

# Grafham Gossip

**Issue 78 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 20th January**

## Editors' note...

We hope everyone was good enough this year to receive a visit from Father Christmas!

It's the season to spend time with our families and friends, to reflect on the old year and to plan for the new. We're about to begin a new decade so let's resolve to make it a good one for Grafham!

Happy New Year!

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



## Grafham All Saints

19th December (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist (No 11.00 service) 16.30 Carol Service

24th December (Christmas Eve) 16.00 Crib Service

25th December (Christmas Day) 11.00 Eucharist

26th December No service

2nd January (1st Sunday) 11.00 Family Service celebrating Epiphany

9th January (2nd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

16th January (3rd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist No 11.00 Service

23rd January (4th Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

30th January (5th Sunday) 10.00 Group Eucharist at Alconbury No 11.00 Service at Grafham

6th February (1st Sunday) No 11.00 Service

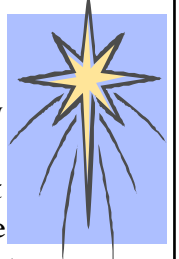
16.00 Christingle Service celebrating Candlemas

**Visitors very welcome at any service**

**Contacting the clergy:**

Rector - Fr Jonathan Young The Rectory, Ellington PE 28 0AU 01480 891695

Churchwarden - Hazel Powell 01480 810326



## Carol Singing around Grafham Tuesday 21st December

Come and join the SAS to Sing and Celebrate the Christmas Season

- Meet at All Saints Church at **6.30 pm**
- Carol-singing tour of the village - Finish in the village hall **about 8pm** for mince pies/mulled wine
- Collection for the Save All Saints Fund as we go.

**Listen for the bell ringing to announce our arrival near your door.**

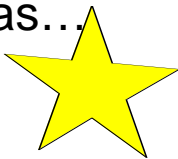
If anyone can bring any musical instruments to accompany us do let Karen Stewart know (810961)



## Thinking of Christmas...

The Travelling Nativity Set is visiting homes in Grafham again this Advent. It is moving from house to house around the village just as Joseph and Mary made their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search for somewhere for Jesus to be born. The 'Holy Family' will be brought back to the church for our **Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm.**

The Crib Service is ideal for children of all ages, being short and 'user friendly' and we would love to see you!



**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](mailto:Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
tel 398082**

**and [Patricia.Jordan@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:Patricia.Jordan@huntsdc.gov.uk)  
tel 457802**

Save All Saints Association

**sAs**

## Burns' Night Supper

**sAs**

**Saturday 29th January 2011**

**Grafham Village Hall 7.45pm for 8pm start**

**Bring your own choice of drink**

**Tartan encouraged**

The evening has always been a sell-out event, with everything you could hope for from the best of Burns:

- Music from the pipes to greet and entertain you
- Piping in and addressing the haggis
- A traditional Scots 3 course meal
- Toasts and entertaining speeches

**Ticket price of £12.50 unchanged from last year. Only 70 tickets available so don't delay, contact Karen 810961**



So that this can be as much as possible a community event, there is a limit of 4 tickets per household until 1st January (if any are left by then.)

## A Shepherd's Tale

December 2010

I commented in the last newsletter that I hoped our new barn would be finished shortly. Sadly the freezing weather has meant it has been too dangerous for the builders to fit the last pieces of cladding and the ridge, so fingers crossed for some milder weather.

With snow and frost it has meant extra feed for the sheep. At this time of year it's normal practice to let sheep lose a bit of condition prior to feeding them up in the run into lambing so the cold weather has certainly helped with their dieting, though it's amazing how little sheep can keep going on.

This weekend, we are scanning the ewes, to confirm whether they are pregnant and to see how many are carrying twins and so forth. Ultrasound, as used in human pregnancy checks, is used in many flocks these days, as knowing how many lambs a ewe is carrying ensures that she is fed correctly and also, when it comes to lambing, it means I will not have rummage around inside the ewe to check for twins or triplets. Although finding out lambing performance so early is bit like opening Christmas presents before the big day.

With thirty ewes lambing I should have at least 45 lambs next year. About half of these will go to the butcher. In anticipation of this I am trying to develop a market for the



meat. So, with connections through my son Henry, who is studying catering at Cambridge Regional College, I organised a cooking competition: "The Southdown Lamb Challenge" for the students. All 45 catering students participated in the first round and five students were shortlisted for the finals. A panel of five judges then assessed the best dishes. All the finalists did a great job but the winner was 17 year old Stephen May from Cambridge who prepared some delicious pan-fried lamb cutlets which were served with potato and watercress puree, and finished with a lamb jus. Incidentally the College's Park restaurant which is on the Kings Hedges campus is a working restaurant during term time and does really good value food for lunch in the evening.

**Patrick Goldsworthy**

## Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2010

To all of you who donated Christmas shoeboxes, a very big THANK YOU on behalf of Samaritan's Purse. Your generosity has brought a smile to 29 children's faces this year. As a village we have contributed 29 boxes to an overall 6,000 sent from our area of Huntingdon. This year, the boxes are being distributed to Swaziland.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

*Moira Young*



## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

December 2010

I am unable to provide the police report this month because of the early deadline. If anything arises I shall contact:

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

for it to be posted on the village website.

A detailed report will be published next month

**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)

A Happy New Year to all  
our readers!



## GRAFHAM CHRISTMAS CARDS AND CALENDARS STILL AVAILABLE

featuring the winning photos of the photographic competition. If you are reading this before Christmas and still need Christmas cards there are some Grafham Christmas Cards left! Grafham calendars are available too!

Call Valerie on 01480 812794 for more details or visit [www.grafhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.grafhamvillage.org.uk)

sAs

## PARISH NEWS...

There is no Parish News this month as the December meeting of the Parish Council is to be held after the deadline for the *Grafham Gossip*. The full minutes will be put onto the village web site.



You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly by using the details below.

**Margaret Life, Parish Clerk** 01480 819477 [margaret\\_life\\_grafham@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk)

**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 [Traceylibbett@talktalk.net](mailto:Traceylibbett@talktalk.net)

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



## New day and timetable

### The Mobile Library route H24

visits Breach Road, Grafham on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 10.40 to 11.00 (Next visit - 26th January.) For renewals or enquiries call 0845 045 5225 or visit <https://ibistro.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/uhtbin/cgisirsi/x/WEB/0/29/491/X/3>



## Do you enjoy reading?

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

Date: Tuesday 25th January Time: 8pm  
Venue: TBC NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

We would love to welcome new readers and those new to the village too! So if you like a good read, socialising and want to meet fellow Grafham residents, please join us. If you'd like to know more or need collecting to go along with someone, please contact Tina 07711 012957

## Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning at 10.30am on Wednesday, January 12th at Jane Stewart's 2 Van Diemen's Way. This is an informal social occasion for residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



## Help to clean our church



Perhaps, understandably, you feel you would not like to attempt this alone. Several of our cleaners would be glad of a partner - "a job shared is a job halved". If you could spare an hour six times a year, do please contact:

Hazel Powell 810326 who would be glad to hear from you.

## Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group

Regional winners of the BTCV Green Award 2006 & 2007 invite you to carry out woodland conservation. Contact Sam Malt 01480 810844 daytime 01480 811654 evenings. <http://www.grafhamconservationgroup.btik.com>



## Ellington and Grafham W.I.

Join the growing team! We meet on the first Tuesday in the month. For details ring: Sue 896139 or Ann 891372



## The Parish Council Agenda

should now be available to view in advance of the Parish Council meetings.



Visit [www.grafhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.grafhamvillage.org.uk) Click on Parish Council Agenda, in the main menu and then Latest Agenda.

## Babysitters

Danielle 20yrs 811279  
Olivia 20yrs - Grade B GCSE Child Development 811831  
Felicity 20yrs -Grade B GCSE Child Development 812328  
Marie-Claire 17yrs -GCSE Child Development 811279  
Kirsty 18yrs - babysitting course 810550  
Kate 17yrs - babysitting course 812179  
Livvy 14yrs - babysitting course 819708  
Georgie 14yrs- babysitting course 432688  
Harriet 16yrs 810043 Emma 17yrs 860632  
Caroline 14yrs 812179

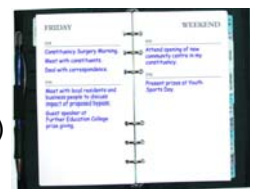


## Wanted!

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 in good condition. Please leave in the church porch. Many thanks!



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.



## Open from 7.30am



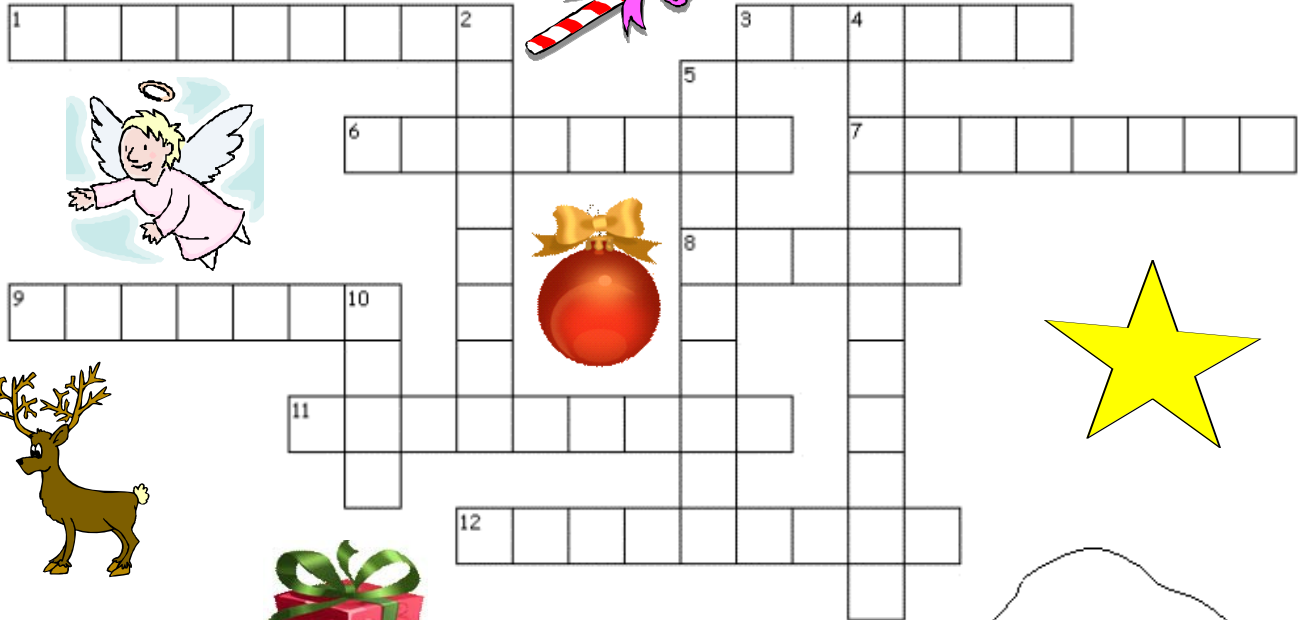
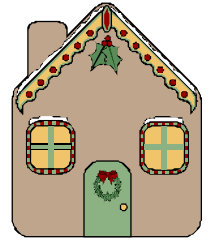
Breakfast club 2 ½ -11yrs  
Playgroup 2½ - 5 yrs  
Mucky Pups (parent /toddlers)  
For details tel: 01480 890077

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

## Wanted - Baby Sitters

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

# Christmas Crossword

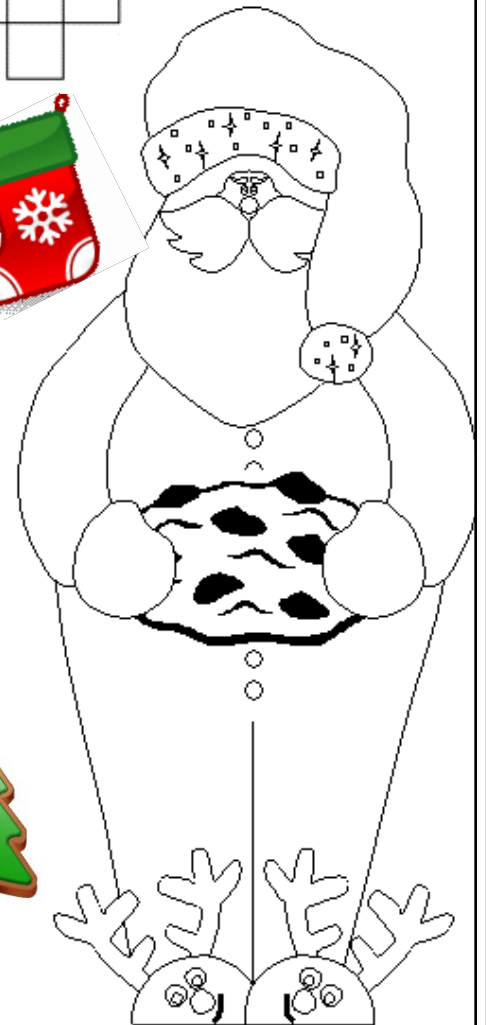


## Across

1. Pretty baubles to hang on the Christmas tree
3. Guardians who announce the good news
6. Wrapped with love
7. Jolly old Saint \_\_\_\_\_
8. Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, \_\_\_\_\_, Cupid, Donner, Blitzen
9. Warm snacks for Santa
11. Sweet and red and white
12. We wish you a merry \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

2. Keeper of the flocks
4. House made of sweet treats
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ were hung by the chimney with care.
10. Bright light marks the way



## View from the Pew!

As we begin a new year, with all our resolutions still fresh in mind(!) let us not forget some events of 2010. Our Christingle service last January was as always dedicated to the continuous work of the Children's Society as they reach out to help children and young people in urgent need of love and care. This service will be repeated on 6th February at 4 pm. Please come with your children and hear the story of the decorated orange and enjoy the magic of the lit candles. Grown-ups are also very welcome, we will try and make sure we have enough oranges this year!



We welcomed children again to our ever popular Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Day. The Fête and Well Dressing received popular support and we aim to do even better this year. Other popular events included the fabulous Quilting Exhibition, the Flower Festival, based on Transport and our Harvest Festival and lunch. In contrast were the reflective moments of our Remembrance Day service and the moving experience of our Lights to Remember service. Our mince pie and coffee morning on 4th December was a great success and raised £228.60. Thank you to all those who helped us achieve



this welcome addition to church funds.

During the year our book shelves and plant sales have helped church expenses and we thank all those who have donated and bought items. A villager mentioned that the events we hold throughout the year make for a more

vibrant community. What a blessing it is that our church brings us together in this way.

With the help and support of our friends in the Save All Saints organisation we have been able to begin estimating repair work for the church roof, tower and spire. Work will continue during the year and we will keep readers informed of progress. We are indebted to the SAS for their tireless efforts on our behalf.

Please note there will be no 11am service on 16th January but there will be an 8 am Eucharist that day. On 30th January, being the 5th Sunday of the month there will be a Group Eucharist at 10 am at Alconbury to which all are welcome. This is to mark the end of the seven year partnership of the seven parishes.

Our first service of the new year on 2nd January will be to celebrate Epiphany when we think of those wise men on their journey to Bethlehem. May God bless us all as we journey through the year.

## 2010 Five Parish Advent Fair

Thank you so much to everyone who contributed in any way to the Advent Fair on Saturday, 27th November. To those who generously donated items to sell, who ran stalls and to all who came on the day and helped us raise £680.00. Particular thanks to Jill, Martin and Emily Tyack and Hazel Powell who all ran stalls. The total raised was £100.00 down on last year. It was a bitterly cold day and everyone seems more careful when spending their money. I think this was the eighth joint Fair that we have held but perhaps it is time to rethink this form of fundraising. Any thoughts on this please speak to me or give me a ring on 01480 453350. *Sue Young*



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 print it in the Grafham Gossip. Thanks!

## Catworth Football Club

(playing local football since 1938)

**Catworth FC** would like to expand into a community club, allowing everyone in all the villages up and down the A14 to become involved.



How can I get involved?



**Spectating:** Catworth FC play in the St. Neots and District Sunday League. Home games are played at Victory Fields, Catworth (kick-off 10.30am). Look out for fixtures lists on your village notice board.

**Physio:** If you are first aid trained then the club are always looking for physio support for matches. Contact the club for more details.

**Officiating:** Help with linesman duties and referees for pre-season games are always needed. Qualifications not necessary - we can help with that! Contact the club for more details.

**Sponsorship/Advertising:** Local businesses can get involved with the club in any way they want (big or small) from sponsoring kits, players and events to promoting and advertising themselves on our website. Just contact the club to see how you can get involved.

**Contact:** Andy Woodham (Secretary) (01480) 891113  
email: [Andrew.woodham@sky.com](mailto:Andrew.woodham@sky.com)

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

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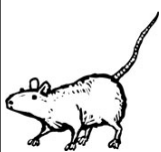
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**Deadline Date for February Grafham Gossip**

The deadline date for the February *Grafham Gossip* is midnight on

**Thursday 20th January**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

To advertise in the *Grafham Gossip* e-mail us:

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Email [paul.blanchard439@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.blanchard439@btinternet.com)

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