

Grafham Gossip

Issue 59 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 14th May

Grafham All Saints

26th April (4th Sunday) - 11.00-Eucharist
 3rd May (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - All Age
 Worship
 10th May (2nd Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist
 17th May (3rd Sunday) - 8.00 - Eucharist and
 11.00 - Children's Service (Last one in the series)
 24th May (4th Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist
 31st May (5th Sunday) - 11.00 - Service for Pentecost
 *Inc. celebration of Revd Jonathan Young's 40th
 Anniversary of Ordination as Deacon - **at Ellington***
 7th June (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - All Age Worship for
 Trinity Sunday



Newcomers and visitors very welcome - we're not scary!

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

Hi, I'm Georgie.



I am 14 and running in the Race for Life, on 17th May. The Race for Life is a run that any woman can do, walking or running. It is raising money for Cancer Research UK. Last year I ran the Race for Life at Burghley House, in Stamford. I ran 5km, and raised £120. This year, I would like to raise even more money, especially as I am running 10km this time! If you would like to sponsor me, either call me on 810297 or visit my sponsorship page, at www.raceforlifesporsorme.org/georgiegoodwin

I hope you're able to sponsor me, and maybe together we can beat cancer!

Georgie Goodwin



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**

Send us your gossip! Email: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Editors' note...

Another issue packed full of articles!



Would you like new ideas for your garden? See below for 'Grafham Open Gardens' on 7th June. Congratulations to Jonathan Young - a deacon for 40 years - more on page 1 and 'View from the Pew'. Let's maintain Grafham's good record - read about it in Neighbourhood Watch on page 3. Did you witness an accident on the A14 on Friday 27th March? You might be of help. Also on page 3, find out how to enter the scarecrow competition and support the Churchyard Fête, 28th June. Learn about the fantastic music-making and multi-skills at Spaldwick School. Share in both the joy and the tragedy - A Shepherd's Tale, page 4. And even more on every page!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

SAS Save All Saints Association **SAS**

Grafham Open Gardens

Sunday 7th June 1 - 5 pm

Admission by programme ticket £2.50

Accompanied children free

Teas too

Proceeds to Save All Saints Fund

As part of the SAS fund-raising for the restoration fund of All Saints Church, there is to be a Grafham Open Gardens afternoon on Sunday 7th June from 1- 5 p.m. The idea is to have the chance to visit typical village gardens, so you can get and give ideas whilst enjoying a Sunday afternoon walk. The response has been very encouraging, with gardens of many kinds, sizes and ages opening (a few years to a few centuries). Since they are spread around the village, you'll be glad to know that teas will be on sale too. So please put the date and time in your diaries and pray for blue skies.

If you intended to offer your garden but haven't yet done so, it's not too late to contact

**Karen Stewart 810961 or
 Robin Yeomans 812440.**

There is no expectation that you have an amazing garden: just be willing to share your garden with others for those few hours.

Free Compost Giveaway

Saturday 16th May from 10:00 to 11:00am

At the Village Hall Car Park

Grab yourself a free bag
 of soil improver compost
 (One bag per household)



View from the Pew!

The events of Lent and Holy Week came to a rousing end at our celebratory Easter Sunday Eucharist. Our churchwardens and sidesman experienced the happy predicaments of running out of service books and wondering if there would be enough communion wine to go round! Yes, we had almost 40 people in attendance, and we all left the service full of the hope of Easter (and clutching our Easter Eggs too!) We thank Revd. Mandy Flaherty for presiding at this service; we really enjoyed having Mandy with us and hope she will visit again very soon with her family.

It is always good to see the return of flowers into church after the bareness of Lent; and as usual, the flower club made the church look glorious. Easter would not be complete without the Easter Garden in the porch too; many thanks to you all and we thank God for your talent.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our Children's Service with its Easter Egg Hunt which promises to be fun. May begins with our usual Lay Led Family Worship and will end with a special service at **Ellington on 31st May** (Pentecost) to celebrate our Rector's 40th Anniversary of his Ordination as Deacon.

Many congratulations Jonathan!

Looking further forward, here is a special date for your diary - so please make a note of it now! **Sunday 28th June** - there will be LOTS going on in and around the church. That



day will mark our very first Well Dressing - combined with a Scarecrow Competition. More details will be available soon but it is expected that there will be food/barbeque/cream teas on sale throughout the day as well as various stalls - (including a few favourites!) - taking place at the church. An open air service is planned for 3pm. Please come along and join in the fun - bring visitors and make a day of it!

At present, the plant stall in the porch is reporting swift trade and new plants are being added. Donations of plants/seeds etc to Jill on 810157, are very gratefully received.

We extend enormous thanks to Mike Baker and his energetic team of Duke of Edinburgh volunteers for recently tackling the overgrowth of brambles and weeds in parts of the churchyard. Due to their efforts, graves that had been lost from view for a long time can now be seen again.

Thank you to Mike, Joe, Matt, Sunjay and Daniel and good luck with your DoE Award.

Apparently, the Structural Engineer has now reported on the findings of the exploratory work in the church regarding the crack and will be instructing the PCC on a possible way forward shortly.

By the time you read this, our two churchwardens', Jill T & Jill D will have stood down as churchwardens after 3+ years - in order to recharge their batteries! So now we are looking for two volunteers to take their places. If you feel you may have what it takes to be a churchwarden, then please contact one of the Jills or the rector, Jonathan, for more details.

Grafham Cricket Club

The first ball of the new cricket season starts with the MCC select eleven playing against the current County Champions, Durham. But for many local teams it starts with indoor nets and League meetings to administrate the coming season. After getting over the surprise of being promoted to Bedford League Division 1, Grafham is no different; indoor nets at St Ivo and the League AGM at Bedford Athletic Social Club. Last year's season came alive at the bar: tales of run chases, epic innings, bowlers annihilating invincible batting opposition, impossible victories, defeats and of course the weather. But the ghost not disappearing at cock crow was that the League started at the turn of the century with 44 teams and is now down to 34. It is true that new teams have joined the League, but mainly from the urban areas of Bedford, and village teams seem to be the ones disbanding, reducing the overall numbers. The reason for Grafham's elevation (we finished 3rd in Div 2) is because teams in the higher divisions have discontinued or amalgamated. There was much agonising at the AGM over what could be done.

I have written in previous *Grafham Gossip* articles that cricket is no longer the summer sport of choice at state schools, that the pace of life is too fast, with too many other options and that cricket possibly does not belong in a sound bite, media spinned, credit crunch world. Call me a romantic, but in the outfield or at the crease on a warm blue sky summer's day, with the cherry hitting the sweet spot on the willow on it's way to the boundary (Grafham batting of course), heaven is not far away. Nevertheless times they are a changing, and if grass roots cricket is to survive, it has to as well but the purist, or dinosaur if you like, in me thinks "how" without devaluing it? Time, as always will tell.

Grafham Home Matches in May: 2nd May Grafham Vrs Smith Arms
Chris Dighton Club Chairman 01480 811862



Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

A precis of an article by Sue Paul

Please come along and support a talk and demonstration by Huntingdon Red Cross on Monday 22nd June, 7pm Millard Suite, Buckden Village Hall, 'First Aid in the Home'.

A patient survey, conducted at the surgery 13th to 17th January, gave extremely encouraging results and showed that our doctors and the surgery team were held in very high esteem.



Congratulations and thanks to Shirley Wimbleton; book sales have now exceeded £3,000! Also thanks to Bob, our practice manager, for his support and as always a big thank you to all those who give and buy the books - we couldn't do without you!

There is to be another Public Consultation by NHS Cambridgeshire [formerly Cambridgeshire PCT] to decide priorities for spending their £750 million budget over the next 5 years. It is accompanied by a questionnaire which they would like members of the public to complete. The basis of the Plan is to "begin to change the way healthcare is provided, closer to home rather than in hospital". Do please visit the website www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk to express your opinion; I also hope to get forms available in the Surgery. I do think it is important that as many people as possible respond.

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

April 2009 I am pleased to report that we are now receiving up to date information from the police. I have registered our village with E-Cops and RCAT (Rural Community Action team) - both links provide fast and accurate listings.



No reported incidents are detailed in Grafham and no one has contacted me directly.

Crime figures have been issued for the period January - March this year, and show no activity in Grafham. However, in neighbouring Brampton, compared to last year, there is an increase from 17.75 to 20.7%, Ellington increased from 6.3% to 13.7% and Buckden decreased from 14.7% to 14.3%

I think this shows a need for us all to be vigilant and aware of any suspicious activity to maintain Grafham's record.

An appeal has been launched for witnesses to a collision between a silver Peugeot 806 and a red Scania lorry on Friday 27th March on the A14 at the junction of the B1040. The driver of the Peugeot was uninjured but the passenger, a 40 year old male suffered serious injuries and was admitted to Addenbrookes hospital. Any information should be passed to PC Blood (yes, that is the correct name) on

0845 456 456 4

Two biking incidents have happened at Brampton Hut petrol station - the matter is being investigated by PC Tracey Oakes if anyone saw anything.

A police panel meeting was held on Thursday 16th April at St Neots - a report will be issued next month.

The police's rural team has targeted illegal road users in St Neots and this resulted in 15 offenders being apprehended. The same team have been visiting farms working alongside Countryside Watch and launching the new Horsecatch scheme - if anyone wants further information on this, please contact PC Lydia Crabtree on the central phone number.

Heightened police presence is operating to offer reassurance for vulnerable persons and premises in rural areas. Sergeant Chris Bulmer heads this team for anyone wanting to discuss issues of concern.

James Snell 07951 069 565

email: Jamie2701@aol.com

All emergencies 999

Police control centre 0845 456 456 4

Minicom for hard of hearing 01480 422493

Crimestoppers 0800 555111 (anonymous)

Anti-social behaviour 01480 388379

To stop unwanted mail 0845 703 459 9

To stop unwanted phone calls 0845 070 070 7

THE PLANT STALL

IN THE CHURCH PORCH HAS 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

Churchyard Fête and Well Dressing

Sunday 28 June All Saints Grafham

In place of the usual Grafham Fun Day this year we are holding a Churchyard Fête. This will involve various stalls including home produce, plants and tombola. There will also be a display of "Well Dressing" on the site of the old well under the willow tree outside the church gates. An open air service will take place at 3 pm.



If anyone out there is willing to run a stall of your own, please let us know. We'd be grateful for donations for the tombola and also plants, any home-made produce such as cakes, preserves, chutneys.



Make a scarecrow and put it in your front garden for the Scarecrow competition to be judged on 28th June, with prizes for the best dressed scarecrow, best character and best overall. It will cost £3.00 to enter the competition with all proceeds going to the church fund. Details through your door soon!

Please contact: **Jill 810157 or Hazel 810326**

Music and Multi-skills

On Sunday 15th March over fifty Spaldwick School pupils took part in the Music for Youth Regional Festival at Wootton Upper School near Bedford. The large audience was treated to performances from the Youth Singers (7-11s), Young Singers (4 -7s), Belleplate Band (handbell group), Egyptian Drummers and finally the Year 6 African Drum Group. Between these performances were items from other schools and music centres featuring students up to the age of 19.



The adjudicators were clearly very impressed with the quantity and quality of the music making at Spaldwick. We now have to wait to see if any of the groups are selected to take part in July's National Festival at Symphony Hall in Birmingham, following on from the success of the Spaldwick Ocarinas last year!

Miss Body

Thirteen Year 2 children went to Hinchbrook School for a multi-skills festival and to have a fun afternoon. There were 15 teams in all; Teams 10, 11 and 12 were from Spaldwick. We were amazed at the number people taking part and at all the activities which included speed stacking, running skills, balancing, throwing, bouncing the ball, tapping the cone and running through the ladder. The trickiest activity was to balance the bean bag on your head while running. Our team was very good at this! Team 10 came 1st overall, Team 11 came 2nd and Team 12 came 3rd in their group.

We all felt very excited about winning and received gold medals and a certificate.



It was such great fun and we would love to go again!

Lorcan Harbour and Harry Thorpe

PARISH NEWS...

The lighter evenings have brought young people out to play on the sports facility. However, there have been a couple of complaints about traffic noise. One of our Parish Councillors has approached the young people concerned and agreed with them that they will be more considerate when leaving and arriving.

It has always been intended that evening use of the facility should be charged at £5 per hour and that only day-time use would be free. The Council does not want to lock the gates and have agreed that a sign should be displayed which gives a telephone number for booking the court/pitch after 6pm. If people use it without booking, they should be aware that they will be asked to leave if people who have booked then turn up.

The football pitch is in need of some maintenance at the goal-mouths. It needs to be levelled and re-seeded. When this is done, there will have to be some restriction on its use until the grass has grown.

Cllr Mike Tyler will be meeting with the owners of the chicken farm, together with Cllr Peter Downes, District

Council and the Environment Agency. The outcome of this meeting will be reported at the next PC meeting. Cllr Tyler will state the village case very strongly and will be seeking some assurances on public health issues.



Unfortunately, due to a lack of interest in arranging it, there will be no fun-day this year. The Council has agreed, instead, to provide funds towards the Scarecrow Day which is being arranged in conjunction with the Open Gardens Day in June.

Another Compost Give-away is being arranged for the weekend of 16th May. As last year, this will take place at the village hall.

Cllr Katrina Goodwin will be resigning from the Parish Council in July this year. She and her family are moving to Brampton. The Council is sorry to lose her and thank her for her work with the Compost Give-aways and the provision of the new goal-posts among other things.

This means that there will be a vacancy on the PC. Please contact Margaret Life or Philip Allingham if you would like to fill that vacancy.

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk

Full minutes can be found on the village website.

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the AGM, on Tuesday 12th May.

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** idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk

Clint Thomas-Morgan **812590** j.c.thasmorgan@btinternet.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

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

A Shepherd's Tale - 7

Shepherd's Tales is supposed to be about the ups and downs of shepherding, and this month's edition has both.

The good news first: two ewes have lambed, just in time for this month's edition - much to the relief of the Editor!



Yesterday (Friday 17th) I spotted the first ewe lying on her side in the paddock; as I approached, I could see a lamb's head emerging, but no legs. Closer inspection showed one front leg folded back and the other leg fully back. The head and tongue were a slightly swollen so the lamb had been stuck a little while. I cleared mucus away from the mouth and nostrils and straightened the folded leg and gently eased the lamb out. Although it's not ideal to deliver with only one leg forward, this was the only option as the head was too far forward and swollen to be pushed back. The ewe got to her feet quickly and started licking the ram lamb, within 10 minutes it was standing. Mother and lamb were left to settle for a while and with no signs of a second lamb emerging we carried the lamb - followed by the mother into the shed. As I am expecting twins from most of my ewes, I usually check them. Sure enough there was a small ewe lamb right at the back of the uterus, which with a bit of persuasion was helped out.

Later that evening I was checking the remaining ewes knowing that another was due soon; I eventually found her down the side of one of our sheds with a newborn ewe lamb; with Michael's help we quickly set up another lambing pen and brought mother and lamb in, again I checked inside to find a

ram lamb stuck with a leg back; this required slightly more work as it was larger but it eventually popped out. So like buses my lambs are all coming at once, and given the lambing date these are all Dippy's - the ram who was returned due to his low fertility - progeny.

Earlier this month we had a tragedy with one of our other ewes. We spotted that the ram was butting a ewe on the ground. As I walked up to her, I saw she had a prolapse, I was gently able to push this back. We then walked her into the shed. She seemed very unstable and in a typical tactless male fashion the ram tried to mount her, knocking her over in the process. We kept her in the shed thinking that the frailty was due to the prolapse. As time went on, she became more unsteady and appeared to be blind, standing dazed in a corner. I was not sure what was happening and rang the vet. Initially we discussed the prolapse, however as I explained her other symptoms, the vet pointed out that these were the classic signs of pregnancy toxemia (twin lamb disease), a disease humans (mothers to be!) can also get. The disease is caused by fat reserves being mobilised too rapidly. This is done to address an energy shortage during the rapid growth of the foetus in the late stages of pregnancy. As a consequence of the rapid fat breakdown, toxic levels of ketones are released into the blood stream, these damage the eyes, brain and the results are often fatal. The remedy if spotted early enough is to give the ewe energy rich drenches. Unfortunately for us it was too late. The ewe went down rapidly in spite of regular drenching. She eventually lambed triplets which survived briefly, but lacked any vigour. The vet hoped that removing the burden of the lambs might allow recovery, but sadly this was not to be and she died.

Patrick Goldsworthy

Having numeracy problems?
Need encouraging support/revision in key areas?

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- Lessons available in own home if more convenient
- Key stages 1 & 2, Common Entrance, GCSE
- Experienced teacher/tutor: MA, PGCE, (CRB checked)

01480453462 or 07932112611

Ellington & Grafham

Village

Jive

Dance



Pat & Andy invite you to join our Jive Dance classes & social dancing

All welcome no dance experience or partner needed, join any week.

A great social night out, just turn up, meet new friends and keep fit!

Class dates for April and May

Tuesday 21st April - Ellington village hall

Tuesday 28th April - Ellington village hall

Thursday 7th May - Grafham village hall

Tuesday 12th May - Ellington village hall

Tuesday 19th May - Ellington village hall

Tuesday 26th May - Ellington village hall

7.30pm - 9.00pm Just £4.00 per class
(£1 life membership)

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

contact Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166



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



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.



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday, **May 13th 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.



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

Visits are: **May 5th and 19th**.

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**



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

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 **01480 896139** or

Ann Davies **01480 891372**



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!

Babysitters

Anna Fozzard 15yrs 812021

Georgie Goodwin 14yrs 810297

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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14th May, 18th June

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

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