

Grafham Gossip

Issue 64 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 19th November

Grafham All Saints

1st November (1st Sunday) 11.00 Family Service celebrating 'The Festival of All Saints'

8th November (2nd Sunday) 10.55*- Remembrance Day: Act of Remembrance followed by Eucharist (*Please note early start)

15th November (3rd Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist including first communion of newly confirmed (No 8.00 Eucharist)

22nd November (4th Sunday) 11.00 - Eucharist

29th November (5th Sunday) 16.00 - Service in association with Marie Curie Cancer Care "Lights to Remember"

6th December (1st Sunday) 11.00 All Age Worship

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 Powell 810326



Editors' note...

There are several dates for your diary in this issue; a Hallowe'en dance on 31st Oct. page 5; Bonfire night on 7th Nov; the Joy of Sax, 21st Nov.- see page 3; the Advent Fair on 28th November, page 3; the 'Lights to Remember service' see View from the Pew page 2, as well as regular village activities. Can you make something for the Advent Fair or run a stall? See page 3. Find out how the Southdowns are doing, also on page 3. Read more about the big cat on page 4 and lots more on every page!



Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Shoe Box Appeal

Please return completed boxes by Tuesday 17th November. See page 3 for details.



The Joy of Sax

Grafham Village Hall

Saturday 21st November 7.30 pm

See page 3 for details



Grafham Christmas cards

now available

See page 4 for details or ring Valerie on 812794



Bonfire and Fireworks!

Saturday 7th November

Adults £4, Children £1 (under 16yrs)

Under 5's free!

Free sparkler per child

Food from 6:30 pm

Jumbo Hot Dog £2.00 Tomato Soup 50p

Jacket Potato with Butter and Cheese £1.00

Mulled wine £1.00



Details of bonfire construction and Guy to follow by flier!

Website: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk **E-mail:** gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

PARISH NEWS...



The council have received a complaint concerning a football being kicked against the wooden fencing around the sport facility which has been causing unwelcome noise. It is hoped, with the start of new school and college terms, that this particular practice will cease.

This complaint follows several other complaints of anti-social behaviour around the village, a subject which became the focus for the Neighbourhood Watch evening held recently in the village hall. A total of 39 villagers attended this event which was hosted by James Snell and where our PCSO gave us advice and assurances. The message is that, in order to be able to tackle anti-social behaviour, the Parish Council and the police must be informed of what is happening. No-one should be afraid of reprisals as the police take great care to protect the identities of information

You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly using the details below.

Philip Allingham Chairman 811516 philip_allingham@sky.com

Tracey Ibbett 812310 TraceyIbbett@talktalk.net

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

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

David King 812430 davidking@hawkeyesystems.com

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

sources when asked.

The council will be exploring funding opportunities to help in providing fixed basketball nets at the sport facility. This is in response to a request from a resident.

Mrs Helen Breakspear has been invited to join the Parish Council to fill the casual vacancy created when Mrs Goodwin resigned in the summer. Helen has lived in Grafham for more than 20 years and has brought up her family here.

The village experienced its first Speedwatch event last week. During the hour and a half that it was in operation there was a clear, visible slowing of traffic through the village and from that perspective the operation was a success. Further Speedwatch events are planned and the Council would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to volunteer to help in recording data.

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk

01480 819477 margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

View from the Pew!



This is the first chapter of my writing "View from the Pew" and I would like to start by thanking, on your behalf, Jill Dighton who has written this column for many years and kept us informed so eloquently each month of the news from All Saints.

Jill was re-licensed as a Lay Minister on 20th September in a glorious service in the spectacular surroundings of Ely Cathedral. Thank you again Jill - for continuing to serve - you are much appreciated.

We are now into the last lap of Autumn and those shorter days and longer nights herald the onset of Winter. But be of good cheer, the winter sunshine and crisp mornings remind us of the joy of the changing seasons, of those soft, cosy cardigans we had forgotten about and hearty, warming casserole recipes! We also think at this time of the young people who have left the village to take up further education at colleges and universities. Our love and blessings go with them.

On 26th September Emma and Chris were married and we send them both our love and congratulations. Emma and her bridesmaids made a very pretty picture among the country flowers and raffia with which the Flower Club had decorated the church. The sun shone and the bells rang out the celebration.

A quick makeover of the flowers prepared us for our Harvest Festival in which we gave thanks for "all good gifts around us" and remembered those who are not so fortunate. Our "Bring and Share" lunch was, as always, a happy social occasion.

Our Remembrance Sunday service on 8th November

will begin with the Act of Remembrance at 10.55 am and everyone is very welcome to join us for this but feel free to leave before the start of the service if you wish.

It seems especially fitting at this time that we still pay our respects to those brave service men and women who have given and are still giving their lives for their country.

We are delighted to announce that two candidates from our congregation will be confirmed at Ely Cathedral on 13th November. Their first communion will be at Grafham on 15th November so do please come and support them on this special day.

On 29th November at 4 pm there will be a special service in association with Marie Curie Cancer Care: "Lights to Remember" in which we give thanks for our loved ones who have died. This is a particularly peaceful service when we can remember and reflect on the lives of those we have loved and lost. All are welcome and if anyone would like the name/s of a loved one read out at the service, **there will be a list for names in the church or they may phone Jill Dighton on 811862.**

If you are out for a walk in that autumn or winter sunshine, do call in at the church porch and sample the excellent selection of books for sale to suit all tastes. We are extremely grateful to donors and buyers alike as the income from these sales is most welcome for church funds. Look out for the Christmas cards displayed above the book shelves; these are the winning pictures in the photograph competition which took place earlier in the year and were judged by you all at the Church Fete. Order forms and instructions are available there too (proceeds to SAS).

Thank you for buying our plants and vegetables, some of the latter being of prizewinning standard at a local show.

Safari Supper

This hugely enjoyable evening will take place on Saturday **February 6th, 2010**. Every year villagers are devastated that they miss this event - due to prior commitments. Your Social Committee hopes that this gives everyone enough notice! Details to follow in future issues of the *Grafham Gossip*.



The new Marston Road Recycling Centre

in St Neots will open to the public at 8am on Friday 16 October and the old Huntingdon Street Recycling Centre will close at noon on Thursday 15 October. See poster on the village website for details or visit

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/waste/householdwaste/recyclingcentres/cambscentres>

Five Parish Advent Fair 2009

The annual Advent Fair supports the five parishes in our group: Easton, Ellington, Grafham, Spaldwick, Barham and Woolley. **This year the Fair will be held in Ellington Church on Saturday, 28th November from 1.00pm**, with the raffle draw at about 4.00pm. Light refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon.

Can you start making pickles and jams, putting cakes in the freezer, preparing craft items, looking out prizes for the raffle, bottle stall and children's tombola, collecting gifts and presents, good white elephant treasures and toys or offer to provide food for the refreshments or red wine for mulling? Could you organize an extra stall, game or competition to add to the list below or could you offer to help one of the stall holders listed below?

Please phone Sue on 453350 with any offers of help beforehand or on the day and please do come and help make it a jolly occasion. Ellington Rectory in Parsons Drive can be a collecting point from now on or contact the stallholders below.



Raffle --- **Marion 890561**

Cake Stall --- **Romi 890287**

Honey/pickles/chutneys/jams -**Peter 891043**

Gifts and presents ---**Sarah 891496**

Craft stall ---**Jill 810157**

Christmas stall ---**Wendy 891987**

Children's tombola -- **Muriel / Sylvie 891964**

Bottle stall ---**Jonathan 891695**

Treasures/ white elephant ---**Ann 891372**

Mulled wine ---**Gilly 891100**



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Kwilkyn Jewellery Christmas is a'coming and with it the annual problem of what to buy for the lady (or ladies!) in your life. Well, we all know that nothing pleases a lady like jewellery and no jewellery pleases as much as jewellery made especially for her.

So, aren't you lucky that here, in Grafham, you have a designer and maker of earrings, necklaces and bracelets in silver, pearl and crystal. In addition to her designs on our website www.kwilkyn.com Carolyn will be pleased to discuss your ideas and turn them into beautiful jewellery. It won't break the bank, either, as Kwilkyn's prices start at under £6!

For more information please see the Kwilkyn Jewellery advert on the back page.



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - 2009

You may not want to be thinking about Christmas yet but PLEASE read on... Are you willing to fill a shoebox with Christmas goodies for underprivileged children in Eastern Asia? You may recall that, over the last few years, as a village, we have donated around 45 boxes per year to this very worthwhile cause and again, this year, I ask you to be part of this fantastic charity to bring some Christmas joy to the lives of children who are less fortunate than our own. The leaflet, put through your door, will give you ideas of what to put in your box. Completed boxes should be left with me no later than Tuesday 17th November, 2009 (or give me a ring and I can collect them from you). **Many thanks, Moira Young, 2 Meadow Ground, Grafham, ph: 811577**



Wanted! Do you have any unwanted books at home? Grafham All Saints Church is looking to re-stock the book-stall in the church porch and would be pleased to accept donations of books; preferably those in good condition. Please leave any books in the church porch. Many thanks!



Come to a fun evening of music for many tastes

Grafham Village Hall

Saturday 21st November 7.30 pm

The Joy of Sax

(Brian Homewood and friends)

and other delights

Gren and some woman (songs from light opera)

a ukulele lady with tom toms

blues and gospel singer

ploughman's supper

bar

sAs

sAs



Tickets £7 (£5 students) from 810961 810694 or 812440

A Shepherd's Tale - 13 *Patrick Goldsworthy*

Brant Sidney has been getting on with the job. As I write he has now served the eight ewes that he was given to work on. So far one shearling (a one year old sheep that's been shorn once) has returned and now has a red bottom on top of her original yellow. Red bottoms are now the order of the day as we changed the raddle colour from yellow seventeen days, (ewes oestrous cycle), after the first ewe was served. I was particularly relieved to see that the ewe, who had cost a small fortune in antibiotics after suffering summer mastitis, has been served but she was the last one to be tupped.

Our new stock ram Holly Bar Furlong has arrived. He has attended a lot of shows in his time which makes him easy to handle. I collected him from the East of England Autumn Show where he won a respectable second prize. Weighing in at 90kg he is a bit smaller than Sidney and has been put to work on three of Sidney's daughters born last year. He will take over the other ewes in ten days time, though hopefully he will not have much work to do.



A friend of mine described pedigree breeders as being a bit nerd-like. Being a nerd I was browsing the history section of the Southdown website when I was amazed to discover a short section relating that my great grandfather had founded a pedigree Southdown flock, at his farm in Kent, in 1892. The description from the 1902 flock book goes on to describe the breeding lines he had followed, including the purchase of stud rams from the royal flock at Sandringham. In a way this should not have been a surprise as from the beginning of the 19th Century up until the Second World War, Southdowns were one of the most numerous breeds in the UK.

sAs

Save All Saints Association GRAFHAM CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE NOW

Featuring the winning photos of the photographic competition

BUY: from the Grafham Water Visitor Centre shop

VIEW: samples / pick up an order form in the church porch

VISIT: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk for more details and to download an order form

RING: Valerie on 812794 for more information

sAs

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

The Neighbourhood Watch evening was held on September 21st and attended by around thirty people which clearly indicates there is interest and support in the village for the scheme. A presentation was given by PC Gemma Clarke on distraction burglary and rogue trading, followed by questions and answers.

The main concern was the continued anti-social behaviour by several youths in the village. It was explained to us that the police were stepping up their patrols and these would be done in an unmarked police vehicle and by plain clothes police. Several names have been provided to the police which will hopefully wrap up this matter. However, we have been asked to continue to report any further anti-social behaviour to the Police Control Room or anonymously to the Crimestoppers number.

The presentation reminded us that noise also counts as anti-social behaviour. This covers continual loud music and partying as well as the revving-up and driving of motorbikes in a small area continually.

The Hunts Post gave us good coverage the following week and have also offered to support us with publicity on any future incidents.

Just a few days after the evening a resident in Van Diemens Way had a cold-caller saying they were from Anglia Windows doing work in the area and were they interested in having work done.

The resident advised them they were not interested and told them of what the police had said at our presentation and left promptly. Anyone who calls and says they are from a utility company will have positive identification and you should insist on seeing it before letting them have access to your property.

By the time this issue is published the Speedwatch scheme will have commenced - I believe this is being reported elsewhere, but just a reminder that the speed limit through the village is 30mph and anyone in excess of 36mph can look forward to receiving a letter from the police.

No other incidents have been reported.

James Snell 07951 069 565

email: Jamie2701@aol.com

All emergencies 999

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



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**

Watch Out - There's a Big Cat About!

Hunts Post readers will have read about a "big cat" sighting within our village. On 12th September, holidaymakers had enjoyed a walk around Grafham Water, when at 5:30pm they spotted a "puma" making its way along Church Road towards them. We were informed by Mr Armstrong of Halifax that the "big cat" looked like a large, sandy coloured Labrador but moved like a cat, swinging its tail as it walked.

This prompted me to write to the Hunts Post for I too had seen the "puma" earlier in the month on our village playing field. It was on Wednesday, 2nd September at around 5.15 pm whilst looking out of my bedroom window. The animal walked down the side of the football pitch towards the houses that back onto the playing field, in the direction of Van Diemens Way. It had the distinctive walk that cats have, although its colour was more like that of a dog. Instead of continuing down the playing field it jumped into the field towards The Wyvern group of houses.

I clearly knew what I had seen! So after consulting with two neighbours who are mothers, I called the police. I was worried for there were young people playing cricket on the playing field and I'm not sure what I would have done if later I heard there'd been a terrible accident. At around 5.50 pm a police officer arrived at my house to ascertain more details. He thanked me and assured me the police take these sightings seriously. He said he'd investigate the area. Since that sighting, my attention has been drawn to an article on Cambridgeshire's Police Force website about PC Paul Carter of the Rural Community Action Team, who plots and reports on big cats sightings in our county. Clearly from PC Carter's information, what Mr Armstrong and I saw was a lynx although I understand a black "puma" had been seen in the village playing field a few days before my sighting. PC Carter told the Hunts Post that the majority of sightings have been west of the A1 corridor from Sawtry to the Northampton border, and certainly Grafham sits in that area. Since September 2008 the police have received 121 reports of big cat sightings from all over the county.

I feel the question should be asked, perhaps to our Neighbourhood Watch or Emergency Planning Team about how safe we are in Grafham. Farmers have said cattle and sheep have been attacked and one wonders how long it will be before a child is attacked. As we live in the country circled by fields then I would expect to see foxes, but not puma or lynx roaming down the roads of our village.

Keith Gowen

sAs Save All Saints Association **sAs**

Advance Warning Next Year's Photo Competition

The SAS are planning a photographic competition next summer. Entries will be invited of photographs of Grafham through the seasons. The winning photographs will be used to produce a 2011 Grafham calendar. More details to follow next year.

Send your news and gossip to
gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

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01480 811654 evenings

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

Grafham Church Flower Club

Our next meeting will be at 8 pm on Tuesday 7th November in the village hall. Karenza will be giving us some ideas in preparation for Christmas. There is no need to bring anything, just come along and watch. New members are always very welcome. Please ring **Hazel 810326** for details or just come along on the night.



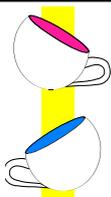
Ellington and Grafham W.I.

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



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday, **November 11th at Sue Kelly's, 3 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.



Retired Residents Christmas Lunch

Monday December 14th

The "Eaton Oak"

More details to follow in December Grafham Gossip



Babysitters

Danielle 20yrs 811279
Kirsty 18yrs - babysitting course 810550
Kate 17yrs - babysitting course 812179
Georgie 14yrs- babysitting course 432688
Felicity 20yrs -Grade B GCSE Child Development 812328
Marie-Claire 17yrs -GCSE child development 811279
Olivia 20yrs - Grade B GCSE Child Development 811831



Wanted - Baby Sitters

Please contact gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



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October 31st 8-12pm

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Tickets £8 for more info

Call Or TXT Pat on: 07816588303

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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.

The Mobile Library route L108/120 visits **Breach Road,**



Grafham on alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05. Visits are: **November 3rd and 17th.** Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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



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for the *Grafham Gossip* are midnight on the following Thursdays:

**19th November
10th December**

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