

Grafham Gossip

Issue 81 Early Deadline: Midnight Thursday 14th April



Grafham All Saints

27th March (4th Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

3rd April (1st Sunday) 11.00 Mothering
Sunday Service

10th April (2nd Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist
(No 11.00 am Service - Eucharist at Ellington 11.00)

17th April (3rd Sunday) 11.00 Palm Sunday Service
(21st April Maundy Thursday Eucharist at Spaldwick 19.30)

22nd April 18.00 Good Friday Service

24th April (4th Sunday) 11.00 Easter Day Eucharist

1st May (1st Sunday) 11.00 Family Service to celebrate
the Royal Wedding

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

Editors' note...

We know Spring must be here and it's time to plant the tomato seeds, because the Cricket Club notice has returned to the *Grafham Gossip*!



British Summertime, when the clocks spring forward on March 27th, brings lighter evenings, so there's no excuse for us not to get out walking and cycling!

Have you seen the new lambs on Church Road? Read about them - photos as well - on page 2. There's an interesting article on the Grafham Military Rifle Range on page 5 and as usual there's lots more on every page.

Please note that May's deadline is quite early - 14th April - to avoid the Easter weekend, and the newsletters should be delivered when the schools go back i.e. after 27th April. Remember that you can join the subscription list to receive a monthly email to read the *Grafham Gossip* online. (Join the list on the village website www.grafhamvillage.org.uk)

Happy Easter everyone!

Editors, editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

On 7th May 2011, the local elections to County and District Council will also include the election to the Parish Council.

Grafham has seats for seven parish councillors, but with the earlier resignation of Helen Breakspear, currently has only six serving members.

Both Tracy Ibbett and Mike Tyler have decided, because of other commitments, not to stand for re-election. This means that, unless we have nominations from three more people, there will only be four parish councillors.

In this situation, where the quorum required to hold a meeting is three, it is very likely that some meetings will have to be abandoned and in the event that the Parish Council can no longer conduct business, the Parish Council will cease to exist and all local matters will be dealt with by the District Council.

The Parish Council believes that this would not be a satisfactory outcome for our village and hopes that you feel the same way.

The clerk has a number of nomination packs to provide to anyone who wants to stand for election. Only if there are more than seven nominees will there have to be a poll; up to seven candidates and they will all be returned unopposed.

For a nomination pack or for further information on serving with the Parish Council, please contact the clerk:

by phone: **01480 819477** or **07780**

or email: margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

or in writing: **6 Home Close**

Grafham Cricket Club

It is hard to believe that we are on the threshold of a new cricket season. There will be some who have followed the Ashes series in Australia; then the 50 over World Cup series in the Indian sub-continent who may feel that there is no new cricket season to begin.



At the time of writing this article; Grafham do not know which league they will be in this year, as the Bedford League appears to be having problems with several teams dropping out of the league. So a re-shuffle of the teams in the leagues seems to be on the cards.

Nevertheless if you are interested in playing cricket for Grafham and want more information please contact one of the following Grafham CC members and players.

Club Captain Adrian Love: 01480 811827

Club Vice Captain Chris Brown: 07968568587

Club Chairman Chris Dighton: 01480 811862

Pre season indoor nets have been organised at

St Ives Indoor Leisure Centre:-

Sunday 27th March 2011 4.30pm to 5.45pm

Sunday 10th April 2011 4.30pm to 5.45pm

Sunday 17th April 2011 3.30pm to 5.00pm

There will be a nominal charge for each session.

A Shepherd's Tale March 2011

The second batch of ewes to lamb has just finished and we now have 40 lambs and 23 proud mums. We have one more batch of five ewes to lamb at the end of March and there is one straggler, who may or may not be in lamb, due in late April. The sponging which synchronised the oestrous cycle and subsequently lambing has made everything a lot easier; it means we have a break of



about 10 days between batches and I can organise most of my work commitments to ensure I am not away during crucial moments.

Our lambing system seems to have worked well this year, but it has been hard work. Fortunately James, my eldest, is a bit of a night owl so he seems happy to check on them at 2-3am although, because I was around he would not lamb the ewes himself, so two or three times I

have had to clamber out of my warm bed in the middle of the night, but live lambs are rewarding and worthwhile.

As soon as the lambs are born we spray their navels with iodine and then keep them in lambing boxes for 3-4 days to keep them warm and help build the mother:lamb bond. Michael, my youngest, helps me weigh the lambs and when necessary give the lambs extra colostrum through a stomach tube. As they get bigger, we group the ewes and lambs in a larger pen in the barn until the lambs are quite strong and chunky and, providing the weather is reasonable, we put them outside. Although it has been quite cool and dry, the newly sown grass seems to have grown well and is helping the ewes produce plenty of milk.



Despite my planning I have had to be away a couple of times, but fortunately, although they have not done any lambing for over 20 years, my ancient parents agreed to help out. It was slightly surreal one night to have to talk my mother through a lambing using a mobile phone - on hands free - but anyway she managed very

well. Finally today, while I was in York, James did his first solo lambing.

Although things have gone pretty well overall, we have had a couple of casualties: one triplet died probably after not getting enough milk off his mother - he had one huge and very greedy sibling; we also lost a big single lamb at a week old possibly crushed by a ewe at the feed trough. Both these may well have been preventable so we will just have to do better next time.

Patrick Goldsworthy

Chocolate Nests

- 225g (8oz) milk chocolate
- 50g (2oz) butter
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup
- 100g (4oz) cornflakes
- Small packet of mini eggs
- 10 paper baking cases
- Baking tray • Large saucepan



1. Put the baking cases in the baking tray.
2. Roughly break the chocolate into pieces and place in saucepan. Add the butter and golden syrup.
3. Heat the mixture, stirring all the time until the chocolate and butter have melted.
4. Turn off heat. Add cornflakes and stir gently to completely coat them in chocolate.
5. Place the mixture into paper baking cases and make a small hollow in the middle of each nest with the back of a spoon.
6. Place three or four eggs in each nest then put the tray into the fridge for about an hour.
7. The nests should be stored in an airtight container in the fridge and eaten within three days.

The Plant Stall

in the church porch returns on 27th March. It has a fine selection of herbaceous perennials and other plants at very reasonable prices. Offers of plants for sale and spare plant pots, please phone:

**Jill Tyack 810857
or Ann 810223**



*Send your news, views and gossip to:
editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk*

Baby Sitters

If your details are no longer correct, please let us know and we'll update them, thanks.
Email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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



Do you enjoy reading?

Come along and join us for informal social evenings. We would love to welcome new readers, so if you like a good read, socialising and want to meet fellow Grafham residents, please join us. The next few meetings are:

Tuesday 29th March, 8pm at Karen Stewart's 2 Home Close Tel: 01480 810961

Tuesday 26th April, 8pm at Val Williams' Hill Farm, Church Lane Tel: 01480 812794

Tuesday 31st May, 8pm at Tina Theodorou's "Kalostone" 5 Home Close Tel: 07711 012957

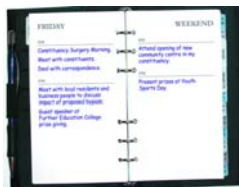
For more information please contact **Tina on 07711 012957**

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 (or editor@grafhamgossip.co.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

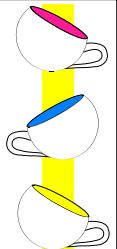
The Mobile Library



route H24 visits **Breach Road, Grafham** on the **4th Wednesday of every month from 10.40 to 11.00 (Next visit - 27th April.)** 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, April 13th at Pat Watson's 10 Field Close**. This is an informal social occasion for residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



Grafham 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 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.



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

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 22yrs -Grade B GCSE Child Development 812328

Marie-Claire 17yrs -GCSE Child Development 811279

Bryony 17yrs 812354 experienced with newborn -14yr olds

Kirsty 18yrs - babysitting course 810550

Kate 17yrs - babysitting course 812179

Livvy 14yrs - babysitting course 819708

Georgie 14yrs- babysitting course 432688

Caroline 14yrs 812179

Harriet 16yrs 810043 Emma 17yrs 860632



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH February/March 2011

NOT A GOOD TIME!

Between 10am on 20th February and 1pm on 22nd February, a property was broken into at Armstrong Close, Perry.

On 23rd February at 11.30pm, there was an attempt to enter a property in Breach Road, without success.

On 27th February between 12.30pm and 5.30pm the cash box was stolen from the church in Grafham.

If anyone noticed anyone or anything suspicious around these areas, at these times, please contact the police.

SPEEDING - on 2nd March, around 8am, a car finished up in the fields upside down opposite Model Farm. Hopefully something soon will be done about this problem along this straight stretch of road leaving the village.



I have a new stock of stickers. If anyone wishes to have one to display, please let me know.

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**

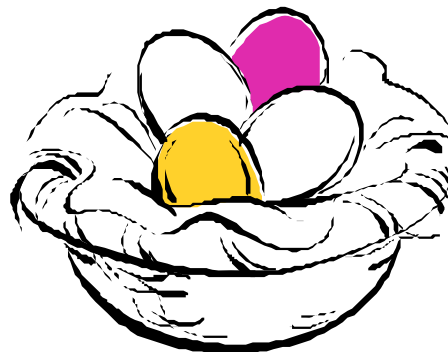
To stop unwanted mail **0845 703 459 9**

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



Digital Television Switchover When, what, how?



Cambridgeshire
County Council

On 30th March, the BBC 2 analogue channel will be switched off in Cambridgeshire, followed by the remaining analogue channels on 13th April. From then on, if you aren't set up to receive digital, you won't be able to watch your television.

This can be a worrying prospect, and at Cambridgeshire County Council's Trading Standards Service we want to ensure that you know where to go for advice.

How will it affect me?

If you have Sky TV, Freesat from Sky, Freesat or Virgin Media you don't need to do anything (but note, additional TVs in the house may be affected).

If you have Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV you will need to re-tune your television 5 times in 2011. Guidance on re-tuning can be found on Digital UK's website (below). Alternatively you can pay a trader to re-tune it each time.

If you currently have five channels or fewer, you have three options:

Option 1: get a digital box. If you get a good analogue picture through your aerial now, you could purchase a Freeview set top box. Other options are satellite services 'Freesat from Sky' or 'Freesat'. Once purchased, these do not have a monthly fee. For even more channels, consider a monthly subscription service from Sky, BT Vision or Top Up TV. Your existing TV should work fine with any of these, provided it has an aerial or Scart socket.

Only Freeview requires an aerial, and in most cases, if your current analogue picture is OK, your aerial should work fine with Freeview. If you do need a new aerial, contact the Registered Digital Installers Licensing Body on 01353 644040 or visit www.rdi-lb.tv for a list of registered installers.

Option 2: buy a new Freeview recorder with twin tuners. This will receive digital television, acting as a digital box, and is also a recorder, allowing you to watch one channel while recording another. After the switchover, if you don't have a digital recorder, you will only be able to record the channel you are watching.

Option 3: buy a new television that has a built in digital tuner. Look for - **digital**

Where can I go for advice?

You can contact Digital UK on 08456 50 50 50 for advice or visit their website www.digitaluk.co.uk. If you have a hearing or speech impediment, contact the textphone service on 0845 2340380.

What is the Help Scheme?

A Help Scheme is available if you are 75 or over, have lived in a care home for over six months, get certain disability benefits or are registered blind or partially sighted. If you are eligible you should have received a letter from the Scheme, but if you are in any doubt, contact the scheme on 0800 4085900 or visit www.helpscheme.co.uk

PARISH NEWS...

March 2011



The Parish Council dealt with a range of issues at its meeting in March. The allotment question remains high on the agenda, although it is unclear at the moment what the likely take-up would be. Clearly, this needs to be established prior to further decisions of a financial nature taking place. Your answers through the Parish Plan will give a strong indication of how you all feel about this issue. Separately, the chair of the Allotment Society is intending to seek your views.

As a result of a closer liaison with the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council has agreed to provide financial help with the maintenance of the church and voted to provide funds for specific maintenance issues, such as gutter clearing or fixing, or grounds maintenance, on application from the PCC. It was stressed that these maintenance costs are entirely separate to the ongoing repair issues for the listed building, which are the subject of significant fund-raising efforts in the village.

Cllr Homewood has met with groups in the village to try to arrange a village event for the Royal Wedding. The Parish Council have agreed to support the event. If you want to know more, please contact Cllr Homewood or the Parish Clerk - see contact details below. Something which is close to everyone's heart is the matter of broadband connectivity in the village. The council has made contact with BT and are waiting for a response.

In the meantime, the council is looking for some technical know-how to try to understand what other avenues of action may be open to the village.

In May this year, the local elections will include election to the Parish Council. There is a separate message about the election in this issue of the *Grafham Gossip*. Please take the time to read it as it contains an important message.

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

The next meeting is on Tuesday 12th April.

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

Do you have views or comments on village life?

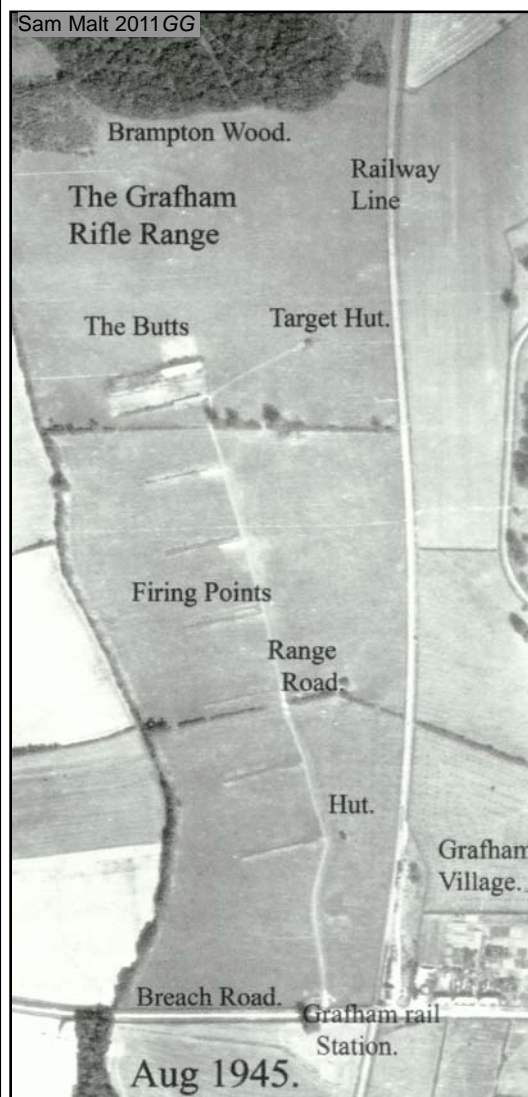
E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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!

The Grafham Military Rifle Range

The Grafham range started its life on paper in 1904 and saw service in two world wars with a 25 yard pistol range added to the rear of the Butts in the sixties. Firing days were on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays (small arms only.) Firing points were at 100 yard intervals with 8 targets to shoot at. The Huntingdon to Thrapston railway ran along the southern boundary and Brampton Wood formed the safety back stop to the east. In 1990 a Range Safety Review revealed that the Butts mound had shrunk below safety standards, the Grafham Range closed in 1992.

Sam Malt



Babysitters Wanted

Please email your name and phone number to: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk if live in Grafham and are available to babysit

View from the Pew!



At the time of writing, news is emerging of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Following so soon after the New Zealand earthquake may we remember in our prayers the victims of these tragic natural disasters.

April is a busy time in our church's calendar this year. Mothering Sunday on 3rd April is when all mothers are specially remembered with a small bunch of flowers given during the service. Palm Sunday on 17th April begins Holy Week. Jesus' triumphant journey into Jerusalem will be celebrated with favourite hymns such as, "Ride on ride on in majesty" as we receive our palm crosses. The church will then be stripped of all ornamentation as we contemplate the events of that first Holy Week. A special service of quiet reflection will take place at 6 pm on Good Friday 22nd April. (At Spaldwick there will be a Maundy Thursday Eucharist at 7.30 pm)

The Flower Club will decorate the church with flowers for the Easter Day Service on Sunday 24th April. Please come and celebrate with us the risen Lord.

The following Sunday, being two days after the Royal Wedding there will be a special celebratory family service when we will get into the spirit of the event by inviting all ladies to wear those wedding hats they thought they may never wear

again! Gentlemen, don't feel left out, look out those snazzy waistcoats and cravats and join in the parade! Several kind ladies are arranging to serve wedding cake and bubbly following the service. We hope everyone will feel this is a special occasion to come to church and offer a prayer for the future of this young couple who will be our future King and Queen.

An important date is Tuesday 26th April when our church council will meet for their AGM, election of officers and churchwardens. There are vacancies for members of the church council and for a churchwarden. Any nominations should be made to Ann Wright 810223 before the meeting.

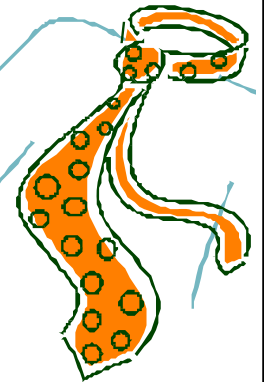


Table Top Sale

Ellington Thorpe Nurseries
May 14th 11am - 4pm

Light Refreshments available



If you'd like a table (£5) please contact **Marian Horsford 890561** or **Wendy Hawkins 891987**

Proceeds towards the charities of Ellington Friends:
 Air Ambulance, Help for Heroes, Breast Cancer UK,
 Mencap, Milton Children's Hospice,
 Multiple Sclerosis Society

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

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

- Congratulations to Dr Bundy who gave birth to a second son, Perran, weighing 8lbs 14ozs on 28th February.
- The new surgery doors have received a mixed reception; personally I'd envisaged something more visually attractive! However, the main object, to facilitate entry for disabled patients and mums with buggies, has been welcomed. The automatic door opening mechanism is activated by pressing a large square disc well to the right of the door at wheelchair height - it is obvious when you know its location!
- It is suspected that the proximity of the surgery reference library to the book sales table has led to some confusion. A substantial number of books have disappeared from the reference library. It has therefore been decided to offer an amnesty on fines to encourage their return - please look carefully at home. We should be most grateful for their return. The reference bookcase is now in a separate area with paperwork to sign when you borrow a book.
- There were 23 practices in the former Huntingdon area and when the decision was taken to phase out Primary Care Trusts [PCTs] the intention was to reduce bureau-



cracy and to de-centralise their function to be more responsive to local needs. As a result there are now 2 clusters [now to be known as consortia]. Hunts Health [HH] one of the very first in England, is composed of 10 practices and already manages its own budget. The remaining 13 practices have formed Hunts Care Partners [HCP] and it is to this consortium that our doctors belong. Their approach is a slower, more considered one, to create firm foundations and protocols in this seismic change to the NHS. To facilitate the commissioning transition from PCTs to consortia, a GP senate has been formed and representatives from HH and HCP have been chosen. The senate will assume full responsibility for commissioning health care in 2012 and by 2013, the PCT will have disappeared. There are 8 senate members representing the former Cambridgeshire PCT area. Dr Irwin now represents HCP on this body and will be very closely involved with the development of policy and the delivery of primary care within governmental financial restraints. Inevitably but sadly, this means he will have to spend more time, during and after surgery hours, attending meetings to ensure the best outcomes on behalf of all patients.

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

Piano Lessons!

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07963076988
katienuad@live.co.uk



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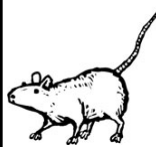
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Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH)

The Cambridgeshire County Council Disabled Children's Access to Childcare (DCATCH) project is aimed at supporting parents and carers of disabled children in accessing suitable childcare; enabling them the chance of returning to employment and/or training. It is part of the Cambridgeshire Childcare Information Service (CIS).

The aim of the project is to work closely with parents, childcare providers and professionals, embedding the principles of DCATCH; ensuring inclusion into early years and childcare settings for all. A referral service to parents shows where to go for support and guidance with their childcare options via the Childcare Brokerage Service.

Once a family is identified we can then enquire about suitable childcare. This will include information on provision of childcare, funding options, costs, specialist care and specialist facilities if required, by the provider.

The DCATCH project provides a service to families, which is free of charge and completely impartial.

If you would like further information on DCATCH then please ring 0845 04 54 014 and ask for Denis Green or send an email to denis.green@opportunitylinks.co.uk

Alternatively visit our website www.familiesandchildcare.org.uk and click on the DCATCH link.



Cambridgeshire
County Council



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07740 440969

Grafham Gossip

The deadline dates are midnight on the following Thursdays:

April 14th
May 19th

To advertise e-mail us: editor@grafhamgossip.co.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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