

Grafham Gossip

Issue 72 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 15th July

Editors' note...

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's *Grafham Gossip*; we have eight pages in this issue! To round off June, enjoy Grafham's Summer Celebration of a 'Nostalgic, English, Summer Afternoon' on the 26th; the details are below. The scarecrow and photographic competitions will be judged on the same day *and if you're reading this on the web site, ahead of going to press, you've just got time to enter!* Regular activities like the coffee morning, library visit, book club, flower club, WI etc., are mainly listed on pages 5 and 6. Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group have started their annual evening walks; have a look at their notice on page 5 also. We have the return of 'A Shepherd's Tale', (inadvertently missed out last month!) and all the usual articles, news, items and notices. Have a great read!

Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk



Grafham All Saints

27th June (4th Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist
 4th July (1st Sunday) 11.00 Sunday Worship
 11th July (2nd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist
 18th July (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist
 11.00 Sunday Worship
 25th July (4th Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist
 1st August (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

Curate - Fr Martin Kettle The Vicarage, Alconbury.
 PE28 4DX 01480 890284 or 07770 273923

Churchwarden - Hazel Powell 01480 810326



Grafham's Summer Celebration

A Nostalgic English Summer Afternoon

26th June - Village Hall - 2.30 onwards

Drop in for a pint or a cream tea and watch a little cricket
 (Grafham v Little Staughton)

or

stay for the afternoon and bring a picnic
 BBQs provided (bring your own meat)
 Burgers and sausages for sale

Scarecrow competition
 Judge the photo competition

Kwik Cricket

Free Entry



Bar and afternoon teas in aid of Church Restoration and Cricket Club

HCCA Grafham Branch are Hosting a Cream Tea

by kind permission of Sue & Brian Homewood

at Village Farm, Grafham
 on Sunday 18th July 2.30-5.30pm

Tickets £5 per person

If you are interested in coming along,
 please contact Nic Evans on 812102
 to reserve your tickets.



HCCA - Huntingdon Constituency Conservative Association

Grafham Cricket Club are running free junior
 cricket evenings during June/July for boys and
 girls from 7 to 12 years old. See page 5 for
 details.



**Details of the Photographic
 and Scarecrow**

**Competitions are
 on page 2, but hurry!**



A Shepherd's Tale - 20 and 21

First an apology, your hard working editor mislaid the May edition of A Shepherd's Tale while burning the midnight oil laying out the *Grafham Gossip* pages, so to make up for it she has allowed a bumper edition.

It was a long cold spring and other shepherds complained about the lack of grass but rain appeared when we needed it. The shortage of grass was particularly noticeable when Ruth and I escaped for two nights to the South Downs, where the chalk dries out quickly. However it has meant that I was able to pick up three new shearlings from a flock in Kent who were looking to downsize due to lack of grass. It's interesting to watch the new shearlings as they still stick together as a clique.

The lambs have grown well, but some of them have had sporadic lameness. Closer inspection has shown they had "scald", a mild but painful form of footrot which starts when grit or clay gets stuck in the cleft between their "toes".

To tackle this, I have trimmed and cleaned their feet and then put them through a zinc sulphate footbath.



Shearing took place in the first week of June, it was clearly in the nick of time and fly strike treatments were starting to run out. Dirty wool and the warm weather were attracting a lot of flies, so many of the ewes had fly eggs in the wool. However the treatment we are using kills the larvae when they hatch so the risks were low. The one disappointment was that one of the new shearlings had quite a lot of fly damage on one side which shows what happens when the treatment (a different insecticide) is not applied evenly.

I have failed to keep the wheat and grass in the Front Field to a manageable grazing height. Looking at the sheep sitting in the grass all one can see are their heads and ears flicking... like deer in the African savannah! So although when ever I cut hay on Dartmoor (where I used to farm) it rained, I have decided to risk it, if only to keep the grass short, dense and palatable for the sheep.

One final sad note is that Brant Sidney, the ram we hired in last year and father to most of this year's lambs, had to be put down following a blockage in his stomach; he was getting on a bit but I would have liked to have used him for one more year. Anyway I am now on the look out for another top ram to help Furlong with his work this Autumn.

Patrick Goldsworthy

Grafham Scarecrow Competition

You may just have time to enter!

- The competition is open to everyone with prizes for best three scarecrows.
- Judging on 26th June, winners announced at Summer Celebration (Village Hall 26th June)
- Entry fee is £3.00 with all proceeds going to All Saints Restoration Fund.
- Scarecrows can appear anytime from 20th June
- Deliver completed entry forms and entry fee to



15 Breach Road by Friday 25th June.

Download entry forms and instructions on making a scarecrow from www.grafhamvillage.org.uk or from Jill, 15 Breach Road tel. 01480 811516

Grafham Photographic Competition Saturday 26th June

You may just have time to enter!

- Six competition categories describing a year in Grafham
- As many photos as you want, for any category (Entry Fee £1 per photo proceeds to Church Restoration)
- Photos judged on 26th June as part of Grafham's Summer Celebration
- Winners see their photos used for this year's Grafham Calendar and Christmas Cards
- See entry form for full details
- Entries to be submitted by 23rd June



Entry forms from Val Williams, Brick Barn Cottage, Hill Farm, Church Rd tel. 0776 113 7012

email: vjw.hillfarm@btconnect.com or download from www.grafhamvillage.org.uk

View from the Pew!

Summer seems at last to have arrived and it was a pleasure to see the church decorated with lovely flowers when Nancy and Chris got married at the end of May. Nancy and her bridesmaids looked beautiful, the bridegroom and guests looked charming and we all celebrated the event in the churchyard afterwards with a glass of champagne. The sun shone and the bells rang out with joy. We thank John Dillistone for the lovely music and wish Nancy and Chris many blessings in their new life together.



On 18th May following Hazel's re-election as churchwarden, Hazel attended a special service at St Mary Magdalene church, Stilton. At this service Archdeacon Hugh McCurdy licensed new churchwardens and welcomed back those continuing their service.

On 30th May at our Group Eucharist we welcomed visitors from our neighbouring parishes of Ellington and Easton. It is always good to see new faces at our services.



During the week preceding our Fête there was much activity. Thank you to those who have given their time to weed and tidy the church garden. Preparation of the Well Dressing began on the Tuesday and there followed many hours of meticulous

work creating the picture you have all seen displayed outside the church. Thank you to all those who helped produce the wonderful result. This may not be repeated next year but we welcome suggestions and offers of help for future ventures! Do let us know your thoughts. Meanwhile many scones and cakes were being prepared for the big day. Many thanks to all those who helped and supported us - to the stallholders, the team who erected and felled the "tents", to the donors of tombola and raffle prizes, cakes and plants and to the "strong men" (one of whom was raised from his bed!) who transported and placed the Well Dressing and to the team who served the delicious cream teas. All was much appreciated. Funds are still coming in and we will report in the next issue the final amount. Mercifully the weather held for the event but the open air service had to transfer "indoors" before the deluge of rain at about 4.30 pm. The readings and hymns were based on the waters of the sea and it seemed appropriate to shelter from the storm in our beloved All Saints.



Our services follow the usual pattern throughout July and we look forward to welcoming you all, especially visitors to Grafham.

NB: The theme for our Flower Festival in September will be "Travel through the Ages."

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**

PARISH NEWS...

June 2010 The Parish Council agreed to begin the process to update the village plan. It is some years now since the plan was first produced and it is hoped that a new plan will reflect the needs of the current village population. The Council expects to be able to deliver questionnaires to each household before the end of the year. The first plan had a very high response rate and the Council hopes for a repeat of its success.



The playground and its equipment recently had an annual safety inspection and has been assessed as a pleasant and well-maintained play area presenting an overall risk rating as low.

Funds have been approved for the purchase of fixed litter bins adjacent to the village hall hard-standing.

The Parish Council continues to liaise with the Grafham Community Allotment Gardens Association and councillors will attend their AGM. The search for suitable land continues.

A bid for funds is to be submitted by the Parish Council to the District Council's Jointly funded minor improvements fund for 2010-11. The funds, if awarded, will be applied to the improvement of road safety at the junction of Church Hill and Church Road. At this junction, cyclists often do not realise that there is likely to be traffic approaching from their right and will cycle straight round the corner into Church Road. This is an accident waiting to happen, particularly where families are cycling together and young children are involved.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 13th July in the village hall 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.

Philip Allingham Chairman **01480 811516**

philip_allingham@sky.com

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

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

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

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

Helen Breakspear **01480 810787**

helenbreakspear@btinternet.com

Send your news and gossip to gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Website: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk **E-mail:** gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham Cricket Club

Bedford Park; the team Grafham played on 22nd May had great difficulty finding Grafham. Several members of the Bedford Park team reached Peterborough before they realised they had gone too far, and these are the days of Sat Nav.

Bedford Park won the toss and elected to bat. Two quick wickets taken by Adi Love soon bought this decision into question, but Bedford Park soon consolidated their innings with Batsman 3 and 4 putting on a 75 run plus partnership. All Grafham bowlers bowled steadily with Chris Brown returning the best figures of 10 overs for 28 runs for 2 wkts. Bedford Park finished their innings on 217 for 9wkts.

In reply Grafham made a slow reply, steadily losing wickets with Duncan Palmer 28, and Tom Clayton 18 being the pick of the opening batsmen. At 107 for 8, the match appeared well beyond Grafham and it was, but the last three batsmen built up the total to 162 all out, with Tom Chester scoring a solid 25, plus 16 from Adi Love with the anchor role being played by Chris Dighton.

The next game against St Andrews away was rained off.



The next game was a home game against Bedford West Indies, who seemed highly disappointed there was not an off licence in the Village. In keeping with the current football World Cup fashion; a vuvuzela made its appearance from someone in the Grafham team. Much to the surprise of the Grafham team; members of the West Indies team complained of the noise.

Grafham opened the batting making a slow start against accurate and pacey bowling with Tom Clayton top scoring on 20, with cameo innings from Tom Chester of 12, and James Westcott Rudd 15 pushing the Grafham score to 98 all out.

In reply the Bedford West Indies steadily overtook the Grafham score, with Tom Chester 7 overs 16 runs for 1 wkt, and Jack Sene 6 overs 23 runs for 1 wkt being the best of the Grafham bowlers. Bedford West Indies ran out winners by 7 wickets.

Homes matches for July are: - 31st July 2010 Grafham CC vrs St Andrews.

Our 2010 fixture list is on the Grafham Village website, and a copy of the last match's score card.

If you have the time do come and watch us.

Chris Dighton Club Chairman



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

A consultation is to be held by the General Practitioners' Committee on the future of General Practice. We are being asked our opinions on four key issues:

- the evolving practice team
- getting a suitable appointment
- out of hours care and treatment
- coordination and continuity of care in the modern NHS



The information obtained will be used to inform decisions about the development and delivery of Primary Care for the next generation. To be involved in this process you can go to the website www.strikingabalance.co.uk or ring me on 811650. We hope to arrange a meeting to discuss priorities and conclusions before the consultation ends on 10th September.

Moving on to the Out-of-Hours Service where again some feedback is needed. NHS Cambridgeshire did not renew the successful HuntsDoc contract but awarded a new contract to Urgent Care Cambridgeshire (UCC) who now cover a hugely expanded area of Cambridgeshire as well as Cambridge itself. As a member of the Huntingdon Patient Congress, I have volunteered to be one of 3 people to meet with UCC at regular intervals to give them patient feedback - good or bad. Do please give me any information you feel would be helpful to UCC and future patients - it can be anonymous if you wish. Please give me a ring on 811650 if you can help.

Onto some local surgery news. We heartily congratulate Dr. Irwin on running the London Marathon in 3 hours and 50 minutes whilst raising £1,480 for the Childhood Cancer Charity - both these numbers represent a really splendid achievement - well done!

Jane Bond is returning as one of our practice nurses, replacing Teresa. We wish Teresa well and welcome Jane back at the end of June, after a 6 year absence.

Extending the car park is proving trickier than expected. To maximize the area, posts will be used to identify each space. It's hoped that this will improve availability - and my parking skills!

Finally, the surgery is to provide more information about training days, flu jab days, health awareness issues, etc. If you'd like access to this, please look at the new pages on www.bandlp.co.uk after 1st July and click on the box.

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



Do you enjoy reading?

Come along and join us for informal social evenings (and a glass of wine or two!)

Next meeting hosted by **Karen** at **2 Home Close**

Date: **Tuesday 27th July**, Time: **8pm**

Current read: **The Handmaid's Tale** by **Margaret Atwood**

We would love to welcome new readers and those new to the village too! So, please, if you like a good read, socialising and want to meet fellow Grafham residents, try and make it on the 27th July to 2 Home Close. If you would like to know more about us or need collecting to go along with someone, please contact **Tina** on **07711 012957**.

Grafham Cricket Club Junior Cricket Night



Grafham Cricket Club will be running a free junior cricket evening for boys and girls from ages 7 to 12 years. It will take place on the village playing field; the coach in charge will be Adam Dighton of Grafham Cricket Club, who holds an ECBCA level 1 cricket coaching certificate. Also attending will be other members of the club, to assist and talent spot!

Tuesday 22nd June Start 6.00pm finish 7.30pm

Tuesday 29th June Start 6.00pm finish 7.30pm

Tuesday 6th July Start 6.00pm finish 7.30pm

Should there be rain in the afternoon of the Junior Cricket night, the evening session will be cancelled as the rain makes the grass dangerous to practise on.

Come and join us - it's a fun evening.

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.



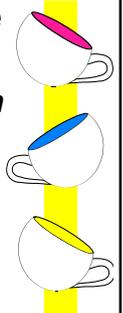
There is a playing field for sports activities and the hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities.

For more details contact:

Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a *Coffee Morning* at **10.30am on Wednesday, July 14th at Diana Thomas' Wesley House.** This is an informal social occasion for 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>

The Mobile Library route L108/120



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

Visits are: **July 13th and 27th.**

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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

If you are listed in the Babysitters' notice please email

gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

if your details have changed.

Thanks

Come and join us for a stroll in the countryside

on evening walks with Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group. Please contact Sam for details **01480 810844** daytime or **01480 811654** evenings.



Childminder/babysitter

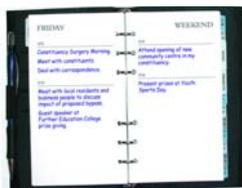
available daytimes/evenings during July/August, CRB checked, works with primary age children 1 day a week, 19 years old, completed baby sitting course, £5 per hour. **Tel. Jess 07743709764/810867**



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.



Babysitters

Livvy 14yrs - babysitting course **819708**

Kirsty 18yrs - babysitting course **810550**

Kate 17yrs - babysitting course **812179**

Georgie 14yrs- babysitting course **432688**

Caroline 14 yrs **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**

Jess 19yrs - advert above **07743709764/810867**



Wanted - Baby Sitters

Please contact gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk

Grafham Church Flower Club

On 20th July Karenza will be showing us how to make an attractive arrangement using wood.



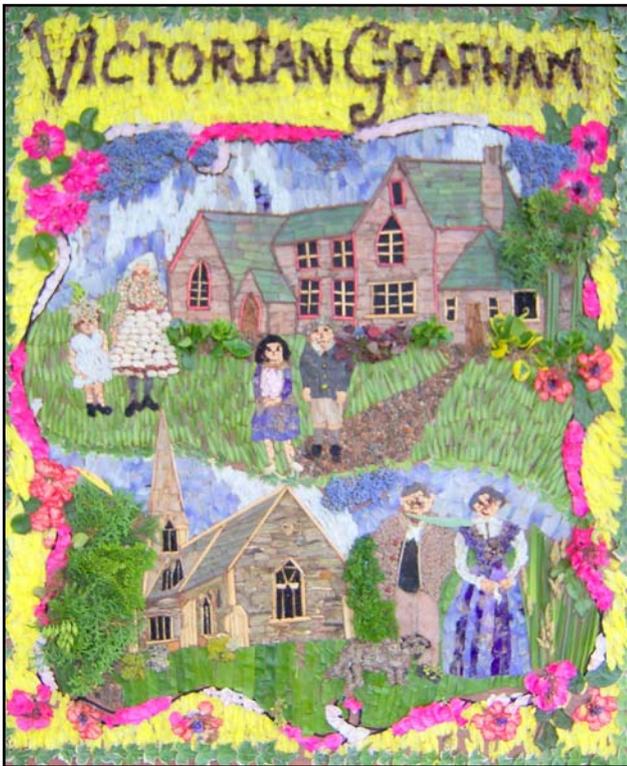
When Karenza did this before we were all amazed at how beautiful this could be. I do urge you to come and see this demonstration which I am sure you will find fascinating. We will meet at 8 pm in the village hall.

Please contact Hazel 810326 for more details

NB: The Flower Festival theme is **Travel through the ages.**

2010 Well Dressing

depicting Victorian Grafham, displayed at the Church Fête on 6th June. It shows the old school house, the church and villagers. The school house was made with cornus twigs and eucalyptus leaves. The church was made with elephant grass, bark, phormium leaves and stones. For the grass, sky and surroundings and the people's clothes we used flower petals, leaves, beans, seeds, eggshells and feathers. The wording was made of currants. Thank you to all those who helped create it and the strongmen who transported it to its resting place.



The Plant Stall in the church porch has a fine selection of herbacious perennials and other plants at very reasonable prices. Offers of plants for sale and spare plant pots, please phone Jill Tyack on 810157



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

May/June 2010



There have been no reported incidents in Grafham. However, there has been activity adjoining the village.

Overnight on Monday 31st May to Tuesday 1st June unknown offenders moved 4 boats from the fishing lodge in Perry and took them to the Plummer Car Park and then removed the engines. On the same evening windows of a car, parked in Armstrong Close Perry, were smashed at about 02.00.

Between May 20th and May 21st unknown offenders broke into the Grafham Water Centre in Perry.

On 25th May between 2pm and 2.45pm a car had its window smashed and items stolen whilst parked in the Anglian Water car park.

The police are actively investigating these crimes - if anyone has information or witnessed anything whilst out would they please contact the Police Control Centre or Crimestoppers.

The Policing Pledge in full is now listed on <https://www.cambs-police.co.uk/policepledge>

For the third month running I am appealing for residents to agree to display a neighbourhood watch sticker - I estimate that at least 150 properties don't have one, and it is not helping to highlight the scheme.

Please re-consider to put up a sticker in your window - I have a supply and am very happy to get one to you - just e-mail or call me.

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

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**



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**

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

The deadline date for the July Grafham Gossip is midnight on Thursday

July 15th

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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 Saints, Grafham

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