

Grafham Gossip



Deadline for the March issue: by 9am on Wednesday 15th February

Coming Soon

The Grafham Trout
Will be hosting a
Race Night
at
Grafham Village Hall
on
11th March
to
Raise funds for Ukraine
More details to follow

Lent Lunches

This year the Lent Lunches are to be held
in Grafham Village Hall starting on
Monday 27th February 12 - 2pm



More details on page 4

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Editors' note...

Welcome to the first issue of Grafham Gossip in 2023!

With December and January, two of the winter months, behind us, we are now in February, the shortest month of the year. There is still more cold weather to come, but the days are getting longer and we can at least begin to look forwards to Spring with trees in blossom and early flowers pushing through our hedgerows and gardens. Have a look on page 7 to see the 'Top Gardening Jobs for February,' but before you go out into the cold to see what needs doing, I'd recommend preparing some leek and potato soup using the 'Winter Warmer' recipe, page 5. You'll be able to heat this up quickly when you get in from the garden.



If you'd like some company, there are opportunities to meet up with others in the Village Hall for the regular Tea & Chat on 23rd, see page 12 and also the weekly 'Lent Lunches' starting on 27th and continuing throughout March, see page 4.

A definite 'Must read' for you to enjoy this month can be found on page 9, 'Close Encounters of the Raptor Kind...' by John Procktor. Then of course, there are our regular articles, notices and adverts for you to read throughout the pages.

Remember to email all your contributions in good time for the next deadline, by 9am on Wednesday 15th February, for the March issue.

Enjoy Pancake day on Shrove Tuesday 21st February!

Ed. editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Don't miss the 'Good News' in **Talking Shop** on page 5!





Paperback book sales continue in the porch. Thank you for your donations, they provide a valuable source of income for our church. A payment box is attached to the table.

All Saints Church, Grafham

Grafham, Ellington and Brampton Services

5th Sunday	29th January	11.00	All Together Holy Communion Brampton
1st Sunday	5th February	09.30	All Age Worship Grafham
		11.00	Holy Communion Brampton
2nd Sunday	12th February	09.30	Holy Communion Ellington
		11.00	All Age Worship Brampton
		18.30	Taizé Grafham
Wednesday	15th February	09.00	Morning Prayer Grafham
3rd Sunday	19th February	09.30	All Age Worship Ellington
		11.00	Holy Communion Brampton
Wednesday	22nd February	09.00	Morning Prayer Grafham
		10.30	Ash Wednesday Service Brampton
4th Sunday	26th February	09.30	Holy Communion Grafham
		11.00	All Age Worship Brampton
1st Sunday	5th March	09.30	All Age Worship Grafham
		11.00	Holy Communion Brampton



On Wednesdays not listed, at 9.00 - 09.30 Informal Morning Prayer at Grafham, is open to all.

For Wednesday morning service times at Ellington and Brampton and for more information on services in general, visit: <https://eastleightonstone.com> and click on Calendar.

The Brampton 11.00 Sunday service is live-streamed every week and can be accessed via the [You Tube site](#)

To join the mailing list for the Parish Newsletter, visit: <http://www.eastleightonstone.com> and click **News**

Contacting the clergy: Duncan Goldthorpe rev.duncan.goldthorpe@eastleightonstone.com 01480 459246 or 07907 694177

Keith Wood Churchwarden, Brampton **07802 368 659** clergy@eastleightonstone.com

Sue Roberts Churchwarden, Brampton **07980 889904**

View from the Pew

Our wish for a mild winter in our last issue was not entirely granted and we trust readers did not suffer too much from the snow and ice in December. It persuaded us to hold the Crib Service in the church, even though the weather had improved.

Our Carol service was well attended as usual. Our choir led by Kate gave us some fine singing to listen to. The opening Laudate Dominum led by gentlemen processing in darkness though a column of candles set the tone for a wonderful service. The lady choristers beautifully followed on the piece. Well done all! Thanks also to Mingwei for his excellent performance on the organ. Not forgetting Pat and the delicious mulled wine and Christmas cake at the end of the service. Thankyou Pat.

Curry and Carols next day at the Cinnamon was much fun. The restaurant was full to bursting and much lively singing, including while shepherds watched to the tune of Ilkley Moor bar' tat gave us a happy and jolly introduction to the Christmas week, following on from the Carol Service. Again, thanks to Kate and John for the piano and guitar playing.



It was lovely to see lots of children at the Crib Service together with their parents and grandparents. Duncan's story of the events in and around the stable on that first Christmas night was well received by children gathered around him on blankets. The usual finding of toys around the church kept the children busy, bringing them to the crib with lots and lots and lots of sheep! (See photos left and right.)

We are sorry that Covid reared its ugly head again keeping so many away from the Christmas day Communion but we thank Sally for coming to play the hymns for us.

Now that 2023 has begun plans are being made for events during the year. The first of these are the Lent lunches on the following dates: 27th February, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March in the village hall. All are welcome to this time of reflection on Lent followed by a soup and bread lunch. Do come along and enjoy these special lunch events, we would be so pleased to see you.



Our Fellowship Impact Group gave a superb Supper Night on 21st January consisting of warming casseroles, delicious desserts and all the trimmings. Brampton Church Hall was delightfully decorated with small vases of flowers on each table and night lights twinkling between the wine glasses! The donations received will help the Fellowship Group provide further events for us all to enjoy.

PARISH NEWS January 2023

The Parish Council would like to welcome everyone to a New Year.

Community Heat Scheme

The Energy Efficiency Guidance document has been updated and moved to a new webpage:

[Action on Energy - Cambridgeshire County Council](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/climate-change-energy-and-environment/how-you-can-take-action/home-energy/action-on-energy) (<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/climate-change-energy-and-environment/how-you-can-take-action/home-energy/action-on-energy>)

Gigabit Broadband – FTTP

Gigabit have confirmed they are on schedule to commence installation in January, with fibre starting to be laid in the village in February. They will set up meetings with the community once the installation is underway, with a focus on providing answers to residents questions.

MVAS

Currently located on Breach Road opposite Church Road, monitoring traffic travelling south through the village. Data will be downloaded and made available to the PC shortly, when it is relocated.

Pot Holes

You can report a highways fault in Cambridgeshire online by using Cambridge County Councils, Highways Reporting Tool. Faults reported in this way will be assessed by a Local Highways Officer within 10 working days.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults>

Grit Bins

Grit bins across the county are filled at the start of the winter season. They are intended to be used only for public roads and footpaths.

If you spot a grit bin that is empty or running low, please report it online at:

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk> The bin will be filled as soon as there are resources to do so.

The Parish Council are currently undertaking a survey of the village grit bins.

The next meeting is 7th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

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 or the parish clerk, details below.

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

Grafham Parish Council Parish Clerk, **Lisa Hazel** clerk@grafhampc.org

Ian Gardener Chairman **01480 812821** i.gardener@grafhampc.org

David Russell d.russell@grafhampc.org **Jo Dunn** j.dunn@grafhampc.org **Patrick Curran** p.curran@grafhampc.org

Carole Baber c.baber@grafhampc.org **Sunil Gogna** s.gogna@grafhampc.org



Grafham's County Councillor

Ken Billington **07725 764889**

ken.billington@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

14 Cranfield Way
Brampton, Huntingdon
PE28 4QZ



Grafham's District Councillor

Stephen Cawley **07925 741167**

stephen.cawley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

34 North Road
Alconbury Weston
PE28 4JU



We are delighted to announce that Julian Stanley has been appointed to the role of CEO for Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Julian is a very experienced voluntary sector CEO and brings a wealth of knowledge of both the sector and our local communities.

Healthwatch Peterborough is your health and social care champion. We are here to listen to what you like about services and what you think could be improved. No matter how big or small the issue, we want to hear about it.

Where possible, we will let you know when changes are planned to services in our community and help you have a say. We will also encourage those in charge of local care to involve you when changes are being planned to services.

You can also [speak to us](#) :

(<https://www.healthwatchpeterborough.co.uk/contact-us>) to find information about health and social care services available locally. We work together with [Healthwatch Cambridgeshire](#): (<https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/>)

as part of the same organisation, sharing the same staff team.



Full Fibre Broadband for Grafham

Gigaclear works will soon be underway to bring full fibre broadband to several premises within the community of Grafham. This network will enable residents to access download and upload speeds of up to 900Mbps. To find out more and to see if your property is included, please visit www.gigaclear.com/mycommunity. We do not require a minimum sign up to build to your community, so regardless if there are 1 or 100 people interested, Grafham will see the benefit of Super-Fast speeds.

Letters will be sent soon and then a community event will be planned to answer your questions. Please do keep an eye out for these as if you have not signed up for updates, the letter will say 'The Resident' and we would not want you to miss out on this information.

For more information on roadworks taking place in your community, please visit the website <https://one.network> which publishes the latest information on highways works for civil engineering.

We look forward to seeing you soon

Roisin McGettigan Community Engagement Manager



Lent Lunches

Grafham Village Hall 12 -2pm

Monday 27th February,

Mondays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th March

Starting with a short reflection followed by a simple lunch together, of soup and bread



All are welcome to come along and enjoy these special lunch events

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent, which starts on Ash Wednesday. Also called Pancake Day, it is celebrated by eating Pancakes, as originally it was traditional to clear the cupboards before fasting during the forty days of Lent leading up to Easter.

This year Shrove Tuesday falls on February 21st.

Duncan mentions Ash Wednesday in paragraph 5 of 'Chewing the Cud' on page 7. Ed



"Has the bin man bin Mam?"

Alternate Wednesdays

Blue bin - recycling and Black bin - refuse



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

February

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

March

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
		Blk	8	3	4	5
6	7	Blu	G	10	11	12
13	14	Blk	16	17	18	19
20	21	Blu	G	24	25	26
27	28	Blk	30	31		

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/>



Talking Shop

Good News!



Three members of the shop committee, Debbie Bleasdale, Roy Harold and Patrick Goldsworthy, have agreed, that between them, they will take over the committee chair role from April. This now removes the main reason that the shop was faced with closure, following the resignation of the existing chair from April. Debbie, Roy and Patrick will now focus on putting together a plan for operating the shop beyond April. To give them time to plan, **the shop will remain open to April and hopefully beyond.**

The future of the shop remains fragile and still needs the support of the village:

Join the shop committee: New members are needed to bring ideas and enthusiasm. Committee meetings are held approximately once a month in the evening. The committee tries to use the skills of its members. For example, at the moment members with accounting or book keeping skills would be particularly useful. To join the committee or for more details, leave your contact details in the shop or email us on shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk.

Volunteer to work in the shop: Since its beginning the shop has relied on volunteers to support the shop managers in running the shop. Volunteers usually work two hour shifts. Volunteering in the shop is flexible, no regular commitment is needed and often shifts are filled only a day or two ahead. No 'shop' experience is needed, training is provided, and people are not left on their own in the shop until they feel comfortable. Again to find out more or to arrange to speak to one of our managers, leave your contact details in the shop or email us on shop@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk.

And finally:

Please use the shop – Aim for one visit a week!

Over the winter months, when visitor numbers are down, **the support of the village is vital.** Every £5, £10 or £20 you spend - even on household basics - helps the shop. In particular look at our **unique local beers** and there are a lot of **lovely wines for Valentine's Day** and **unusual jams and chutneys**. If you know of any locally sourced or other items you would like the shop to stock please let us know..

Grafham Community Shop Tel: 01480 810119
See page 12 for Shop Opening Hours

Churchyard Conservation News

Happy New Year!

Towards the end of last year we set to work to remove yet more brambles from the unmown areas to allow the wild flowers growing there space to flourish. The gravestones are now more clearly visible and hopefully they will stay that way for a while!

We are trying to make the area more friendly for pollinators throughout the year so in addition to the sunflower beds we have started to plant daffodils in the unmown area near to the notice board. In time we will add to these and the area will grow.

If you would like to join us next time in mid to late March and you wish to become involved in any way, please do let me know.

Debs.russell@gmail.com



A Winter Warmer – Leek and Potato Soup Serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 onion, sliced
- 225g/8oz potatoes, cubed
- 2 medium leeks, sliced
- 1.2 litres/2 pints vegetable stock (made from a cube)
- 150ml/5fl oz cream or crème fraîche
- salt and freshly ground black pepper



Method

- Heat the oil in a large pan and add the onions, potatoes and leeks. Cook for 3-4 minutes until starting to soften.
- Add the vegetable stock and bring to the boil. Season well and simmer for 10 minutes until the vegetables are tender.
- Whizz with a hand blender or in a blender until smooth. Reheat in a clean pan, stir in the cream or crème fraîche, heat through and serve.



GRAFHAM CELEBRATIONS
for the
CORONATION
of
KING CHARLES III

.....

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY 7th MAY 2023

**Further details of a fun filled
& memorable village event will follow**

WATCH THIS SPACE

Community Notices

Notices - no charge - if no profit is made:

Community Info, Free to good home, Help wanted

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

Profit making events: donation towards printing costs
please, to reflect the size of the advert

For more details, email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Grafham snowman and dog December 2022

Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust

Barren or Buzzing?
The Value of Brownfield Sites
Wednesday 8th February 7.30pm



The next meeting of the Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust will be held on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7.30pm.

This intriguing talk will explore some of the Brownfield site of Cambridgeshire and look at their fauna and flora, asking why they are so good for wildlife.

Our speakers will be Sarah Lambert and Peter Kirby who are Ecological Consultants and long standing supporters of the Wildlife Trust. They have both done a huge amount of work on brownfield sites across our region and bring with them a wealth of knowledge and expertise.

Everyone is most welcome to attend. The talk starts at 7.30pm in Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Rd, Brampton, PE28 4TB. Admission charge £3.50

For more information please contact George 01480 450809 or george.cottam@virginmedia.com

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

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

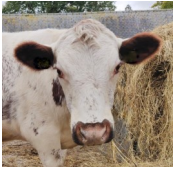
**If you'd like to write a 'one-off'
article or a regular feature for the
Grafham Gossip, it will be gratefully
received! Please send it by email to
editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk**



Coronavirus Advice

Keep up to date by visiting; <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/>



Chewing the Cud with Rev. Duncan Goldthorpe

Priest-in-Charge of The Parish of East Leightonstone



Last October I went to Rwanda to spend time in our link diocese, the Diocese of Kigali and form a link with a parish about half an hour out in the hills of rural Ntarama. Twenty-eight years on from the genocide, there is much that is still raw.

As we learn from the past, we can see how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups. We see how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours and speaking out against oppression.

Today there is increasing division in communities across the world. We only have to look at the war in Ukraine and the current situation in Afghanistan. More than ever, we need to stand together with others in our communities to stop division and the spread of identity-based hostility in society. Everyone can take action to support others, by using our voices, presence, platform, or influence.

As individuals we have a crucial role to play, in changing what is seen as acceptable language and behaviour. Today, there are still individuals and groups within many communities that are routinely excluded. How can we help to break down barriers of suspicion and fear and get to know the reality of people that are different to us?

On the 22nd of February, it is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Many people choose to give up something or to take up something for Lent. I wonder how you might mark the season this year. Could it be something related to a commitment to deepening our awareness of those on the edge of society,

those who are excluded? At this time many Christians read and reflect together on the word of God; they do so in order to understand how we can live this commitment to loving one another in our daily lives.

As we continue to learn from the Holocaust, Bosnia, Cambodia, Darfur and Rwanda, it is more than just our own individual responses that are needed, we need to work together, to create systems and society that enable all to flourish, that challenge the suffering and injustice experienced by many. I wonder if there are further ways that we can all work together in our community, across the church, our schools, our shops and pubs, throughout the many community groups and friendships in this place. Let's stand together to make this a place where everyone can flourish.

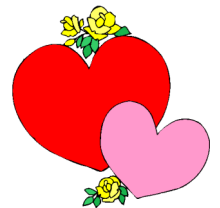
Psalm 133 reads 'How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along!'



*God Bless,
Duncan*

RHS Top Gardening Jobs for February - Spring is in sight

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as *Wisteria* as well as evergreen hedges.



- Prepare vegetable seed beds and sow some vegetables under cover
- Chit potato tubers
- Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches
- Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off
- Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
- Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'
- Prune *Wisteria*
- Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges
- Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea
- Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

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

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/february>

Deadline - 9.00am Wednesday 15th February for the March issue

so please send all recipes, adverts, notices, news, views, letters and gossip to editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk by 9am on Wednesday 15th February. Thanks, Ed

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Safer Internet Day Did you know that Safer Internet Day will take place on the 7th February. It has been organised to promote a safer internet and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones for all users, especially young people.

Just as this issue is about to go to press, a police email confirms that Victor has been found safe in Wisbech.

Have you seen missing Victor?

Police are appealing for the public's help to trace a man who has gone missing from Wisbech.



Creating a safer
Cambridgeshire

Victor Wallace, 51, was reported missing at about 12pm on 23rd January and officers are becoming increasingly concerned for his welfare.

Searches are being carried out in the Wisbech area as part of efforts to locate him.

Victor is described as 5'6", of stocky build with dark hair. He is believed to be wearing a blue knitted jumper, blue jeans, a thick gold chain and blue and white trainers.

Anyone who has seen Victor or who has information concerning his whereabouts should contact police via webchat at www.cambs.police.uk or call 101 quoting Incident 190 of 23rd January.



Close Encounters of the Raptor Kind... by John Procktor

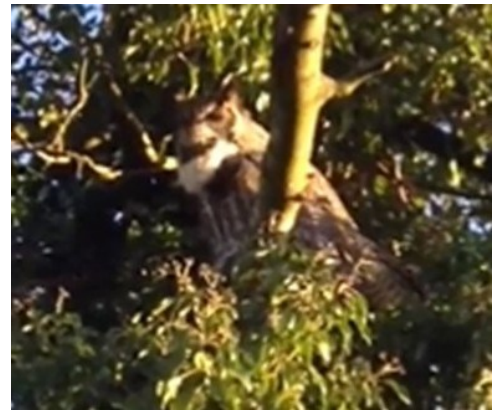
Around the turn of the 21st century I was working in a PR agency, and for my sins I was allocated The Raptor Foundation (RF) as a client. A charity dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of injured and abandoned wild birds of prey, the RF was particularly concerned with the rapid increase in a trade in illegally bred or captured native owls being sold as pets to satisfy the desire of Harry Potter fans, to have their very own Hedwigs.

I duly prepared a press release highlighting the folly of keeping owls in captivity, which was picked up by the BBC. With a film crew in attendance, a Look East presenter was to hold a tame rehabilitated owl on a leather handler's glove while "doing a piece to camera" from my script. Owl perched, camera rolling, everything went smoothly until the reporter started to speak, when the owl flapped its wings wildly, terrifying the poor lady. Whether or not it was the reporter's perfume or the tone of her voice that the owl took exception to, we will never know, but I was "volunteered" to present the story, wearing a borrowed RF sweatshirt, as I was the only other person who knew the script! Funny how things turn out in media... things are not always what they seem! So an impostor posing as an owl handler with minimal experience in handling raptors, performed his first television appearance.

Working with the RF, I had been given a baptism of fire by being told to clean the owl enclosure, picking up the spitballs that contained the inedible bits of their diet for analysis. During this exercise I was repeatedly buzzed by dozens of these beautiful creatures, silently gliding within inches of my head... There was no flapping of wings and no attacks with beaks and claws, just apparent curiosity. I began to realise what intelligent, beautiful creatures they are. Together with incredible eyesight and hearing, owls are very sensitive creatures, so I suppose I was fortunate that the television owl trusted me. Perhaps many years handling dogs and horses qualified me as a friend of the animal kingdom, or the fact that I don't wear perfume...



Living on Old Manor Park I am lucky to see Olly, the resident owl on a daily basis. The previous owners of the site who visited recently reckoned he must be at least 40 years old as he was stealing sausages from barbeques when they ran the camping site. May he have many more years happily roosting in the ancient Yew trees around the site, part of the "grove" that gave Grafham (Groveham) its name!



The Raptor Foundation at Ramsey near Peterborough is worth a visit...

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor...

Thank you, Grafham Community Shop

Thank you to Grafham Community Shop chair, committee members and to the shop managers for all your hard work in running our village shop. It is hugely appreciated by so many. As a shop volunteer, helping in the shop has been a great experience for me, meeting lots of people and learning retail skills. Give it a go, I'm sure you will enjoy it!

Grafham Shop Volunteer

(Find out how to volunteer to work in the shop in 'Talking Shop' on page 5. Ed)

Let us know your news, views, and comments. Email: your letters to: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk Thanks, Ed

The Grafham Gossip aims to remain impartial and the editor publishes letters and views received, provided that the name and address or email address of the writer is provided.

STUNNING HOLIDAY LODGE, NORTH NORFOLK,
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Cinnamon Bar and Indian Restaurant



Open 7 days a week 5pm to 10.00pm

01480 812211/811316

Thursday Night is 'Banquet Night'

1 Starter, 1 Main, 1 Side.

Any Rice or any Nan **£17.95**

King Prawn £2.50 extra

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Drink and Starter **£8.50**

King Prawn or Mixed Kebab £9.50

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

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

They start at £6.00 for a small box
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New Year, New Species

David Cudby

Did you happen to see the news item from The Guardian newspaper?

Written by Helena Horton *Environment reporter*: Fri 30 Dec 2022 12.56 GMT

First published on Thu 29 Dec 2022 23.01 GMT

351 new species named by Natural History Museum – and a quarter are wasps. New varieties of the insect include species that could be useful for controlling crop pests. The museum said naming species allows them to be monitored and protected.

Eighty-five new species of wasp are among more than 350 new species identified in 2022 by the [Natural History Museum](https://www.nhm.ac.uk), and scientists say there are many more to come.

By combing through its collections, as well as sending scientists on research trips, curators and researchers have managed to describe a total of 351 new species.

The largest group of new discoveries was the wasp, including some miniature creatures with what scientists describe as 'beautiful, feather-like wings.'

The tiny parasitic wasps from the family Megaphragma are some of the smallest insects in the world, but researchers found they may be important for agriculture. The insects parasitise the eggs of thrips, a type of insect that can cause crop damage, and as such the wasps may be important biological control agents.

Full Guardian article by Helena Horton *Environment reporter*:

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/dec/30/natural-history-museum-names-85-wasps-among-351-new-species>

It is easy to understand that formally naming a species in the familiar two part Latin style is important for future reference and monitoring. Today, with genetic analysis tools available it is possible to distinguish between closely related species which might otherwise be indistinguishable by traditional methods involving describing the structure with or without a microscope and habitat and behavioural features.

Not all of the 351 species identified, catalogued and named by The Natural History Museum are new discoveries. Many have been known to local people but never previously systematically named.

The list of newly named species includes:

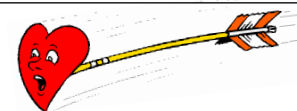
84 Beetles	34 Moths	23 Moss animals (aquatic invertebrates)	13 Trematode worms (parasites)
12 Protists (organisms that are neither animal, plant or fungus)	7 Flies	2 Bumblebees (from Asia)	2 Polychaete worms (from ocean depths)
1 Centipede	19 New Stick Insects	1 Gecko	3 Fish
7 Frogs			

So why did this report interest me? Well I am no expert on any of these newly named species. Many are not even from UK. I am probably never going to see any of them and wouldn't recognise them if I did see them. If they ever have any influence on my life and well being I will be oblivious (unless one of the parasitic organisms got me). However I congratulate and admire the scientists who devote time and effort to the work. Their work is important for lots of reasons and may be summed up as adding to scientific knowledge for current and future generations.

Reading a report like this gives me the same feelings that I have when picking up a new book devoted to describing, say flowers or birds or trees. First a feeling of wonder about the beauty and complexity of the natural world, second a feeling of complete admiration for the author(s) of the book and the years of work that underpins their writing. Often the photography and art work is wonderful and easily taken for granted. The same feelings are often also associated with the best wildlife documentaries. However for me the overriding feeling generated by all of these is that strange recognition of the infinite complexity (and vulnerability) of the natural world and my own very very limited knowledge of it.

Happy New Year and may it be filled with new knowledge.

Happy Valentine's Day 14th February!



Tea & Chat?

Happy New Year everyone!

We're back to our regular pattern, meeting in Grafham Village Hall on the last Thursday of each month from 2.30 - 4.00pm.

We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on:

Thurs 23rd February

Thurs 30th March

Do come along with your friends and neighbours. There's no charge, just a chance to get together and catch-up with some tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits.

If you have any questions, do ring me:

07931 129 772 Sandra



Mondays 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Just come and join us in the Grafham Village Hall

LINE DANCING

For more information

Text or ring Penny on 07986 509 481

Grafham Community Shop Winter Opening Hours

Grafham Community Shop Tel: 01480 810119

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

Opening Times

Mon & Tues CLOSED

Wed to Fri 9.00 - 5.30

Sat 9.00 - 5.00

Sun 10.00 - 2.00



For Shop News see Talking Shop on page 5

East Leightonstone Parish - Brampton, Ellington, Grafham

Little Fishes Stay + Play for 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



Please get in touch if you can spare an hour to help clean the church, even if only occasionally.

We are very short of helpers,

Contact: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Grafham Trout

**Winter Opening Times
(Through until March 2023)**

Mon to Wed - Closed

Thurs - 18:00 - 22:00

Fri - 18:00 - 22:00

Sat - 14:00 - 22:00

Sun - 14:00 - 19:00

Open longer for special events

Bank Holidays - 14.00 - 18.00



Could you help?

We are short of tea/coffee makers for Little Fishes Stay + Play which meets in the village hall every Wednesday morning during term time.

If you can spare an hour, we would be most grateful if you would join our tea rota!

Please contact Hazel 810326
or email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



**Deadline - 9.00am Wed 15th Feb
for the March issue**

Thanks, Ed editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

The Mobile Library

Route H24 visits **Breach Road, Grafham** on the **4th Wednesday of every month** from **10.10 to 10.35**.

For renewals and more information call **0345 045 5225** or

email: yourlibrary@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Grafham



Trout

Quiz night

Last Thursday of every month

Starting at 8pm

Teams of 4, £1 entry per person

Website: www.grafham.org.uk

E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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