

Grafham Gossip

Issue 88 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 24th November

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

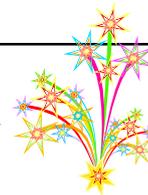
Please deliver organic combustible materials to the Grafham Village Hall bonfire site at 4pm on November 5th where a committee member will be in charge!

Please make sure that there's nothing explosive and nothing that might give off noxious fumes.

Editors' note...

Remember, remember the 5th November and the Firework Display; it's always a good night in Grafham's social calendar! On 10th there's a celebration in the Cinnamon, on 13th a short Act of Remembrance in church, Christmas shoeboxes must be in by 17th and then there are the regular village activities (with some slight changes) which are too many to list here, so please look carefully on every page. You'll read that the parish council would like help to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee next year. You should spot some new local business ads and see the Autumn surprise in the Southdown flock!

Editors, editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Mince Pie and Coffee Morning



Saturday 3rd December

10 am - 1 pm

Grafham Village Hall



Come and enjoy warm mince pies with a choice of coffee or tea and browse the stalls with an accent on Christmas.

- Seasonal Raffle
- Affordable fashion jewellery, bags and scarves by "Finishing Touches"
- Guess the weight of the Christmas cake to win it
- Cinema voucher for 2 to be won from our Advent Calendar
- Christmas Table Arrangements to buy or order



Festive Fare, Fashion and Fun
Christmas in Grafham is Number One
Proceeds to Grafham Church

GRAND OPENING OF CINNAMON ON 10TH NOV TO CELEBRATE A COMPLETE REFURBISHMENT SPECIAL OFFER - SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS

Grafham All Saints

30th October (5th Sunday)
11.00 Group Eucharist at Ellington

6th November (1st Sunday) 11.00
Family Service

13th November (2nd Sun) 10.50
Short Act of Remembrance (full Remembrance Service 10.55 at Ellington)



20th November (3rd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist
27th November (4th Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist
16.00 "Lights to Remember" service (In association with Marie Curie)

6th December (1st Sunday) 11.00 Family Service

Contacting the clergy: Rector - Fr Jonathan Young
The Rectory, Ellington PE 28 0AU 01480 891695
Churchwarden - Hazel Powell 01480 810326

Grafham Oil Syndicate Update

We ordered 21,000 litres this month and saved over 8% on a 500 litre order! We have around 75 members but still need more so to sign up, please email me at grafhamoil262@yahoo.co.uk

or call 819663. We will have a **November** delivery then depending on demand, maybe one in **January** too.

Simon



We are concerned that someone may have lost a very affectionate, friendly, young male, ginger kitten. If no one claims him, we will adopt him but our two black cats are older and are not happy having him around. Please contact David or Heather on 819589 at 3 Alsyke Close.



Cinnamon Bar and Indian Restaurant

celebrates a complete refurbishment with a

Grand Opening

on

Thursday Nov 10th, 6 - 10pm
with a SPECIAL OFFER of a

3 course meal and a glass of wine for £6.99!

- From the 17th, every Thursday night is Banquet Night - **£10.90** for a 3 course meal
- Relax, have a drink in the new dedicated bar area
- Drop in and have a coffee from 11.30 am any day
- A venue for village meetings



Call Shamim on 812211 to book a table or to hold a meeting

Remember, Remember 5th November
Grafham Village Hall - Food from 6.30



KIMBOLTON MEDICAL CENTRE

If you are a registered patient with Kimbolton Medical Centre, would you like to have a say about the services provided at the surgery?

The Kimbolton Patient Group would very much like to hear your views.

By providing your e-mail details we can add them to a contact list that will mean we can contact you every now and again to ask you a question or two.

Our e-mail address to send your details to is: c-pct.KimboltonPPG@nhs.net

Or by providing your home address and telephone number we can also contact you when necessary.

For any queries please contact Joy Pontin on 01480 860205 between 10 am and 4 pm.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



We would like to thank everyone who came and supported the recent Coffee Morning. A total of £238.30 was raised from the event; this was a fantastic achievement. Particular thanks should go to the ladies who made the delicious cakes and to those who provided raffle prizes. Thank you

RECYCLE YOUR OLD CLOTHES, BOOKS AND DVD's TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR SPALDWICK SCHOOL

The next collection is

Tuesday 8th November 9:00am

Please help us to raise funds for school. Now is the time to have a clear out and ask family and friends too.

Please use your own bags, and box books and DVDs separately.

WHAT WE CAN TAKE

Clothes, paired shoes, handbags, blankets, sheets, curtains, soft toys or books and DVDs (in separate box / strong bag)

Please deliver your donations to school **on the morning of 8th November** or to Karen at 5 Hartham Close, Grafham **before the 7th November**.

If you are unable to deliver your donations please **contact Claire on 01480 896210 before the 7th November to arrange collection.**

CONSULTATION ON REVIEW OF THE DECISION TO REMOVE ALL SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICE FUNDING



Cambridgeshire County Council wants to hear your views on changes and reductions being proposed to bus services which are supported by financial contributions from Council funds.

This will help us decide on how we implement the financial savings and where possible find local solutions. A questionnaire has been compiled to gather your views and can be accessed at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/busreview

If you do not wish to complete this questionnaire online, paper copies are available by contacting us using one of the following means.

By email: bus.tenders@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
or telephone: 0345 045 0675

or by post: Cambridgeshire County Council, CC1301, Castle Court, Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

The closing date for responses to the questionnaire is 16:00 on Friday 9th December 2011.

**Passenger Transport Services
Cambridgeshire County Council**

PARISH NEWS...



The Parish Council agenda for its October meeting was kept short in order to allow the Council to concentrate on studying the results of the village survey.

Items on which questions were asked were placed into four main categories which were:

1. Encouraging a Grafham that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable
2. Improving the safety and security of residents
3. To facilitate the ability of residents to lead an active lifestyle
4. To improve communication with and between residents

The items within each category were then ranked as high, medium or low priority according to the answers received on the survey.

The next meeting is 8th November

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** Tracielorduk@aol.com

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

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

Some things are in hand already, such as the drive for improved broadband provision in the village, reviewing the use and condition of the village hall and the search for allotment land. Other items will need more thought and work in the future.

A summary of the survey's findings and details of how its requirements can be delivered will be produced and sent to every household in Grafham.

The Council will be placing an order for a basketball net to be erected on the sports facility. Hopefully, this will be delivered in November.

The Queen's Jubilee next year could provide Grafham with another excuse to have a party as we did for the Royal Wedding earlier this year. Information and advice is starting to appear already. If you would like to help organise either an evening party or a children's party, perhaps even both, please make contact. All offers of help will be gratefully received.

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk 01480 819477
margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk



Letter to the Editors

I have just finished reading the Parish News Section in the October 'Grafham Gossip' and would like to draw attention to the following issues regarding the Church Hill / Church Road junction.

Just yesterday, while I was returning from a local shopping trip, a father followed by three children (6 - 10 years old) and then followed by the mother all cycled straight out of Church Hill into Church Road without making any attempt at all to check for traffic and within 20 metres of my car. The mother eventually looked around when she heard my engine, panicked, stopped in the middle of the road and beckoned her children to continue down Church Road in tandem with their father who was now trying to avoid an oncoming car.

Luckily for this family I am one of the very few drivers who negotiate the entire length of Church Road at no more than 20 mph in third gear, despite the speed limit change just past the Church. This is entirely due to the irrational behaviour of visiting cyclists and pedestrians and the failure of other motorists to observe the existing 'Passing' places.

Sadly, this is not an isolated incident, it represents the normal lack of respect these visitors display to our fair village, a complete disregard for the inhabitants, the Road Traffic Act and the Highway Code. Having lived here for over six years, I have yet to see anyone, pedestrians or cyclists adhere to the Highway Code in any way. Indeed, pedestrians always walk with the traffic instead of against it.

It also strikes me that as the majority of these cyclists hire their cycles from the Grafham Water Hire Centre, the Hire Centre could do more to promote road safety and help reduce these incidents. Of course, any changes that can promote safety are always welcome.

If cyclists continue to ignore existing Road Traffic Law, as they always do, I fail to see why changing priorities at this junction will make it any safer. Indeed, it will make it more dangerous because traffic travelling down Church Road from the village will be presented with a 'blind' junction due to the proximity of the adjacent building. The junction is not dangerous, the visiting public who misuse it are!

Raymond Bedford

Do you have any views or comments on village life? E-mail: 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!



GG Oct 2011

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?

I hope you have now received your shoebox leaflets. If not, and you wish to be part of this very worthwhile cause, please give me a call and I'll drop one round to you. I hope you agree with me that this is a fun and rewarding project to be part of and I thank you for your continued support.



The deadline for completed shoeboxes is Thursday 17th November. Kind regards,

Moira Young, 2 Meadowground, Grafham
Phone 811577 or 07859 065 982

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We haven't heard from the police so there's nothing to report this month!

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



FIVE PARISH AUTUMN FAIR

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to make the Five Parish Autumn Fair on 24th September a success. The stall holders, refreshment organisers, everyone who donated or made items to sell or raffle, those who organised games, the wonderful helpers who set up and then cleared away and of course everyone who came on the day to participate in any way! A total of £705.00 was raised and this has been distributed between the five parishes in our group.

TCl Renewables submit a request for a Scoping Opinion for a Proposed Wind Farm at Southoe

TCl Renewables is revising down its plans for up to six wind turbines on farmland to the north west of Southoe, near St Neots, Cambridgeshire. The updated proposal, known as Common Barn Wind Farm, consists of up to three wind turbines located at the eastern end of the original development site, previously called Highfield Farm Wind Farm.



The local authority, Huntingdonshire District Council, has been asked by TCl Renewables to provide a Scoping Opinion giving guidance on what they wish to have considered within an Environmental Impact Assessment of the site. The revised scheme takes into account the results of surveys carried out in the area and also includes a reduction in turbine height from 140m to 126m.

TCl Renewables Director, Bruce Hutt said, 'We have been listening and this revised scheme takes into account the feedback given to TCIR from the public, consultees and studies carried out at the site. The Scoping Opinion that we have requested will inform which studies are now undertaken on this new, compact wind farm.'

A newsletter will be sent to local residents over the coming weeks to update them on the changes to the project.

Details of a public exhibition will be published which will provide an opportunity for local residents to meet with the team and ask questions about the project. The existing dedicated website has been renamed and updated to provide information about the proposal and development process. Visitors to the website, www.commonbarnwindfarm.com have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal.

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

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

- Dr Irwin gave an update on NHS changes at our recent AGM. Thanks to all who attended.
- There's a talk on prostate cancer by Dr Irwin on Tuesday 29th November at 7pm, covering background information and recent developments in diagnosis and treatment.
- Our annual coffee and mince pie morning is on Friday 2nd December 10am -12 noon in the Methodist Hall.
- Dr Kevin Brinkhurst has begun work at the surgery and Dr Leonard has returned from maternity leave, now working two and a half days a week.
- Patients attending Addenbros Hospital may find the guided bus less stressful than the A14. It starts at St Ives, but there is ample car parking available there. The journey direct to Addenbros takes 45 mins. Bus passes can be used after 9.30am.
- A new telephone system has been installed at the surgery. There are 5 lines compared to the original 3 and it is hoped to reduce waiting at peak times to the minimum.
- And finally, since March 2006 I have written articles 10 times a year to appear in the Buckden Roundabout and four other village publications, in which I have tried to encapsulate many of the enormous changes being made to the NHS and put them in a local context. It has been a stimulating, interesting and informative exercise that has until now been rewarding. Unfortunately I have recently encountered so many problems that I have decided with great sadness, that this letter will be my last. Thank you for all the wonderful feedback from people in Buckden and the other villages, it made the effort very worthwhile.



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

The Digital Switchover Scheme

Viewers will need to retune their Free view set top boxes and TVs (and Top Up TV and BT Vision boxes) on

23rd November. Guidance on re-tuning is available

from www.digitaluk.co.uk The Helpline is

0800 4085900 if you are eligible otherwise the best advice

is from Digital UK on **08456 505050** charged at local rate.



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.

If anyone in the village has foliage in their garden that they would be willing to donate for church decoration for festivals, please let us know, we would be very grateful.

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning at 10.30am on Wednesday, November 9th at Philippa Patel's 3 Field Close. 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 29th November at Karen Stewart's, 2 Home Close at 8pm 01480 810961.

There is no book club in December. The January meeting is a meal at The Snooty Tavern Staughton, date/time to be advised.

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**

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



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**.



There will be *one* combined issue of the *Grafham Gossip* for December and January. The deadline for January and February 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 (The next visits is 23rd November)

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



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>

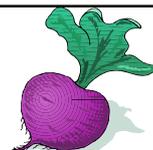


Grafham Community Allotment and Gardening Association

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

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**



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



View from the Pew!

A chill in the air and shorter days tell us that autumn is coming to an end and winter will soon be upon us.

How glad we were then that Alison and Gordon were blessed with some sunshine between the showers on their wedding day on 17th September. The marriage ceremony went without a hitch and the church flowers and bridal party were resplendent in the marine colours of ivory, gold and dark blue. Clearly nothing could cloud the happiness of this jolly young couple as, undeterred by a few raindrops, they made their planned boat trip under a white umbrella across Grafham Water to their Reception. We wish them God's blessings and every happiness as they sail into married life.

The following week at our Five Parish Autumn Fair on 24th September, Grafham organised games for all ages. Sadly these were not as well attended as we hoped, although those who did participate had great fun "welly wanging" and "splatting the rat."

Our Harvest Festival and lunch were quite well attended. The church had been decorated by three of our "flower ladies." The traditional harvest hymns were interspersed with readings, including John Betjeman's poem "The Church Mouse" which proved a popular addition to the service



schedule. The lunch with a splendid array of dishes was much enjoyed by all.

On Saturday 8th October a group of people from the five parishes attended an "away day" led by Bishop John Flack. His inspiring leadership took us through aspects of the Eucharist and illustrated the "delights" of having a small church.



There are apparently 16,000 medieval parish churches in this country and that is a lot of churches to be looked after! Concerns were shared regarding their upkeep and the challenge of small congregations. Bishop John empathized with the "ups and downs" of Christian life but encouraged us that we must continue to help those around us as we serve our community.

Reminders for November are: the short Act of Remembrance on 13th November starting at 10.50 am and the "Lights to Remember" service on 27th November at 4pm in association with the Marie Curie organisation. Please contact Hazel (810326) if you would like to light a candle for a loved one at this special service.

On Saturday 3rd December we hold our Mince Pie and Coffee morning in the Village Hall from 10am until 1 pm. This being the first Christmas event in the village, we hope you will come and have an enjoyable morning, bringing friends and family and supporting your church. See our notice on the front page.



A Shepherd's Tale - Oct 2011

Patrick Goldsworthy

Tupping is now well under way and after two nights of ovine passion at the beginning of October most of the older ewes had been tugged. To help spread the load

between the rams we split the ewes in to 6 groups, with two young ram lambs being given some early sex education with four older ladies each, the older rams got 8-9 ewes. I have now rationalised them into four groups and changed the colour of the raddle to red so I can spot ewes that have not held to their first service and thus group and feed them differently later on. As I did not sponge the shearlings, they have taken longer to come into season, though as I write only one shearling has still to be tugged. When we changed the raddles we also moved the rams around between groups just in case any of them were misfiring. I have to say I am a bit worried about Dirty Harry as his raddle marks seem to be more on the ewe's side than her back; I wonder whether the fact that he comes from a hilly part of Devon means that he is over compensating for a non-existent slope!

It has been incredibly dry the last few weeks and we seem to be suffering our second drought of the year. Surrounding crops have done well, but grass growth has really stalled. In some respects this is not

critical as I want really short sward going into winter as it helps the grass "tiller out" and thicken in the bottom but the down side is that ewes are not really being "flushed": "flushing" means being on a rising plane of nutrition at tupping and this can boost lambing percentage by 5-10%.

We have had one little surprise this week; a shearing decided to lamb. I can't decide whether it's a late one from this year or an early one for next. I had spotted this ewe had a larger udder about 10 days ago. Initially I attributed it to her being too fat but closer inspection revealed she was close to lambing. Checking my diary I realised that all the rams were in the main flock at the end of May which is when she was tugged. One or two breeds can lamb out of season but for Southdowns it is quite unusual as normally the lengthening days in the spring/summer causes seasonal anoestrus (the ewe's oestrus cycle stops) meaning that it is reasonably safe to run all the flock together. Any way she produced a

pair of twins though unfortunately the first one had some internal birth defects and did not survive; his brother however is thriving!



Grafham Christmas Turkeys

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07740 440969

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

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