

# Grafham Gossip



**Issue 166 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 17th January**

## Editors' note...

Here's another packed newsletter for you! Must reads include: new Christmas products to order from the shop on page 5; the history of ringing church bells on Armistice day, page 7; what to do with odd balls of wool on page 9; how to book the Travelling Nativity Box on page 13; an entertaining tale and something to think about from Mike on page 11; news of the latest churchyard makeover on page 15; as well as 'Thoughts about Nectar' from David C. and the next instalment of 'Times Gone By' from Dave A.

Remember to look up all the Christmas Services and events taking place in December. Grafham's events are listed in the Church Services on page 2 and there is also a selection of the services and events that will be going on in Grafham, Ellington and Brampton, with details of how to view the complete list, on page 8. Have a look at the Application for a Premises Licence on page 7, which is the next step in the community pub opening in Grafham.

Remember to read all the notices and adverts which can be found mostly on the even pages.

Please send in your news, views, photos and gossip in good time for the next deadline, midnight on Thursday 17th January. The next issue will be February 2019.

**Thank you very much to everyone who has helped us supply and distribute the Grafham Gossip throughout the year.**

**We wish you and all our readers a very merry Christmas and happy New Year!**

Have Fun!

Editors, [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk)



A fun evening of Christmas carols and curry! What's not to like?

The Cinnamon will be putting on a two course buffet for £14/head

Between courses we'll sing some Christmas carols together and enjoy festive cheer

Feel free to come along as a group or on your own

**To book please call:**

**Shamim at Cinnamon 01480 811316** and say that you want to book in for Curry and Carols on Monday 17th December.

We're expecting this to be a popular event so book early!

## Travelling Nativity Box

Grafham's Nativity set will be travelling round the village again this year, starting out on **Sunday 2nd December.**



To find out what is included in the box and how to host it for a day, read the article on page 13.

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## Grafham All Saints December/January Services

Every Wednesday morning



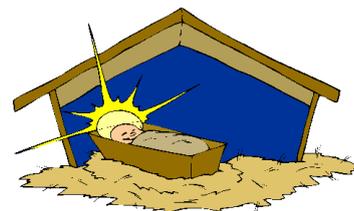
09.00 - 09.30 Morning Prayer – a short service open to all  
Download the Daily Prayer app from the [Church of England website](http://www.churchofengland.org) available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#) - join us in spirit from home if you wish, but preferably please come along and help Mike, Jill and Hazel read some bible passages to discuss and pray for any concerns, local or personal.

25th November (4th Sunday) 19.00 Taize service - Lay led   
29th November (Thursday) 10.00 Holy Communion led by Mike Bigg

2nd December (1st Sunday) 10.30 Family Service - Lay led

16th December (3rd Sunday) 16.00 Carol Service followed by mulled wine and Christmas cake

17th December (Monday) 19.30 [Curry and Carols at the Cinnamon](#)  
23rd December (4th Sunday) 10.30 All Together Holy Communion Service \*  
24th December 15.00 Crib Service  
25th December 10.30 Christmas Day Holy Communion



6th January (1st Sunday) 10.30 Family Service - Lay led

*\*On Fourth Sundays, an 'All Together' Holy Communion Service rotates between the three churches  
For more information on church services and other events, visit [www.eastleightonstone.com](http://www.eastleightonstone.com) and click on [Calendar](#)  
For all Christmas Services and Events in the Parish visit [www.eastleightonstone.com/christmas2018](http://www.eastleightonstone.com/christmas2018)*

Contacting the Clergy

Revd Jason Taylor (Rector) Rectory, 15 Church Road, Brampton PE28 4PF  
[rector@stmarym.co.uk](mailto:rector@stmarym.co.uk) 01480 453341 or 07807 118070  
Revd Mike Bigg (Curate) [mike@eastleightonstone.com](mailto:mike@eastleightonstone.com) 07380 809377

## View from the Pew

It doesn't seem long since I was writing the 2017/18 'View' article. How time flies and how confusing with what has seemed almost summer weather some days this November! The trees are certainly a gorgeous colour this year.



Our November services have been well attended. We were pleased to welcome Rob Clark at our All Saints service. Rob gave the talk beginning with a delightful story of a conversation between two unborn twins - is there life after delivery? Our first Taize service was a great success, much to the relief of Jill Tyack who had worked many hours preparing for it. Nineteen people took part in the chanting, listening to readings and prayers. Over 50 candles were burning at this lovely



meditative service. The second Taize service (25th November) may have taken place by the time the Gossip reaches you but look out for further service times next year.

Our mid-week communions too are popular and are followed by coffee and cake - a pleasant time to chat and catch up with friends and news. The next mid-week communion is on 29th November at 10am.

Almost the entire congregation of Grafham went down to Ellington for the Remembrance Day service. The names were read out of the fallen from both villages. It was good to hear the bells rung at both churches to commemorate this special day.

By the time the Gossip is published Christmas preparations will be in full swing. Our Advent service on 2nd December will see the Posada (travelling nativity) begin its journey round the village. Please contact Jill (810157) if you would like to have the box during December. There are more details about it on page 13.

Our Carol Service on 16th at 4pm always attracts a large congregation and is a wonderful "warm-up" to Christmas, especially helped by the mulled wine afterwards! We have hand warmers and blankets too! All our other Christmas services are listed above and a range of services across our three churches are on the flyer delivered to your door but also listed on page 8.

Our first January family service is on 6th at 10.30. We wish all our readers a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

## PARISH NEWS November 2018

A report on the results of the Speedwatch Campaign has been produced. The results are mixed and contained in a report issued by Mike Brooks, the Co-ordination Officer. A copy of the report is available. Please contact a member of the speedwatch team for details. Brief points to note as follows:

- In September, 6% of vehicles passing through the sessions are shown to have been speeding – 50% of these live outside the local area
- Up to 11th October, 3% of vehicles have been shown to be speeding, 42% of these live outside the local area.

It was suggested that the monitoring unit attached to a lamp-post in Breach Road is not in the best place to monitor speed of traffic as it is placed too close to the double bend where almost all traffic will slow down to negotiate the bends.

The Speedwatch signs, which are on order could take as long as three months to arrive.

The Parish Council thanked the Speedwatch team for their efforts. All information gathered will be used at the Local Highways Initiative meeting to be held on 10th December 2018, when David Russell will represent the parish in a bid to gain funding for traffic control measures.

The Parish Council is hopeful that work on resurfacing the all-weather pitch will commence very soon. A certain amount of paperwork is to be completed before the money will be made available.

We are sorry to report that Claire Hodder has resigned from the Parish Council. This leaves a vacancy which



we hope to be able to fill by co-option as soon as the District Council is able to confirm that no election will be necessary.

The subject of waste bins in the village was discussed, in particular the bin by the bench at Church Road, which became the subject of village discussion recently. The District Council have decided to charge the PC for the emptying of this bin, despite having emptied it for several years and regarding it as their bin. This matter will be taken up again with HDC as the bin is not owned by the Parish Council.

The issue of overgrown and dangerous hedges on Brampton Lane will be taken up by Ian Gardener with our Highways Engineer. We hope to come to a firm agreement on responsibility for these hedges on the highway.

Each of the Parish Councillors has agreed to produce a brief CV for exchange between them and possible publication to the village. It is hoped, in this way, to be able to direct issues to the councillor best placed to deal with them.

The poor state of the hedge on Brampton Road at the playground has been noted and it was agreed to search for someone who would be able to cut and maintain the condition of the hedge in a more pleasing state.

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 11th December 2018 – 7.30pm at the village hall. Please attend if you have any comments or observations on any of the above issues, or if you have anything you would like to bring to the attention of the Council.

**Margaret Life** Parish Clerk  
07780 119311 [malife434@gmail.com](mailto:malife434@gmail.com)

**Grafham Parish Council** You may contact your parish councillors through the parish clerk or directly.

**Philip Allingham** Chairman 01480 811516 [philip\\_allingham@sky.com](mailto:philip_allingham@sky.com)

**David Russell** [DPRussell@live.co.uk](mailto:DPRussell@live.co.uk)

**Ian Gardener** Vice Chair 01480 812821 [idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk](mailto:idg@asc-geomatics.co.uk)

**Roy Harold** [roy.harold5@btinternet.com](mailto:roy.harold5@btinternet.com)

**Alastair Watson** [Alwatson.parishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Alwatson.parishcouncil@gmail.com)

**Jo Dunn** [\\_pink.pony.princess@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:_pink.pony.princess@hotmail.co.uk)

Grafham's County Councillor



**Peter Downes**  
07765 833486  
[peter.downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:peter.downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Grafham's District Councillor



**Darren Tysoe** 01480 388310  
[darren.tysoe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:darren.tysoe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)  
Grove Cottage, Malting Lane, Ellington, PE28 0AA  
Follow me on Twitter [@darrentysoe](https://twitter.com/darrentysoe) and [twitter.com/darrentysoe](https://twitter.com/darrentysoe)  
Receive my updates on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/clldmtysoe](https://www.facebook.com/clldmtysoe)



**Website:** [www.grafham.org.uk](http://www.grafham.org.uk)

**E-mail:** [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk)

If you can spare an hour once every few months to help dust and vacuum the church please contact:

[editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk)



If you'd like to write a 'one-off' article or a regular feature for the *Grafham Gossip*, send it by email to [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk)

### **The Labour Party in Huntingdon**

*Our next monthly meetings are*

**Mondays 17th December and 21st January  
7.30pm at The Medway Centre**

*More details on Facebook*

<https://www.facebook.com/HuntingdonLabourParty/>  
or via the website:

<http://www.huntingdonlabourparty.org.uk>

*Come along and get involved in helping your neighbours and the community!*

Grafham Village Hall

Activities & Classes 2018

Mondays	Line Dancing	7.30pm
Tuesdays	Pilates	9.45am
	Art Club	1.30pm
Wednesdays	Little Fishes (pre-school children)	10.00am
	Yoga	6.15-7.15pm
	Karate	7.30pm
Thursdays	Kick Boxing	7.00pm
Saturdays	Chinese Martial Arts	10.30am

For enquiries about classes and about booking the hall, please telephone 07711 769911

*Read more about village hall activities on page 16*

## Huntingdonshire Music School

*Saturdays at Hinchingsbrooke School*

### Music Lessons & Ensembles

*Music for everyone  
all ages, all abilities*

*We also teach music lessons at local schools*

✉ [enquiries@huntsmusicschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@huntsmusicschool.org.uk)

☎ 01480 58 48 67

🏠 [HuntsMusicSchool.org.uk](http://HuntsMusicSchool.org.uk)



### Playtimes Pre-school

Ferriman Road, Spaldwick PE28 0TQ  
Tel: 01480 890077

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

We have spaces available for 15 and 30 hours free government funding!

We offer: Breakfast club 8 - 9am Preschool 9am- 3pm  
Out of school club 3.30 - 6pm

### Parish of

### East Leightonstone

To join the mailing list and receive the regular newsletter visit

<http://www.eastleightonstone.com>

and click **News**



## Deadline

Please send us all your adverts, notices, news, views and gossip ASAP and definitely by midnight on

**Thurs 17th January  
2019 for the  
February issue**

*Thanks, Ed*

[editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk)

## Talking Shop

By the time you read this, your community shop will have celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is a wonderful asset for the village and we really appreciate the ways you show your support. Many of you have bought shares and several people have recently set up a monthly donation.

We have a good team of volunteers but we always need more people to help us cover our long opening hours. If you are interested in becoming involved with the shop please pop in and see one of us. We are a friendly bunch and you will be sure of a warm welcome.

You will have seen leaflets coming through your doors giving updates on the shop's position. The winter months are always a challenge as visitors to the village diminish and we rely on local trade. With your excellent support we met our sales target for October. This was, in fact, a slight improvement on the same month last year so thank you and do keep coming in.

We have applied for several grants and recently heard that we have won our bid for £500 from the Skipton Building Society. The Parish Council has agreed to give us £250 per month until next April and the Brampton Church Land Charity has promised us £1500 to be paid in instalments of £300 per month. This is all greatly appreciated and will help with running costs during the winter months. We are currently waiting to hear if we have won a bid for funding from the Aviva Community Fund. Thank you to all those who took the time to vote for us online.

Fireworks night was well attended as usual and this resulted in us taking over £530 on that day which was fantastic. Thanks go to Keith Jenkinson for stepping behind the counter.



## \*NEW FOR CHRISTMAS\*

Available to order now –  
**Grasmere Farm Classic Christmas Essentials**

- 16 Cocktail Pigs in Blankets**
- 400g Lincolnshire Sausage Meat**
- 360g Lincolnshire Chipolatas**
- 400g Stuffing of your choice (Sage & Onion, Cranberry or Orange & Chestnut)**
- 200g Streaky Bacon**
- 4lb Gammon Joint**
- 50g pack of Crackles**

**All supplied in premium shopping bag for £35.00**

Order forms are in the shop  
**Orders must be placed by Fri 14<sup>th</sup> December**



This will be the last 'Talking Shop' before Christmas so we'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our opening times during the Christmas period will be:

<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	.....normal hours
<b>Christmas Day</b>	.....CLOSED
<b>Boxing Day</b>	.....CLOSED
<b>Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b>	.....9am – 2pm
<b>Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b>	.....9am – 2pm
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b>	.....9am – 2pm
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	.....9am – 2pm
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b>	.....9am – 2pm
<b>New Year's Day</b>	.....CLOSED

*Lynn and Paul*

*(For normal opening hours see page 12. Ed)*

## Home-Start Cambridgeshire's aim is for every child to have the best possible start in life

The charity supports families across the county who are going through difficult times. We are in an exciting period of change and are keen to appoint two trustees who are passionate about supporting families with young children, keen to make a difference, creative and who enjoy being part of a team.

Both will be enthusiastic promoters of the charity and will be able to give time and energy to their role. Ideally one of them would have significant experience in HR.

Contact the office on 01480 700242 or email [office@homestartcambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:office@homestartcambridgeshire.co.uk)

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



**Support and friendship for families**

Home-Start  
 Cambridgeshire

# Has the bin man bin Mam?"



Wednesdays Blue bin (recycling) and Black bin (refuse) - alternate weeks  
 Every other Thursday - Green bin (garden waste)

If you require any further advice or information about waste and recycling services, call 01480 388640 between 8.45am and 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.45am and 4.30pm on Fridays or visit [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins)



## Note the changes in our bin days over Christmas and New Year

December						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	Blu	G	7	8	9
10	11	Blk	13	14	15	16
17	18	Blu	G	21	22	23
24	25	26	Blk	28	29	30

January						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	Blu	G	5	6
7	8	Blk	10	11	12	13
14	15	Blu	G	18	19	20
21	22	Blk	24	25	26	27
28	29	Blu	G			

## Household waste and recycling collection arrangements for Christmas and New Year

You can download your waste collection calendar by visiting [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins)

Please ensure your waste is out for collection by 6am on your scheduled collection day

You can keep up to date with waste and recycling information by following:

- Facebook - HuntingdonshireRecycles
- Twitter - HDCRecycles
- Instagram - Recycleforhuntingdonshire

Real Christmas trees can be put alongside the green bin for composting in January. If it's taller than the bin please chop the tree down to the right size please.

The **Household Recycling Centres** accept a range of materials for recycling and close only from 1pm on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Find out more at: [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)



Normal	Change to
Monday 24 December.....	Saturday 22 December
Tuesday 25 December.....	Monday 24 December
<b>Wednesday 26 December....</b>	<b>Thursday 27 December</b>
Thursday 27 December.....	Friday 28 December
Friday 28 December.....	Saturday 29 December
Monday 31 December.....	Monday 31 December
Tuesday 1 January.....	Wednesday 2 January
<b>Wednesday 2 January.....</b>	<b>Thursday 3 January</b>
<b>Thursday 3 January .....</b>	<b>Friday 4 January</b>
Friday 4 January.....	Saturday 5 January



Send your news, views, photos and gossip to [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk)



### Useful Phone Numbers

All emergencies **999**  
 Non-emergencies **101**  
 Cambridge Constabulary HQ  
**01480 456111**  
 Minicom for hard of hearing  
**01480 422493**

Action Fraud **0300 123 2040**  
 Crimestoppers **0800 555111**  
 (anonymous)  
 To report anti-social behaviour in  
 Grafham **01480 388379** or **387097** or  
 e-mail:  
[Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk) or  
[tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk)

To stop unwanted phone calls  
**08450 700707**  
 To stop unwanted mail  
**08457 034599**  
**Power cut Call 105 or**  
**0800 31 63 105 or**  
**text POWER and**  
**your postcode to 80876**



## LICENSING ACT 2003

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE**

Notice is given that I, Christopher Brown, have on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018 applied to Huntingdonshire District Council as the Licensing Authority for a Premises Licence

for The Pub at Grafham Ltd (The Grafham Trout)

of Next to Grafham Village Hall,  
Brampton Road, Grafham,  
Cambridgeshire, PE28 0UR

for The sale of alcohol, occasional live entertainment, events, and quiz evenings.

The proposed licensable hours are:

Mon-Fri	18.00 – 23.00
Sat	12.00 – 23.00
Sun	12.00 – 22.00 (and bank holidays)

Anyone wishing to make representations concerning this application should do so in writing to:  
**Huntingdonshire District Council, Licensing Section, Pathfinder House, St. Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3TN**

Representations in respect of this application must reach the Licensing Authority by: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

**Persons wishing to inspect the register or the record of this application may do so by attending the office of the Licensing Section, during office hours, Monday to Friday inclusive. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fine for which on summary conviction is £5000.**

*Letters to the Editor*

*Dear Editor...*

*Ringing for Peace 100 years on*

During the First World War church bells had fallen silent across the UK. As news of the Armistice spread on November 11th 1918, church bells rang out in celebration. To mark the centenary of the Armistice, church bells were rung throughout the world, in order to replicate the spontaneous outpouring of relief that took place in 1918.

On Sunday 11th November, at Grafham Church, our campanologists put the three bells through their paces twice for the Armistice commemorations. The 100 rings in the morning, (one for each year since the end of the Great War) with the bells half muffled, allowed us to appreciate how the sound can be changed to signify mourning. In the afternoon the bell ringers were able to show their skills to excellent effect with unmuffled bells, signifying celebration.



Thank you campanologists; it was lovely to hear our bells in action (and to see it happening for once!)

*Debbie Russell*

To hear Grafham's unmuffled bells again, type: <https://tinyurl.com/yd9zgbf9> into the address bar of your browser.

*What are your news, views and comments? E-mail: [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk) if you'd like your letter published in 'Letters to the Editors.' Please supply your name and address/email address but tell us if you'd prefer us not to print it in the Grafham Gossip. Thanks, Ed*

#FollowTheStar

## YOU ARE INVITED

to celebrate Christmas with your  
local church here in Grafham.

Please come along to one of the many  
Christmas events and services,  
either in the church or elsewhere in  
this parish.

There's something for everyone!

#FollowTheStar

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES

**SATURDAY 8TH: MESSY ADVENT (BRAMPTON)**

**SUNDAY 16TH: CAROL SERVICE**

**SUNDAY 16TH: BLUE CHRISTMAS (BRAMPTON)**

**MON 17 TH: CURRY AND CAROLS (THE CINNAMON)**

**WEDS 19TH: BEER & CAROLS @ THE MERMAID**

**THURS 20TH : BEER & CAROLS @ THE BLACK BULL**

**SUNDAY 23RD: HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE: CRIB SERVICE**

**CHRISTMAS EVE: CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT (BRAMPTON)**

**CHRISTMAS EVE: MIDNIGHT MASS (BRAMPTON)**

**CHRISTMAS EVE: MIDNIGHT MASS (ELLINGTON)**

**CHRISTMAS DAY: CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION**

Visit [www.eastleightonstone.com/christmas2018](http://www.eastleightonstone.com/christmas2018)  
for a list of all Christmas services and events with  
times, in the three villages. Also Grafham services  
and events for the whole of December  
are on page 2



### Have you joined in the parkrun yet?

It's a free 5km run, jog or walk that takes place at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, every Saturday at 9.00am. Park run happens in various other places all over the country.

You should register with [www.parkrun.org.uk/huntingdon](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/huntingdon) before your first run and you will get a barcode, so that you obtain a registered time on completing the run.

You can run round the course or walk or jog or just watch if you prefer, then you can join everyone for coffee afterwards if you wish. Huntingdon Parkrun is organised by volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer to help email: [huntingdonhelpers@parkrun.com](mailto:huntingdonhelpers@parkrun.com)

You'll find everything you need to know at [www.parkrun.org.uk/huntingdon](http://www.parkrun.org.uk/huntingdon)



### Can you spare an hour?

Our Little Fishes Stay + Play Tots Group, which meets on Wednesday mornings in the village hall, is very short of volunteers to make coffee/tea for the leaders and the mothers. If you can spare an hour, now and then, to help with this, we would be most grateful.



Please contact  
Hazel 810326

## CALLING ALL KNITTERS

A friend and I are using up spare balls of wool to make Bonding Squares for Hinchingsbrooke Maternity Unit.

Bonding Squares are generally used by mums whose babies are in a neonatal unit. Each mum is given two squares. One is kept with the baby and one is kept on mum's body. Every 12 hours they are swapped over. This helps both mum and baby to bond by smell, in cases where they cannot physically touch.

These squares are approximately five to six inches and are needed in matching pairs. Easy and fun to knit whilst using up odd balls of wool.

If anyone would like to join us in making some please let me know. I can let you have a few patterns even though any stitches and ideas will do. It would be great to send a large batch of them to Hinchingsbrooke at some point in the near future.

Donations of double knitting wool would also be gratefully accepted.

Thanks a lot  
**Anne Lea**



Tel: **01480 812030** Mobile: **07887 846401**

e-mail: [annelea4@gmail.com](mailto:annelea4@gmail.com)

Facebook:

'Baby Bonding Square' Knitters – Grafham Area

## Thoughts about nectar (written in September 2018)

The nectar of summer 2017 gave me my largest crop of honey, and the bees went into winter as two apparently strong colonies. Good stores, few varroa mites. Despite feeding in mid February one colony dwindled away by mid March and the other by mid April. I feel it was poor husbandry on my part. Both queens were older than is ideal.

Time to reinvest some of last year's honey money in new colonies - I collected one in late June and two in early July. Each came with stores so there had been forage where they were bred.

Locally, trees (sycamore, horse chestnut, limes, hawthorn, fruit trees etc) provide a major part of the spring/early summer nectar flow but that was over before I received my new colonies.

Hot dry summer but few active bees; garden plants needed daily watering; wild plants in the meadow land nearby were small with few flowers. Feeding new colonies is common practice also the weather was inhibiting flower development; plants in flower conserved water by reducing nectar production. So the three colonies were liberally fed sugar syrup.

As heat and drought continued, the bees remained calm and were a pleasure to handle. Little foraging activity and it became obvious at inspections that stores were limited. No honey in 2018.

Few flowers in garden and wild areas and no honeybees on our bee-friendly garden flowers so I became a weather forecast junky. Radio, TV and weather apps on phone and laptop became a preoccupation. I felt like an ancient mariner constantly scanning the horizon for clouds. The number of bumble bees and range of species was poor.

Honeybees as a species have seen this all before. The Continental and Mediterranean races whose genes are present in my new bees are suited to hot dry summers. The bees had secure hives, were young with young queens so perhaps I should have a little more faith in their ability to forage and find nectar. I stopped the feeding for a while.

Later my thoughts turned again to feeding syrup; in a *normal* year after a honey crop colonies are fed. Wild flowers on the meadow areas remained small. We have Woolly Thistles locally (*Cirsium eriophorum*) normally standing a metre tall with lovely cottony flower heads – this year – only a few plants, standing less than 30 cms tall. My anxieties about plants and nectar continued.

I started winter feeding all colonies; the bees repeatedly emptied the feeders. Recently I have stopped winter feeding as foraging has resumed. Bees are flying and bringing white and yellow pollen. Ivy to come but I don't want to rely too much on that.

Regarding bumble bees and solitary bees in our garden; usually we see six or more species from spring into autumn - foraging alongside our honeybees on our garden flowers; this year only two species, seen as occasional singletons. Many wasps, hoverflies have been scarce and apart from cabbage whites (abundant) fewer butterflies.

Recently I heard an entomologist on the radio talking about the competition for forage between honeybees (generalists) and bumble bees (specialists) with bumble bees possibly suffering.

Finally I must refer to a very interesting piece in my local Beekeepers' magazine which revealed that modern Oilseed Rape and Field Bean varieties produce less nectar than previously grown varieties.

**David Cudby**

## Christmas Miscellany

Wednesday 12th December at 7.30pm

Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Rd, Brampton PE28 4TB

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust invites you to this year's Seasonal Miscellany. This regular Christmas event will include a celebration of more than 30 years of our Local Group, a fun quiz, plus wine and mince pies. Our guest will be Kevin Hennessy, (Trust Director for Business Development and Engagement). Kevin has come to the Trust from a background of commerce, having managed a packaging company, so a complete change of direction for him!



Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire

## Lazy Circles in the Sky – A Lifetime in Conservation

Wednesday 9th January at 7.30pm

You are also invited you to the first of our 2019 talks when our speaker will be Jim Stevenson, known locally as the Senior Ranger for Huntingdonshire District Council, based mainly at Paxton Pits. Jim's background is in education and nature conservation with various bodies such as the RSPB, the Wildfowl Trust and Birdlife International. In 2012 he won the BBC Wildlife Magazine Award 'Nature Writer of the Year.' Jim will talk about his experiences during his career in conservation and is sure to provide an entertaining and fascinating evening.

**All are welcome to attend one or both of these evenings. Booking is not necessary.**

**For each evening, the entrance charge is £2.50 (accompanied children free).**

**For more information please contact Tim 01480 457795**

Part of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Registered Charity No: 1000412

## The Huntingdon Dining Club

The new membership year for this lunchtime dining club starts in 2019, with a programme of four lunches and the opportunity to try out the other two dining clubs in Cambridgeshire. The first lunch is early in February and has the added draw of an exclusive fashion show for members and their guests.

We would like to invite residents to join this fundraising venture, and the friendly Huntingdon Dining Club welcomes both men and women, and members are most welcome to bring guests. The two course luncheon and coffee remains for its third year at £25.

The joining fee is £30 and is a direct donation to the charity NSPCC for its projects in this region to help inform and support children and young people at risk of abuse and neglect. One of the services the NSPCC provides is the Schools Service which, during the last academic year, visited 19,149 primary school children in Cambridgeshire to give assemblies and workshops on what abuse is and how to get help.

In its first two years, already the Huntingdon Dining Club has raised £4,000, thus funding the NSPCC's vital work in our county to empower our children to stay safe from abuse.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children  
Charity No 216401 Patron: HRH The Countess of Wessex



Monday 11 February 11.00 a.m.	Exclusive Spring Fashion Show by Anne Furbank & Luncheon
Monday 25 March 12.30 p.m.	Luncheon and Speaker with Demonstration on 'Art of Floristry'
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 12.30 p.m.	Luncheon and Detective Inspector speaking on Safeguarding
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 11.00 a.m.	Exclusive Autumn Fashion Show by Anne Furbank & Luncheon
All events end at 2.30 p.m. Held at The George Hotel & Brasserie at Buckden	

*We hope you will support The Huntingdon Dining Club and help raise much needed funds.*

I enclose a cheque made payable to NSPCC Charity for the membership subscription fee (£30 per person).  Yes to Gift Aid.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return with payment to: Kate Armstrong, Mill Cottage, Caxton Road, Bourn, Cambs CB23 2SU

For more details contact: Kate Armstrong at [huntingdondiningclub@gmail.com](mailto:huntingdondiningclub@gmail.com)



## Thank you for our brilliant firework display!

A big thank you to everyone concerned with organising a great firework display; it seems to get better every year! Thank you also, to all who helped in providing delicious food and mulled wine to keep us warm while we watched and enjoyed the show. It was a great evening out for all!

Thank you to Grafham villagers for the massive support they give the event every year.



## A Royal Baby is born

Picture the scene. It's the middle of winter and the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are off to Sandringham for the weekend. It's late at night and they are returning from a fancy dress party. The roads are quiet. All of a sudden a freak snow-storm descends; driving becomes a real challenge. At this moment they are driving up the A1 near Brampton Hut services and so the driver makes the decision to pull off the road and wait until the weather clears.

It quickly becomes clear that Meghan and Harry will be at Brampton Hut for a while as the snow continues to deepen... Then Meghan feels a twinge. The baby is coming. Harry dashes out to find somewhere for his wife to go to deliver the baby, but there is no room at the Premier Inn. However, a concerned truck driver has an empty trailer and offers this heavily pregnant lady a space.

It is there, in a trailer, with a few cardboard boxes for comfort, that the Duchess of Sussex gives birth to the child who is 7<sup>th</sup> in line to the British throne. The baby's first visitors are not royalty and other dignitaries, but truckers and the lady who has just finished cleaning at Gregg's. The hospitality of the Lindo Wing is replaced with a meal from McDonalds...

\*\*\*

It sounds totally ridiculous, doesn't it? And yet, this is essentially the story that Christians celebrate each year at Christmas time. The eternal Son of God (not just 7<sup>th</sup> in line to the throne but King of Kings) is born among us. He is born not into stately palaces, but an outbuilding. Not at the centre of power or prestige but in a fairly obscure out-post of a minor province in the Roman Empire. He is greeted not by kings and queens but by shepherds – normal, common people.

It is through this child that we will learn that God does not sit aloof from human concerns and interests. Instead, God comes and lives in the very midst of human life as one of us. Through this child we discover that God is with us, God is for us, God is on our side, God won't give up on us.

That's why we tell the story each year: that God loved us so much that He sent His own son to be with us.

Why not come along and hear the story again this year? We have a whole range of events from the traditional carol services and crib services, to "Beer and Carols", "Curry and Carols", "Messy Advent", "Blue Christmas" and more. There's something for everyone and we'd love to welcome you to join with us as we remember the story and "Follow the Star."

Full details of all our services are available at:  
[www.eastleightonstone.com/christmas2018](http://www.eastleightonstone.com/christmas2018)

Merry Christmas!  
**Mike**

(Contact details for Mike can be found on page 2. Ed)



**Grafham Community Shop  
Normal Opening Times**

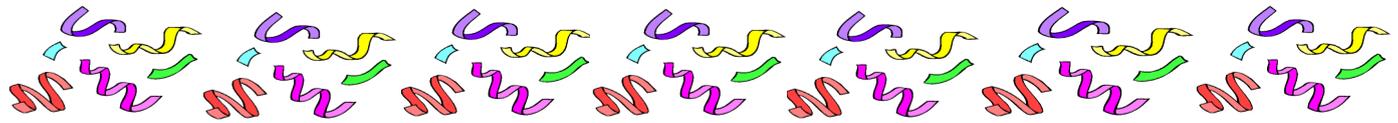


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See page 5  
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opening hours and  
for the shop news  
in 'Talking Shop'

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They start at £3.50 for a small box.  
The money pays for the printing of the newsletter  
and any profit is donated to All Saints, Grafham  
and its Restoration Fund.



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## Travelling Nativity Box

Grafham's Nativity set will be travelling round the village again this year, starting out on **Sunday 2nd December**.

The Travelling Nativity box contains knitted nativity figures to play with plus books, jigsaws and games suitable for preschool and key stage 1 children.

The box goes from house to house. This is free and available to anyone in Grafham. All you need to do is call Jill Tyack on 810157 or txt 07892 720 835 and book it for a night.

The nativity figures will end up in church on **Monday 24th December at 3pm** for our traditional and popular Crib Service. If you have not been before why not give it a go - it is short and 'user friendly' and you can be sure of a warm welcome!



## Times gone by!

After the dust settled following Aberfan, life settled down to a reasonable level, then Christmas appeared on the horizon. Just before this Wendy and I had decided to get married but Wendy's parents wanted to discuss the event with my parents. That was delay number 2, then Wendy was hospitalised with appendicitis, delay number 3. Delay number 1 had been Aberfan. With Christmas appearing, we decided to spend it in Sennybridge, except I forgot that the cook-house would be closed as it was staffed by civvies. I wasn't worried as I had a "10 day Rat Pack" (ration pack.) Breakfast was cooked on the pot bellied stove in my bunk. Compo sausages and beans were, and still are unbeatable! Wendy's new boss, a very nice Scottish woman, provided a superb Christmas lunch and two of the local pubs provided turkey sandwiches and some beer.

Just after Christmas, Colonel "Baccy" Jones called me into the office and gave me a heads up that military personnel were either being made redundant or could be posted on. I was told as it was last in first out, I would be off by February 1st. I accepted a post to 49 Light Regiment in Barnard Castle and was due to report for duty on February 14th, which was just after our wedding date. I thought it odd that I was moving on again so quickly, but suspected Aberfan might be behind it.

We had a great wedding which did not cost too much and our parents, brothers and sisters were able to attend. We were also pleased that Alf and Peter from Civil Defence came. We had worked with them at Aberfan. We only had a few days leave, then it was off to Barnard Castle. I arrived there on a snowy day but the guardroom had sent a car, rather than a Landrover, so at least it was warm on the journey from Darlington. I was pleased to meet an old time mate from 50th Missile Regiment who had heard I was coming. I went to the Adjutants office for my initial interview and internal posting orders to HQ Battery. I reported to Major Harrison who turned out to be the best OC that I served under. He immediately gave me two rail warrants for Wendy and me, then told me to take two weeks embarkation leave as we would be off to Yem-

en (Aden) in May. We set off for Newport and arrived there in the early hours, to find a five hour wait for onward trains. We decided to hitch a lift, but ended up walking over Caerphilly Mountain in the pouring rain, with no lights or anything to guide us. Somehow we managed to arrive at Ystrad-Mynach safely but cold and wet through! Just before leaving Barnard Castle I managed to get a hired caravan provided by the Army as they did not have enough married quarters, but we had to equip it ourselves with bedding and other household items. When my leave finished we set off for Barnard Castle again and treated ourselves to a cooked meal on the train, seems rather extravagant now but it was worth it.

The training set in with a vengeance when back at Barracks. The first exercise was on the North Yorkshire Moors for two weeks. I thought that was cold, but when we moved to Otterburn, Northumberland, I found out what cold really was! There was snow blowing horizontally forming three metre drifts! I was glad when that was over. The next exercise was two weeks down south, Salisbury Plain in March. Then due to meeting all training targets we had a week to hone our skills in Wales, guess where, Sennybridge again! It was fun to be able to tell the Range Controllers that according to our orders, the firing sequences were different to what they wanted. They gave in without too much trouble when Colonel Jones updated them. As the exercises were completed on time, we set off for Barnard Castle, Major Harrison obviously knew of my times there and accepted that I knew there was a quicker way, off the Ranges and onto the A40. We arrived back at Barracks two hours ahead of the main party. It was then a frantic time getting the vehicles, artillery (105mm) howitzers, radios and everything else updated, exchanged and sand proofed. The carpenters shop made up a special container for my equipment. It looked very much as if we would be ahead of time. Everything went off smoothly until at the very last minute I was told to stand down as I was not going and was to remain on Rear Party for communications link. I felt as sick as the proverbial parrot!

After a few weeks of utter boredom I decided enough was enough and I was going to leave to settle down with my new wife.

*Dave Anthony*



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1 starter, 1 main, 1 side.

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King prawn or duck £1.50 extra

<http://cinnamonhuntingdon.co.uk/>

## Churchyard Makeover

We had a second group meeting recently, when we continued to clear the overgrown vegetation, brambles and saplings from both the churchyard perimeter and the old graves. The fine weather meant that we could also light a bonfire to get rid of the plant debris. After a welcome coffee break, we pressed on and were pleased with the obvious results. It is good fun and rewarding work whether you are eight or eighty plus, so if you would like to come along please contact Jean for details by email: [jeanbaty@icloud.com](mailto:jeanbaty@icloud.com)



## A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

Details of the planned road closures, diversions and latest news can be found by visiting [www.highways.gov.uk/A14C2H](http://www.highways.gov.uk/A14C2H) or stay updated by following <https://twitter.com/a14c2h> and <https://en-gb.facebook.com/A14C2H>

There is also a dedicated A14 Public Helpline  
**0800 270 0114**

Details of the planned road closures and diversions are also available on the Grafham village web site [www.grafham.org.uk](http://www.grafham.org.uk) Ed



**healthwatch**  
Peterborough

## Easier access to musculo-skeletal physiotherapy services

Anyone aged over 18 years who is registered with a GP in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough can now self-refer for physiotherapy treatment through Dynamic Health's Physio Advice Line. The service offers direct and easy access to an experienced physiotherapist regarding problems relating to bones, joints and soft tissue.

Our Healthwatch raised concerns about problems with access to physiotherapy services with local health commissioners back in 2016. Whilst people in some areas could self-refer to a physiotherapist, others had to see their GP first. Some people told us they were waiting too long for appointments.

We also spoke to Dynamic Health who provide some, but not all, physiotherapy services locally. Since then, Dynamic Health have redesigned how they provide services and created a new website: <http://www.eofemskservice.nhs.uk> with advice, exercises and videos to help you manage your own condition.

They have told us that they are proactively looking to work with other physiotherapy services to help create more joined up services for people.

You can refer yourself to the service by contacting Dynamic Health on 0300 555 0210. If you cannot use Physio Advice Line, you can fill in an online self-referral form or get a copy of this from your GP surgery.

<http://www.eoemskservice.nhs.uk/physiotherapy-self-referral>

**healthwatch**  
Cambridgeshire

## Talk to us

Everything we do starts with what local people tell us. Share your experiences and ideas to help services hear what works, what doesn't and what you want from care in the future. No matter how big or small the issue, tell us about it. If it matters to you then it's very likely it matters to someone else.

You can tell us your story online:

<https://www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk/feedback-on-care/>

or contact our friendly team:

Call 0330 355 1285

Text 0752 0635 176

Email

[enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk)

## The Mobile Library

Route H24 visits **Breach Road, Grafham** on the **4th Wednesday** of every month from 10.40 to 11.00. Next visit - 23rd January

**No Visit in December**

For renewals/ enquiries call 0345 045 5225 or click [here](#)



## Coffee Morning

Grafham Social Committee invites you to Coffee Mornings at 10.30am on the third Wednesday of the month:

19th December - Frances, 1 Haycraft Close  
16th January - Diana, Wesley House

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



## Grafham and Ellington Art Group

<http://grafhamandellingtonart.weebly.com/>

**Grafham Village Hall, Every Tuesday 1.30-4pm**

Calling all who want to meet and paint with like minded people on a regular basis.

Beginners and those with more skills are all very welcome.

**Cost:** About £2 to cover hall hire/refreshments. Come along with your paints and equipment!

Please ring me for more details.

**Jackie Woods 01480 890279**



## Across the Churches Bible Study

We are a small group meeting twice a month (Tuesdays 7.30pm) for Bible study, prayer and fellowship.

We come from different churches and are always happy to welcome new members.

For more information, please contact Rob or Jean Clark 01480 890033.



## 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.*



## 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.

**For details or to book, tel: 07711 769911**



Come and join the

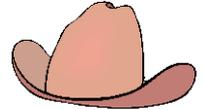
## GRAFHAM LINE DANCERS

Beginners are welcome

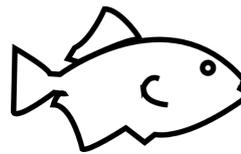
Monday evenings in the Village Hall

7.30 – 9.00pm

For more information ring  
Julia 01480 811613 or  
Text Penny 07986 509481



## Grafham Little Fishes



**Toddler and Baby stay and play session**

**All Welcome**

Wednesdays 10.00 to 11.20 term time only  
Grafham Village Hall

Free play time followed by a short bible story, action songs and simple craft.

Just turn up on the day

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INSPIRING WOMEN

Ellington and Grafham WI

meets on the first Tuesday of the month in Ellington village hall. Membership is £41 per annum but you are most welcome to come as a visitor.

The programme for 2018 is varied and interesting with speakers or events every month.

**December** Working life with heavy horses

**January** Annual dinner, venue tbn

If you would like any more information please contact:

Sue 01480 896139 [normanrice@btinternet.com](mailto:normanrice@btinternet.com) or

Ann 01480 891192 [nigel.bentley@btinternet.com](mailto:nigel.bentley@btinternet.com)

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