

Grafham Gossip

GRAFHAM CRICKET CLUB MAKES DIVISION 1! READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 3

Issue 58 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 16th April

Editors' note...

Lots to read about in this issue!

Grafham Fun Day could become a thing of the of the past. Can we let this happen?

Please call Jill - 811516 - if you can help to organise it. Did you know that we have a local Magpas Community First Responder group? Learn more on page 3.

Easter, the most important of Christian festivals is almost upon us. Look out for the Easter Egg Hunt in church on April 19th, other important dates on this page and in View from the Pew on page 3.

Share in the worries and disappointments of the Southdown sheep of Grafham - Shepherd's Tales p. 4. It's not just celebs like Chris Moyles and Ronan Keating who climb Mount Kilimanjaro for charity, we have our own local heroes: see BSPA article, page 2. We have a new parish councillor! Read more about it and other village affairs in the Parish News page 4.

Congratulations to Grafham Cricket Club on its promotion to Division 1! How did that happen? Find out on page 3.

And there's much more in this issue, so read on!



Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

EASTER EGG HUNT!

As part of

**GRAFHAM CHURCH
CHILDREN'S SERVICE**

Sunday 19th April - 11am

**SPECIAL PRIZE FOR THE
FINDER OF THE EASTER BUNNY!**



THE PLANT STALL

RETURNS TO THE CHURCH PORCH!

FROM 1ST APRIL

FOR A FINE SELECTION OF:
HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS
AND OTHER PLANTS AT
VERY REASONABLE PRICES

STOCK CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE SEASON

Offers of plants for sale and spare plant pots:
please 'phone Jill Tyack on 810157



Send us your gossip!

Email gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham All Saints

29th March (5th Sunday)-11.00-

Eucharist (instead of last week)

5th April (1st Sunday)-11.00-All

Age Worship for Palm Sunday

10th April (Good Friday)- 19.00-A quiet service

of reflection for Good Friday

12th April (2nd Sunday)-11.00-Easter Day Eucharist

19th April (3rd Sunday)-11.00-Children's Service

with Easter Egg Hunt! **(Please Note:No 8am Service)**

26th April (4th Sunday)-11.00-Eucharist

3rd May (1st Sunday)-11.00-Lay-led Family Service

**VISITORS VERY WELCOME AT ANY OF OUR
SERVICES! PLEASE COME IN AND JOIN US.**

Contacting the clergy:

Fr Jonathan Young (rector) The Rectory, Ellington.
PE 28 0AU 01480 891695

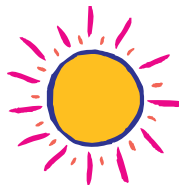
Fr Martin Kettle (curate) The Vicarage, Alconbury.
PE28 4DX 01480 890284 or 07876 755587

Churchwardens:

Jill Dighton 811862 Jill Tyack 810157



GRAFHAM FUN-DAY 2009 YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!



Grafham Fun Day has been an annual event for many years, and it is enjoyed by villagers of all ages, unfortunately this year's event is in jeopardy. We need a group of people who are willing to organise and run the fun day.

No experience is necessary, just commitment and some good ideas! If you would like to be involved **please contact Jill on 811516** for a chat.

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**

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

March 2009 This is a much shorter note than usual because we are not getting the information, that I consider necessary, to pass on to everyone. You will recall last month I advised everyone of the removal of our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Alan Mackender-Lawrence. I have taken this matter up with the Cambridgeshire Police Authority and hope to resume a more detailed report next month.

The Police Panel meeting was held in Brampton on March 5th and resulted in an increase of police presence in the villages checking seat belt safety.

The police report that due to an increase in the price of scrap lead a noted activity has happened with theft from churches - we are asked to be vigilant.

I have subscribed to e-cops, so we will definitely have up to date notifications next month.

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



Letter to the Editors...

Damage to Church Road

Does anyone know what has caused all the damage to Church Road, especially from the Old Rectory down towards the lake? Surely the trucks going to the Chicken Farm do not go that far or do they go to the bottom to turn around? Most of the damage seems to be before the Chicken Farm. Who is responsible for checking the road for repairs and who does the repair? Do the Chicken Farm owners contribute to the costs?

Wendy Anthony

If you have any views please email:

gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk Editors



Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

A precis of an article by Sue Paul

Our congratulations go to Dr Irwin and his wife, on their success in reaching the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro enduring, as they did, a huge range of meteorological conditions from hot sunshine and high humidity to torrential rain, winds and temperatures of -20C as they approached the summit. I can only admire their stoicism and their idea of a 'holiday'! The money raised for Leukemia Research is still coming in and already stands at £947. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously, I'll include the final total in the next newsletter.

For two months from mid-March a medical student will be working with, and mentored by, our doctors to gain essential experience in becoming a GP. Later, where appropriate, she will see patients independently.



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

NOW OPEN EARLIER!



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

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

Mucky Pups (parent and
toddler sessions)

Thursday 1.30pm - 3pm

NEEDED - CHURCH CLEANERS!

To help keep the much admired Grafham village church clean and tidy.



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only 6 times per year

Clean with a friend and
get chance for a chat at
the same time!

JOIN THE EXISTING TEAM
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

Interested? Phone Jill Tyack 810157 for details

Easter At Grafham Water
Come and join in the fun
at Grafham Water
this Easter with our

Family Treasure Trails

Good Friday to Easter Monday

The Easter Bunny Hop: A short walking distance
treasure trail ideal for younger children.

The Easter Bunny Leap: A longer trail around the
reservoir ideal for families on bicycles (10 miles)

£5.00 per family
Prizes for all children

For more details and to book
Please call into the Grafham Water Visitors Centre
or

Telephone: **01480 812154**

Email: aTarry@anglianwater.co.uk

Could you save a life? In your community there is a Magpas Community First Responder group, set up in 2003. We need more volunteers within your community to enable this lifesaving group to continue to provide for the needs of the community.

What is a Community First Responder?

A Community First Responder is a local volunteer living in your community, who has undertaken training in first aid, oxygen therapy and defibrillation, and when available responds to 999 calls within the community. This response provides initial care / treatment for the patient, while the ambulance is on the way.

Who do the responders attend?

A Community First Responder will be notified of patients over the age of 8 who are suffering from life threatening problems like breathing problems, chest pains, unconscious patients, fitting patients and those suffering from a cardiac arrest. They can provide lifesaving treatment until the ambulance arrives, and then assist the ambulance crew.

How can I get involved? To become involved in supporting Magpas you can volunteer to fundraise for the charity, or become a Community First Responder by contacting Magpas on **01480 371060**.

For more information visit www.magpas.org.uk

Grafham Cricket Club

It is hard to believe that the start of a new cricket season is close at hand, but the recent sunny, warm, spring weather has made that belief credible.

Grafham Cricket Club is looking for new players for the forthcoming 2009 season. We currently play in the Bedford and District League. Last season Grafham finished 3rd in League 2; our best position for a number of years. As a result, we've now been promoted to Division 1! So if you are interested in playing cricket for Grafham and want more information please contact one of the following Grafham CC members and players. Club Captain **Adrian Love** on **01480 811827** or Club Vice Captain **Chris Brown** on **07968 568587** or Club Chairman **Chris Dighton** on **01480 811862**.

Pre-season nets have been organised at St Ives Indoor Leisure Centre; there will be a nominal charge for each session:-

Sunday 12th April 2009 4.30pm to 5.45pm

Sunday 19th April 2009 11.00am to 12.30pm

Sunday 26th April 2009 12.30pm to 2.00pm



Volunteers needed

Cambridgeshire Mencap is seeking volunteers to support young people with learning disabilities.

You could assist someone to go to the cinema, attend a youth club, go swimming, play sport, or do any number of fun activities. Your support could help develop the young person's self-confidence, social skills, and level of independence in the community.

If you are aged 16 to 30 and can spare a few hours every fortnight then you could do something new, or something you already do and enjoy, whilst making a BIG difference in a young person's life.

Interested? Find out more by contacting Robert Wallace, Volunteers Support Coordinator, by

phone: 01223 883140 or **text: 07835 101621**

Email: **robert@cambridgeshiremencap.co.uk**



View from the Pew!

As April begins we'll be in the final week of Lent with Holy Week fast approaching. For Christians, Holy Week is a week of 'highs and lows'. First on **April 5th** there is the celebration of **Palm Sunday** when we hear of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem amid the crowd's excited cries of 'Hosanna!' We will leave church clutching our palm crosses. Five days later, on **10th April** we'll plunge into the despair of **Good Friday** when we hear of Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial and Christ's trial and crucifixion. On that Good Friday evening we'll sit in a still, tranquil, dimly lit church, its altars stripped of linen, as we hear of Christ's agony on the cross and His final words to His mother. But then the joy of Easter Day! Our **Easter Day Service on Sunday 12th** will be a glorious celebration of Christ's resurrection and that promise of hope for each and everyone of us. Flowers will once again adorn our church and there'll be a feeling of new beginnings and expectations. We do hope you'll join with us in this most important of Christian festivals. We'll be very pleased to welcome you and any visitors of yours.

On **19th April**, our **children's service** will be very special!

At this service we will be having an **Easter Egg Hunt** with an extra-special prize for the finder of the Easter Bunny! So,



come on all children out there - please ask if you can come along and take part in the fun! Don't miss out on the chance of more chocolate! (Regulars to our 8am Service, please note there will be no 8am service today).

As **from the 1st April**, the plant stall in the church porch will return. Last year, it proved to be very successful, especially with visitors to our village. If you have any plants you can offer for sale or some spare plant pots, please contact **Jill Tyack** on **810157**.

Jill would also be very pleased to hear from anyone who can spare a couple of hours - just six times a year! She is reviewing the cleaning rota and there are now a couple of vacancies for cleaners. This is an ideal way to help keep fit or to catch up with news if cleaning with a friend. All materials and equipment are provided. Again, please contact Jill on 810157 if you'd like to take part in helping to maintain this much admired building.

We have now received the report from those who drilled the bore holes and undertook the pit inspections as part of the exploratory work on the church. They have made various recommendations regarding remedial work, but at the time of writing, we are now awaiting the Architect and Structural Engineers interpretation of the findings.

The PCC, clergy and churchwardens wish you all the joy of Easter.

PARISH NEWS...

The Parish Council is back up to full strength with the co-option of Clint Thomas-Morgan. Clint is very keen to make a contribution to the village that he and his family have been part of for several years.

Several villagers have made complaints to the District and Parish Councils concerning the dreadful aroma of the chicken farm recently. Peter Downes, our District Councillor is corresponding with the Environment Agency about it and at the PC meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council should also submit a letter of complaint and invite both the Environment Agency and the chicken farm owners to a council meeting at which there could be an open discussion over the issues and an opportunity to offer some solutions. The Parish Council has been given to understand that the problem is cyclical and that we are now at the end of the smelly cycle. However, it is probably going to return in the next cycle. The contact at the Environment Agency is Sarah Brown. Her direct line is 01480-483836.

Here is a gentle reminder that the children's playground and equipment are for the use of the under-thirteens. The picnic bench has been subject to some rough treatment recently and the Parish Council are anxious that this is not repeated or escalated.

Catworth and Kimbolton under-thirteen football club has requested the use of the Grafham football pitch. They are hoping that, in moving into Grafham, there will be some interest from Grafham's under-thirteens in joining their club and playing football for them. The Parish Council are keen to provide these opportunities for our young people and will be drawing up an agreement with the club for the use of the facilities.

There is now a locked wooden bench near to the sports facility for the storage of the tennis nets and posts. Keys are with Philip Allingham and Alan Watson.

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** TraceyIbbett@talktalk.net

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



A Shepherd's Tale - 6 *Patrick Goldsworthy*

We have had a big disappointment so far with not a new lamb in sight. Clearly the ewe that I thought was in lamb was not covered by Dippy and may not be in lamb, as she was only tupped once or possibly twice according to her raddle marks which were always faint. With help from my youngest son Michael (a more nimble and obedient sheepdog than Ruth), we completed the inoculations, checked feet and moved the four lambs from the barn, swapping them with two ewes and the ram. With the drier weather, these three are now outdoors although the ram is still keen to be fed. In fact he has a very neat way of jumping between the rails of our post and rail fence. This is a bit disconcerting but as he is so greedy it's quite easy to persuade him back in the field.

One major worry has been the appearance of uncontrolled dogs in the Bird Field (adjacent to the rectory) where the ewes and shearlings are currently grazing. Sheep especially pregnant ewes and loose dogs are not a good combination. Last Sunday, Peter, came up from Devon to check his bees to discover the sheep netting down in two places. The stakes appeared to have been pulled out; the ewes were amongst the fir trees and one lamb was stuck in the pond. Peter quickly fished the lamb out of the pond, but got very wet and smelly in the process. We are not quite sure what happened, but we think the most likely scenario is that a walker's dogs got in the field, chased the sheep against the fence and into the pond and in order to separate the sheep and dogs the fence was dismantled. If anyone knows what actually happened I would be most interested. Luckily no harm was done. However it is a timely reminder that if you are dog walking near sheep, the dog needs to be kept under control and preferably on a lead, especially at this time of year.

Environment Agency/Chicken Farm

The District Council no longer deals with the problems in regard to the chicken farm (factory) in Church Road. The problem has been handed to the Environment Agency. They have a Freephone number **0800 807060**. On calling, anytime of day or night, you will get a human voice to take details of the problem and ask the caller if they would like feedback information. The system does appear to work, having had recourse to use it recently. David Anthony

Hampton Court Flower Show

Tina is organising a coach trip to Hampton Court Flower Show on **Saturday 11 July 2009**. Coach leaves Tempsford Hall (nr.Sandy) at approx 7.30am and departs Hampton Court approx 4.30pm.

Price includes return luxury coach journey and Flower Show entry - **£38.00** each.

If you'd like a day at this wonderful flower festival and garden show with so much to see and enjoy please contact me on: **01480 811366 after 6pm please** or **07711 012957 at any time**

or email: tina.theodorou@tiscali.co.uk

Monies will only be collected once I know I have the minimum number for the trip to go ahead.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further details as I will be delighted to hear from you. Alternatively, if you would like a trip organised to any other event, please contact me with your request where I will be happy to look at this and quote a price.

Tina Theodorou, TT Tours



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Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166

SUMMER SONG SPECTACULAR

FAYE SINGS FROM THE HEART FOR RIVER CHURCH COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

Local professional opera singer, Faye Hart is pleased to announce a concert to take place at St. Mary's Church, Eaton Socon, St. Neots on Saturday 9th May. **'Summer Song Spectacular'** will showcase Faye's versatility as an all-round performer and the former English National Opera principal is delighted that all funds raised will go towards furnishing the new Eatons Community Centre due to open in December 2009.



For the first time in her home county, Faye, from Grafham, will present solo and duet elements to her programme starting with a selection of beautiful well-known arias before joining forces with Kate Atalay, from Kimbolton, to perform favourite classical duets. Completing a triumvirate of local talent is renowned pianist Christine Anderson, from St. Neots.

"It gives me great pleasure to see other people enjoying popular classical music," enthused Faye, "To this end, I have put together an exciting programme which will hopefully include something for everyone."

Faye is uniquely offering her services free-of-charge with a heart-felt desire - that the people of Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford will benefit from their new centre and, in particular, in its role as a new home for River Church, a vibrant and growing Bible-believing fellowship inaugurated in May 2006.

Tickets priced at £10 (£12 on the door) and £7 concessions (£9 on the door) are available at www.theriver.org.uk or at Wish You Were Here Travel, 36 High Street, St. Neots, PE19 1JA

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. If you would like to join us (we are a happy crowd and enjoy sharing our skills) do ring me for more details. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month and make a small charge for each session to cover funds. **Hazel 01480 810326**

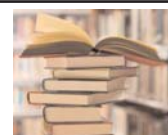


The Mobile Library (route L108/120) visits **Breach Rd, Grafham** on **alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05.**

Visits are: **April 7th and 21st.**

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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



Grafham Bookworms Film and Debate Club



The Grafham Bookworms, Film and Debate Group meet at 8pm on the last Tuesday of every month. New members are always welcome. Venues rotate between Group members but it is not imperative that you host. If you are an avid reader and would like to meet like-minded "bookworms" we'd be delighted for you to join us at our informal and entertaining evenings.

For 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!

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 Social Committee



invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday, **April 8th** at **Pat Watson's, 10 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.



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01480 810844 daytime
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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: **16th April,**
14th May, 18th June

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.

Apartment for rent in Bodrum, Turkey

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