

# Grafham Gossip

**Issue 175 Deadline: by 15th October**



## Saturday 2nd November

**Admission:**  
**Adults £5**  
**5 - 16 years £3**  
**Under 5s Free!**

**Hotdogs**  
**Jacket potato & cheese**  
**Jacket potato & chilli**  
**Tomato Soup**  
**Mulled wine**  
**Coke (Squash free)**



**Food from 5:00**

**Fireworks 6:30**

**at the**

**Village Hall**

**Carousel for children**

If you have timber that can be used for the bonfire, please deliver it to the far side of the 5 - aside pitch, Grafham Village Hall, at 3pm Saturday 2nd November where Simon will be in charge!

Or call Simon 07887 628528 who will collect it on the morning of Saturday 2nd.

**Please make sure that there's nothing included that is explosive or that might give off noxious fumes.**

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### Editors' note...

October is a favourite month which sees celebrations such as Harvest Festival (see notice below and full details in View from the Pew on page 2) and Halloween. We're looking forward to carving pumpkins with the family. But most of all, October is the best time to go walking in the Autumn colours. If the sun shines, it's the most vibrant time of the year. So, take advantage of the countryside around us and go for a walk round the Water, through Brampton Wood or along our bit of the Three Shires Way (google for details.)



There's lots to read in this issue and it's difficult to choose 'must reads' but make sure you try Hazel's Roasted Tomato Sauce recipe on page 2; learn about stoats and weasels in Gregory's article on page 9 and find out where the hedgehogs are in Grafham from Carol's survey update on page 11.

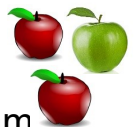
See you around!

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



**Grafham Church**

**Harvest Festival and Lunch**  
**Sunday 6th October at 10.30am**



All welcome to our Harvest Festival  
 We look forward to seeing you there!

Find more details in view from the Pew on page 2

### Come and Meet the Pollinators



**Grafham Village Hall**  
**Sunday 6th October**

**1pm - 4pm**

Read all about it on page 15



### Grafham Community Shop AGM

**Tuesday 15th October**

**7.30pm Village Hall**

Come and find out what we did last year  
 and discuss the future of our shop

## 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](#) to join us in spirit from home if you wish, but preferably please come along to the service.

Mid-week Communion services are on Thursdays at 10.00 roughly once a month. (An informal midweek service of Holy Communion with time for prayer and sharing from the Bible.)

22nd September (4th Sunday) 10.30 'All Together' with Holy Communion at **Grafham**

22nd September (4th Sunday) 19.00 Taizé service with music and candles 

6th October (1st Sunday) 10.30 Harvest Festival followed by lunch - All welcome

17th October (Thursday) 10.00 Mid-week Communion

27th October (4th Sunday) 19.00 Taizé service with music and candles 

3rd November (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](#)

### Contacting the Clergy

Revd Jason Taylor (Rector) Rectory, 15 Church Rd, Brampton PE28 4PF [revjasontaylor@gmail.com](mailto:revjasontaylor@gmail.com) 07807 118070

Mike Bigg (Curate) [mike@eastleightonstone.com](mailto:mike@eastleightonstone.com) 07380 809377



## View from the Pew

As summer recedes and signs of the mists and mellow fruitfulness of autumn appear, thoughts turn to our Harvest Festival on 6th October. This is always a jolly service when we give thanks for all those gifts from the earth and sea. As usual we will have our Harvest lunch and donations of food for this will be welcome on the day, but all are invited whether they have brought a contribution or not. Any Harvest offerings during the service will be donated to the Foodbank so please make sure these are non-perishable. We look forward to welcoming you all to give thanks at this special time of year.

The 're-wilding' project in the churchyard is going well thanks to all our helpers, including those from 'Making the Change Happen' group. The area to be sown with wildflowers has been closely mown with all mowings removed. The ground will be scarified and seeds sown in mid-October. We are very pleased and grateful that Andy has agreed to help Gordon with the ride-on mower (a job shared is a job halved) keeping the rest of the churchyard neat and tidy.

Our future services are listed above.



## Hazel's Recipe of the Month Roasted Tomato Sauce

(The recipe is for a large quantity but can be easily adjusted for however many tomatoes you have available, just reduce the amount of garlic)



5 lbs tomatoes (or whatever you have available)

3-4 garlic cloves, sliced

Sea salt

A sprinkling of caster sugar

Olive oil

Cut the tomatoes in half and lay cut side up in a deep roasting pan. Sprinkle with the garlic, salt and sugar then drizzle with olive oil. Roast in pre-heated oven (190°C) for about 40 minutes until the tomatoes are soft and juicy and a little shrivelled.

To make the sauce, scrape off every little bit out of the pan and whizz in your food processor or blender. It will keep in the fridge for a few days but freezes well in batches and is ideal with pasta on its own or to accompany chargrilled courgettes or mushrooms.

NB: If you have left over green tomatoes from the garden these can be easily ripened by placing them in a tray with an apple or banana and keeping them in a dark place (in a drawer or under the sofa?) Check every few days, removing the ripened ones as and when.

## Christmas Shoe Box Appeal – 2019

Can I persuade you to be part of a very worthwhile cause and help bring a smile to underprivileged children this Christmas?

Do you have a spare shoebox which you could fill with goodies for underprivileged children this Christmas?



If you would like to be part of this very worthwhile cause run by Samaritans Purse (operation Christmas Child), please give me a call on 811577 or 07859 065 982 and I'll be happy to deliver a leaflet to you. This is a fun and rewarding project which, as a village, we have been part of for many years now.

Once completed, shoeboxes should be returned to me no later than **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. Monetary contributions are also welcome.

**Please note that due to more stringent customs laws this year, NO toothpaste or sweets should be included.**

Details can also be found online at:

[www.samaritans-purse.org.uk](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk)

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards,  
Moira Young

2 Meadowground, Grafham

01480 811577 or 07859 065 982



## PARISH NEWS September 2019

We had a busy meeting following the August summer break, so, it was back to business with a vengeance.

There were several attendees who wanted to discuss a variety of issues including the HGV nuisance at Van Diemens Way, the planning application at 36 Breach Road and works currently underway along the Brampton Lane at the historic archaeological site. The Council agreed to take up the matter of insufficient signage to alert HGV drivers (who shouldn't be on our road anyway) to the low bridge along the Brampton Lane, the fact that Van Diemens is a cul-de-sac and, most importantly, the weight limit through the village.

The works on the archaeological site that were discussed some time ago have begun. The work will safeguard the site from the dangers of falling trees that could destroy the site. The work is being carried out by Historic England in conjunction with Natural England and the management plan set up for the farmer.

The matter of keeping the hedges along Brampton Road under control is a matter for the landowners to address. However, the Parish Council will take this up with our local Highways Officer who has the power to involve an enforcement officer. The overgrown verges along Church Hill will similarly be taken up with the Highways Officer, but the matter of ownership has yet to be established.

The Public Meeting held on 6th September was well attended by residents of both Ellington and Grafham and at least 25 people have expressed an interest in taking an active part in the Neighbourhood Plan process.

If you missed it and want to know more, please make contact with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has been chasing funds to provide energy saving equipment for the benefit of the Village Hall, the Community Shop and the Grafham Trout. These include double glazing, solar panels, loft insulation and LED lighting. We were turned down for these initiatives by the A14 Community fund and UK Power Networks. A third attempt is now being made by applying to the Amey Community Fund. Details of all the costs involved will be available for you to look at when the minutes of this meeting are published on the village website.

Please take a look at the contact details below for all of your councillors – email addresses have changed and now specific to the Parish Council and not personal accounts.

With respect to the idea of providing electric car charging points in the village, UK Power Networks have assessed the 3-phase power supply capability and believe it is suitable. Positive feedback has been received informally regarding service providers paying for 25% of the installation costs. When more formal information becomes available it will be discussed further.

The next meeting of the Council will be on 8<sup>th</sup> October at the village hall. Perhaps we will see you there.

**Margaret Life**, Parish Clerk  
07780 119311 [Clerk@grafhampc.org](mailto:Clerk@grafhampc.org)



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

**Philip Allingham** Chairman 01480 811516 [P.Allingham@grafhampc.org](mailto:P.Allingham@grafhampc.org) **David Russell** [D.Russell@grafhampc.org](mailto:D.Russell@grafhampc.org)  
**Ian Gardener** Vice Chair 01480 812821 [I.Gardener@grafhampc.org](mailto:I.Gardener@grafhampc.org) **Alastair Watson** [A.Watson@grafhampc.org](mailto:A.Watson@grafhampc.org)  
**Roy Harold** [R.Harold@grafhampc.org](mailto:R.Harold@grafhampc.org) **Jo Dunn** [J.Dunn@grafhampc.org](mailto:J.Dunn@grafhampc.org) **Michael Pople** [M.Pople@grafhampc.org](mailto:M.Pople@grafhampc.org)

Grafham's County Councillor



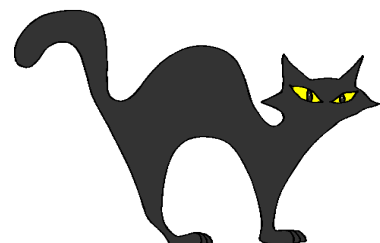
**Peter Downes**  
07765 833486  
[peter.downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:peter.downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

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)  
Receive my updates on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/cllrtdmysoe](http://www.facebook.com/cllrtdmysoe)

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





**Next date for Churchyard Makeover**

The next tidying session is planned for 10am Saturday 12th October

Do come along to help out, enjoy the chat and the delicious refreshments.

To find out more, email Jean Baty:

[jeanbaty@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanbaty@btinternet.com)



**Deadline**

**By 15th of October for the November issue.**

From now on, the deadline will be the same date every month, so please send us all your adverts, notices, news, views, recipes and gossip **by 15th** of the previous month.

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

Hunts Community Cancer Network (HCCN) hold a weekly support group

**Ellington Holistic Drop In**

at Ellington Village Hall

Every Tuesday 10am until 2 pm



To find out more contact Annie by phone 01234 709836 or email [annie@hccnthecharity.org](mailto:annie@hccnthecharity.org)

**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 ✓



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!

**No X**

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

Grafham Village Hall	Activities & Classes	
Mondays	Line Dancing	7.30pm
Tuesdays	Pilates	9.30am
	Art Club	1.30pm
Wednesdays	Little Fishes (pre-school children)	10.00am
	Yoga	6.15pm
	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*

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

**Parish of East Leightonstone**

To join the mailing list and receive the regular newsletter visit

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



**Babysitters**

**Bryony** 22 yrs **812354** experienced with newborn to 14yrs

**Mya** 16 yrs **819326** **Nicci** 17 yrs **811279**



**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](mailto:enquiries@huntsmusicsschool.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 offer: Breakfast club 8am - 9am  
Preschool 9am- 3pm  
Out of school club 3.30pm - 6pm

## Talking Shop

For meteorologists summer comes to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> August and autumn begins on 1<sup>st</sup> September. However, astronomers say autumn doesn't begin until 23<sup>rd</sup> September so we'll go with that and enjoy the last few days of summer. As we prepare this edition of 'Talking Shop' the sun is out, the sky is blue and it looks like we're in for a beautiful day. Good weather usually means decent takings in the shop as it encourages people to venture out. We are very lucky to live in such a lovely village with so much on our doorstep so let's make the most of it.

Thank you to those who have brought fruit and vegetables from your gardens to be sold in the shop. We really appreciate these donations and have recently had plums, apples, cucumbers, courgettes and marrows. If you have a surplus, we would be more than happy to take it off your hands and it is so nice to be able to offer locally produced food to the people of our village.

With that in mind, are you aware of the many locally produced ranges we do sell? Beer is a big seller and we are very fortunate to stock a good selection. You can't get more local than Grafham Brewing Company! Many of you will by now have tasted Paul's beer and we have received very good feedback. Alongside that we also have beer from Draycott Brewery based in Buckden and Rocket Ales based in Great Staughton. There is sure to be something to tempt you.

'Saints & Sinners' award winning jams, marmalades, chutneys, jellies and mustards are homemade just over the border in a Lincolnshire kitchen. They are extremely popular with our customers and the flavour combinations are different to what you might find elsewhere. They are attractively packaged and make lovely pre-

### Opening Times

Mon-Fri 8.00 - 6.30

Sat 8.00 - 5.00

Sun 9.00 - 2.00

Bank Holidays 9.00 - 2.00

01480 810119

[shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk)

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



sents. And we know what's just around the corner! Come in and see for yourself.

And, of course, we now have honey produced by the bees here in Grafham. As well as the honey we also have a selection of pure beeswax candles which, again, will make lovely gifts and are handmade in Grafham.

Grafham & Ellington Art Club supply us with a selection of greetings cards and pictures and a proportion of each sale benefits the shop. Many of you will have seen their fantastic work at the recent annual art exhibition.

**Don't forget to order your lamb – order by 27th September for 4th October, 25th October for 1st November and 6th December for 13th December. Pop in and see us to place your order. Patrick will donate £5.50 to the shop for every half lamb sold. Half a lamb typically weights between 8-11kg and costs £6.50 per kg.**

**Advance Notice** – From 1st October we will be making a charge of 5p for a carrier bag. Proceeds will go in our charity box for Magpas.

**Our AGM takes place in the village hall on Tuesday 15th October at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.**

Lynn and Chloe

## Rewilding the Churchyard and Making the Change in Grafham

Workers in the graveyard have been busy! Thank you to all those who have recently strimmed, mowed, raked and removed large quantities of moss and grasses from the southern strip of the churchyard. It's almost ready for the new 'bee friendly' seeds to be scattered and trodden in.

**A date for your diaries is 10am on Saturday October 12th** when it will be time to sow the 'bee-friendly' seeds and see what grows. Please come and help! Rake the ground, clear the debris, scatter seeds and tread them in, or you could help 'jungle clearance' and maybe light a fire!

Good refreshments will be available.

Come and stay as long as you wish - ALL are very welcome.

For more details contact Jean Baty [jeanbaty@icloud.com](mailto:jeanbaty@icloud.com)





## Recycling

For an update on recycling and a reminder of the right recycling to put in the right bin, go to [www.recap.co.uk](http://www.recap.co.uk)

## Grafham Oil Syndicate

The syndicate is FREE to join. We must continue to grow and keep a bulk order attractive enough to receive a discount, so simply email Simon: [grafhamoil@gmail.com](mailto:grafhamoil@gmail.com) or call **07887 628528** and help keep more money in the village!



## The Highway Community Car Scheme

Do you know what it is?

It's a scheme to help provide transport for people who are not able to make essential journeys by public transport or any other means.

A team of volunteer drivers take you to appointments e.g. the doctors, hospital, dentist alongside social activities such as visiting relatives or friends and even shopping.

The scheme is aimed at helping people to get out and about.

Passengers pay the driver on the day of travel to contribute towards fuel expenses. This is at a rate of 30p per mile with a minimum charge of £3.00.

**To arrange a journey or for more information please call 07786 520540**

If the phone is not manned at the time of your call leave a message on the answerphone and the coordinator of the drivers will get back to you.

*We are also always looking out for volunteer drivers so if you want to help your community, give us a call. We would love to hear from you.*

The scheme is supported and advised by Cambridgeshire County Council and Care Network 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)



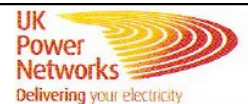
### October

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	<b>Blk</b>	3	4	5	6
7	8	<b>Blu</b>	<b>G</b>	11	12	13
14	15	<b>Blk</b>	17	18	19	20
21	22	<b>Blu</b>	<b>G</b>	25	26	27
28	29	<b>Blk</b>	31			

### November

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	<b>Blu</b>	<b>G</b>	8	9	10
11	12	<b>Blk</b>	14	15	16	17
18	19	<b>Blu</b>	<b>G</b>	22	23	24
25	26	<b>Blk</b>	28	29	30	

## Power cut?



- Contact us 24 hours a day
- Text POWER and your postcode to 80876
- [ukpowernetworks.co.uk/liveupdates](http://ukpowernetworks.co.uk/liveupdates)
- Call us free on 105 or 0800 31 63 105
- For more info visit <http://www.powercut105.com/>



## 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**





## Spring Wildflowers and Unusual Bees

I am busy preparing my bees for winter so you may think my subject this month is premature. My thoughts have turned to a trip to a place where spring has begun.

We are off to Western Australia to see family and to make a road trip around southern Western Australia to experience the famous spring wildflowers. Western Australia is known as The Wildflower State.

*The Flora of Western Australia comprises 10,162 published native vascular plant species, along with a further 1,196 species currently recognised but unpublished. They occur within 1,543 genera from 211 families; there are also 1,276 naturalised alien or invasive plant species (Wikipedia).*

Around 60% of these 12000+ plant species are only found in Western Australia.

The diversity of flowering plants is paralleled by the diversity of bees. A few facts sourced from an Information Sheet on Native Bees, produced by Western Australia Museum:

- Australia has an estimated 2000 species of native bees, many yet to be scientifically named and described. New discoveries are not uncommon. Approximately 800 species occur in Western Australia.
- Australian bees are diverse in size, form, colouration, degree of sociality and behaviour. Lengths range from 2.5 mm to 25mm. Body form varies from broad and rotund to slender and delicate.
- Australia's bees are predominantly solitary, each female building one or more nests to rear her offspring without the aid of 'workers'. Many burrow in the ground and a few bore in dead, rotting wood or pithy stems. Others use holes in dead wood, hollow stems and abandoned burrows of other bees and wasps.

- Australian bees occupy most terrestrial habitats including the arid inland, if there are flowers. In southern Australia, activity peaks in spring and summer. Most species are active throughout the day, but some fly in the cooler mornings and evenings and a few tropical species fly only at night.
- Some are generalists while others display varying degrees of specialization. They may confine their foraging to flowers of one family, or even a single species of plant. This determines their geographic ranges and flight seasons.
- At least fifty species of bees inhabit the bushlands around Perth and several occur quite commonly in suburban gardens and city parks.
- Western Australia's tiny 'stingless bees' or 'sugarbag bees' are found in the tropical north living in colonies of hundreds of individuals in 'hives' in tree or rock hollows. Like the honeybee, each colony has a single egg laying queen and many female workers that co-operate to build the nest, forage for food and other raw materials and tend the brood. The hives are built of a mixture of secreted wax and plant resin. Stingless bee hives have traditionally been sought by aboriginal people for their stores of honey.

(It seems that in Australia there are enthusiasts who 'keep' native stingless bees as pets, pollinators or small scale honey producers. I believe this practice has its roots in aboriginal culture).

*The honeybee was introduced to Australia by the European settlers to pollinate fruit trees and provide honey and beeswax. Honeybees have become feral throughout Western Australia wherever they have access to water. The majority of native bees are capable of stinging, but do so only under duress.*

David Cudby

## Some ideas for saving water

*from Make the Change in Grafham*

1. Collect runoff from hot water taps and showers, use to:
  - flush loo,
  - rinse dishes to remove washing up liquid,
  - water plants.
2. Collect condensed water from the tumble dryer to:
  - water plants,
  - use in steam iron.
3. You can find water retaining crystals which are mixed into the bedding soil for plants in pots.
4. Get a Hippo to put in your toilet cistern to displace water, so you don't use so much of it when you flush. These used to be available free from some water companies but if not, a house brick has the same effect.



To find more information about saving water, visit: <https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-advice/save-water/>

Then click on 'play our game' to take a quiz to see how much water you can save.



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)

# BRAMPTON WOOD LOGS FOR SALE

**ALL HARDWOOD, SEASONED  
FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS**

**£90 PER CUBIC YARD PROCESSED  
£45 PER CUBIC YARD UNPROCESSED  
INCLUDES LOCAL DELIVERY**

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

**PHONE GEORGE COTTAM  
(VOLUNTARY WARDEN)  
(01480) 450809**

## Grafham Community Shop

Tel: 01480 810119

### Opening Times

Mon-Fri 8.00 - 6.30 E: [shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk](mailto:shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk)

Sat 8.00 - 5.00 [www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk](http://www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk)

Sun 9.00 - 2.00

Bank Holidays 9.00 - 2.00

See page 5 for shop news  
in 'Talking Shop'



## Please clean up after your dog



It is an offence not to clean up after your dog

To find out more about [Dog Fouling and the Law](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/faqs/advice/dog-fouling-and-law) visit  
[www.keepbritaintidy.org/faqs/advice/dog-fouling-and-law](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/faqs/advice/dog-fouling-and-law)

## Grafham Trout

### Opening Times

Mon to Wed - Closed

Thurs - 18:00 - 22:00

Fri - 18:00 - 23:00

Sat - 13:00 - 23:00

Sun - 13:00 - 19:00

*Open longer for special occasions  
Dogs welcome*



### Can you make tea?

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

### The Labour Party in Huntingdon

Our next monthly meeting is

**Monday 21st October**

**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!

## JOIN THE PARTY!

THE BODY SHOP AT HOME™ IS HAVING A PARTY HERE

PLEASE COME ALONG AND BRING A FRIEND

ON

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

AT

The Grafham Trout Pub





## Stoats and Weasels

Stoats and weasels are our most common mammalian predator with a population of approx. 430,000 individuals for each species. Foxes only number around 258,000 individuals. Stoats and weasels are members of the Mustelid family, linking them with badgers, otters and if you venture abroad wolverines and skunks.

Whilst being initially similar in appearance there are certain points that distinguish the two species. Stoats are much larger than weasels, being, on average, some 10cm longer and 200g heavier. The tails are different as well. Weasel tails are rarely more than 5cm long, whereas stoats have tails up to 14cm long and they always have a black tip. In the colder reaches of their range, stoats may also change colour in winter becoming either partially or completely white, but always retaining the black tip to the tail.



Whilst in this colour change, known as being 'in ermine', stoats were prized for their fur and it was used for centuries to decorate royal and ceremonial robes. Despite this and the fact that both species are controlled as pests, populations continue to flourish.

The habitat requirements are similar for both species. As long as there is reasonable cover and adequate prey and places to make dens, they will thrive beside one another. This is mainly because of the different prey species taken. Weasels prey on small mammals such as voles and mice, for which they have a prodigious appetite, consuming half their body weight each day. They are capable of following voles and mice anywhere, as a weasel's head is the widest part of its body so if the head fits through the rest will follow.

Stoats on the other hand like much larger meals, with a marked preference for catching rabbits, quite a feat considering the average rabbit weighs six times more than a stoat. And whilst stoats will go down burrows after rabbits they are more than capable of running them down in an open chase, leaping onto the back of the exhausted rabbit to kill it with a bite to the back of the neck. The tales of stoats hypnotising rabbits by 'dancing' may be apocryphal, but they are affected by a parasitic nematode



Skjablingylus nasicola which infect the nasal passage and, it is thought, cause distortion of the sinuses, which it turn causes pressure on the brain. This may produce unusual changes to behaviour patterns causing the manic activity known as dancing.



Although flighty and elusive animals, they are also incredibly inquisitive, and this can be used to your advantage should you ever come across one. If you know one is in your immediate vicinity, keep very still and make gentle squeaking noises through pursed lips. The Stoat or Weasel, thinking the noise comes from a possible meal, will come forward to investigate. Using this method I have managed to coax a weasel to within six feet of my location.

*Gregory Belcher*  
Senior Reserves Officer  
Wildlife Trust BCN



Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire

*Photographs of stoats by Ben Atkinson*

## Six Legs Good - More Legs Better! Brian Eversham

7.30pm  
Wed 9th October  
Brampton Memorial Hall



Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire  
Huntingdonshire  
Local Group

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust invites you to a fascinating, illustrative talk on the many species in our animal kingdom that have six or more legs. Brian Eversham is the Chief Executive of the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. He has held this position since 2009 and prior to this was Conservation Director, during which time he was involved with the launch of the Living Landscapes projects at The Great Fen and Nene Valley.

Brian's interests and knowledge are extensive, including birds, botany, lichens, insects and molluscs, but tonight his focus is on the perhaps less popular species that broadly fit this descriptive title.

I am sure that Brian will give us an entertaining and educational evening. Everyone interested is very welcome to attend. Please meet at:

**Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4T.** No booking is necessary.

For more information please contact: Alistair Grant  
[alistairgrant@hotmail.com](mailto:alistairgrant@hotmail.com) or 07775 365 507.

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

**The Library Presents** is back for a new brilliant season of arts in Cambridgeshire libraries this autumn, taking high quality, affordable arts activities into the heart of towns and villages across the county.

The full programme and tickets are available from [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/arts) and participating libraries or through @TheLibraryPresents facebook page.

Here's a snippet...

**Huntingdon Library - World Textiles Workshop**  
Sat 12th October 2 - 4pm

Tickets: £5 standard, £2.50 concessions  
Suitable for: Adults and Young People (12+ yrs)

Experience an exciting and colourful workshop led by professional textile designer Titania Fisher. You will learn about different cultures from around the world and use traditional techniques to create wonderful and highly decorative textile pieces.

Basic sewing experience required. All materials provided.

**St. Neots Library - Rumpelstiltskin**  
Puppetry from Theatre of Widdershins

Sunday 27th October 2 - 3pm (Doors open 1.30pm)  
Tickets: £4 per person, £14 Family  
Suitable for: Families with children aged 4+ yrs  
Check it out: [www.widdershins.co.uk](http://www.widdershins.co.uk)

Rumpelstiltskin and the Snail of Destiny. The Miller's daughter is in a bit of a pickle! If she doesn't turn a roomful of straw into gold by morning, the greedy King will turn a bit nasty. But should she accept the kind help of an eccentric dwarf who mysteriously appears? Using puppets, music, storytelling and transforming sets, Widdershins will captivate you with this new version of the Grimm's classic tale. Refreshments available.

## Board Game Fun

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month,  
At the Grafham Trout  
7-10pm



Rail Roads/Stock Trading



Farming/Development



Diseases/Cooperative

Civilization Building



Classics



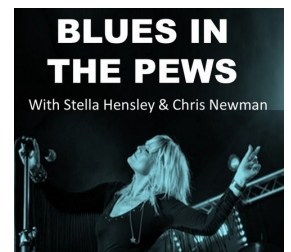
War Games/Strategy



**I have about 30 different games but I'm always interested in playing new ones! Robert**

## Blues in the Pews Diddington Church Saturday 5th October at 7.30pm

Come along to Diddington Church on Saturday 5th October at 7.30pm to enjoy the wonderful Blues in the Pews session! With the velvet vocals of Stella Hensley, Chris Newman on guitar, Mike Clifford on sax, flute, clarinet and vocals, Colin Hazell on keyboard and Richard Ashman on percussion.



Tickets are £10, £5 for under 16s with drinks available.

To book, contact Polly on 07721 068606 or Kerry on 01480 813810

## Bedford Brass Concert Little Paxton Primary School hall Friday 11th October 7:30pm until 9:30pm

Back by popular demand, the band consists of 30 players and has an extensive repertoire including traditional marches, swing, jazz, songs from the musicals and popular film music. This is a fund raising concert for St. James Church.



The Church is raising funds in aid of the Little Paxton Pictures Project bringing a silver screen and movie favourites to the village.

For tickets contact: Jenny Gellatly Tel 01480 219022 (Anchor Pub) or Nicci Jones Tel 01480 877215

or buy at the door on the evening of the concert.

Tickets Adults £8, Child £5.00. A light buffet will be served.

Doors open at 7pm and the concert will begin at 7.30pm





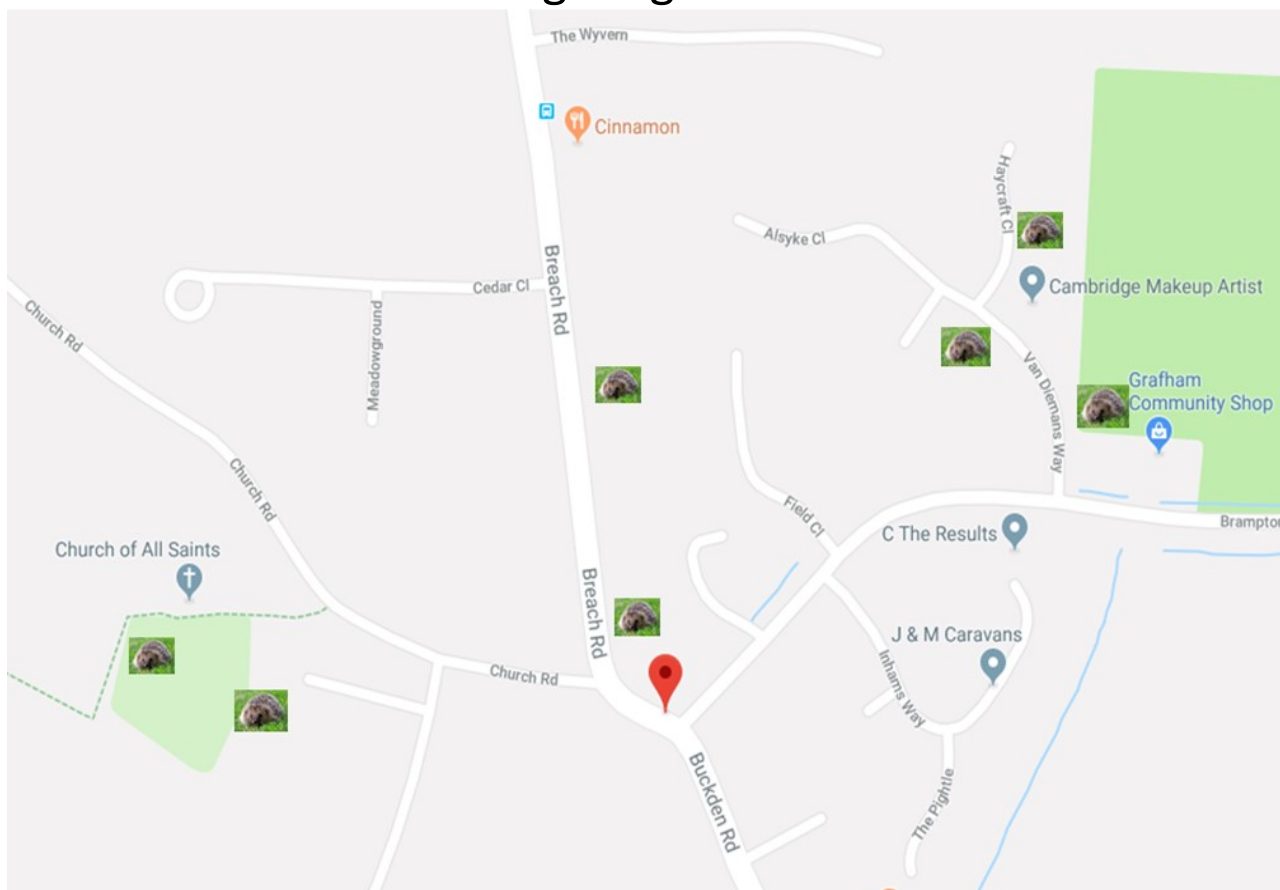
## Grafham Hedgehog Survey Update and Plea for Participants

- In August I wrote about hedgehogs and explained that I was going to conduct a survey to see where hedgehogs were appearing in the village.
- The survey, using tunnels, is working well and the map shows where we have recorded hedgehog activity so far.
- My plan is to check out as many locations of the village as possible before they hibernate, and so I would love some more people to take part. This involves having a tunnel in your garden for a week, to see if hedgehogs are visiting. See how this is done in the \*August article on hedgehogs.



- The other way to take part is to let me know if, when and where you have seen hedgehogs this summer.
- So if you would like to record the patten of hedgehog feet in your garden then you can email me at [carole.baber@talktalk.net](mailto:carole.baber@talktalk.net) and we can arrange when I can show you how to set up the tunnel and record results. All the kit is provided by me.

## Grafham Hedgehog Distribution



\* To see the August 2019 issue of the Grafham Gossip, visit the village website [www.grafham.org.uk](http://www.grafham.org.uk) Click on Grafham Gossip then scroll down the list of past issues and click on [Aug-2019](#). Ed



## Monday 25th November Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Departing from Huntingdon Bus Station 10.50am  
The coach will leave Thursford after the end of the show, usually about 5.00pm  
Price per person is £60.00 which includes the return coach travel and ticket entry to this spectacular show.

**We will be joining a trip already organised by Dews Coaches. Please contact me, ASAP.**

This is a direct coach from Huntingdon straight to the venue, so you will have to make your own arrangements for food. I would advise that Thursford does have the Garden Pavilion restaurant serving home cooked food (such as jackets, casseroles and curries.) They also have three snack cafés serving food and drinks and a fully licensed bar.

**For more information or to book please contact me on 07711 012957 or email: [tina.theodorou1@gmail.com](mailto:tina.theodorou1@gmail.com)**




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Community notices are free

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

They start at £4.00 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.




### Rugby World Cup 2019

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October**  
England vs Argentina KO 9am

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October**  
England vs France KO 9.15am

**Saturday 2nd November**  
Final KO 9am

Bacon rolls will be available

We will be open for all knock out rounds that England make it to – keep an eye on Facebook for updates!

### A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme



Details of the planned road closures, diversions and latest news can be found on the Highways England website by clicking [here](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A14C2H) or type [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A14C2H](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A14C2H) into your search engine,

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

### Buckden Gardeners Association

Buckden Gardeners Association meets on the third Tuesday of the month from October to April in Buckden Village Hall. Topics focus 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 more information please visit our website [www.buckdengardeners.info](http://www.buckdengardeners.info) or just come along.

Rosemary Surridge, Secretary



## Harvest Festival

As we prepare to leave the summer behind us, the first of a run of 'festivals' ahead of us is the Harvest Festival. Harvest is from the Anglo-Saxon word hærfeſt, 'Autumn.' It then came to refer to the season for reaping and gathering grain and other grown products. The full moon nearest the autumnal equinox is called the Harvest Moon and so, in ancient traditions, Harvest Festivals were held on or near the Sunday of the Harvest Moon. This moon is the full moon which falls in the month of September.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morwenstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as 'We plough the fields and scatter,' 'Come ye thankful people, come' and 'All things bright and beautiful' but also Dutch and German harvest hymns in translation, helped popularise his idea of harvest festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.

For many of us though, the harvest is something that we are far removed from. We have lost touch with the idea that a week of rain during the summer might have any impact on the food in our supermarkets or the supply of grain for making flour or cereal. This can make Harvest

Festivals seem irrelevant but the truth is we are as dependent upon good harvests, in this country and elsewhere, as we ever were and we have much to be thankful for.

As we reflect on God's provision for us — for food on our tables and in our supermarkets, and for all the myriad blessings he bestows on us, the Prayer Book articulates what we sometimes struggle to put into words ourselves:

Almighty and gracious Father,  
we give you thanks  
for the fruits of the earth in their season  
and for the labours of those who harvest them.  
Make us, we pray,  
faithful stewards of your great bounty,  
for the provision of our necessities  
and the relief of all who are in need,  
to the glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Jason**

(To read/hear more from Jason visit:  
[www.eastleightonstone.com/](http://www.eastleightonstone.com/) and click on [Sermons](#)  
Contact details for Jason can be found on page 2. Ed)



## Huntingdon Grafham Water Lions Adventure Club

### 10th Birthday Celebration Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November



To celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> birthday we are inviting all present and past members to join us for tea and birthday cake at Grafham Water Centre between 12noon and 2pm on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November. It would help us to know who is coming along so please contact as below.

**Huntingdon  
Grafham  
Water  
Lions Club**  
A Member of Lions International - 'We Serve'



For further details about the Club and its activities, or for members past and present

to book a place for tea and cake, please telephone Lion Bernard Dable, on 0345 8337516 or email: [HGWLions@gmail.com](mailto:HGWLions@gmail.com)

There are more details about the above event in the September issue of Grafham Gossip. Visit the village website [www.grafham.org.uk](http://www.grafham.org.uk) Click on Grafham Gossip then scroll down the list of past issues and click on [Sept-19](#)

## Help our local NHS and get paid for your views. Join a brand new Community Values Panel and have a say on funding local health services

You must be aged 18 + and live in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough.  
You must be able to attend two meetings in St Ives from 10am - 2pm on:

**Thursday 24th October 2019 and Tuesday 19th November 2019**

You will be paid £50 per meeting plus reasonable travel expenses.  
Lunch will be provided.

### About the panel

The Community Values Panel is being set up by the people who plan and buy health services in our region – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG.)

It will be made up of 30 individuals who will represent, through its mix, the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This includes younger people, those with disabilities and long-term conditions and people from minority ethnic communities.

You don't need any special qualifications to take part.

It is based on citizen's or people's assembly idea. It is a way of bringing a group of people together to learn and talk about an issue or dilemma.

The members of the Community Value Panel will help the CCG understand what is important to local people when it is making decisions about funding services.

Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, is running the panel

For more information and how to apply, visit:

<http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/community-values>

**healthwatch**  
Cambridgeshire

**healthwatch**  
Peterborough

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King prawn or duck £1.50 extra

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

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## Come and Meet the Pollinators, Grafham Village Hall Sunday 6th October 1pm - 4pm

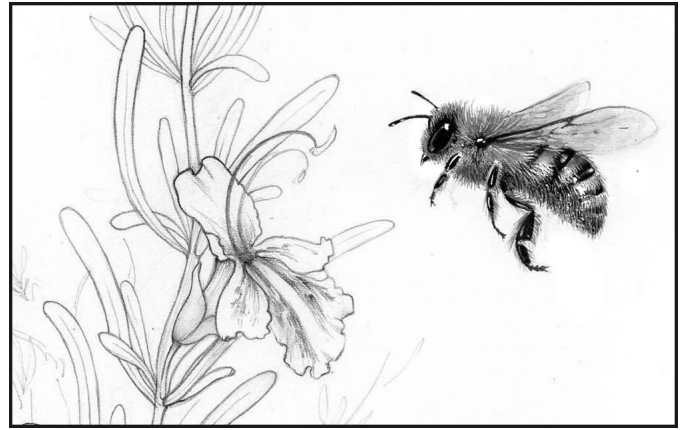
Come and find out about the fascinating lives of our bees and pollinators with the Grafham beekeepers, Sue, Nick, Barbara, Andy, Jo and wild bee champion Val Littlewood.

The beekeepers are bringing a small demonstration hive and there will be a display of bee keeping equipment, honey tastings and beeswax products for sale.

There will be lots of useful information about how the beekeepers work with our honeybees and about the life cycles of our important bumble and solitary bees, with a solitary bee house on display complete with bee nests.

You will find some great gardening tips about the best plants and shrubs both, native and non-native, to grow, as well as simple things you can do in even the smallest garden to help wildlife and pollinators.

There will be bee-friendly plants to take away and plant in your garden.



*\*If you have any plants to spare or are dividing clumps of perennials please bring some along to share or swap.*

The Grafham Trout will be open for refreshments.  
Everyone is welcome.

For more information contact

Sue Fancourt: [hardiesmo@aol.com](mailto:hardiesmo@aol.com) or

Val Littlewood: [val.littlewood@gmail.com](mailto:val.littlewood@gmail.com)

## New Huntingdonshire Cycling and Walking Campaign Group forms

Do you care about issue such as air quality, safe cycling routes, traffic congestion and safer routes to school?

At the moment, Huntingdonshire lags behind neighbouring districts of East and South Cambridgeshire in terms of cycling levels and has less than a third of the percentage of people that cycle once a week compared with Cambridge. 16% in Huntingdonshire compared to 58% in Cambridge.

[Huntingdonshire Cycling & Walking Campaign Group](#) would like that to change.

Founder John Morris from Brampton says the group will be formally launched in Autumn 2019 to try and improve conditions for people who cycle and walk in the towns of Huntingdon, Godmanchester, St Neots, St Ives, Ramsey and surrounding villages.

He encourages all those who care about issues like air quality, traffic congestion, safer routes to school, healthy lifestyles and climate change to [join the group on Facebook](#) and get involved.

John said 'So far more than 230 people have joined this new group. Many have told me they have young children who would like to cycle but feel that many of our busy roads are not safe to cycle on. I am particularly concerned about the lack of safe cycling routes to many of our schools, for example from Godmanchester to Hinchingbrooke School.'

To mark the formal launch of the group, John is organis-

ing a family friendly cycle ride from outside Rutland Cycling at Grafham Water, Marlow Car Park, Grafham, Huntingdon PE28 0BH. Meet at 10.30am on 29th September. There will also be a family friendly walk also setting off from outside Rutland Cycling at 11.30am.

John has arranged big discounts on cycle hire and e-bike hire on the day from Rutland Cycling - Grafham. Just quote the discount code #ActiveTravel when you hire your bike. More information can be found on the [Huntingdonshire Cycling & Walking Campaign Group](#) Facebook page.



*Photo: A family friendly cycle ride around Grafham Water will take place on Sunday 29th September to mark the launch of the new Huntingdonshire Cycling and Walking Campaign Group.*



To advertise, email: [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk)

## Coffee Morning

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

16th October - Philippa Patel, 3 Field 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 Trout** **Quiz night**  
Last Thursday of every month  
Starting at 8pm  
Teams of 4, £1 entry per person



## 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 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 - 23rd October

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



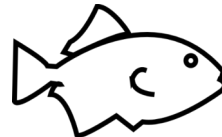
## GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

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**



## 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](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk) if you can help. See also the notice on page 8

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

**1st October** a hands-on Science Experiments Evening starting at 19.30 in Ellington Village Hall.

For 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)

## 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 Wildlife and Conservation Group

Regional winners of the BTCV Green Award 2006 & 2007 invite you to carry out woodland conservation

Call Sam Malt: **01480 811654 / 07849 082870**  
or email: [sammalt@btinternet.com](mailto:sammalt@btinternet.com)  
[www.gwgc.btck.co.uk/](http://www.gwgc.btck.co.uk/)

