

Grafham Gossip

Issue 179 Deadline: by 9am on Sunday 15th March

Re-wilding our churchyard

28th March 10am -12noon

Please join us to form a new Spring Meadow near the Garden of Remembrance, remove ivy from trees, make new log piles and remove some thug-like plants from the churchyard

Children (and their families of course) are welcome to come and help make new bug hotels (similar to the one below)

Excellent refreshments are provided. Please bring gloves and tools



For more details of how you can help us gain a medal for our conservation work in the churchyard please contact Debbie on debs.russell@gmail.com



Editors' note...

Spring is on it's way and as I write this we hope that dry weather will arrive soon, to bring some relief to all those coping with flooded homes. Here in Grafham we have much to be thankful for, and look forward to, in these uncertain times.



Thank you to all who have contributed your 'gossip' this month; don't miss Penny's piece on our visiting starlings with photos by Chris Shurlock on page 9; we also have a new historical feature by Edward Biffin, 'Grafham 300 Years Ago,' on page 7.

Please send your Letters to Editors, news, views, photos, recipes and gossip in good time for the April deadline, by 9am on Sunday 15th March.

Keep Gossiping!
Editors, editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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Last Bösendorfer Concert for 2019-2020
Hinchingsbrooke Performing Arts Centre
Friday 27th March at 7.30pm
Marina Nadiradze and Grace Mo, piano duo



For tickets call 01480 3756 9am to 3pm
www.ticketsource.co.uk/hinchingsbrookepac

Adults: £15, Groups 20 or more: £10,
Pupils/students under 21: £5

Free tickets for pupils and ex-pupils (9-21) of Hinchingsbrooke, St Peter's and their partner primary schools

Grafham to Celebrate

75 years - VE Day - 8th May

See poster on page 12

We are looking for bar staff
Grafham Trout to join our lovely team!
Please contact us:
info@thegrafhamtrout.co.uk
or message us on Facebook or call 07525 660298

Wanted - Male Blood Donors, See page 9

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** 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.

Mid-week Communion services are usually 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.



26th February (Wednesday) 09.00 Ash Wednesday Communion (in place of Morning Prayer this week)

1st March (1st Sunday) 10.30 Family Service lay led

Every Wednesday in March 09.00 - 09.30 Morning Prayer – a short service open to all (See above)

19th March (Thursday) 10.00 Mid week Communion (more details above)

22nd March (4th Sunday) 10.30 Mothering Sunday - All together Service

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



5th April (1st Sunday) 10.30 Family Service lay led

For more information on events and services for Grafham, Ellington and Brampton visit <https://eastleightonstone.com> and click on Calendar.



Contacting the Clergy

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

Mike Bigg (Curate) mike@eastleightonstone.com 07380 809377

View from the Pew



What fun we had at our first service in February. After David had explained the thinking behind the management of 're-wilding' the churchyard the congregation set to work on building a bug hotel. This is an important item which is another feature in making our churchyard wild-life friendly. Bamboo sticks in bundles, logs ready drilled with holes, twigs, bark and many other items were carefully fitted into the pallets. There is still more to do. The bug hotel is sited in the churchyard near the west door, so next time you're passing, pop round and have a look

We were delighted at that service to have so many helpers, Hazel to lead, Heather to read, Rob to say our prayers and Jill and Emily to take charge of the main item, the bug hotel. We were also very grateful to Sally who kindly stepped in to play our new Yamaha piano while Kate was away. It's great to have so many kind and willing people to be part of our church family.

As March approaches and the daffodils are beginning to burst with their lovely yellow heads we think ahead to **Mothering Sunday on 22nd March**. It is Grafham's turn to host the 'All Together' service on that day and we will be glad to welcome all those who would like to come and celebrate this special day with us. Although Mothering Sunday occurs in Lent when, by tradition we

try to restrict ourselves away from luxuries, this day is also known as 'Refreshment Sunday.' This means that we can relax a little and enjoy cake! I guess there will be some to sample after the service!

Our Taizé service will also be held on 22nd March at 7pm. All services in March are listed above.

Notices for the Easter services will appear in the April issue of the Grafham Gossip so look out for those!



See a photograph of the bug hotel in situ, on page 1.



Grafham Flower Festival
Save the date!
27th to 28th June
More details to follow

29th March 2020
Clocks go forward by 1 hour
at 1.00am
to mark British Summer Time
(Daylight Saving Time)



PARISH NEWS February 2020

February's meeting was a fairly brief one, dealing with updates on previous issues. The Council received quotes to deal with the problems of the encroachment of trees along the playing field boundary with the rear of properties on Haycraft Close. After receiving advice from an arboriculturist it has been agreed to remove certain trees which are either dead, dying or in areas in need of management. The work will commence as soon as possible before the nesting season begins. The same contractor will be cutting back the hedge along the top end of the Brampton Lane outside the pub and shop.

As part of the energy-saving works to the village hall, funded by Amey, new windows and fire-escapes have been installed by GAP. The new glazing has replaced the old defective timber units, which will improve the hall's comfort and environment, along with improving security and sustaining the long-term maintenance of the hall. You will also notice that the colour scheme has been modernised, by adopting the 'anthracite grey' used for the pub windows.



A first payment of the grant from AmeyCespa can now be applied for and paid. We are waiting for an application to connect our solar PV system to the National Grid. A response is expected by mid-February, allowing installation to take place in early March.

As for the traffic calming measures which are to be funded by A14 Legacy fund, there was a site visit on 17th December which advised that a detailed drawing pack would be supplied to the Council for review in January. However, there is nothing more to report at

this time.

Highways England are giving consideration to the signage on junctions on the A14 West between and including Ellington and Thrapston. The current signs are considered to be inadequate for the increased amount and speed of traffic now using this road and are not meeting the current standards. There are also complaints concerning the inadequate and unclear signage for the A1 South from the A14 which is resulting in traffic diverting through Ellington and Grafham as drivers lose their way.



After fifteen years of service as your Parish Council Chair, Philip Allingham has stepped down and is planning to leave the village. We are all enormously grateful to Philip for the work he has put in to the Council, not least of all, in arranging the works and finance to provide the all-weather sports facility. We wish Philip and his family all the very best for the future.

Mr Patrick Curran attended the meeting to apply for co-option to the Council to fill the vacancy and having sat through the meeting, was still keen to join. The Council voted to accept his application and look forward to working with him.

Of course, we are still left with a vacancy to fill following Philip's departure. Please let the Clerk know if you want to apply.

The scheduled date of the next meeting is Tuesday 10th March 2020, as usual at 7.30pm in the village hall (now much warmer with improved heating and insulation!)

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk
07780 119311 Clerk@grafhampc.org

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

Ian Gardener Vice Chair 01480 812821 I.Gardener@grafhampc.org **Alastair Watson** A.Watson@grafhampc.org
David Russell D.Russell@grafhampc.org **Roy Harold** R.Harold@grafhampc.org **Jo Dunn** J.Dunn@grafhampc.org

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](https://twitter.com/darrentysoe)
Receive my updates on Facebook
www.facebook.com/cllrdmtysoe

Brampton Church Land Charity

This charity meets twice each year to consider grant applications, and typically, although not exclusively, supports applications for grants from £250 to £750, so larger sums may be considered.

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.

Next date for churchyard tidying session

10am Saturday 28th March

More details about the rewilding of the churchyard can be found on page 1

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



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 we find it difficult to lift, carry and dispose of other items.

Thank you for your continued support!

Parish of East Leightonstone

To join the mailing list and receive the regular newsletter visit

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



An hour of your time, once every few months is all that is needed for you to help dust and vacuum Grafham Church, to keep it clean and welcoming.

To join the team please contact: 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 2pm

To find out more contact Annie by phone 01234 709836 or email annie@hccnthecharity.org



Babysitters

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

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



Deadline

9.00am 15th of March for the April issue.

The deadline is the same date every month, so please send us all your adverts, notices, news, views, recipes and gossip

by 9.00am on 15th of the previous month.

Thanks, Ed editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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

Huntingdonshire Music School
Saturdays at Hinchbrook School

Music Lessons & Ensembles

Music for everyone all ages, all abilities

We also teach music lessons at local schools

✉ enquiries@huntsmusicschool.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



Welcome to our second 'Talking Shop' of the year. As we write this, hopefully the storms have passed and Spring is on the way. Daffodils and snowdrops are poking their heads through the soil and the days are definitely getting longer.

It's the end of Dry January and our shelves are filled with a good selection of wine and beer including the very popular Hodders Panama and Shooters Hollow which is brewed here in Grafham.

There are several dates in the diary for March which we need to start thinking about. St. Patrick's Day is on 17th, Mothering Sunday is 22nd and don't forget to put your clocks forward on 29th. Easter Sunday this year falls on 12th April and we are now selling hot cross buns, locally baked in St. Neots, at £1.85 for a pack of four.

We've recently re-stocked our ever-popular range of Bramble cakes and biscuits. Look out for new flavours on the biscuit shelf including luxury clotted cream shortbread, stem ginger and lemon and caramel and sea salt. There is bound to be something in our selection to tempt you so pop in and have a look. Lemon drizzle cake is a favourite so if you like it get it while stocks last. And the delicious sweet and salty popcorn is back on the shelves.

Saints and Sinners jams, marmalades, chutneys and mustards are always very popular and we stock seasonal flavours. These don't stay on the shelves for long so get them while you can. They are nicely presented and make lovely presents (see diary dates above). They are made in a home kitchen in Lincolnshire using berries and vegetables from local producers. What started out as a hobby has now become a business and we are thrilled to be able to offer these as they are not widely available.

Did you know...we have a new fridge? Our old fridge had been repaired many times but it was not possible to

keep it going any longer so it has been replaced with a shiny new one. It is very smart so do come in and have a look. You may feel tempted to buy something while you're there!

You may not know that we have vegetarian options in our freezers. Currently we have Quorn mince, sausages, cheese and broccoli escalopes and Birds Eye veggie fingers and burgers.



Although we're sure Spring is on its way, it's still very cold so don't forget to come to us for your logs, kindling and firefighters.

NEW IN

Sesame Snaps are gluten free and priced at 50p per pack. Find them on the counter.

And finally, a very big thank you for supporting our fundraising for MAGPAS. To date we have raised nearly £1500 for this very worthwhile cause. We have completed sponsored walks, sold merchandise and collected your loose change in our charity box. Thank you.

See you in the shop
Lynn and Chloe

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
www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk



Teenager took knife to party to protect friends

A teenager who took a knife to a party has been convicted.

The 17-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, took the kitchen knife to a party in Brampton in March last year.

He revealed it to his friends before the party and later in the evening began waving it around, ignoring requests to put it away.

At Huntingdon Youth Court on 29th January, he was referred to the youth offender panel for nine months and told



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

to pay £85 costs after previously pleading guilty to two counts of possession of a knife.

Sergeant Richard Diggle said: 'This boy told officers he was carrying the knife to protect himself and his friends. It's a misconception that carrying a weapon will keep you safe. All it really does is put the carrier and their friends in greater danger.'

'If you have a child at home, talk to them about knife crime and the consequences of carrying a weapon.'

For further information about knife crime, visit <https://www.cambs.police.uk/information-and-services/Community-safety/Knife-gun-crime>

#safercambs

Friday 20th March Equinox and the First Day of Astronomical Spring

On the March Equinox, day and night are almost the same length. In Latin equinox literally means 'equal night.' This year the equinox falls on Friday 20th March.

It marks the change of season from winter to spring, and the start of our days getting longer and our nights getting shorter.





Recycling - Blue Bin

For a recycling update and a reminder of the right recycling to put in your blue bin, go to www.recap.co.uk

For a detailed list of everything that can go in your **Blue, Green and Black/Grey bins**

visit <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/what-goes-in-which-bin/>

or call 01480 388640 between 8.45am and 5.00pm
Mon to Thurs and 8.45am and 4.30pm on Fridays
or email mail@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

“Has the bin man bin Mam?”



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

For more advice or information about waste and recycling services, visit www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins or call 01480 388640 between 8.45am and 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 8.45am and 4.30pm on Fridays or email mail@huntingdonshire.gov.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 or call **07887 628528**

and help keep more money in the village!



The Highway Community Car Scheme

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

March

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	Blk	5	6	7	8
9	10	Blu	G	13	14	15
16	17	Blk	19	20	21	22
23	24	Blu	G	27	28	29
30	31					

April

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
		Blk	2	3	4	5
6	7	Blu	G	10	11	12
13	14	Blk	16	17	18	19
20	21	Blu	G	24	25	26
27	28	Blk	30			

Power cut?

- Contact us 24 hours a day
- Text POWER and your postcode to 80876
- 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 or tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk

To stop unwanted phone calls
08450 700707

To stop unwanted mail **08457 034599**

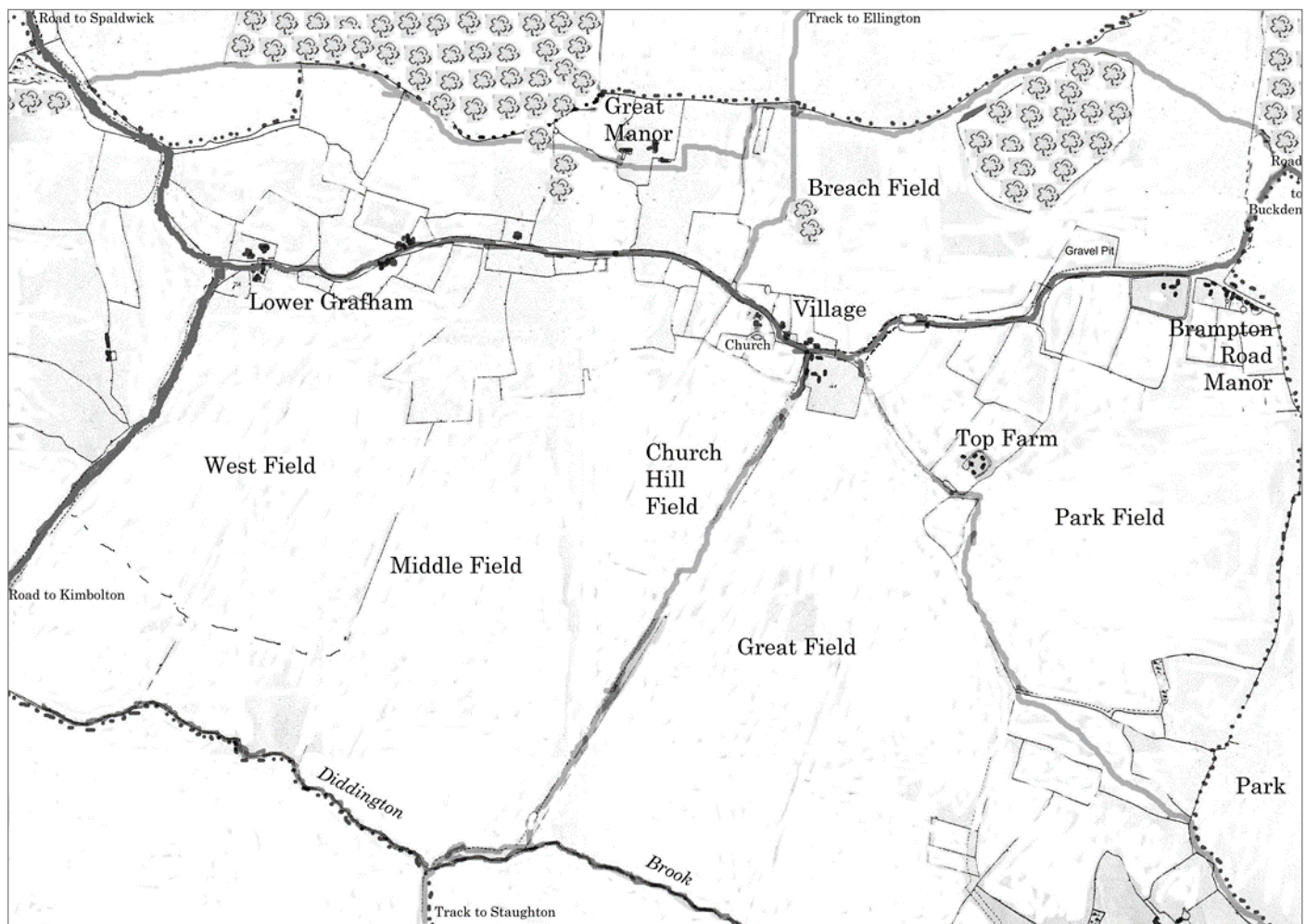
Power cut Call 105 or 0800 31 63 105 or text POWER and your postcode to 80876



Grafham 300 Years Ago

Edward Biffin

While writing the draft History of Grafham and Ellington for the Joint Neighbourhood Plan, I have uncovered so many facets and quirks of our past that I have been asked to compose a series of articles for the *Grafham Gossip*. So, I start with:- **Grafham 300 years ago.**



The map above is a sketch derived from the 1750 Plan of the Lordship of 'Graffham' which can be viewed in the Huntingdon County Record Office, together with recent air photographs, and earlier medieval records. At that time 'roads' from Spaldwick via Easton and Kimbolton met near what is now Hill Farm and then ran through the village and continued eastwards along the line of the present Brampton Road. This was a gravelled road, the 1750 Plan even marks the gravel pit. The other tracks in the village were dirt tracks, and not necessarily on the line of the roads we know today. The track from Ellington Thorpe, once it had reached the top of the hill, followed the line of the present road for a short way then diverged west towards a small copse before aiming for the Rectory. The very last segment still exists as the footpath from Cedar Close to Church Road.

To the east of Grafham the Buckden parish boundary represents the extent of the Bishop of Lincoln's Deer Park, which would have been surrounded by fences, banks or ditches, and in 1215 the Bishop was given permission to divert the Kimbolton to Huntingdon road around their park edges, and, with the need at the Grafham end to navigate between the Breach Field and the holdings of what I have labelled as the Brampton Road Manor, that accounts for the twisty nature of the Brampton Road; indeed it was once even more twisty.

One other track, the present Church Hill, possibly made use of the raised track of a suggested Roman road from Alconbury to Bedford and beyond. By 1750 some small enclosures have been made, especially to the west and the south-east, but the vast expanse of the medieval 'open fields' still dominated the parish, – from West Field to Park Field and even Breach Field, so called because it was a 'breche', an area where the medieval woodland between Ellington and Grafham had been opened up. What does not appear is our current main road to Buckden, but change was coming: which will be another article.

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



LADY OLIVIA CENTRE
O·B·S
BRAMPTON PARK

The NEW Lady Olivia Centre presents

"AN OPPORTUNITY"

*for arts, theatre, music.....
in Brampton's own
performing arts centre.*

*To register your interest and contribute
to the creation, nurture and future
productions of a theatre group in
Brampton, please call
01480 454441 or 07864 619494*

be involved from the beginning !

A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

A14 Integrated Delivery Team

Details of planned road closures, diversions and latest news can be found on the Highways England website by clicking [here](#) or type 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's also a dedicated A14 Public Helpline
0800 270 0114

Details of planned road closures and diversions are also on Grafham village web site www.grafham.org.uk **Ed**

**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](#) visit www.keepbritaintidy.org/faqs/advice/dog-fouling-and-law

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 or just come along.

Rosemary Surridge, Secretary

To advertise, email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Community notices are free,
business adverts are priced
according to size, payable in advance.
They start at £4.00 for a small box.

The Labour Party in Huntingdon

Our next monthly meeting is

Monday 16th 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!

Love Waterways?



The Environment Agency is looking for volunteers from Parishes and Towns near to Eaton Socon, Houghton, St Ives, and Godmanchester and locks on the River Ouse. The role will involve assisting boaters at lock sides and attending waterways festivals. Volunteers will be trained by the Environment Agency and will be given a uniform and ID badge.

The scheme is managed by Cambridgeshire ACRE on behalf of the Environment Agency. You can contact the scheme co-ordinator, Rachael Brown on 01353 865037 or email her at rachael.brown@camsacre.org.uk

Rachael is also happy to take any general inquiries about the scheme, what the role involves and how to apply. In addition there is an Anglian Waterways Volunteer scheme website which gives more details about the scheme and how to apply, the link for this is here: <https://anglianwaterwaysvolunteerscheme.wordpress.com/>



What a Spectacle



The murmuration of the starlings over the rooftops of Grafham has been taking place since mid January. The starlings have been giving us an amazing display in the evenings as the sun goes down lasting for about 15 to 30 minutes. The critical time seems to be from 16.45 to 17.30pm depending on the weather.

We have nine starlings who come and sit at the top of the tallest tree on

the Green looking out for the other starlings to arrive from all directions. They go to join them to make a large fluid flock over the roof tops, mainly Breach Road, Cedar Close, Meadow Ground, Field close and Brampton Road. The flock continually breaks into three or four smaller flocks, before joining again repeatedly. As soon as the light begins to fade, they go into their own flocks and dive



down rapidly into the thick conifer trees, bushes and hedges of their choice to roost.

Penny Woodcock

Photographs by courtesy of **Chris Shurlock**



Letters to the Editors

Dear Editor...

Beauty in My Back Yard

I thought readers might be interested to access the [bimby.org.uk](https://www.bimby.org.uk) website for inspiration and I am sure the Neighbourhood Plan workshop team is aware of the grants available too.

Grafham Resident

(Original email forwarded to one of the Neighbourhood Plan team)

To learn more about how locals can plan their own neighbourhood visit [bimby.org.uk](https://www.bimby.org.uk) and [neighbourhoodplanning.org](https://www.neighbourhoodplanning.org)

What are your news, views and comments?

E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk if you'd like your letter published in 'Letters to the Editors.' Please supply your name and address or email address, but tell us if you'd prefer us not to print your name in the Grafham Gossip. Thanks, Ed

Wanted: male blood donors

Did you know there's a UK shortage of new male donors? Only 43% of England's blood donors are now male... and more are needed to get the gender balance right.

Men are particularly important donors because they have higher iron levels and can donate more often.

Men's blood can also be used in more ways - only men's blood is used for complete blood transfusions in newborn babies.

To get involved, you can [register to give blood](https://my.blood.co.uk/preregister) today (<https://my.blood.co.uk/preregister>)

and book an appointment at one of our

23 dedicated blood donor centres

or call **0300 123 23 23**

healthwatch
Cambridgeshire

healthwatch
Peterborough

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

Grafham Community Shop

Tel: 01480 810119



Opening Times

Mon-Fri 8.00 - 6.30
 Sat 8.00 - 5.00 www.facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop/
 Sun 9.00 - 2.00 shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk
 Bank Holidays 9.00 - 2.00 www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk
 Read Talking Shop on page 5

*Send your news, views, photos, recipes
 'Letters to Ed' and gossip to
editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk
 by 9am on the 15th of every month*



From Teesdale to Inis Mor



Bedfordshire
 Cambridgeshire
 Northamptonshire
**Huntingdonshire
 Local Group**

7.30pm Wednesday 11th March

An illustrative talk by Dr. Pat Doody

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust invites you to this talk, given by Dr. Pat Doody.

Pat is a coastal ecologist and a long-standing member of our local group, and has delivered many beautifully illustrated talks in the past.

This evening Pat's talk will take us on a journey from Durham, where he did his PhD on Rare Plants of Teesdale, via the UK coast, where he spent most of his career with Nature Conservancy and its successors, to the West coast of Ireland. Along the way he will talk about Ice Ages, nature conservation and geology, with passing references to climate change. This should be a fascinating talk that will be of interest to many.

The meeting is at **Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB.**

Everyone is welcome, booking not necessary. For more information contact Alistair Grant alistairgrant@hotmail.com or 07775 365 507

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



BIOBLITZ
 IN GRAFHAM

Join the challenge to record as much wildlife as possible over a 24 hour period in the Churchyard
 Meet a naturalist, learn about wildlife and help with recording the effort. **Every species counts!**
 16th May 2020

Live at the Grafham Trout



GUINNESS SIX NATIONS

Round Four

Ireland vs Italy: 2.15pm 7th March
 England vs Wales: 4.45pm 7th March
 Scotland vs France: 3pm 8th March

Round Five

Wales vs Scotland: 2.15pm 14th March
 Italy vs England: 4.45pm 14th March
 France vs Ireland: 8pm 14th March



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'd be very grateful for your help and you might make some new friends.

Please contact Hazel 810326

Tell us what you think about your health and care services



Join the conversation at our next Huntingdonshire Health and Care Forum on: **Tuesday 3rd March 2 - 4pm**
at Huntingdon Library, Princes St, Huntingdon PE29 3PA

This is a public meeting and you are welcome to come along. We meet every two months to talk about different topics. We invite local health and care decision makers to answer your questions. Share your ideas and experiences, ask questions and get involved.



Working from a Place of Rest

In a busy world taking time out to do nothing can be very difficult. We are so used to being busy that even if we find the time we are often unable to rest (by which I mean not doing whatever you would normally consider 'work') without resisting the temptation to 'just check my email' or take that important call that can't wait. I am not immune from these struggles myself; I too am so used to being busy that not being busy can feel very empty, but empty can be good.

I try to be 'focused, not busy'. Busy people are not always terribly productive, or at least not as productive as they could be, because busy people tend to be 'firefighters'— responding to one crisis after another because they haven't made time to plan properly and set good goals or even to rest.

It was a favourite theme of C. S. Lewis that only lazy people work over-hard. When we abdicate the essential work of deciding and directing, establishing values and setting goals, other people do it for us; then we find ourselves frantically, at the last minute, trying to satisfy a half dozen different demands on our time to stave off the disaster of disappointing someone.

In Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, there is a violent, turbulent scene in which a whaleboat scuds across a frothing ocean in pursuit of the great white whale, Moby Dick. The sailors are labouring fiercely, every muscle taut, all attention and energy concentrated on the task. The cosmic conflict between good and evil is joined: chaotic sea and demonic sea monster versus the morally outraged man, Captain Ahab. In this boat there is one man who does nothing. He doesn't hold an oar; he doesn't persevere; he doesn't shout. He is languid in the crash and the cursing. This man is the harpooner, quiet and poised,

waiting. And then this sentence: 'To insure the greatest efficiency in the dart, the harpooners of this world must start to their feet out of idleness, and not out of toil.'

Melville's sentence is one to set alongside the psalmist's 'Be still, and know that I am God. (Ps. 46:10), and alongside Isaiah's 'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength' (Is. 30:15).

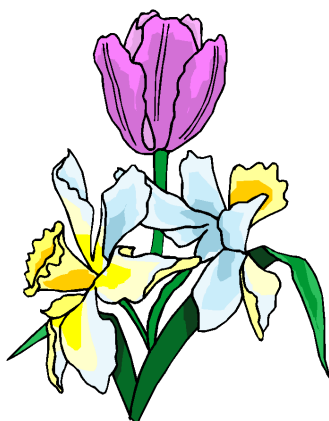
Jesus regularly took time out to relax, refresh himself and his disciples and to pray. He was focused: he knew what he was there to do, what he was not there to do and he didn't mind telling people when their expectations were not in-line with his purpose. He wouldn't permit himself to be distracted from his mission. Neither was he busy ALL the time!

I would like to encourage you to reflect on your purpose. Why are you on this earth? What should you be doing? What is most important to you and what do you want to achieve? Then start to imagine what your daily life needs to look like to accomplish this and begin to make some changes that will help this happen. Start doing important things rather than urgent things; be focused! Make sure you schedule time in your life for rest, relaxation, reading and exercise, as well as for spending with those people who are most important to you.

Jesus said that he had come so that they [we] 'might have fullness of life.' Fullness here is a reference to quality; he wants us to have lives of meaning, quality and purpose, lives that count for something and make a difference to those around us. He also said that he'd help us to get there if we wanted him to but, before he can do that, we will have to help ourselves!

Jason

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




Remember it's
Mothering Sunday on
22nd March!

Snowdrops


No doubt you will have noticed the lovely snowdrops showing their heads in the churchyard now. All these originate from a little trug of snowdrops given to Jill for her eighth birthday. Over the years Jill has planted their descendants all over the country including Grafham's churchyard. What a delight!







CORONAVIRUS

If you have arrived back from China or other specified place within the last 14 days
 or
 had contact with somebody with Coronavirus,
 and
 do you have any of these symptoms?


 Cough


 Fever


 Shortness of breath

If yes, please call NHS 111

[Find out more at gov.uk/coronavirus](http://gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Friday 13th November
 Thursford Christmas Spectacular**

Departing from Huntingdon Bus Station 10.50am (approx. TBC)
 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 has the Garden Pavilion restaurant serving home cooked food (such as jackets, casseroles and curries.) There is also a café serving snacks and a fully licensed bar.

For more information or to book please contact me on 07711 012957 or email: tina.theodorou1@gmail.com

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Contact: Rachael Brown, 01353 865037,
rachael.brown@camsacre.org.uk
anglianwaterwaysvolunteerscheme.wordpress.com
 More details can be found on page 8. Ed

KEEP THE DATE FREE

GRAFHAM WILL BE JOINING IN THE
 NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS FOR THE
 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY ON
 FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2020



An afternoon of fun, games and picnics
 followed by an evening of
 music, dancing and remembrance
 is planned for all the family

Further details will be announced shortly

WATCH THIS SPACE

Storytelling

David Cudby

Often when writing about the environment it is all too easy to fall into the habit of summarising or just restating the current evidence and accepted scientific perspective. This may be *valuable* to two groups of people. I have in mind people who have not heard the story before and have their curiosity aroused, which may be a service. Contrast those who have heard it all before and are pleased to have someone confirm their own perspective or prejudices. That is without doubt a disservice. Nothing may happen because the first group have no idea what action to take and the second group are very happy not to disturb their view of things too much.

So here is an idea. Suppose an environmental issue were briefly summarised based on the available science. Then, without getting into deep analysis or argument and counter argument the summary is taken at face value and then developed forward as a fictional story. That could potentially be entertaining and thought provoking for everyone.

In this New Year I have embarked upon a process of self discovery. I want to experiment and explore what it takes to be a writer. Through online classes an opportunity has been given to me to learn from established published writers. Just now I am following Neil Gaiman*. He offers an answer to a question often asked by beginners about whether a story *will have legs*. How does a writer ensure that readers will want to read it to the end?

For me, an old school scientist, the easy path is to write science based non-fiction. This allows me to air what

interests and concerns me, raise awareness or provoke thought. However a more interesting truth is that the moment the written or spoken piece goes from what is known, the evidence or accepted wisdom, into projecting forward, to describing how things may turn out, then because we are dealing with so many unknowns, I suggest whatever we project is really imaginative fiction. I believe that this is particularly true when the subject matter is in new and evolving science. Writing about the environment suits me as a questioning interest in the natural world has figured strongly throughout my life.

All aspects of the environmental sciences, for example the climate, biodiversity, air, land and water pollution, species extinction or food production are peppered with unknowns and therefore excellent candidates for fictional writing.

Just to add a bit more scope for the imagination many areas of technology, almost all of economics and politics will affect how the environmental stories play out. So there is plenty of room for the imagination to go to work as the unknowns are many and varied.

It might be rather fun if in the coming months my 500 word pieces for Grafham Gossip take what is known about an aspect of the environment and then work with Neil Gaiman's answer about what will keep the reader going to the end of the piece. His answer to the question is to write in such a way as to continually satisfy the readers desire to know, *And then what happened...?*

** An English author of short fiction, novels, comic books, graphic novels, nonfiction, audio theatre, and films.*

How much CO₂ (Carbon dioxide) does your travel cost?

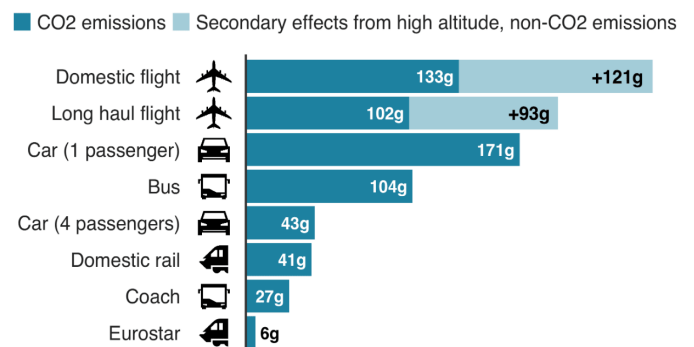
With big business and governments now paying at least lip service to the science that shows that global warming is a clear and present danger, we are all far more aware of our own individual impact on the planet and its finite resources. Whether you've chosen to move to a more plant centred diet, cut down on plastics or improve at recycling, all efforts make a difference. Some make more of an impact than others of course and the table on the right highlights the difference you can possibly make by changing how you get around.

Public transport in and around our area isn't great; let's be honest, we're stuck out in a bus 'desert' and since the time of the Beeching cuts, there's been no local train systems, but there's always the option to look at car-sharing. For longer journeys, we've chosen to use the rail system but there's also long distance coaches. And if you're off to Europe for holiday or business, instead of long-haul flights, you could instead opt for Eurostar.

During the winter months, many of us plan our holiday escape; this table could help show you how best to reduce your CO₂ emissions, whilst still getting away for some relaxation.

Emissions from different modes of transport

Emissions per passenger per km travelled



Car refers to average diesel car.

Credit: BBC website. Source: BEIS/Defra Greenhouse Gas Conversion Factors 2019

What we each choose to do, what we choose to spend our money on, what we are prepared to 'sacrifice'; all of us differ in our decisions. But having more solid information about what your choices mean in the real world, can never be a bad thing.

Have a good holiday, wherever you go and however you choose to get there.

Chris Bulow

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More tips on reducing waste and Zero Waste Recipe of the Month

To save money and reduce food waste, make sure you store food you buy in optimum conditions e.g. apples are best stored in the fridge in their original packaging or after blanching in boiling water, can be frozen in slices packed into zip-loc bags to use later in a pie.

For storage details look at Love Food, Hate Waste <https://lovefoodhatewaste.com/article/food-storage-a-z> They've a wealth of resources to help reduce your groceries bill and at the same time, help the planet.

For recipe ideas for March we'd recommend fish, fungus and a seasonal veg as suitable choices. Make sure the fish is from a sustainable source (ask the fishmonger or check the Marine Conservation Society's website or use their app <https://www.mcsuk.org/goodfishguide/search>) and if you're foraging your own fungus, **be 100% sure** that you have identified them correctly. If unsure, **don't risk it**, as it's much safer to buy from a suitable supplier.

Fish is an amazing, complex source of protein that should be treated with the nose-to-tail reverence as we now do with meat. We shouldn't eat too much of it and what we do eat should be from sustainable fisheries. By following these guidelines as with meats, you also reduce waste to the bare minimum.

With lots of umami punch from the dried mushroom, the following recipe is quick, easy and enjoyable for March evenings. If you decide to buy a whole cod (much more economical,) re-

member to: use the skin (healthy and vitamin rich;) to make a delicious 'fish crackling'; and don't waste the tasty 'collars', head and tail either. (Recipes available on request, details below.)

Mushroom coated cod, with spinach

Ingredients

- 30g dried porcini mushrooms
- 4 x 115g skinless, boneless black cod fillets
- 2g kosher salt
- 25ml vegetable oil
- 8 garlic cloves, minced
- 900g spinach

Preparation

Grind the mushrooms to a powder in a blender (or pestle and mortar). Season cod with salt and pepper. Coat completely with ground porcini.

Heat a large cast-iron pan or griddle over a medium heat. Add 1 ½ tsp of oil, then lay in the cod. Cook until their bottoms are golden brown, 3 to 4 min. Flip and continue cooking until the fish is cooked through, about 3 more min. Set aside on a warm plate.

Wipe the pan or griddle clean and return to the cooker. Add 2 tsp oil, then half of the garlic. Cook for 1 min. Add half of the spinach. Cook, stirring frequently, until the spinach wilts, 4 to 5 min. Remove to a large warmed bowl. Repeat with remaining oil, garlic and spinach. Stir the remaining salt into the cooked spinach.

Divide the spinach between 4 plates. Top with the black cod.



If you'd like to know more about cooking with 'waste' items and about other waste reduction strategies, email nowaste@zero.waste.menu or find us here <https://zero.waste.menu/> or on Twitter as [@SaluteZeroWaste](https://twitter.com/SaluteZeroWaste)

So, you're sticking with meat?

In our opinion, choosing a vegan or vegetarian diet is the best, most ethical, most moral choice. We also commend people who choose to eat less meat, but it's not necessary to eat none at all.

A plant-centred diet is plainly better for the environment and sustainability. Yet there will *always* be sources of edible meat available - unless we manage to destroy completely our only biosphere - and from these sources, there **are** ethical choices that people can opt for.

(For the absence of doubt, we're **not** suggesting that vegans/vegetarians should suddenly change their minds, lose the principles they stand by, and start eating meat or fish. Though we are encouraging people to think about and debate over, a tricky and really quite nuanced issue.)

Here are some ethical sources, for those of us who've decided that fish and meat is still to be a part of our diet:

- Retired breeding animals such as dairy cows and veal calves or unwanted billy-goats. Their meat has a depth of flavour that you'll find hard to match. Less waste, more taste.
- Roadkill; you're not allowed legally to take away anything *you* knocked over. Be sensible about the ones you choose to recover and take home with you. There's an expanded guide here <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/motoring/news/10375201/Eat-roadkill-says-new-face-of-the-RSPB.html>
- Invasive animals or ones that are overpopulated (e.g. when a natural disaster apex predator has been removed and other creatures jump into the gap left): examples include deer and rabbits. Similarly with fish, there are crayfish invading our rivers or squid, nautilus or octopus overpopulating our oceans.

• Lab-grown meat. Whilst it's not the product of an animal dying it still has some major concerns as its production is a hugely resource intensive operation and the ingredients are a shopping list of items that we for one would steer clear of consuming.

• Eating fish that don't have a central nervous system, we believe is ethically no different to eating a vegetable. There are real positives to consuming certain of them e.g. oysters which purify huge amounts of the water surrounding them, so eating these, when farmed or caught responsibly, is ecologically positive. We've heard it called 'bio-benign'.

We don't believe that you will all want to eat *everything* we've suggested and you might quibble with our reasoning for continuing to eat meat. But if, like us, you haven't banished it completely, then you should *always*, where possible choose an ethical option. In the cases above, this meat would simply have been wasted and by choosing to eat it, you're contributing **positively** to the environmental balance. And it all - lab meat aside - comes from organic sources, be it from a farm or out of the wild.

To illustrate this piece, we have a great recipe for wild garlic with potatoes. For details, email: nowaste@zero.waste.menu

The wild garlic will be well in season by the time you read this, carpeting the floor of the wood around the reservoir. It goes really well with meat or fish or on its own. If you want a vegetarian version, you can substitute out the pork fat that is used in the recipe - although it won't be quite as delicious in our view.

There's a useful article on wild garlic here <https://www.countryfile.com/how-to/food-recipes/wild-garlic-guide-where-to-find-how-to-cook-it-and-recipe-ideas/>

Chris Bulow

Coffee Morning

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

18th 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 Church Flower Club

We are available to decorate the church for weddings and other church occasions.

Floral arrangements for: pedestal, altar, font, windowsills, pew ends, pillars.

Please contact Hazel Powell on **01480 810326** for details and quotes.

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



GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

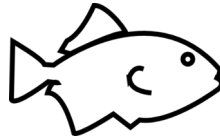
has a Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing and performing arts. It can accommodate 92 guests seated in rows or 150 at a dance/disco - an ideal venue for children's and family parties.

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 if you can help. See 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 Quiz night

Trout 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



theWI Ellington and Grafham WI

INSPIRING WOMEN

The WI meets on the first Tuesday of the month in Ellington Village Hall. Membership is £42 per annum but you are most welcome to come as a visitor. The programme is varied and interesting with speakers or events every month.

3rd March - Trudi Bucknell, Gin Tasting

For more information please contact:

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

Library News To read or sign up for the monthly Cambridgeshire Library newsletter [Click here](#)

The Mobile Library Route H24 visits Breach Road, Grafham on the **4th Wednesday of every month from 10.40 to 11.00**. Next visit: 25th March.

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



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