

Grafham Gossip

Issue 86 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 15th September

Grafham Flower Festival

10th and 11th September
Grafham Church

The theme this year is "Hats" and it's not too late to take part! Please contact Jill 810157 or Hazel 810326 for details.

A meeting will be held in church on Monday 29th August at 8pm to finalise arrangements.



Teas will be served on the green outside church on both days from 11am until 4pm.

Donations of cakes would be most welcome.

Please contact Hazel 810326 or Frances 811727 to let us know what you can supply.

Songs of Praise will close the Festival at 4.30pm on Sunday 11th.

Children's Picture Competition

Remember to draw a Christmas picture by 9th Sept! The winning pictures will become Grafham Christmas cards. See page 3 for details.



FIVE PARISH AUTUMN FAIR

Saturday 24th September
Grafham Village Hall

This event, like the Advent Fair in previous years, supports the five churches in our group: Ellington, Grafham, Easton, Spaldwick, Barham and Woolley. This year the Fair will be held at **Grafham Village Hall on Saturday, 24th September from 1.00pm**, finishing with the raffle draw at about 4.00 pm. Refreshments will be available during the afternoon and ice cream if the weather is fine.

Can you start: making pickles and jams, putting cakes in the freezer, preparing craft items, looking out prizes for the raffle and bottle stall, collecting gifts and presents, good white elephant treasures and toys or offer to provide food for the refreshments? Or could you organise an extra stall or game to add to the list below or could you offer to help on one of the stall listed below? Thanks

Refreshments ----- Martin and Kirsty 890852
Honey, pickles, chutneys, jams -- Peter 891043
Treasures/white elephant ----- Ann 891372
Bottle stall ----- Jonathan 891695
Plants and produce ----- Roy 890169
Raffle ----- Martin 891600
Toys ----- Amba 890565
Games ----- Jill 810857

General offers of help to Sue Young 453350



Editors' note...

We've used a different program to write the *Grafham Gossip* this month so regular articles and notices have been rewritten. We've double checked everything but just to make sure, if you have a regular notice or advert, please check that it looks okay to you. Thanks!



There's lots happening in September, take care to read all the notices. Have fun this month!

Editors, editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Grafham All Saints

28th August 4th (Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist

4th September (1st Sunday)

11.00 Family Service

11th September (2nd Sunday) 16.30

Songs of Praise following Flower Festival - No service at Grafham

but 11.00 Eucharist at Ellington

18th September (3rd Sunday) 11.00 Eucharist

25th September (4th Sunday) 8.00 Eucharist

2nd October (1st Sunday) 11.00 Harvest Festival followed by "Bring and Share Lunch"

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



WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER

10.30 A.M. TO 2.00 P.M.

AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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



Hairy Woman's Stile at Grafham

Where the old railway track leaves Brampton Wood from the East leading towards Grafham village, as the cutting ends, an old footpath stile still remains where it crossed the railway. This old stile was known locally as Hairy Woman's Stile. As time has passed, I wonder how it got its name?

Sam Malt



Grafham Gossip 2011

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!

Our Grafham Oil Syndicate

has around 50 members but to make this really successful we need strength in numbers, so please register at grafhamoil262@yahoo.co.uk or call me on 819663. Our first order was 11,300 litres, not bad, with savings of around 5%. I'm currently planning a September delivery. *Simon*



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



Grafham Cricket Club

There is no easy way to say it; Grafham were bowled out for 10, when playing the Bedford Hospital Wanderers. In mitigation; the Wanderers batted first and were bowled out for 161 by Grafham. There seemed no terrors in the pitch to herald Grafham's batting performance, just good bowling, and poor batsmanship. As it has been said in a previous "Gossip" article; Grafham's batting this season is either golden or leaden; this performance was of the basest lead.

Next week Grafham faced the Bedford Lions, in some ways a tense affair, with Grafham having to provide the match ball, because the home team, who should be the provider of the match ball, left it, "well at home"! Grafham bowled the Lions out for 175, with Chris Brown 10 overs 40 runs for 4 wkts, and Matt Chester 8 overs 46 runs 3 wkts being the main Grafham wicket takers. After the Lions took the early wicket of Colin Grundy for 2, the Lion's bowling met the in-form Chris Brown who scored 88 runs, and the equally in form Gareth Knowles who scored 39, with Tom Chester clubbing a quick 32, saw Grafham home by 5 wkts.

The following week it was the Prime Ministers at home: League 2 leaders. The PM's had one batsman who scored 131; the rest with extras only scored 71, making an all out score of 202. Grafham's main wicket taker was



Chris Dighton with 10 overs 59 runs for 4 wkts, with Tom Chester and Adi Love taking 2 wkts apiece. All Grafham's batsman contributed to the all out score of 142, but no one could make that major score in the 60s or 70s that might have won Grafham the match.

The last game to report before this article goes for publication was against Newnham at Mowsbury Park. Outstanding bowling by Matt Chester 5.2 overs 10runs 4 wkts; with Chris Brown 8 overs 21 runs for 3 wkts reduced Newnham to being all out for 95. Newnham had one batsman who scored 52 runs; otherwise it was the Grafham's bowlers who ruled the day. A steady opening by the Grafham's top 3 batsmen saw Grafham at 51 for 1 against a pacey, but at times wayward Newnham bowling attack. At this stage of the game the steady accumulation of runs promised an easy victory. However this promise changed when the bowling attack turned to spin. In next to no time Grafham were 71 for 6, but a defiant innings of 16 not out by Jamie Smith, supported by Craig Pritchard not out 2 saw Grafham home without further loss; Grafham winning by 4 wkts.

Home Games for September

Saturday September 3rd

Grafham CC vrs Bedford Park 2 -- Starting at 2pm

Chris Dighton Club Chairman

Children's Picture Competition

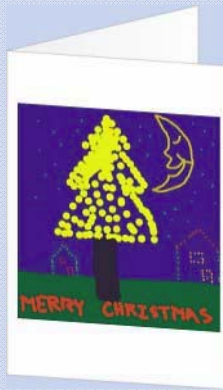
Cash Prizes

Winning pictures

become

Grafham

Christmas Cards!



Draw a Grafham Christmas picture

Pictures (A4 size) to be judged at the Flower Festival - Grafham Church - 10th /11th September

£5 - 1st prize, £3 - 2nd, £2 - 3rd

Prizes for Under 7, 7-11 and 12-15 age categories

Just bring your pictures along - 50p entry fee

Can't make it? Drop the pictures by the 9th September, at 34 Breach Road with entry fee, name, age and phone number.

In aid of

Save All Saints Church Restoration Fund

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

July/August 2011

On Wednesday July 27th £1200 of garden equipment and furniture was stolen from a shed around 11.15pm in the evening from a property on Buckden Road – a strimmer, lawn mower and garden tools all went in the theft. The intruder/s simply broke the lock on the back gate and garden shed. The police urge us to all heighten security of gardens and sheds.



On Thursday evening August 4th a car went off the road by the Grafham Visitors Centre – speeding being the cause – another reminder that speeding needs to be checked on the roads outside the village.

Following last month's article about cars being parked around the village by a trader I received eleven phone calls all of which were passed on to the police and I am told by them they now know what is happening. Again, if you note a car parked illegally or untaxed do call them out.

NATIONAL PERSONAL SAFETY DAY - OCTOBER 10

Hosted by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. The aim of this year's campaign is to give people useful tips on how to improve on personal safety.

Further information can be obtained on 020 7091 0014 or by visiting their website:

www.suzylamplugh.org

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

Il 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

The first digital re-tuning dates - since the digital switchover - are here.

The Digital Switchover Scheme says:

Viewers will need to retune their Free view set top boxes and TVs (and Top Up TV and BT Vision boxes) on **31st August, 14th September and 23rd November**, to keep watching the full range of digital channels currently received, unless the set top box has auto-retune. You will see captions on screen, reminding you of the need to retune on the run up to these dates. Guidance on re-tuning is available from www.digitaluk.co.uk

If you are watching satellite or cable services, this does not affect you.

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

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



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

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

NATURE WATCH IN GRAFHAM

I have been put to the challenge of writing an article on the nature of nature in Grafham so, where do I begin? June and July have been busy months to say the least; fatalities amongst wildlife are an unfortunate yet regular occurrence.



There was the unusually tame baby crow sat unusually close to the house. After half an hour of attempting to get the little thing to fly away, we gave up and decided it was either too young or was damaged in some way. Feeling sorry for it we coaxed it, for what seemed like hours, with bird noises, bird seeds and freshly dug worms, but it was too stubborn for its own good and just sat there looking at us. Even the concerned mother kept landing nearby to keep a watchful eye over her offspring. The evening began to draw in and we decided it was time to give up and head indoors, we turned back for one emotional good bye and as we did so, the baby crow hopped forwards and took off with total ease. As simple as that. Just flew away. I could practically hear its mocking laugh! However, karma has its way and we found the bird lying in the grass under the tree the next morning completely defunct!

Then there is the tale of the toad...after a few nights of hearing it croak we finally found the slimy creature sheltering under a plant pot and Dad had the genius idea of watering it. The toad camped under the pot for a few days and Dad continued to water gaily as if it was one of his very own ripening tomatoes. However, the toad was now looking slightly grim (if that is possible for a toad) and he became rather stationary. We didn't lose interest though, we kept an eye on him and logged his state and location every half an hour and over the days he slowly made his way to the pond, we assumed foolishly that the pond was the ideal habitat for our new amphibian friend and went to check on him regularly, but a few days later found him lying in the adjacent flower bed, we hosed him down thinking the water would revive him and were pleased to note the next day that he had vanished, presumably into the pond. We saw him later that day in the water looking very still but upright amongst the weeds and there he remained for many hours until Mum decided to prod him with a stick only to discover that misfortune had set in once again as had the rigor mortis! He is now on the compost heap for organic recycling!



Don't get me wrong though! There have been some happier occasions; today we saw a hedgehog in the drive



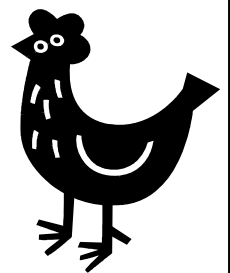
and my sister took photographs of it. She was probably late getting to work because of this, but at least she had many pictures of a hedgehog to share with

her colleagues.

The fish in the pond are growing and breeding quicker than you could ever imagine, I don't know what they put in the food pellets! But as a family we are constantly worried about the heron, we even have 'heron watch' duties where we take it in turns to rush outside to check that the mighty bird is not crouching on the chimney stack with his beady eyes scouring the depths of the pond planning his next meal. This serves to pass away the time on an otherwise boring afternoon but proves to be quite exhausting when the weather is hot!

Six proud looking hens have managed to find their way into the garden from a neighbouring plot, rather like escaping convicts they have dug a hole under the wire mesh fence to experience the 'freedom' of next door's garden. Now don't get us wrong, we like chickens, and eggs even more, but the only purpose of their visit is because 'the grass is greener on the other side'! Having dug up the flower beds, scratched away at the gravel on the drive until it looks positively bald and sat in the flowering tubs as though sunning themselves on a Mediterranean sun lounger they then dutifully return under the fence back home for the night to roost having not left us with a single egg between them; oh well at least the cockerel is now quiet!

I stood in chicken poo today, twice!! Well I suppose that could bring as much good luck as when it falls from the skies above! All in all it has been an eventful and stressful month and we will now wait with baited breath to find out what exhilarating stories August will bring.



Grafham villager

Catworth Football Club

(playing local football since 1938)

Catworth FC would like to expand into a community club, allowing everyone in all the villages up and down the A14 to become involved.

How can I get involved?

Spectating: Catworth FC play in the St. Neots and District Sunday League. Home games are played at Victory Fields, Catworth (kick-off 10.30am). Look out for fixtures lists on your village notice board.

Training Local players over 16 are welcome to come



along to pre-season training at Victory Fields, Catworth.

Kit Manager Catworth FC are in need of a new kit manager. Please get in touch if you can help. A small fee may be possible.

Sponsorship/Advertising: Local businesses can get involved with the club in any way they want (big or small) from sponsoring kits, players and events to promoting and advertising themselves on our website. Just contact the club to see how to get involved.

Contact: Andy Woodham (Secretary) (01480) 891113
email: Andrew.woodham@sky.com
Jim Hardwick (manager) 07722 665791

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>



The Mobile Library

route H24 visits Breach Road, Grafham on the **4th Wednesday** of every month from **10.40 to 11.00** (Next visits are **24th August, 28th September**)
 For renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225** or visit <https://ibistro.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/WEB/0/29/491/X/3>



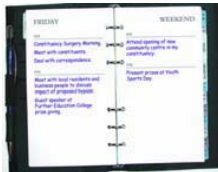
Ellington and Grafham W.I.

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



Do you have any events to advertise?

Email the details to diary@grafhamgossip.co.uk and copy to editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



We'll print them in the *Grafham Gossip* and add them to the Village Diary on the web site.

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



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

Babysitters Danielle 20yrs 81127

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



GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

has a Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing, performing arts and can accommodate 92 guests seated in rows or 150 at a dance/disco - an ideal venue for children's and family parties. There is a playing field for sports activities and the hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities.
Contacts: Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166



Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning at 10.30am on **Wednesday, September 14th** at **Frances Knight's 18 Church Road**. This is an informal social occasion for residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



Do you enjoy reading?

Come along and join us for informal social evenings. The next meeting is on

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

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

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



Wanted! Do you have any unwanted books?

Grafham All Saints Church is looking to re-stock the book-stall in the church porch and would be pleased to accept donations of books; preferably in good condition. Please leave in the church porch. Many thanks!



The Parish Council

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

Visit www.grafhamvillage.org.uk

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



FOXGLOVE EVENTS

BUCKDEN FOOD AND DRINK FAIR

SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

BUCKDEN VILLAGE HALL

10am - 3.30pm

Homemade refreshments served all day

Admission £1

Come and test your taste buds!

View from the Pew!



At the time of writing the fields are being harvested, the garden is a blaze of late summer colour and the laden fruit trees and scratchy note of the robin's voice tell us that autumn is on its way. Our changing seasons are surely one of God's blessings for which we can give thanks. That will be especially celebrated at our Harvest Festival on 2nd October which will be followed

by our usual "Bring and Share" lunch.

First of all however there is much to look forward to in September at All Saints. At our First Sunday service on 4th we will again welcome Ann Allsop to give one of her inspiring talks. Ann especially enjoyed her first "First Sunday" service with us on 7th August, with our usual larger congregation and the luxury of lovely cake and coffee to follow as is our tradition! We look forward to welcoming Ann again next year to join in with us on First Sundays.



Our Flower Festival will take place over the weekend of 10th and 11th September. The theme is "Hats" and we have a good number of entries but it is not too late to volunteer, even up to the last minute! Just contact Jill 810157 or Hazel 810326 who will be pleased to help. A meeting will be held in church on Monday 29th August at 8 pm to finalise arrangements. During the weekend teas will be served on the green outside church from 11am until 4 pm on each day. We would be most grateful for the donation of cakes to cut and serve on the two days. Please contact Hazel 810326 or Frances 811727 and let us know what you can supply. Songs of Praise will close the Festival at

4.30 pm on Sunday. Sunday 11th September is also the date of the Historic Churches Cycle Ride. We are all looking forward to a special wedding on Saturday 17th September at 1 pm when Alison and Gordon whom we have come to know so well will be getting married. Alison said she would be delighted to see us all at the event so that is a definite date for our diaries! The Flower Club will of course again have been busy for this occasion. The following week on Saturday 24th September the Five Parish Autumn Fair will be held in the Village Hall. We at All Saints will be organising "games for all ages" which proved so popular at our Fête. We are enlarging our repertoire for this occasion so come along and prepare to be amused!



With regard to our Restoration Project, a kind friend of the church has agreed to do some research on grant funding and we recently met together with Scilla Latham, the Church Buildings Support Officer for the Diocese of Ely who has advised us on how to proceed. We are also extremely grateful to sAs for their generous contribution of £2,000 to the cost of inspection and holding repairs to the south aisle, tower and roof. The pursuit of grant funding is likely to be quite involved and prolonged but we will keep readers informed as and when we have news.

Finally, villagers may have heard a wealth of bell ringing on the afternoon of 1st August when Donna and Garry received a church blessing on their marriage, conducted by Judy Clarke and accompanied also by lively Gospel singers!



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

- Dr Leonard will return from maternity leave to work for two and a half days each week starting from 24th October.
- The doctors will soon be looking to interview for a new full time GP.
- We welcome Dr Mohammed Koker to spend his final year of GP training and we also welcome our new Receptionist, Angela Chalkley.
- Flu jab day will be on Saturday 15th October at both Buckden and Little Paxton Surgeries. Booking Forms will be available from mid-September. Patients reaching the age of 65 by 31st March 2012 will be entitled to receive a flu jab as are all carers and patients of any age with clinical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, cancer or heart disease.
- Patient Participation Direct Enhanced Services [DES] is a new project developed by doctors in our area. The objective is to involve more patients forming decisions about the range and quality of Primary Care Services. In Buckden, we already have a small Patient Participation Group, however it is planned to expand this participation by using the Internet. Patients are invited to join a Patient Reference Group [PRG] by registering at the surgery. Some 100 patients have already signed up with a good representation from the 50 – 65 and over 65 year old groups, but we need more in the 31 – 50 year old group and many more in the under 30s. It is hoped this group will encourage more people to express their views and suggestions for improving the delivery of services at PCT level. Also the surgery will compile an online survey to monitor their performance strengths and weaknesses.



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

Sunday 25th Sept. For details call 364237



Papworth Hospital Charity
Living & breathing Papworth



Early bird entry fee
just £5 per person

Have a heart - take part!

Walk, run or cycle for Papworth Hospital Charity

Sunday 25 September 2011, Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire

Call: 01480 364237 or visit
www.papworthhospitalcharity.org.uk/whd

Registered Charity Number 1049224

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Grafham Church Flower Club

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01480 810326 for details and quotes.

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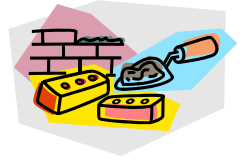


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