

# Grafham Gossip

**Issue 54 Early Deadline: Midnight Thursday 11th December**

## Grafham All Saints

Come and join the celebrations!

7th December (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - All Age  
Worship *The Holy Family 'Posada' begins its journey.*

14th December (2nd Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist

21st December (3rd Sunday) - 8.00 - Eucharist  
16.30 *Carol Service* (Note: No 11.00 service today)

24th December (Christmas Eve) - 16.00 - *Crib Service*

25th December (Christmas Day) - 11.00 - *Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion*

28th December - (4th Sunday) - No service at Grafham  
9.30-Eucharist-Ellington 10.00-Sunday Worship Alconbury

4th Jan 2009 (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - All Age Worship

11th January (2nd Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist

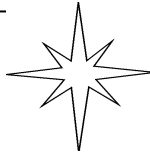
18th January (3rd Sunday) - 11.00 - *Children's Service*  
*Featuring a Christingle Service for Everyone*

25th January (4th Sunday) - 11.00 - Eucharist

1st Feb (1st Sunday) - 11.00 - Family Service - *Candlemas*

The Clergy, PCC and Congregation wish you all a very Happy, Peaceful and Joyous Christmas and New Year!

Contacting the clergy: Details are on page 3



## Editors' note...

Thank you for your help and support throughout 2008.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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

## It's out at last! sAs

You've seen the show. You've drunk the wine. Now you can buy the CD! The live recording of "The Opera Babe (Faye Hart) and 30 Blokes" (Vocal Academy) in concert is now available - only £5.00 and just in time for Christmas!



If you left your name on the night we will contact you, otherwise please ring **Keith Chisholm 810694** to order a copy - all profits to Save All Saints.

## sAs Save All Saints Association

### Minstrels and Mince Pies

An Evening of Music for Christmas  
led by

### The Aragon Singers

Saturday 13th December 7.30pm

All Saints Church Grafham

**£5/£3 (students) only!**

mince pies included and wine available

**Tickets from:**

**810961 810694 810841 812440**

Begin the Christmas season's celebration with your friends, neighbours and the minstrels of The Aragon Singers. The dictionary says a minstrel is an 'itinerant medieval singer'. Even though The Aragon Singers are not so old, they are travelling all the way from Buckden.

### DECEMBER DATES

**SUN 7TH POSADA SERVICE SEE P 3**

**SAT 13TH ARAGON SINGERS SEE P 1**

**WED 17TH CAROL SINGING SEE P 3**

**SUN 21ST CAROL SERVICE SEE P 3**

**WED 24TH CRIB SERVICE 4PM**

**THURS 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 11AM**

**WED 31ST NEW YEAR'S PARTY P 1**

**REGULAR ACTIVITIES CONTINUE AS USUAL.**

## Happy New Year

### New Years Eve Party

(an event for the whole family, music and fun)

Grafham Village Hall

31st December from 8pm

Tickets: Adults £5.00 Children Free



Free soft drinks  
and nibbles  
Bring your own  
alcoholic drinks



For tickets please  
call **Jill** on **811516**  
(limited numbers)

## World's Biggest Coffee 'Morning'

3 - 6pm Sat 29th November

Grafham Village Hall

**Help make a difference**

Macmillan  
cancer relief

District Councillors **Peter Downes** and **Patricia Jordan** are 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**

**Website: www.grafhamvillage.org.uk E-mail: gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk**

## A Shepherd's Tale-2

Sheep are traditionally mated in October/November as they lamb five months later when the grass is beginning to grow in the spring. The ewe's oestrous is stimulated by a number of factors but shortening day length and pheromones from the ram are key.



Breeds also vary in their sensitivity, with some sheep breeds able to breed all the year round. Other pedigree Southdown breeders mate much earlier so that their lambs are bigger for the show season. However the slow start to grass growth this spring meant I was in no hurry. I dressed Dippy in his brand new harness on the 1st October. In my old commercial flock I also used to select the biggest ewe lambs for the tup as well. As Southdowns are a slightly smaller breed I was advised not to do this as it would stunt their growth, so I have temporarily yarded our four ewe lambs.

Having recently visited another breeder whose ram had tupped eight ewes within 24 hours of joining the flock, I was expecting to see two or three yellow bottoms fairly quickly. However for about 12 days nothing happened except for a lot of forlorn chasing by the ram. The ewe will only stand still when she is in season, So I was starting to get worried, when I discovered the first yellow bottom. Gradually over the next 10 days all five ewes were tupped. The ewes are now on their third cycle (blue crayon); so far it looks like all the ewes have been tupped twice and one three times. Normally I would expect most of the ewes to have held by now. There could be two reasons for why they have not held to the ram, the ewes are quite fat and are therefore more difficult to get in lamb, or the ram may also be infertile so we will be taking him to the Cambridge Vet School for a semen test later this month.

**Patrick Goldsworthy**

## Thank You WREN!

Grafham All Saints Church has been able to undertake exploratory work on cracks within the North Aisle and Chancel Arch with the aid of a grant provided by the landfill tax credit scheme.



This scheme is administered by the Cambridgeshire Historic Churches Trust for 'WREN' (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd.), whose operating company, Waste Recycling Group Plc, provides grants to churches located near their landfill sites, enabling urgent fabric repairs to be carried out throughout Cambridgeshire.

Every time waste is tipped at a landfill site, a tax is paid by the disposer to the operator; this is called 'landfill tax'. The churches scheme is one of several operated by WREN to benefit communities in the locality of their operating company, using this money. Cracks first began appearing almost four years ago within Grafham Church. A Fund Raising Association called 'Save All Saints' was instigated, to help raise money towards the exploratory work and subsequent remedial work. The exploratory work, which began with the digging of external boreholes, is being undertaken by Fairhaven's of Anglesey Abbey. The PCC, Churchwardens and SAS Committee are very grateful to the CHCT and WREN for their valuable financial contribution towards this work. Fairhaven's will report back to Grafham's Structural Engineer and Architect with a proposed solution to the cracking, but in the meantime fund raising activities are well under way! (More photos on website. Ed)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

November 2008



In November a male posing as a water board representative knocked at an address in Brampton resulting in a distraction burglary. The male persuaded the lady to give him access to her property and when she realised something was not right raised the alarm and he, along with an accomplice, ran off along Miller Way into Thrapston Road. Both Males were white aged 16 - 20 years old - approx 5ft and 5ft 2" tall - one with black short scruffy hair and clean shaven wearing a black jumper and black trousers.

Police are again advising us all to be vigilant in requesting positive ID from any callers not expected. They are asking us to advise elderly or vulnerable neighbours to be aware and cautious.

On Halloween night High Visibility Patrols were provided by Neighbourhood Policing Teams to try to tackle anti-social behaviour and the possibility of egg and flour throwing. Patrols were conducted in all areas on foot and on bike. Many groups of youths were spoken to and searched and youths found in possession of anything believed to be intended for throwing at people's houses, had letters sent home to their parents informing them of their behaviour. Four incidents happened in Brampton but nothing was reported in Grafham.

There has been an increase in reported dwelling burglaries across our area and the police urge us all to make the house appear to be occupied when we are not at home - the simple solution is timer switches to come on at dusk. Also, ensure that gates are bolted and to consider adding the garage to any alarm system within the property.

Unknown persons forced entry into a garage and stole a ride-on lawn mower, electric power tools and garden equipment from a property in Church Road, Grafham. This happened during daylight hours.

Criminal damage to a property in Grafham Road, Ellington - fence kicked down and permanently damaged.



3 vehicles broken into in Brampton.

Too many incidents occurred in Godmanchester and Huntingdon to report individually.

The police have been receiving complaints about cyclists on footpaths in Huntingdon and the surrounding areas. Patrols are now happening especially around school finishing times so they can speak to people about NOT cycling on pavements and footpaths and also to inform anyone over 16 yrs that the offence will result in a £30 fixed penalty notice.

The other concern is of cyclists without lights.

If anyone considers this happening in the vicinity please contact the police direct, not me!

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

**All emergencies 999**

**Police control centre 0845 4564564**

**Minicom for hard of hearing 01480 422493**

**Crimestoppers 0800 555111** (anonymous)

**Anti-social behaviour 01480 388379**

**To stop unwanted mail 0845 7034599**

**To stop unwanted phone calls 0845 0700707**



**sAs** Save All Saints Association

**Carol Singing around Grafham Village Wednesday 17th December**

Sing and Celebrate the Christmas season

- Meet at the Village Hall at 6.30 p.m.
- Carol-singing tour of the village
- Finish in All Saints Church at about 8 pm for mince pies and mulled wine
- Collection for the Save All Saints Fund as we go.



**Offers please to Keith Chisholm (810694) of**

- Singers of all ages - the only ability needed is to be able to enjoy singing carols .
- Villagers willing to accept carol singers at their front doors.

**The Holy Family 'Posada'**

**7th December at 11.00 am  
All Saints Church Grafham**

The Holy Family Travelling Crib scene begins its journey around the village from this service. This is where the countdown to Christmas really begins!

If you would like to host the crib scene over night, please come along to this service and add your name to the list. Hear all about the Posada tradition.



The travelling crib set contains all the figures to create a nativity scene in your own home - for one night - as well as story books, quizzes and games.

Then simply put the set back in its box and hand on to the next person/host on the list!

We look forward to seeing you at the service.

**Service of  
9 Lessons and Carols  
Sunday 21st December  
4.30  
All Saints Grafham**



"In life I was your partner, Jacob Marley."

Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley from 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

**Grafham village scores with new safer goal posts from Football Foundation**

The young people of Grafham can now play football safely thanks to a grant received from the Football Foundation towards the cost of new safer goal posts.

Grafham Parish Council was awarded the grant after applying to the Football Foundation's Goal Post Safety Scheme. Since 1991 nine young footballers have tragically been killed in the UK by unsafe goal posts. Many more have been seriously injured by posts and crossbars that fail to meet even basic safety standards. Teaming up with the Football Association (FA), the Football Foundation has earmarked almost £4m to replace non-compliant and unsafe goal posts in England at thousands of schools, clubs and parks across the country.

Funded by the Premier League, the FA, Sport England and the government, the Football Foundation is dedicated to revitalising the grass roots of the game, constructing modern football facilities, developing football as a force for social cohesion and as a vehicle for education in communities.

Parish Councillor Katrina Goodwin thanked the Football Foundation: "These new, safer goalposts are a fantastic asset to the village and will be well used by the young people in Grafham. Football is our national sport and it is great that the Football Foundation is investing in improving the grass roots of the game."



**Save All Saints Association**

**sAs Burns Night Supper sAs**

**Saturday 24th January 2009**

**Grafham Village Hall 7.45pm for 8pm start**

**Bring your own choice of drink Tartan encouraged**

The evening could be even better than the sell-out 2008 event, with everything you could hope for from the best of Burns:

- Piping in and addressing the haggis
- The traditional Scots 3 courses
- Toasts and entertaining speeches
- Music from the pipes to greet and entertain you



**75 tickets only** -available now from Karen Stewart **810961** and at the **Minstrels and Mince Pies** evening for only **£12.50**

So that this can be as much as possible a community event, there is a limit of 4 tickets per household until Christmas Eve (if any are left by then.)

**Contacting the clergy:**

Fr Jonathan Young (rector) **01480 891695**

Fr Martin Kettle (curate) **01480 890284** or **07876 755587**

Churchwardens: Jill Dighton **811862** Jill Tyack **810157**

## Sounds and sights from the hedgerow

Lovely evening for a walk with my faithful dog, little breeze blowing but still quite warm and a fantastic full moon. Twenty minutes on and standing still, admiring the view towards the lake when, like a ghostly spectre in the sky, a beautiful barn owl glides past just above my head. I remained still, but he must have noticed me and knew I meant him no harm, turned a lazy figure eight in the sky and rose another 20 feet or so, then suddenly dived towards the ground and rose with a tasty morsel in his claws, then disappeared over Westwood Lodge. Guess it was supper time! Walked on for another 10 minutes or so along the hedgerows and looked over toward Westwood. The field just planted and looking great bathed in the moonlight; I saw a movement across the field, stood behind a tree and watched carefully as a young adult badger snuffled his way across looking for his supper I guess. He seemed in no hurry, same as me, but he carried on scratching away at the ground and snuffling along then disappeared from view. Time to go home again and saw nothing more this time but I could hear the tawny owls calling in Old Manor Park; guess they were out looking for the evening meal also! Now I know why I love the countryside.

*Grafham Resident*

## Buckden Surgery Patients Association (BSPA)

Please join us for coffee and mince pies in Buckden Methodist Hall on **Wed 3rd Dec 10.15 - 12 noon**. You will be most welcome!

**HELP!** We urgently need a coordinator for the Buckden voluntary car scheme! The job plays an essential role in providing access to the surgery for less mobile patients (it was mainly for this purpose that the BSPA was first established.) It involves 4 or 5 local phone calls a week to arrange drivers. For more details, please call me on 811650. We would also welcome a few more drivers, we have 6 but ideally need about 10.

**Are you a Carer?** The Surgery Team is keen to deliver the best possible service to all carers so please give your name to the receptionist so that you will go onto the list that is being compiled. **In January** we will welcome Dr Bundy back from maternity leave to work Wednesdays and Fridays. Another doctor will be appointed shortly to work on Mondays and Tuesdays.

*Sue Paul*

For complete article see [www.bandlp.co.uk](http://www.bandlp.co.uk) Ed.



## Grafham Cricket Club



Grafham Cricket Club held its Annual Dinner at "The Racehorse Country Inn and Restaurant at Catworth on the 7th November 2008. Shirley and Chris, proprietors of "The Racehorse" provided an appetising selection of two or three course meals, which all who attended the dinner fully appreciated. It did not seem like two months since the season had finished, but the speeches from the Captain Adrian Love; Vice Captain Ben Dickson and the Chairman Chris Dighton soon revived memories of the season's exploits, the funny, and the "what might have beens". Awards were made to the following club members:-

Best Batsman	<b>Adam Dighton</b>	
Best Bowler	<b>Christopher Brown</b>	
Most Improved Player	<b>Tom Chester</b>	
Player's Player	<b>Christopher Brown</b>	
Best Fielder	<b>Tom Clayton</b>	
Club Member of the Year	<b>Christopher Dighton</b>	

The 2009 cricket season is a long way off, but we are looking for new players for next year, so if you want to join us, or know of someone who would like to, but is a little shy; prompt them to phone. The number is at the bottom of this article. We are a friendly bunch, who love to play cricket, come and join us.



To all the *Grafham Gossip* readers and to it's Editor, Grafham Cricket Club wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

*Club Chairman, Chris Dighton 01480 811862*



## View from the Pew!

We are heartened to see how many children and adults turned out for our first two Children's Services. These appealing services are for children of all ages with activities and lively songs, accompanied by Paul on guitar and Peter on keyboard. The next Children's Service will be **18th January**, a Christingle Service.

**Exploratory digging work** has almost been completed inside and outside of the church. Two boreholes were sunk in the churchyard and samples taken. The contractors, Sam and Christian, were happy to explain what was going on and posed for photos! An Archaeologist made detailed drawings. At the time of writing, we are waiting for the holes to be filled in and for the structural engineer's reports. When peering down the holes, the sight of tree roots and redundant pipes and cabling was a bit alarming; the lack of foundations even more so - but not unexpected, apparently! The PCC has now had confirmation that ENTRUST has pledged £3,503 towards the cost of the work. This is still a long way off the total amount needed, but it is an enormous help. (Please see press release p 2)

**Despite the upheaval**, we had good attendances at our All Saints Day and Remembrance Service; this service having the highest attendance it's had for several years. Our 'Remembering Our Loved Ones' service with Marie Curie **Nov. 30th** will bring November to an end heralding the start of Advent; our build up to the blessed, joyous Christmas season! **Please come to our 7th Dec** family service when the Posada will set off on its journey around Grafham. (See Ad p 3) **On 21st December** is our very popular **Carol Service at 4.30pm**. (Please note - **no 11am Service** that day). **Christmas Eve**, make sure you get to the **4pm Crib Service** when the travelling nativity returns to church; always an endearing service which sets the tone for the **Christmas Day Eucharist at 11am**. We hope you will bring family and friends to any services over the Christmas Season. Grafham Church has a reputation for being friendly and welcoming - come and see for yourselves! Services resume on **4th January 2009 at 11am**. *Wherever you are, the clergy, PCC and Churchwardens wish you all peace and many blessings over the festive period and also for 2009. God bless and stay safe.*





**PARISH NEWS...**

You will no doubt be aware that the Brampton Recycling Centre closed on 31st October and we are now to use the centres at Alconbury or St. Neots. Since the closure of the Brampton facility, rubbish has been tipped at the roadside in Brampton Lane. The District Council will be advised of this and we hope this rubbish will be removed. The Parish Council are asking that all Grafham villagers are vigilant and take any possible information to identify fly-tippers.

Cllr Patricia Jordan also asks for your help in identifying any instances where staff at Alconbury or St. Neots are less than helpful to you when you use their facilities.

The investigations for suitable allotment facilities have progressed inasmuch as the church land so far identified is highly unlikely to be made available, because of the lack of access. However, the Parish Council are in negotiation with the owner of approximately two acres of land in Church Hill. Fuller details will be given to the founders of the Allotments Association who will be providing relevant information to interested parties.

The all-weather sports facility is now completed and access information is posted on the notice board and at the site. It is pleasing to note that good use was made of the facility during the half-term holiday. Five-a-side goal posts will be made available very soon. Tennis nets are now installed and lighting is fully functional.

**Margaret Life**, Clerk to the PC

Full minutes can be found on the village website. You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly using the details below. Editor

**Grafham Social Committee**

invites you to a **Coffee Morning** for retired residents **10.30am on Wednesday, December 10th at Pat Watson's, 10 Field Close.**

This is purely an informal social occasion for retired residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat



**Margaret Life** Clerk to the Parish Council **01480 819477**

margaret\_life\_grafham@yahoo.co.uk

**Philip Allingham** Chairman **01480 811516**

allinghams@bramblecott15.fsnet.co.uk

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

**Katrina Goodwin** **01480 810297** goodwinkatrina@hotmail.com

**Dan Hart** **01480 819086** dchart.hart@btinternet.com

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

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

**Mike Tyler** Vice Chair **01480 811244** mtyler@bedford.gov.uk

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**01480 810844** daytime  
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<http://www.grafhamconservationgroup.btk.com>

**All Weather Sports Facility**

After many months of hard work and lots of money being spent, the all-weather sports facility is finished!

You can play all sorts of games including tennis and 5 a-side football. You can use it all year round and because it's floodlit, you can use it after dark too.

It's open **Monday- Friday 8:00am - 7:00pm** on a first-come first-served basis. **After 7:00pm and on weekends and bank holidays you have to book.**

The charge is £5.00 per hour or £7.50 including floodlights.

To book please call:-

**Alan Watson** **01480 811166**

**Philip Allingham** **01480 811516**

*Georgina Allingham / Hannah Melton*

**Grafham Church Flower Club**

Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8pm we meet in the **village hall** to learn how to make different floral arrangements for home and for larger displays. There is a **£2.00** charge per session. For details call Hazel on **01480 810326**

**GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL**

has a Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing, performing arts. The hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities and **a playing field for sports activities.** For more details or to book the hall **contact Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166**

**Ellington and Grafham W.I.**

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

**The Mobile Library** route L108/120

visits **Breach Road, Grafham** on **alternate Tuesdays from 10.45 to 11.05**  
Visits are: **Dec. 2nd and 16th only.**

Renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225**

<http://hipweb.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/mobiles/index.html>

**NOW OPEN EARLIER!**

Breakfast club (2 ½ -11yr olds)

Now open from 7.30am

Monday to Friday

Playgroup sessions available for children aged 2½ to 5 yrs

Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm

Mucky Pups (parent and toddler sessions) **01480 890077**

Thursday 1.30pm - 3pm

[www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk)

**Babysitters** Anna Fozzard 15yrs **812021**

Felicity Jenkinson -Grade B

GCSE Child Development 19yrs **812328**

**Kirsty Elliot** -babysitting course 17yrs **810550**

**Kate Kelley** -babysitting course 15yrs **812179**

**Emma Robson** Qualified level 3 childcare worker 18 yrs **811701**

**Jessica Homewood** - babysitting course 17yrs **810867**

**Danielle Meyer** speaks French, help with homework 19yrs **811279**

**Marie-Claire** studying child development 15yrs **811279**

**Olivia Sinfield** Grade B GCSE Child Development 18yrs **811831**



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 All orders can be delivered to the Grafham area or sent by post, various prices and sizes available



  
 Community notices are **free** business adverts cost **£3.00 per advert**, 50p of which goes to the Restoration Fund of All Saints, Grafham



  
**Christmas Trees**  
 4ft-12ft  
**TOP QUALITY BRITISH GROWN TREES CHEAPER THAN MOST GARDEN CENTRES AND DIY STORES**  
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## Grafham Gossip

deadline dates are midnight on the following **Thursdays**  
**December 11th, January 15th**

Send us your news, views and gossip!  
 Email: **gossip@grafhamvillage.org.uk**  
 Please remember to ask permission from people in your photos before they are put on the website and printed in the Grafham Gossip.

## Aromatherapy Massage

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**Stress**

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**Both the above or whole body £20**

Contact Carole Baber on **01480 810043** or **0776 666 2197**



## To advertise

e-mail us:  
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 Advert size depends on available space.

