

Grafham Gossip

Issue 87 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 20th October

Editors' note...

This month's *Grafham Gossip* includes several village life stories. On page 2, there's the one about the wooden bench at the village hall, on page 6 you'll find the regular update on the Southdown sheep, and on page 4, we introduce the escapades of the new chickens and their family. We have the last cricket report of the season, on page 2 and of course lots more! The November issue will be printed as usual, but for the first time we are combining December and January into a single issue. *Happy Hallowe'en!*

Editors, editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Grafham All Saints

25th September (4th Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist

2nd October (1st Sunday)

11.00 Harvest Festival followed
by Lunch to Share



9th October (2nd Sunday) No 11.00 Grafham
Service but 11.00 Eucharist at Ellington

16th October (3rd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

23rd October (4th Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist

30th October (5th Sunday) 11.00
Group Eucharist

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

sAs

Save All Saints

*Helping to maintain Grafham's
historic church building*

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 12th October
8.00 pm at the Cinnamon
(stay for a meal afterwards)

Everybody welcome

New committee members welcome

**Come and help make fund raising ideas a reality
and keep our village church standing**

FIREWORKS DISPLAY and BONFIRE!



at Grafham Village Hall
PE28 0BG

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5TH

£4 Adults

£2 Children

(sparklers must be purchased by an adult!)



FOOD FROM 6:30PM

HOTDOGS £1

JACKET POTATO with CHEESE £1

SOUP 50p MULLED WINE £1

FAB FIREWORK DISPLAY! approx 7.15

FIVE PARISH AUTUMN FAIR



Saturday 24th September

Grafham Village Hall

1.00pm - 4.00pm



Thank you for all your offers of help. There'll be more
about how it all went in the next issue. Sue



WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

10.30 am to 2.00 pm

AT THE VILLAGE HALL



**Do come and join us to help raise funds
for this worthwhile cause**

Wooden seat situated at village hall overlooking cricket ground)

In the late 1930s the Hart family moved from Northamptonshire to Hill Farm, Grafham with their son, James Lawrence Barney, better known to family and friends as Barry or Jim Hart. James Lawrence Barney Hart met and later married Dorothy (nee Dorks) who was born and raised at Station Row in the village. Together they worked hard running the farm and raising three sons, Barry, Jamie and David.

Jim and Dorothy played an active role in many aspects of village life. Along with other parents of young families they negotiated with the landowner at the time, to secure a pasture field adjoining the village so that the village had its own sports ground and children's play area.

The 1970s saw the Cricket Club reformed and Jim and Dorothy would often watch matches. It was always their personal wish that one day the village would have a village hall and playing field that they could call their own. New development in the village enabled the family to relocate the playing field and finance the village hall. More recently the parish council were able to secure the field.



Jim died in September 1995 followed by Dorothy in 2002. Sadly, they were not able to see their vision for the village come to fruition.

I would like to thank the village for allowing me to place this bench in memory of my parents. I hope that those

who use the bench on match days will be witness to many a, "Century and fallen wicket."

David Hart

Grafham Oil Syndicate Update We have over 60 members now but we really need to continue to grow so new members are really needed; email grafhamoil262@yahoo.co.uk or call me on 819663. Please note we are planning deliveries for the first week of October and November - I think we should avoid the traditional December spike!



Simon

Rare visitor - Sabine's Gull

Sabine's Gulls nest close to the coast in the high Arctic regions of Siberia, Alaska, Canada and Greenland, but this very rare



visitor to Grafham Water has been spotted here during September! Many keen birdwatchers have travelled to the reservoir to see and photograph the gull. See <http://cambsbirdclub.blogspot.com/> for more pictures of the gull.

Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

- Flu jab day is at the surgery on Saturday 15th October, please make an appointment.



For complete article see: <http://www.bandlp.co.uk>



Grafham Cricket Club



The home game against Riseley was a real cliff hanger. Riseley have one outstanding all round player in: A Monteith, who Grafham knew if he batted long enough could take the game away from us. So the relief was palpable when Adi Love in his ninth over bowled Mr Monteith after a quick fire 11 runs looked as though it would be so much more. Accurate bowling from Adi Love:10 overs 25runs for 3wkts; Chris Brown 9 overs 23runs for 3wkts, and Rob Forsdick taking a wicket with his first ball saw Riseley all out for 96 runs.

Mr Monteith opened the bowling for Riseley; bowling at a lively pace, quickly taking 2 wickets, with only Chris Brown seemingly comfortable with Mr Monteith's pace. But when Chris was caught from the bowling of the other Riseley opening bowler, Grafham quickly slipped to 36 for 6wkts with Mr Monteith having taken 5 of those wickets. It seemed what he could not do with the bat he would win the match with the ball. Tom Chester and Tom Clayton steadied the Grafham innings and halfway through this batting revival Mr Monteith was taken off. The two Toms took the Grafham innings to 89, to within 7 runs of victory. It was at this point that Mr Monteith resumed bowling, and quickly bowled both batsman for 22 each, leaving Grafham 90 for 8. A 4 from Jamie Smith, who was then bowled out next ball, left Grafham on 94 for 9, with Grafham's last two batsmen in. A 2 by Adi Love saw the scores equal, at 96 runs apiece. Mr Monteith then turned to bowl his last over. The first ball

faced by Chris Dighton rocketed harmlessly down the offside, with Adi halfway down the pitch wanting to take a quick bye while the ball was in the wicket keepers gloves. The next ball Chris Dighton guided down between Gully and Point for two runs. Grafham winning by two wickets; just! Mr Monteith finished the game with 9.2 overs 32 runs and 7wickets. A game full of incident!

The last game of the season was away to Wilden II. The Wilden ground is picturesque; located on hill which overlooks gentle rolling farm countryside. The game was played in a strong wind, under a threatening grey sky which sometimes delivered rain. Wilden II batted first, and Grafham were soon amongst the wickets, with all Grafham bowlers sharing the spoils; Tom Chester 6 overs 10runs for 1 wkt; Adi Love 8 overs 13 runs 3 wkts, Chris Brown 6 overs 24 runs 3 wkts; and Chris Dighton 4 overs 12 runs 2 wkts. Wilden were all out for 63 runs.

Grafham's opening pair put on 45 runs for the first wicket, followed quickly by two more, but a steady partnership between Chris Brown and Craig Pritchard saw Grafham home without further mishap. Grafham won the match by 7 wickets.

The 2011 season was a successful season for Grafham which apart from the major blip of being bowled out for 10, ended with Grafham playing 16 games, winning 11, drawing 1 and losing 4; scoring a creditable 272 points and finishing third in Division 2. A season full of incident!

Chris Dighton Club Chairman



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal – 2011

Can I persuade you like to be part of a very worthwhile cause and help bring a smile to underprivileged children this Christmas?

Last year, as a village, we were able to donate 29 completed shoeboxes to under privileged children in eastern Asia. Unfortunately, this was a poorer response than the previous year and so, in 2011, I appeal to all villagers to dig deep into your cupboards to find a shoebox (or I can get one for you) and fill it with goodies (which can be picked up on your supermarket run).

You will shortly be receiving (or may already have received) the Operation Christmas Child 2011 leaflet through your letterbox. (If not and you would like one, please call me). Please take time to read through the leaflet which outlines suggested items for your shoebox. It needn't cost you a lot of time or money and is fun and rewarding to do.

Completed boxes should be left with me no later than Thursday **17th November, 2011** (or give me a ring and I can collect them from you). Please remember that each completed shoe box needs to include £2.50 (cash, on-line donation or cheque – payable to "Samaritan's Purse") in order to cover transportation costs, so a monetary contribution is also very welcome.

I hope you will agree with me that this is a very worthwhile cause and will bring much happiness to children less fortunate than ourselves.

Many thanks, **Moira Young, 2 Meadowground, Grafham Phone: 811577/07859 065 982**



PARISH NEWS...

The Parish Council met on 13th September after the summer break. High on the agenda was a discussion to consider improvements to the village hall. The Village Plan has indicated that lots of you would like to have a meeting place for social events in the village. The Refurbishment Committee has given consideration to enlarging the village hall to include space for meetings and a social area, but in the first instance would like to improve and refit the kitchen, update the changing rooms and renew furniture and furnishings. The Council hope to be able to do this by using some existing funds and also by raising funds locally.



GG Oct 2011

Cambridgeshire Highways have approved the Parish Council's request for improvements to the road markings and signage at the junction on Church Hill and Church Road. This has been highlighted as a safety issue for cyclists and walkers and so it is hoped to be able to make changes to priorities to make the road safer.

The Caravan Club have applied for planning permission for 10 new all-weather pitches and security barriers. The Council have no reason to recommend refusal, but have raised the issue of the road conditions leading to the Caravan Club and the potential for verge damage during the winter months. It may be necessary to get passing

points constructed on the road to prevent such damage.

The Council have received a couple of queries concerning the responsibilities for keeping verges and grassed areas cut and tidy. The Council arranges the cutting of most of the verges in the village, the playing field and the playground. However, it is considered that, if there is a grassed area outside your house, then you might want to be responsible for keeping that area tidy, as most people already do.

Arrangements are in hand to ensure that the grit bins are full for the coming winter season.

Would you like to see (and use) outdoor gym equipment around the village? The Council has received some information about this idea and will be considering it at a future meeting.

There will be an extraordinary meeting at a date yet to be fixed, at which the results of the Parish Plan questionnaire will be analysed and discussed in order to set the Parish Council's priorities for the next four years. Please watch the notice board for the date if you want to attend.

Cllr Peter Downes and the Council discussed the problems of poor broadband connection in Grafham. This is something that has been raised in the Village Plan. Cllr Downes issued copies of a communication from Noelle Godfrey who is involved in the process of implementing the £20m project to deliver superfast broadband in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and he advised the Council that it would be necessary to maintain contact with the project and to keep up pressure to ensure that the scheme does not fall short of the outlying areas in the scheme.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is 11th October 2011.

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk
01480 819477

margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

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

Philip Allingham Chairman 01480 811516 philip_allingham@sky.com

Ian Gardener Vice Chair 01480 812821 idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk **Tracie Lord** Traciorduk@aol.com

David King 01480 812430 davidking@hawkeyesystems.com **Andrew Duckworth** andrew.duckworth1@tesco.net

Alastair Watson Alastair.watson403@btinternet.com **Kevin Sharp** kevin.sharp@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Enticing Enterprises Welcomes Ban Ents to the Enticing Family!

Enticing Enterprises held a Ban Ent Naming Ceremony on August 18th to welcome four gorgeous Peking Bantams into the "Enticing" family. It was suggested that I write something for the GG about my chickens so I thought I might as well talk about the Naming Ceremony (which was, incidentally, the idea of a work colleague and actually worked really well as a smokescreen for a surprise I was planning for the rest of the family). Considerable plotting, subterfuge and enlisting the help of friends and work colleagues was necessary to ensure the presence of all family members, some Ents were more stubborn than others (Tyrannica was being particularly difficult, digging her heels in and refusing to attend), but they were all there on the night. I had devised a programme for the ceremony, Ent

Boudica GG Oct 2011



Parents simply had to promise to be there for their Ban Ent when they were needed and to say a few affectionate words etc. There was a musical interlude, Chick Chick Chicken, the Birdie Song and lots of other chicken songs! (sourced by my brother). The finale was cupcakes and Bellini's! Tyrannica and Entropia were absolutely hopeless; Tyrannica held Boudica (her gorgeous feisty white hen) at arm's length whilst telling her she loved her but complaining she smelled (she doesn't). Entropia was more affectionate but Gaiea, (Lilac coloured with the Gimlet eye but minus the Pout) got a wing out and ended up flapping on her shoulder and Grandad had to intervene (Iratacus was cackling maniacally in the background – it was all recorded!)



Galahad and Gaiea Grafham Gossip Oct 2011

Then Activido arrived fresh from Mississippi and the whole Ceremony went to pot (the Surprise!) Activido is Galahad's Ent Parent and surprisingly he has been the most effective Ent Parent to date, catching them when they escape from their run and putting them back in (Boundaries and Guidance!)

The Ban Ents will be laying the eggs for the 5* Enticing Cupcakes when they are old enough. I got them when they were 8 weeks old, they begin to lay at about 24 weeks. I was given a choice of getting hens that were on the point of lay and 8 weekers. I wanted to bond with my babies (they are my surrogate babies) so I chose the 8 weekers and I do recommend this age if they are really pets! I cannot help but smile when I look at them and every time they spot me they run up and down their pen in excitement and they follow me everywhere when I allow them to "free range". I would recommend chickens for all compulsive carer empty nesters!

A Local

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



On Sunday 4th September at 9.15pm, the Grafham Water Cycle centre was broken into and three bikes were stolen. The alarm was set off and the police arrived following a 999 call made by a member of the public.

On Sunday 11th September at 3pm, two youths smashed eggs in the garden of a resident in Breach road. The culprits have since been reprimanded.

There is zero tolerance by Cambs Police in relation to these types of incidents.

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

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

Patricia.Jordan@huntsdc.gov.uk tel 457802

Want to get in shape?

Come and get fighting fit with Grafham MMA.

WHEN: Thursdays 7.15-8.15pm
Sundays 7-8pm

WHERE: Grafham Village Hall

COST: £3 Per lesson (adults only)

What better way to get fit than to be fighting fit, come along and burn some calories, release some aggression and have fun. Don't worry there is no fighting so the only pain you feel will be in your muscles!

All equipment supplied

Call Mark on 07739 814 714 for more info or just turn up!

Midnight on Thursday **October 20th** is the deadline for the November issue. There will be one combined issue for December and January for which the deadline is midnight on Thursday **November 24th**.

The Mobile Library

route H24 visits **Breach Road, Grafham** on the **4th Wednesday** of every month from **10.40 to 11.00** (Next visits are **28th September** and **26th October**)

For renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225** or visit <https://ibistro.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/WEB/0/29/491/X/3>



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**



Grafham Community Allotment and Gardening Association

The committee meets for about an hour on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30 in the Cinnamon restaurant. We are looking for new members, so please get in touch if you are interested in joining the committee.

If you'd like to add your name to the list of people wishing to rent allotments, please email:

Melissa Davis GCAGA@hotmail.co.uk



Email your news, views and gossip to editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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>



Babysitters Danielle 20yrs 81127

- Kate** 17yrs - babysitting course **812179**
- Livvy** 14yrs - babysitting course **819708**
- Kirsty** 18yrs - babysitting course **810550**
- Georgie** 14yrs - babysitting course **432688**
- Harriet** 16yrs **810043** **Emma** 17yrs **860632**
- Caroline** 16yrs - works at after school club **812179**
- Holly** 16yrs **810867** baby sitting and first aid courses
- Olivia** 20yrs -Grade B GCSE Child Development **811831**
- Felicity** 22yrs -Grade B GCSE Child Development **812328**
- Marie-Claire** 17yrs - GCSE Child Development **811279**
- Bryony** 17yrs **812354** experienced with newborn -14yr olds
- Amie** 22yrs **810463** day or evening at short notice



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.



Contacts: Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166

Grafham Social Committee

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



Do you enjoy reading?

Come along and join us for informal social evenings. Meetings are on



Tuesday 27th September at **Margaret Life's, 6 Home Close** at 8pm **01480 819477**

Tuesday 18th October at **Linda & Robin Yeomans, 10 Tort Hill, Sawtry 01487 832092** (Supper kindly provided by Linda & Robin.)

Tuesday 29th November at **Karen Stewart's, 2 Home Close** at 8pm **01480 810961**.

We are always looking for new members, if you would like to join in, please feel free to contact any of the above members.

For more information please contact **Tina** on **07711 012957**

Wanted! Do you have any unwanted books?

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!

The Parish Council

Agenda is available to view in advance of the Parish Council meetings.



Visit www.grafhamvillage.org.uk

Click on **Parish Council Agenda**, in the main menu and then **Latest Agenda**.

Grafham Church Flower Club

We are available to decorate the church for weddings and other church occasions.

Floral arrangements for:-
pedestal, altar, font, windowsills,
pew ends, pillars.



Please contact **Hazel Powell** on **01480 810326** for details and quotes.

View from the Pew!



A few stray breezes buffeted us as we prepared for our Flower Festival in September but the hats on the gate and the tea tables outside church were a jolly welcome to all.

The displays depicting "hats" received much praise from our visitors and some said it was "the best ever". Thanks go to all the ladies who participated, some for the very first time and they amazed themselves at their hidden skills! Well done to all. Thanks also to the ladies who made cakes and served teas and to the back-room boys who brought tables and chairs, put up gazebos and fixed wires. A brilliant team effort and £278 was raised from donations and the teas which is a great help to church finances. Thank you Jonathan for the lovely hymns and readings at Songs of Praise at the end of the festival.

On Sunday 2nd October we will celebrate "all good gifts around us" at our Harvest Festival led by Jonathan. Harvest gifts would be gladly received at the service. Everyone is welcome to stay afterwards to share our usual lunch and gifts of food



may be brought too but you are welcome to stay whether or not you have brought something. As we know, Jesus taught us that a little can feed a lot of people!

The service on the fifth Sunday of October (30th) will be a Group Eucharist at Ellington at 11 am to which everyone is welcome.

13th November is Remembrance Sunday. This year a full service will be held at Ellington, as it's on the second Sunday of the month when we do not now have a service at Grafham. A short Act of Remembrance with prayers and an unaccompanied hymn will be held at Grafham, starting at 10.50.



The "Lights to Remember" service in association with the Marie Curie organisation will once again be held on 27th November at 4 pm. If you would like to light a candle for a loved one at the service please contact Hazel 810326. A list will be left in church nearer the time for names to be added.

As the winter months approach we try to keep the church a little warmer for services and there is always coffee or tea and cake afterwards on the first Sunday to send you on your way. We look forward to seeing you all.



A Shepherd's Tale - Sept 2011

Patrick Goldsworthy

Lack of a broadband connection for several days meant that I missed last month's edition, my apologies.

There have been a number sheep sales and various comings and goings: six lambs went to Thrapston market, they looked quite small amongst some leggy continental lambs but fetched reasonable prices (£70) for their size; I also bit the bullet and finally culled the two ewes who had prolapsed at lambing. Various other lambs have also gone to the butcher and one small-

interesting reading; one of my rams is in the top three recorded Southdowns while dear old Furlong is right at the bottom because he produces good looking but smaller lambs, which while good for the show ring, is not quite what the butcher wants.

We now have an extra five acres of grass as we "undersowed" the spring barley next to Hill Farm with a grass mix at the same time as the barley was sown. This is usually a good technique as the barley protects the



GG Oct 2011 Southdown Ewes

holder bought four ewe lambs for a start up flock. To make up for these "sales" I have bought in some more ewes from a good flock in Kent; this means that 42 ewes will be going to the tup this autumn. I have also acquired one more ram - "Fusilier" who although now five years old has sired some very good lambs for his home flock and was also male champion at the Royal Welsh Show four years ago.

To monitor how my flock is doing we performance record the lambs; this includes weighing lambs and taking back scan measurements of the depth of muscle and fat in the "chops." We got the data back not long ago and it made

grass and provides a useful crop of grain and straw, while the grass slowly establishes. With this year's drought it has not done as well as I had hoped and the discerning botanists will spot that the field is also full of forage rape, the result of a misunderstanding between the seed supplier and the tractor driver ... still its useful extra grazing for the sheep!

As I write this we are planning to put sponges in the ewes to help synchronise oestrous (and lambing), the rams will go in two weeks time so keep an eye out for yellow bottoms on Church Road from 1st October.

Sue Maisfield
(Barrett & Coe/Huntingdon)

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Offers of plants for sale and spare plant pots,
please phone: **Jill Tyack 810857 or Ann 810223**



The Digital Switchover Scheme says:

Viewers will need to retune their Free view set top boxes and TVs (and Top Up TV and BT Vision boxes) on **14th September and 23rd November**, to keep watching the full range of digital channels currently received, unless the set top box has auto-retune. You will see captions on screen, reminding you of the need to retune on the run up to these dates. Guidance on re-tuning is available from www.digitaluk.co.uk If you are watching satellite or cable services, this does not affect you.



The set top boxes that the Helpscheme provided to eligible residents are auto-retune so there should be no problem with them, but if help is required from the Helpscheme there is the **Helpline on 0800 4085900** where someone will talk you through what needs to be done or arrange for someone to visit as part of the aftercare service. There is no charge.

For those people that were not eligible or are already watching digital television and need help retuning, the best advice is to call **Digital UK on 08456 505050** who can talk you through how to retune your TV over the phone. Their number is charged at local rate.



Midnight on Thursday
October 20th
is the deadline for the
November issue.

There will be one
combined issue
for December
and January for
which the dead-
line is midnight
on Thursday
November 24th

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