

# Grafham Gossip

**Issue 194 Deadline: by 9am on Thursday 15th July**

**24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> July Come and Help!**  
**2pm Saturday to midday Sunday**  
**Children are very welcome**



**Join in the challenge to record wildlife over a 24 hour period in the churchyard**



**Lots more details on page 9**



## Editors' note...

July is considered to see the start of the 'dog days' of summer, hot, sultry days when Sirius, the dog star, appears in the night sky. June has been pretty sultry maybe the star came early!

The end of July sees the start of the school holidays and maybe most of the covid restrictions will be lifted on the 19<sup>th</sup> but I guess foreign travel will remain difficult and most of us will take staycations again this year.

Remember the Church Flower Festival and the Bioblitz on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July. See you there!

Please send in your news, views, letters, recipes, photos and gossip in good time for the next deadline, by 9am on Thursday 15th July.

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

## GRAFHAM VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 23rd July 2021 at 7.30pm

All residents of Grafham are welcome to attend. Anyone wishing to join or assist the committee in any way, or has a matter that needs to be addressed at the AGM or subsequent Committee Meeting, should contact the secretary on 01480 811727 at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

The agenda will be published 14 days ahead of the meeting and will be displayed on the village hall notice board.

Paul Knight, Secretary

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## Grafham Flower Festival

*Saturday and Sunday*  
 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July

*Free Entry*

*Teas will be served during the afternoons 2 - 4pm*

Donations of cakes and cookies welcome.

Offers of help to serve teas appreciated.

See View from the Pew, page 2 for contact details

## Songs of Praise at 4.30 on Sunday

*The theme for this year is Buildings*

You are very welcome to join the flower arrangers no matter what experience you may or may not have.

Please contact Jill Tyack: [jillytyack@talktalk.net](mailto:jillytyack@talktalk.net) or 07892 720835



## All Saints Church, Grafham

**At the time of writing, Grafham Church** is open every day, unless a church service, wedding or a funeral has taken place when the church will be closed for 72 hours after the service. As usual, these guidelines may change...

Covid precautions should be observed please and hand sanitiser is provided for you to use on entry and exit of the church. There are also red crosses to show where you've been sitting and a QR code to scan (or simple track and trace form to fill in, with a quarantine box for used pens.) The children's corner is not accessible at present.

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



### Church Services

Weekly Sunday services are live-streamed from Brampton at 10.30 on the [YouTube channel](#) and you can find an order of service on the [Worship](#) page of the East Leightonstone website <https://eastleightonstone.com/>

**For all 'live' services, please wear a mask and follow the Covid precautions listed above.**

**Grafham on Wednesdays 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, help read some bible passages to discuss and pray for any concerns, local or personal.



#### 4th July at 10.30 Family Service lay-led

Please contact Hazel in advance 07870 307388 or apply on the website <https://eastleightonstone.com> as attendance is limited due to covid restrictions

**18th July at 10.30** Holy Communion led by Revd Duncan Goldthorpe  
As above, please apply in advance

**25th July at 4.30pm** Songs of Praise at the end of the Flower Festival  
The service may take place outside

**1st August 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.*

*To join the mailing list to receive upcoming church services and Parish News visit: [www.eastleightonstone.com](http://www.eastleightonstone.com) and click News*



### Contacting the clergy

**Duncan Goldthorpe** [rev.duncan.goldthorpe@eastleightonstone.com](mailto:rev.duncan.goldthorpe@eastleightonstone.com) 01480 459246 / 07907 694177

**Keith Wood** Churchwarden, Brampton 07802 368 659 [clergy@eastleightonstone.com](mailto:clergy@eastleightonstone.com)

**Sue Roberts** Churchwarden, Brampton 07980 889904



## View from the Pew

As we enter into summer we have much to look forward to. Our new priest in charge Duncan will have been licensed on 17th June. It has been a pleasure for some of us to meet with Duncan and chat about our thoughts and plans for the future. Duncan is very keen to meet and get to know people from all three villages in our parish.

Service patterns will remain the same for July and August and Duncan will lead a Holy Communion service on 3rd Sundays, the first of these being on 18th July at 10.30. From September there will be some changes and/or additions to services when Duncan has had time to discuss this with the PCC.

First Sunday Family services will continue as before. We were grateful to Jill in June for providing coffee/tea and cake enjoyed outside after the service. We hope to be able to continue that, weather permitting until indoor refreshments are allowed.

At the time of writing we learn that Covid restrictions are to be extended to mid July. However we hope that our Flower Festival can still go ahead on 24th and 25th July combined with the Bioblitz. All being well, teas will be served both days from 2-4 pm. Hazel would be very grateful for donations of cakes and cookies. Please let her know what you can provide 07870 307388/ 01480 810326 or email [hazelpowell19@gmail.com](mailto:hazelpowell19@gmail.com) Offers of help to serve the teas would also be appreciated. A list will be left in church on the font where you can record offers of help.

Our musicians, who do much to brighten our services, have agreed to serenade us during the afternoons at the Flower Festival. On Saturday Sally and her group of saxophonists will perform and on Sunday our regular band led by John and Kate. A Songs of Praise will end the festival on Sunday at 4.30. We hope we can sing by then – if not in church then maybe outside? So, much to look forward to as I said!

We hope all readers will have a wonderful summer, staying safe and healthy!

# PARISH NEWS June 2021



## Neighbourhood Plan

The creation of the Neighbourhood Plan is complete!

Last month the Neighbourhood Plan team spent time reviewing the comments received from our first formal consultation (Regulation 14). We will now submit all the documents needed for HDC to run the next formal stage of consultation (Regulation 16) and then on to the independent examiner. This will be followed by a sequence of further approval stages, culminating in a referendum next year.

We are confident the Neighbourhood Plan reflects the wishes and aspirations of our community, whilst also complying with the regulations.

## Community Heat Scheme

Element Energy are continuing to analyse the technical solutions and financial data, but it is becoming increasingly clear that the project may not be financially viable. The financial model for Swaffham Prior has been investigated by Element Energy, with support from Cambridgeshire County Council, but whilst that project continues, it may not be a model we would wish to pursue. The Capex for Swaffham Prior has increased substantially during the project's life and is currently around £12M, equating to around £40k per house. Financing will be through a range of government grants, and includes £6.8M of carbon credits to be purchased by CCC during the 60-year lifetime of the heat scheme.

The final report from Element Energy is due by the end of June, but in the meantime, the team is starting to consider alternatives. One possibility might be a community purchase scheme of individual ASHPs, funded by a combination of government grants (the RHI successor) and the sale of carbon credits.

For the latest information, please join the heat scheme team at a public Zoom meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> July – see page 4

## High-speed Broadband

Openreach have supplied a cost estimate, which is very much higher than expected, so will need to be considered by the PC on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

## Solar PV for the Shop

The Solar PV system mounted on the Village Hall continues to provide significant financial savings for our Community Shop, as well as a significant environmental benefit. The performance data available to us includes a neat little monitor of our CO2 savings on the SolarEdge website.

The date of the next Grafham Parish Council meeting is 10th August 2021.

### Environmental Benefits



CO2 Emission Saved  
**3,382.92 kg**



Equivalent Trees Planted  
**154.85**

## Cllr Ian Gardener

Chairman, Grafham Parish Council

For more information about your Parish Council's activities, please see the village website:

<https://grafham.org.uk/index.php/parish-council/> or contact a member of the Parish Council, details below.  
<https://grafham.org.uk/index.php/parish-council/>

## Contact details for Grafham's Parish, District and County Councillors

**Grafham Parish Council** *You may contact your parish councillors directly.*

**Ian Gardener** Chairman 01480 812821 [i.gardener@grafhampc.org](mailto:i.gardener@grafhampc.org) **Alastair Watson** [a.watson@grafhampc.org](mailto:a.watson@grafhampc.org)  
**David Russell** [d.russell@grafhampc.org](mailto:d.russell@grafhampc.org) **Jo Dunn** [j.dunn@grafhampc.org](mailto:j.dunn@grafhampc.org) **Patrick Curran** [p.curran@grafhampc.org](mailto:p.curran@grafhampc.org)  
**Carole Baber** [c.baber@grafhampc.org](mailto:c.baber@grafhampc.org) **Sunil Gogna** [s.gogna@grafhampc.org](mailto:s.gogna@grafhampc.org)



Grafham's County Councillor  
**Ken Billington** 07725 764889  
[ken.billington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:ken.billington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
14 Cranfield Way  
Brampton, Huntingdon  
PE28 4QZ



Grafham's District Councillor  
**Darren Tysoe** 01480 388310  
[darren.tysoe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:darren.tysoe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)  
Grove Cottage, Malting Lane, Ellington, PE28 0AA  
Follow me on Twitter [@darrentysoe](https://twitter.com/darrentysoe)  
Receive my updates on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/cllrdrmtysoe](http://www.facebook.com/cllrdrmtysoe)





## Tri Village Meeting – Sustainable Heating Virtual Meeting 7.00 pm July 15<sup>th</sup>

Finally, it feels like summer is here, yet our conversation about heating continues! The topic has again hit the national headlines, and the community heating project has news to share too. The feasibility study looking at a heat network for Grafham, Perry and Great Staughton is complete and the report is ready to share at a tri-village virtual meeting - 7.00pm, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Book a ticket or find the Zoom link by going to our website [www.g0grafham.co.uk](http://www.g0grafham.co.uk) or by scanning the QR code below.

### The UK's 'Just Transition' and our Villages!

The future of gas and oil boilers has become a topic of speculation in newspapers and headlines. For over a decade, the UK has enjoyed an incentivised approach for households to convert to renewable energy and heating but it is now likely that policy will turn from 'carrot' to 'stick' by March 2022. How can the UK build the infrastructure required to go green, without leaving some of the population behind, and struggling to pay bills? We need to deliver a "Just Transition" to green energy.

It is anticipated that converting homes to renewable heating solutions will cost up to £2bn. Communal heat networks have already been outlined as one important solution with £270m earmarked to deliver this type of technology, which delivers heat to each home from a local energy centre. There is also a Clean Heat Grant, which would provide up to £4,000 to individual households supporting changes to renewable solutions.

Your Parish Councils, with the help of experts in the field, are looking at these emerging funds to try and see that no one is left behind by the future changes. Other communities throughout the country are also seeking a solution that works for them, such as Barcombe, Swaffham Prior and Outwood, and Stithians. We are contacting these other villages, to share learning and advice on developing a project.

The feasibility report evaluates the potential of a heat network for each of the villages involved and suggests what type of renewable heating could be most suitable. The Parish Council's project team (which includes some of our local engineers) have been putting the project engineers, Element Energy, through their paces to make sure this report gives a robust steer on the options available.



Please join us on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00pm



### That's Life!

*My memories in Sales*

I was very fortunate in that I got on extremely well with my in-laws, particularly Mother-in-law, although after reading this you may well wonder how!

As a field sales representative, I carried an extensive and widely varied range of samples.

Mother and father-in-law came to spend some time with us in 1973. We had a good time visiting places around us including some lovely sunny days at the beaches nearby. The time came to go home and Mother-in-law said she felt uncomfortable (constipated); it happens to us all. As luck would have it, I had some sample tins of Liver Salts, intended for chemists and hospitals. I suggested a glass could help her. I tried to read the small print on the tin and read 2 teaspoons. I thought that cannot be right, so I put in 2 tablespoons! Oh dear, on putting the water in it

virtually exploded, so I put a saucer on top to contain it! It looked like Mount Etna erupting! I gave it to Mother-in-law then took them to the train station for their homeward journey. I spoke to father-in-law later and asked if he had had a good journey; he could hardly talk for laughing. Apparently on reaching London they got on the wrong underground train and went the long way round on the Circle Line. All was fine though, until they reached the main line station, by which time he said that she was fizzing like a bottle of pop! She ran along the platform making several stops to rest, but eventually made it to the Ladies - just in time! She managed to get out in time to catch the train, but spent the entire journey in the toilet. He said it was the quietest journey ever.

*Grafham Villager*

## Talking Shop

Hello everyone!

It is lovely to see more visitors from the caravan site and Grafham Water return to the village and come to visit us in the shop. It's great to see the village return to normal and hopefully we will soon see the return of village events.

Thank you to all our customers and volunteers for your support during these past months. We strive to make this a safe place to shop. As I am writing this there is some uncertainty of what restrictions will be in place in July, but whatever it may be, please remember to respect the safety precautions we have in place in the shop and our staff.

We are always looking at ways we can improve the shop! With that in mind we have published two questionnaires to get your views and opinions. Our first survey is a very quick multiple choice that is very helpful to us to engage how our customers feel about the shop. The second survey is for you to give us your opinions and feedback, and suggestions you might want to submit. You can find a link on our Facebook page and hard copies will be available in the shop.

### First Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T3JHTCC>



### Second Survey

<https://freeonline-surveys.com/s/GrNxdeKt>

We would really appreciate your responses to help us improve and make sure we are serving our community to the best of our abilities.



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

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

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

Hopefully, the summer will continue to be lovely and warm! We have plenty of summer treats for you to enjoy; grab an ice cream to cool down – our selection includes Magnums, Calippos, and Cometos in a range of flavours. We also have cold drinks in our fridge along with a selection of baguettes, sausage rolls, and pork pies for picnics and days out.

Also, in stock for your summer BBQ's with family and friends are Mini BBQ Packs from Grasmere Farm. These include 4 Pork and Apple Burgers, 4 sausages and either Pork Steaks or Chinese Ribs. All for only £6.95! We also have beef burgers and several flavours of sausages.

Have you tried our range of Mellow Yellow oils and dressings? These dressings are perfect to go with summer salads and come in a range of flavours. Currently in stock are Classic Vinaigrette, Balsamic Vinegar, Honey and Mustard, and Chilli and Cumin. Also, their stock of rapeseed oil is well recommended by retailers, this oil is ideal for roasting, stir-frying, baking and dressings.

And finally, would you like to be involved with the running of the shop by joining our committee? It is always good to have new people with fresh ideas and extra hands to help our managers. If you would be interested or would like any more information pop into the shop to speak to one of the managers.

See you in the shop soon!  
*Lynn and Chloe*

## For Coronavirus Advice

Visit: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

The NHS Covid App can be down loaded from: <https://covid19.nhs.uk/>

### Free rapid lateral flow tests for people with no symptoms

The Government is encouraging more testing. You can get regular rapid tests if you do not have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

## Rapid Covid Testing



Twice-weekly rapid testing is a tool in identifying cases of Covid-19 that would otherwise be missed.

With 1 in 3 people with coronavirus showing no symptoms and potentially spreading it without knowing, rapid testing helps to identify positive cases quickly, preventing the spread of infection.

There are several ways you can access rapid testing. You can take a test at one of the rapid testing sites locally. Your employer may be offering testing in the workplace.

You can also collect tests to complete at home or order tests to be delivered to your home. Secondary school pupils are also being asked to take a twice-weekly test.

You can find out more about all of these options at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting)

Dr Liz Robin, director of public health for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, said: "Getting into the habit of twice-weekly testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to keep each other safe."

# “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](http://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



## July

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1		<b>G</b>	2	3	4
5	6	<b>Blk</b>	10	9	10	11
12	13	<b>Blu</b>	<b>G</b>	16	17	18
19	20	<b>Blk</b>	22	23	24	25
26	27	<b>Blu</b>	<b>G</b>	30	31	

## August

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

Please get in touch if you can spare an hour to help clean the church, now and then.

Contact: [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.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](http://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](mailto:mail@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)



## The Wildlife Trust Huntingdonshire Local Group

Bedfordshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Northamptonshire

Traditionally the Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust starts its spring/summer programme of outdoor events in April. Due to the covid restrictions, this has not been possible to organise this year. However, we are working on self-guided tours for the next few months and hopefully we will have additional outdoor events in the autumn/winter.

Details of these plans will be published when all the plans have been made and confirmed.

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



## Thursford Christmas Spectacular



**Tuesday 7th December**

**Ticket price £62.50 p/p**

includes return coach travel and entry fee.

Please contact Tina Theodorou 07711 012957 or email [tina.theodorou1@gmail.com](mailto:tina.theodorou1@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Further details to follow closer to the event.



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



## Useful Phone Numbers

All emergencies **999**

Non-emergencies **101**

Cambridge Constabulary HQ  
**01480 456111**

Minicom for hard of hearing  
**01480 422493**

Action Fraud **0300 123 2040**

Crimestoppers **0800 555111**  
(anonymous)

To report anti-social behaviour in Grafham **01480 388379** or **387097** or e-mail:  
[Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:Barbara.gowling@huntsdc.gov.uk) or [tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk](mailto:tracey.guinea@huntsdc.gov.uk)

To stop unwanted phone calls  
**08450 700707**

To stop unwanted mail **08457 034599**

**Power cut Call 105 or 0800 31 63 105 or text POWER and your postcode to 80876**  
<http://www.powercut105.com/>





## Under the Carpet

Edward Biffin

My last few articles have described objects found in or on the soil of Orchard Row. For the first twenty years of my residence in Grafham, while I owned both of my present cottages, the second one was occupied by my tenant, an almost life-long inhabitant of the village, Laurie Jeffs. In the mid 1990s Laurie moved to an old folk's home and this article, the first of two, describes things found during the refurbishment and integration of the two cottages. In the 'two-up-two down' cottage there was a main bedroom, and a secondary one integrated with the top of the 'staircase in a cupboard'. This latter room was sparsely furnished with a cast-iron bedframe and a load of rubbish sitting on a threadbare carpet.

And the carpet had been rather carefully underlaid by newspapers and magazines over the bare floorboards. In the walking areas they were torn and fragmented, but under the bed there was a yellowing, slightly tatty at the edges, but otherwise well-preserved copy of the Hunts Post dated Thursday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1949.



## BUS SERVICE PUTS GRAFHAM ON THE MAP

For the first time in its history, Grafham has a regular 'bus service. On Saturday Premier Travel commenced a twice-weekly (Tuesdays and Saturdays) service from Huntingdon to Brampton, Grafham, Gt. Staughton, and Peterhall.

On the first day many of the villagers took advantage of the new facilities.

A spokesman of Premier Travel told the "Post" on Tuesday that he was confident that the village would support the new service.

Two buses will run in each direction on Tuesday, and three on Saturday. Last bus to Grafham on a Saturday will leave Huntingdon at 10.30 p.m.

And in the middle of the front page – just between the two top photos – Grafham's first ever bus service arrives! Did the villagers celebrate? We don't know, as while virtually every other village around had a local news paragraph on page 7, Grafham had no entry.

However, the regular Bunny Fellowship article on page 3 goes into the derivation of village names, including Grafham. The Bunnies was a charity supporting children, especially children in hospital and the construction of a new children's ward. It seems to have been named after the collecting of Queen Victoria pennies – the ones with her hair in a 'bun' – as charity donations.

Other local items included the advert 'Meet your friends at -THE BRAMPTON HUT HOTEL – excellent food in pleasant surroundings.' That was the old hotel of course, before the A1 was dual carriageway and before there was a roundabout, just a staggered crossroads with a guide-post and the hotel. (For an old photograph of the hotel, see the online [Grafham Gossip April 2012 page 7](#), on the Grafham website [www.grafham.org.uk](http://www.grafham.org.uk)) Meanwhile, over at Gaynes Hall Borstal

Institution, an exhibition of the arts and handicrafts classes included – dressmaking!

Also just to show that nothing changes, the first meetings of the Local Government Boundary Commission were announced, covering Cambridge, Hunts and Peterborough.

Part 2 of this article will cover the magazines - copies of Radio Times - again from the 1946-49 period.

Read the [front page of the Hunts Post dated Thursday February 3<sup>rd</sup> 1949](#), in more detail online by clicking on the link or type [tinyurl.com/e4r73nsj](http://tinyurl.com/e4r73nsj) into your browser.

If you are interested in the rest of this historical newspaper, please let Edward know. Email: [edragon@edragon.plus.com](mailto:edragon@edragon.plus.com) Ed.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor...

### Aqua Park at Grafham Water

I would be happy for you to publish the email that I sent to Anglian Water in the *Grafham Gossip* and I thought that the village might also be interested to know that neither Perry nor Grafham Parish Councils had been consulted on the development. Here is the link to Aqua Park Grafham: <https://www.aquaparkgroup.co.uk/grafham/>

Dear Anglian Water,

It is with sadness (maybe I am the wrong age) that I learn about the opening of a theme park here at Grafham Water.

Our Village Plan highlighted that most of the local community are living here because of the peaceful nature of the environment, the access to nature and wildlife and the rural community.

Indeed if you read your Google reviews you will see that it is the engagement with nature that your visitors also appreciate.

The increased carpark price to £6 and soon to be £8 has put pressure on that environment with your visitors abusing both our villages as free places to park.

Church Road and Church Hill in Grafham have become a rat race for people seeking to find somewhere to park and now you are going to encourage even more cars and more visitors.

Has there been an impact study on the effect of the new theme park on noise levels, traffic levels, sufficiency of parking, and effect on the wild birds that live on the reservoir?

I would be interested to hear if you are now going to allow free swimming and launching of boats from the North Shore as it seems that you are opening this area up to all?

That aside and most importantly what consultation has been undertaken with the local communities and indeed why we not notified of the planning application?

The other sites where these theme parks are situated have much greater infrastructure and are able to site the park away from the majority of the wildlife.

Lakeside Shopping Centre, at Thurrock, Cardiff Bay Barrage are not rural environments and Rutland Water is considerably bigger; the theme park there is tucked away from the main reservoir area.

Anglian Water is notorious for not responding to concerns about the industrial solar park and now you feel the need to further blight the natural environment.

Perhaps it is time for you to come and listen to the communities of Grafham and Perry; I am sure not all will share my views, but it would be appropriate for you to seek them.

Kind regards

Teresa Hollands

*Aqua Park Group is due to open an 'Aquapark' at Grafham Water on 3rd July 2021. Ed.*

*Let us know your news, views, and comments. Email: [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto: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.*

## Recipe of the month - Courgette Pizza Boats

- 4 medium courgettes
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 75g diced chorizo
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 335g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 1 tsp dried mixed herbs
- 150g ball mozzarella, torn into small pieces
- 28g fresh basil, roughly torn



1. Preheat the oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/gas mark 6. Halve the courgettes lengthways. Scoop out the seeds using a teaspoon and roughly chop them. Place the courgette halves on a roasting tray, brush with the oil and bake for 12-15 minutes, until just soft.

2. Add the diced chorizo to a medium saucepan over a medium heat and cook for 3-4 minutes, until golden and the oil has started to release. Add the garlic and cook for a further minute.

3. Add the courgette seeds, tomatoes, tomato purée and dried herbs with seasoning and simmer for 5 minutes with the lid on, until the tomatoes have softened and burst slightly. Remove the lid and cook for a further 5 minutes until thickened. Stir through half the basil.

4. Preheat your grill to the highest setting. Divide the tomato mixture between the roasted courgettes and top with the mozzarella. Place under the grill for 3-4 minutes, until the mozzarella is melted and golden.

5. Top with the remaining basil and divide between 4 plates to serve.



## Bioblitz in Grafham 24th to 25th July



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. **Every species counts***

**24<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> July**

**Come and Help!**

**Children are very welcome**

**2pm Saturday to midday Sunday**

Flower Festival - all weekend  
Music and refreshments on both afternoons 2 - 4pm

### We need your help!

Our Bioblitz is a chance for us to record all the life we can in the churchyard and surrounding area in 24hrs. Last year only a few could take part - this year there's no limit...

**Children are very welcome, there's plenty to do.**

**Take as many photos as you wish and let's see if we can make a display of plant and animal life here.**

Share them on the [Grafham Bioblitz Facebook](#) page please.

Display boards showing wildlife seen in the area and explaining what's going on in the churchyard will be shown (subject to the weather) during the weekend.

Our Bioblitz coincides with the '[Big Butterfly Count](#)' so it would be great to have as many people participating as we can.

Estimated timings of what's happening over the two days are on the left below the poster.

**No previous knowledge is needed but if you are a naturalist and wish to contribute then please do!**

Want to know more?

Please contact [debs.russell@gmail.com](mailto:debs.russell@gmail.com) or visit the new [Grafham Bioblitz Facebook](#) page

### Saturday afternoon

- 2:00pm Plants and butterflies - see how many you can spot
- 2:00pm Plant your sunflowers from 2pm onwards
- 2:30pm Bees
- 3:30pm Set up hedgehog tunnels
- 4:00pm Build mammal traps (luxury hotel) for mice, voles, shrews
- 7:00pm Place mammal traps
- 8:00pm Set up moth traps
- 9:00pm Use bat detectors on a bat walk
- 10:00pm Moths. Help determine what flies at night

### Sunday morning

- 7:00am Start Mammal release
- 7-11am See mammals caught
- 10.00am Look at hedgehog trails
- 10:30am Bird survey, walk and see which birds are flying around us
- 11:00am Bug hotel - find out who is living there?

**Timings may not be accurate**

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## Ox-eye daisies, *Leucanthemum vulgare*



Photographs by:  
Richard Brown

This month the 'Flower of the garden' is *Leucanthemum vulgare*, commonly known as the ox-eye daisy, oxeye daisy, dog daisy, marguerite and other common names. Originally confined to a wandering strip at the far end of the garden, it has taken over much of the rest including the mound previously the preserve of rock roses, granny nightcaps and golden rod, which are still there but struggling to be seen.

Visit [www.grafham.org.uk](http://www.grafham.org.uk) and click on the *Grafham Gossip* link, to view in colour the ox-eye daisies with their lovely golden-yellow centres amongst the sea of white petals.

*Edward Biffin*



## Gardening Jobs for July

- Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt
- Care for houseplant while on holiday
- Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise
- Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering
- Pick courgettes before they become marrows
- Treat apple scab
- Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up
- Order catalogues for next year's spring-flowering bulbs
- Give the lawn a quick-acting summer feed, (but don't feed wildflower patches or meadows)
- Harvest apricots, peaches and nectarines



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



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## Community Notices in the Grafham Gossip

No charge for notices if no profit is made:

**Free to good home - Help wanted - Community Info**

**Items For Sale** - a donation towards printing costs please, to reflect the size of the advert if / when the item is sold

**Profit making events** - a donation towards printing costs please, to reflect the size of the advert

Email: [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk) for more details

## Your advert could be here!

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

Community notices are free.  
Business adverts are priced according to size, **payable in advance.**

They start at £4.50 for a small box.  
The money pays for the printing of the newsletter and any profit is donated to All Saints, Grafham and its Restoration Fund.



## For Sale

Large L shaped sofa in dark brown fabric and suede.

Very good quality and in very good condition.

Includes a large footstool and scatter cushions.

£150. Viewing welcome (Grafham).

**Please call 07910 917268.**

**Exploring 'Greatness'** Two sessions on zoom - booking required

Sat 3rd July 11am - 12pm *and*

Sat 10th July 11am - 12.30pm / 1pm - 2.30pm

Suitable for: Adults and young people 16+ yrs

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**LIBRARY**  
PRESENTS



Two workshops based on Tayo Aluko's poem '*Greatness in a Time of Covid*', written in response to the pandemic and placing it in the historical context of Empire, Migration and Politics. It is also a tribute to essential workers, many of them migrants, who have kept society running, but many of whom have succumbed to the virus.

Exploring 'Greatness' workshops examine and discuss the poem's themes and will ask participants to research and share historical or contemporary figures and their migration stories, focusing on their impact (positive or negative) made on the society they found or find themselves in.

Led by Tayo Aluko who brought his much acclaimed 'Call Mr. Robeson' production to Cambridgeshire in 2019.

**For more details visit the Library Presents** <https://www.library.live/the-library-presents> and scroll down to click on **Exploring 'Greatness'**

## Continuing thoughts on Shifting Baseline Syndrome

David Cudby

I'd like to say a little more on Shifting Baseline Syndrome, which I wrote about last month. I've been thinking about perspectives, how they change, how personal they can be. Our shifting perceptions, recollections and memories of the natural world seasons is a function of the quality of formal and informal record keeping and our memory with all of its failings and biases.

As a beekeeper of a dozen years, this spring has been memorable. Every beekeeper will have had different experiences this year and can make their own '*historical comparisons*' depending upon their number of years in beekeeping.

In my locality March was exceptionally dry, April was exceptionally cold and May was exceptionally wet. After the year's early botanical bonuses of crocus and snowdrop, most flowering plants and trees were late to yield nectar and pollen. Despite all of that, three colonies are strong; one is struggling and two were lost over winter (put that down to beekeeper incompetence).

Taking together the impact of weather, colony strength and age and beekeeper actions, every beekeeping year is a different experience. This year for example I fed my bees right into May. Unique in my experience. Despite all of that, in the final days of May my strongest colony swarmed. Testament to how well it was doing. Hey ho!

This speedy making up of ground suggests to me that no matter how the exceptional nature of this spring may look to me, in the long evolutionary history of honeybees, surviving tough unseasonal periods of weather are within the *genetic memory and capability* of the species.

Just think Honeybees evolved between 74 and 146 million years ago. Homo sapiens evolved about 200,000 years ago. So, honeybees (as an evolving species) have had 370 to 730 times more experience of the vagaries of the natural world than their apiary masters.

There are two things particularly on my mind just now. The first I have explained and that is how from my limited perspective this spring has been something of a beekeeper's nightmare, exceptional and challenging.

The other thing challenging me stems from my continued reading of the James Lovelock books on Gaia. As you may remember, over several decades James Lovelock has developed his theory of Gaia, the hypothesis that ours is a self-regulating planet working as if a single organism. Lovelock hypothesises that the biosphere (all living things) influence and shape the abiotic or non-living parts of the planet e.g., rocks and lakes, rivers and oceans. In turn, living things evolve by natural selection to adjust to the non-living world.

Within this there is of course climate (and weather). I struggle a bit with the distinction between climate and weather. I know that the classic distinction is that climate is what occurs on a global scale over decades, centuries or millennia and weather is what we experience as short term or seasonal local atmospheric conditions. We have the luxury of three score years and ten, also documents that inform us about previous periods of three score years and ten. So, we understand a bit about trends with their in-built annual or seasonal variations. What if you are a beetle or a bird with a life span often measured in months, or even a hedgehog with a lifespan typically 2 to 5 years?

*Continued on page 15*





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## Shifting Baseline Syndrome

(Continued from page 13)

David Cudby

These creatures and honeybees too don't have diaries and as far as we know they lack self-awareness. For them as individuals all is short term, survival day by day, no scope for comparing one period with another just their physiology and programmed behaviours to see them through. No scope for concerning themselves with what is occurring on a global scale, reacting only to what is happening within centimetres, metres or tens of metres. Similarly for plants.

Lovelock has no dispute with claims that climate is changing rapidly at the moment and that human activity is a major cause. He believes that it isn't too late to take meaningful action but does take issue with climate scientists' models. He believes that their cosy consensus is misguided for two reasons. First, climate modelling is a statistic exercise with large uncertainties around modelling predictions – so how can there be a consensus about the predictions. Second as those pictures from space in the 1960s showed, our planet is largely water and would better be called planet water. Then the emphasis in climate modelling would shift towards the effects of the life in the oceans and how ocean chemistry affects climate.

By the way, the honeybee colony that I spoke about earlier, the one that swarmed at the end of May, well as I write, the colony just swarmed again. Putting aside this beekeeper's obvious lack of skill, three months of exceptionally unfavourable weather and much head scratching on my part clearly has not lessened that colony's ability to thrive.



## Sustainable Picnicking

As the weather begins to change, and when we can start meeting up with others outside as the regulations ease, we will want to get out and enjoy the beautiful sunshine. Our #HuntsWasteBusters offer some top tips for picnicking with minimum waste.

When planning a picnic:

- It is a good opportunity to use up leftovers, mix meats and veg with pasta or cous cous or into a salad
- Wrap sandwiches in reusable beeswax wraps or place in a reusable tub to avoid creating waste
- Veg sticks are a great addition to any picnic and can be dipped in humous or a tasty pate. If you plan it well enough, you can make dips from scratch in reusable tubs too
- You could even make a pizza Stromboli, a pizza rolled up when still warm. Delicious!
- Think ahead, will you need any cutlery/plates/bowls? If so, think about what you already have at home. Standard cutlery works just fine, and if you don't have plastic plates, what about using reusable tub instead?
- Don't forget some fluids. If you can't buy drinks when out, think about taking reusable bottles, possibly just filling with water and taking cordial to add when there, giving a choice of flavours.
- If you might want a hot drink while out, remember to take your reusable cup with you. Did you know The National Trust offer 25p discount when you use your own cup? Alternatively, take a flask of your favourite hot beverage with you.
- Empty tubs can be used to take home peels and cores for the compost bin
- Remember an additional bag for any other mess that may be created. If is better to take it and not need it, than need it and not have it.

The [Countryside code](#), updated in April 2021, also has some great advice in how to behave when out and about, and the most important ones apply even more now due to the Covid 19 virus. The most important aspect of this is leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home with you; you brought it so take it back. This counts for your dog waste too, bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do. If bins are full, find another, or take home.



Care for nature, helping others enjoy it too! Leave rocks, stones, plants and trees as you find them. Animals can become trapped or be harmed by food containers, face masks and anything left behind. Be kind. Be considerate. Be the change. And enjoy our beautiful countryside.

For some further inspiration, check out <https://www.hubhub.org.uk/litter-free-picnic-inspiration-guide>.

Contribution offered by #HuntsWasteBuster Heather

### 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](mailto:annie@hccnthecharity.org)



### 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

[www.facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop/](https://www.facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop/)  
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Find Shop News in Talking Shop on page 5



### 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 events

Bank Holidays - 13.00 - 18.00

East Leightonstone Parish - Brampton, Ellington, Grafham

### Little Fishes Stay + Play 0- 4 years

Grafham Village Hall

Wednesdays 10.00 to 11.20

Term time only

Free play time followed by a short bible story, action songs and simple craft.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Jane in advance of the session.



Contact Jane Rowley **01480 890986**

[littlefishes@eastleightonstone.com](mailto:littlefishes@eastleightonstone.com)



### Highway Community Car Scheme

Provides transport for people unable to make essential journeys by public transport or any other means.

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**

We are also 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

If you'd like to write a 'one-off' article or a regular feature for the *Grafham Gossip*, send it by email to:

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



You can donate to Christian Aid online, Visit <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/> If you prefer to rid yourself of some coins, leave them at the table for Brampton Church at Brampton Village Fête on 24th July.

Or fill a jar with coins, label it 'Christian Aid' and leave with the church sitter during the Flower Festival at Grafham Church on 24th or 25th July.



**Deadline - 9.00am  
Thursday 15th July  
for the August issue**

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

**Grafham Quiz night**  
Last Thursday of every month  
Starting at 8pm  
Teams of 4, £1 entry per person

### 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](https://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A14C2H) or type [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A14C2H](https://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 on Grafham village web site also: [www.grafham.org.uk](http://www.grafham.org.uk) Ed

**Website:** [www.grafham.org.uk](http://www.grafham.org.uk)

**E-mail:** [editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk](mailto:editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk)

Opinions expressed in the *Grafham Gossip*, including past issues, are those of the writer and not the editors.