

# Grafham Gossip

**Issue 62 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 20th August**

## Editors' note...

In this August issue we have the usual info on village life including: the results of the photo competition on page 3; some details of a 'Village Emergency Plan' in the Parish news; information about changes to the bus services on page 4; extra Junior cricket sessions page 5; who to contact about the Flower Festival - this page and of course, lots more on every page! The September *Grafham Gossip* will be delivered after September 2nd when most schools begin the Autumn term.

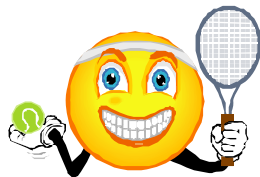


Editors, [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)

## Found

Some clothes, inside a hanging suit/clothes bag, were found on the road outside a house. Contact: 01480 811802

Anyone for Tennis?  
Would anyone like to join and start a Tennis Club in Grafham?



Interested people please contact Philip on 1480 811516

## URGENTLY NEEDED

### CLEANERS FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCH

Please come and join our existing friendly team!

Two hours six times a year. If you clean with a friend you can have a chance to chat at the same time!

All equipment is provided.

Many visitors comment on how well cared for the church is, so please help us to keep it so. If you are interested please contact Jane Stewart - **01480 810841**

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](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)**

## Grafham All Saints

2nd August (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - All Age Worship  
9th August (2nd Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist  
16th August (3rd Sunday) - 8.00 - Eucharist  
11.00 - All Age Worship  
23rd August (4th Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist  
30th August (5th Sunday) - 11.00 - at Barham - Group Eucharist celebrating Barham's Patronal Festival  
6th September (1st Sunday) - 16.30 - Flower Festival Songs of Praise (NB - No 11.00 service today)



Everyone very welcome including visitors and holidaymakers. Please don't be shy - come in and join us - we love seeing new faces!

### 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

Churchwarden - Hazel 810326

## Grafham's first Scarecrow Competition

Grafham's scarecrow competition was a great success. The uptake was slow but turned good in the end with 16 families entering. The thought and ingenuity shown by the entrants was astounding and judging was extremely difficult. We've had excellent feedback with lots of villagers promising to take part next year, it would be great to see scarecrows in every road (you know who we mean!) **£48.00** was raised for the Church fund, so thanks to everyone that entered. Get your thinking hats on for next year! **Philip & Jill Allingham**



*Winning Scarecrows can be seen on the village web site.*

## Grafham Church Flower Festival

September 5th and 6th

Hello Flower Arrangers - the theme this year is "Dance" and we have a list of about 30 different kinds of dancing to stimulate your imagination! Let us know which dance you would like to depict or if you'd like a particular space in the church. We will hold a meeting in church nearer the time. If you'd like to take part this year for the first time we would be delighted to hear from you (don't be shy, we're a friendly bunch and all help each other!) so get in touch with **Hazel 810326** or **Jill 810157**



## PARISH NEWS... July 2009



The Parish Council will soon begin work on a Village Emergency Plan. Full details of how such a plan might work will emerge when the work of the committee formed to manage the project begins to take shape.

Part of the plan will involve gaining information on what specialisms and skills are available in the village, such as health workers, first-aiders, plumbers, council workers etc. So please expect some requests for information over the next few months. Of course, it isn't compulsory to provide information to the scheme but we hope that most people will join in what could be an important resource for the village. For example, flooding is becoming more and more of a threat in East Anglia and, although Grafham is unlikely to be flooded, it is possible that we could be affected by road closures or power shortages through flooding in other areas.

Closely connected to the above is the question of how to provide important information throughout the village at any given time. In particular this relates to criminal or suspicious activities noticed or reported. The Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch believe that an effi-

cient way to ensure that people get to know about what is happening around them is to mail-drop the more important stuff, either by a leaflet through the door or by e-mail. If you would like to take a part in this, or are prepared to disseminate information in your immediate neighbourhood, please let either the Parish Council or Neighbourhood Watch know. Your name and e-mail address can then be included in a mailing list.

There has been some police activity to address parking issues in the village. The Parish Council has no jurisdiction in the area of issuing notices concerning obstruction to the footpaths, or in disputes between neighbours.

Traffic speed through the village is a perennial problem and the Parish Council will be investigating the possibilities of using a scheme known as "Community Speedwatch" in which ten people from the village will be trained in the use of a speed camera. Further information will be given as it becomes available.

There is still no progress in finding land suitable for allotment gardens, but I have received a letter of support from our MP, Jonathan Djanogly.

Katrina Goodwin attended her last meeting in July. There is a vacancy on the parish Council, and we would like to hear from you if you think you can fill it.

**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.*

**Margaret Life** Clerk to the Parish Council **01480 819477** [margaret\\_life\\_grafham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk)

**Philip Allingham** Chairman **01480 811516** [allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk)

**Ian Gardener** **01480 812821** [idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk](mailto:idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk)

**Clint Thomas-Morgan** **812590** [j.c.thomasmorgan@btinternet.com](mailto:j.c.thomasmorgan@btinternet.com)

**David King** **01480 812430** [davidking@hawkeyesystems.com](mailto:davidking@hawkeyesystems.com)

**Tracey Ibbett** **01480 812310** [TraceyIbbett@talktalk.net](mailto:TraceyIbbett@talktalk.net)

**Mike Tyler** Vice Chair **01480 811244** [mt Tyler@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:mt Tyler@bedford.gov.uk)

## View from the Pew!

*'If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another'; (1 John Chapter 1 Verse 7)*

Fellowship was much in evidence throughout the very successful Churchyard Fete, Well Dressing and Scarecrow Festival on 28th June. Congregation members and friends

worked very hard together to create this memorable event and All Saints Church would like to thank everyone who participated and supported us on the day. Our thanks go to Jill Allingham for organising the Scarecrow Competition which attracted entries to rival anything Antony Gormley could conceive! The whole day raised the wonderful sum of £640 towards ever-increasing church running costs; but equally important was the atmosphere of shared and enriched fellowship that the day generated. And as for His marvellous light - we were bathed in glorious sunshine all day! If you missed the Well Dressing, hopefully a picture will appear in this issue. The clay upon which the well dressing was made had been placed in a wooden frame and had to be kept wet. The frame, ably made by Gordon Powell, had already been soaking in water for one week! The picture was pricked into the clay and black wool used to outline the picture. These outlines were then filled in by pressing flower petals, leaves, seeds, gravel and eggshells into the clay. Eventually, the whole structure weighed around 20 stone. Thanks to Clint and Martin, the whole



dressing was 'manoeuvred' into the back of a car for its 100 yard journey from the workshop to the church. Rumour has it that the 'Well Dressers' are considering doing another one next year since they enjoyed themselves so much. Congratulations to Hazel Powell, Jill Tyack; the Flower Club, Emily Tyack, Jill Taylor, Meera and Diana for this spectacular and historic achievement.

But, our flower club is not one to 'rest on its laurels'! As well as arranging forthcoming wedding displays, they are now busy planning the Flower Festival - to be held over the weekend of 5th and 6th September. Be sure not to miss this popular event, which will conclude with a Songs of Praise at 4.30pm on the 6th in church.

We thank Peter our organist for doing the 'talk slot' on 5th July. It is always refreshing to hear another's interpretation of Biblical narrative.

The congregation extends its welcome and spiritual support to William and Eleanor Bonnett - newly baptised on 12th July. The church was very well attended and we all held memories of our friend Pam in our hearts throughout the service.

To everyone who will be travelling or holidaying over the summer, Grafham All Saints wishes you safe journeys and spiritual refreshment.

*There's a picture of the Well Dressing on page 4 and also on the village website. Editor*

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



**July 2009** It is of great concern that there has been heightened criminal activity within the village over the past few weeks and I cannot stress enough the need for us all to be vigilant. A trailer was stolen from a driveway, a wallet and car keys stolen whilst a resident was in their house and their car driven away, also a bike was stolen from the front garden of another resident during the scarecrow festival.

Just when I reported that the latest police figures indicated a drop in criminal activity in adjoining villages, Grafham is rapidly becoming a bad statistic.

I attended the open forum of the Parish Council and it is agreed that we must address this subject urgently. **I propose to hold a Neighbourhood Watch evening on Tuesday September 22nd at 7.30pm** and will have the police in attendance to answer questions and give a presentation. I really hope that as many people as possible will attend; the last meeting only attracted 12 people including myself. If you are concerned, then you need to be there. It's vital that we all support each other through these difficult times and make sure we give the Neighbourhood Watch scheme a higher profile.

A resident living on Buckden Road was distressed to have her cat run over by a speeding car that did not stop.

Other matters:

The number of people caught under the influence, during the recent drink/driving campaign in the area, saw 113 people arrested.

Police are appealing for witnesses to a nonstop collision which resulted in a car leaving the road and landing upside down in a hedgerow. The collision happened on the A1 southbound, just south of Buckden between the Stirtloe turning and Diddington at 8.10pm on July 13th. A man driving a silver Audi 3 was travelling in the overtaking lane when he was in collision with a black estate car that had been travelling on the inside lane. Anyone with information should contact PC Nisbet on 0345 456 456 4

**James Snell 07951 069 565**

All emergencies 999 email: [Jamie2701@aol.com](mailto:Jamie2701@aol.com)  
 Police control centre 0345 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

## Neighbourhood Watch Evening

Tuesday September  
22nd  
at 7.30pm



includes a police presentation  
with question and answer session

## sAs Save All Saints Association Photographic competition

Thank you to everyone who entered the photographic competition. The entries made a wonderful display at the Churchyard fete. Many people commented on the high standard and all categories were closely contested. The winners and runners up of the competition, as judged by the people attending the churchyard fete were as follows:

Category	Winner	Runner Up
All Saints Church	Gloria Brinks	Keith Chisholm
Grafham Water	Theresa Hollands	Gloria Brinks
The Lanes	Chris Shurlock	Alastair Brydon
Around Grafham	Mrs L Elliott	Tricia Bedford

The above photographs shall soon be available on the village website. The winning entries will be used for the 2009 Grafham Christmas cards which will be available to buy from September and are being sold in aid of the Restoration Fund for All Saints Church.

## Missing cat returns after 8 weeks!



Margaret Butterfield wishes to report that her cat, Bobby, has miraculously returned after an absence of nearly 8 weeks missing. He arrived home on the evening of 19th July and appears to be in very good condition. Thanks to those of you who were kind enough to keep looking out for him.

Although he has been very vocal, as yet he has not disclosed his whereabouts for the past 8 weeks.

**The Plant Stall** in the church porch has a fine selection of herbaceous perennials and other plants at very reasonable prices. Offers of plants for sale and spare plant pots, please phone

Jill Tyack on **810157**



## 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.**

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**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](http://www.kccougarsfc.co.uk)**



### Changes to STAGECOACH and WHIPPET services

Stagecoach and Whippet services are changing from Sunday 2 August 2009. A table showing which services are changing is available on the village website.

Timetable leaflets and information for Whippet service 28 can be obtained from Passenger Transport at Cambridgeshire County Council.

Timetables and information for all other services in the table can be obtained directly from:

**Stagecoach**  
**100 Cowley Road**  
**Cambridge**  
**Cambs CB4 0DN**



Tel: **01223 423 578**

Email: [cambridge.enquiries@stagecoach.com](mailto:cambridge.enquiries@stagecoach.com)

[www.stagecoachbus.com/cambridge](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/cambridge)

## Grafham Cricket Club

"It cannot rain on the same day, three years running", Adi Love; Grafham's Captain said when planning the annual cricket match against Lockton in North Yorkshire. In the previous two years the match had been rained off.

The country was in the throes of a heat wave on the Saturday when Grafham's team arrived in Lockton, with sunshine that either turned exposed skin: hazel nut brown or raspberry red. In the Fox and Rabbit on Saturday night confidence was high that there would be a game next day.

At 1-15pm on the Sunday, 15 minutes before the game was scheduled to start, the Yorkshire clouds gathered and in true Alan Sherman fashion "DOWN CAME THE RAIN!" Long faces and I cannot believe this did the rounds of the Grafham changing room. Then at 1.30pm, the Yorkshire clouds finished their joke, cleared: the sun shone, Grafham won the toss and elected to bat. The Lockton ground has short boundaries and soon Grafham's batsmen were putting plenty of 4's and 6's over these boundaries; finishing with a score of 227 for 5 off 40 overs.

We then adjourned for tea. Yorkshire cricket teas are

famous for their quantity and variety, and this Lockton tea was no exception; the final course being apple pie with cream. After the tea Grafham team members dragged themselves onto the pitch to start fielding; as it was Lockton's turn to bat.

The thought crossed several minds after a few minutes in the field that the tea was a ploy to slow Grafham down. The ploy seemed to be working as Lockton steadily built an opening stand of 67 before the first wicket fell. Gradually the Lockton wickets started to tumble and Lockton were all out for 167; Grafham winning the game by 60 runs. Farewells, handshakes were made, and "hope to see you again next year" were voiced by both Grafham and Lockton. Grafham then retired to the Fox and Rabbit for a post match analyses and all agreed it had been a fabulous cricketing week end in great company!

### August Home Matches

**1st August** Grafham vrs Little Staughton.

**15th August** Grafham vrs Rushden United

**29th August** Grafham vrs GGSG CC

*Chris Dighton Club Chairman 01480 811862*



## A Shepherd's Tale - 10

*Patrick Goldsworthy*

The dry summer whilst popular with many has not been great for the sheep, with grass growth being pretty minimal. There is a wonderful irony that one of the reasons I bought the sheep was to avoid mowing the grass in our paddock, but now in the absence of grass I have to top up their rations. However true to the form of the last two years, as harvest approaches the rains re-appear and the grass is starting to grow again.

One of our summer excitements was to try and track down a new ram. I checked with the breed secretary to see if she knew if any of the top breeders had a "good old boy" who needed a new home. I was directed to the Holly Bar flock at Leighton Buzzard which had a selection to choose from. The flock has only been established for 10 years but had already won a number of prizes including the Society's best flock award last year. So Ruth and I had a lovely morning inspecting rams and their accoutrements and have now chosen a handsome blocky fellow called Holly Bar Furlong.

The only difficulty is that the breeder wants to use him in the early part of the season. To fill this gap and keep bloodlines tight, I hope to borrow the ram that sired the first lambs we had in 2008. especially as these shearlings now look very good.

In the last month we have done various routine health treatments, the lambs have been wormed, and all the flock treated with Blue Tongue vaccine and fly strike spray. Unfortunately one of my new ewes developed mastitis, a painful bacterial infection of the udder. This type of infection usually occurs soon after lambing when the ewe has lots of milk or when the lamb is weaned, in this case the infection was long after lambing and the lamb had not been weaned. After several injections with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories, she is now on the mend but we are doubtful as to whether she will be able to milk on both teats next year.



a ram lamb

## Grafham Well Dressing June 2009



There are more photos of village events on the website



Breakfast club 2 ½ - 11yrs  
 Playgroup 2 ½ - 5 yrs

Mucky Pups (parent /and  
 toddlers) **For details**

tel: **01480 890077**

[www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk)

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**Ellington and Grafham W.I.**

Join the growing team! We meet on the first Tuesday in the month. For details ring: Sue Rice **896139** or Ann Davies **891372**



**Babysitters**

- Anna Fozzard** 15yrs **812021**
- Georgie Goodwin** 14yrs **810297**
- Felicity** - Grade B GCSE Child Development 19yrs **812328**
- Jessica Homewood** - babysitting course 17yrs **810867**
- Kirsty Elliot** -babysitting course 17yrs **810550**
- Kate Kelley** -babysitting course 15yrs **812179**
- Emma** Qualified level 3 childcare worker 18 yrs **811701**
- Danielle** speaks French, homework help 19yrs **811279**
- Marie-Claire** studying child development 15yrs **811279**
- Olivia** Grade B GCSE Child Development 18yrs **811831**



**Junior Cricket Extra**

From the 4th August for four Tuesdays at 6pm I will be holding extra junior cricket sessions for children (between 6-12 years) who would like to further improve their cricketing skills (4th, 11th, 18th and 25th August). Each session will last for one hour and ideally will have just 10 players. This will allow me to spend more time with individuals as I will be assisted by Gareth, one of our team members. For each hourly session there will be a small charge of £3 - payable on the day. If you would like to book a place please ring me on either of the contact numbers below. Booking will be on a 'first come first served' basis.



**Tel. 07936140700 or 01480 811862**

If it rains in the afternoon, the evening session will be cancelled.

**Adam Dighton**

ECBCA Level 1 Cricket Coach. Certificate in Sports Leadership

**Grafham Social Committee**



invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday, **August 12th with Diana Thomas at Wesley House.**

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**

We meet in the Village Hall on the third Tuesday of each month learning to make floral arrangements for display and in the home. There is no August meeting but in September (15th), Karenza will demonstrate 'Being Resourceful' using items that cost nothing or very little. Please call if you are interested in joining us. We make a small charge to cover funds.



**Hazel 810326**

**The Mobile Library** (route L108/120N) visits Breach Rd, Grafham on alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05. Visits are: **August 11th and 25th.** Renewals / enquiries **0845 045 5225**  
<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>



**GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL** has a Public

Entertainments Licence for music, dancing, performing arts. It has changing rooms/showers and a playing field for sports activities. For more details, including hire charges or to book the hall **contact Pat / Alan Watson 811166**



**Grafham Bookworms Film and Debate Club**



The Grafham Bookworms, Film and Debate Group meets at 8pm on the last Tuesday of every month. If you're an avid reader and would like to meet like-minded "bookworms" we'd be delighted for you to join us at our informal, entertaining evenings. For details, please contact **Tina Theodorou 01480 811366** or **Karen Stewart 01480 810961**. New members always welcome.

**Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group**

Regional winners of the BTCV Green Award 2006 & 2007 invite you to carry out woodland conservation. Contact Sam Malt **01480 810844** day **01480 811654** evenings.  
[www.grafhamconservationgroup.btik.com](http://www.grafhamconservationgroup.btik.com)



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