by Jane, had a fantastic candle stall and Jill T. a wonderful craft stall.

Very many thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. **Sue**



## A Shepherd's Tale - 3

In the best tradition of chapter endings, the last instalment of Shepherds Tales gave warning of an impending visit to the Cambridge Vet School to test Dippy's (the ram) fertility. Complete with Ministry movement paperwork, I loaded the ram on a crisp Monday morning and then drove gently down to the Vet School on Madingley Road. There he was examined by four sympathetic ladies - two students and two qualified vets. Semen tests are usually done in late summer, this has two advantages firstly infertile rams are sorted out before tupping starts and secondly the air is warmer. This is important as semen is very temperature sensitive and the sample must be kept warm otherwise the sperm die. An electronic probe is used to stimulate ejaculation and a small sample is taken quickly to the lab for inspection through a microscope. Poor Dippy, two samples showed that he had a low sperm count and that the few active sperm were poor quality. The vets classed him as "unsatisfactory" which meant he was not going to be a reliable breeder. So at least I knew why the ewes had been returning. My next step was to track down an alternative ram.

Fortunately most pedigree breeders take a responsible attitude to these things and a quick phone call to the breeder from whom I bought the ram gained both sympathy and a solution.

He had another spare young ram which he had already used successfully and we agreed to a swap later that week. He also agreed to



buy Dippy back. So we now have a new ram - "Bendy Leg" - on loan. The breeder preferred him to Dippy and would not sell him. I am glad as while I am grateful for the loan I preferred "Dippy" and will take time looking for a new ram next year. As for Dippy - well the breeder was not going to rush him to the butcher - sperm counts can vary and he had a large enough flock to carry the ram for the moment. He was going to semen test his own rams for the first time next year, so having a known "low fertility" ram will be a useful benchmark. His other option was to treat Dippy as a teaser. Teasers are castrated rams who are used to stimulate and synchronise oestrous in the ewes. The ram's pheromones help stimulate oestrous. The teaser is placed in the flock for 48 hours and then removed. The ewes will then tend to come into season about 10 days later.

We are now expecting an extended and late lambing, I half suspect that Dippy may have successfully tupped one ewe but we will have to wait and see. The new ram has yet to tup any ewes but as I write some are due in season this week.

*Patrick Goldsworthy*

## CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES



A very big THANK YOU to all those of you who contributed to the Christmas shoebox appeal this year. As a village, we will be sending 42 shoeboxes to needy children in eastern Asia in time for Christmas.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful 2009.

*Moira Young*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

December 2008

I should like to begin by saying that everything that is published via me in this newsletter is information that I have obtained from the police.



Last month I was challenged by a resident who cast doubt over the validity of the Postal Scam item. Consequently I have directed them to the police for comment. However, I must state that the police still maintain this scam is ongoing.

Nothing has been reported in Grafham, but there were four incidents in Brampton - a window at a bungalow was smashed by vandals and two allotments were broken into; a bike and camping equipment were stolen. A window was also smashed at the side of a house, car keys removed, then a vehicle was driven away. No other reported incidents in adjoining villages.

There has been a spate of purse thefts from coats and handbags, notably in supermarkets in the Huntingdon and Godmanchester area.

There have been a number of reports of fake notes in circulation. Anyone with information should report this to Crimestoppers or the Police control room. In general the paper will feel stiffer and notes may contain the same serial numbers. We are told that they are very good fakes and contained the foil strip and some form of watermark. They were only identified when passed through the banking system. The foil can sometimes be a good give away and also the water mark. The colouring of the note can also look different.



The recent Neighbourhood Police panel meeting held on 27th November agreed that the priorities for the next quarter will be: anti-social behaviour in all areas, vehicle nuisance, and cyclists without lights on footpaths.

**James Snell 07951 069 565**  
email [Jamie2701@aol.com](mailto:Jamie2701@aol.com)

**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**

**Playtimes**  
Spaldwick

Breakfast club (2 ½ - 11yrs) Now open from 7.30am Mon to Fri

01480 890077

Playgroup sessions available for children aged 2½ to 5 yrs Mon - Fri 9am - 3pm

Mucky Pups (parent/ toddler sessions) Thurs 1.30 - 3pm

[www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk)

**Website:** [www.grafhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.grafhamvillage.org.uk) **E-mail:** [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)

### Sounds and sights from the hedgerow



Have you seen, and heard, that skein of geese flying in from the North East? Amazing sight and sound, probably been to RAF Scampton for formation lessons! Apart from the wonderful sight to see, it is wonderful to hear them honking their way along through the sky, probably sounding a warning to other birds, "Please move over, and let us pass!"

The amazing thing is they stay around most of the day and then take off at sunset. Again that wonderful honking and formation! I reckon it's Grafham's 'Reveille and Sunset' call! Did you know that geese mate for life? Also when in flight if one bird should drop out through illness or injury another bird will also drop out of the skein to accompany the injured or sick bird. If the accompanying bird has a mate, that mate will also drop out of the skein. I wonder if they navigate purely by their inbuilt compass or do they also navigate by sight?

The hedgerows are nearly bare of berries and feed for the smaller birds with the approach of winter, please do not forget to put some seeds and fatballs out for them, a small price to pay for such enjoyment watching their balancing acts and the way they form an orderly queue for the nut cages. Someone once told me that sparrows were rapidly declining, they should come and count those in my garden, guess they feel safe here along with the other birds!

Old Reynard was out this week at night, if you keep chickens etc please make sure they are shut away at night. I saw Reynard walking across the horse paddock in Church Road heading towards the field where Patrick keeps his sheep. Reckon he was looking for his supper too, (Reynard, not Patrick).



### Letter to the Editors...

Who is letting their dog foul the village footpaths?

Someone is, and it's disgusting. I walk around the village most days with my own dog and two young children and often return home having to clean the childrens shoes as they have stepped in dog mess **LEFT ON THE PATH**. Not in a field, or on a grass verge outside of the village, but right in the middle of a path on Breach Road or Cedar Close. It shouldn't be too much to ask that if you own a dog, be responsible - carry a bag in your pocket and clean up its mess please.

Regards, Sharon Boddington

If you have any views please email:

[gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk) Editors

### Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am on Wednesday, January 7th at Frances Knight's, 18 Church Road.**

This is purely an informal social occasion for retired residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat



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



For more details including hire charges or to book the hall contact Pat or Alan Watson **01480 811166**

### Grafham Church Flower Club

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8pm we meet in the **village hall** to learn how to make different floral arrangements for home and for larger displays. There is a **£2.00** charge per session. For details call Hazel on **01480 810326**



### Ellington and Grafham W.I.

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



### 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** evenings.

### 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** Qualified level 3 childcare worker 18 yrs **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**



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

Visits are: **Jan. 13th and 27th.** Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225** <http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>



### It's out at last! sAs

You've seen the show. You've drunk the wine. Now you can buy the CD! The live recording of "The Opera Babe (Faye Hart) and 30 Blokes" ( Vocal Academy) in concert is now available - only £5.00. Please ring **Keith Chisholm 810694** to order a copy - all profits to Save All Saints.



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## Grafham Gossip

The next deadline date is midnight on

**Thursday 15th January 2009**

Send us your news, views and gossip! Email: [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto: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.

## Grafham Water Visitor Centre

New for 2009

Come and try our new lunchtime menu

All your favourites including:  
Jacket Potatoes, Hot Baguettes, Fresh Sandwiches, and a selection of tempting cakes  
Open 7 days a week

**anglianwater**

## Aromatherapy Massage

Tight, aching shoulders or back  
Tired and lethargic  
Poor sleep  
Stress

Massage is a great way to have some me-time and to feel that you are taking care of yourself. Have a one-off treat, or a fortnightly or monthly maintenance.

Shoulder, neck, back and arms **£15** Gift Vouchers available  
Both the above or whole body **£20**

Contact Carole Baber on **01480 810043** or **0776 666 2197**



## Grafham Plumbing and Heating Services

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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



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