

# Grafham Gossip

*Issue 57 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 19th March*

## Grafham All Saints

- 1st March (1st Sunday) 11.00 - All Age Worship (1st Sunday of Lent)
- 8th March (2nd Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist
- 15th March (3rd Sunday) 8.00 - Communion  
11.00 - Children's Service
- 22nd March (4th Sunday) 11.00 - Mothering Sunday Service (No Communion)
- 29th March (5th Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist (in place of last week's)
- 5th April (1st Sunday) 11.00 - All Age Worship for Palm Sunday



**Contacting the clergy:**

Fr Jonathan Young (rector) The Rectory, Ellington.  
PE 28 0AU 01480 891695  
Fr Martin Kettle (curate) The Vicarage, Alconbury.  
PE28 4DX 01480 890284 or 07876 755587  
**Churchwardens:**  
Jill Dighton 811862 Jill Tyack 810157

## Editors' note...

Well the snow's finally melted and with newborn lambs expected in Grafham - see A Shepherd's Tale, page 3 - signs of spring are slowly beginning to appear and hopefully March will bring some warmer weather as well as so many festivities - see page 2.  
Can you spot the big daffodils? Find them and colour them in! Who built the snowman on page 2?  
**Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk**



## **sAs** Save All Saints Association

Can you spot a sauterne?.... are you cunning on cheese?.....do you know your onions?  
Whether yes or no, come along anyway to a

**3 course**  
**Quizzical Wine and Food Night**  
**Saturday 28th March 8 pm**  
**Grafham Village Hall**  
**£7 in advance/£8 on door**  
**including tastings and supper**  
**Bar**

**Tickets from 810961/810694/812248**

The 3 course evening will start with Wine tasting Led by local wine trade expert Tony Burrin, leading to Ploughman's Supper followed by a Tasting Teaser Wine and Food Quiz.  
The quiz teams can be six to eight people. You can form your team in advance or join a team organized for you on the evening. There will be a bar with the tasting wines and other wine.



## **GRAFHAM FUN-DAY 2009** **YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!**



Yes, it's that time of year again; the committee for the Fun Day needs start planning for the Grafham Fun Day. This year it would be great if we could have some new members to bring new ideas for this year's event. If you are interested in being involved in the organisation and running of this years Fun Day please contact Jill on **811516**. The first meeting of the committee will be in March, so if you're interested please get in touch.

## **WHAT'S GOING ON? MORE INFO P.5**

- 24TH FEBRUARY GRAFHAM BOOKWORMS**
- 11TH MARCH COFFEE AM - RETIRED RESIDENTS**
- 15TH MARCH CHILDREN'S SERVICE**
- 17TH NEW MEMBERS EVENING - FLOWER CLUB**
- 22ND MARCH MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE**
- MORE ACTIVITIES ON P.5 AND THROUGHOUT!**



**Independence Day**  
**Safari Supper - 4th July**  
A date for your diary - more details soon

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**

# View from the Pew!



So far this year, 'light' and 'candles' have featured a lot in our services. We saw the impact of our lighted candles in our Christingles; we heard about Simeon's description of Jesus as being 'a light to the world' at Candlemas and we have seen the first lighting of our candle to commemorate the 900th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ely. Now Lent is upon us. **Our first service in Lent will be on 1st March** - which also happens to be St David's Day. This will be a Lay-led All Age Worship, where, not surprisingly, all age groups are very welcome and there are refreshments afterwards. **On 15th March we will be having another Children's Service.** Any children who would like something to do on the third Sunday of each month will be most welcome - and there are cakes afterwards as well!

Don't forget that **22nd March will be Mothering Sunday** so why not bring that special lady in your life along to this Lay-led, non-communion service. There will be floral tributes for all ladies and yet more cake no doubt! If you gave up cake for Lent - you can still come by the way, Mothering Sunday is also Refreshment Sunday and it is the one Sunday in Lent when you can relax your fasting rule!

In March, **there will be a fifth Sunday - 29th.** We will be having our communion service then instead of on the previous Sunday.

Do you ever think you would like to attend a traditional communion service where you have time to reflect in peace and tranquillity? If so, why not consider coming along to our 8am service on the third Sunday of each month? Traditionally, this service has few in the congregation, with no hymns to sing, and it provides the ambience for quiet inward prayer. You will be home in about 40 minutes, feeling refreshed and ready to start another week, whatever it sends your way.

Looking towards April, our service on **5th April will mark Palm Sunday** and the beginning of Holy Week - so you know **Easter Sunday will be on the following Sunday - 12th April!** (More details next month.)

At the time of writing, the long awaited report regarding the cracks in the church still has not arrived. The contractor is yet to receive details of the borehole readings, so this has slowed everything down.

## Grafham February 2009



### Fun Festivals and Traditions in March

St David's Day - 1st



Commonwealth Day - 9th

Spring Equinox - 20th

Mothering Sunday - 22nd

British Summer Time begins - 29th

Crufts - 5th-8th

St Patrick's Day - 17th



*"If March comes in like a lamb, it'll go out like a lion."*

**PARISH NEWS...**

Unfortunately, we have to report that the tennis net at the sports facility has been damaged in what appears to have been an attempt to remove it from its posts. First advice is that a new net needs to be purchased. It was agreed at the last PC meeting, that instructions for removing and storing or installing the net and posts need to be made available to users of the facility so that this doesn't happen again. The PC will be providing a storage box as soon as possible.



Paving slabs have been obtained which will be laid to make a suitable footpath into the pitch.

The recent severe weather conditions and complete lack of Highways gritting lorries through the village has highlighted that there is a lack of grit bins on our side roads. The Parish Council will be looking into the cost of providing bins to be placed along Church Road and Brampton Road. It may seem to be a bit too late, but we hope to be better prepared for the future.

The recycling bins have produced a further £400 in revenue. Thank you for using them.

**Margaret Life**, Parish Clerk

*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** allinghams@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** Traceyllbett@talktalk.net

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

**A Shepherd's Tale - 5**

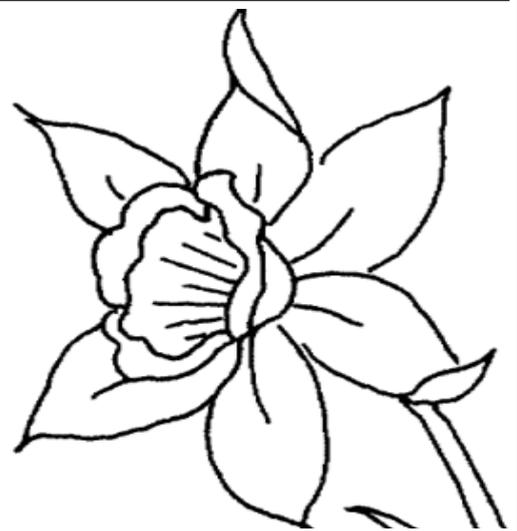
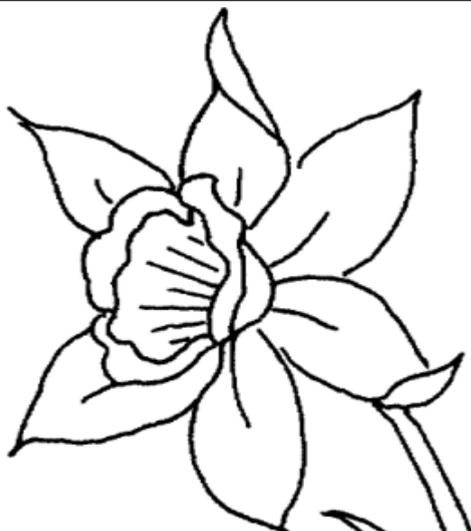
The cold weather and snow have made things a bit harder for the sheep. With snow cover sticking around I set up the trough and have been giving the ewes sheep nuts and some hay. You could tell the ewes were clearly hungry as hay is often a last resort, but the hay net has been emptied most days. However, as I write, the thaw has settled in and I suspect the ewes will prefer the grass even though much of it is submerged.



The one good thing about the feeding is that the ewes should come to the bucket more readily. I will be penning them shortly as they are due their inoculation booster jab, feet checking and to sort out the one early lamber. Even though the first ram - Dippy - was

not fully fertile, it looks like he got at least one ewe in lamb. By my reckoning she should be due, very aptly, on St Patrick's Day (March 17th). I intend to bring this ewe, the ram and one ewe that is persistently lame indoors, swapping them over with the four ewe lambs I have in a barn. These were kept separate to avoid them being tupped by the ram.

**Patrick Goldsworthy**



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**February 2009** Alan Mackender-Lawrence, our Community Contact Officer at Cambridgeshire Police Authority, has been providing detailed crime reports for us and neighbouring villages for just over three years. He has now been moved to another division, and has not been replaced. However, information will continue to filter through via different channels and I am monitoring this very carefully to ensure we receive up to date information. In his final report he has drawn our attention to the huge increase of thefts from vehicles and burglaries across the county.



We are being urged to ensure Satellite Navigation systems are placed out of sight when a car is parked. The break-ins are occurring because properties appear not to be secured.

We have had no reported incidents in Grafham - however, 1 in Perry - 4 in Brampton - 3 in Great Stukeley and 4 in Alconbury. Also there have been too many to list in Godmanchester and Huntingdon.

We have been alerted by Norton Anti-Virus who are gearing up for a virus that has been checked by Snopes.com - it is entitled "POSTCARD FROM HALLMARK" and although it has been around for some time they say this time it is for real. You should not open it up under any circumstances even though it will appear to have come from someone you know because your address will have been obtained from their address book. The advice is to shut down your computer completely. It has been classified by Microsoft as the most destructive virus ever. This virus has been discovered by McAfee and there is yet no repair for this kind of virus if opened.

**James Snell 07951 069 565**  
email: **Jamie2701@aol.com**

All emergencies 999  
Police control centre 0845 564564  
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

### NOW OPEN EARLIER!

Breakfast club (2 ½ -11yr olds)  
Now open from 7.30am  
Monday to Friday

Playgroup sessions available for  
children aged 2½ to 5 yrs  
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## Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

*A precis of an article by Sue Paul BSPA*

It was with enormous sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Jim Perkins on 1st February. Jim was very special and a staunch supporter of our doctors, our surgery and our committee. Our sincere sympathies go out to all his family.

Once again rumours abound about the future of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and as usual there is a reluctance by the Primary Care Trust [PCT] to communicate even with healthcare professionals, however, when the news does come it will not be good. Therefore I have decided to take a retrospective look at decisions taken over the last 3 - 4 years and their effect on Huntingdon's patients and their hospital.

In early 2006, the Government published a document entitled "Ensuring a Patient Led NHS" in which it proposed the abolition of the Huntingdon PCT [then acknowledged to be 11th out of 264 in terms of efficiency and patient satisfaction.] Despite overwhelming local opposition and a huge body of evidence from prestigious independent organisations suggesting enlargement of PCTs would lead to the degradation of local services, the proposal was passed and it was swallowed up by Cambridgeshire PCT. In the Eastern Region 17 PCTs became just 3. With this enlargement, services were steadily eroded from Hinchingsbrooke to Addenbrookes. There were fears that Hinchingsbrooke's A & E would close. Meetings and marches were held demonstrating the strength of local opinion and support for the local hospital. Once again another highly expensive 'consultation' process resulted offering 4 options of which only Option 2 seemed remotely acceptable. Option 2 acknowledged the need for savings through a reduction of GP referrals and a shift from Hospital based services to community based services, as for example, our Dermatology Clinic here at Buckden Surgery. In return Hinchingsbrooke would continue to provide broadly the same range of services including A & E and Maternity. We were cautiously optimistic - Hinchingsbrooke Hospital had been saved.

It would now appear that this Option 2 has 'failed' and a 'Refreshed Option 2' is being studied which will almost certainly involve a further reduction in beds and services - possibly including Maternity. With the enlargement of the PCT, GPs, Consultants and healthcare professionals rightly feared our local needs and concerns would be subordinated to those of Addenbrookes and greater Cambridgeshire. GPs decided to join together to form HuntsComm to ensure our Primary Care needs were more forcibly represented by speaking with one voice rather than as individuals in the hugely expanded Cambridgeshire PCT. I hope to talk more about their work in next month's letter.



**Sue Paul**

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

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**CHILDREN'S SERVICE**

At

All Saints Church  
**GRAFHAM**  
15th March - 11AM



A short service for children  
Cakes and drinks afterwards!

**Grafham Church Flower Club**

We have been meeting regularly for two years learning how to make different floral arrangements for display and in the home. We also decorate the church for festivals i.e. Easter and Christmas.



**On Tuesday 17 March at 8 pm we are having a special meeting to welcome beginners and new members.** If you would like to join us (we are a happy crowd and enjoy sharing our skills) do ring me to find out more. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month and make a small charge for each session to cover funds. **Hazel 01480 810326**  
(or leave a message and I will call you back)

**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**



**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, **March 11th at Jane Stewart's, 1 Van Diemens Way.** 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 Bookworms Film and Debate Club**



The Grafham Bookworms, Film and Debate Group meet on the last Tuesday of every month. New members are always welcomed - please come along to any meeting. We meet at 8pm and venues rotate between Group members. Please note it is not imperative that you host, however, if you are an avid reader we would be delighted if you would join us at the very informal and entertaining evenings. The next get together is scheduled for **Tuesday 24th February, 8pm** at Tina's house "Kalostone" 5 Home Close Grafham. If you would like to meet like-minded "bookworms" and obtain information on the current read, please contact Tina Theodorou on 01480 811366 or Karen Stewart on 01480 810961. The current Bookworm members are: Tina Theodorou, Karen Stewart, Linda & Robin Yeomans, Valerie Williams, Sue Kelley, Margaret Life. Looking forward to welcoming additional members!

**The Mobile Library** (route L108/120) visits **Breach Rd, Grafham** on **alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05.**



Visits are: **March 10th and 24th.**  
Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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

**MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE**



22nd MARCH -11am  
AT

**GRAFHAM ALL SAINTS**

Floral tributes for all ladies present

**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 mid-night on the following Thursdays:

**19th March, 16th April**

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.

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