

Grafham Gossip

Issue 168 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 14th March

Editors' note...

March brings Spring and new life visible all around us in our gardens, surrounding fields and down by Grafham Water. The days are getting longer and we look forward to welcoming visitors to our village as the 2019 holiday season begins. Daylight Saving Time starts on 31st so remember to put your clocks forward an hour. We are due to leave the European Union on 29th March, but as I write this, nothing is certain yet.



Please send in your news, views, photos and gossip in good time for the April deadline, midnight on Thursday 14th March.

Enjoy your pancakes on the 5th!
Editors, editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

**The Parish of East Leightonstone
Brampton, Ellington and Grafham**

**Annual Parochial
Church Meeting**

**in St Mary Magdalene,
Brampton**

Sunday 17th March

at the 10.30am Holy Communion Service



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**THE HINCHINGBROOKE
Bösendorfer
CONCERTS**



SPRING - 2019

Emma Halnan, flute;
Robert Burton, saxophone;
(BBC Young Musician of the Year Finalist, 2018)
Manon Fischer-Dieskau, piano;
Christine Zerafa, piano.

MARCH 1ST

MARCH 29TH Masayuki Tayama, piano.

Hinchingbrooke Performing Arts
Centre Huntingdon at 7.30pm

Adults: £15
Groups of 20+: £10 each
Students under 21: £5

Box Office 01480 375678 9am-3pm
www.ticketsource.co.uk/hinchingbrookepac

All You Wanted To Know About Bats

Wed 13th March
7.30pm



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
**Huntingdonshire
Local Group**

Brampton Memorial Hall,
Thrapston Road, Brampton PE28 4TB

Our speaker will be Aidan Matthews, who works for the Wildlife Trust as the West Cambridgeshire Reserves Manager. He is also an active member of the Bedfordshire Bat Group. Aidan has an extensive knowledge about this group of mammals and for this talk he will focus his attention on the many different bats found in our region. Aidan will demonstrate the technology that is used for monitoring bats also and will be pleased to answer any of your questions.

All are welcome to attend. Booking is not necessary. 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

Grafham All Saints 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.uk) 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 pray for any concerns, local or personal.



24th February (4th Sunday) 19.00 Taizé service with music and candles

3rd March (1st Sunday) 10.30 Family Service - Lay led

21st March (Thursday) 10.00 mid-week Holy Communion led by Mike Bigg

24th March (4th Sunday) 10.30 All Together Service

24th March (4th Sunday) 19.00 Taizé service with music and candles

31st March (5th Sunday) 10.30 Mothering Sunday Service at Brampton

7th April (1st Sunday) 10.30 Family Service - Lay led

Future mid week Holy Communion services are on Thursdays:
18th April at 15.00, 9th May at 10.00



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 and click on [Calendar](#)

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

Grafham Church - Summary of Services and Events throughout the past year

This report has been written ready for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM) which take place in St Mary Magdalene Church in Brampton on 17th March at the 10.30am service (APCM and Holy Communion.)

Grafham has had a busy year with an increase in our services and in the congregations they have attracted.

Our first Sunday services led by Jill, Hazel or Heather with talks by either Jill or Hazel have been well attended with on average about 15 people. Rob Clark has shown an interest in joining the planning team and has helped us with talks. John Childs and Kate Gentles have kept us provided with music for these services and this is much appreciated by all. Cake and coffee/tea always follow this service.

Good Friday was remembered by a service of meditation, music and readings. The altar was dressed with red candles and a crown of thorns. Easter day was celebrated by a short Songs of Praise family service and Easter eggs were distributed at the end.

Our Flower Festival with the theme "The Sixties" was a great success with the usual imagination of our flower arrangers. Teas served outside were very popular with visitors



and on Sunday the bells were rung before our Songs of Praise service. We were delighted to welcome Bishop Stephen who came to see the displays. He was very impressed with what our small village had created. Bishop Stephen was also very interested in the restoration work which had been done and marvelled at how we had

raised the money to make it happen and keep the church open for the community.

In August we welcomed a retired ecologist who came to advise us on management of the churchyard and gave us some excellent suggestions on how to achieve this. A working party of volunteers has met several times to clear brambles, saplings and rough growth, with a view to encouraging more wildflowers and wildlife.

Our Harvest Festival in October was popular, as always. Gifts brought to the service were sent to the Food Bank and a delicious bring and share lunch was enjoyed after the service.

Christmas was a busy time starting with the Carol Service on 16th December followed by mulled wine and Christmas cake. The following day many of Grafham's congregation and other villagers enjoyed Curry and Carols at the Cinnamon, a jolly event which may well be repeated in the future. Our "All Together" service fell on 23rd December, followed by the Crib Service on Christmas Eve, as popular as ever and a Holy Communion service on Christmas day led by Jonathan Young.

As well as our regular Wednesday Morning Prayers, we now have monthly mid-week Holy Communion services led by Mike and monthly Taizé services planned and led by Jill Tyack. These new services have been very well attended, particularly Taizé with lovely music played by Kate Gentles and the church lit with some 50 candles.



We are encouraged that services are going from strength to strength and attracting a larger following.

PARISH NEWS February 2019



The first meeting of 2019 was attended by Martin Joyner who gave an update on the financial situation of the shop. There was a significant upturn in sales during January. Many thanks to everyone who is supporting the shop by shopping, volunteering and making donations. Thanks to everyone who voted on-line, the shop has been awarded a grant by Aviva plus a donation from the Skipton Building Society.

Martin also asked the Parish Council for their views on the installation in the village of a charging point for electric cars, probably sited in the vicinity of the village hall. This is something that is apparently on the radar of the County Council and Ian Gardener agreed to get their views on what support the Parish Council might receive with this project.

Two residents from Buckden Road attended to discuss the current issues of night traffic along the Buckden Road and through the village. Unfortunately, this is likely to continue for as long as there are diversions and road closures during the current A14/A1 road works.

As previously reported, there is a vacancy for co-option to the Parish Council. If you or someone you know would be interested in joining the council please contact the clerk for further information.

It was good to see the hedges on the south side of the Brampton Lane cut back. The Council are now pursuing the lander-owners on the northern side for similar treatment of this hedgerow.

At last the dog-waste bin in the village hall car park has been emptied and arrangements are in place for a weekly emptying and sanitisation. Please could we ask that, should the bin ever be full in future, bagged waste is not deposited on the ground around the bin but taken home for disposal.

Earlier last year, the Parish Council took the advice of a tree management company in respect of the trees edging the playing field behind Haycraft Close and part of Van Die mens. It was not the right time to be managing trees and the issue is now being taken up again. The Council will take further advice

which may result in the removal of some trees at the start of the programme, with a view to regular maintenance in the future.

Also on the agenda is updating of the areas currently under contract to be mown regularly. Some areas are owned by the District Council but previously were cut by Martin Clayton.

Cllrs Ian Gardener and David Russell attended a meeting with the leader of the District Council Planning Policy Team to discuss the need for and the benefits of formulating a Neighbourhood Plan for Grafham. In short, the Neighbourhood Plan works alongside the HDC Local Plan which defines housing development for towns and villages within the HDC area. The PC hopes to be able to join up with Ellington or Perry to produce a joint plan.

There is a full report from Ian and David available on the village website and a summary can be found on page 9. If you are interested in taking part in the discussions or joining a sub-committee to develop such a plan, please make contact with either David or Ian. Contact details as shown below.

Also available on the website are the reports from Darren Tysoe (District Council) and Peter Downes (County Council)

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 12th March. As usual at the village hall at 7.30pm.

Margaret Life Parish Clerk
07780 119311 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

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

Alastair Watson Alwatson.parishcouncil@gmail.com

David Russell DPRussell@live.co.uk

Roy Harold roy.harold5@btinternet.com

Jo Dunn _pink.pony.princess@hotmail.co.uk

Grafham's County Councillor



Peter Downes
07765 833486
peter.downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Grafham's District Councillor



Darren Tysoe 01480 388310
darren.tysoe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Grove Cottage, Malting Lane, Ellington, PE28 0AA
Follow me on Twitter@darrentysoe and
twitter.com/darrentysoe
Receive my updates on Facebook
www.facebook.com/cllrdmtysoe

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



Good quality paperback books in clean condition

We love to receive your paperback books to stock our church bookstall. Please leave them in the church porch.

Yes ✓

- Paperback books in good condition ✓



No X

- Hardbacks x
- Manuals x
- Magazines x
- Encyclopaedias x
- Other items x

The book stall is a fantastic fund-raiser for our village church, but we've found that we can sell only good quality, clean paperbacks and find it difficult to lift, carry and dispose of other items.

Thank you for your continued support!

Deadline

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

Thursday 14th March for the April issue

Thanks, Ed editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Buckden Gardeners Association

Buckden Gardeners Association is a group of people who meet on the third Tuesday of the month from October to April in Buckden Village Hall. Topics are varied, focusing on gardening but also include related subjects such as wild flowers, bees and birds. In the summer months we organise outings to gardens and related areas.



All are welcome. For further information please visit our website www.buckdengardeners.info or just come along.

Rosemary Surridge, Secretary

Parish of

East Leightonstone

To join the mailing list and receive the regular newsletter visit

<http://www.eastleightonstone.com> and click News



The Labour Party in Huntingdon

Our next monthly meetings are

Monday 18th March

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!

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

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



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@huntsmusicsschool.org.uk

☎ 01480 58 48 67

🏠 HuntsMusicSchool.org.uk



Playtimes Pre-school

Ferriman Road, Spaldwick PE28 0TQ

Tel: 01480 890077 www.playtimesplaygroup.co.uk

We offer: Breakfast club 8am - 9am

Preschool 9am- 3pm

Out of school club 3.30pm - 6pm

Talking Shop

What a beautiful day! After a very hard frost we have brilliant sunshine and looking out of the shop window can see a perfect blue sky. Not a cloud in sight. Could spring be around the corner?

Thank you to everyone who has made such a concerted effort to support the shop during the winter months. It is not easy to deliver the service we know you have all come to expect, when our footfall is obviously diminished at this time of year. We are very grateful to those who have set up a monthly cash donation and, of course, for the recent funding we have received. We recently heard that we have been successful in our application for a grant from Aviva. This was available from a community fund and we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for us.

This time of year sees lots of events in the calendar to prepare for such as Mother's Day and Easter and, of course, recently it was Valentine's Day. With that in mind, we are well stocked with wine, prosecco and chocolates. Or for something different, how about a beeswax candle handmade here in Grafham? They are priced at £4.00 for a large one and £2.50 for a small. Come and check our ever-changing stock, you're sure to find something suitable.



Opening Times

Mon-Fri 8.00 - 6.30

Sat 8.00 - 5.00

Sun 9.00 - 2.00

Tel: 01480 810119

shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk
www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk



DID YOU KNOW?

- Grafham Brewery is now up and running and is supplying the shop. Hodders Panama is proving to be very popular and we have trouble keeping it on the shelves! Get yours now.
- We are taking orders for vegetable bags. These are seasonal veg which are locally grown on a small farm. A veg bag costs £5 and a 4kg bag of potatoes is £2. These will be available on a Wednesday and Saturday and they are strictly to order, so please pop in and order yours. See photograph of what you can expect. The contents are obviously subject to change due to what is available at the time.



NEW IN

- In the freezer, Aunt Bessie's Sticky Toffee Pudding £1.69
- Aunt Bessie's Spotted Dick £1.69
- Birds Eye Veggie Burgers (two) £1.89

Thanks again to our team of wonderful volunteers. If **you** have any spare time and would like to get involved, please speak to someone in the shop.

Lynn and Paul

March Facts

Friday 1st March 2019 is the 60th day of the year. The zodiac sign for people born on this day is Pisces and the symbol is two fishes swimming in opposite directions. 1st March is also the first day of Spring according to meteorologists. People in Wales celebrate the life of St David, the patron Saint of Wales on 1st March. Many wear a leek or a daffodil pinned to their clothes.

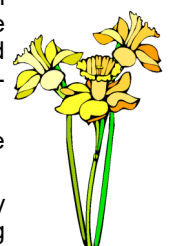
Shrove Tuesday is on 5th March. Read more on page 15.

On 17th March, St Patrick's Day, people in Ireland celebrate their patron saint.

The spring equinox will occur on 20th March this year. It's the astronomical definition for the first day of Spring. When it occurs, day and night will be almost the same length, everywhere in the world.

On 29th March the UK is due to leave the European Union!

31st March is Mothering Sunday, traditionally the day when young apprentices and young women in service were given time off to visit their mothers. Daylight saving time starts on 31st too.





Grafham Community Shop

Opening Times

Mon-Fri 8.00 - 6.30
 Sat 8.00 - 5.00
 Sun 9.00 - 2.00
 Bank Holidays 9.00 - 2.00

Tel: 01480 810119

Email: shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk
www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk

See page 5 for shop news
 in 'Talking Shop'



Grafham Beer Festival

5th and 6th
 July 2019

Friday 6pm - 11pm
 Saturday midday-11pm

Over 15 Local
 Real Ales and Ciders
 Fresh Food and
 Live Music
 Both Evenings

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 be-
 tween 8.45am and 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and
 8.45am and 4.30pm on Fridays or visit
www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins



March

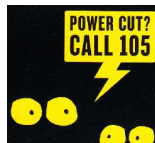
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	Blk	7	8	9	10
11	12	Blu	G	15	16	17
18	19	Blk	21	22	23	24
25	26	Blu	G	29	30	31

April

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	Blk	4	5	6	7
8	9	Blu	G	12	13	14
15	16	Blk	18	19	20	21
22	23	Blu	G	26	27	28
29	30					

Power cut?

- Text POWER and your postcode to 80876
- ukpowernetworks.co.uk/liveupdates
- Call us free anytime on 105 or 0800 31 63 105



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 or
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



Reflections on Mothering Sunday

It's becoming more and more common to hear "Mothering Sunday" referred to as "Mother's Day". I think it's really important that we celebrate and value the commitment and love that our mums give but I also think the name "Mothering Sunday" is worth fighting for. As I think back over my own life, I can think of lots of people who have played a "mothering" role for me; most of them have been women but some have been men. These are the people who have nurtured me, encouraged me, supported me and been there when I needed it.

The Bible makes quite a few references to God acting as a mother for the ancient people of Israel. The prophet Hosea compares God to the mother who teaches her child to walk and takes the child in her arms (Hosea 11:3-4). The prophet Isaiah expresses God's words to the people of Israel: "As a mother comforts her children, so I will comfort you" (Isaiah 49:15). Jesus laments over Jerusalem and says: "How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings" (Matthew 23:37.)

That's why, as a church, we celebrate our biological mothers on Mothering Sunday. But we don't stop there. We give thanks for all the people who have nurtured and mothered us. The siblings, aunts and uncles, adoptive parents, godparents, friends, grandparents, teachers, brownie leaders and more. We give thanks that God is an eternal mother and father who is always there to comfort us.

However, I'm also aware that there are many people for whom Mothering Sunday is a difficult day. This can be true for anyone whose mother has died; or for someone who never knew their biological mum. Some people are painfully estranged from their mum. Some mums (and dads) are grieving the loss of a child. There are many people who would dearly love to mother a child but are unable to do so; there are people for whom parenthood hasn't worked out as they'd hoped.

Therefore, on the evening of Mothering Sunday we're putting on a special service called "Mother's Day Runaways." It's intended for anyone who finds the day painful or difficult and everyone is welcome to come and bring their pain or grief or anger before God. No-one will need to explain why they are there, or share their story; you are welcome to simply come and be honest with God about whatever the day brings.

Mothering Sunday this year falls on Sunday 31st March. Our morning celebration is at 10:30am and the Mother's Day Runaways service is at 7:30pm, both in Brampton Church. All are welcome to either of these services and, whatever the day brings, I'd encourage you to be thankful for those who have mothered you thus far.

Mike

For details of all our services visit:
www.eastleightonstone.com/

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



Action against Burglary

Residents are urged to report any concerns or suspicions to police, even if they think it might be nothing, as part of taking action against burglary.

Detective Inspector Jamie Stenton said the information given could be the last piece in the puzzle that brings a burglary series to an end.

A day of action took place on 6th February as part of Operation Raptor, the force's drive to tackle crime and protect the public.

There was a whole range of prevention work, including door-to-door visits by PCSOs and Special constables, giving out advice/materials, crime prevention stands and high visibility patrols, as well as stop and searches in 'hot spot' areas.

Last year there were 411 burglaries in the county in February but detectives want to reduce that number by making it harder for criminals.

DI Stenton said: "Tackling burglary can be complex and our response can't always be perfect, but it is a priority for the force and we are committed to taking the fight to the offenders.



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Victims of burglary are often left traumatised and think they have been personally targeted. In 13 years of combating dwelling burglary, I have found burglars generally don't target properties but often pick houses at random and seek maximum reward with minimal effort.

So don't give them an easy ride; secure your doors and windows, secure tools in your garden shed, as these are often used to force entry, and keep an eye out for your neighbours.

Report anything you find suspicious, as we often get our best results from piecing together small bits of information into a large jigsaw puzzle. What you think may be useless information about a suspicious vehicle, for example, may be exactly what we need to bring a burglary series to an end."

If a burglary is taking place or has just happened and the offenders are still in the area, please call 999 and the police will attend immediately.

If you discover that a burglary has already happened then call 101 or report the crime online by visiting:
<https://www.cambs.police.uk/>

Also by visiting <https://www.cambs.police.uk/> you can find out more about Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

#safercambs

Live
GUINNESS SIX NATIONS
at the Grafham Trout

Round Four

Scotland vs Wales: 2.15pm 9th March
 England vs Italy: 4.45pm 9th March
 Ireland vs France: 3pm 10th March

Round Five

Italy vs France: 12.30pm 16th March
 Wales vs Ireland: 2.45pm 16th March
 England vs Scotland: 5pm 16th March



THE ROTARY CLUB OF KIMBOLTON CASTLE
in conjunction with
THE PLASTIC OCEANS FOUNDATION (UK)
presents at the
MANDEVILLE HALL KIMBOLTON
at 7.30pm on 5th April
A PLASTIC OCEAN

The global issue of plastics in our environment will be given the cinematic treatment in Kimbolton with the showing of the multi-award-winning film A Plastic Ocean. Released in 2017, the film tells the story of ocean plastics and the effect it is having on fish, birds, marine mammals and ultimately, us. World leading scientists and conservationists share their stories, and the impacts on communities the remotest parts of the world foretell of what could happen here. The Plastic Oceans Foundation aims to drive behaviour change through raising awareness and challenging our modern consumer lifestyle. The hosted screening, with Dr Geoff Brighty from the Plastic Oceans Foundation, will be followed by a panel discussion on the problem, and solutions to help stop plastic pollution within a generation.

Admission by ticket only from
 David Watson email davidwwatson50@gmail.com
 phone 01480 890650
 or from Joel Weaver
 email joel_weaver_37@yahoo.com
 or from Kimbolton Flower Shop

(Tickets are free; donations to **The Plastic Foundation** are appreciated)

Empowering people at the end of life

Wednesday 27th March, 10am to 4pm
 The Burgess Hall, Westwood Road,
 St Ives, PE27 6WU

Find out about end of life planning and understand your rights at this one day event held by the local Healthwatch in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

When family, friends and medical staff know what is important to you, this can help you have a good death.

Doctor Philip Hartropp, a retired Cambridgeshire GP, will talk about being in charge of how you die.

There will be workshops on issues like setting up power of attorney, mental capacity and supporting someone at the end of their life.

Lunch is free and refreshments are included.

The event will be accessible, with British Sign Language Interpreters and speech to text reporting.

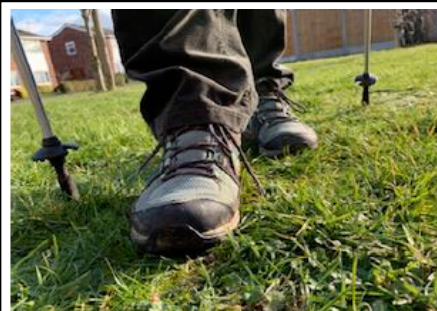
Entrance is free but you must book your place in advance.

For more information or to book your place visit our website at

<http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/endoflife-2019>

Or contact Debbie

- Email: debbie.drew@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk
- Office 0330 355 1285
- Text 0752 0635 176



Ideal for people of any age, who would like to get a little fitter.

Walks are free, leisurely, lasting around 30 minutes.

Starting from The Surgery, Buckden.

Every Thursday. 10am.

Come and make new friends, build up energy and fitness.

Walks are led by Hunts District Council trained walk leaders.

WANTING TO GET A LITTLE EXERCISE? JOIN OUR SHORT WALKS.



Starts Thursday 4th April.



Neighbourhood Plan for Grafham

What is it?

The Parish Council is looking into the potential need and benefits of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Grafham, in conjunction with Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC).

This is a plan for our neighbourhood area that includes policies that inform planning decisions regarding development proposals. It would reflect our collective aspirations for the developments we would or would not wish to see. It has legal standing as part of the development plan: planning applications are judged against the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan together.

HDC is encouraging Parish Councils to produce NPs to identify developments that meet specific local needs, which might include, for example, more tourist accommodation, sheltered accommodation, affordable housing or allocation of land for self-build.

A NP can also include a section for non-planning community-led actions which would previously have been included in a Parish Plan, e.g. traffic calming. (Grafham last issued a Parish Plan in 2011.)

HDC Local Plan – the bigger picture

The HDC Local Plan is in its final stages of approval and should be ratified around May 2019. This defines the housing development policy for each town and village within the HDC area, and complies with the National Planning Policy Framework. This includes a building trajectory that is valid through to 2036, which is compliant with government policy. The building trajectory includes a rolling 5-year supply element that HDC must meet or exceed, currently about 1,000 dwellings per year. If this build rate is not met, as has been the case in the recent past, developers may override a HDC refusal to grant a Planning Application leading to significant building developments in the area.

Given that the Local Plan specifies that there should not be any significant developments in Grafham, and that the 5-year supply is now close enough to target, there is currently little risk that a developer could impose any development on Grafham. However, HDC are to some extent in the hands of the developers, so there is no guarantee.

Joint Neighbourhood Plan – invite the neighbours

There could be some significant benefit in producing a joint NP with our neighbouring parishes, specifically Perry or Ellington. The area between Grafham and Ellington, including Ellington Thorpe, could be subject to development considerations in the future and joint local aspirations would be more robust than a NP from each Parish. Similarly, Perry and Grafham share a common attraction to the area, i.e. Grafham Water.

The Process – we need you

The process requires a team of volunteers, working with the Parish Council(s) to conduct surveys, meetings, etc., working towards the production of a draft plan. We, the residents, ultimately approve (or not) the Neighbourhood Plan in a formal referendum.

The process typically takes about two to three years and the team is provided with funded professional support. HDC have produced an excellent document that provides a clear overview of the benefits and processes: <http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/2074/neighbourhood-and-community-planning.pdf>

If you would like to consider volunteering to be part of the team or would just like more information please contact Parish Councillors: David Russell DPRussell@live.co.uk or Ian Gardener dg@asc-geomatics.co.uk



BRAMPTON CHURCH LAND CHARITY

This charity meets twice each year to consider grant applications, and typically supports applications for grants from £250 to £750.

The next Trustees Meeting will be held in April, so if you have a project which needs financial support and relates to the Church of England or another charitable cause in the parish of East Leightonstone (Brampton, Grafham and Ellington) or the adjacent parishes, please contact:

- the Clerk to the Trustees at 31 Cranfield Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, PE28 4QZ or
- email bclc1775@ntlworld.com for an application form to be completed and submitted prior to the meeting.

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Help!



We are very short of volunteer tea/coffee makers for our Little Fishes Stay + Play Tots Group, which meets on Wednesday mornings in the village hall. If you can spare an hour, now and then, we would be most grateful for your help!



Please contact Hazel 810326

or email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Grafham Trout

Opening Times

Mon - Closed
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 Thurs - 18:00 - 22:00
 Fri - 19:00 - 23:00
 Sat - 12:00 - 15:00 / 19:00-23:00
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editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Community notices are free.

Business adverts are priced according to size, payable in advance.

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.

Emmerdale and York Weekend Escape by Coach

10th - 13th May 2019 (Friday - Monday)

4 Days only
 £269 per person
 Half-Board



Your Excursions (subject to change)

Friday 10th May 2019 - Depart from your local pick up point and head towards West Yorkshire and the Old Golf House Hotel for the next 3 nights. We will make a scenic stop en-route with time for optional lunch.

Saturday 11th May 2019* - This morning we board the coach in plenty of time for our tour of the Emmerdale Studios where we can see and learn more about this wonderful TV series. (Admission included)

Sunday 12th May 2019* - Today we enjoy a day at leisure in the historic city of York where there is time to explore its rich heritage and its numerous award winning attractions before returning to the hotel for this evenings dinner.

Monday 13th May 2019 - After breakfast we say our fond farewells before joining the coach for our return journey home.

To book contact Tina Theodorou by 31st March 2019 via email address tina.theodorou@tiscali.co.uk or mobile Tel no: 07711 012957 Local Collection Points available

Made of sturdy Yorkshire stone, the Old Golf House is situated within three acres of gardens, three miles from Huddersfield. The hotel has a bar, lounge, and restaurant. All bedrooms are en-suite with complimentary WIFI, flat screen television, and tea/coffee making facilities. No Lift, but rooms are available on the ground and first floors.

What's Included:

- ✓ 3 nights dinner bed & breakfast
- ✓ Return coach travel
- ✓ Excursions as stated (subject to change)
- ✓ Admission to Emmerdale Studios
- ✓ Complete luggage handling
- ✓ Optional insurance £12pp (non-refundable)



The Foreign & Commonwealth Office issues essential travel advice on overseas destinations. Please have a look at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice. Advice can change so please continue to check until you travel.

Your details are subject to change and have been arranged in conjunction with **just for groups!**

The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich NR1 3PL
 01603 886740 www.justforgroups.co.uk



Times Gone By!

More memories of Dave Anthony from 1967, following the recent instalment in Dec'18/Jan19 Grafham Gossip (and many previous issues, since August 2017)

After I had decided to call it a day with the Army, but before I left, I had some very interesting times. To some extent I felt overlooked; I had ended up with the Rear Party as opposed to being sent with the Advance Party to Aden in Yemen. At the very last minute I'd been told to remain behind on the Rear Party in charge of communications. This led to me learning how this oversight came about. In short it was nepotism! My personal and military kit had already been sent to Aden and contained some intricate equipment which I had signed for. There were two personnel trained in its use, me and another who held the same rank as me but was two years junior in seniority. He was the son of one of four BSMs (Battery Sergeant Majors.) Unfortunately I had "crossed swords" with the BSM responsible and it was his son who got the go ahead. As the saying goes, what goes around, comes around! The guy with the equipment began to have some problems with it and called me on the radio for advice. Unfortunately for him, I was on a 72 hour leave pass, when he called, so he tried his best to sort out the problems and damaged the kit! That led to untold problems which the Unit resolved without my input but it cost him dear! He was reduced to the ranks!

Being in the Rear Party did have compensations though, as I found out that on its return to the UK, the unit was to be stationed for a short time in Devon (Newton Abbot) and was then going to Hong Kong, as a recognition for its service in Yemen. I was strongly tempted to withdraw termination of service at this point

but decided against it. Time was served and now I needed to move on to Civvy Street!

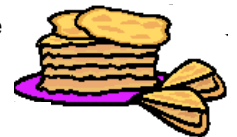
Shortly after release I received a letter and a bill from the unit now in Devon, requesting payment of £3,500 for the above said equipment plus cost of replacement uniforms and other items, which had all been lost. I telephoned the Adjutant who, although sympathetic, could (or would) do nothing as I should have taken out insurance on everything before it was sent back to the UK. I asked him what had happened to it and was told it was somewhere at the bottom of the Gulf of Suez, as the ship had been sunk in the Israeli/Arab six day war! My answer was that the unit should have insured it - not me - as they were responsible for its safe return. That fell on deaf ears as I knew it would. A few days later I received another threatening letter for this amount. To say I was angry was an understatement! I was living Ipswich at this time and went to see our MP. His name was "Dingle Foot." I'm not sure if that was his given name or not, (he was the brother of Michael Foot.) He took the case to Dennis Healey who was the then Minister of War, (now called Minister of Defence). Within a week I received a letter of apology from Dennis Healey to be followed 14 days later with a cheque in recompense for personal kit lost. I was grateful for that but was still very annoyed as the MFO Box (Military Forces Overseas) also contained personal items including four photograph albums and various certificates and letters from unit commanders. It's a good job my memories were still intact!

I decided to join the Reserve Forces at a later date and had some really good times in various roles and different places in the UK. My respect for Armed Services personnel is as great to-day as it was then.

Dave Anthony

Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day falls on 5th March in 2019

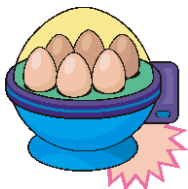
Shrove Tuesday also known as Pancake Tuesday or Pancake Day, is the day in February or March immediately preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), which is celebrated in some countries by eating pancakes or other food, made with the butter, eggs and fat that would be given up during the Lenten season. The specific custom of British Christians eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday dates to the 16th century.



In other countries where Shrove Tuesday is called Mardi Gras or some translation thereof, this is a carnival day, and also the last day of "fat eating" or "gorging" before the fasting period of Lent.

Lent is traditionally described as lasting forty days beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending at Easter, in commemoration of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. For Christians It is the time for reflection and preparation before Easter.

Text sourced from Wikipedia 16/02/2019



Tina Theodorou in conjunction with Greatdays Holidays Ltd offers trips to Barcelona in Autumn 2019 & Valkenburg in Spring 2020

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Friday 11th to Monday 14th October 2019
3 nights/4 days

Guideline Air Package £595.00 per person (based on two people sharing)

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By Coach and Ferry

Valkenburg City Break

Monday 27th April to Friday 1st May 2020
4 nights/5days

Coach and ferry package £470.00 per person (based on two people sharing)

Price includes: ABTA Protection / Return coach hire from Grafham to Valkenburg / 4 nights bed and breakfast with a 3 course evening meal at the 3* Hotel Walram, Valkenburg



For further details and to register your interest, please contact: by email tina.theodorou@tiscali.co.uk or by mobile telephone: 07711 012957

Please note single rooms supplements apply for both tours

Prices are based on a minimum of 30 paying passengers per tour and at an exchange rate of £1 = €1.12. 14 weeks prior to departure we will re-cost the tour elements and apply and surcharge/reduction due to the change in the value of the pound (£) greater or less than 2%. Flights, coach hire, ferries, guides and visitor attractions subject to availability and are not guaranteed.

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LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion (6th March)

9am - All Saints, Grafham / 7pm - St Mary's, Brampton

Lent Course @ St Mary's Brampton

Mondays for 5 weeks starting on 11th March
The same session happens at 2pm and 7pm

Holy Week Services

Mon 15th and Tues 16th April

Compline (Night Prayer) - 8pm @ Brampton

Weds 17th April

Holy Week Communion - 12pm @ Ellington

Thursday 18th April (Maundy Thursday)

Holy Communion - 3pm @ Grafham

Holy Communion - 7pm @ Brampton Methodist

Friday 19th April (Good Friday)

Meditation and Reflection - 10:30am @ Grafham

Messy Easter - 11am @ Brampton Church Hall

Meditation with Holy Communion - 2pm @ Brampton

Meditation and Reflection - 7:30pm @ Ellington

Saturday 20th April (Holy Saturday)

Reading of Luke's Gospel - 10am-4pm @ Brampton

Sunday 21st April (Easter Sunday)

Easter Sunday Communion - 10:30am @ Brampton

eastleightonstone.com

Grafham Oil Syndicate

The syndicate continues to grow, keeping more money in the village.

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Nature or nurture?

I have heard Nature v Nurture arguments since the 1960s. No doubt the same arguments occurred for decades or centuries before I became aware. There was probably a time when *the nature of the beast* was thought to determine all life outcomes. The debate has moved to the balance between the effects of nature and nurture. It becomes a messy discussion involving opinions, beliefs, anecdotes and science. Here is a small piece of observational science to ponder. I write this after reading an article in my local Beekeepers' Magazine. *

Picture the scene. The action takes place on a frame of wax in the brood chamber of a honeybee hive. The worker bees have cleaned an area of cells ready for the queen to lay her eggs. The queen can choose to lay an unfertilised egg which will develop into a drone (male) with only one set of chromosomes which come from the queen (mother). So the drone has no father (but it does have a grandfather – the queen's father).

That is fascinating enough but here are two more points of interest. When the virgin queen took her mating flight she mated with many males and received sperm from (typically) a dozen different males. She stores the sperm for use throughout her useful laying life. Consequently the female bees (workers) in her colony are all sisters or half sisters.

Here is the nature v nurture bit. Imagine that the queen is concentrating on producing females at the moment and so is laying fertilised eggs, one per cell, each egg with two sets of chromosomes all destined to become females.

Suppose that in adjacent cells the queen lays eggs fertilised with the same sperm. On the face of it these adjacent cells will produce identical sisters, genetically identical. In other words *nature* (genetics) will yield clones destined to develop into workers, who baring accidents will perform the same functions in the hive and have very similar lives.

The colony has sensed that they need to make a new or additional queen. One of those cells destined to produce a worker bee is chosen and when the egg hatches into a larva extra rich food (royal jelly) is placed in the cell. The cell is enlarged with wax to accommodate the extra food and allow for the larva to grow and once the cell is sealed undergo metamorphosis into a new queen.

The egg that became a worker will have a number of roles within the colony performing functions that change as she ages. She will live for about six weeks during the busy summer. What began as her identical sister has through nurturing become a virgin queen, larger than a worker and when successfully mated, capable of heading a colony of up to 60000 bees. She has developed an ovipositor but also retains the ability to sting to death a rival queen. Baring accidents she will live for 2-3 years. Her sister, the worker develops a sting used to defend the colony.

No question about it *nurture* has determined these outcomes for two genetically identical bees. The genes define all that the individual bee could become and nurture determines what part of that potential is realised.

* Fred Ayers – Lune Valley Community Beekeepers.
Reporting on work by Dr Paul Hurd and Prof. Rysard Maleska

David Cudby

Churchyard Makeover



For details contact Jean Baty by email:
jeanbaty@icloud.com

The next meeting to continue our task of tidying the churchyard will be on Saturday March 23rd at 10am.

Anyone who can spare a couple of hours to come along and help would be very welcome. We are friendly company and enjoy delicious refreshments!



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editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk





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

Help build our community update



Last month we explained that we wanted to make maximum use of our village facilities, which are becoming a community hub, and sustain our shop, pub and village hall.

We had two people come forward who are interested in starting Bingo sessions and a Board Game group. So watch out for details in the future.

If anybody else is interesting in creating village activi-

ties, please get in contact. Our ideas included a rambling group; cycling group; football / tennis teams; video game club; lunch time sandwich club and pétanque, but you might have other ideas?

Are you interested in helping to develop and organise these or other events? If so please contact the *Grafham Gossip* - editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk or speak to Martin Joyner 07802 257404, Chris Brown 07852 511691 or Kevin Sharp 07908 519222

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

A14 Integrated
Delivery Team

Details of the planned road closures, diversions and latest news can be found by visiting 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 Ed

Traditional Police Role Has Changed

The police service has traditionally accepted the responsibility of recording lost and found property, but since 1st February, Police Forces nationwide have stopped taking reports of lost property and only accept certain types of found items.

The service of reporting lost and found items is available online and guidance can be found on the constabulary website <https://www.cambs.police.uk/> (It's quite tricky to find click on *Report* then *Other Online Reporting* then *Report Lost Property*, then choose *Lost an item or Found an item*. Ed)

Found Items Accepted by the Police:

- Items capable of containing data e.g. mobile phones and computers
- Cash and wallets that are identifiable
- Unidentifiable cash
- Identity and personal documents

Found Items Not Accepted by the Police

- Bicycles
- Personal but unidentifiable items
- Clothing

- Keys
- Jewellery

For non-accepted items, with some exceptions, the finder can retain the property. They are under no legal obligation to hand in the property providing they have made a reasonable attempt to return it to the owner.

Lost items

Any loss can be reported online at sites including: www.lostbox.co.uk
www.immobilise.com
www.reportmyloss.com (for an insurance report)

For bicycles, register and report at www.bikeregister.com

Report UK Passports at <https://www.gov.uk/report-a-lost-or-stolen-passport>

Details of losses reported via these methods are made available to police forces across the UK.

If you have lost property in a public place/premises or on public transport, contact the location or service provider directly.

#safercambs



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Website: www.grafham.org.uk

E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Coffee Morning

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

20th March - Frances Knight, 1 Haycraft Close

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



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 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.

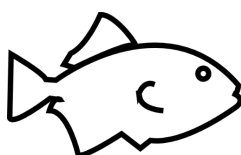
Cost: About £2 to cover hall hire/refreshments. Come along with your paints and equipment!

Please ring me for more details.

Jackie Woods 01480 890279



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

Little Fishes is very short of helpers to make tea/ coffee. Please contact Hazel 810326 or email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk if you can help. See also the notice on page 10

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.



The Mobile Library

Route H24 visits Breach Road, Grafham on the **4th Wednesday of every month from 10.40 to 11.00. Next visits - 27th March**

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



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



theWI 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 is varied and interesting with speakers or events every month.

March A speaker from the National Stud Newmarket

If you would like more information please contact:

Sue 01480 896139 normanrice@btinternet.com or
Ann 01480 891192 nigel.bentley@btinternet.com

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