

Grafham Gossip

Issue 187 Deadline: by 9am on Sunday 15th November

'Wash Hands, Cover Face, Make Space' *Find advice on page 12*

Editors' note...

As I write this, Autumn is well and truly upon us, the weather has turned colder and with Covid restrictions still with us, life can sometimes seem very depressing!



But there is still plenty to be grateful for and often it's the small things that can cheer us up. Here's a few of the things that keep the Gossip team cheerful:

- Meeting people on walks around the village
- Leaves and berries with autumn colours, full of oranges and reds; hanging baskets with flowers defying the colder weather.
- Sitting in front of a log fire in the living room
- Watching the new series of Strictly Come Dancing
- Reading this issue of the Gossip!

The shops are beginning to look festive and fill with decorations and Christmas stock. The Americans amongst us will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Thursday 26th November, perhaps we could all join in by making pumpkin pie?

Please send in your news, views, recipes and gossip in good time for the next deadline, by **9am on Sunday 15th November**. Remember there is no separate January issue, so notices for December and January must be received by 15th November.

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

Remembrance Sunday

8th November 2020



There are Remembrance Services at Ellington and Grafham this year. Due to Covid restrictions we have to sign up in advance.

More details are on the poster on page 3 and the end section of View from the Pew on page 4.

Christmas Shoe box Appeal

Please make sure you deliver your filled shoeboxes or monetary donations to Moira by Sun 15th November.



Full details are on page 12

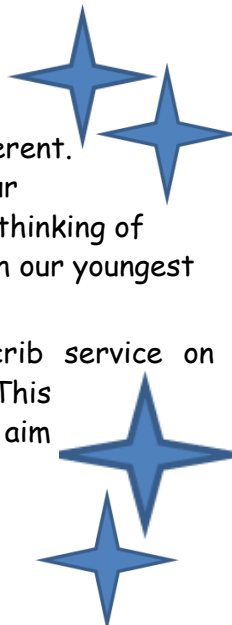
Travelling Nativity and Crib Service

This year things will be a little different. We will not be able to send round our 'Travelling Nativity' box but we are thinking of other ways to celebrate Advent with our youngest members of the community.

We are determined to have a crib service on Christmas Eve if at all possible. This will probably be held outside. We aim to make it short but memorable!

Interested?

Contact Jill Tyack **07892 720 835**



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All Saints Church, Grafham

Grafham Church It is open from Friday morning until Monday evening, except when there's a service, after which it must be closed following the service. The children's corner is not accessible at present.

Covid Precautions are to be observed please, hand sanitiser is provided for use on entry and exit, red crosses to show where you have been sitting, a simple track and trace form to fill in, with a quarantine box for used pens.

Book sales continue throughout the week in the porch. We ask visitors, to use the hand sanitiser provided, to return any books handled but not bought into a 'Quarantine box.' A payment box is attached to the porch table.



Grafham Church Services for November and December

Please wear a mask and use hand sanitiser on entry and exit.

Every Monday morning 10.00 - 10.30 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 Jill and Hazel read some bible passages, pray for any concerns, local or personal. Social distancing is observed.

1st November (1st Sunday) 10.30am Family Service
8th November 10.50am Remembrance Sunday Service - Details in View from Pew and p.3
15th November (3rd Sun) 10.30am Holy Communion

6th December (1st Sunday) 10.30am Family Service
20th December (3rd Sun) 10.30am Holy Communion
24th December 4.00pm Crib Service - in the Churchyard - more details in the 'View' page 5
25th December 10.00am Holy Communion on Christmas Day



3rd January (1st Sunday) 10.30am Family Service

For services that are likely to be well attended, please contact Hazel in advance 07870 307388 as we have to limit the number of people in the church to 30.

For more information on events and services for Grafham, Ellington and Brampton visit <https://eastleightonstone.com> and click on Calendar. To join the mailing list to receive upcoming church services and Parish News visit: <http://www.eastleightonstone.com> and click News

Contacting the clergy during the Interregnum

Keith Wood Churchwarden, Brampton **07802 368 659** The parish has no rector at present but emails to the following address will get forwarded to the relevant person: clergy@eastleightonstone.com



View from the Pew

The rain didn't dampen our spirits when we welcomed Bishop Stephen of Ely to our Harvest Festival service on 4th October. We were delighted to see our Rural Dean Revd Ian Brennan in the congregation also.

The theme of the service was based on the re-wilding of the churchyard which Bishop Stephen has inspired with his project: 'Caring for God's Acre.' Bishop Stephen is President of the East Anglian Agricultural Society and told us about how the organisation works. In the first part of the talk Jill asked the congregation, 'What special thing makes your heart sing?' The answers were marked on a jigsaw pattern on our white board. They signified what in God's world gives us joy. Debbie then gave us a step by step account of how our project has developed. These steps were illustrated by photographs which were placed in jigsaw fashion on top of our white board pattern. Hazel completed the talk by explaining the importance of biodiversity, the preservation of wildlife habitats and wildflowers to sustainable farming, as opposed to the use of pesticides and fertilisers.



Continued on page 4



PARISH NEWS Oct 2020

Three representatives from Anglian Water attended our Zoom meeting to provide a presentation about the solar farm works around the water. I requested a copy of their presentation which is available to view

on the village website www.grafham.org.uk or click [here](#). In short, they gave us information about their carbon neutrality strategy – a target of 44% generation from renewables from a starting point of 19.4%. Also, they plan to plant 2km of native-mix hedgerow to encourage bird-nesting, habitat shelter and they will provide timber cable drums for playground tables. Planting is set to begin later this month. They are also hoping to provide further information concerning the outages which the village experiences.

Anglian Water will be providing some leaflets for distribution concerning the parking situation in the village. Signs have been erected at each end which state clearly that no parking is available in the village for visitors to the Grafham Water Centre.



The Council have now taken delivery of the MVAS equipment to indicate traffic speed through the village. The equipment (smiley and sad faces) is required to be moved

around the village every four weeks, so volunteers to help with that would be welcome.

The Parish Council agreed to contact the District Council to establish ownership of the Cedar Close roundabout and verges. If it transpires that these areas are owned by the District Council, we will ask for initial works to the trees and grass to be undertaken by them and the PC will agree to maintain thereafter. The PC will also be contacting the District Council over reports that Cllr John Morris (no longer our representative) is again seeking the sale of Meadowground for the development of social housing.

A further update to the Neighbourhood Plan project will be available on the website appended to the minutes of this meeting. There was a very good response to the questionnaires delivered.

Further to the issue of a footpath out of the village towards Ellington, the PC is trying to arrange a meeting with the land-owner to discuss the possibility of maintaining the grass verge sufficiently to provide safe passage.

There will be no November meeting. The next meeting of the Council will be on 8th December 2020 – venue to be arranged.

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 Chairman **01480 812821** i.gardener@grafhampc.org **Alastair Watson** a.watson@grafhampc.org
David Russell d.russell@grafhampc.org **Jo Dunn** j.dunn@grafhampc.org **Patrick Curran** p.curran@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

Remembrance Sunday

8th November 2020



In previous years we have held a joint Remembrance Service for Grafham and Ellington. However, the number of people who usually attend suggest that with Covid restrictions on the number of people allowed in each service, we would be unable to accommodate everyone in one church this year, so we plan to hold services at both Grafham and Ellington churches starting at 10.50am in Grafham and 10.45 at Ellington.

To help us plan for our services, we ask if you wish to **attend the Grafham service, please contact Hazel in advance 07870 307388 or 01480 810326.**

For the Ellington service, please register in advance on the Worship page of our website:

<https://www.eastleightonstone.com/worship/>

or **send an email in advance to Frankie:**

pastoral@eastleightonstone.com

stating how many people will be in your group if several from your household or bubble wish to attend.

Thank you

View from the Pew Continued from page 2

Photograph: Richard Brown

Following an explanation of the Award Scheme by Diana Cook, the Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust Award coordinator, Bishop Stephen presented the Bronze Award to Jill and Hazel. At the end of the service the congregation were invited to collect 'seed bombs' to throw onto the prepared wildflower area. Photographs were taken under bright umbrellas and an article has been submitted by Hunts Post.

Although we were unable to sing hymns during the service the music provided by our strings players made reading the words from our hymns books meaningful and added to the atmosphere of celebration. Donated foods were sent to the Foodbank.



Photograph: Richard Brown

On 10th October, we were delighted to see the wedding of Louise and James in an Anglo-Chinese setting led by Revd Stephen Broadie. It was a blessing that the sun shone on the happy couple as they emerged from the church following the ceremony. We wish Louise and James God's blessings on their marriage and a lifetime of love.

Our next Family service is on 1st November at 10.30am. On 8th November a **Remembrance Sunday** service will be held at Grafham this year. The service will begin at 10.50am, so please arrive in good time. We now have a holy communion service every 3rd Sunday at 10.30am. Because of social distancing we must ask those wishing to attend to contact Hazel (07870 307388 or 01480 810326) in advance, as our numbers are limited to 30.

As promised we can now let you know about our Christmas plans. Because we must close our door for 72 hours following a service we will hold our Crib Service outside in the churchyard. We aim to make this as jolly and inviting as usual. This will enable us to have a Holy Communion service on Christmas Day, inside the church at 10am, led by Revd Ian Brennard, our Rural Dean. We will give full details in the December issue. Until then, stay well and stay safe.

*Send your news, views, adverts, notices, letters, photos, recipes and gossip
to editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk*

Talking Shop

We hope this edition of the Talking Shop finds all our readers doing well. The winter months are officially here and as the nights draw in it becomes time to get the fireplaces ready or put the heating on full. As always, we thank each and every one of our customers – we wouldn't still be here without your custom and support!

This winter we are asking everyone to remember to 'Shop Local.' As the visitors to our village and the caravan site slowly disappear, it becomes more important for villagers to support our shop. It was incredible to see so many using our community shop during the lockdown months and we are truly grateful for everyone's support. But we still need villagers to remember to use your community shop so we can be here for the village for many years to come.

Look out soon for lots of treats and gifts on the shelves - as we look forward to celebrating the Christmas holidays.

We have lots of locally made products that make excellent gifts for birthdays, Christmas, or a great treat for yourself.

- Hodders Panama and Sunken Church are Grafham brewed Beers made by Paul Robinson. These are great gifts for loved ones and at £3 a bottle its a great price for such a delicious beer.
- 'Saints & Sinners' jams and marmalades; they are the perfect gifts for your friends and relatives or a nice treat for yourself. We have a variety of flavours including blackberry, raspberry, pink gin, lime & rum. We will also have a range of seasonal flavours coming soon so make sure to look out for those!
- Beeswax candles made by local resident Sue Fancourt - a variety of candles including bell candles and rose candles.
- Grafham Art Club paintings; excellent presents at very reasonable prices.



We continue to sell face coverings made by Barbara Whitlock. We have many different designs in adult and child sizes at a suggested donation of £2.50. There is also a plentiful supply of hand sanitisers at £2.50 and boxes of 10 KN95 particulate respirators for £30.

Our pool of volunteers seems to have reduced a bit recently. So if you would like to be part of our team we would love to hear from you. You may have time to volunteer in the shop or would like to become a committee member. Please pop in or phone us on 01480 810119.

You can also find us on Facebook

[@GrafhamCommunityShop](https://www.facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop)

Lynn and Chloe



Grafham Community Shop
Tel: 01480 810119 **Opening Times**
 Mon-Fri 8.00 - 6.30
 Sat 8.00 - 5.00
 Sun 9.00 - 2.00
 Bank Holidays 9.00 - 2.00

shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk
www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk
www.facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop/



“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



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

November						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	Blu	G	6	7	8
9	10	Blk	12	13	14	15
16	17	Blu	G	20	21	22
23	24	Blk	26	27	28	29
30						

December						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	Blu	G	4	5	6
7	8	Blk	10	11	12	13
14	15	Blu	G	18	19	20
21	Blk	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Blu			

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 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 when you call, leave and the coordinator 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

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!



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

The church is now being cleaned more often than previously, so if you are able to help, please get in touch.

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Useful Phone Numbers

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

Action Fraud **0300 123 2040**
 Crimestoppers **0800 555111** (anonymous)
 To report anti-social behaviour in Grafham **01480 388379** or **387097** or e-mail:
Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk 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
<http://www.powercut105.com/>



Thank you very much for participating in the questionnaire!



Two thirds of households took part, which is phenomenal!

Huge thanks must also go to our keen teams who delivered leaflets, circulated and collected questionnaires and our data input assistant. They've been out in all weathers to ensure as many of you as possible could become involved.

Many have asked to be updated with our progress and you will receive an email confirming this.

If you didn't give your email address and would like to be updated then please go to the [Ellington Parish Council website](http://www.ellingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)



Please email editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk if you are able to deliver paper copies of Grafham Gossip to one side of Breach Road once a month.

Thank you, Ed.

That's Life!

Watching T.V during the current crises was making me fed up and nearing depression, so I decided to reminisce about the times in my working life and remember all the funny incidents. (Apologies if some appear irreverent as no offence is intended. I always thought PC meant police constable or personal computer.) In my early working life, many years ago it was a simple task to give notice on a Friday, leave and start another job following Monday! How times have changed, for better or worse and I will leave that opinion to you!

One of the jobs I enjoyed most was when I was working for an undertaker! Seriously, it produced many funny incidents, (irreverent humour?) One elderly and well known local gentleman passed away and we were given the task of notifying all his numerous relatives around the world. Years ago, with many people to inform by post, this took a

long time. (There was no international dialling, internet or facebook - most of the inventors were not even born!) Consequently the gentleman was put into cold storage.

The day of the funeral eventually arrived and some people wanted to pay their respects, so we had to prepare the chapel and the coffin. We did not realise the trouble we would have getting him into the coffin - he was doubled up at the waist and knees due to his poor health. Also we did not realise what would happen next. When we removed the coffin fastenings, his body reacted by partially sitting up. I have never seen so many people trying to get through one door amidst all the screaming. I am very sorry to say it was probably one of the funniest, (but unfortunate) incidents to happen at work. It took quite a few minutes of struggling to stop myself and the three other bearers from crying with laughter.

Grafham Villager

Thinking of Selling Your Home?
Then Call...

*Peter
Lane* &

P A R T N E R S

Town & Country

Kimbolton Office

01480 860400

kimbolton@peterlane.co.uk

Gardening Jobs to do in November

- Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds
- Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
- Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
- Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
- Plant out winter bedding
- Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
- Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubblewrap works well
- Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
- Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
- Dispose of excess debris unfit for composting, in the green bin



There's more advice from the [Royal Horticultural Society website](https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/november)
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/november>

Grafham's Grade II Listed Buildings: Part 2

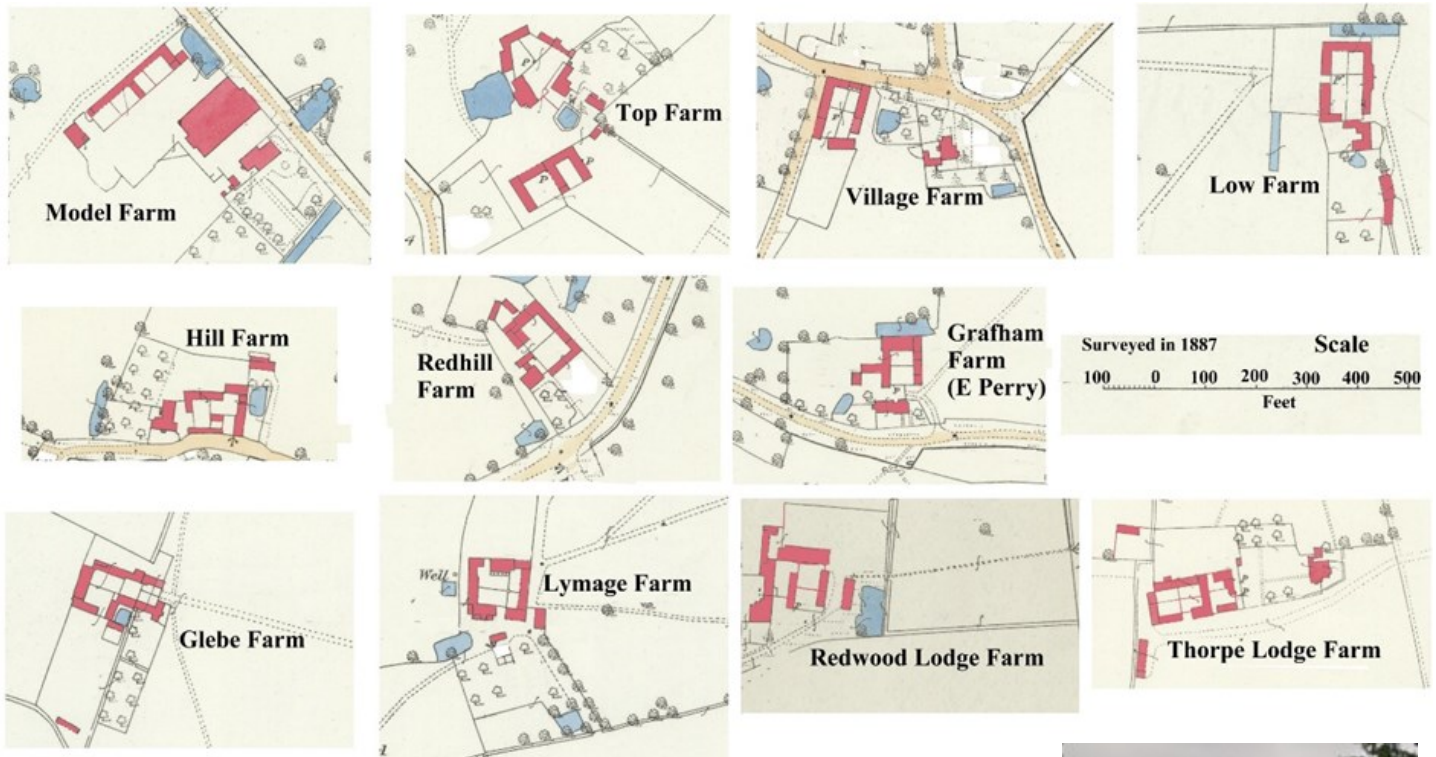
Edward Biffin

I start with extracts from two sentences in Susanna Wade Martins' book on *The English Model Farm 1700-1914* (English Heritage 2002): 'The planned and model farmsteads... a lasting testimony to the role of the landlord in the agricultural revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries, when British agriculture led the world... the landlord provided the fixed infrastructure for the farming enterprise, the tenant worked the farm providing stock, seed, machinery and labour.' This way of working gradually declined from the depression of 1870 and was substantially reduced by the great land sales after WW1.

The Duke of Manchester's estate instigated significant modernisation of the farming practices in the parish from about 1835, starting with a new farmhouse at, what is now Model Farm. The farmyard buildings were modified in 1854 to the designs of Frederick Chancellor (1825-1918) with stables and feeding stalls at right angles to the earlier barn.



It was this well-ordered layout which led to the name 'Model'. The photo shows the farmhouse, while the drawing is Chancellor's own design for the stables. Both farmhouse and farmyard buildings are separately listed Grade II. To show how much grander Model Farm was compared with ten others in the district, the map extracts



above, adjusted to show farm buildings only, are from the 1887 Ordnance Survey 25" maps (from National Library of Scotland <https://maps.nls.uk/>). Less than half of these farms exist today – largely due to the construction of Grafham Water.

The final listed building is the farmhouse right in the village - Village Farm. This is another Manchester Estate structure, dating from c 1860. Built of gault brick with red and black brick designs, the completeness and extent of these polychrome brick details is the reason for its listing.

There are other similar buildings in the parish, and other old buildings, so the next article will cover 'unlisted' buildings.



Free money to update your home?

Navigating the UK's Home Improvement Grants

By Janet Hall from G0, Going Zero

Autumn 2020, the national headlines read, 'Build back better' as the UK Government launches the Green Homes Grant and an offshore wind farm initiative that will send the UK soaring beyond current generation.

The £2 billion Green Homes Grant budget is a short, sharp, 6-month investment that has the potential to accelerate the otherwise gradual improvement of our UK housing stock. Unless you live in a mouldy, leaky or crumbly house, you may not realise that we are in a race to keep our ageing housing stock in working order and energy efficient. Across the nation, about 80% of us live in homes that are 30+ years old and won't be enjoying the benefits of modern construction, energy efficient products, and financially beneficial green energy! The good news is there's a lot of help available to improve your home. Here's a breakdown of the UK grants currently available, and some advice on where to begin...



	Amount Available per Household	Household investment required upfront?	Improvements available	Limitation
Green Homes Grant	Up to £5,000 for any household or Up to £10,000 for households claiming benefits	No, unless your improvement exceeds the £5 / £10k available	Various renewable heating / energy installations and major insulation works. There are also a number of more minor secondary improvements that can be made.	You must use an approved supplier. (See www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk for more advice)
Green Deal	The green deal is a financial loan offered by the Government; the amount available to you is capped by calculating what your long-term energy savings will be. To put it simply... you can borrow the money that you will save! (but keep in mind the costs of the loan itself)	No	Various renewable heating / energy installations, or major insulation works.	A positive limitation...the loan stands against the property – and not you as an individual. Meaning that the costs of improvement can be sold off with the property. Must use an approved Green Deal provider. The interest rates (APR) on Green Deal loans are not particularly attractive, typically around 11%
Energy Company Obligation	N/A	No	You have no say in the matter! Energy companies in the UK set targets for household improvements. They roll out large-scale programmes to improve insulation, or modernise boilers, for example.	ECO generally targets the poorest quality housing in the UK, homes with an EPC rating of E, F, or G. You can only receive upgrades from your energy supplier(s), who may contact you if they have appropriate upgrades on offer, but you should also keep an eye on their websites!
Affordable Warmth Obligation	Variable – upon requirement	No	Insulation, replacement or repair of an existing boiler.	Only available to households receiving income support.

Continued from page 10

The Green Homes Grant is a rare, open-door opportunity to improve your home regardless of its current Energy Performance Rating (EPC), your savings account or or personal income. Not only is the Green Homes Grant one of the most accessible home improvement schemes launched in the UK, it is compatible with other grants, including the Renewable Heat Incentive. (It is not compatible with ECO.)

How the grants can work together?

(An example)

- Use the Green Homes Grant (GHG) to put £5,000 against an air heat exchanger to replace your oil boiler and tank
- Pay any outstanding costs (potentially you could seek further financial help via the Green Deal, but there is no government guidance on its use with GHG presently)
- Within 12 months of the installation claim the Renewable Heat Incentive, to pay back any outstanding costs over 7 years
- RHI pays back some of your capital costs through a quarterly tariff that you receive, for the energy that you use.

Before you all rush out to purchase air heat exchangers (using a TrustMark supplier as required by the GHG,) there are a couple of things you should keep in mind:

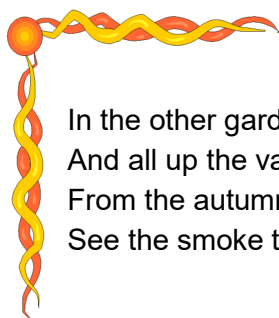
1. **Your home will benefit from renewable energy solutions the most if it is already as energy efficient as possible.** That means having good insulation, windows, doors, and draught exclusion (whilst remembering that all buildings, especially older buildings, like humans, need to breathe.) Making these improvements, taking the 'fabric first' approach should be your priority to maximise your carbon efficiency, reduce energy costs and protect the longevity and value of your home. The grants and funds listed above are structured to support this approach, so if your home does not have loft / wall insulation and it is recommended on your EPC to get it - you would not be eligible to apply for the renewable heat incentive. Take one step at a time!
2. **Did you know that Grafham, Great Staughton and Perry Parish Councils are working together to potentially deliver a renewable heating network for the villages?** If these plans come to fruition, households within each village will receive heating through an underground pipe network, connected to a renewable energy centre. As with other renewable heating sources, this will work best if your home has good quality insulation and energy efficiency measures in place. These improvements support the lower temperature, constant daily heating patterns that alternative heating technologies will use to keep your home comfortable.

Whether this ambitious project to create a renewable energy centre for the villages happens or not, the moment to improve your home and prepare for the future is here.

Visit the UK Gov's website on the Green Homes Grant; www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk/ and follow the detailed guidance to apply as follows:

- Identify appropriate measures for your home
- Seek expert advice and quotes for TrustMark suppliers
- Choose a supplier and apply for voucher
- Receive approval, carry out works
- Redeem the voucher

If you have any further questions about the Grafham, Great Staughton and Perry renewable heating project – get in touch by emailing info@g0grafham.co.uk



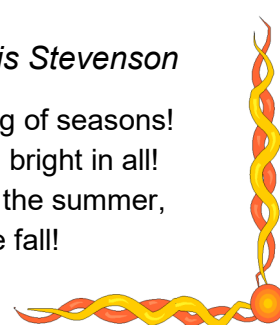
In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Autumn Fires

Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!





We are a long established florist with over 30 years experience,
Every Friday we are stopping off at the above villages with our van full of lovely flowers, plants, gifts and more.

Please pop along and have a browse or pre-order from our shop, or order online... why not subscribe now

01234-781-441 email: shop@pickalily.co.uk
Web: pickalily.co.uk

Jo and The Pick a Lily Team

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal 2020



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.

Once completed, shoeboxes should be returned to me no later than **Sunday 15th 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

It has indeed been a strange year for the world as a whole but I hope you can still support this worthwhile charity.

Kind regards,
Moira Young

2 Meadowground, Grafham

01480 811577 or 07859 065 982



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



Send your news, views, photos, letters, adverts and gossip to editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Government advice - Wash Hands, Cover Face, Make Space

At the time of writing Huntingdonshire is subject to 'Tier 1' medium level restrictions
Details of what we should do to limit the viral spread can be seen on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-medium>

But the main rules remain:

- **wash hands** - keep washing your hands regularly
- **cover face** - wear a face covering over your nose and mouth in enclosed spaces
- **make space** - stay at least 2 metres apart - or 1 metre with a face covering or other precautions

When seeing friends and family you do not live with you should:

- meet in groups of 6 or less
- follow social distancing rules
- limit how many different people you see socially over a short period of time
- meet people outdoors where practical: meeting people outdoors is safer than meeting people indoors because fresh air provides better ventilation

Remember the virus symptoms:

- high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

For more guidance see: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
The NHS Covid App can be downloaded from: <https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

Website: www.grafham.org.uk

E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor...

Redwood Lodge Farm

A recent cartoon depicting that part of our farm leading out from The Wyvern to Brampton Wood, was incorrect and ungenerous. We have not erected warning signs despite our right to do so. In contrast, I attach pictures of signs erected by landowners in our home village of Hargrave.

When this land was purchased in 2006 the single 170-acre field stretched from the Playing Field to the Bridleway. It was practically featureless and had almost no cover. The area in the cartoon was fully cropped and cultivated, impractical to walk for most of the year. As part of a strategy to improve the landscape and biodiversity, we split the field into three by planting a native hedgerow down to the bridleway. We created a wide avenue of trees and shrubs along the bottom of the field from Brampton Wood to Breach Road. Finally, we decided to plant a tree and shrub corridor from the playing field. This was never a public right of way and the previous landowner did not permit it to be used as such. The railway itself was closed and disappeared over 50 years ago. The changes we made reduced the cropping area and our farm income.

These planting schemes are designed to encourage wildlife habitats as well as improve the look of the area in general. We hoped this would benefit the people of Grafham, but not as a shortcut to Brampton Wood - wildlife and people do not mix well in the countryside. If this area continues to be a source of unwarranted controversy we may as well plough it back up again and grow crops. We could also generate more income by installing a solar farm or wind turbines, having been encouraged to consider both options. After all, Anglian Water's smothering much of the open space towards Perry with metal frames and reflective panels does not appear to have bothered anybody. The wind turbines at Southoe seem to have crept in without a murmur. Do local people prefer this stuff? Instead of the changes we made being welcomed as a benefit we find ourselves despised by some for not wanting it turned into a thoroughfare and cycleway - so much for saving the planet. Being lampooned in a village magazine and poked at in social media is unwelcome and disrespectful.

Redwood Lodge Farm was bought with the accumulated earnings from a lifetime of exceptionally hard work and taking risks. We are not feudal landowners, lottery winners or the lucky recipients of a silver spoon. We prefer to get on with our neighbours and are approachable. If anyone wants to make a point involving our farm, then pick up the phone or knock on our door. Silly cartoons and faceless Facebook posts merely create obstacles.

My advice to those who feel they should be able to designate the use of someone else's land is to work hard for fifty years, take some risks, borrow some more money and then buy some land. It's not as easy as it may look.

John Brotherton

Dear Editor...

Footpath towards Three Shires Bridleway

I note from the October Gossip 'Parish News' that the Parish Council had investigated the provision of a roadside footpath from the 'Wyvern Chicane' towards the Three Shires Bridleway. At a cost of £100,000 I'm not at all surprised that they are seeking a more cost effective solution!

Can I suggest (yet again) that they invite a community spirited act from the owner/farmer of the adjoining field to reinstate the old permissively used path inside the hedge on the east of the road, accessed through the old Firing Range gates by the chicane. There is a stewardship strip of more than 5 metres that is put to no agricultural use other than unwanted encroachment into the crops, and as a mown grass strip has very limited wildlife value, none of which would be damaged by a narrow footpath usage.

The impact on the village would be highly significant. It would provide the real benefit of the only SAFE access from the northern edge of the village to the Bridleway and its surrounding connections. I would suggest that the only impact on our neighbouring farmer would be the grateful thanks of the villagers who could use this safe passage.

*Sincerely,
David Hollin*

Let us know your news, views, and comments. Email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk Thanks, Ed
The Grafham Gossip aims to remain impartial and the editor publishes letters, contributions and views that are received, provided that the name and address or email address of the writer is provided. Ed



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The Hog, The Bird and The Beetle - 3 *David Cudby*



The Bird flew in and settled in the hedge. Agitated, full of energy and itching to tell about what was going on just a field away. "Good news, great news in fact. You will be so pleased when I tell you. It will change our lives and the lives of our young and their young in turn, for many generations."

Hog was both intrigued and a little irritated by The Bird's apparent inability to get to the point. "So come on tell us. I am sure that 'B' and I are almost as excited as you."



"Yes we are."

And others in the hedgerow listened with interest.



"Go on Bird. Tell us what it is that has you so fired up."



"Well birds in general have a great advantage over other hedgerow animals. We are so much more mobile, so much more able to cover distances and even better – get a bird's eye view. True that some other fliers among you can travel and see the world from above but I think birds have greater scope to travel and observe. We can quickly explore and bring important news."

Bird continued, "We have many cousins with the same abilities and advantages too."

"Yes" said Hog, "A good sales pitch for the evolution of bird kind."

Resuming the point The Bird continued, "Living with you all in this hedgerow is a wonderful thing, because we share different experiences and thoughts about the world and how it has changed, not necessarily for the good. However flying above the hedgerow quickly gives a wider perspective. Sometimes that wider perspective isn't very encouraging, but sometimes it is."

By now 'B' was worried and concerned that perhaps The Bird was preparing them for terrible news from just the other side of the hedge. Perhaps it was news of a close by fire or flood. Remembering that The Bird had said it was great news The Beetle relaxed a little and hoped that The Bird would soon get to the point and deliver this great news.

Bird resumed the build up to the great news. "What is it that you all wish we had more of?"

The answers came slowly at first as fellow hedgerow dwellers thought it was a quiz and they didn't want to sound foolish.

More food, more places to nest or rest. The pace quickened, more shelter from the weather, more shade, and more variety of food plants, more places to hide away from those that would harm us or eat us.

"Yes all of those are wonderful suggestions," was The Bird's encouraging response.

Emboldened by not looking foolish the contributions continued. More places to safely spend winter, more places to meet up with others of our species, they all acknowledged that one! The Beetle captured it for them all.

*Varied and secure
The bounty of nature's home
In perfect measure*

The Bird sat up and puffed out breast feathers. All prepared themselves for *the headline news*. Bird was ready. Bird held the audience for a second or two and then began. "When I flew off this morning at first light to find a song perch and find breakfast, I noticed activity not far off. Tree planting, large scale tree planting, mixed planting, native tree planting."

There was a quite hum, soft flutter and calmness as the audience gazed appreciatively at The Bird.

To be continued

Grafham Trout

Opening Times

Mon to Thurs - Closed

Fri - 18:00 - 22:00

Sat - 13:00 - 22:00

Sun - 13:00 - 17:00

Dogs welcome

Grafham Trout

Please note the new opening times.

Sunday hours are reduced and the pub is closed on Thursday, so sadly it's only open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Thursford

Christmas Spectacular

Next year's date

is Friday 12th November 2021

Please save the date

Grafham Community Shop

Tel: 01480 810119

Opening Times

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Sun 9.00 - 2.00

Bank Holidays 9.00 - 2.00



www.facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop/
shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk
www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk

Find out Shop News
in Talking Shop on page 5

Hunts Community Cancer Network (HCCN)

The weekly support group held in Ellington Village Hall is cancelled until further notice, but there is a closed Facebook group for members and volunteers.

For more details or help contact Annie:

by phone: **01234 709836** or

email: annie@hccnthecharity.org



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Contact Jane Rowley **01480 890986**
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Deadline - 9.00am Sunday 15th of November for the December / January issue

Remember there is no separate January issue, so notices for December and January must be received by 15th November. Thanks, Ed editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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

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