

Grafham Gossip

Issue 83 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 16th June



Grafham All Saints

29th May (5th Sunday)
11.00 Group Eucharist at Barham

5th June (1st Sunday) 11.00 Family Service

12th June (2nd Sunday) 4.30 Open-air service following Fête (No 11.00 Service at Grafham but Eucharist at Ellington 11.00)

19th June (3rd Sunday) 11.00 Sunday Worship

26th June (4th Sunday) 11.00 Sunday Worship with Baptism

3rd July (1st Sunday) 11.00 Family Service

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday 21st June
7.30pm Village Hall

The police will be in attendance

Following a presentation by the police, they will answer any questions or concerns that any of us have.

If anyone has a specific issue they would like to be discussed, please let me know ahead of the meeting and I can brief the police before our evening. There will also be a selection of literature available including discounted insurance because the village is registered on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme database.



PLEASE DO YOUR VERY BEST TO ATTEND

James Snell 07951 069 565 email: Jamie2701@aol.com

Meet the Sheep-12th June!



To coincide with Open Farm Sunday and the church fête, the 'farm' on Church Road will be open to visitors on 12th June from 2 to 5pm.

- Join the guided tour - every 30 minutes from 2.15pm
- Think of the sheep - please no dogs (Guide dogs welcome on very short leads)
- Only disabled parking available

Editors' note...



This month might seem like hard work with no bank holidays, but at least the children get the summer half term. For the rest of us, remember that summer's just round the corner and with midsummer's day falling in June, at least we can enjoy the longer evenings.

And we've got some exciting events to look forward to in Grafham this month. There's lots going on in the village on 12th June, including the Church Fête and guided tours around the 'farm' - yes, you've read the tales every month, now you can 'Meet the Sheep!' If you want to get involved in these events, see opposite and above for more details. We editors are always looking for interesting gossip, so please send in your stories, letters or ideas to

Editors, editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

TRADITIONAL CHURCH FÊTE



Sunday 12th June 1 - 4 pm

Followed by short open air family service at 4.30



Teas and ice cream
Bouncy castle
Games for all ages
Home produce stall
Plants
Tombola
Raffles
And more!



Come and join in the fun!

Donations for the tombola, raffle and home produce stalls would be very welcome. Do you have any unwanted gifts, toiletries, confectionery, wine, or can you make a few cakes, biscuits, jams, chutneys etc. or cakes to cut and serve with teas?

Would you like to help run a stall?

Please ring:

Hazel 810326 Jill 810157

Ann 810223 Val 812390



Grafham Cricket Club

Grafham Cricket Club would like to thank all those who attended and participated in our quiz night on 13th May. Thanks also go to those members of the Club and relatives who made the night such a successful and hugely enjoyable evening. The Club looks to have made over £400; which is truly unbelievable. So once again thanks to all.



At the time of writing Grafham's cricket season has yet to start. It's finally been confirmed that we are in Division Two of the re-vamped Bedford League. Several clubs left the league during the closed season for one reason or another, so the league has been reduced from 4 to 3 divisions.

There are nine teams in Division 2, so Grafham was the team that missed out on the opening day of the season. On the morning of quiz night, we learnt that the team we were due to play could not raise a team, so Grafham was awarded the match - not really the way we want to earn points. Fingers crossed that this weekend's match is still on.

Home Games at the end of May and during June.

Saturday May 28th starting at 2.30pm

Grafham CC vs Bedford Lions

Saturday June 11th starting at 2.30pm

Grafham CC vs Newnham

Junior Cricket

It is with regret that Grafham Cricket Club will not be able to run Junior Cricket evenings this year, normally held in late June and early July, as we have done in previous seasons. Adam who runs these evenings is still at university during this period. He hopes he will be able to run the junior sessions next season.

Chris Dighton, Club Chairman

A Shepherd's Tale May 2011

It's been a very quiet month; the last ewe that may or may not have been in lamb decided that she was not in lamb. She is in disgrace, having caused me to make several 3am visits just in case. I put this down as another lesson learnt and this autumn, I will make sure the rams come out promptly so that lambing does not drag on.

The major problem facing farmers especially in the East is the drought; so far my grazing seems to have held up well. I suspect this is down to two main reasons. I applied my nitrogen fertiliser early - about two weeks earlier than normal, this was washed into the soil in March and has kept the grass growing as the roots will follow the nitrogen. The other is that newer sown grass leys tend to withstand drought better. Nevertheless the situation is still worrying and I am doing everything I can to make it rain: the lawn mower has broken down, frequent barbecues and filling the swimming pool. My last option is to cut the hay, but I have never made hay in May and would rather wait until June; Wimbledon fortnight is the traditional haymaking window.

We are shearing next week about ten days earlier than

usual. Our regular shearers are somewhat daunted by the growth of my flock. We have been more than doubling in size every year and there is limit to how many they can comfortably shear in a day. Nevertheless, I am looking forward to seeing my naked flock as they tend to look a bit scruffy at this time of year, while getting the wool off reduces the risk of fly strike or of sheep being cast (stuck on their backs).



Grazing Southdowns

Patrick Goldsworthy

Babysitters

If your details are no longer correct, please let us know and we'll update them, thanks.

Email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.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 and

Patricia.Jordan@huntsdc.gov.uk tel 457802

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!

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

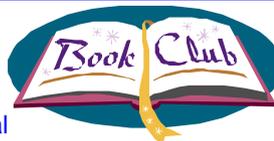
Grafham Church Flower Club

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.

Do you enjoy reading?



Come along and join us for informal social evenings. The next few meetings are:

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

Tuesday 28th June, 8pm at Sue Kelley's 3 Church Lane Tel: 01480 812179

Tuesday 26 July, 8pm with Linda & Robin Yeoman, 10 Tort Hill, Sawtry Tel: 01487 832092

There is no August meeting and the September dates will be advised in the August Grafham Gossip.

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**

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

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

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Call Sam Malt on **01480 810844** daytime
01480 811654 evenings

<http://www.grafhamconservationgroup.btik.com>

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!



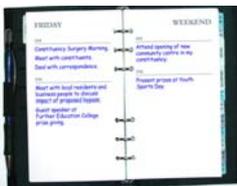
Ellington and Grafham W.I.

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



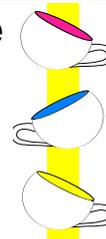
Send your news, views and gossip to:
editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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.



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning at 10.30am on **Wednesday, June 8th at Karen Stewart's, 2 Home Close.** This is an informal social occasion for residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



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

Holly 16yrs 810867 baby sitting and first aid courses

Amie 22yrs 810463 day or evening at short notice



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

PARISH NEWS...

May 2011

Following the election held on 5th May, the following were elected to the Parish Council:

Philip Allingham, Ian Gardener, David King, Tracie Lord, Andrew Duckworth, Kevin Sharp and Alastair Watson.

Contact details for the councillors can be found below. At the Annual Parish Assembly, Cllr Peter Downes presented reports on the activities of the District and County Councils. These reports can be viewed in full on the Grafham Village website.

Items covered in the District Council Report include information on your council taxes and the financial situation, the proposals for the redevelopment of Huntingdon town centre, a brief piece concerning waste collections, the structure and constitution of the District Council and representation. There is also a brief



explanation of the proposals contained in the Localism Bill.

The County Council Report contains information concerning the structure of the Council and the issues it currently faces. Also covered are items such as services for older people, transport, education, Grafham-specific issues and contact details.

An annual report on the work and finances of the Parish Council for the year just ended and the forthcoming year was presented by Cllr Allingham.

At the AGM of the Parish Council, which immediately followed the APM, Cllr Allingham was re-elected as Chair.

The village sign has arrived at last. The Council will be taking a look at the proposed installation site and the requirement for its erection as soon as possible.

The date of the next meeting is 14th June 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

David King 01480 812430 davidking@hawkeyesystems.com

Tracie Lord Tracielorduk@aol.com

Alastair Watson Alastair.watson403@btinternet.com

Kevin Sharp kevin.sharp@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Andrew Duckworth andrew.duckworth1@tesco.net

Shutting the door on bogus prize draws: advice from Trading Standards



Cambridgeshire
County Council

Many of us receive junk mail through the post, with the vast majority going straight in the recycling bin. However for some it can be tempting to try your luck on a 'prize draw' letter that comes through the letterbox.

The cost of this temptation can be seen in figures released from the Office of Fair Trading which shows that last year, 1 in 25 people lost money to a scam, be it bogus prize draws, foreign lotteries, miracle health cures or money transfer scams. Seven per cent of those lost £4000 or more and those are only the ones that were reported.

The organisers of these scams are smart - the letters look professional, they are often personalised so they have your name throughout (sometimes appearing to be handwritten), and there is often a short deadline to respond so that you don't have time to think.

By replying to just one of these letters, your information will be shared by other scammers who will then write to you, inundating you with letters.

The message from Trading Standards is simple: if it looks too good to be true, it probably is and if it asks for money upfront, even in the form of an admin charge for processing your winnings, it is almost certainly a scam. If you are in any doubt or think you may have responded to a scam, speak to friends, family or Consumer Direct for advice. Consumer Direct provides advice on

behalf of Trading Standards and can be contacted on **0845 4040506**.

Most of the scams we come across have affected older residents, many of whom experience loneliness. If you are over 60 and could do with having someone visit you for a chat on a regular basis, or perhaps you know someone who would benefit from this, then Age UK (Age Concern and Help the Aged combined) may be able to help you. They offer a voluntary visiting scheme for residents across the County, and you can ring to find out more on **0845 5213481**.

You can register with the Mailing Preference Service which is free. It won't cut out all scams but it should significantly reduce the amount of marketing mail you receive. Their phone number is **0845 7034599**, you can register online at www.mpsonline.org.uk or you can write to Mailing Preference Service, Freepost 29 LON20771, London, W1E 0ZT.

If you are tempted by prize draws because you are struggling financially, speak to your local Citizens Advice Bureau. They can provide you with free, confidential and impartial advice and check you are receiving all the financial benefits and allowances that are available to you. You can telephone **0844 411 1444** or visit www.adviceguide.org.uk to find your local bureau.



View from the Pew!



As we enter the "midsummer" month of June (the 21st being midsummer's day,) let us first of all look back at our church's events in May.

At the end of Holy Week on Good Friday a number of souls gathered together in church to quietly reflect on the meaning of the Passion and Crucifixion of Christ.

Accompanied by Bach's beautiful music, this was a special time away from the hustle and bustle of daily life to watch and pray and be still. Thank you, Jonathan, for preparing this lovely service.

Previously the Flower Club had prepared and secreted away floral arrangements ready for Easter Day. These were duly brought out and the altar vestments replaced for our service on Sunday. Derek Billings kindly stepped in to preside at the Eucharist and Angie thoughtfully provided crème eggs to be distributed at the end of the service. Thank you, Derek and Angie.

Of course we all benefited from the extra bank holidays next day and the following week. After a hugely successful royal wedding party in the village hall on Friday, we were delighted to see such a beautifully dressed congrega-

tion, resplendent in lovely hats and outfits for our celebratory service dedicated to Wills and Kate. There were special hymns, readings and prayers for the royal couple and a wedding wordsearch, thank you Jill. There was also fun and festivity with party poppers, cake and bubbly, thank you



Diana, Pat and Frances. We certainly gave them a good "send off" here in Grafham.

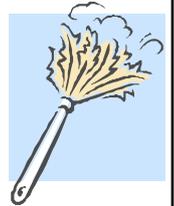
On 5th May we were pleased to open the church for polling day. Our church is open to everyone and all are welcome.

At our recent PCC AGM, Hazel Powell was re-elected as churchwarden for the coming year and Jonathan thanked her for taking on this position alone once again. There is still a vacancy for another churchwarden to be filled at any time so if anyone would be interested in helping Hazel fulfil this role she would be delighted to explain what is involved.

Our next big event is the Church Fête on Sunday 12th June from 1-4pm followed by a short open air service at 4.30 pm. As well as our usual stalls and teas there will be a bouncy castle for younger children and lots of games for all ages. See our advert on the front page for details.

Our plant and book stalls are a great source of much needed income for the church, so thank you to all those who donate and to those who buy. Keep on coming.

A last request is for church cleaners. Our church is open all day and receives many visitors. We therefore need to keep it regularly cleaned. There are still vacancies on the cleaning rota which Hazel has to fill herself, so she would be very glad of help, even for an hour once a month. Do give her a ring if you would be willing to give an hour of your time.



Lastly, we are pleased to welcome visitors to all our Sunday services especially those on holiday. Just check the notice board in the churchyard for times.



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

- Pat Purssard our Senior Receptionist is retiring after over 25 years working at Buckden Surgery. Her experience and smiling face will be greatly missed but we wish her a long and very happy retirement and every success in future Bowling competitions. We welcome Hayley Lathwell in her place.
- Our Ophthalmology Department at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital is a centre of excellence and has initiated a new streamlined cost-effective programme. If, when you visit your optician it is decided you need a hospital consultation, you will be referred directly by the optician without a referral back to your GP first. (Tesco Optician has chosen not to be included in the new programme.)
- Drug hoarding and wastage remain a very major problem and doctors are being asked to inform patients about the cost

of some medications. At the Huntingdon Patients Congress it is a serious and recurring theme and causes great concern to pharmacists.

- The surgery has some small cards available which give patients information about dialing 999 or using A and E, a vital but very expensive resource.
- Advice to people who believe they are having a stroke has been revised. The first few hours following a stroke (when blood supply to the brain is cut off by a blood clot or haemorrhage) are critical, so an ambulance must be called and, if a stroke is confirmed, the patient transferred to Addenbrokes Special Stroke Unit. If, after three days progress is satisfactory, patients will be transferred to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital to take part in an intensive rehabilitation programme there.



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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH April - June 2011



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL MEETING

includes a police presentation followed by a question and answer session.

Tuesday 21st June 7.30pm Village Hall

Please read the notice on page 1 for more information

Caravan thefts

Caravan owners are being urged to check their security following a spate of thefts across Huntingdonshire. Six caravans have been stolen since the beginning of April including one from Perry Road in Buckden between 5th and 7th April and the latest reported from a farm in Buckden between 19th and 20th April.

The police advice is to mark caravans with a postcode or index number on the roof and to put property marking stickers on the inside of the windows. Wheel locks are advised and another tip is to ensure the towing hitch is

pointed away from the road when the caravan is left unattended.

Further information or advice can be obtained from the community safety unit on 0345 456 4564

Nuisance Bike Riding

Now that the summer nights are arriving another problem has begun to reoccur. Petrol driven mini bikes, that make a high pitched noise, have been noted on three occasions in the last two weeks at the Grafham Water Car Park late into the evenings. These "vehicles" are not allowed to be used in any public space. Also, remote controlled toys that create unacceptable noise levels are not allowed in this area - the police have been advised and are watching the area with patrols into the evenings.

Doorstop selling

Sound familiar . . . ?

- "The moss on your roof needs removing otherwise it will cause damage ..."
- "You have a loose tile on your roof ..."
- "I have some tarmac left over from a job ..."
- "We were working on your neighbours when we noticed ..."



These are some of the claims made by uninvited doorstep callers to persuade you to pay for services or goods you don't want or need. In fact very often their claims are untrue.

Every year Cambridgeshire Trading Standards receives many complaints from people who have been conned by doorstep callers.

Your rights

If you agree to pay over £35 for any services or goods that are sold to you during a visit to your home or your place of work, then:

- You have 7 days to cancel the agreement. Any money paid should then be returned to you.
- The caller must give you a written cancellation form setting out your rights when you agree the contract.

If the caller does not provide you with this information he is committing a criminal offence and the agreement isn't valid.

Remember

Doorstep callers are trained in high pressure sales techniques. They will catch you unawares. They are polite, persistent and persuasive and they will rush you to make a decision. Say "No thank you" and then immediately close the door. If the person won't go away, call the police or Trading Standards.

Do not believe

- All callers are genuine - they are not.
- 'Scare stories' - they are rarely true.
- Genuine companies have loads of tarmac or gravel over - they don't!
- 'Special deals, today only' - it's high pressure selling.

Do not

- Allow strangers to have access to your property.
- Sign anything or pay for anything until you are sure about it.

Do

- Check a caller's Identity - ask to see an ID card.
- Consider if you really need the work done. Shop around for the best deal.
- Consider how you will contact the trader if it goes wrong.
- Ask the caller to leave you with information to study at your leisure.
- Remember you often have a short time to cancel a contract after cold call.

Always remember that reputable businesses generally do not knock on doors to find customers.

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

James Snell 07951 069 565

email: Jamie2701@aol.com

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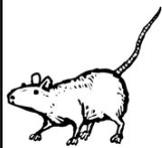
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dates are midnight on the
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July 14th

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