

# Grafham Gossip

**Issue 79 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 17th February**



## Grafham All Saints

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

6th February (1st Sunday) 16.00 Christingle Service  
celebrating Candlemas No 11.00 Service

12th February (2nd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist  
No 11.00 service - Eucharist at Ellington at 11.00

19th February (3rd Sunday) 11.00 Sunday Worship  
(Ann Allsop)

26th February (4th Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

6th March (1st Sunday) 11.00 Family Worship  
**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

## Royal Wedding Village Celebration Friday April 29th?

Would there be support for a vil-  
lage royal wedding celebration?

- At the village hall?
- Prince and princess fancy  
dress competition?
- Sports / football / rounders?
- Children's tea?
- BBQ and Bar?
- All day TV



Tell us how you feel / have you got any ideas / are  
you willing to help?

Phone / email

**Karen 810961 karen.stewart6@mypostoffice.co.uk**  
or **Martin 811668 martin@martinjoyner.com**

**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**

## Editors' note...

Phew! The February *Grafham Gossip* nearly missed being published. Something happened in the final stages of writing it which resulted in "Corrupted data." No back-up could be retrieved. We had to start all over again, this time making sure that it was saved at very regular intervals! So here it is, hopefully with nothing left out. We hope you enjoy reading it!

Just for fun, if you read this on the website and click on the speaker in the Royal Wedding notice you should hear the "Wedding March."



**Editors, gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk**

## Christingle Service 4 pm Sunday 6th February



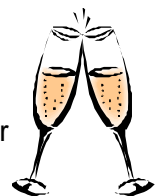
A special service particularly appealing to children, celebrating Candlemas and supporting the work of the Children's Society. Please come and hear the story of the decorated orange and lighted candle. All are welcome.

## Grafham Social Committee is pleased to announce that the **Annual Safari Supper** will be held this year on **Saturday Feb 26th**

We will meet up at 7:30pm for the  
"Champagne" Draw at Braefield House  
Church Lane. We will be ready to  
start the serious feasting at 8pm!

If you would like more information  
or wish to sign up please call either

**Pat Watson 811166** or  
**Philippa Patel 811656**



If you are new to the village  
or would like to get to know  
other villagers better this is  
a great way to do if for just  
£15 per couple.

## View from the Pew!

As our January issue had to go to press in mid December it was too early to report on our Christmas celebrations so here is an update.

The church was decorated by Flower Club members in time for our Carol Service on 19th

December. The flickering red candles and flowers were a lovely setting for the joyous singing of favourite carols and the traditional bible readings. Thank you to the ladies who provided the delicious cake and mulled wine which were enjoyed afterwards.

Carol singing around the village, organised by the sAs raised £213.04 and our thanks go to all those who sang themselves hoarse on that cold night and thank you to all those who filled our buckets with money.

It was a pleasure to see so many children at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve when bells, shakers and "scrapers" accompanied the singing and the knitted characters were all returned safely to the crib. Children, don't forget our Christingle Service on 6th February at 4 pm (no 11am service that day). You will hear the story of the decorated orange and lighted candles and



have your own orange to take home.

We are very grateful to Bill Gerrard who kindly officiated at our Christmas Day Eucharist and also to John Dillistone who played the organ. We began the new year with our Epiphany service, setting us on the road to a brighter future

with the strength of our Christian faith around us.

On 30th January there will be no 11am service but a Group Eucharist at Alconbury at 10 am. This is to mark the end of the seven year partnership of the seven parishes. Although this leaves Jonathan with just five parishes it is still a heavy workload without any help, now that we do not have Martin Kettle's assistance.

Therefore there will be some small changes in the pattern of services throughout the Group. In February at Grafham on the second Sunday 12th there will be an 8 am Eucharist but no 11am service. All are welcome to the 11am Eucharist at Ellington that day. On the third Sunday 19th there will be no 8 am Eucharist at Grafham but an 11am Sunday Worship service led by Ann Allsop from Brampton. We are exceedingly grateful to Ann for helping us in this way. We will keep readers informed of any other changes throughout the year.



## The Grafham Railway Station Midland Railway

Grafham station was situated on the northern edge of the village, with the level crossing and gates sited on Breach Road. Along with other stations along the line Grafham opened for goods traffic on the 21st February 1866. The passenger service started later on the 1st March. Grafham station was small in size consisting of the station house, signal box, weighing machine, cattle pens and a coal yard with a short rail siding. During World War 2 this rail link played an important part supplying war materials to RAF Kimbolton air field. The end of the line for the passenger service for Grafham came on Monday 15th June 1959 and in the summer of 1961 the rail track between Kimbolton and Huntingdon was sadly lifted.

**Sam Malt**



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

## The Secret Life of St Neots Station



If you'd like to read about another local railway station, 'The Secret Life of St Neots Station' by local author John Slack, is now available. The book can be bought for £14.99 from Sam Malt 20 Breach Rd, 811654 or 810884, Waterstones Bookshop, St Neots, St Neots Station or by post (cheque £14.99 + £2.50 p&p) from:

John Slack 2 Field Cottage Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots PE19 8HA.

Proceeds from the sale of the book are to be donated to St Neots Museum and to the author's medical charity Proventus.

To read more details about the content can be found on page of the December 2010 *Grafham Gossip*. Visit [www.grafhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.grafhamvillage.org.uk)

- Hover over Latest Newsletter *right at the top* of the page
- click on News then Newsletter
- click on the December 2010 issue

### Grafham Church Flower Club

The Flower Club continue to be available to decorate the church for festivals and weddings. Please contact Hazel for information **810326**



### 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 - 23rd February.) 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 Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning at 10.30am on **Wednesday, February 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.



### YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS YOU

Regional winners of the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers Green Award 2006 & 2007



Join Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group  
Call Sam Malt on **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

is 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**



### Do you enjoy reading?

Come along and join us for informal social evenings (and a glass of wine or two!) For details please contact: **Tina Theodorou 01480 811366**

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 on 07711 012957**

### 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 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 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)



## Melodramatics Present Sleeping Beauty



**Question:** What could be more enjoyable than watching the traditional pantomime Sleeping Beauty?

**Answer:** Watching Melodramatics' fun-filled rendition of this lovely story.

Come back in time with us and, with the help of a prince and a whole bunch of fairies, we will rescue the sleeping princess and also find Nanny Annie, our wonderful Pantomime Dame who travelled all the way from Alabammy 116 years ago.

Will Inspector Clueless solve anything?  
Why has Fairy Taran Tula been banished?

What on earth is a cockney caterpillar doing in this story?  
And who wrote this crazy script anyway?

To find out the answers to these and lots more questions, come and join us, and help make sure that Sleeping Beauty and her prince live happily ever after!

Suitable for all children, grown-ups and big kids!

Performances are held at The Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton

Weds 2nd March 7pm - Ticket prices £5 Concessions £4

Thurs 3rd March 8pm - Charity performance  
Ticket prices £8

Friday 4th March 7.30pm - Ticket prices £7  
Concessions £4

Saturday 5th March 12.30pm and 4pm - Ticket prices £6  
Concessions £4

Saturday 5th March 8pm - final performance - Ticket  
prices £7

Tickets may be ordered via our box office at  
Watsons of Kimbolton on 01480 860444

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

December 2010/January 2011

On the night of Sunday December 12th between 8pm and 8.20pm the Grafham Water Cycle shop was broken into and 2 bikes were stolen. The police have asked if anyone was out walking their dog or cycling and saw anything whatsoever then to contact the control centre.



Between January 13th and 18th a property was broken into at Baker's Way Perry with many items stolen. This is being actively investigated by the police who are using this illustration to remind us all to secure our properties and use timer switches for lights when we are not at home.

Gemma Clark will be attending the next Saturday morning councillor surgery at the Village Hall, if any one wishes to speak to her directly about concerns. Thankfully nothing has been reported in Grafham.

During the week of June 22nd the police will be holding an awareness campaign across the county to heighten the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

**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)

## Save All Saints Association

**sAs**

Thank you to everyone who joined us to sing carols around the village in the week before Christmas. Thank you also, to everyone who put money in our bucket. We raised about £213 towards the Restoration Fund of Grafham Church!



**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!



Snowdrops are among the first bulbs to bloom by or during February.

# PARISH NEWS...



## December/January

The Parish Council welcomed Mr Brian Homewood to its ranks at the last meeting. Mr Homewood has been a parish councillor in the past and is looking forward to making a contribution to the community again. Unfortunately, Helen Breakspeare has resigned for personal reasons.

The sub-committee formed to project-manage the bid for funds for improving the village hall and its amenities was held during the month. Cllr Tyler has information concerning similar bids to ours and hopes to utilise this knowledge in putting together answers to a questionnaire supplied by the Big Lottery. The committee members are Mike Tyler, Ian Gardener, Tracey Ibbett and Paul Knight. Cllr Tyler will be asking the District Council Community Officer to look over the draft of the bid as produced so far. However, we are likely to need the results of the Parish Plan before we can take the bid further.

If you think you have any expertise which could be useful to the committee, they would be pleased to hear from you. All contact details are as below.

The prospect of finding land suitable for allotment gardening is gathering pace slightly. Land to the right of Church Hill, which was suggested by Ely Diocese as a possible alternative to the land at the rear of the church, has some disadvantages. For example, traffic problems are likely to occur in an area where families frequently walk and cycle. Also, residents nearby are unlikely to support this idea and the Association are very keen that no residents are upset or inconvenienced by allotment gardens. The Chair of the Association will be making contact with another local land-owner to discuss the pos-

sibility of taking land behind the village hall. However, these are very early stage discussions.

The latest payment received in respect of the glass-recycling at £187 was significantly down on what we usually receive. We expect the bins to be removed by the end of the financial year 2010-11. The Clerk presented the Parish Council with a proposed budget for 2011-12, which represents no increase to the precept received from the District Council.

At the January meeting we were pleased to welcome Cllr Peter Downes who was able to talk to us about the expected cuts in services and jobs at the County Council. These are likely to include cuts in social care, road maintenance and traffic safety, the closure of youth clubs and libraries and the closure of the Connection scheme which Grafham Parish Council were hoping to take advantage of this year. Schools budget, however, are to be protected. There will be no Council Tax increases either at County or District level.

### Margaret Life, Parish Clerk

01480 819477 margaret\_life\_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

*The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th February.*

*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

**Mike Tyler** Vice Chair 01480 811244

mt Tyler@bedford.gov.uk

**David King** 01480 812430 davidking@hawkeyesystems.com

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

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

**Brian Homewood** 01480 810867

brian.homewood@bhomewood.co.uk

## Letters to the Editors...

### Race around Grafham Water

As a local charity funded pre-school, we've been busy brainstorming ideas to raise funds that would also benefit and spark greater community involvement. We'd like to know if there is interest in Perry and Grafham, in setting up an annual 5k and/or 10mile race around Grafham Water in preferably 2011 but no later than summer 2012 that would benefit the Lions Club, Grafham's All Saints Church, the Grafham Sailability Club, the Great Staughton Pre-school and other local charities in our villages as well as Gt. Staughton and Ellington. Thank you in advance for your feedback!

*Jennifer Everett, Fundraising Coordinator  
for Great Staughton Pre-school*

Please contact the editors:

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

and we'll forward your emails to Jennifer.

## Five Parish Advent Fair 2011

Every year the Five Parish Advent Fair has seemed to get colder and colder!

As an experiment the 2011 Five Parish joint fundraising will take the form of an Autumn Fair, to be held in Grafham Village Hall on Saturday, 10th September 2011, from 1.00 - 4.00pm.



It is a long way ahead, but could we start thinking how we can make it a success? Ideas and offers of help gratefully received by Sue on 453350 from now on.



## A Shepherd's Tale

January 2010

It seems ages now since the snow and big freeze ended. I am certainly glad we had the flock indoors while it was going on. Our biggest hassle was frozen water pipes (they were lagged) and troughs. The sheep generate some heat - enough to stop pipes freezing in the low minuses- but we ended up taking buckets of water from the house. Luckily sheep are not heavy drinkers provided they are not producing milk so it was not too arduous.

The barn is now almost finished with just guttering and electrics to be fitted; I am keen to have good lighting so I can see what's happening when lambing starts.

Just before Christmas, I had the ewes ultrasound scanned so I would know which ewes were carrying singles, twins and triplets. I was quite pleased with the results as we had a lot of young ewes lambing for the first time and was expecting fewer multiple births. The score was 4 ewes with triplets, 15 with twins and 10 with singles with one possibly barren ewe (she was served again the week before scanning). This works out at a lambing percentage at birth of 182% (the same as last year) but the real test is to get these lambs out safely and to keep them alive until they are sold. Whilst triplets - if they survive - are exciting, they are a nuisance. With only two teats, the ewes struggle to feed them properly so they will either have to bottle feed or fostered.

There are a couple of other excitements to report; firstly



Dirty Harry



Scanning

we had a visit from four final year students from Cambridge Vets School. They had to prepare a flock health plan; although they had one or two useful suggestions I was pleased to feel I was well on top of the case but I suspect that I am not a very typical sheep farmer. The other excitement was the arrival of Dirty Harry - my Christmas present; in reviewing my breeding plans for next year I had realised we needed one more ram. So while I was in Devon with my parents, I ploughed through the snow to visit one of the longest established Southdown flocks outside Tiverton to see what young rams they had. Harry was not their best

ram but I felt he had a good long back and excellent feet as well as some New Zealand blood so I felt he would work well with our flock. Why Dirty Harry? Well his father was named after Clint Eastwood... and the obvious alternative "the ram with no name" just didn't work for me! Let's hope he doesn't fire any blanks!

**Patrick Goldsworthy**

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

▪ Thank you to everyone who braved the extreme cold and icy pavements to support our Coffee Morning on 1st December. We raised £75 for our own funds.

▪ The practice is experiencing some unexpected problems in appointing a doctor to cover maternity leave for Dr Leonard and Dr Bundy, but continues to work hard to find a suitable replacement.

▪ Dr Narmin Siddique, our trainee GP completes her 6 month attachment soon and will not be replaced until August. With two doctors on maternity leave, it is difficult to give the time and support a trainee GP needs and deserves.

▪ There is a lot in the media about flu, including some very tragic cases but it's important to keep a sense of perspective. If you think you have flu, please do not visit the surgery where there may be vulnerable patients. Stay at home in bed, keep warm, drink lots of fluids and if appropriate, take Paracetamol. If you are worried, phone the surgery requesting a telephone consultation and one of our doctors will call you back as soon as possible.



▪ Doctors from all 22 GP Practices that belonged to the former HuntsComm have been involved in the negotiating process to

decide which bidder would win the franchise to run Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. We now know it is to be Circle, who will 'shadow' the present management in preparation for taking control on 1st June. If Hinchingsbrooke Hospital is to have a sustainable future, changes must be made to reduce unnecessary and expensive admissions when alternative options would be more appropriate. As a result, there is to be a pilot scheme with a rota of local GPs providing primary care at the Hospital 'front door' using their experience and local expertise to decide if some patients could be safely treated without having to be admitted.

▪ It is hoped that a closer liaison between the hospital and the patient's GP will result in reducing how long a patient spends in hospital. This is particularly important in the case of elderly patients who want to remain independent as long as possible and for whom hospital can be a confusing and disorienting experience. A patient plan prepared prior to discharge is both essential and commonsense if best practice is to be delivered.

▪ Shirley Wimbleton has run the 200 Club for 10 years and has decided to step down later this year. Would anyone interested in taking over this splendid fund raising enterprise speak to her to find out what is involved. Thank you.

▪ Finally, I hope to have more information about the new 'Clusters' next month.

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



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or [amyjenkinson@hotmail.com](mailto:amyjenkinson@hotmail.com) for more information.

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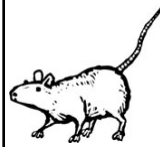
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## Deadline Date for February Grafham Gossip

The deadline date for them March *Grafham Gossip* is midnight on

**Thursday 17th February**

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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