

Grafham Gossip

Issue 60 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 18th June



Editors' note...

You'll find much to do in Grafham in June!

Maybe you'd enjoy "A Sunday afternoon walk" with tea on route and a spot of archery? See below for 'Grafham Open Gardens' on 7th June.

On Sunday 28th is the Scarecrow Competition, churchyard fête and Well Dressing. The details are below and on page 3 where you can also find out about the photographic competition.

Anyone for cricket? Go along to the free Junior Cricket evening and how about improving your football too. Kimbolton and Catworth under 14s football club is moving to Grafham and are looking for new players!

Or if you prefer more leisurely exercise, Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group will soon be resuming their local evening walks. Interested in an allotment? See page 2.

Read carefully as there's lots more info 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 per person available from Church Road/Breach Road junction, village hall and at gardens
Accompanied children free

Parking, teas, archery at Village Hall Teas also in several gardens

Proceeds to Save All Saints Fund

Here is the chance to visit a range of village gardens, so you can get and give ideas whilst enjoying a Sunday afternoon walk. There are gardens of many kinds, sizes and ages opening (a few years to a few centuries). They include gardens with animals, a games garden and a tea garden.

Please pray for blue skies.

Scarecrow Competition

Sunday 28th June Make a scarecrow and put it in your front garden for the Scarecrow competition.

Prizes for the Best Dressed Scarecrow, Best Character and Best Overall. £3.00 to enter

All proceeds go to the church fund. Registration forms - through your doors. Please take completed forms and entry fee to **15 Breach Rd** (not 21) **by Sunday 21st June.**



Also on Sunday 28th - Churchyard Fête and Well Dressing see page 3 for more information.

Grafham All Saints

31st May (5th Sunday) - **10.00** - Service for Pentecost *Incl. 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

14th June (2nd Sunday) - **11.00** - Eucharist

21st June (3rd Sunday) - **11.00** - Service of the Word - Lay Led (Please note: NO 8am service today, the nearest 8am service is at Spaldwick)

28th June (4th Sunday) - **15.00** - Open Air Service following: Well Dressing, Scarecrow Competition and Churchyard Fete. (No 11.00 Eucharist today)

5th July (5th Sunday) - **11.00** - All Age Worship

Please come and join us for any of our services; we love seeing visitors!

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



Closing Date for Photographic competition is Wed. 24th June. More details can be found on page 3.

Junior Cricket Night

Grafham Cricket Club will be running a free junior cricket evening for boys and girls from ages 7 to 12 years. It will take place on the village playing field; the coach in charge will be Adam Dighton of Grafham Cricket Club, who holds an ECB level 1 cricket coaching certificate. Also attending will be other members of the club, to assist and talent spot!

Tuesday 23rd June Start at 6.00pm and finish at 7.30pm

Tuesday 30th June Start at 6.00pm and finish at 7.30pm

Tuesday 7th July Start at 6.00pm and finish at 7.30pm

Tuesday 14th July Start at 6.00pm and finish at 7.30pm

Should there be rain in the afternoon of the Junior Cricket night, the evening session will be cancelled as the rain makes the grass dangerous to practise on.

Come and join us - it's a fun evening.



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... May 2009

On Tuesday 12th May, the Parish Council meeting was preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting. The District and County Councils Reports for the year, the Parish Council Financial Report and the Biggs Charity Report for 2008/09 can all be found on the village website.

Cllr Tyler, representing the Parish Council met with the owners of the chicken farm, together with representatives of the Environment Agency and Peter Downes, County Councillor, on 5th May. The full minutes of this meeting will be posted on the village website.

In brief, the owners run 70 similar farms in East Anglia and only Grafham has a reported odour problem! Several issues were discussed and the owners have invited councillors to visit the site. Good communications have been set up between all concerned. The

Full minutes can be found on the village website.

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** allingham@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk

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

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

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



owners consider that the problems and upset caused to residents is not in their best interests and could, conceivably, consider closing down the plant if a solution cannot be found.

The sports facility is available for use free of charge during the day, but evening use should be booked and paid for. There will be costs for maintenance of the site and the income raised will be used to cover these costs. It has therefore been agreed that the facility will remain unlocked during the day-time until 7.00pm, which will enable young people from the village to use it free of charge. It will be locked at 7.00pm. People wishing to use it should make contact as shown on the notice at the site, so that it can be unlocked upon receipt of the payment.

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk

A Shepherd's Tale - 8

Patrick Goldsworthy

As I write this, my last ewe to lamb has just produced a large ram: our first single. We have had to wait about four weeks since the previous lambing

(another set of twins: ram and ewe). This ewe looked so big, I thought she might have triplets, but size can be decep-

tive. The other ewes and lambs are doing well and have just been moved up to the Bird Field as we were getting short of grass at home.



Before I put the lambs out, I used rubber rings to castrate the ram lambs and dock all the tails; as this is a pedigree flock, I have kept one of the better ram lambs entire as we might sell or use him ourselves. He is already a little bigger than the others.

At the end of April, we "dagged" all the ewes and shearlings. Dagging (or crutching) is removing all the dirty and soiled wool (daggs) around the sheep's rear end. This makes it easier for shearing later on and reduces the risk of fly strike. It was not a moment too soon as three of the ewes had the beginnings of strike, a consequence of the comparatively warm spring. Fortunately little harm had been done, but it did mean that I had to change my fly strike treatment for the ewes, from an insect growth regulator that stops the eggs from hatching to an insecticide that kills the larvae. Fly strike is caused by the green bottle fly laying eggs in the soiled wool, the eggs hatch and the maggots then eat into the sheep's skin, not a pleasant sight or smell. To avoid the problem we have to treat all the sheep every 6 -10 weeks (depending on the chemical) during the summer and autumn. Usually the problem reduces when the sheep are sheared (due at the end of May) but it's still not worth the risk so I plan to routinely treat them.

(More pictures on page 4)

GRAFHAM ALLOTMENTS

There has been considerable interest in an allotment site in Grafham. Two potential sites have been identified. If successfully acquired by the parish council, an allotment site should hold approximately 50 plots. A committee has been set up to progress this project. The committee members are as follows:

Chairman: Clint Thomas Morgan 01480 812590
j.c.thomasmorgan@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Susan Brydon 01480 810458
susan@brydon.org.uk

Secretary: Simon Platts 01480 811190
lauraplatts@btinternet.com

Sarah Smith 01480 812995 sarahsmith.1@btinternet.com

Nigel Whitlock 01480 812042 nigel.whitlock@gmail.com

Ron Thomas 01480 811011
ronandgaynorthomas@dsl.pipex.com

If you are interested in acquiring an allotment plot but have not yet expressed an interest, please contact Simon Platts. The committee will keep you updated regarding the progress of the allotments.

In addition to the allotments, the committee is keen to develop the gardening association within Grafham and the surrounding villages. There are already many enthusiastic gardeners in our community and it is hoped that we will be able to establish schemes such as, for example, the bulk purchase of seeds and plants. Even if you aren't interested in taking an allotment plot your involvement in the gardening association would be most welcome. If you want to become a member of the association please contact Simon Platts.

If you have any views on community projects which could be undertaken by the association please contact one of the committee members. Perhaps this year will be the year of the best home-grown carrot competition!



FOOTBALL PLAYERS WANTED! KC COUGARS U14 (2009-10 SEASON)

KC COUGARS ARE MOVING TO GRAFHAM NEAR HUNTINGDON FOR THE 2009 -2010 SEASON WHERE WE SHALL BE COMPETING IN THE U14 CAMBS COLTS LEAGUE.

NEW PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO JOIN THE TEAM NOW, READY FOR THE NEW SEASON 2009 - 2010.

OUR NEW GROUND AT GRAFHAM HAS EXCELLENT FACILITIES WHICH INCLUDE A TOP QUALITY PITCH, BRAND NEW GOALS / NETS, NEW PAVILION WITH CHANGING ROOMS AND A BRAND NEW FLOODLIT ASTRO PITCH FOR WINTER TRAINING.



WE SHALL BE TRAINING FROM EARLY JUNE THROUGH THE SUMMER AND TAKING PART IN SEVERAL TOURNAMENTS AHEAD OF THE NEW SEASON STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2009.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THIS CHARTER STANDARD AND PROFESSIONALLY RUN FOOTBALL TEAM AND YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME ALONG TO A TRAINING SESSION THEN PLEASE CONTACT EITHER JOHN CAMPBELL ON 07801 027216 OR DAVID WALPOLE ON 07860 544267.

www.kccougarsfc.co.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

May 2009 The good news is that it appears once again that we have no reported incidents in Grafham.

Information for neighbouring villages has not been issued to me this month and I have taken this up with the police e-cops section as I feel it is of interest to us all to know what is happening.

I was unable to attend personally the panel meeting in St Neots last month but concern was reported over cyclists on the pavements and speeding on the roads as well as other crime related matters.

An appeal has been launched following a fatal collision in Coldhams Lane, Cambridge on Tuesday 12th May at 1.48am. The collision involved a blue VW Passat sports car which left the road and collided with a tree. Sadly the driver 25 year old, Lukasz Grabowski of Cherry Hinton Road, died. No-one else was hurt.

PC Tim Kirkby of the Roads Policing Unit would like to hear from anyone with information - 0845 456 456 4

In the week of April 20th, a week long speed enforcement resulted in more than 700 people being caught speeding. 62 drivers and 694 people were caught speeding by mobile and fixed cameras, resulting in £60 fines and three points on their licences. More serious offences were dealt with by the Magistrates Court. Those people caught over the limit with lesser speeds may be invited to attend a speed awareness course.

PC Tony Barrios, Casualty Reduction Officer, said:

"These results show that there are still a number of drivers who think it is acceptable to speed on the county's roads."

Mobile units continue to operate in our area.

Now that the weather is improving, a warning has been issued to us all, to close windows and lock doors when we go out - burglars being more than aware that we leave windows open in the Summer months.

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



Photographic competition

Entries are invited for a photographic competition.

The SAS are looking for 4 photographs of a winter's day in Grafham to be used as Christmas cards.

Entry fee: £1 per photograph

Prize: Use of your photograph for the 2009 Grafham Christmas cards

which will be sold in aid of the restoration fund for All Saints Church

Entry form available from Valerie Williams

01480 812794 or at the Village Hall on the day of the Open Gardens

Closing date: **Wednesday 24th June**

sAs

Save All Saints Association



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.

Please contact: **Jill 810157 or Hazel 81032**

Scarecrow competition also 28th June. Please read info on page 1 and flyer put through your door.

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spare plant pots: please 'phone Jill Tyack on 810157



Letter to the Editors...

Thank you for support

I would like to publicly thank, on behalf of all residents at Westwood Lodge, Cllrs M Tyler (Grafham Parish Council), Peter Downes (Cambridgeshire County Council) and Patricia Jordan (Huntingdonshire District Council) for their support, advice and action over the problems caused by the Chicken Factory/Farm in Church Road. It is very encouraging to know that our local councillors will take on the issues that cause us problems.

David Anthony



Independence Day Safari Supper - 4th July

A date for your diary - more details soon

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

Grafham Cricket Club

The first game of the season on May 2nd was against Smith Arms, also our first game in Division 1. Chris Brown was captain; who welcomed Zak Seaman, and Gareth Knowles to their first match with Grafham. Chris won the toss and put Smith Arms into bat. Steady bowling by Chris Brown (25 for 3) and Ben Dickson (43 for 0) pegged Smith Arms back to 70 for 3 after 16 overs, followed by 9 tight overs from Tom Chester (22 for 2), accompanied with 6 tidy overs from Gareth Knowles taking 1 wicket leaving Smith Arms on 120 for 6. Then Grafham's bowling lost its momentum and Smiths Arms scored heavily with P Burroway finishing 66 not out: their most successful batsman: ending with a total of 195 for 6. Grafham started out brightly: with Duncan Palmer (15); Colin Grundy (34) and Ben Dickson (24) making Grafham at one stage 63 for 1; well up with the asking rate of just under 5 an over, but then there followed a middle order collapse, which ended with Tom Clayton 14 not out, and Grafham all out for 108. The overall feeling was that in parts of the game Grafham matched Smith Arms, and did not disgrace ourselves at the higher level.



Grafham Home Matches in June:
Saturday 6th June 2009 Grafham vs. Lidlington
Saturday 20th June 2009 Grafham vrs Bedford Athletic

Chris Dighton Club Chairman 01480 811862

From 'Shepherd's Tales page 2



View from the Pew!

June promises to be an interesting month for Grafham. On 7th June at 11am we will have an All Age Worship for Trinity Sunday. Then in the afternoon, we will be able to visit all the Open Gardens around Grafham; the small charge of £2.50 to visit all the gardens will be in aid of the Save All Saints Fund towards mending the church crack. June 28th will see history being made in Grafham. All Saints Church will be hosting Grafham's very first 'Well Dressing'. This will all take place at the same time as the Scarecrow Competition and Churchyard Fete. There will be refreshments and a selection of stalls available in the churchyard and this will be followed by an open air service at 3pm. Funds raised throughout the day will go towards church running costs. We do hope you will be able to come along to



this historic day in the life of Grafham. Come and see what 'Well Dressing' is all about. Why not invite friends and family along to join in the fun and don't forget the camera! In the meantime, the church porch is the place to go if you are after a few different plants for your garden; the plant stall is proving very popular with locals and visitors. Don't forget to browse through the selection of books on offer - also in the porch! Our next All Age Worship will be on 5th July. The PCC is now considering the way forward with the work needed to mend the crack in the church. They are presently awaiting clarification on some points raised within the Structural Engineers report. At the time of writing, the search is still on for new Churchwardens. If you would like to know more about what these historical and interesting roles entail then please contact our Rector, 01480 891695.

Come and join us for a stroll in the countryside

In the next few weeks Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group will resume their local evening walks led by Sam Malt.



Please contact Sam for more details
01480 810844 daytime or **01480 811654** evenings.

Grafham Church Flower Club

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall learning how to make floral arrangements for display and in the home. The June meeting will be led by Karenza who will demonstrate an arrangement using wood, twigs, foliage and flowers. We make a small charge for each session to cover funds. Do ring me if you would like to know more about the club and our programme for 2009. **Hazel 01480 810326**



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**



NEEDED - CHURCH CLEANERS!

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

For approximately 2 hours only 6 times per year

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JOIN THE EXISTING TEAM
ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

Interested? Phone Jill Tyack 810157 for details

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

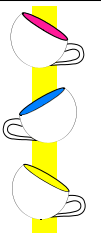
Maths Tuition

- Term time and/or holidays
- 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

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday, **June 10th at Karen Stewart's, 2 Home 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.



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. Call Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS YOU!

Regional winners of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Green Award 2006 & 2007



Join Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group
Call Sam Malt on
01480 810844 daytime
01480 811654 evenings

<http://www.grafhamconservationgroup.btik.com>



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 details of the current read, **please contact Tina Theodorou on 01480 811366 or Karen Stewart on 01480 810961.** 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 L108/120N) visits **Breach Rd, Grafham** on alternate **Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05.**

Visits are: **June 2nd, 16th and 30th.**

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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

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 Meyer studying child development 15yrs **811279**

Olivia Sinfield Grade B GCSE Child Development 18yrs **811831**



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Aromatherapy Massage

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Poor sleep

Stress

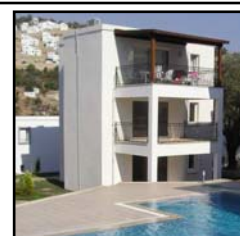
Massage is a great way to have some me-time and to feel that you are taking care of yourself. Have a one-off treat or a regular maintenance. You can also buy a gift for a friend. Choose from shoulder, neck, back and arms or a whole body massage.

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 midnight on the following
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18th June

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 Advert size depends on
 available space. Community
 notices are free; business
 adverts start at £3.00 per
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