

# Grafham Gossip



**Issue 65 Very Early Deadline: Midnight Thursday 10th December**

## Editors' note...

There's a lot going on in Grafham in December; have a look at the new Village Diary on the web site to help you plan your month! Please remember the early deadline of 10th December. Following this, the January *Grafham Gossip* may be delivered anytime between 18th December and the first week in January, but both the December and January issues will be available on the website. We'd like to say a big "Thank you" to all our distributors for making sure every house in the village gets a copy of the *Grafham Gossip* all through the year! We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas!

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



## Five Parish Advent Fair

Sat 28th November

Ellington Church from 1.00pm

Please see page 4 for more details



## The Friends of Save All Saints **sAs**

are pleased to announce that Grafham will be having its first Traditional Yuletide Afternoon Tea Party on **Sunday December 20th** in the **village hall**.

Traditional Tea served from 2 – 4pm, £3 per 'Tea'  
Mulled wine £1.50

Santa (in his grotto!) £2

Other attractions will include:

Children's card making activity

Guess the name of the reindeer

Raffle

Lucky Dip



We hope this event will attract all generations and we look forward to seeing you on the 20th December. Donations of cakes and prizes for raffle would be gratefully accepted. Contact **Karen Stewart 810961**



## Carol Singing around Grafham Tuesday 17th December

Come and join the SAS to

Sing and Celebrate the Christmas Season

- Meet at All Saints Church at **6.30 pm**
- Carol-singing tour of the village - Finish in the village hall **about 8pm** for mince pies/mulled wine
- Collection for the Save All Saints Fund as we go.

**Listen for the bell ringing to announce our arrival near your door.**

If anyone can bring any musical instruments to accompany us do let Karen Stewart know (810961)

## Grafham All Saints

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 - **Travelling Nativity sets off around the village**

13th December (2nd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

20th December (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist

(No 11 am Service) 16.30 **Carol Service**

24th December (Christmas Eve) 16.00 **Crib Service**

25th December (Christmas Day) 11.00 Eucharist

27th December No service

3rd January (1st Sunday) 11.00 All Age Worship to celebrate **Epiphany**

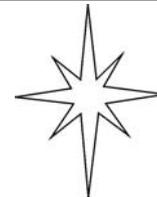
10th January (2nd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

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



## Mince Pie and Coffee Morning

**Saturday 5th December**

Grafham Village Hall

10am to 3pm

Various Stalls and Raffle

Proceeds to All Saints, Grafham Enquiries to **Hazel 810326**



Save All Saints Association

## **sAs** Burns Night Supper **sAs**

**Saturday 23rd January 2010**

**Grafham Village Hall 7.45pm for 8pm start**

**Bring your own choice of drink**

**Tartan encouraged**

The Evening has always been a sell-out event, with everything you could hope for from the best of Burns:

- Music from the pipes to greet and entertain you
- Piping in and addressing the haggis (McSween's best)
- The traditional Scots 3 course meal
- Toasts and entertaining speeches

**Ticket price of £12.50 unchanged from last year 70 tickets only are available from 1st December on 810961, so don't delay.**



So that this can be as much as possible a community event, there is a limit of 4 tickets per household until 1st January (if any are left by then).

**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. See page 2 for more details.**

**Website: [www.grafhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.grafhamvillage.org.uk) E-mail: [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)**



## 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](http://www.grafhamvillage.org.uk) for more details and to download an order form

**RING:** Valerie on 812794 for more information

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 anti-social behaviour problem continues and the police are certain that the culprits are residing in the village.



A letter drop was organised due the problems of the night of Thursday 22nd October between 6.30pm and 7.30pm when 4 young males and 2 young females went around the village banging on doors and throwing stones and fruit at properties. Cambridgeshire Constabulary has a zero tolerance to this type of behaviour and if found, the offenders will be dealt with. I have been asked again for anyone knowing who these youths are to come forward, either by contacting PC Gemma Clark at Huntingdon Police Station on **0345 456 4564 extension 5576** or anonymously to Crimestoppers.

In surrounding villages in the week of November 9th there were 7 burglaries – 1 was in the daytime in Perry and others were at night. If anyone sees anyone acting suspiciously please contact the control centre. There has been an increase of cycle thefts in Brampton mainly due to bikes being left outside properties not secured by locks.

No other reported matters.

**James Snell 07951 069 565**  
email: [Jamie2701@aol.com](mailto:Jamie2701@aol.com)

All emergencies 999

Police control centre 0345 456 4564

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**

## Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

*A precis of an article by Sue Paul*

Please remember our annual **coffee and mince pie morning on Wednesday 2nd December** at the Methodist Hall between 10 and 12 o'clock. Everyone will be made most welcome.

The **Swine Flu vaccine** comes in batches of 10 which have to be used within 24 hours. The surgery will first be contacting all high-priority groups, between the ages of six months and 65yrs, to attend special vaccination clinics. Subsequently, other groups will be contacted; this is a government directive and so is different from the seasonal flu programme.

For complete article see [www.bandlp.co.uk](http://www.bandlp.co.uk) Ed.



## Letter to the Editors... Big Cats

Regarding the big cat issue, no-one seeing these cats has been attacked and I have not heard of a big cat attack on humans in England, so what is all the fuss about other than narrow minded scaremongering?

As for the lynx, they are released in order to tackle the ever increasing problem of rodents such as rabbits and rats; they do not attack livestock or humans. Maybe some people should do a little research instead of jumping the gun and condemning these animals. Out of the 121 sightings none of these people were attacked.

As for the cattle these cats are far too small to attack a beast that size and without proof it could just as well be a stray dog. Its easy blame something and when people don't understand they feed off each others emotions then before you know it is mass hysteria with a witch hunt on the go. If people are afraid of the wildlife in the countryside then maybe they should consider living in town.

As for the concern of a child getting attacked, if a child stumbles across a fox or a badger the aggressiveness of these animals when hurt or cornered can be catastrophic. All wildlife can be dangerous, but instead of condemning the animals how about educating people about wildlife? After all, you teach children how to cross a road and how to stay safe when approached by a stranger. Animals have more rights to be in the countryside than we do.

I have seen far more aggressive domestic dogs in my line of work as a dog behaviourist and would rather my daughter encounter a big cat than a dog over which the owner has no control. Let's give these over active imaginations a rest and enjoy Mother Nature at her best. Take a step back and see these beautiful animals for what they are.

**Sara Wiles**

Email your views to: [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)

## URGENTLY NEEDED CLEANERS FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCH

Please come and join our existing friendly team!



Two hours six times a year. Clean with a friend and chat at the same time!

All equipment is provided.

Many visitors comment on our well-cared for church, so please help us to keep it so. If

interested please contact Jane Stewart - **01480 810841**

## 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.



# PARISH NEWS...

The Parish Council received a letter from our MP - Mr Jonathan Djanogly who is seeking an opinion on the quality and speed of our Broadband access. We would therefore like to hear your views which we will pass on to Mr Djanogly. He in turn will be writing to BT and lobbying for improved access and upgraded equipment for rural areas.



You can e-mail your responses to any of the council or the clerk at the addresses shown below. Please take a couple of minutes to let us know how good or bad you

think the service is. This is our chance to campaign for some improvements.

The Council welcomed Mrs Helen Breakspear as its new fellow councillor. Helen has lived in Grafham for many years and wants to make a contribution to the village.

The Grafham Village sign project has moved forward and the preferred site is the verge at the junction of Breach, Buckden and Church Roads, close to the wooden bench.

The Council will be seeking grant funding for the purchase of vandal-proof basketball nets which will be available at the all-weather sports facility.

**Margaret Life, Parish Clerk**

01480 819477 [margaret\\_life\\_grafham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk)

You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly using the details below.  
The next meeting will be Tuesday 8th December

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Philip Allingham</b> Chairman 811516 <a href="mailto:philip_allingham@sky.com">philip_allingham@sky.com</a> | <b>Tracey Ibbett</b> 812310 <a href="mailto:TraceyIbbett@talktalk.net">TraceyIbbett@talktalk.net</a>                   |
| <b>Ian Gardener</b> 812821 <a href="mailto:idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk">idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk</a>                | <b>Mike Tyler</b> Vice Chair 811244 <a href="mailto:mt Tyler@bedford.gov.uk">mt Tyler@bedford.gov.uk</a>               |
| <b>David King</b> 812430 <a href="mailto:davidking@hawkeyesystems.com">davidking@hawkeyesystems.com</a>        | <b>Clint Thomas-Morgan</b> 812590 <a href="mailto:j.c.thomasmorgan@btinternet.com">j.c.thomasmorgan@btinternet.com</a> |

## Thinking of Christmas...

The Travelling Nativity Set will be visiting homes in Grafham again this Advent. It will start its journey and go home with the first family after the **11.00am Family Service on the 6th December.**



The Nativity Set will move from house to house around the village just as Joseph and Mary made their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search for somewhere for Jesus to be born. The 'Holy Family' will be brought back to the church for our **Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm.**

Both services are ideal for children of all ages, being short and 'user friendly' and we would love to see you! The Nativity Set contains knitted figures robust enough for children to handle as well as books and activities popular with children aged 1 to 10 years. If you would like to know more or to put your name down to have the Travelling Nativity Set for an evening **contact Jill Tyack on 810157.**

P.S. Do you fancy an evening of calm in the middle of the bustle of Christmas? We now have a travelling set for adults - same contact details.

## Safari Supper

This hugely enjoyable evening, organised by your Social Committee will take place on Saturday **February 6th, 2010.** Details to follow in future issues of the *Grafham Gossip*.



## Grafham Cricket Club

The end of any cricket season officially ends in most players eyes with the Annual Cricket Dinner. Grafham CC held its Annual Dinner on the 13th November at the Race Horse, Catworth. As usual, Chris and Shirley land-lord and lady at the Race Horse provided a varied and appetising fare in comfortable and pleasant surroundings. Nostalgia abounded concerning the past season, about wickets taken; run-outs made and runs scored. Towards the end of the evening speeches were made and the following awards were made to the following Club Members:-



Award	Club Member
Best Batsman	Chris Brown
Best Bowler	Adam Dighton
Best Fielder	Tom Clayton
Most Improved Player	Jack Sene
Players Player	Chris Brown
Club Member of the Year	Chris Dighton

After the festivities of the meal and speeches, the younger members of the Club adjourned to the Pool Room and continued to hone their competitive instincts, while the older generation of the Club sat around the dining table discussing the philosophies and toils of life. The common theme was that nobody wanted to leave. But once Christmas is over the next season is only just around the corner.

Grafham Cricket Club takes this early opportunity to wish all *Grafham Gossip* readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Club Chairman: Chris Dighton 01480 811862**



## Bonfire Night Success!

Your Social Committee is pleased to announce that the Bonfire and Fireworks Night on November the 7th made a profit of approximately £700 this year. This is very good news! Last year this event lost money; we were concerned that if the event lost money again this year we might not be able to continue the annual fireworks celebrations, (we are aware of surrounding villages who have been unable to continue fireworks celebrations for similar reasons). The return of the bonfire was a great success and will hopefully be repeated for many years to come, thanks to Roy Harrold for organising this. The fireworks just keep getting better and better - thank you Alan Watson and Brian Homewood. The Social Committee Members all work very hard to make this event happen so thank you to all of them, and also to non committee members without whose help this event simply would not happen; Jack Stewart and Paul Knight BBQ sausages, Jane Stewart who did a lot of 'running' this year! Gerry Kelly on the door, Bob Patel with his bucket and new volunteers Will and Sally Davies, who very kindly trialed a new system for managing the selling of food (which will be refined for next year!) Thank you to all who attended, villagers and people from outside the village, it has been good to hear comments about how much people enjoyed the evening. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

## 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 **1.00 pm**, with the raffle draw at about 4.00 pm. Light refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon. **Please phone Sue on 453350 with any offers of help** and please do come and help make it a jolly occasion.



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**

## A Shepherd's Tale - 14 *Patrick Goldsworthy*

A comparatively quiet month on the sheep front, Brant Sidney has done a good job and been taken home. So new ram Furlong has not had much to do, although he has tugged Sidney's three daughters. We are now onto a blue raddle, with all eleven ewes and shearlings having been tugged (red and yellow bottoms) with only the two shearlings having blue bottoms. So all things being equal, we will start lambing around 20th February.



Ewes at the trough

With the very dry autumn, grass has been in short supply so I have had to top up rations with ewe nuts. Every morning I can see the ewes listening for the sound of my Discovery as I drive past. When I climb the gate there is always a race between me and the ewes as to who gets to the trough first. If I don't get there quickly enough the sheep have a knack of running around me to try and trip me up, and if it's been raining I can also end up with wet smelly trousers.

One further excitement has been the purchase of the field in front of the house. At the moment, most of this is down to Winter Wheat for this year but we have undersown the 2½ acres directly in front of the house with a grass clover mix. We will shortly be fencing this area in but I am looking forward to seeing the sheep grazing there in the spring.

## View from the Pew!

Have you noticed some of the wonderful sunsets viewed from the church door during November? They have been a glorious sight and we give thanks for the joy they give us. We are truly blessed to feel so close to nature in our lovely village.



Since our last edition, our church has been a hive of activity. We had the baptism of baby Seth Palmer on 25 October and on 31 October we had another wedding! Francesca and Mike were married that day and we send them our love and congratulations. After a morning of heavy rain, a dry afternoon with sunshine blessed the happy couple as they emerged from the church following the ceremony with cameras clicking in approval. Once again the Flower Club had decorated the church in accordance with Francesca's and Mike's wishes.

The following day in All Saints we heard the inspiring story of the raising of Lazarus at our 11am service.

Bonfire night, on the village playing field, was a pleasure to see so many people enjoying the thrill of the whizzes, bangs and bright lights of the fireworks and the crackling fire. This happy family occasion was in contrast to our thoughts of those families who have lost loved ones as we participated in the act of Remembrance at our service the following day.

You may recall that two members of our congregation, Sasha Bonnet and Mary Towell were to be confirmed at Ely Cathedral on 13 November. This service was very inspiring as the newly confirmed processed down that long aisle with their lit candles. We welcomed them to their first

communion at Grafham on 15 November. The church had been decorated with flowers for the occasion and cake and wine was enjoyed after the service.

As December begins our thoughts turn towards preparation for Christmas and it's a busy time in most households with shopping lists, shopping trips and menu planning much on our minds. We, at All Saints, are no less busy with our planned events for Advent. The first of these will be a **Mince Pie and Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on 5 December** (see the advert on page 1.) Do come and meet with your friends for a coffee and a chat and support your church. We are always here for you when you need us.

**On 6 December the Travelling Nativity sets off** round Grafham following the family service. This year we are also sending an alternative Travelling Nativity for older children and adults (see notice on page 3). **On 17 December the Flower Club will decorate the church** with Christmas arrangements in time for our **Carol Service at 4.30 pm on 20 December**. This service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Don't miss this ever popular celebration of Christmas which is enjoyed by all ages. There will be an **8 am Eucharist that day but no 11 am service**.

Our **Crib Service at 4 pm on Christmas Eve** is for the youngest members of our community but all are welcome - you do not have to be accompanied by a child!

Our **Christmas Day Eucharist service will be at 11 am** and there will be no service on 27 December.

We start the new year with the **Family Service celebrating epiphany on 3 January**.

We at All Saints wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy new year.



## MacMillan Coffee Morning

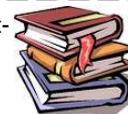
I would like to thank all those people who helped and contributed towards the Macmillan Cancer Support event on the 3rd October. The event was a success and £166 was raised for this very worthy cause. Thank you for your help and generosity.

Macmillan  
cancer relief

*Mrs Susana Doyle*

## 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.



**Clint Thomas Morgan**  
**Grafham Plumbing and Heating Services** 

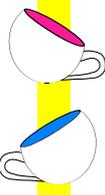
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**Retired Residents Christmas Lunch**

 Monday December 14th  
 The "Eaton Oak"

**Grafham Social Committee** 

invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday,  
**December 9th, at Pat Watson's, 10 Field Close.** This is purely an informal social occasion for retired residents of the village.  
 Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.

**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 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** daytime **01480 811654** evenings.  
<http://www.grafhamconservationgroup.btik.com>

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**Wanted - Baby Sitters**  
 Please contact [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)

**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**

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 email: [carole@carolebaber.com](mailto:carole@carolebaber.com) web: [www.carolebaber.com](http://www.carolebaber.com)

**The Mobile Library** route L108/120 visits **Breach Road, Grafham** on alternate Tuesdays from **10.45 to 11.05**. Visits are: **December 1st and 15th**. There may be some disruption over the Christmas and New Year period.



Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**  
<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>

**Grafham Church Flower Club** 

During December we decorate the church for Christmas. On Thursday 17th we'll be meeting in the church from 7 pm bringing appropriate flowers and foliage for the arrangements. At 8 pm there'll be a demonstration by a professional florist who will show us an arrangement to keep in the church. We'll also enjoy mulled wine and mince pies so do come along and see what we do. New members are always very welcome. Please ring **Hazel 810326** for details or just come along on the night.

**Grafham Bookworms Film and Debate Club**  

The Grafham Bookworms, Film and Debate Group meets at 8pm on the last Tuesday of every month. 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 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**



**PLEASE BE VIGILANT!**

During one week in November, there have been 2 burglaries in Perry and a further 5 burglaries in surrounding villages. CAN YOU HELP?



Please be aware of what is happening in your village and report any suspicious activity through to the police including details of any persons and/or vehicles seen acting in a suspicious manner? To report any such information through to the police, please telephone Cambridgeshire Constabulary on:  
**999 (for emergencies), 0345 456 4564** (for non emergencies) or **Crimestoppers 0800 555 111** to report information anonymously.

Please also consider the security of your home or business to ensure that your property is as secure as it can be. However, if you would like to discuss crime prevention or security measures in more detail, contact the Crime Reduction Unit at Huntingdon Police Station on **01480 415512/415514**. Thank you! **PCSO Gemma Clark**



### Christmas Trees 4ft - 10ft

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Situated between the villages of Ellington and Grafham

(In association with MWS Landscapes)

#### Deadline Date

for the January  
*Grafham Gossip* is  
midnight on  
Thursdays:

**10th December**  
**21st January**

to advertise e-mail  
us:

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

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

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Email: [mark@jdms.co.uk](mailto:mark@jdms.co.uk)

### Paul's Private Hire and Chauffeur Service

Van Diemens Way, Grafham, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 0GB

Tel. **01480 811594** Mobile **07795 296281**  
Email [paul.blanchard2@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:paul.blanchard2@ukonline.co.uk)

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