

Grafham Gossip

Issue 70 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 20th May

Editors' note...

May is here! Are the blubells out on the cycle track? Get on your bikes and see if you can find any!

There's lots to read in this month's issue and there are quite a few events happening in Grafham in May and early June. Most of the details are in notices on the the first page but be sure to look out for activities listed on pages 4 and 5 as well. Have fun!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



Grafham All Saints

2nd May (1st Sunday) 11.00 Sunday
Worship
9th May (2nd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist
16th May (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist
11.00 Sunday Worship
23rd May (4th Sunday) **Whitsunday** 11.00 Eucharist
30th May (5th Sunday) 11.00 Group Eucharist
6th June (1st Sunday) **no** 11.00 service
Open air service following Fête (approx 16.00)
13 June (2nd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist



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 01480 810326

St Neots Patchwork and Quilting Group Quilt Exhibition

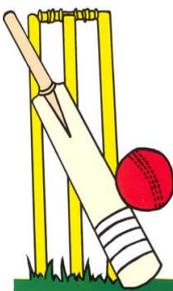
All Saint's Church, Grafham
Friday 7th, Saturday 8th May
10am - 4pm



All proceeds to go to the church restoration fund. Fabric Sale, Book stall and raffle. £3 entry includes tea and cakes. Any volunteers to make cakes and help serve tea would be welcomed with open arms. **Call Carole 810043.**

Grafham Cricket Club Spring Quiz

Friday 14th May
7pm for 7.30 start
Grafham Village Hall
General knowledge quiz
with prizes
Teams of 6 people max
Ploughman's buffet included
Refreshments & bar
Raffle



Tickets: £5 adults, £3.50 under 16s
Information & tickets, please call 890805

Grafham Church Flower Club

We have no formal meeting during May but a number of us will be decorating the church for a wedding later in the month. We are also collecting items for our Well Dressing which we'll create for the Church Fête on 6 June. Volunteers with creative eyes and hands would be very welcome in the week before the Fête. Please ring **Hazel 810326** for details.



Grafham Scarecrow Competition - June

We had a fabulous response last year with scarecrows of Mary Poppins, Amy Winehouse and Alice in Wonderland to mention just a few and we're hoping for even better things this year, so get your thinking caps on!

The competition is open to everyone, with prizes for the best three scarecrows. Look out for more details and entry forms. **Jill & Philip Allingham 01480 811516**



**FRIENDS OF BUCKDEN TOWERS
PLANT SALE
AT BUCKDEN TOWERS**

Saturday 29th May 11am - 4pm
For more details see page 4.



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**

A Shepherd's Tale -19

A bit like the grass, this Shepherd's Tale will be short and sweet. It's been a long cold spring and the grass has been really slow to get going, but at last it is starting to move. Because we were short of grass I kept a block of shearlings and rams inside for an extra three weeks but now they have been booted out and are



enjoying the sun on their backs. As I write this the entire flock is now enjoying the new grass and young wheat in the field in the front of the house, aptly named the Front Field. In the evening it is quite a pleasure for Ruth and me to be in our sitting room and watch the sheep instead of the telly! Sheep watching usually means no bad language or politicians!

It is a bit unusual to graze wheat, but it was so late when we sowed the grass last autumn that we added the wheat as a cover crop to make sure that we had "something" and that the young grass was protected. So far it seems to have worked although I am keen to keep the wheat short as once it gets too long it will become unpalatable.

Patrick Goldsworthy

View from the Pew!

At last it seems Spring is here and although we can feel the sun on our backs we wonder if at any moment we will be submerged in a cloud of volcanic ash!



However, let us remember in our prayers those poor souls who have been stranded far from home or who have missed their much needed holidays, owing to the ensuing travel chaos.

Our Easter services were inspiring and well attended. Our thanks to Mandy Flaherty once again for presiding at our Easter Day celebration. The Easter Egg Hunt, following the service, was much enjoyed by all the children. We have just this month collected in the last of the Christingle donations totalling £34.60 which has duly been sent off to the Children's Society.

When members of the PCC met recently with the church architect to discuss the Quinquennial report he advised we continue monitoring the cracks but not to intervene at present. Instead the priority is to deal with urgent repairs to roof areas and the tower. A programme of work is planned with the PCC and the architect. Once again we are very grateful to SAS for their support.

You will be seeing posters appearing in the village for the Quilting Exhibition to be held in church **7th and 8th May**. Help would be appreciated to make cakes and serve teas on the two days. **Please contact Jill Tyack 810157** Our services in May will follow their usual pattern as shown on the front page except that the **5th Sunday (30th)** will be a Group Eucharist when there will be visitors from the other parishes in our group. Do come along to help make these visitors welcome.

Posters will also appear advertising our **Fête and Well Dressing on 6th June**. See the advert on page There will be no 11 am service but we will have an open air service following the Fete.

Do come along that day when we plan to have "something for everyone" and aim to make the event even more successful than last year.



Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

A precis of an article by Sue Paul

We send warmest congratulations to Dr Steffes who gave birth to a beautiful son, James Alexander on 21st February. Her maternity leave replacement Dr Williams, has left for a permanent position and we welcome Dr Lauren Naisbit in her place.

Patients will have received a letter from the NHS advising that at some time in the future, their records will be entered on an NHS database enabling access to doctors throughout the UK. There is provision to opt out of this scheme by completing the relevant form at the surgery or it can be downloaded.

<http://www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/scr/documents/optout.pdf>

For those going on exotic holidays, please consult your doctor about vaccinations well ahead so they can be ordered in advance - this includes Yellow Fever vaccinations for destinations like Africa.

If you suffer from a chronic illness, the Expert Patient Programme can really be of long-lasting benefit so do please consider the opportunity of joining the programme.

The Enhanced Service for Carers has had a slow start, so do register with Wilma in Reception who will ensure you receive the full support and information you need.

With bookstall money raised by Shirley Wimbleton, we've bought a new wheelchair for the surgery. Thanks to all who support it.



From 6th April Urgent Care Cambridge (UCC) are our new providers of Out of Hours Care. UCC are a not-for-profit group of doctors whose area now encompasses Cambridge City, South and East Cambridgeshire and Fenland. It replaces HuntsDoc who has successfully delivered this service for four years.

As to the future of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, three public sector bidders were confirmed in late March. By 24th May each will be required to deliver robust and very detailed plans about how they will provide a secure, safe, sustainable and financially viable service for patients and staff at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. None of the bidders has run a hospital before and there remains the debt - and a General Election!

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

PARISH NEWS...



April 2010 - The Parish Council continues to work with the Allotment Association and has secured a small piece of land in Ellington. Arrangements are in hand for a meeting with the Association to discuss arrangements and the possibilities for finding suitable land closer to home.

Cllr Tyler is still working hard to get the necessary permissions to erect a Grafham Village Sign. It is a project that has been beset by red tape but it is hoped that the sign will be in place fairly soon.

The future of the open ground in Meadowground has come under discussion and the Parish Council will use all measures available to it to protect this space. It is a valuable space to the village being a safe place for children to play. The Parish Council does not believe that there is any immediate threat, but prefers to be prepared for any turn of events.

The date of the next meeting is 11th May 2010. This is the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council and, as usual, will be preceded by the Annual Parish Assembly. This is your opportunity to receive reports from the Parish and District councils on their plans for the forthcoming year and their actions over the past year. Everyone is welcome. The Annual Parish Assembly will commence at 7.30pm.

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 11th May and is preceded at 7.30 by the Annual Parish Assembly.

- Philip Allingham** Chairman 811516 philip_allingham@sky.com
- Tracey Ibbett** 01480 812310 Traceyllbett@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

Grafham Cricket Club



It is hard to believe; especially after the winter we have just endured, that as I am writing this article, we are on the threshold of another new cricket season. By the time the *May Grafham Gossip* is available, practice should be over; also indoor nets at St Ivo and two friendly matches should the Grafham Square have sufficiently recovered from this winter's rigours, and the April showers stay away.

Grafham have stayed up in Bedford League Division 1; despite finishing at the foot of the league with a credible 189 points; winning 6 games in a difficult league, and running several games close before losing. This is the first time Grafham have been promoted to League Division 1, and stayed there for the following season. Normal practice is to get promoted, and relegated at the end of the first season.

Let's hope in this season we can compete as well as last.

Home Games in May

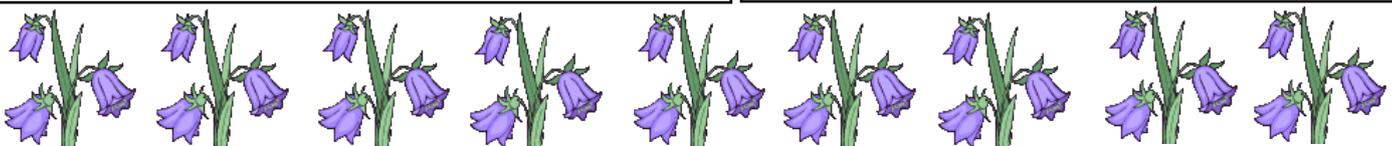
- 8th May** Grafham vrs Brickhill **Start time 2.30pm**
- 15th May** Grafham vrs Pilgrims Oakley 2 **Start 2.30pm**
- 22nd May** Grafham vrs Bedford Park 1 **Start time 2.30pm**

Grafham is still looking for new players, and if you are interested in joining the Club please contact:

- Captain, Adi Love 01480 811827**
- Vice Captain, Chris Brown 07968568587**
- Club Chairman, Chris Dighton 01480 811862.**

We are running a Club Fund Raiser on May 14th in the Village Hall; details are on page 1 and can also be found on the Grafham Village website. Hope you can come along and support the Club.

Club Chairman, Chris Dighton 01480 811862



Holmewood Hall WWII

North of Conington Airfield in Holme village stands the majestic red brick Holmewood Hall. The grounds of Holmewood Hall known as area H were surrounded in wartime security. Construction work on the American OSS (Office of Strategic Services) site started in January 1944 and was completed in two months. Area H became the largest supply facility to the resistance of occupied Europe in WWII. Area H could store 500 tons of wartime suppliers and accommodate 18 officers and 326 enlisted men onsite.

Holmewood Hall became the headquarters, housing officers and also agents prior to departing on their missions into occupied Europe.

Sam Malt



Packing containers at area H

For more information see <http://www.holmewoodhall.co.uk>

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A V O N

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Do you want to earn extra money, choose your own hours, have fun and meet new people?
Contact me for details
Bernice 07912 309627

FRIENDS OF BUCKDEN TOWERS
(charity number 273480)

**PLANT SALE
AT BUCKDEN TOWERS
Saturday 29th May
11am - 4pm**
Ample free parking on site
Entrance £2.50
Children free



All proceeds go towards the restoration of Buckden Towers. Website: <http://fobt.org.uk>
This is a specialist sale with nurseries offering a wide variety of plants including many unusual ones. The Knot Gardens and the extensive grounds will be open to visitors.

May Day- 1st May!

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH April 2010

Please Help Heighten Awareness

I have a new stock of Neighbourhood Watch stickers for displaying in windows - if you do not have one on view would you please seriously consider putting one up? This will really be of help to heighten awareness; please either e-mail or phone me and I will arrange to get one (or more) to you.



Incidents

There have been no reported incidents in Grafham. On 19th March between 6pm and 6.30pm two garages were broken into in Chichester Way, Perry near the Perry shop. If anyone recollects being there and seeing anyone behaving suspiciously please advise the Police Call Centre.

Community safety priorities

Community safety priorities are set annually for Cambridge and can be found on Cambridge City Council's website: www.cambridge.gov.uk The priorities identified are based on all crime and disorder reported to the police, local authority and fire service. The following key areas have been identified for 2010:

- * Alcohol-related violence and anti social behaviour
- * Burglary of homes
- * Cycle theft
- * Domestic violence
- * Reducing offending and re-offending.

Our local neighbourhood policing team can be contacted on line by visiting; www.cambs.police.uk/myneighbourhood Click on "My neighbourhood" section to see what the team priorities are and what is being done to tackle them. There is also an opportunity for you to sign up to e-cops which is an interactive email service.

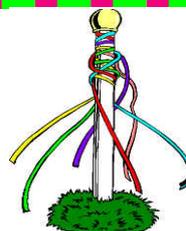
The advice on Home security is updated and listed on: www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Register your property

Register your property for free and improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen. Thousands of items of property are lost or stolen each year in the UK. The Immobilise National Property register already holds the details of 20 million items of property. Add yours now to protect your property and to help the police stop property crime. Register at: www.immobilise.com

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





**Grafham Bookworms
Film and Debate Club**



The next two meetings are Tuesday 4th May, 8pm at Margaret's, 6 Home Close to discuss American Boy and Tuesday 25th May, 8pm at Emma's, The Old Rectory, Church Rd. **New members are always welcome; we'd be delighted for you to join us at our informal, entertaining evenings. For more information on book titles etc. please contact Tina 811366 .**

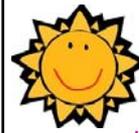
The Mobile Library route L108/120 visits **Breach Road, Grafham on alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05.** Visits are: **May 4th and 14th.** Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**
<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>



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**



Following last year's successful event please support us



**CHURCH FÊTE AND
WELL DRESSING**

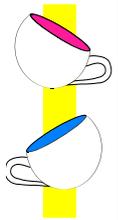
Sunday 6th June 1- 4 pm

Home Produce, Plants, Tombola
Cream Teas, Treasure Hunt, Raffle and other stalls
Followed by outdoor service (no 11am service)

See posters around the village the week before the event
Donations of cakes, home produce, scones, plants and prizes for tombola and raffle will be gratefully received by Hazel 810326 at 8 Cedar Close
Ann 810223 at 24 Cedar Close
Val 812390 at 10 Church Road

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning for retired residents 10.30am on Wednesday, **May 12th at Frances Knight's 18 Church Road.** This is an informal social occasion for retired residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



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.



**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>

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.



THREE NEW CLEANERS NEEDED FOR OUR VILLAGE CHURCH

Many visitors comment on our well-cared for church, so please help us.
Two hours every other month
All equipment provided
If you clean with a friend you can chat at the same time!
Please come and join our existing friendly team!
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**



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**



Wanted - Baby Sitters

Please contact gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Babysitters Caroline 14 yrs **812179**

Danielle 20yrs **811279**
Livvy 14yrs - babysitting course **819708**
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

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:

**May 20th,
June 17th**

To advertise e-mail us:
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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
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E - cassiecd@hotmail.co.uk

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