

Grafham Gossip

Issue 91 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 15th March

Editors' note...

March brings the Spring, new life and hopefully warmer weather. Soon our gardens will be full of daffodils and other Spring flowers to cheer us up after the Winter.



The 'must reads' in this 12 page issue include: a message from the Parish Church Council below; important advice in Neighbourhood Watch and from the police on pages 4 and 7; more local history from Sam on page 7 and news of the Southdown Sheep on page 9. There are also several informative articles from Cambs County Council on pages 6, 8 and 9, together with local notices and village info throughout. You'll find a couple of 'Wanted' notices on page 10 and ever increasing adverts, mostly on pages 10, 11 and 12. You can read two Letters to the Editors' on page 7 and we have photos on page 3. Someone had fun in the snow!

Please keep sending us your news, views and gossip. Have fun this month!

Editors, editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Grafham All Saints

In view of Father Jonathan Young's current sick leave, services will be as follows for the next few weeks:-



26th February (4th Sunday)

11.00 Ellington Eucharist No service at Grafham
4th March (1st Sunday) 11.00 Grafham

Family Service

11th March (2nd Sunday) 11.00 Ellington Eucharist
No service at Grafham

18th March (3rd Sunday) Mothering Sunday

11.00 Grafham Eucharist

25th March (4th Sunday) 11.00 Ellington Eucharist

No service at Grafham

1st April (1st Sunday) Palm Sunday

11.00 Grafham Family Service

Churchwarden - Hazel Powell 01480 810326

CHURCH RESTORATION

A message from Grafham Parish Church Council (PCC)

Last year the Parish Questionnaire revealed that most people in the village would like the church to remain. A village church is a valuable asset to a small community, not only for the religious services it provides, although that is a very important function. It is generally well known that the presence of a church in a village adds greatly to its appeal and is a focus for village life.



How would you feel if there was no longer a church in the village? Would you miss that ancient building as you walk through the churchyard on a sunny summer afternoon or winter morning? Would you miss the sound of the bells on Sunday or for someone's wedding? Would you like to think the church is here for you when you need a quiet place to reflect or pray, a baptism, wedding or funeral, a place to celebrate Easter or Christmas, even just to come and look at the festive flowers on those occasions?

Our church is approximately 800 years old and is a Grade 1 listed building. It is now in need of urgent repairs. Apart from cracks in the arches, which are currently being monitored under the supervision of a specialist engineer, repairs are needed to the roof, gutters and downpipes, drainage and masonry.

Our church architect has identified the areas of immediate concern and the first stage of repairs will cost in the region of £35,000; the full restoration of the church is currently estimated to cost in the region of £170,000. However, there is a risk that once work begins more deterioration will be discovered.

Contrary to popular belief, the church is not rich. The only money a church receives is in the weekly collections at services, fees for weddings etc. and fund-raising events such as summer and Christmas fêtes. Out of this money we have to pay an annual contribution towards the cost of a full time priest for the five parishes in our Group amounting to approximately £4,000, as well as covering the usual running costs of the building, electricity, insurance, etc.

To help raise money for the restoration and upkeep of the church building, Save All Saints was established in October 2007 and to date, with the help of the village, over £12,000 has been raised. Perhaps just as important the fund raising events, from Burn's nights to a quilt exhibition, have added to the community life in the village.



Some £6,660 has been used to pay for: a full report detailing the condition of the church; investigation into structural cracks and preliminary holding repairs to the spire and roof.

We are in the process of preparing applications for grant funding for the restoration of the church. However, the amount of any grant will depend upon our need and also the commitment that the community has made to raising funds.

You have been very generous with your support so far at church and Save All Saints events. To help ensure the preservation of our church however we need to ask you for a "one-off" donation of any amount you can afford, to help us fulfill the requirements of the grant funding application.

We will therefore be writing to everyone in the village to appeal for help. We hope and trust you will take this matter to heart, not only for the church's sake but for the sake of future generations of villagers who will be grateful the church has been saved.

Elvis at the Cinnamon Bar and Indian Restaurant, Grafham

- * On Thursday 22nd March, Elvis is coming to the Cinnamon Bar and Indian Restaurant, Grafham **Only 1 sitting from 7pm** – please book early to avoid disappointment!
- * Every Thursday night is **Banquet Night** - a 3 course meal for **£10.90**
- * Enjoy a relaxing coffee or drink in the **newly decorated** bar area
- * **15% discount** for takeaways



Please call Shamim on 812211 to book a table, order a takeaway or to arrange a function



Grafham Oil Syndicate Update



Established in the Summer of 2011, the syndicate has gone from strength to strength and the more we grow, the more money we keep in the village; over £50,000 of oil has been purchased via the syndicate so far. We have invited residents from Perry, Great Staughton and Ellington to join which help with our goal to control the carbon footprint and keep a bulk order attractive enough to attract a discount. Remember, it's FREE to join, simply email Simon on grafhamoil262@yahoo.co.uk or call 819663.

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

View from the Pew!

As you will see from the Services on the front page, some adjustments have been made to our usual pattern. This is because Father Jonathan Young is at present in hospital and will be away from his duties for some weeks. What it means for Grafham is that there will be no 8 am Eucharist on the fourth Sunday of each month until further notice. Otherwise our services will continue as usual and any alterations will be posted on the church notice board. We all wish Jonathan a speedy recovery and our love and prayers are with him and Sue at this time.

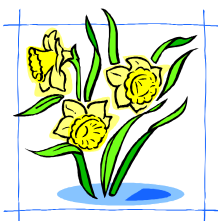


In view of Jonathan being away for our Grafham Lent lunch this year on Friday 23rd March we will say some prayers and have a reading before a frugal lunch at 8 Cedar Close. All are welcome from 12.30; for details please ring Hazel 810326. Donations for the lunch will go to Christian Aid.

You will notice the article on the church restoration project, on the front page, which the PCC are undertaking with a view to finding funding for necessary building works. We will keep readers informed of progress as information is available. If anyone in the village has experience of grant fundraising or is interested in helping us with the project, please contact Hazel Powell 01480 810326 or any member of the PCC or SAS.

Looking ahead to Mothering Sunday on 18th March we will have a Eucharist service as usual, for those who wish to receive communion. However, all are welcome to this service when small bunches of flowers will be given out to the congregation as is traditional.

Talking of flowers, one of our PCC members has been clearing away the leaves and fallen branches in the churchyard from the area in which many spring bulbs had been planted. At the time of writing they are just showing their heads which is a pleasant sight now that the snow has gone and a reminder that Spring is just around the corner!



RECYCLE YOUR OLD CLOTHES, BOOKS AND DVDS TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR SPALDWICK SCHOOL



The next collection is:

Friday 16th March at 9:00am

Please help us to raise funds for school. Now is the time to have a clear out and ask family and friends too.

As usual we would ask that you use your own bags.

WHAT WE CAN TAKE

Clothes, paired shoes, handbags, blankets, sheets, curtains, soft toys or books and DVDs (in separate box / strong bag)

Please deliver your donations to Karen at 5 Hartham Close, Grafham before the 15th March or to the school on the morning of 16th March.

If you are unable to deliver your donations please contact Claire on (01480) 896210 before the 14th March to arrange collection.

Thank you for your support

HCCA GRAFHAM BRANCH 2012 EVENTS

Saturday 17th March – Wine Tasting and Cheese Night
Tickets £12.50 per head 8pm to 11pm – Venue TBC

Saturday 29th July - Summer BBQ - 12noon - 4pm.
Please save the date, more details to follow

Saturday 6th October - Winter Event - 7.30pm - 11pm
Theme/details to be advised. Please save the date more details to follow.
Huntingdon Conservatives

PARISH NEWS...



January 2012

On 31st January, the Parish Council hosted a meeting of councillors from other local areas and representatives from the District Council to discuss the future of community transport. Three Grafham residents also attended the meeting. There was a lot of discussion concerning the existing services, what cuts were to be made and how the communities might best be served by community transport. It was clear that people would want a regular service,



rather than an "on-demand" bus and that a service was likely to be most useful when going to St Neots and the train station; the suggested route being Grafham- Perry - Gt. Staughton - Hail Weston – St. Neots and return. There was also the suggestion that the prison visitor bus could be put to use at weekends, instead of just waiting several hours to return visitors to Huntingdon Station. There has been no feedback to date on the ideas put forward, but Peter Downes is hoping for a further meeting to discuss outcomes in more detail. Information leaflets from Nene and Ouse Community Transport are available, but the question is – how best to get this information to those who might need it.

Cambridgeshire County Council is apparently pushing ahead with the plan to provide the whole of Cambridgeshire with superfast broadband connection by 2015. However, if you can't wait that long, there are alternatives, details of which can be found on the village website or by contacting our broadband champion, Chris Bulow on chris.bulow@gmail.com

The Parish Plan summary is almost ready for delivery. The PC have reviewed the plan and approved it. A copy of the plan will be delivered to every household in the village.

The village hall refurbishment plan is pushing ahead and

we hope to be able to take advantage of a charitable distribution of equipment and furniture, possibly in March.



A Parish Council representative will be meeting with members of Save All Saints and the Social Committee to discuss early arrangements for celebrating the Diamond Jubilee. If you haven't done so already, you can let the PC know your opinions and preferences by completing a short survey which you can find on the village website. Alternatively you can just call someone from one of these groups and tell them what you think (in the nicest possible way please!)

Information was put to the Parish Council about the feasibility of providing Grafham with a Community Shop. Various funding streams from the District Council, Awards for All and the sale of redeemable shares to residents can be made available to help with the set-up. There will have to be some discussion over the siting of a shop and it will be necessary to form a committee to manage the set-up and apply for funding. This committee would need to include professional skills such as accountancy, retail experience, legal and project management etc. There would also be a requirement for a band of volunteers to staff the shop. If you are interested in taking any part in this project or have any questions about it please e-mail



margaret_life_grafham@yahoo.co.uk or contact any of your Parish Councillors. There is a one-click contact point for the all Parish Councillors on the village website.

There is a lot of heavy traffic using the roads through Grafham while work is carried out around the Water. If you notice any damage to the roadways or verges as a result of this traffic, please let the Parish Council know.

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

Full minutes can be read on the village web site www.grafhamvillage.org.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 **Tracie Lord** Tracielorduk@aol.com

David King 01480 812430 davidking@hawkeyesystems.com **Andrew Duckworth** andrew.duckworth1@tesco.net

Alastair Watson Alastair.watson403@btinternet.com **Kevin Sharp** kevin.sharp@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Between January 17th and 18th overnight, a theft occurred from a barn backing onto Church Road and two bales of sawdust horse bedding was stolen. The crime is being investigated.



Last month I published a warning from the police about metal theft, but what happened on the evening of January 30th between 7.30pm and midnight is staggering. A resident living in Haycraft Close had the catalytic converter sawn off from the rear of their vehicle. The scrap value of this would be £40 but the person in question has been quoted £1200 to have it replaced.

Everyone will recall the letter in the last issue of the *Grafham Gossip* whereby a resident had their vehicle stolen from their drive. This seems to be a widespread problem as highlighted by Crimestoppers. (See article below.)

Anyone can check crime related matters through the website: www.ourwatch.org.uk your local area and type in your post code.

IMPORTANT – THE NEW NUMBER – 101

Cambridgeshire Police have launched a new number providing people with a new way to get in touch about non-emergency issues.

101 is now the main number to call Cambridgeshire Police when it is less urgent than 999

As well as making the police more accessible to communities, it is intended that 101 will reduce the number of inappropriate 999 calls. There will be a single flat rate charge of 15p per call, regardless of the duration, time of day, mobile or landline.

YOU SHOULD CALL 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response.

For example:

Stolen Cars / if you suspect drug dealing or taking / to speak to our Local Policing Team.

In an emergency, always call 999 when you need an immediate response.

For example:

When a crime is in progress / someone suspected of a crime is nearby / when there is a danger to life / when violence is being used or threatened

101 will not:

Change the way in which we respond to non-emergency calls / connect people to a large national call centre / result in calls receiving a lower priority than if 999 had been used for non emergency use.

101 should not be used to report:

Fly tipping / noise pollution / stray dogs

These should be initially reported to Huntingdon Council.

CRIMESTOPPERS

I have been advised that a new policing structure is being put into place by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Alan Mackender Lawrence, who supported Grafham for many years, will be representing us with Crimestoppers in the hope that we can get more information from their sources.

On the weekend of 3rd February in Huntingdon, an X-registered Silver Vauxhall Astra was stolen from Mayfield Crescent and index plates from an Audi A4 in Norfolk Road and also from a Ford Kia in Deal Close. If anyone has any information please call the police on 101.

During December, 10 detections and a further 6 persons received convictions from information supplied to Crimestoppers making a total of 112 detections and 78 convictions since last April.

75 new leads have been received last month.

A rogue trader is operating through the area by the name of Gary Howard targeting the elderly and vulnerable for unnecessary house maintenance and grossly overcharging them for the work. This male has a team of 6 associates working with him.

I have been asked again to request you report any unsolicited callers to the police.

James Snell 07951 069 565

email: Jamie2701@aol.com

All emergencies **999**

Non-emergencies **101**

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

Burglary Warning

There have been no further burglaries in the village following the break-in at Cedar Close in January.

Residents are asked to continue to remain vigilant and consider some of the following precautions:



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

- **Alarms:** Install an alarm - even an empty box on the side of your home can be enough to put off a burglar. Burglars hate alarms as it cuts down the amount of time they have in a house to conduct a search and time is gold dust.
- **Dogs:** Burglars do not like being bitten and they hate dogs barking. A 'beware of the dog' sign can be enough to put off an intruder, regardless of whether a dog is present.
- **Lock up your shed:** Offenders do not like carrying break-in tools as they may be searched en-route to a burglary. They often raid sheds to get their hands on tools to burgle. Burglars also like to store stolen goods and return for them later so they are not caught with items just after a break-in.
- **Strong communities** are also a deterrent for burglars: Make friends with your neighbours or join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Report any suspicious activity to the police.

Investigations into the Cedar Close burglary continue and anyone with information about the offence is asked to contact the police on 101.

Another police message can be found on page 7

**GET CLOSER
AND SUPPORT THE FORCE!**

YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS YOU

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



Join Grafham Wildlife and Conservation Group
Call Sam Malt on
01480 810844 daytime
01480 811654 evenings

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

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to Coffee Mornings at 10.30am on Wednesday, March 14th at Frances Knight's 18 Church Road.

These are informal social occasion for residents of the village. Please come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.



The Mobile Library

Route H24 visits Breach Road, Grafham on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 10.40 to 11.00. The next visit is 28th March.

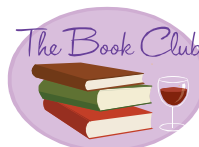


For renewals or enquiries call **0845 045 5225** or visit <https://ibistro.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/WEB/0/29/491/X/3>

Do you enjoy reading?

Come along and join us for informal Social evenings. We are always looking for new members.

The next meeting is the last Tuesday in March at 8pm.



For more information please contact **Tina on**

07711 012957

Ellington and Grafham W.I.

At the meeting on 6th March, Ms Sue Stevens, a local chocolatier, will demonstrate some of the techniques involved in making her gorgeous hand made chocolates and she'll have some Easter chocolates for sale. For a fun evening and a chance to buy your Easter chocolates without having to walk round the shops, give me a ring and I'll happily give you a lift.
01480 819589 Heather Brown



Paperback books in good condition

If you have any unwanted paperbacks in good condition, we would be pleased to accept them to stock our church bookstall.



Please leave in the church porch. Many thanks!



Playtimes
Spaldwick

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

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 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.

If anyone in the village has foliage in their garden that they would be willing to donate for church decoration for festivals, please let us know, we would be very grateful.

Babysitters Danielle 20yrs 811279

- 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 experienced with newborn-14yr olds **812354**



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**.



The Olympics 2012 – a great opportunity to celebrate and get involved



For the sporting....

As Olympic fever spreads across the country, many of us might feel inclined to get involved in some new sporting activities, whether in a competitive manner or just for a bit of fun.

Numerous events are going on nationally – the Big Dance Week in July, the 'Gold Challenge' where you can raise money for charity by trying 5, 10, 20 or 30 Olympic and Paralympic sports, 'Hopscotch to Victory' which is a world record attempt taking place in June, and for those who fancy something a little less strenuous, there is 'All the Bells' which calls on residents to ring any kind of bell they can between 8am and 8.03am on 27th July. More information about these activities and many more can be found on the main Olympic and Paralympic website www.london2012.com. If you do not have access to the internet and would like to find out more about the national activities, telephone 0845 2672012.

There will also be many sporting events and activities taking place locally. These will be listed on www.livingsport.co.uk or you can contact LIVING SPORT on 01487 841559. Events will also be added to the www.cambridgeshire.net website as they are announced. If you have an event planned that you would like to publicise, it can be added to this website. If you have a disability, you can find out what activities you can get involved in locally at www.abilityplusgroup.co.uk, by calling the Ability PLUS Group on 01487 849929 or by contacting your local District Council.

For the not so sporting....

The Olympics also bring people together and are a reason to celebrate. Large events will be taking place across the county along the Olympic Torch route as it passes through Peterborough on 3rd July, Cambridge (as part of the Big Weekend on Parker's Piece) on 7th and 8th July and St Ives and Huntingdon on 8th July. Route details and times will be announced by London 2012 nearer the time.

Local people are also being encouraged to organise their own celebrations and the **2012 Local Leaders** initiative has been set up to help you do just that. By signing up, you will receive information on a range of themed celebration ideas and be in the front row to receive free London 2012 event materials. You can find out more at www.london2012.com/get-involved or by telephoning 0845 2672012.



The County Council is keen to encourage local events and street parties, and has added simple guidance to getting a street party road closure on their website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/trafficmanagement/events/ontheroad/street_parties.htm. If you don't have internet access, you can call 01223 507176 to arrange this or to discuss any other events that you would like to organise.

Cultural events will also be taking place, including the UK's biggest ever cultural festival and the 'Walk the World' campaign which encourages residents to join the race to find local connections to all 206 nations taking part in the Olympics (see www.walktheworld.org.uk). Information on local cultural events will also be available on www.cambridgeshire.net as they are announced.

And finally, if you have been inspired by the 70,000 people who have registered as Olympic and Paralympic volunteers, you can sign up to volunteer at local events at www.volunteercambsandpboro.org.uk



Huntingdon 10k Charity Run 2012

The Huntingdon 10k Charity Run will be run at Alconbury Airfield Enterprise Zone site on Father's Day, Sunday June 17th it will also feature a new 3k fun run open to anyone of any age or experience.

A community fair will be an added attraction at the event which is organised by Hullabaloo. This is a new club for Huntingdonshire combining opportunities for socialising with the chance to participate in charity fundraising events and service to benefit the local and wider community. For more information visit www.hullabaloo-hunts.org



Race Director Bob Hulstrom said: "The race has raised more than £8,000 for local good causes since 2010 and we hope to double that in 2012. This is a local race, organised by local volunteers to benefit local good causes. As well as the donation of all the profits from the race to local children's charities, runners can also raise personal sponsorship for the causes closest to their own hearts."

There will be 1,000 places in the multi-terrain race which is open to everyone from novices to experienced club runners. For more information visit www.huntingdon10kcharityrun.co.uk You can also follow the Race Director on Twitter @RaceBobHunts10k.

Phone scam warning

POLICE are warning people to be vigilant after reports of a telephone scam.



Creating a safer Cambridgeshire

Several people have contacted police after receiving calls requesting their bank details.

The scammers, who have the name, date of birth and address of the recipient, claimed they were entitled to a refund from their banks before asking for their details.

When they refused to give the details, the caller threatened to black list their account.

A police spokesman said: "I would urge people to remain vigilant and never disclose personal information such as bank account details over the phone."

"If you get a call offering you something that sounds too good to be true, it generally is."



Rabbit Rabbit Rabbit

One very large, young, black and white rabbit requires a new home.

Approx 9mths old.

Free to a good home

Call Clint 01480 812590

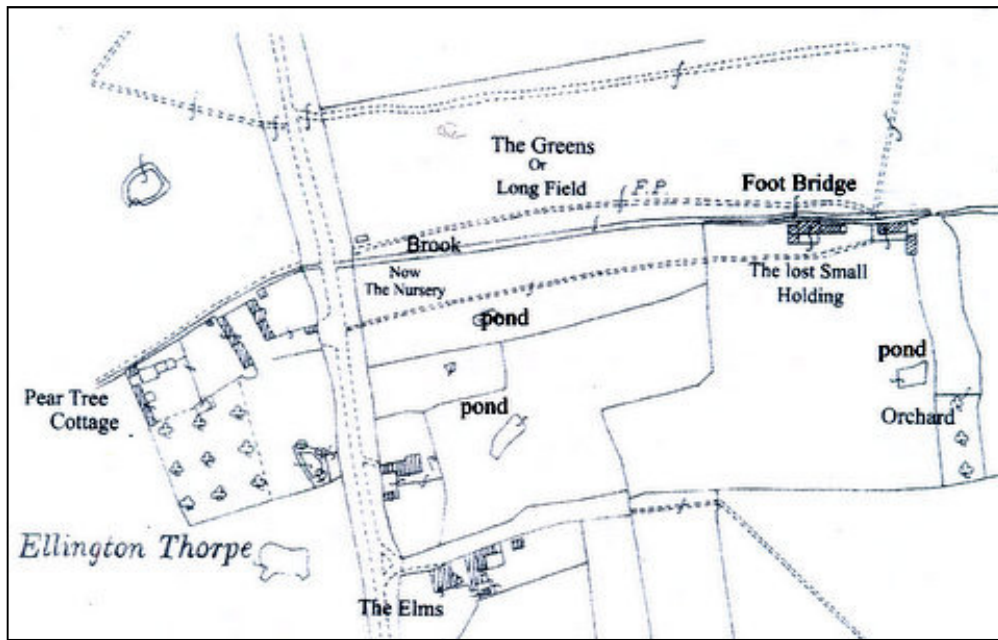
or 07799 640476



The House by the Footbridge in Ellington Thorpe

Sam Malt

On the eastern edge of Ellington Thorpe Nursery, a pear tree still stands, the last reminder of the old orchard which was part of a smallholding that time has forgotten. The old map shows a house with buildings and ponds to water livestock. This holding belonged to Buckden Charities and was said to be leased to ex-service men.



Letters to the Editors

Super-fast broadband

Having read with great interest the letter from Chris Bulow in February's *Grahams Gossip* (sic) regarding the possibility of higher-speed broadband in the village I immediately visited the NextGenUs website for more information. Following a recent upgrade to the BT Exchange in Buckden my BT Broadband nominal speed has been increased from 1.2Mbps to 1.6Mbps but it's still not fast enough to watch streamed film or TV so an alternative solution could be attractive.

Unfortunately, the pricing model of the NextGenUs solution means it is out of the question as far as I am concerned. £19.95 per month for 10Mbps is just about acceptable but the 10GB monthly cap precludes streaming; the next price step removes that limit but, at £29.95 per month, is twice what I currently pay BT for broadband and all my calls.

So, I am sorry, Chris; I wish you good luck and hope you'll receive the support you need from other residents but, as they say, include me out on this one. I shall have to wait for BT to eventually provide the performance within my existing contract.

A Grafham Resident

The Wyvern



Residents of The Wyvern wish to make villagers aware that the land and hedgerow opposite each house up to the farmland border belongs to each individual house owner and is therefore not common land. They would ask individuals and particularly dog owners to respect this and not take short cuts across the grass into the field. At this time of the year especially, there are many bulbs coming up and these are getting trodden on.

A Grafham Resident

What are your news, views and comments? 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



Cambridgeshire Warm Homes, Healthy People

A number of agencies in Cambridgeshire are providing extra help to support people at risk of poor health due to severe weather this winter.



Please see below for the help that is available.

There may be a need to satisfy eligibility checks to receive some of these services and we will help with this process.

For more information please contact

01945 589953 or 01223 714433 or 07880 781624
or email whhp.countyproject@care-network.org.uk

This project is funded through the Department of Health

Countywide help available...

Care Network Cambridgeshire Information and Help – information on how to keep warm in your home, practical help with such things as shopping and collecting medication in bad weather plus information and advice on other organisations who may be able to help (For any vulnerable adult) Also talks to groups about the Warm Homes Healthy People project and how to access the support available

Age UK Cambridgeshire Energy Efficiency – a free energy assessment, free installation of practical energy efficiency measures and an information pack (For people aged 60 or over)

Age UK Cambridgeshire Shopping Project – help by a trained advisor to place on line orders for groceries (For vulnerable people aged 60 or over)

Age UK Cambridgeshire Winter Information – information on how to keep warm in your home, other winter measures and advice on other organisations who may be able to help you (For people aged 60 or over)

Arthur Rank Hospice – grants to meet fuel bills, obtain warmer clothing, and delivered hot meals for those suffering with a life limiting illness. Other discretionary grants may also be available where a clinician has identified a need.

Citizen's Advice Bureau - advice tailored to individual circumstances on benefit entitlement, grants, money advice and best energy deals

Children's Centres - sessions on cooking warm healthy meals for families with young children

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation – funding support for groups offering support to homeless people or those with mental health issues in order to boost their capacity to respond during cold weather

People can also be referred to ...

Huntingdonshire District Council – vulnerable households affected by cold homes may be able to access emergency measures through a crisis fund which can provide loft and cavity wall insulation, carbon monoxide monitors and 'warmometers'.



Staying independent, safe and well

Adult Social Care Roadshow is to visit libraries.

Library visitors will have chance to find out about local services to help them stay independent, safe and well at a series of roadshows taking place throughout 2012. The roadshows will be visiting libraries in Huntingdonshire from the end of January. Each roadshow will feature a display of information leaflets, lunchtime presentations about assistive technology resources to help you remain independent and Trading Standards recommended trading scheme – Buy with Confidence.

The roadshow will visit the following libraries in Huntingdonshire:

St Ives	20 th February – 17 th March
Huntingdon	16 th April – 12 th May
St Neots	29 th October – 24 th November

Presentations of assistive technology resources will take place every Tuesday during each roadshow (times vary, check with the library,) also demonstrations of Your Life, Your Choice - Cambridgeshire's adult social care website will be taking place on the last Saturday of each of the roadshows.

For more information about the roadshows, the schedule, or if you are interested in attending and require the dates of the lunchtime or Saturday sessions visit :

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/leisure/libraries

or tel: 01223 699650

or email: yourlifeyourchoice@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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A Shepherd's Tale

February 2012

Patrick Goldsworthy

It seems ages since I wrote anything about the sheep. Family issues and the fact that the shepherd's calendar is repetitious means that I was not sure I had anything news worthy to say! Anyway as I write this we are on the cusp of lambing. We have come a long way in the last five years: I am amazed that this is my fifth lambing at Grafham and how the flock has grown from 3 to 42 ewes. We also have a number of "followers": rams, ram lambs and replacement ewes which bring the total head count to 72.

So what's been happening, when I last wrote tupping was in full swing and I am pleased to say the rams have done a good job. Every ewe was tupped and when it came to scanning all but one ewe was in lamb. The empty ewe had been tupped, but not every ewe will hold to the first tupping and in this case there had been a conception that failed after 10 days and then it takes a while for the ewe to come into season again. Typically a shepherd expects 1 to 5% of ewes to be empty. I could have left her with the ram for longer but having one laggard ewe lambing 6 weeks after everything else is a real hassle. Our predicted lambing percentage is 161%. It includes one set of quads and two sets of triplets. The first batch of 22 ewes is due to lamb from the 20th Feb. The challenge will be to keep these and everything else alive.



The mild dry winter - until the last few weeks - has meant that we were able to keep the ewes outside for a lot longer than last year. This has saved on winter feed. A farming friend at Southoe also offered free grazing on 15 acres of ancient pasture which has proved ideal for last years ewe lambs. We eventually brought all the flock in on 31st December as with extra winter feeding they were starting to poach the ground. Indoors, I have a lot more control over their rations and getting the nutrition right in the weeks before lambing is critical. Now the ewes, especially those with twins, are looking very fat and do a lot of huffing and puffing as they move around; one ewe, who looks ready to explode and sounds like steam train, wisely sits by the trough so she just has to twist her head to nibble some hay.

Since the above was written, lambs have started to arrive as you can see in these photos! Ed



If you need help or advice with daily living – just AskSARA!



Cambridgeshire
County Council

an informed choice about which equipment will best meet your needs, and where to get this locally.

A website offering help and advice to people with a range of day-to-day needs is now available with information localised for people living in Cambridgeshire:

<http://www.asksara.org.uk/?auth=cambridgeshire>

AskSARA is a self-help guide that enables you to identify equipment that may help in your daily life. It will take you through a series of guided questions leading to general advice and recommendations on what equipment would be suitable to meet your particular needs.

It provides information on manufacturers and local suppliers of equipment including retail outlets, mail order and demonstration centres. You will receive a review of the recommended equipment so that you can compare and make

AskSARA is easy to use and widely accessible regardless of age or ability. It can be used with little or no training and easily understood without the need for supervision by a professional carer. The questions cover topics under three headings: Your Health; Your Home; and Daily Activities.

AskSARA ensures that the information that people get is useful and reflects what is available to them locally. It will be featured as part of the Staying Independent, Safe and Well roadshows taking place in libraries across the county during 2012. (See article 'Staying independent, safe and well' on page 8.)

For more information about AskSARA or the roadshows please see: www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social

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- **MOW** at last once a week now; we suggest you have your mower serviced and blade replaced or sharpened.
- **FERTILISER and WEED CONTROL.** This is the time to apply treat weeds and feed the lawn. The fertiliser is predominately Nitrogen in a slow release form, but it may also need Phosphate and Potassium too as vital trace elements to promote a vibrant lawn.
- **WEEDS in PATIOS and DRIVEWAYS.** These can look unsightly at this time of year, but we can spray a total weed killer to keep them weed free for up to 6 months.



Reader Offer

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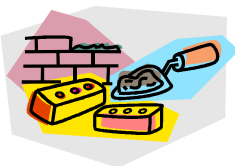
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