

Grafham Gossip

Issue 68 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 18th March

Editors' note...

Just a reminder that unfortunately there's no flexibility with the deadline for the *Grafham Gossip*. So that we can start planning and writing first thing on the Friday morning after the deadline, we must have all your news, views, gossip, adverts and notices in by then. We'd also welcome contributions sent in early, even if only a day or so before the deadline. Did you know that the word March comes from the Roman month 'Martius,' named after Mars, the Roman god of war?



Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

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.



EASTER EGG HUNT!

following the Easter Day Service on Sunday 4th April
Special prize for the finder of the Easter Bunny!



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

28th February (4th Sunday) 11.00

Eucharist

7th March (1st Sunday) 11.00 Sunday
Worship

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

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

28th March (4th Sunday) 11.00 **Palm Sunday Service**
Communion available for those who wish to receive it.

2nd April (Good Friday) 19.00 A quiet service of
Reflection for Good Friday

4th April (1st Sunday) **Easter Day** 11.00 Eucharist
Followed by Easter Egg Hunt

Visitors very welcome at any 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



ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATION

sAs

The SAS Committee needs YOU!

sAs

Come and audition for a part in our

Mummers' play which will be staged on 24th April (yes we know).

Come to 6 Home Close at 8pm on 11th March.

Refreshments will be served and if the fancy takes, you can just turn up and go through your motions (so to speak).

We hope for lots of enthusiastic volunteers. But if they are not forthcoming, a pressgang will be formed!

We are looking for ladies to bestow favours - so don't be afraid girls, come and have some fun.

Some of the Fun Festivals and Traditions in March

St David's Day - 1st



Commonwealth Day - 8th

Palm Sunday -28th

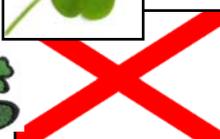
Mothing Sunday - 14th

Crufts 11th -14th



British Summer Time begins - 28th

Cheltenham Festival races 16th -19th



Spring Equinox - 20th

St Patrick's Day - 17th

"March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers."

The Grafham Community Allotment and Gardening Association

ran a "Design a Logo" competition at Spaldwick School. There were about thirty five entries in total. A poster was also chosen to be used at functions run by the GCAGA. The prizes were presented by County Councillor Peter Downes, on Friday January 29th, at the school.



The winning logo by Robert Burton, aged 11 (Eagles)



The winning poster by Connie Crawley, aged 5 (Swifts)

Letters to the Editors...

Removal of bottle and paper banks

I sincerely hope that I am wrong in understanding that the district council are removing our bottle and paper banks from Grafham Village and are expecting us to put these items into our blue bins.



I am horrified at the greediness of the council in removing what is an extremely efficient method of re-cycling from the village and removing an annual income source of £3k from us; simply to massage their statistics on re-cycling. My blue bin, in common with many residents, is always full...is the council going to increase the frequency of collection to facilitate the increased waste or are we going to look forward to broken bottles and newspaper littering the village? There is no logical explanation to this change that I can think of; perhaps the council could provide us with one?

If you feel strongly about this then go to www.hunts-dc.gov.uk and follow links to environment and planning then to waste and recycling then to refuse and recycling and on the left is a link 'Contact us via this link or call 01480 388640'

T Hollands

Mid-air collision, 13th June 1958

I am a retired USAF air traffic controller who was at Molesworth in mid 1950s. After the flying moved to Alconbury I heard there was a midair collision between an RAF Canberra and USAF T33 near your village. The pilot of the T33 was my commander when I was at Molesworth. I was wondering if there was anyone still there who would know anything about the incident.



Bob Stewart, Texas

HCCA Events -
Grafham Branch



- Saturday 27th March** Petit fours/Cocktails
7.30 -10.30pm Village Hall, approx. £12 - £15 per ticket
- Sunday 18th July** Cream Teas 3 - 7pm Village Hall,
£6.00 -£7.50 approx. for cream tea for two people
- Saturday 9th October** Fish/Chip Quiz Night,
7.30 -11pm Village Hall, approx. £10-£12 per ticket

Please note prices quoted are approximate as they will depend on the number of tickets sold as the event approaches.
Please contact Nic Evans **01480 812102** or Tina Theodorou **01480 811366** to register your interest in obtaining tickets.

sAs Save All Saints Association Photo Competition

The SAS are planning a photographic competition in the 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.

Tina Theodorou with ECT Travel offers you a weekend in the historical city of Krakow!

Price includes return flights Gatwick/ Krakow Airports plus hotel transfers, three nights accommodation, continental breakfast, **17- 20 Sept. 2010**
Friday am: Depart Gatwick at 08:25; arrive 11.55, check in Chopin Hotel.



Friday pm, Saturday and Sunday: Free time in Krakow or choice of tours.

Monday: Return flight at 12.25 arriving 13.55

Optional Extras: Evening meals
Optional Tours and Visits will incur a supplement.
Prices from: £259 based on fifteen passengers.

Please note: prices quoted are guideline prices only. Flights are subject to change and can only be confirmed when booking.

**To book or for more information please contact:
Tina on 07711 012957 or after 6pm on 01480 811366**

A Shepherd's Tale -17 *Patrick Goldsworthy*

At the editor's request, the first lambs have just arrived. A pair of twin rams appeared this morning (Feb 15th); mother and lambs seem well, and though indoors they are not enjoying the cold weather. In fact one lamb has decided to make himself comfortable in the feed bucket, which while not soft certainly keeps the draught out, though his mother would rather get at the feed.

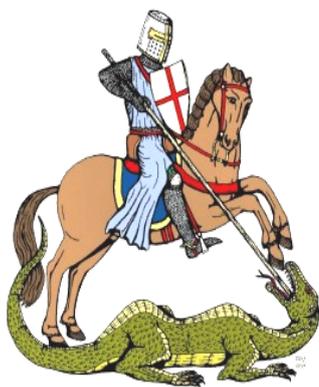
Up until today it has been fairly routine with the ewes being fed an increasing ration of ewe nuts; other basic activities have included the second booster vaccine which we gave to all the flock. Before this we had separated Furlong the ram from the ewes; he had been getting increasingly greedy and was butting them out of the way to get at the food. Given their heavily pregnant state this was not ideal, so he was banished to the paddock.

However as he did not like being alone he escaped, so we have now put him in with our other young ram where he has since behaved himself. Our last whether - the lamb we bottle fed - was quietly whisked off to the butcher last week, he made a good weight and we found him two good homes!

One other excitement was that one of our new shearlings bought at Melton last September has had a vaginal prolapse. I am not quite sure why, though she was tending to bloat up. Anyway I acquired a special harness to retain the prolapse which so far has done a good job of keeping all her bits in and reducing her bloatiness. It took a bit of fixing and it looks a bit like a chastity belt for sheep. My only worry is that we will have to be quick to remove it when she starts to lamb!

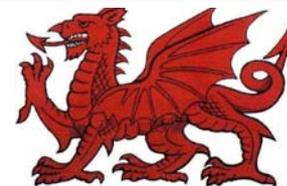


Lamb in a bucket



Save all Saints Presents
A St George's Day Celebration
24th April
Village Hall 8.00pm
Come and celebrate St George
Red and white dress code
****A Mummers' play****
Pub games for maidens' favours!
Traditional English Fare and
Bar with ale
Witness SAS raise a total of
£10,000!
Tickets £10 (first come first served)
Karen Stewart 810961
Keith Chisholm 810694

Dog-minder required
 7.30 - 5.30 on Thursdays,
 for one friendly dog, Holly.
 Payment to be agreed.
Call Carole 01480 810043



St David's
Day
1st March

View from the Pew!

"Spring is coming, Spring is coming" as that childhood poem goes - and how glad we shall be when it arrives! But it has not all been winter gloom here at All Saints. We were very pleased to welcome Ann Allsop (who is a lay minister at Brampton) to lead our Sunday Worship service on 17 January and we look forward to her leading our future 3rd Sunday services..

On Candlemas Sunday (31 January,) our Christingle service was well attended (there were not quite enough oranges to go round - a reminder for next year!) and the grown-ups were just as pleased with their decorated oranges as were the children, while Jonathan explained the meaning of the orange, the red ribbon, the candle and the sweets.

Then on St Valentine's day the church looked resplendent with flowers, ribbons, hearts, cupids and balloons. It was a pleasure to welcome back two of our newlywed couples and another engaged couple who are due to be married soon at All Saints. Thank you to those flower ladies who



had decorated the church and to those who provided delicious refreshments.

Now that we are in the period of Lent our church has been stripped of flowers but on **14 March, Mothering Sunday** (which is also Refreshment Sunday) a little bunch of flowers will be given to all ladies and carers at the 11 o'clock service. Do

come along and share this special service with us. Looking ahead, our **Palm Sunday service will be on 28 March** and marks the beginning of Holy Week. **On Good Friday** there will be a special service when we will quietly reflect on the events of that first Good Friday before we celebrate the joy of Easter Day. **The Easter Day service on 4 April**, including communion, will be led as last year by the Revd Mandy Flaherty to whom we are most grateful. The service will be followed by the ever popular "Easter Egg Hunt" for children with a special prize for the finder of the Easter Bunny!

Do join us at any of our services - you will receive a warm welcome.

PARISH NEWS...



The Parish Council has received complaints concerning the poor condition of the footpath between Breach Road and Field Close. The council agreed that it would improve the surface if it were to be covered with gravel and arrangements will be made to lay a substantial amount as soon as possible. It was also agreed that Cambridgeshire Highways should be approached with a view to obtaining some assistance with the long-term maintenance of the footpath.

Huntingdonshire District Council will shortly be introducing a kerbside collection of glass with other recycled materials. This will obviously render our bottle banks obsolete and they will be removed at some point. The loss of revenue (approximately £700 per annum) will be a blow to the Village Hall Management Committee, who need as much revenue as possible. However, we are assured that the payments will continue during 2010. The District Council will be contacting us later in the year to discuss the introduction of recycling banks for a new range of materials.

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 March.

- Philip Allingham** Chairman 811516 philip_allingham@sky.com
- Tracey Ibbett** 01480 812310 Traceylibbett@talktalk.net
- Ian Gardener** 01480 812821 idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk
- Mike Tyler** Vice Chair 01480 811244 mtyler@bedford.gov.uk
- David King** 01480 812430 davidking@hawkeyesystems.com
- Clint Thomas-Morgan** 01480 812590 j.c.thomasmorgan@btinternet
- Helen Breakspear** 01480 810787 helenbreakspear@btinternet.com

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA) Sue Paul

The GP Enhanced Service for Carers began on 1st February following a meeting with Val Selby and Sheena Escobar Franco from Cambridgeshire County Council. Our surgery is now open for all carers to make themselves known to Wilma, the Buckden Receptionist responsible for coordinating the scheme. Once registered, you will automatically receive a newsletter and information about activities and support available to help you - please take advantage of this opportunity, you deserve it! Camtad now run a session at Little Paxton on the last Friday morning of each month. This began in January and they had a record turnout of 14 people for a first session! Patients can now choose between Little Paxton and Brampton to have their hearing aids serviced and to get new batteries.



The Huntingdon Patients Congress met last November when we were addressed by Liz Sergeant who is responsible for Practice Based Commissioning for the Huntingdon area. She delivered a stark warning about the future level of financial pain that Cambridgeshire NHS would experience in this coming year. They had previously planned a year-on-year increase in the budget but is now faced with a £100 million reduction. What cannot be negotiated is the absolute necessity to deliver safe, high quality care to the sick and vulnerable. So where can savings be made realistically?

For rest of article see www.bandlp.co.uk

Reliable cleaning person required

for a a four bedroomed house in Grafham.
Anticipated three to four hours per week -
rate negotiable. Preferably no agencies
Tel: 07876740058 (evenings)

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH February 2010



A four-wheel drive vehicle overturned on the bend going into the village from Buckden Road on the morning of 1st February and it would appear to be the result of speeding - the police were called.

No other incidents were reported in Grafham over this month. Speed Watch will resume shortly in Grafham which means if you are doing in excess of 36 mph you will have your number recorded.

The police have issued the following message for us all to be vigilant and to report any suspicious incidents.

1. Lock vehicles when unoccupied and remove all belongings, even coats.
2. Do not leave keys in doors; remove them and put them in a safe place so you will be able to get them in case you need to get out in an emergency.
3. Make sure all doors are locked even if you are in the property.
4. If you are going on holiday or are going to be out late to put a light timer on so it looks like people are at home. Tell a neighbour that you are going to be away so they can keep an eye on your property and shut the curtains so it looks lived in. On the night of February 1st between 12.30am and 6.00am,

three males were seen in Brampton and there were thefts from parked vehicles in Horseshoes Way, Manor Close and Lenton Close. At 2.30am they were seen looking at properties in Horseshoes Way.

If anyone did happen to be around or driving through Brampton and noticed any of these events please contact the Police Control Room as a matter of urgency.

Mobile traffic speed camera vans are operating at the junction of Ellington and the A14 - take care!

Please note the new contact details for the reporting of anti social behaviour: **01480 388379 / 387097** or e-mail: Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk or tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.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 **01480 388379 / 387097** or e-mail: Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk or tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk

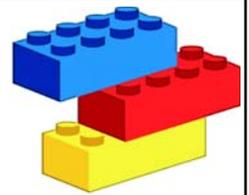
Are you looking for help in the home?

I could do your house cleaning and ironing for you. I have worked as an Au Pair, references are available. I'm from Poland, but now live in Grafham. If you think I could help out in your home, call Ivona on **07821 064626**.



Do you have any unwanted Lego

hiding away in a cupboard or loft? We have two young boys who would be grateful for any donations to their collection.



Please call Sharon 07760 251335 and I will send them round to relieve you of it!

Georgina's Gift Box and Tina Theodorou invite you to an evening of silver jewellery and hand-made accessories. Come and join us at "Kalostone", 5 Home Close, Grafham on Friday 19 March from 7pm to have some fun!

RSVP Tina on 01480 811366

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

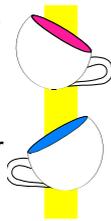


Grafham on alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05. Visits are: **March 9th and 23rd.** Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday, **March 10th at Jane Stewart's, 1 Van Diemen's Way.** This is an informal social occasion for retired residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



Grafham Bookworms Film and Debate Club



The next meeting of the Grafham Bookworms is on Tuesday 30th March 8pm at Tina's, 'Kalostone' 5 Home Close, 811366 to discuss "Shipping News." New members always welcome and 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.**

Grafham Church Flower Club

There is no "official" meeting of the Flower Club in March but we will be preparing bunches of daffodils for Mothering Sunday. On 1st April we will prepare floral arrangements in the church for Easter Day.



We'd love to have new members, so don't be too shy to join us. Please contact **Hazel 810326** with any enquiries.



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**

YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS YOU

Regional winners of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Green Award 2006 & 2007



Join Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group Call Sam Malt on **01480 810844** daytime **01480 811654** evenings

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

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**

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**



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.



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**



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

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.

Days of Buckden

Traditional Family Butcher
 Open 6 days a week
Tel. 01480 810272

CATWORTH FINE FOODS

Purveyors of Quality Fine Foods
 open 6 days a week
 41a High Street, Catworth
 01832 710237

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

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 New bunded oil tanks fitted, including concrete bases, old tanks disposed of.
 Improve your central heating system now - save money in the future Boiler Servicing from £55 + parts
 All plumbing work undertaken from a dripping tap to a full bathroom or kitchen installations Free quotations
 No call out charges 9.00am - 4.30pm Mon-Fri

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Malt Acre Church Road Grafham
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- ✓ quality work
- ✓ realistic pricing
- ✓ no VAT!

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 weathervanes, welding etc
 handmade bird boxes, seasoned fire-
 wood by bag or load*

01480 - 810844(day) - 811654(evening)

J D Mortgage Services

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 critical illness cover, health insurance, unemployment
 cover, buildings and contents insurance
 FREE Independent Mortgage Advice in the privacy of
 your own home
Tel: 01480 819 478 Mob: 07739 814714
 Email: mark@jdms.co.uk

Buckden Private Hire

PROMPT, RELIABLE &
 COURTEOUS SERVICE,
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 CONTRACT WORK



8 PEOPLE MINIBUS ALSO AVAILABLE
 CALL NOW ON
01480 812929
07740 440969

Grafham Gossip

The deadline dates are
 midnight on the following
 Thursdays:

March 18th
April 22nd

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

BSM Driving Instructor **BSM**
 DSA Approved **part of RAC**
 Living locally in Grafham
 Call John Sisseman for details



Tel. 07806 941675

JEZ ASHCROFT

Coving & Artexing Any Pattern
Plastering & Decorating
FREE ESTIMATES
 Tel: home **01480 812461**
 mob **07708031493**

Send us your news and gossip.
Email: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk