

Grafham Gossip

Issue 56 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 12th February

Editors' note...

We recently had a problem with our computer and unfortunately lost quite a few emails, so we are sorry that some articles or notices that you asked us to print may have been left out this time. Please email us again and we will put them in next month. Also while the Christmas season is fresh in your minds, what do you think about having a combined December/January issue next time? E-mail us your thoughts.

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



Grafham All Saints

1st Feb(1st Sun) - **11.00** - All Age Worship

8th Feb (2nd Sunday) - **11.00** - Eucharist

15th Feb (3rd Sunday) -

08:00 - Eucharist **-11:00** - Children's Service

22nd Feb(4th Sunday) - **11.00** - Eucharist

1st March (1st Sunday) - **11.00** - All Age Worship
(1st Sunday in Lent)



Be assured of a warm welcome at all of our services!

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**



CHILDREN'S SERVICE

At

**All Saints Church
GRAFHAM**

15th February at 11am

**A short service especially
for children**

Don't miss the fun!

Social Committee AGM

**Monday February 16th
8.00pm at The Cinnamon**

All welcome

Found

A pair of prescription glasses in Van Diemens Way on Tuesday 13th January.

They have a mottled brown frame and could possibly belong to a child/young person. **Tel: 810297**



Thank you

The Gibson family would like to thank everyone who attended Pam's service and for all the kind messages of sympathy. Over £1,000 has been generously donated to St John's Hospice in Pam's memory. It was also Pam's wish that £1,000 be donated to Grafham Church Restoration Fund.



Les Gibson handing over the money donated to St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger in memory of Pam Gibson.

District Councillors **Peter Downes** and **Patricia Jordan** are available 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**

PARISH NEWS...

Dan Hart has resigned from the Parish Council and moved to Australia. Obviously, there is now a vacancy on the Council. If you are interested in the possibility of becoming a councillor please let the Chairman or Clerk know. Contact details can be found at the bottom of this article.



The Council are aware that there is a problem concerning the safe and tidy disposal of rubbish outside the village hall. There has been a problem with rodents and the Environmental Health Officer has been called to the site. If you take any recyclables to the bins outside the hall, please be sure to either safely dispose of any boxes or bags that you have used or to take them home again. The Parish Council will be in contact with the District Council to confirm the collection arrangements for village hall waste and perhaps to arrange for a larger container.

Following a notice from the District Council concerning a Gypsy and Traveller Sites Development Plan Document consultation, the Parish Council has ascertained that there is very little possibility of such sites being located in the Grafham area. Priorities for sites will be the availability of local work, transport and a previous association.

Margaret Life, Clerk to the PC

Full minutes can be found on the village website.

You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly using the details below. Editor

Margaret Life Clerk to the Parish Council **01480 819477** margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

Philip Allingham Chairman **01480 811516** allingham@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk

Ian Gardener **01480 812821** idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk

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

David King **01480 812430** davidking@hawkeyesystems.com

Tracey Ibbett **01480 812310** TraceyIbbett@talktalk.net

Mike Tyler Vice Chair **01480 811244** mtyler@bedford.gov.uk

View from the Pew!

Since the last 'View from the Pew', we've had another baptism in All Saints. This time it was the turn of Ellen Platts, who was baptised on 23rd November. Welcome Ellen! The 'Remembering Our Loved Ones' service held on 30th November was well attended, despite the torrential rain. We remembered our loved ones who had died as we lit candles; a moving service with time to reflect on cherished memories in the company of friends from Marie Curie.



By 7th December, we were ready for the Posada (Holy Family) to begin its annual trip around the village. Behind the scenes, panic was mildly setting in; the exploratory hole in the north aisle still had not been filled in and the Aragon Singers were booked for a concert on 13th! Prayers were answered and the hole was filled in just in time. Dust was cleared (again). The concert was a festive treat for all the brave souls who combated the cold weather! Our thanks go to the Aragon Singers and to the SAS for a charming musical extravaganza. We also send our thanks to the SAS and the accompanying friends who braved the cold to serenade the village with carols on 17th. On 20th December we met to celebrate the life of our dear friend Pam Gibson, who died on 11th December. Pam had prepared this service herself and the church was totally full. Pam had been a keen supporter of her church here in Grafham and we shall all miss her smile, warmth, encouragement and generosity very much. We extend our love and support to Les, Angela, Sasha and Kenneth.

Pam had requested that the Flower Club would decorate the church with her choice of flowers. These strikingly beautiful arrangements not only provided a fitting memorial to Pam, but created a wonderful ambience throughout the Christmas season.

By the day of the carol service more holes around the church had been filled in and the safety fencing removed. Our thanks go to visiting organist, John Dillistone from Godmanchester for playing at this service, which was traditionally well attended, candlelit and followed by mulled wine and mince pies. This service set the atmosphere for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. In an informal and cheerful service, we heard the nativity story and helped make new prayer-chains to decorate the tree. The church was well attended for the Christmas Day Eucharist, when John Dillistone played again for us.

It is interesting and pleasing to note, that the Advent and Christmas Season attendance statistics for Grafham show steady parity over the years from 2006 onwards.

During February, our pattern of services remains unchanged. Why not come along to the increasingly popular Children's Service on 15th? This is a short service designed with children in mind but is equally engaging for adults!

If your New Year Resolution involved a change in dietary habits - but has sadly failed already, why not have a fresh start with the onset of Lent on 25th February!

By next month we hope to have received the structural engineers report on the findings from the exploratory work in church. Once we have this, we will have a better idea of what we are facing in terms of the work needed to rectify the cracking in the church, as well as how much it will all cost. Meanwhile, we have the bill for the exploratory work to take care of!

Be assured of a warm welcome at any of our services - especially if you are new to the pews in Grafham.

Save All Saints Association **SAs**

It has been a busy time for SAS with a very enjoyable Minstrels and Mince Pies concert, carol singing around the village in December and hectic preparations for a sell-out Burns Night Supper in January.

The highlights of the Aragon Singers' Minstrels evening were the varied range of superb singing and the fascinating treat of music from an expert at handbell playing. Mince pies were consumed in large quantities and over **£250** was raised.



A few days later eighteen hardy carol singers toured just about every street in the village, sang heartily, and enjoyed the feast of Christmas lights decorating so many village houses. The kindness of villagers meant that the collection produced **£142** towards church restoration work. I suppose the quality of singing may have helped too. Certainly it was heartening to see one toddler listening intently at a window, though it was also rumoured that elsewhere we were paid not to sing because another toddler was asleep.



By now the January Burns Night Supper will have been and gone. We know it was a sell-out, with 75 people sitting down to enjoy what, hopefully, will have been an evening as enjoyable as the 2008 Burns event.

It is now 15 months since the SAS was formed. We really appreciate all the support villagers have given the organization, especially by attending its events in such good numbers. We are pleased to report that we have now passed the **£5,000** mark in our fund-raising. **£2,500** of this amount has been handed to All Saints Church Parochial Church Council as a contribution to the costs of the 2008 investigation into the causes of the cracks. So whatever news the investigation report brings, we have already made as start on raising the further funds needed to remedy the problems.

Pancake Day



A Shepherd's Tale - 4

At last I think tuppung may have finished. I fitted a green raddle earlier this month and so far there appears to have been no obvious activity. The wax in the raddle crayon will have been very hard with the frosts so there is a chance that one ewe may have been covered but the mark is very faint. It's most likely that she did not move away quickly enough when the ram tried to mount her.



Southdown Ewe

At the same time as changing the raddle, we injected the ewes and shearlings (last year's ewe lambs) with a vaccine that covers a cocktail of seven diseases including blackleg, pulpy kidney and Pasteurella. The consequences of these diseases are dead sheep or lambs - often the first and only symptom - so it is well worth doing. The injections have to be given annually, although the first year of treatment requires two doses 4-6 weeks apart. As the older ewes have an uncertain vaccination history we have started them all afresh and will need to jab them again in late February. The injections are quite simple to give and placed under the skin in the neck area. The immunisation also gives some protection to new born lambs.

Getting the ewes in to check them, can be hard work without a sheepdog. Hitherto they have responded very well to the rattle of a bucket with sheep nuts but unfamiliar surroundings, a poorly positioned penning area and enough grass can make them less than cooperative. My poor wife, Ruth, has to act as my "dog" and I am afraid she has neither the sheepdog's innate positional sense nor its steely stare. So it often takes two-three attempts to pen the ewes and some verbal abuse. Ruth has the knack of not quite standing in the right place or moving at the wrong time, so I have resorted to giving her the same commands as I would my old sheepdog, although she won't lie down!

It's been fun doing the daily check in the frosty weather, the ewes are often still asleep and have frost on their backs and when they stand up there is large ewe-shaped green area, where they have heated the ground. Grass is in shorter supply and of lower quality now, but there is still plenty around for basic maintenance and certainly the nutritional quality is no better than hay. At this time of year it is normal for ewes to slim down a bit, however in the 6 weeks before lambing, rations are increased with sheep nuts to help grow the lamb(s) inside the ewe and prepare the ewe to provide plenty of milk after lambing.

Patrick Goldsworthy

In the UK, Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day because it is the one day of the year when many people eat a pancake. Pancake day is the last day before Lent. The custom arose through the need to use up food items, which were forbidden during Lent.

Lent is the time when Christians prepare for Easter by thinking of things they have done wrong. It lasts for 40 days and ends the day before Easter Sunday.

This year Pancake day falls on 24th February.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

January 2009

There was a theft of a cycle from a vehicle trailer parked in Grafham Water visitors car park on New Year's Eve. The cycle was padlocked and the padlock was cut off.



Tradesmen have been cold calling leaving members of the public stung with bad workmanship and large bills. A distinctive vehicle was seen, a blue transit van with an 02 number plate and a picture of Bob the Builder on the side, also a dark blue Ford Focus estate with a 51 plate. If you feel you have seen these vehicles or been approached please call 0845 456456 4

Four white males all wearing casual clothes (one had a scar on his right cheek) went into local businesses in Brampton on December 15th and tried to distract staff; overnight a shop was broken into. If you saw anything suspicious the police are asking for you to make contact. Also, six sheds/outhouses were broken into at the end of December in Brampton. On January 4th the hairdresser's was broken into overnight and items were stolen.

There have been incidents of animals loose on the roads across villages, causing disruption to traffic and risk to life - livestock owners are asked to check fencing is secure and if electronic, to check batteries are charged. Following Christmas we are being told not to leave packaging outside our property or in view as this alerts thieves of new goods inside the property. The advice is to destroy or remove from the premises all packaging.

A run of spam e-mails purporting to be from the Abbey National Bank are being received starting with the wording - "Dear Valued Abbey Customer" - the banks never ask for passwords by email or over the phone - if in doubt contact your branch immediately.

Another e-mail scam is being received from the Inland Revenue requesting verification of personal details to arrange a tax rebate. If you are in doubt or concerned about any correspondence please e-mail:

phishing@hrmc.gsi.gov.uk

There has been a very large number of reported thefts from vehicles parked in and around Huntingdon town centre over the period of this report - police urge to leave nothing in view whilst parked - even for a very short period of time.

Chief Constable Julie Spence of the Cambridgeshire Police Authority has published the "Policing Pledge" and it is available on www.cambs.police.uk/rss/podcasts/podcast.asp

PS Becky Mueller has taken over as the new sergeant for the Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) She can be contacted via the control centre; ask for NPT.

James Snell 07951 069 565
email: 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

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

Thank you to everyone who came to our coffee morning in December. The committee really appreciates your support - we raised **£70**.



Thank you also to everyone who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets at the surgery; **£652.20** was raised to support the local Magpas organization.

Dr Bundy has returned to work Wednesdays and Fridays. Dr Steffes, has been appointed on a permanent contract to work on Mondays and Tuesdays. Dr Sarah Henderson, a consultant dermatologist, has joined Dr Fagnoli to expand that aspect of the surgery's work.

Our Annual Patient Survey is due in January. Over a five day period, patients will be invited to fill out a questionnaire to enable the doctors assess patient satisfaction and establish where any necessary improvements could be made. Your opinions can influence the decisions, so your cooperation is invaluable. Also randomly selected patients will receive a survey form through the post in a government funded survey.

The PCT has withdrawn chiropody services at Buckden. Patients will have to attend either the Oak Tree Centre in Huntingdon or the Dumbelton Medical Centre in St Neots. We are assured that they will provide a better service with more Clinicians for longer hours and will, where necessary, provide transport. However, they have also reduced services available on the NHS and some patients may, in future, have to pay for treatment. So please check when you phone for an appointment.

Patients planning holidays in exotic places are reminded to organize any necessary jabs at the same time as they book the holiday - this will ensure that the appropriate vaccines are available in time to give the protection required.

Success! You may remember I wrote previously about a government proposal to radically change the way we get our prescriptions - it could have meant stopping surgeries dispensing medicines. The outcry was such that they have withdrawn the proposal.

This month, Dr Irwin and his wife will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, in aid of Leukemia Research. This is in memory of a good friend, Liz Burton, who died recently after a long battle with the disease. If you would like to donate money to this cause you can do so at the surgery or online at www.Justgiving.com/davidcharlotteirwin

The planned St Neots Darzi Clinic, you will be fascinated to learn, has been renamed the St Neots Equitable Access Clinic! Meanwhile the presumably less important decisions on site location and the name of the successful company to win the contract to run it, remains shrouded in mystery. More on this and Hinchingsbrooke Hospital developments next month.

Sue Paul

For complete article see www.bandlp.co.uk Ed.

Letter to the Editors...

Dog Fouling

In reply to the letter from Sharon Boddington. I believe the main problem is caused by children walking dogs for friends and relatives. The children do not seem to collect what the dog has dropped! Obviously I cannot say whether this is a could not care attitude, or if they are blissfully unaware of the problems it causes by leaving the mess. Some time ago I noticed a child with a dog in the pathway between Cedar Close and Church Road. The dog left a fair sized package on the path! As the youngster was on her own, as I was, I felt it inappropriate to approach her and say something. When she walked on I removed the offending item. Perhaps if us dog owners who let other people, mainly children walk the dog, we should make the child aware of the problem and how to rectify it.

David Anthony

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



The Mobile Library (route L108/120) visits
Breach Rd, Grafham on alternate
Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05.
Visits are: **February 10th and 24th.**
Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**
<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>

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GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

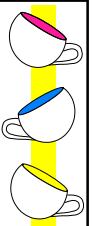
has a Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing, performing arts and can accommodate 92 guests seated in rows or 150 at a dance/disco - an ideal venue for children's and family parties. There is a playing field for sports activities and the hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities. For more details including hire charges or to book the hall contact :

Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday, **February 11th** at **Philippa Patel's, 3 Field Close**. 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 Church Flower Club

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8pm in the Village Hall we meet and learn to make different floral arrangements for display and in the home. If you are interested in helping with flowers in the church for festivals 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 in amicable company. For more details call Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



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**





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**Grafham
Gossip**

The deadline dates are
midnight on the following
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12th Feb, 19th March

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and gossip! Email:
gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk*

*Please remember to ask
permission from people in
your photos before they
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For hire we have 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**

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