

# Grafham Gossip

**Issue 73 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 19th August**

## Grafham All Saints

25th July (4th Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

1st August (1st Sun) 11.00 Sunday Worship

8th August (2nd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

15th August (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist  
11.00 Sunday Worship

22nd August (4th Sunday) Farewell Service for  
Martin Kettle at Alconbury Church at 10.00

29th August (5th Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

5th September (1st Sunday) 16.30 Songs of Praise  
following Flower Festival weekend, No 11.00 Service

**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



## *Editors' note...*

Thanks again to all our contributors. It looks as though the 8 page *Grafham Gossip* is here to stay!



Do you remember 'More Gin Vicar' in July 2008? It was Grafham's first extremely successful and entertaining talent show. Have a look at the notice on page two; the SAS are thinking about organising another one!

We have the Flower Festival on 4th and 5th September to look forward to; contact Jill Tyack 01480 810157 for details. Also, read more about it in 'View from the Pew' on page three.

Are you interested in local history? If so, you can find out about Matcham's Bridge on page 6.

As usual there's lots of information and interesting articles to be found on every page.

Have a good August!

**Editors, [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)**

## What do YOU want for Grafham?

So, what do the following have in common: the all-weather sports pitch, road traffic calming, the village website and improved parking in Breach Road? These were just some of the ideas that originated with residents, were identified as a 'need' in the Grafham Parish Plan and have been delivered. The Parish Plan is now more than 6 years old and needs to be refreshed and injected with new ideas.

But what is a Parish Plan? A Parish Plan is a way of allowing residents to play a bigger role in making the decisions that affect their community. It helps create a shared view on issues of local concern, and uses these to produce a vision and action plan for the community. The Parish Plan should:

- Provide the entire community with the chance to have their say and get involved.
- Consider all aspects of local concern, including economic, social and environmental issues.
- Draw from information based on community participation, surveys and research.
- Involve Local Authorities in the planning process.

While a Parish Plan cannot prevent change, presenting this shared vision can influence it, and helps make the views of the community heard when it matters most. For example, it can provide vital information to service providers, such as the Local Authority, and can act as evidence of need when applying for funding.

What next? There will be a residents' meeting in the Village Hall at 3pm on Sunday 19th September.

This meeting will:

- Highlight what has been achieved since the publication of the Parish Plan in 2004.
- Seek the views of residents on what are the major issues that concern them.
- Detail plans for a structured survey of residents which will be completed before the end of the year.
- Ask for help in distributing, collecting and analysing survey questionnaires.

Please put 3pm on Sunday 19th September in your diary. Come and have tea and, while doing so, let us hear your views on our village.



## sAs Talent Show?

Save All Saints Association is thinking of holding another Grafham Talent Show in September. If you would consider taking part please email: [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk) straight away. You may be one of the people referred to in the following quote from an article in the July 2008 *Grafham Gossip* about Grafham's first talent show, 'More Gin Vicar.'



*It may have been the emotion, the laughter or the wine, but several of the audience were heard to promise (witnesses available:)*



*'Next time I'll do a ...turn.'*

## PARISH NEWS...

July 2010

Unfortunately, the Parish Council meeting, scheduled for July, had to be cancelled because there were insufficient numbers to form a legal assembly. As usual, there will be no August meeting, so the next meeting will be held on 14th September at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The glass recycling bins have provided a further £350 in revenue. Please carry on using them while you can.

**Margaret Life, Parish Clerk**

01480 819477 [margaret\\_life\\_grafham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:philip_allingham@sky.com)

**Mike Tyler** Vice Chair 01480 811244 [mtyler@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:mtyler@bedford.gov.uk)

**David King** 01480 812430 [davidking@hawkeyesystems.com](mailto:davidking@hawkeyesystems.com)

**Ian Gardener** 01480 812821 [idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk](mailto:idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk)

**Tracey Ibbett** 01480 812310 [Traceyllbett@talktalk.net](mailto:Traceyllbett@talktalk.net)

**Helen Breakspear** 01480 810787 [helenbreakspear@btinternet.com](mailto:helenbreakspear@btinternet.com)



## A Shepherd's Tale - 22

It's been a busy month but really too dry for grass and sheep alike. The only good news was that it stayed dry long enough to get some hay off the Front Field. It's over 25 years since I last made hay but the equipment I used was very much the same. I had bought a mower for topping, but I did not have a hay turner and a friend recommended a visit to Cheffins monthly machinery sales outside Ely. There was a vast array of hay turners on offer some newly painted and pricey. Anyway I got an old Haybob which has the ability to spread and row up.

Although the weather was good, things did not quite go to plan. Early on, I managed to adjust the mower so it left the grass too long in some parts of the field. The next disaster was that the mainframe of the Haybob broke: there is a well known weak spot on a welded joint. Luckily, a Peterborough machinery dealer had just taken delivery of about 10 crates of vintage Haybob spares from Eire. He had just the part and, yes I could collect it on Saturday afternoon (England were playing Australia, rugby matters too!) I expect machines to go, and I am not a great mechanic, but I was really impressed that I was able to fit the new frame and have the field turned by the end of the day. Ryan Palmer in Ellington had agreed to bale the hay and he kindly checked that it was "fit" - really crisp - before he baled it. Our final disaster was on almost the last bit of rowing up, my green John Deere (known as Pride\*) decided to get stuck in two gears at once so I had to pull it back to the yard and finish off with my small blue Fordson Dexta (Joy). Anyway the hay was at last ready to go. Ryan turned up with a huge blue tractor and green baler and "woofed" through the field. The 105 bales were real thumpers at least 50% heavier than the ones we made on Dartmoor. With the help of the boys and a friend we got them stacked on to pallets and moved into the yard that night. It won't be enough hay for the flock this winter - we need about 300 bales - but it is a bonus, provided we don't end up feeding the hay in the drought.

(\*Pride and Joy or Faith, Hope and Charity)

At one stage our tractor family seemed to be growing faster than our flock. We now have three: "Pride" or "Faith" - because it starts reliably - is a green John Deere 2130 from the 1970s that cost a small fortune; "Joy" or "Hope", because the battery is not charging, is a 1963 Fordson Super Dexta with a front loader which was given to me by a very generous and ancient farming uncle; and "Charity," a "hunting pink" - actually rust - David Brown 990 Implematic from the early '60s. It also has a loader, but has a big end that's "gone" and water in the hydraulics. The latter was an "Ebay bargain" and although it runs, requires a lot of work and may be sold on before it becomes an expensive "project".

I have not written much about the sheep so, I will save most of this for next month but there have been the usual ups and downs. I will save the ups for next month but we lost one ewe who got "cast" (stuck on her back). This was really annoying as she was a good young ewe, but this was at least the third time she had been cast so she just must have been susceptible.

**Patrick Goldsworthy**



## View from the Pew!

The most important item we have to report is that, after five years of being a member of our clergy based at Alconbury, our curate Martin Kettle is leaving us and moving to Oxfordshire. We are very sad to lose Martin who has been much loved by the congregation here at Grafham as we are sure he has been in the other parishes in the group in which he has served. As well as being a dedicated support to Jonathan, Martin has always been a very welcome minister at our services and we have much appreciated his inspiring talks and his lively company. We wish Martin and his family God's blessings in their future together. A special farewell service for Martin will be held at Alconbury Church on Sunday 22nd August at 10am so do go along to wish Martin well.



Many of you will know Mandy Flaherty who has presided at our Easter and Christmas Eucharists in the recent past. We are pleased to announce that Mandy was licensed as a non-stipendiary curate at Alconbury church, the parish in which she is based, on Sunday 11th July. We look forward to welcoming Mandy back to Grafham sometime in the not too distant future. It is always a pleasure to see her and her family at our services.

Our Fête on 6th June raised a total of £ 637. 00 which is comparable to last year's total. We thank all those who worked so hard for the event and those who came and supported us by raising these much needed funds.



The current situation regarding the restoration is that the PCC has agreed to employ two specialist firms to carry out inspections and holding repairs to the leadwork and spire/tower respectively. A similar inspection is proposed for the tiled roof. Once complete the inspections should provide an overview of the restoration required for these areas. We will keep readers informed of progress.

**During the weekend 4th and 5th September** we will celebrate our Flower Festival. The theme this time is Travel through the Ages. We look forward to seeing all the wonderful ideas our flower arrangers will come up with - surely the scope is ocean deep and sky high?!



Jill Tyack will be on the prowl to seek out all you usual suspects in the village, so get your thinking caps on and be as creative as ever. At 4.30 pm on the Sunday we will have our usual Songs of Praise and it will be over to Jonathan to lead the service with appropriate hymns and readings.

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**

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

June/July 2010

There have been no reported incidents in Grafham. However, adjoining the village has been fairly active:



On 27th June between 12.45am and 10.30am unknown offenders entered a property in Hawkins Close, Perry and have stolen various items and have also taken the car keys and have stolen the BMW which was parked on the driveway.

Numerous car thefts in Buckden and several garages have had items stolen from them because they had not been properly secured.

For the fourth month running I am appealing for residents to agree to display a neighbourhood watch sticker - I estimate that at least 130 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](mailto: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](mailto:Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk) or

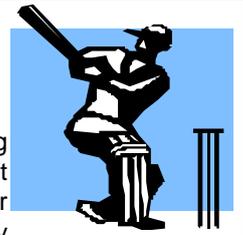
[tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk)

*Do you have any views or comments on village life?*

*E-mail [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk) and we'll publish them in 'Letters to the Editors.'*

*Please supply your name but tell us if you'd prefer us not to include it in the Grafham Gossip. Thanks!*

## Grafham Cricket Club



Since the July *Grafham Gossip* article was written, Grafham CC have played 4 games of cricket; three in the Bedford League and the annual friendly match against Locton in North East Yorkshire.

In previous seasons Grafham CCs strength was considered to be its bowling, but this season batting to date has earned Grafham more points than its bowling. The first of these games was against Lidlington at home who scored 198 for 7 with Tom Chester being the stand out bowler of 10 overs for 38 runs and 3 wkts. In reply Grafham made 173 for 9 with Jack Sene 32; Rob Forsdick 27 and Tommy Clayton 23 being the main batters for Grafham.

The next game was at home which was the occasion of the joint fund raiser between the Church "Save all Saints" (SAS) and the Grafham Cricket Club. The weather was warm, strawberries and cream, the chink of wine and beer glasses, and later in the afternoon the aromas of the barbecue mingled with sound of leather on willow. The match was against Little Staughton; a team of friends who have seasoned into a good cricketing team. Grafham batted first and made 129 for 9 with Tom Chester 38 and Adam Dighton 31 being the top scorers. Little Staughton replied and made 133 for 2 in 33 overs with Chris Brown being the only Grafham Bowler to take wickets.

As usual with the Lockton game; the weather is a big consideration. Most of the June games were in hot sunshine, so there was every probability the weather would break. Some of the younger members of the Grafham team decided they would camp, and luckily the weather was kind to them. As Grafham had come to Yorkshire with 12 players, and Locton had only 10, it was decided by Grafham to loan Locton the Grafham Captain Adi Love. Grafham opened the batting and scored 208 for 8 with Kerry Love (Adi's brother) 41; Gareth Knowles 33 and Duncan Palmer 27 being Grafham's top scorers. Locton were soon in trouble, and only a not out score of 42 by Adi Love, backed by W Lancaster 43, helped Locton build a score of 140 for 8. Kerry Love took 3wkts for 17 runs, and Chris Dighton took three catches in the field; firstly at square, then at point. The interval tea as usual was sublime, and there was the usual reluctance to adjourn to the field for the second innings. The usual match post match review was carried out in the Fox and Rabbit, with every one enjoying the whole week-end, with a fine Yorkshire sunset to round off the closing of the day.

The next match was away to the Bedford West Indies, who knew where the off licences were in Bedford. Grafham won the toss and elected to bat on a hot day. A fine not out performance of 68 by Chris Brown who batted throughout the innings, backed by Rob Forsdick 36, and Matt Chester 14, helped Grafham score 171 for 8. Bedford West Indies set about scoring this total with a will. An early set back caused by Adam Dighton's bowling forcing a catch to short mid off, only marginally delayed Bedford West Indies achieving 172 for 2 in the 24th over.

Thanks to all the children who attended the Junior Night Cricket sessions. We hope you enjoyed it as much as the Grafham Cricket Club members who ran the sessions.

The next Home Game in August is against Smith Arms on 21st August 2010.

**Chris Dighton Club Chairman**

## The Magnificent Seven!

The Scarecrow Competition was a little disappointing this year with only 7 entries, but well done to the 7 families who entered. I'm sure lots of you will have seen the Rector sitting outside the church, and the busker in Church Road and even the clown on the unicycle along Breach Road! But there were others around the village, the England football supporter in Field Close, the knight in armour in Home Close, not forgetting Worzel Gummidge and Aunt Sally also along Breach Road.



The overall winner this year was the busker; as last year Keith Chisholm had powered his entry using a water wheel and the scarecrow played his guitar and tapped his foot to the music. Brilliant! The two runner-up prizes went to Ann Wright and Val Hunt for their fabulous scarecrow of the Rector and to David Moore with his brilliant scarecrow of Robin Hood.

Next year it would be great to see more scarecrows around the village; all proceeds go to the church and it's great fun to get involved and make a spectacle in the village, so why not give it a go.  
Jill and Philip Allingham

## Save All Saints Association Photographic competition

**sAs**

Thank you to everyone who entered the photographic competition. The entries made a wonderful display at the Summer Celebration. Many people commented on the high standard and all categories were closely contested. The winners and runners up of the competition, as judged by the people attending the Summer Celebration, were as follows:



Category	Winner	Runner Up
Grafham in snow	Gloria Brinks	Chris Shurlock
March / April	Chris Shurlock	Teresa Hollands
May / June	Keith Chisholm	Hazel Powell
July / August	Gloria Brinks	Mrs L Elliott
Sept. / Oct.	Tricia Bedford	Chris Shurlock
Nov. / Dec.	Hazel Powell	Teresa Hollands

The photographs listed above will be posted onto the Grafham village website. The winning entries will be used for the 2011 Grafham calendar which will be available to buy from September and is being sold in aid of the Restoration Fund for All Saints Church.

## 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: **Juliet, Naked by Nick Hornby**

**There is no meeting in August**

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**.

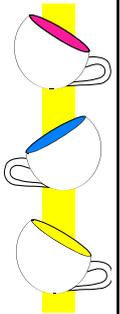
## Come and join us for a stroll in the countryside

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



## Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** at **10.30am on Wednesday, August 11th at Pat Watson's 10 Field Close**. This is an informal social occasion for residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



## 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 81166**

## The Mobile Library route L108/120



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

Visits are: **August 10th and 24th**.

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

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

## YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS YOU

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Call Sam Malt on  
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**01480 811654** evenings

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

## Wanted - Baby Sitters

Please contact

[gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)

## Grafham Church Flower Club

There will be no meeting of the Flower Club during August. Our next venture will be the Flower Festival the weekend of 4th and 5th September. The theme this year is Travel through the Ages and Jill Tyack will be in touch with you all to see what wonderful ideas you have in mind, so have a think what props you can put your hands on around which you can build your display. Jill as ever is very helpful so don't be afraid to ask her if you are stuck. Of course the event is open to everyone who would like to join in. Please contact either:

**Jill 810157** or **Hazel 810326** for information.



If you are listed in the Babysitters' notice please email [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk) if your details have changed.

Thanks

## 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**



Do you have any events to advertise? Email the details to [diary@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:diary@grafhamgossip.co.uk)

(or [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto: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**

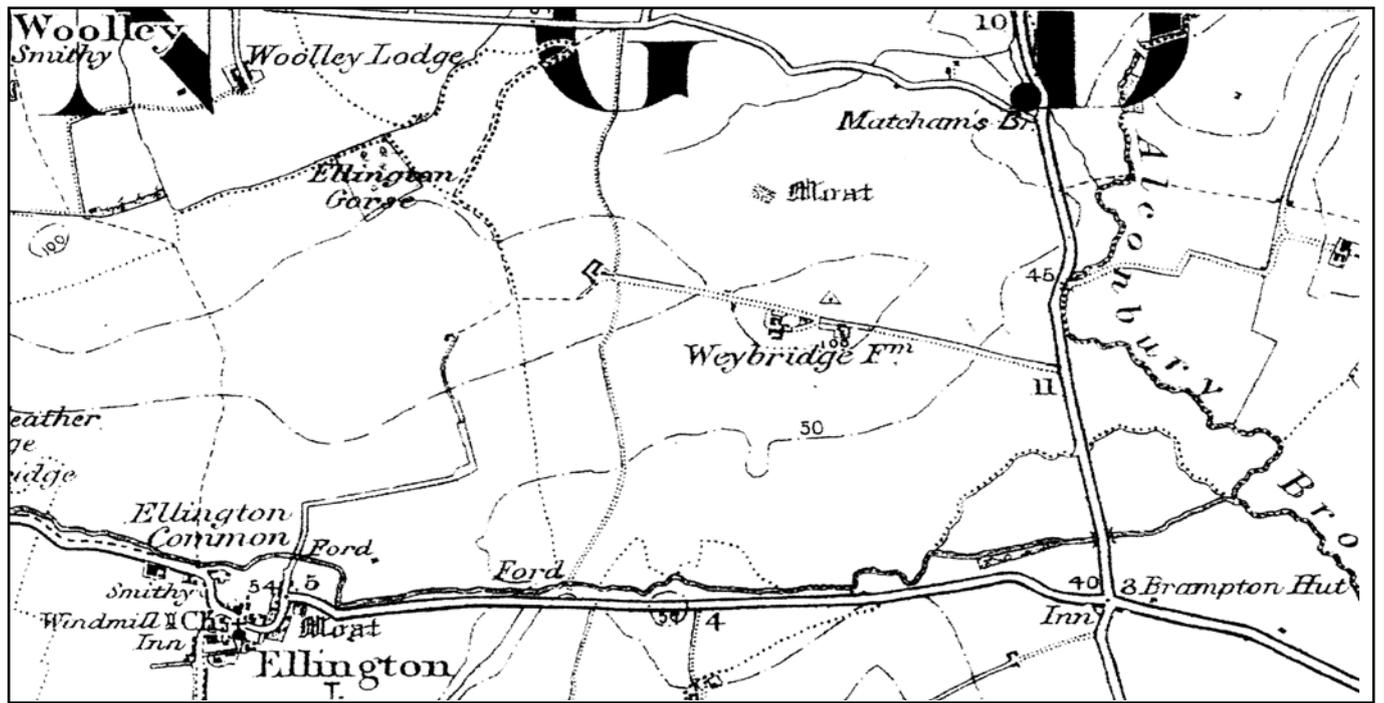
**Jess** 19yrs - advert above **07743709764/810867**



# Matcham's Bridge Murder

Sam Malt

In 1780 a Yorkshire lad Gervais Matcham went absent without leave from the Royal navy and headed for home. In no hurry he stopped off for a day's horse racing at Portholme Godmanchester, where he was recognised and arrested as a deserter. After convincing the authorities that he was not a deserter he joined the 49th Regiment of Foot who were recruiting in Huntingdon at the time. After his army training he was sent to collect the regiment's subsistence money with a young drummer boy, Benjamin Jones. On the way back Matcham cut the drummer boy's throat at the spot just where you turn off the A1 to Woolley. Matcham made his way to Wiltshire with the money where he was arrested wandering in a dazed state near Salisbury Plain. He was said to be suffering from hallucinations and told his captors he saw visions of Christ standing beside the corpse of the drummer boy. Matcham was convicted and executed at Huntingdon and his body hung to rot at the scene of the murder. Matcham's Bridge or sometimes Matcham's Gibbet is shown on old maps.



Interested in local history? Visit the home page of the village website and click on the link for village history.

## Letter to the Editors... Grafham's Summer Celebration

All those who arranged the Social at the Cricket on June 26th should be congratulated. It was a most enjoyable and convivial gathering on an idyllic summer's day. Cream tea, beer, wine, and barbecue - all reasonably priced to bring four generations of the village together. It did not seem to matter that hardly anyone knew what the score was or even who was batting! Hopefully a welcome sum has been added to two worthwhile causes.



*A Grafham Resident*



## Congratulations!

Adam Dighton graduated from Kent University on Tuesday 13th July, at Canterbury Cathedral. He earned an Upper 2.1 BA Honours degree for "War Studies."



Well done, Adam; much effort and hard work goes into earning a degree. We wish you good luck and success in the future!

Send your news and gossip to [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)

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## Grafham Gossip

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

### August 19th

To advertise e-mail us: [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto: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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Playgroup 2 ½ - 5 yrs  
Mucky Pups (parent /toddlers)  
For details tel: **01480 890077**

[www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk)

## 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 Homewood 07743709764/810867**

## 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. Many thanks!

## 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



### Do you struggle to understand why?

*We live in a hectic world now, where sometimes there seem to be more questions than answers, and people don't always have time to listen and talk.*

You are invited to join us for a meal and discussion. Subjects to be tackled include:

1. Why suffering? - can there really be a God with so much hurt in the world?
2. Why creation? - dinosaurs or made in 7 days?
3. Why should I forgive? - so why is it a big thing about forgiving others?
4. Why Jesus? - what's the difference between Christianity and other religions?



We cannot promise to answer all your questions, but we do promise a home cooked meal and some lively discussion. You don't need to attend all 4 if you are busy. We aren't planning to "ram God down your throat", but we are a small group of Christians, who want to try to promote thoughtful discussion. We plan to meet on Tuesday evenings for a 7.30 start. Dates are September 21st and 28th, and October 12th and 19th. Please book with us so we have ideas of numbers, (and let us know any special dietary needs).

Contact for more information: **Rob and Jean Clark 01480 890033 or Sarah Woodruff 01480 891496.**

## Advertise in the Grafham Gossip!

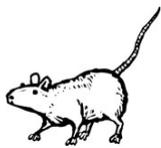
To advertise e-mail us: [gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk](mailto:gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk)  
Community notices are free; business adverts are priced according to size, *payable in advance*. They start at £3.00 per advert, 50p of which goes to the Restoration Fund of All Saints, Grafham.

## Infested with Wasps, Ants, Fleas, Rats or Mice?

Please call

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or email [info@threeshirespestcontrol.co.uk](mailto:info@threeshirespestcontrol.co.uk)

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