

Grafham Gossip

Issue 121 Deadline: Midnight Thursday 20th November



2014

Admission:
Adults £4
5-16 years £2
Under 5s Free!
Carousel £1.50

Hotdogs £1
Jacket potato & cheese £1
JP & chilli £2
Mulled wine £2
Soup 50p
Coke 50p

Saturday Nov 8th
Food from 5:30
Fireworks 6:30ish
At the Village Hall



Please deliver organic combustible materials to the far side of the 5 aside pitch, Grafham Village Hall, at 3pm on Saturday November 8th where a committee member will be in charge!

Please make sure that there's nothing explosive and nothing that might give off noxious fumes.

Editors' note...

December'14 / January'15 Issue

As usual, we are combining December and January into a single issue.

As this will include January notices, the deadline for the combined issue is a little later in the month than usual. Please email any notices, adverts, news, views and gossip in advance of the deadline if you can, so that we can get the Grafham Gossip written and sent to press as soon as possible after the deadline of Thursday 20th November. This will increase the chances of everyone getting their copies close to the beginning of December.

Please read the 'Wanted - Grafham Gossip Distributor' notice on page 8. We'd appreciate your help!

Autumn is here and we look forward to one of our favourite village traditions, Bonfire Night with Grafham's famous Firework display!

Have a great time!

Editors, editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal - 2014



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, 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 **Monday 17th November**.

Monetary contributions are also welcome.

I feel very privileged to be heading to Kosovo with one of the teams this year to help distribute the boxes. I will be sure to take plenty of pictures to share with you in the New Year.


Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards

Moira Young, 2 Meadowground, Grafham

Phone: 811577/07859 065 982





Mums & Tots - Coffee, Cake & Chat
Now held every month!

Day/ time alternate between Mon am/Fri pm so please check the details on page 4 with the other regular activities.

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Grafham All Saints - November Services



IN VIEW OF THE BUILDING WORKS WE REGRET NO SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE AT GRAFHAM UNTIL THE END OF THE WORKS
ALL OUR SERVICES (marked "usually at Grafham") WILL THEREFORE BE HELD AT ELLINGTON AND EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WELCOME TO ATTEND THERE AT THE TIMES BELOW

26th October (4th Sunday) **11.00 Eucharist at Ellington**

2nd November (1st Sunday) **11.00 Family Service at Ellington**
(usually at Grafham)



9th November (2nd Sunday) **10.45 Remembrance Sunday at St Mary Magdalene, Brampton**

16th November (3rd Sunday) **11.00 Eucharist at Ellington**
(usually at Grafham)

23rd November (4th Sunday) **11.00 Eucharist at Ellington**

30th November (5th Sunday) **11.00 "All Together" at St Mary Magdalene, Brampton** (a joint Anglican/Methodist service with a Methodist preacher)

7th December (1st Sunday) **11.00 Family Service** - venue to be decided - at Grafham if open by then!

Contacting the Clergy

The Revd Jason Taylor (Rector)
The Rectory, 15 Church Road,
Brampton PE28 4PF

revjasontaylor@gmail.com

01480 453341

07807 118070

Churchwarden

Hazel Powell 01480 810326

PARISH NEWS

October 2014

At the October meeting, Cllr Peter Downes warned of the imminent danger to public services caused by necessary budget cuts and restrictions. The potential for the pooling of budgets with other local areas, together with a synergy of effort is to be investigated as a new way of working to help preserve some services. It is possible that some services might be undertaken by Parish Councils and other local volunteer groups with appropriate training and support, and the Chief Executive of the County Council will be investigating the potential to change the current ways of working.



Plans for the A14 are reaching their final stages and Cambridgeshire Highways will be briefing the District and County Councils in November. A public meeting will be held in Brampton on either 8th or

16th December. There is some disquiet in Brampton over the proximity of the new layout. However, Cllr

Full minutes can be read on the village web site www.grafham.org.uk

You may contact your parish councillors through the clerk or directly by using the details below.

Philip Allingham Chairman 01480 811516 philip_allingham@sky.com

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

Andrew Duckworth andrew.duckworth1@tesco.net

Kevin Sharp kevin.sharp@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk



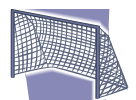
Downes suggested that a more efficient flow of traffic produces less pollution.

The idea of a First Response System has been taken up by several residents who have volunteered their services. Cllr Gardener is going to help with arranging the necessary training and liaison with ambulance services. It will be necessary to purchase special equipment such as a defibrillator, the costs of which will be included in the budget for the next financial year.



The footpath from Breach Road to Field Close will be given a bit of an overhaul starting with the pollarding of the huge Sycamore and the removal of a couple of tree stumps to make it easier to keep the shrubs and grass under control.

The nets on the five-a-side pitch are in dire need of replacement and new nets are to be ordered as soon as possible.



The next meeting of the Parish Council is on 11th November 2014 at 7.30pm at the village hall. Everyone is welcome.

Margaret Life, Parish Clerk 01480 819477

malife434@gmail.com

View from the Pew

The church repairs continue, the south slope having been stripped of tiles for inspection by the structural engineer. Thankfully nothing worse than expected was found and no evidence of bats lurking under tiles! We are at present awaiting erection of a temporary roof as the tarpaulins are not sufficient to allow further work to take place efficiently. Plaster repairs and redecoration continue inside. The first coat of limewash has been applied with two more coats to follow. The north slope has now been covered with felt and new battens and a ventilation system has been installed along the lower edge to allow circulation of air between the roof and the ceiling. See the photos here showing the improved interior, now fully plastered and the current condition of the north slope of the nave roof with new felting and battens in place.



The PCC are very sad to say goodbye to Angus Davidson and his family who have sold the Old School House and moved to a village nearby pending removing permanently to America to be near Barbara's parents. Angus has been a very valuable member of the PCC and we are grateful for his contribution of help with church events. In particular we have been so grateful to him for playing the organ for services, usually on first Sundays but also at Christmas and other times. We will miss him! Our PCC is now very much reduced in numbers following the departure of Andy Noad to Scotland. If anyone would like to help with church affairs with a view to coming on to the PCC, please get in touch with Hazel or Jason (details on service list).

November services include Remembrance Sunday on 9th November which will take place at Brampton at 10.45. The fifth Sunday service, 30th will also be at Brampton when there will be a joint Anglican/Methodist service with a Methodist preacher. This service will begin at 11am. It is hoped that we may be able to hold services at Grafham early in December and will keep readers informed as and when we have news.

If you wish to make a donation towards the restoration of our village church, please contact Hazel, our churchwarden or Jason, our rector. Alternatively, here are the bank account details if you wish to make a donation directly.

Grafham Church bank details:

Account name: Grafham PCC
Sort code: 20-74-81
Account number: 30415847

Councillors Peter Downes and Patricia Jordan and/or John Morris are available at the village hall from 11.15 to 11.45 on the first Saturday of the month.

At other times contact:

Peter.Downes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk tel 398082

patricia.jordan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk tel. 457802

john.morris@huntingdonshire.gov.uk tel. 458818

Twitter: @johnmbrampton

Grafham Oil Syndicate

The syndicate continues to grow, keeping more money in the village. Remember, it's FREE to join and we must keep a bulk order attractive enough to attract a discount,



so simply email Simon at

grafhamoil@gmail.com or call 819663



Mums & Tots - Coffee, Cake & Chat Friday 7th November, 10am at Grafham Village Hall

If you are a mum with tots and would love to meet other mums in Grafham then please join us for coffee, cake and chat on the above date.

For further information please contact Racheal
07957500263 Rachealwoodhall@live.co.uk



Grafham Sewing Group Village Hall, Wednesdays 2 - 4pm

For those who enjoy needlework of any sort, quilting, tapestry, knitting or anything else requiring the use of needles!

Complete beginners also welcome.

Our purpose is threefold, to provide a focus for your needlework, to allow the exchange of ideas and expertise, and last, but not least, it is an opportunity to get to know like-minded people.

A small charge is made to cover the hall hire.

For further details contact **Barbara Williams**
01480 812905 or barbara_r_w@hotmail.com

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.



Ellington and Grafham WI

Join the growing team!

We meet on the first Tuesday in the month

Contact Sue **896139** or Ann **891372** for details

Nov 4th AGM and supper

Dec 2nd Hands on making Christmas decorations

Like a lift from Grafham? Call Heather **819589**

Grafham Social Committee

invites you to a Coffee Morning at

10.30am on Wednesday, 19th November
at Sue Kelly's, 3 Church Road.

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



YOUR COUNTRYSIDE NEEDS YOU

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



Join Grafham Wildlife
and

Conservation Group
Call Sam Malt on

01480 810844 daytime

01480 811654 evenings

www.gwgcg.btck.co.uk/

GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL

has a Public Entertainments Licence for music, dancing, performing arts and can accommodate 92 guests seated in rows or 150 at a dance/disco - an ideal venue for children's and family parties. There is a playing field for sports activities and the hall has small changing rooms with shower facilities.

Contacts: Pat or Alan Watson 01480 811166



Do you enjoy reading?

We would like to welcome more residents to join us for informal social evenings.

We usually meet on the last Tuesday of the month.

For further information on dates, venues and the current read, please contact

Tina 07711 012957 or Val 07761 137012



The Mobile Library

Route H24 visits **Breach Road, Grafham**
on the **4th Wednesday of every month**

from 10.40 to 11.00. The next visit is 22nd November.

For renewals/ enquiries call **0845 045 5225** or click [here](#)



Spaldwick's Youth Group

Friday evenings in Spaldwick - for more details see

<http://www.grafham.org.uk/Escape>YouthGroup>

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.



Letter to the Editors



Dear Editors,

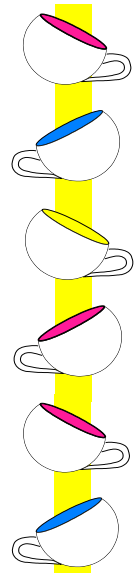
Social Committee and Editor

Thank you warmly to the lovely ladies of the Social Committee for having us monthly for coffee mornings, and for the trouble you go to to give us a superb Christmas dinner. It's so much enjoyed and appreciated.

Many thanks; and to you dear editor for all your hard work in giving us such a great newsletter, the same greetings.

Grafham Resident

Thank you very much for taking time and trouble to send in your thanks! Ed



What are your views, news 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/email address but tell us if you'd prefer us not to print it in the Grafham Gossip. Thanks, Ed

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

October 2014

There are no reported incidents this month

However, the Police have asked that we draw attention to various scams which are on the increase with many victims still being caught out. Please read '**More Sinister Scams**' on page 11.

James Snell 07951 069 565
email: Jamie2701@aol.com



All emergencies **999**
Non-emergencies **101**
Cambridge Constabulary HQ **01480 456111**
Minicom for hard of hearing **01480 422493**
Crimestoppers **0800 555111** (anonymous)
Anti-social behaviour **01480 388379**
To stop unwanted mail **0845 703 459 9**
To stop unwanted phone calls **0845 070 0707**
To report anti-social behaviour in Grafham
01480 388379 / 387097 or e-mail:
Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk or
tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

The second edition of the Safeguarding Adults and Mental Capacity Act Newsletter has recently been published. It includes useful information and up-dates for people who use services, their families and carers, the general public and professionals who work with vulnerable adults. The newsletter can be downloaded from the County Council's website <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/> or by clicking [here](#)



Independent Living Fund (ILF) Closure, June 2015

The Independent Living Fund (ILF) aims to support long term, independent living for severely disabled people by helping them to live at home instead of in residential care. In March 2014, the Government announced that it will be closing on 30th June 2015 when the County Council will take over responsibility for meeting the eligible care and support needs of ILF users. The County Council and ILF are working closely together to make sure the transfer of responsibility for funding arrangements takes place as smoothly as possible. The ILF website www.dwp.gov.uk/ilf includes more information about the closure of the programme closure, or you can phone the County Council's Customer Services on 0345 045 5202 with any questions. The ILF is no longer accepting any new applications.



"Has the bin man bin Mam?"



November

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	Blk	8	9
10	11	12	G	Blu	15	16
17	18	19	20	Blk	22	23
24	25	26	G	Blu	29	30

December

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	Blk	6	7
8	9	10	G	Blu	13	14
15	16	17	18	Blk	20	21
22	23	G	25	26	27	28
Blu	30	31				

Paperback books in good condition

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

Many thanks!



Activities at Local Libraries

Contact your local library to find out forthcoming events and activities. Email: your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or tel: 0345 045 5225

If you are reading this online, click on your local library to discover what events and activities are coming up soon. [Buckden Library](#), [Huntingdon Library and Archives](#), [St Neots Library](#)



Brush up on your maths and English skills For more information please contact your local [Library Learning Centre](#) or call 01733 205780.

Download some top titles from our [eBook or eAudio-book catalogue](#) There's also a great selection of [eMagazines](#), all free to download.

Managing your library account is easier than ever with [Sorcer Mobile, the library mobile app](#). You can see at a glance your current loans and reservations, including your borrowing history



Do you need information and advice?

Are you:

- Living with a long term illness or disability?
- Providing unpaid support to adult family members or friends who could not manage without your help?
- Struggling with an age related condition?

If you answer 'yes' to any of the above then why not come along to one of our

Adult Support Joint Drop-Ins

At Huntingdon Library
Princes Street, Huntingdon PE29 3PA

On the first Wednesday of the month during 2014
10am – 1pm
Refreshments available

- 1 October** Speaker Mental Capacity Act and Power of Attorney.
5 November Keeping Safe in winter – including falls prevention, falls detection and equipment and information to help you stay safe and independent.
3 December Relax with Christmas Art and Craft activities.

Our advice is free and confidential and a warm welcome is guaranteed.

For further information contact

Gemma Whitehouse on 01480 377616 or Leigh Hornsby on 01480 373220

Drop.InSessionsAsc@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
CarersSupportTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Do you have any events to advertise?

Email the details to editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Send a copy to diary@grafhamgossip.co.uk

We'll print them in the *Grafham Gossip* and add them to the Village Diary on the web site.

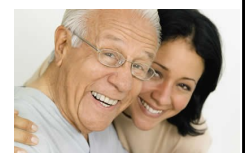


and any outstanding charges. You can also renew your loans easily. The app is free to download. Just enter your library barcode and pin.

Students, independent researchers and small businesses can now access over 1.5 million of the world's best academic papers through [Access to Research](#). The service is available at your local library in Cambridgeshire, a result of a unique collaboration between librarians and publishers, who have made their journal content available free of charge.

The series of popular adult support drop-in events continues into early Autumn.

The events are for anyone who is living with a long-term illness or disability, providing unpaid support to adult family members or friends who could not manage without this help or struggling with an age-related condition.



Three-Score Years and Ten



Life expectancy for both men and women has continued to rise. In 2012, life expectancy at birth for females born in Grafham was 83 years, compared with 79 years for males. This contrasts with 49 and 45 years respectively at the turn of the last century in 1901.

In recent years, the increase in life expectancy among older adults has been dramatic, particularly for men. Between 1981 and 2002, life expectancy at age 50 increased by four and a half years for men and three years for women. For those aged 65 and over the extra years of life were three years and two years respectively. By 2012, women who were aged 65 could expect to live to the age of 83, while men could expect to live to the age of 79.

The reason for these increases is due mainly to advances in healthcare and technology. Those of you who know me well know that I love technology but there is a problem: as technology has advanced human beings have in some respects grown to feel more powerful – masters of our own destiny. We are in control and we can turn our technology against anyone or anything that threatens us. When we, or someone we love is diagnosed with a serious illness we get on the internet and look up the symptoms, treatment and prognosis and we tell the doctors what they must do. If someone dies young we mutter, "You would think in this day and age they could have done

something to save them!" We have become like gods in our own eyes – invincible and in control!

All of this leaves little or no room for God, relegating him to last resort, "All we can do now is pray!" we say when everything else has failed. Our pastoral ancestors set themselves deliberately against this worldview and understood that when we face problems or setbacks (and indeed when things are going well) that God is our source and re-source; that cultivating a grace-filled relationship with him, rooted in prayer was the only way to live. Death was not an enemy to be battled, in fact people would try to prepare themselves for a "good death" – they wanted to die well!

God has given us a life to live and one day that life will end. If we live with no sense of our own mortality, of the fragileness of life, then there will be little room for God. I am not suggesting we wake each morning thinking "this might be my last day" but rather that we have an awareness that this life is finite and that it is God, not man, who is in control. This mediated consideration of death is important because it teaches wisdom: how to live as a *human*, not as a *god*; how to live up to human limits but not beyond them. "So teach us to number our days that we might get a heart of wisdom," cried the psalmist (Ps 90:12). Luther called out in response, "Lord! That we might all be such skilled arithmeticians!"

Fortunately for the numerically challenged among us the key to this particular mathematical conundrum is neither abacus nor calculator but prayer.

Jason

(Contact details for Jason can be found at the top right of page 2. Ed)



Christmas Shoe Box Appeal

Remember to fill your shoe box by
Monday 17th November.



All the details that you need can be found
on the front page.

Cinnamon Bar and Indian Restaurant



Thursday Night is '**Banquet Night**' and remember to just drop in to the Bar for a drink and a poppadum anytime.

Call 01480 812211

MATHS TUTORING

Individualised GCSE Maths
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Specialist teacher/tutor MA, PGCE
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Simon Bickley Tutoring

Meditation Classes

Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm

Church Hall, Church Road,
Brampton PE28 4PF

£5.00 per session 1st Session free

If you suffer from stress, anxiety/panic attacks, high blood pressure, headaches or migraine, or have trouble switching off your mind when you go to bed at night then mindfulness and guided meditation can help.

During the day our brain transmits in beta waves; however, during periods of quiet meditation these change to slower alpha or theta waves which whilst calming us, also enhance our problem-solving and creative abilities. This allows us to find answers to our problems, which in turn helps us feel less stressed; we then suffer fewer panic attacks, headaches, etc and this ultimately leads to better and more restful sleep.

To book a place and find out more about the other stress relief solutions/holistic therapies offered by

Tranquil Thyme in Brampton

ring Janice on:-

01480 413894/ 07913 767878

or e-mail:

hollyhocks58@googlemail.com

Wanted Grafham Gossip Distributor



The volunteer who distributed the bundles of newsletters to our delivery team has moved house and left the village!

If you are able to help with this shared task - please send an email to

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

It involves getting the hard copies to the deliverers as soon as possible after printing. This is usually about 6 to 7 days after the deadline.

Thank you, Ed

The Parish Council Agenda is available to view in advance of the Parish Council meetings.

Visit www.grafham.org.uk

Click on **Parish Council Agenda**, in the main menu and then **Latest Agenda**.



Babysitters



Emma 17yrs **860632** **Meri** - 15 yrs **811192**

Nicci 14yrs **811279** **Harriet** 16yrs **810043**

Kate 17yrs **812179** babysitting course

Livvy 14yrs **819708** babysitting course

Kirsty 18yrs **810550** babysitting course

Georgie 14yrs **432688** babysitting course

Caroline 18yrs **812179** works in reception class

Holly 18yrs **810867** babysitting and first aid courses,
works with children aged 3-7.

Olivia 23yrs **811831** BA Early Childhood Studies

Bryony 17yrs **812354** experienced with newborn -
14yr olds

Photos Please - Old and New - for 2016 Grafham Calendar



The SAS committee is in the early stages of producing a calendar for 2016, to sell in aid of the church restoration fund, and would like your help.

We are looking for photos of Grafham both old historical pictures that you may own and recent photos that you have taken. The photos should not have been used before in a Grafham calendar or card and must be

submitted by the owner/photographer. Landscape rather than portrait orientation will work best with the layout of the calendar.

More details will follow in later issues of the Grafham Gossip.
In the meantime get sorting and clicking!

Residents are reminded to check ID



We'd like to remind our residents to be vigilant and always check the identification of anyone who calls at their door including those who say they are from Cambridgeshire County Council or Trading Standards. Council officers will usually ring and make an appointment first if they intend to call on someone. Council Officers always carry identification and will not be offended if you close the door on them whilst you verify who they are. You can call the County

Council on 0345 045 5200 to check that they are a County Council Officer. Always leave the chain on the door when you are answering to someone you do not know, take any identification card and examine it thoroughly. Never employ tradesmen who call at your house uninvited.

If you need a tradesman for any job big or small check out 'Buy with Confidence', a Trading Standards sponsored group of traders. All of whom have been thoroughly checked before being allowed into the scheme.

'Buy with Confidence' can be found on the internet <http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk>, your local library or by calling Citizens Advice.



Send your news, views, gossip and photos to:

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Please make sure that people in your photos have given permission for them to be printed in the *Grafham Gossip* and posted on the village web site.



Grafham Plumbing and Heating Services Clint Thomas-Morgan

Oftc trained and registered technician
New high efficiency condensing boilers fitted
New bunded oil tanks fitted, including concrete bases
Disposal of old tanks



Boiler service (standard or condensing)
Improve your central heating system now - save money in the future

All work guaranteed - 24hr call-out
Professional, friendly and reliable
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info@grafhamplumbingandheating.co.uk

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07562624110

Struggling to get time to make it in to a hairdresser's NO more worries. Enjoy the convenience of having your hair done in the comfort of your own home at a time to suit's you. Work carried out by a professional hairdresser at competitive price's.



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Email paul.blanchard439@btinternet.com

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Your advert could be here!

Email:

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Grafham Computers

Web: www.grafhamcomputers.co.uk
Email: info@grafhamcomputers.co.uk

Tel: 01480 810381 Mob: 07795663168

- Desktop PC Repairs & Upgrades
- Virus Removal
- Laptop Repairs & Upgrades
- Data Transfer & Recovery
- Slow Computers Made Faster
- Wireless Broadband Issues Solved

Sue Maisfield Photography
Portrait & Wedding Photographer

Email sue.maisfield@yahoo.com
07725 845311 01480 811087
www.suemaisfieldphotography.co.uk

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mpa
The SWPP Society of Wedding Photographers

To advertise e-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk Community notices are free
Business adverts are priced according to size, **payable in advance.**
They start at £3.00 per advert for a small box, 50p of which goes to the
Restoration Fund of All Saints, Grafham

@Cops More Sinister Scams

We're all tired of cold calling - usually by telephone - but mostly these are just annoying. Signing up to the Telephone Preference Service

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

helps to reduce the volume of calls but not all of them. However there are more sinister scam callers who claim to be from or acting on behalf of a reputable organisation, such as Microsoft or your Internet Service Provider.

The call usually starts with them saying that your computer has been infected by some sort of malware, as they have detected error messages coming from your computer at their monitoring centre, and they are calling to help you get rid of the problem. They may claim to be able to make your internet connection faster and upgrade the software.

They may ask you to go to your computer and type a command which appears to show errors (this is usually a list of normal system messages) They can be very convincing and use techno speak to try and confuse you.



Then they will probably ask you to type in a web address into your browser, which will take you to a remote support site (not theirs, but a site which will allow them to remotely log into and take control of your computer). **Do not do this**, because as soon as they are able to take control,

they can do anything malicious to your computer. They can then request payment to fix the so called problems or may demand a ransom payment to release it. Two common sites that they use are www.teamviewer.com and www.logmein.com **Do not agree to this**; just say you are not interested and hang up.

Alternatively they will try and sell you a remote support contract for hundreds of pounds, but worse than that, as soon as you give them your credit or debit card details, they may take much more than this.

They may also try and appear legitimate by giving you the address of their website, one I have seen is <http://pcsupport24.net/> Again, this is their site, and looks legitimate, however it is there to take your money, and deliver, if anything, very little.

So if anything like the above happens, politely say "No thanks" and hang up. Be suspicious of any cold callers, especially those described above or purporting to be from your bank or credit card company, just as you would for callers to your door.

A couple of sites which describe this in more detail can be found at:

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/victims-still-being-targeted-by-computer-software-service-fraud-may14>



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**Midnight on
Thursday 20th
November
is the deadline for
the combined
Dec'14/Jan'15
issue
which may not be
delivered by the
1st December.**

Thanks, Ed.

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December'14 / January'15 issue

As this will include January notices, the deadline is later in the month than usual. Please email any notices, adverts, news, views and gossip in advance of the deadline if you can, so that we can get it written and sent to press as soon as possible after the deadline of Thursday 20th November. *Thanks, Ed.*

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