

Grafham Gossip



Issue 76 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 18th November



Editors' note...

You'll find several dates for your diary in this issue, including: Bonfire and Fireworks Night on 6th November, the Advent Fair on 27th, see page 2 - (maybe you could run a stall), the 'Lights to Remember service' see View from the Pew on page 6. As for the regular activities: Could you help out with Neighbourhood Watch? Read more on page 2. Read about the Parish Plan in the Parish News and also the Travelling Nativity and Christmas Shoebox Appeal, all on page 3. Find out how the Southdowns got on with their tuppings on page 5 and of course, there's much more on every page!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham All Saints

31st October (5th Sunday) 9.30

Group Eucharist at Ellington for All Saints Day

7th November (1st Sunday) 11.00

Sunday Worship celebrating All Saints Day

14th November (2nd Sunday) *10.55 **Remembrance**



Sunday Service * Please note early start

Act of Remembrance at 11.00

21st November (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist (the only Eucharist this month) 11.00 Sunday Worship

28th November (4th Sunday) 16.00 **"Lights to Remember Service"** in association with Marie Curie Cancer Care No 11.00 Service today

5th December (1st Sunday) 11.00 Sunday Worship

Visitors very welcome at any service

Contacting the clergy:

Rector - Fr Jonathan Young The Rectory, Ellington PE 28 0AU 01480 891695

Churchwarden - Hazel Powell 01480 810326



Grafham Christmas cards and calendars now available



See page 6 for details or ring Valerie

07761 137 012

Five Parish Advent Fair
Sat 27th November
Ellington Church from 2.00pm
Please see page 2 for details



Bonfire and Fireworks!

Saturday 6th November

Adults £4, Children £2 (under 16yrs) Under 5's free!
Free sparkler per child

Food from 6:30 pm (reasonable prices)

Jumbo Hot Dog Tomato Soup
Jacket Potato with Butter/Cheese
Mulled wine Soft drinks

Fireworks at 7.15 pm

Please deliver organic combustible materials to the Grafham Village Hall bonfire site at 4pm on Nov. 6th where Roy will be in charge!



Five Parish Advent Fair 2010

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, 27th November from 2.00pm**, with the raffle draw at about 4.00pm. 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, collecting gifts and presents, good white elephant treasures and toys or offer to provide food for the refreshments? Could you organise an extra stall or game to add to the list below or could you offer to help on 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 for donations for the stalls from now on or contact the stallholders below. Thanks.

Other stalls may be added to the list; please look out for posters and handbills.

- Raffle ----- John 890853
- Cake Stall ----- Romi 890287 and Hazel 810326
- Honey, pickles, chutneys, jams ---Peter 891043
- Gifts and presents -----Fiona 891022
- Craft stall -----Jill 810157
- Everything for a pound ---Val 812390 and Ann 810223
- Bottle stall -----Jonathan 891695
- Treasures/white elephant -----Ann 891372
- Refreshments -----W.I.

General offers of help to Sue Young 453350



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

September / October

No incidents have been reported in the village during the current month.

Last month we reported a burglary in Inhams Way; a neighbour has come forward recollecting some strange events and further information has now been passed to the police who are treating this as an ongoing investigation.



A new association of Neighbourhood Watch has been formed with the bringing together of all villages in the Huntingdon area - the first meeting is being held on October 18th and chaired by the police. I will give feedback in the next issue of the "Grafham Gossip"

I have to report that I shall be moving from Grafham within a few months and it is important to find another person to take on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. If anyone is interested and wants more information about what is involved then please call me. Over the last six years I believe we have given the scheme a high profile and I do believe it is important to keep this up.

James Snell 07951 069 565
email: 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**
To report anti-social behaviour in Grafham **01480 388379 / 387097** or e-mail:
Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk or
tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk

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 in good condition. Please leave in the church porch. Many thanks!



RAF Wellington Bomber Crash At Brampton

On May 3rd 1951 at the Brampton Royal Oak roundabout at 14.35 hours an RAF Wellington bomber crashed into a row of houses later re-roofed and totally restored. The Huntingdon Fire Brigade quickly mobilised with a water tender and a hose reel tender with a later request for a salvage tender. All three RAF aircrew died and their bodies removed from the wreckage with no civilian casualties.

At 15.46 hours all fires were out.

Sam Malt



PARISH NEWS...

October 2010

The Parish Council were pleased with the spring bulbs that were planted last year and have decided to plant more. Hopefully, they will all look splendid this coming spring.



The village meeting to announce and discuss the plans for a revised Parish Plan was well attended. There were a diverse set of issues that people wanted to discuss or solve and they included:

- Wind farms in the area
- Allotments
- The chicken farm
- Internet access
- The cycle path in the village
- Traffic calming and road markings
- The provision of social facilities
- A shop in the village

The Parish Council very much hopes that you will take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire when you receive it (possibly in November). This is an important tool for understanding what the village residents think about their environment and how the Parish Council can help to improve it.

It was hoped that land for allotments was at last within reach. However, a request to lease land to the rear of the church has been declined by Ely Diocese. The Parish Council will be writing to the Bishops of Ely to express disappointment with their decision.

Some correspondence has been received which indicates

that there are grant funds available nationally for the improvement of village facilities and other local projects. The Parish Council feels that there is a strong case for applying for funds to improve and/or extend the village hall. It is possible that this is something that will be a popular topic in the revised Parish Plan.

Neighbourhood Watch could come up for some changes over the next six months or so, owing to the personal plans of James Snell, our current co-ordinator. Mr Snell has provided us with lots of important messages and information while he has been our co-ordinator and The Parish Council is grateful to him for his work. If you have any ideas on how we should proceed with a new system, the Council would be very pleased to hear from you.

There is still a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you would like to make a contribution to your community and join the Council please contact either the Clerk or any of the Councillors - contact details below.

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk

01480 819477 margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 9th November.

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

Philip Allingham Chairman **01480 811516**

philip_allingham@sky.com

Mike Tyler Vice Chair **01480 811244** mtyler@bedford.gov.uk

David King **01480 812430** davidking@hawkeyesystems.com

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

Tracey Ibbett **01480 812310** TraceyIbbett@talktalk.net

Helen Breakspear **01480 810787**

helenbreakspear@btinternet.com

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - 2010

Would you like to be part of a very worthwhile cause and help bring smiles to underprivileged children this Christmas?

Last year, as a village, we donated 42 completed shoeboxes to underprivileged children in eastern Asia. Wouldn't it be great to donate more in 2010?



You will shortly be receiving (or may already have received) the Operation Christmas Child 2010 leaflet through your letterbox. (If not and you would like one, please call me). Please take time to read through the leaflet which outlines suggested items for your shoebox. It needn't cost you a lot of money and is fun and rewarding to do.

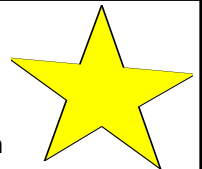
Completed boxes should be left with me no later than **Wednesday 17th November** (or give me a ring and I can collect them from you). Please remember that each completed shoe box needs to include £2.50 (cash, on-line donation or cheque - payable to "Samaritan's Purse") in order to cover transportation costs so a monetary contribution is also very welcome. I hope you will agree with me that this is a very worthwhile cause and will bring much happiness to children less fortunate than ourselves. Many thanks.



Moira Young, 2 Meadowground, Grafham
Phone: **811577** or **07859 065 982**

Travelling Nativity

The Travelling Nativity, sometimes called the Posada because of its roots in Mexican tradition, has been flourishing in our village now for 5 years. I am aware that the young children it is primarily aimed at have probably now outgrown it so this is to remind young families of what it's all about.



The 'box' travels round Grafham staying the night in your home if you so wish. It contains knitted figures of Mary, Joseph and the entire Christmas cast for children to play with and act out the Christmas story. The box also has books, jigsaws and colouring sheets to use. This service is free and comes with no strings attached! Not only that, but you are welcome to keep one of the sheep as a reminder. (It's just as well we have Wendy, our resident sheep knitter!)

The box starts at the beginning of Advent (Dec 5th) and finishes its travels at Grafham Church for the short Crib Service on Christmas Eve. **If you would like to have the box for a night get in touch with me, Jill Tyack on 01480 810157** and I will start the list!



Possible Allotments

It has come to my attention that a number of people are interested in getting an allotment. At Ellington Thorpe Nurseries there is land which could be made suitable to create twenty four, 10m x 10m plots. As this land is privately owned and not subsidised by the council there would be a weekly rent charge.

Should anyone be interested in seeing the benefits which can be gained by working an allotment provided by the nurseries, to reserve a plot or for more information, please call in for a chat.

Matthew

Help to clean our church



Perhaps, understandably, you feel you would not like to attempt this alone. Several of our cleaners would be glad of a partner - "a job shared is a job halved". If you could spare an hour six times a year, do please contact:

Hazel Powell **810326**
who would be glad to hear from you.

Do you enjoy reading?

Come along and join us for informal social evenings (and a glass of wine or two!) For details please contact:

Tina Theodorou 01480 811366

We would love to welcome new readers and those new to the village too! So if you like a good read, socialising and want to meet fellow Grafham residents, please join us. If you'd like to know more or need collecting to go along with someone, please contact

Tina on 07711 012957

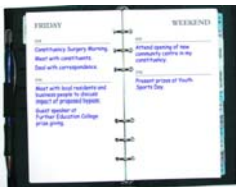
GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

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.



Contacts: Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166

Do you have any events to advertise? Email the details to diary@grafhamgossip.co.uk (or gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk) We'll add them to the Village Diary on the web site.



Playtimes
Spaldwick

Open from 7.30am

Breakfast club 2 ½ - 11yrs
Playgroup 2 ½ - 5 yrs
Mucky Pups (parent /toddlers)
For details tel: 01480 890077

www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk

Send your news, views and gossip to:
gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

BT Race to Infinity

BT is looking for telephone exchanges to connect up to fibre broadband based on demand from within the community. These are exchanges that are not on the current list for connecting to fibre so it would be quite a prize. So far, Buckden exchange, to which Grafham is rather remotely connected, has received just a few votes out of a possible 2,414 and it's only the top 5 demanding exchanges that will get connected under the Race rules.

Full details of BT's competition are at :

<http://www.racetoinfinity.bt.com/>

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning at 10.30am on **Wednesday, November 10th at Sue Kelly's, 3 Church Road.**

This is an informal social occasion for residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



The Mobile Library route L108/120

visits **Breach Road, Grafham** on **alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05.**

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

For renewals or enquiries call

0845 045 5225

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



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01480 810844 daytime
01480 811654 evenings

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

Ellington and Grafham W.I.

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



Wanted - Baby Sitters

Please contact gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Babysitters Harriet 16yrs 810043

Livvy 14yrs - babysitting course 819708

Georgie 14yrs- babysitting course 432688

Kate 17yrs - babysitting course 812179

Kirsty 18yrs - babysitting course 810550

Caroline 14yrs 812179 Danielle 20yrs 811279

Felicity 20yrs -Grade B GCSE Child Development 812328

Marie-Claire 17yrs -GCSE Child Development 811279

Olivia 20yrs - Grade B GCSE Child Development 811831



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**

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA) A precis of an article by Sue Paul

▪ Thank you so much to all those who came to support our AGM, it was very encouraging to see so many there.

▪ Our congratulations to Dr Leonard and Dr Bundy who are each expecting a baby in the New Year. Suitable locums are being sought to cover their maternity leave.



▪ Arrangements are being finalized for some surgery and community staff to use the Scout Hut car park during weekdays, it is hoped this should relieve some of the pressure on the surgery car park and enable patients to park more easily.

▪ The present very worn and less than welcoming front door at the entrance to the Buckden Surgery is going to be replaced. Patients will have the option to open them manually or automatically; this will give much better ease of access for older or disabled patients and for young mothers with pushchairs. Some of the money raised for the BSPA through the sale of books in the surgery will go towards the new automatic doors.

▪ The surgery contract for Dermatology is being extended to cover parts of Cambridge and as a result, a consultant dermatologist will be attached to the surgery team.

▪ At the last Patient Congress meeting we had a really stimulating presentation from the Older Persons Mental Health [OPMH] team. This outlined some very new initiatives to improve the support for patients and carers in the community and to offer training programmes for staff that look after patients with dementia in care homes and hospitals. With the ageing population increasing rapidly this condition is becoming



much more prevalent and it is essential for staff to understand and to be able to manage the distress these patients experience. Carers too will be given more advice. By early intervention and diagnosis it is hoped to enhance the management of dementia patients and reduce their admission to hospital which often causes great anxiety and deterioration in their mental state. The results of some innovative local programmes will soon be announced, and hopefully extended. It is expected there will be many more day centres in the future.

▪ May I also put in another plea for everyone to only reorder those prescriptions you really do need. Huge amounts of the NHS drug budget are wasted on unused medicines and then it costs many more thousands of pounds to dispose of them by incineration.

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

A Shepherd's Tale - 25 October 2010

Tupping has been and almost gone! Earlier this year I decided that I needed a shorter lambing period as I had lost too many lambs from an extended lambing and sporadic attention at critical moments. There are some well established techniques for synchronising the ewe's oestrous cycle and the most reliable is to "sponge the ewes". This involves giving the ewes a hormonal implant for 12 days followed by an injection to increase ovulation. The ewes come in to season 48 hours after the implant is removed; this means that when lambing comes most ewes should lamb within one week. Whilst this may be rather hectic and hard work for the rams, it does mean I can give more attention at lambing time and so keep losses to a minimum.

The normal ewe to ram ratio in a commercial flocks is one ram to 40-50 ewes. With sponging, where the ram has to work quite hard over 2 days, its recommended to reduce the ratio down to 1 ram to 10 ewes. However talking to other breeders they suggested that a ratio of 1:7 was best for maximum conception. Even though I have two good rams, a home bred ram and a ram lamb, I needed to borrow one more ram so Great Fen Billy has appeared as a temporary visitor.



Tupped ewes at the trough

As I had not sponged sheep before I asked the vet to help out, and in the event we found that four young ewes were a little too small for the sponge applicator so they have been left to come in to season naturally. All has gone to plan so far. Two days after the sponges were removed the rams were put to work and within 24 hours three quarters of the ewes had been served and all were done within 48 hours. I normally start with a yellow crayon/mark, and this was the intention, but during the summer a blue wax crayon had melted all over the harness used on Furlong so his ewes have fetching bluey-yellow bottoms!

Patrick Goldsworthy

Charity Dance Success **Maternity Worldwide**

On behalf of Maternity Worldwide I would like to thank all those who supported their dance at Ellington Thorpe Nurseries, at which they raised £750.

Special thanks go to Dave Porter and Dick Lawrence for the loan of the marquee, Andy at The Mermaid for supplying the beer, Steve Reynolds for lighting, Duncan and Ryan Palmer for the bales, Andy of Village Jive for the music and everyone who supplied food and helped before and after the event.

Apologies go to those of you who were misled by the wording on the tickets; we will make sure we are clearer next time. Thank you

View from the Pew!



The most important piece of news this month is that, following the departure of Martin Kettle our curate and a reorganisation of the parishes in the group, Jonathan will resign as priest in charge of Alconbury cum Weston, Buckworth, Hamerton, Winwick and Great Gidding with Little Gidding and Steeple Gidding with effect from 6th January 2011. Jonathan will continue as Rector of Ellington, Grafham, Spaldwick, Barham and Woolley. Needless to say we are delighted with this news and glad that Jonathan will thus have a lighter burden to carry. Hopefully we will see him a little more in the future. However, some of services will continue to be lay-led, as even five parishes will be quite a task for Jonathan to organise.

Our Harvest Festival was well attended and we were delighted to see eight children in the congregation which was a welcome sight. The Flower Club had decorated the church beautifully with autumn displays and we congratulate them on their artistry. The lunch afterwards was as enjoyable as ever and we thank those ladies who helped with serving, also the folk who transported the tables and washed dishes - all important jobs!

Our Patronal Festival of All Saints will be shared this year - Ellington celebrate theirs with a Group Eucharist on 31st October to which we are all invited. Our celebration

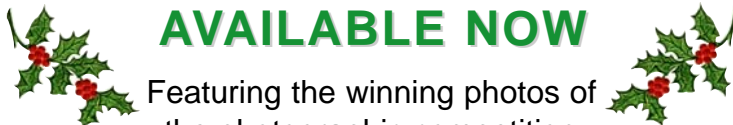
of the festival on 7th November will be lay-led. The Remembrance Sunday service on 14th November will begin at 10.55. Everyone is welcome to come and take part in the short Act of Remembrance at 11 am. Those who prefer not to stay for the rest of the service may feel free to leave beforehand. There will be no Eucharist at this service which will be lay-led.

Owing to that lay-led service on 14th November and a special afternoon service on 28th November the only Eucharist during that month will be at 8am on 21st November. Why not come and renew your acquaintance with the "older" communion service which is celebrated at this time? You will find several of us there.

The special afternoon service at 4 pm on 28th November is in association with Marie Curie, being the "Lights to Remember" service where we remember our loved ones, now departed this life. It is always a peaceful and moving service when we are invited to light tiny candles in memory of those we have lost. 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 Hazel Powell on 810326.**

The previous afternoon 27th November Ellington will again host the Advent Fair in church. Please come and support us - there will undoubtedly be bargains to be had which you can tick off your Christmas shopping list!

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RING: Valerie **07761 137 012** for more information

Save All Saints Association **sAs**

The Parish Council Agenda

should now be available to view in advance of the Parish Council meetings.

Visit www.grafhamvillage.org.uk

Click on Parish Council Agenda, in the main menu and then latest agenda.



Remember, remember the fifth of November,
Gunpowder treason and plot.

We see no reason
Why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!

Guy Fawkes, guy, t'was his intent
To blow up king and parliament.

Three score barrels were laid below
To prove old England's overthrow.

By God's mercy he was catch'd
With a darkened lantern and burning
match.

So, holler boys, holler boys, let the bells
ring.

Holler boys, holler boys, God save the
king.



Do you have any views or comments on village life?

E-mail gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk and we'll publish them in 'Letters to the Editors.' Please supply your name but tell us if you'd prefer us not to print it in the Grafham Gossip. Thanks!



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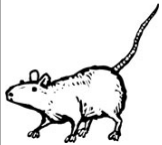
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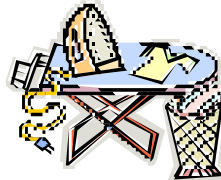
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Deadline Date - Grafham Gossip

The deadline date for the December *Grafham Gossip* is midnight on

Thursday November 18th

To advertise e-mail us: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk
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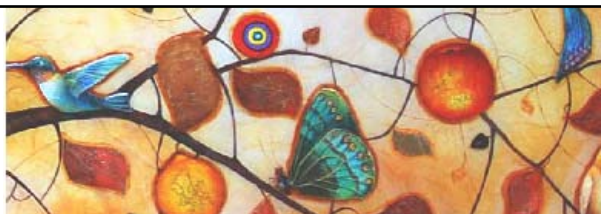
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