

Grafham Gossip

Issue 67 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 18th February

Editors' note...

Surely Spring must be on the way! We're looking forward to seeing the snowdrops in our garden when we'll know that Spring will not be far behind.



The snowdrop has been nicknamed the "Fair Maid of February" and according to the old adage:

"The snowdrop in purest white array,
First rears her head on Candlemas Day."

Candlemas Day was originally February 14th but in the 4th century moved to February 2nd, forty days after Christmas Day. (31st January is the nearest Sunday this year for Grafham's Christingle service.)

Once again, Grafham offers several activities for you to take part in, ranging from Wizz-ii-Boo Night, Safari Supper (see below) and St Valentine's Day Service (see Church Services and View from the Pew) to the regular activities featured on page 5. There's also Shrove Tuesday and Valentine's Day to remember as well! Have a good time over the next month!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham Community Allotments and Gardens Association (GCAGA)

Wizz-ii-Boo Night

Grafham Village Hall Saturday February 20th
An evening of Wii games and lots of fun!
Children up to 14 £1.50 each 3.00- 5.30
Adults £5.00 (£20.00 per team of 4)
7.30 onwards
Food available and a Licensed bar!
Contact Tony Breakspear - 07596 246772

Safari Supper

This hugely enjoyable evening, organised by your Social Committee will take place on

Saturday February 6th starting at 7.30pm
 £15.00 per couple

For more details or to sign up please call Pat Watson 811166 or Philippa Patel 811656
Please sign up by Saturday January 30th



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

Grafham All Saints

31st January (5th Sunday) **Candlemas**
 Sunday 16.00 **Christingle service**

7th February (1st Sunday) 11.00 Sunday worship
 14th February (2nd Sunday) 11.00 **St Valentine's Day Service celebrating "Love and Marriage."** Communion available for those who wish to receive it.

21st February (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist
 11.00 Sunday Worship

28th February (4th Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

7th March (1st Sunday) 11.00 Sunday Worship

14th March (2nd Sunday) 11.00 **Mothering Sunday Service.** Communion available for those who wish to receive it.

21st March (3rd Sunday) 11.00 Sunday Worship

28th March (4th Sunday) 11.00 **Palm Sunday Service**

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 07770 273923

Churchwarden - Hazel Powell 810326



Shrove Tuesday is also known as Pancake Day because it's the day when many people eat pancakes. It's the last day before Lent. The custom arose through the need to use up food items which were forbidden during Lent. Lent is the time when Christians prepare for Easter by thinking of things they have done wrong. It lasts for 40 days and ends the day before Easter Sunday. This year Pancake day falls on 16th February.



Do you have any events to advertise?

Email the details to **diary@grafhamgossip.co.uk** (or alternatively **gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk**.) We'll add them to the Village Diary on the web site.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - 2009

To all of you who donated to the Christmas shoebox appeal, a very big **THANK YOU** on behalf of Samaritan's Purse. Your generosity has brought a smile to 42 children's faces this year. Yes, as a village we contributed 42 boxes to an overall 18,000 boxes sent from the Huntingdon area! This year, the boxes were distributed to Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Swaziland. Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



Moira Young

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH January 2010

Four burglaries were reported in Perry between 10th and 17th January - by the time you view this month's *Grafham Gossip* you should have received a leaflet of Burglary Awareness from the police, who are most anxious that we should ensure our property is fully secured. The burglaries happened in Whitehall Way, West Perry and Blythe Green. All houses were unoccupied at the time. Our Police Community Support Officer, Gemma Clark has asked that if anyone was in Perry and noticed any suspicious activity to contact the Police Control Centre on the number listed below.

A car was torched in the Anglian Water car park in Perry over the holiday period - no further information is available.

On the night of the 19th January it was noted, that a lorry was parked overnight in the village hall car park, by a resident who lives close by - this was reported to the police. It transpired that the driver lived outside the UK, and did not realise he could not park there. If anyone does notice the car park being used in this way please call the Police Control Room.

A new group entitled "Neighbourhood Forum" became operative on 13th January replacing the previously known "The Safer Neighbourhood Panel." This new forum will consist of representatives from county, district and parish councils plus the police, fire and rescue, NHS and Luminus. It is to enable communities to voice any concerns on matters such as street lighting, maintenance, highways, policing and open spaces. If anyone requires further information about this group or if you want to get involved please contact: Christine Deller on 01480 38807 or Terry Jordan on 01223 699685.

There has been a spate of cash point distraction thefts - people have been withdrawing cash at the machine and distracted

by someone who is usually working with a second person who then grabs the cash. This was happening on a very regular basis in the Cambridgeshire area over the holiday period.

The British Transport Police are running a campaign to heighten awareness on pickpockets, cycle theft and mobile phone theft. If you are a victim or you witness a crime on the London Underground you should phone 0800 405040 (free phone)

Bicycles can be registered on www.immobilise.com - it is advisable to take a photograph and record your frame number and key details. This will be crucial in recovering your bike should it be stolen. Mark the frame with your postcode in two separate locations.

Your mobile phone has a unique number programmed into it called the IMEL. To access it type *#06# into your mobile and note the number. This will assist your serviced provider in blocking its use should the phone be lost or stolen.

Any enquiries can be e-mailed to: enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

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 contacting PC Gemma Clark at Huntingdon Police Station on **0345 456 4564 extension 5576** or anonymously to Crimestoppers.



anglianwater

Grafham Water Visitor Centre and Café

Marlow Park

Grafham, Cambs PE28 0BH

01480 812154

Job Vacancy

Seasonal Catering Assistants

Required for Weekends and School Holidays

To meet our increasing demand we require customer focused individuals to join our friendly team. Ideally you will possess excellent customer service skills and have experience of working in a busy catering environment although this is not essential.

Responsibilities include, serving customers, cleaning and maintaining a hygienic café and kitchen, cooking, stock replenishing and providing local tourism information.

To apply please send your CV to Angela Tarry at the address above or telephone for an informal chat.

Volunteers urgently required

Can you spare 1-2 hours per month?

Do you enjoy meeting and helping people within your local community?

If so, Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind would be very keen to hear from you.

The Society has 600 members who are either blind or partially sighted. Many of our members need help with transportation to their monthly club meeting within your area or would appreciate having a volunteer visitor to provide companionship or assistance with reading correspondence. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver or visitor please contact Erika Brown on 01480 453438.

All volunteers are subject to a CRB check. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

We look forward to hearing from you.

<http://www.huntsblind.co.uk/index.shtml>



2010 is the Year of the Tiger!

The Chinese New Year starts on February 14th.

sAs Save All Saints Association sAs

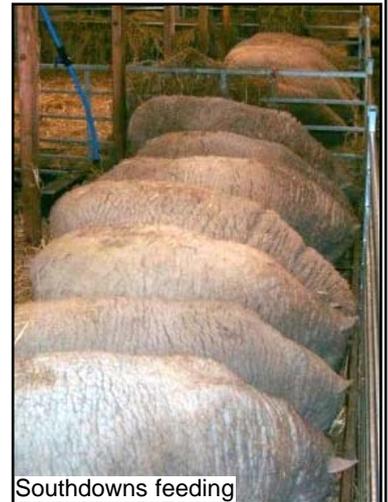
Advance Warning - Photo Competition 2010

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

A Shepherd's Tale -16 *Patrick Goldsworthy*

Well, with the help of builders, plumbers and the electrician we got the lambing shed ready just as the first batch of pre-Christmas snow arrived. We have temporarily knocked together two narrow sheds that used to be used for rearing chicks. It is reasonably spacious, and well lit though unfortunately not totally waterproof as the valley gutter seems to have more holes than gutter!

With the snow and plenty of children to help, we decided to walk the ewes down Church Road even though it was quite slippery. We did quite well but had one brief detour into a rape field, it was just as well that it was covered with snow otherwise they would have stopped for a good munch. Anyway the ewes followed the feed bucket and settled quite happily into their new accommodation ready for Christmas. Currently I have the ewes penned into two groups with the early lambers (due in late February) being fed extra rations. It is quite a scrum at feeding time and Furlong - the ram - who really does not need feeding, is a bit of a bully so I will be booting him outside as soon as the ground has dried out a bit. After last year's problems with twin lamb disease I am keen to ensure the ewes have enough food to "feed their lambs." In larger flocks it is possible to ultra-sound ewes to check on how many lambs they are having and so ensure they have enough food. Unfortunately our local vet does not have suitable equipment so I have had to set their rations based on the assumption that they will have twins. Last week, I weighed and condition scored (checking the amount of fat over the spine) the ewes and was pleased with their overall progress. We also took the opportunity to give all the new arrivals a vaccination covering a range of diseases; the whole flock will also get a booster vaccine in four weeks time.



Southdowns feeding

Letter to the Editors...

Eats Shoots and Signs

Church Road has been blessed for the last month or so with a special sign on a pallet warning everyone that there is a "Slow Sponsored Walk".

Do we know?

- Is this only for tortoises (who are hibernating anyway)?
- When this slow walk will end?
- What is the maximum speed that walkers may go?
- Who organised the sponsored walk?

The latter point is perhaps most relevant as perhaps the organisers would like to remove their sign when the tortoises have finished their circuit of Grafham Water!



View from the Pew!

As we begin the new decade, how are your new year's resolutions holding up? Whatever you have decided to take up anew, or give up (again!) we wish you well.

Certainly as February arrives, we can look forward to the lengthening days and the "Joys of Spring".

But first a quick reflection on the memory of our Christmas services and events. The carol singing around the village in the "bleak mid-winter" was enjoyed by the singers and hopefully the listeners too. Thank you to all who put money in our buckets - £192. 25 was raised for Save All Saints, you were most generous! The Carol Service was very well attended and the lovely floral arrangements by the Flower Club set the scene appropriately. Our thanks go to John Dillistone the visiting organist who played for us and to the ladies who provided refreshments afterwards. The Crib Service saw the return of the Travelling Nativity from its journey round Grafham and the children enjoyed refilling it with the charmingly knitted characters and hearing the story of the birth of Jesus. We are grateful to Jonathan for donning his "other hat" and playing the organ so ably for the service.

It was lovely to see so many people on Christmas Day and we thank Mandy Flaherty who presided at the Eucharist and her children who provided much entertainment with



the mechanical hamster! Once again Jonathan provided musical accompaniment. Our Epiphany Service on 3rd January included a fascinating talk on the journey of those three "wise men" and some favourite epiphany hymns.

Looking forward we notice that St Valentine's Day - 14th February - falls on a Sunday this

year. Therefore we plan a special service celebrating Love and Marriage. Do come along with your spouse or sweet-heart to enjoy this celebration which will no doubt be accompanied by hearts and flowers and some appropriate refreshments. Communion will be available for those who would like to receive it.

Another celebration involving flowers (and possibly more cake!) will be **Mothering Sunday on 14 March**. This special day is not just for "mothers" as the greetings card companies and florists would have us believe but for anyone who cares for you, be it man or woman. So do come along and receive a little bunch of flowers for that special person whoever that may be. Again, communion will be available for those who would like to receive it.

Everyone is welcome to join us at our services - you can be assured of a friendly greeting and we love to see (and hear) children in the congregation.

PARISH NEWS...



Once again we have experienced the problems of snow and ice on the roads in Grafham. Highways have gritted our main roads. The Parish Council has invested in several grit bins and placed them around the village at potentially difficult points on side roads. The grit inside the bins is for use on the public roads and can be accessed by members of the public. The Parish Council takes no responsibility for the use of the grit or the condition of the roads before or after gritting. Grit should not be used on private driveways. Another £400 has been collected from the use of the recycling bins. Thank you for using them.

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk

01480 819477 margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly using the details below. The next meeting is on Tuesday 9th February.

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

Helen Breakspear



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

A very Happy New Year and a big thank you to all who supported our Christmas mincepie and coffee morning, it was thoroughly enjoyable. Despite it being intended as a purely social occasion, we raised £100 for BSPA funds and your generosity is very much appreciated. Thank you also, to all who donated prizes and bought tickets for the surgery's annual fundraiser in aid of Magpas. The event raised £625 to support their invaluable and life saving work.

Dr Steffes went on six months maternity leave at the end of January and we look forward to hearing of the safe arrival of her baby. Her replacement for this time will be Dr Helen Williams and we hope she will enjoy her time at Buckden Surgery.

Dr Tom Plimmer, having completed his 6 months GP training experience at Buckden leaves us on 2nd February to take up an appointment at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and we wish him well. To replace him later in February, we welcome the next trainee GP to the team, Dr Hemisha Amin.

Last, but by no means least in this section, it is wonderful to see Michaela back - she has been much missed.



Some time ago, to general approval, the government announced it was giving money to NHS Authorities to support that remarkable, self-sacrificing band of dedicated carers who do so much for friends and family - a truly worthy cause. Unlike the huge sums ring-fenced for the imposition of unproven, unnecessary Darzi Clinics in every PCT area, this vital allocation of modest financial resources to carers was not ring-fenced. Sadly, it is no surprise to find that it has frequently failed to reach those whom it was supposed to benefit. Now we have a new initiative from Cambridgeshire County Council who has allocated funds to support GP practices to establish an Enhanced Contract for Carers Service. Training will begin soon and Wilma will be responsible for coordinating the scheme and liaising with carers in our area. If you are a carer, please do let our surgery receptionists know so that you can be told of developments and of the benefits this service can offer you.

Finally to say there has been some revolutionary 'outside the box' and 'blue sky thinking' going on! A government body is considering the possibility that a clinician with a wealth of patient experience, might, just might be better equipped to manage a hospital rather than a pure businessman or woman. Re-inventing the wheel?

Sue Paul

For original article see www.bandlp.co.uk

sAs Save All Saints Association

It seems a long time since the pre-Christmas snowy days, but we thought you'd like to know about the Yule-tide Tea Party run by the hard-working ladies of 'The Friends of SAS and the SAS December carol singing around the village. The Tea Party attracted a steady stream of visitors, with the children's activities a particular hit. Then on the Tuesday before Christmas a very good-sized group of singers carolled tunefully, the snow and cold only seeming to spur them on. Villagers gave generously. Having fun and giving pleasure were the most important aims of these occasions, but it is amazing that the Tea Party also raised £71.45 and the carol singing £192.25 towards the SAS restoration fund. We also hope you and your friends enjoyed the Grafham Christmas cards. These too made a valuable contribution of £404 to the SAS fund, with particular thanks due to the photographers and to Valerie Williams for all her hard organisational work.



sAs

Grafham Community Allotments and Gardens Association (GCAGA)

Spring Sale Grafham Village Hall Saturday March 13th 9.00 - 13.00

Come and buy: potting compost, manure, tomato/strawberry plants, daffodils, herbs, beans and much more!

Come and enjoy tea or coffee and cakes.



Grafham Church Flower Club

Our February meeting will be in the Church on Saturday 13th at 11am. We will be making arrangements for our St Valentine's Day service on the following day to celebrate love and marriage, so we'll be having lots of fun with flowers, ribbon and maybe balloons. If anyone would like to come along and see what we do, you are very welcome. For details of our programme, ring **Hazel 810326**.



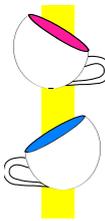
GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

has a Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing, performing arts and can accommodate 92 guests seated in rows or 150 at a dance/disco - an ideal venue for children's and family parties. There is a playing field for sports activities and the hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities. For more details **contact Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166**



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday, **February 10th at Philippa Patel's, 3 Field Close**. This is an informal social occasion for retired residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



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>



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

Danielle 20yrs **811279**

Caroline 14 yrs **812179**

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!

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.



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

Grafham on alternate Tuesdays from 10.45

to 11.05. Visits are: **February 9th and 23rd.**

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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



Grafham Bookworms Film and Debate Club



The next meeting of the Grafham Bookworms is on **Tuesday 2nd February, 7.30 for 8pm** at The Snooty Tavern Little Staughton to discuss the book "Piece of Cake. Then on **23rd, 8pm** at Karen's 2 Home Close, to discuss "A Town Like Alice." We'd be delighted for you to join us at our informal, entertaining evenings.

For details, **please contact Tina 01480 811366** or **Karen 01480 810961.** New members always welcome.

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**



Open from 7.30am

Breakfast club 2 ½ -11yrs

Playgroup 2½ - 5 yrs

Mucky Pups (parent /toddlers)

For details tel: **01480 890077**

www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk

Theatre Trips

I have group booked tickets for the following theatre shows: **Calendar Girls at**

Milton Keynes, Tuesday 16th March Stall seats rows S and T £21.50 Circle seats £28.50 / £25.50 / £21.50

Jersey Boys at Prince Edward Theatre, London, Friday 26th February 7.30pm performance Stall rows M/O/S seats Group Rate £35.00 (normal £62.50)

If interested in reserving tickets please **contact Tina after 6pm on 01480 811366** or send a cheque payable to T. Theodorou for the number of tickets requested to "Kalostone" 5 Home Close, Grafham, Cambs PE28 0UW. Please ensure your full contact/address details are enclosed to enable me to send you the tickets. **Tina**



Wanted - Baby Sitters

If you are available to baby-sit, please contact gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Advertise in the Grafham Gossip!

To advertise e-mail us: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk
Community notices are free; business adverts are priced according to size, *payable in advance*. They start at £3.00 per advert, 50p of which goes to the Restoration Fund of All Saints, Grafham.

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Grafham Gossip

The deadline dates are
midnight on the following
Thursdays:

February 18th

(March issue to be delivered
during the first week in March)

March 18th

To advertise e-mail us:
gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk
Community notices are free;
business adverts are priced
according to size, *payable in
advance*. They start at £3.00
per advert, 50p of which goes
to the Restoration Fund of All
Saints, Grafham

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