

Grafham Gossip

Deadline for October issue: by 9am on Monday 15th September



Editor's note...

It's already September and the start of a new academic year as children and students return with all their hopes and plans for the future.

It is the month that sees the end of Summer and the start of Autumn. Before that though, we can look forward to a day of music, BBQ food and drinks at the Sausage and Cider Festival on 6th September!

Also this month our parish celebrates Harvest Festival on 21st September. Details of the Harvest services for Ellington, Brampton and Grafham churches are on page 2. There is a Harvest lunch meeting at 12.30 in Grafham Village Hall and later in the afternoon, a Harvest Songs of Praise will take place in the church at 3pm Find the details in View from the Pew on page 2.

Remember to send in your news, views, photos, letters, adverts, recipes, gossip and details of upcoming events in October, in good time for the deadline of 9am on Monday 15th September.

Keep Gossiping

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Live Music - '**Fake News**' at

The Grafham Sausage and Cider Festival

Saturday 6th September 2025 7:30pm

5/6 piece local band, playing Indie/Pop/Rock floor fillers from the 70's to 20's - Oasis, Pulp, Blur, Stereophonics, Duran Duran, Simple Minds, Kaiser Chiefs, Franz Ferdinand, The Killers, Kings of Leon and more...



[f](#) Fake News – Band



Look out for the
Apple and Blackberry
Crumble recipe
on page 9!

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All Saints Church, Grafham

Paperback book sales continue in the porch. Thank you for your donations. They provide a valuable source of income for our church. Donations can be made by cash into the blue tin attached to the bookshelf or by card or phone using our contactless device (in the church, if not in the porch.) More details can be found in the notice on the back page.



4th Sunday	24th Aug	09:30	Holy Communion Grafham
		11:00	Morning Worship Brampton
5th Sunday	31st Aug	11:00	All Together Holy Communion Brampton
1st Sunday	7th Sept	09:30	Morning Worship Grafham
		11:00	Holy Communion Brampton
2nd Sunday	14th Sept	09:30	Holy Communion Ellington
		11:00	Morning Worship Brampton
		16:30	Taizé Grafham
Wednesday	17th Sept	09:00	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
3rd Sunday	21st Sept	09:30	Harvest Service Ellington
Harvest Festival		11:00	Harvest Communion Brampton
		12:30	Harvest Lunch Gr. Village Hall and later in the church -
		15:00	Harvest Praise Grafham
Wednesday	24th Sept	09:00	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
4th Sunday	28th Sept	09:30	Holy Communion Grafham
		11:00	Morning Worship Brampton
1st Sunday	5th Oct	09:30	Morning Worship Grafham
		11:00	Holy Communion Brampton

For a full list of services for all three churches visit: www.eastleightonstone.com/worship and click on [Calendar](#)

Listed on the left, you will find:

- Grafham Services (On Wednesdays not listed, there is an informal Morning Prayer at Grafham 09.00 - 09.30. Open to all.)
- Sunday services for Brampton and Ellington
- Some extra services at times e.g. Christmas, Easter, festivals

The Brampton 11.00 Sunday service is live-streamed every week and can be accessed via www.eastleightonstone.com

Sunday Evening Youth

meets at All Saints Church, Huntingdon
6 - 7.30pm on Sundays and sometimes on Fridays
(due to bank holidays)

For more details contact: Frankie@eastleightonstone.com
or Ruth@huntingdonparish.org

Contacting the clergy:

Duncan Goldthorpe 01480 459246 or 07907 694177
rev.duncan.goldthorpe@eastleightonstone.com

Churchwardens:

Sue Roberts 07980 889904
sue@eastleightonstone.com
Brian Radbone brian@eastleightonstone.com



To join the mailing list for the East Leightonstone Parish Newsletter, visit: www.eastleightonstone.com and click [News](#)

For Church Donations at any time
please scan the QR Code.
Thank you



View from the Pew

In this extremely hot weather the coolest place to be in Grafham is in your village church. It is a space for quiet contemplation away from the hot and bustling world outside. Our visitors have benefited from peaceful moments in our pews, our prayer corner or with their children in the play space especially for them. Or just browsing the books in our porch.

As we look towards autumn we have the Harvest celebration on 21st September. This will begin with the church being appropriately decorated by our flower arrangers. A Harvest lunch will be held in the village hall on Sunday from 12.30 pm for 1 pm. All are invited to come and bring food to share, although anyone is welcome with or without food. Some alcohol and soft drinks will be provided but we do ask for donations towards the cost of this, so please bring cash if you would like to partake. Contact Hazel 07870 307388 if you would like further details about the lunch. It is always a very pleasant, sociable occasion.

In the afternoon a Harvest Songs of Praise will take place in the church at 3pm. If anyone would like to bring non perishable foodstuffs to the service be taken to Godmanchester Food Bank that would be great.

Our Fellowship Impact Group will be hosting a Supper Night in our village hall on Saturday 11th October so please put this date in your diaries. There will be more details of this in our October issue.



Parish News August 2025



Village Land - What's Available and What's Possible

Several residents have recently raised questions about land in the village and what could be done with it. It's great to see such interest in shaping our community spaces.

To clarify, the Parish Council owns very little land. This includes:

- The children's play area
- Land surrounding the Village Hall, including the playing field.
- Village Green (grass area in front of Church)

However, please note the playing field is subject to a covenant stating it can only be used as a playing field. It cannot be sold for development or incur any change of use. It is to be available to the village as a playing field in perpetuity.

All other land in the village is either privately owned, owned by Huntingdon District Council or forms part of the public highways, which falls under the responsibility of the County Council.

The Parish Council are always happy to hear ideas and explore possibilities within these boundaries. If you have suggestions or questions, feel free to get in touch.

While the Parish Council cuts grass on its own land, it also maintains strategic areas around the village to:

- ensure safe access to footpaths
- improve road safety by keeping sightlines clear for drivers
- enhance the overall appearance of the village, helping it to look tidy and welcoming

Huntingdonshire Civil Parking Enforcement Effective 1st August 2025

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is set to gain new powers to enforce parking rules locally, following confirmation from the Minister for the Future of Roads, Lilian Greenwood MP.

From 28th July 2025, Huntingdonshire will become a Civil Enforcement Area. While this does not change where people can or cannot park, it does mean that powers to enforce existing parking restrictions will be available to the local authority.

Until now, responsibility for parking enforcement has rested with the police. With Civil Parking Enforcement in place, council employed Civil Enforcement Officers will be able to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) for offences such as parking on double yellow lines or in disabled bays without a

valid blue badge. This change is aimed at improving traffic flow, boosting compliance, and ensuring parking spaces are used fairly and safely.

The police will retain powers to enforce dangerous or obstructive parking, parking on pedestrian crossings and zig-zag lines and moving traffic offences such as speeding or driving through 'no entry' zones.

Local Highways Improvement - We Need Your Ideas

The Local Highways Improvement (LHI) programme covers all districts in Cambridgeshire and invites any groups or organisations that represent the local community to apply for funding. The schemes are community driven and give local people the opportunity to put forward proposals for highway improvements in their area.

The schemes are delivered by the County Council on a joint funded basis and applicants can apply for funding of up to either £25,000 for complex projects or £10,000 for non-complex projects, as a contribution to their scheme. The applicant is expected to provide a minimum contribution of 10% towards the total scheme cost. The 2026/27 LHI application round will open from the beginning of November.

Please note the Parish Council are still waiting for the results from the 2025/26 round where we applied for funding to provide village gateways on the Breach Road approach to the village from Ellington and on the Buckden Road approach to the village from the direction of Buckden and the A1.

The Parish Council is preparing to submit a new application to the LHI Scheme and is keen to hear from residents about what should be included. In previous years, successful bids have brought us:

- MVAS units
- Improved road signage

This time, we are exploring further options – such as speed reduction on Church Road / Hill, which has been raised as a concern by several residents. Your feedback is vital. If you have any ideas or concerns about specific locations, please get in touch:- clerk@grafhampc.org

Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Chairman, Grafham Parish Council

For more information about your Parish Council 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 Chair 01480 812821 i.gardener@grafhampc.org **David Russell** d.russell@grafhampc.org

Patrick Curran p.curran@grafhampc.org **Jo Dunn** j.dunn@grafhampc.org **Sunil Gogna** s.gogna@grafhampc.org

Diana Thomas d.thomas@grafhampc.org **Alf Lesurf** a.lesurf@grafhampc.org



Grafham's County Councillor

Liam Beckett 07312 081 892

Liam.Beckett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

C/O Members Services,
Cambs County Council, Box ALC 2650,
New Shire Hall, Alconbury PE28 4YE



Grafham's District Councillor

Stephen Cawley 07925 741 167

stephen.cawley@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

34 North Road
Alconbury Weston,
PE28 4JU

"Has the bin man bin Mam?"

Alternate Wednesdays

Blue Bin - Recycling and Black Bin - Refuse

Every other Thursday Green Bin - Garden Waste



★ Green bins collected only if you have subscribed to the Garden Waste Collection service.

For details see the [Garden Waste section](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste) of www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste

Changes to Disposal of Food Waste Find out more on the [Food Waste page](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) of www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

September

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	Blu	G*	5	6	7
8	9	Blk	11	12	13	14
15	16	Blu	G*	19	20	21
22	23	Blk	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
		Blu	G*	3	4	5
6	7	Blk	9	10	11	12
13	14	Blu	G*	17	18	19
20	21	Blk	23	24	25	26
27	28	Blu	G*	31		

For waste and recycling services, visit: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins or call 01480 388640 between 8:45am and 5:00pm

Using TIGER on Demand you can book a journey to and from anywhere within the TIGER on Demand travel zones using any of the virtual bus stops.

When can I travel? Monday to Saturday from 06:30 – 19:00. There is no service on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

How do I book? The quickest way to book is by downloading the Tiger on Demand app, available on Google Play and App Store. Booking can be made up to 48 hours in advance of the journey.

Alternatively you can book by visiting

www.tigerondemand.co.uk

Or, you can call **01480 595440**. Mon to Sat 06:00 – 19:30.

How much does it cost?

- Adults £2.50 per journey - Choose 'Adult' fare option on booking
- Under 5s travel for FREE - Choose 'Infant' fare option

- Children 5-16yrs £1 per journey - Choose 'Youth' fare option
- Concessionary Bus Pass Holders and Disability Bus Pass Holders travel for FREE - 'Senior' or 'Person with disability' option on booking. Show your pass to the driver when you board.
- Tiger Pass Holders £1 per journey, ask for the 'Reduced' fare option when booking. Show your pass to the driver when you board. (May have gone up on 1st July, but not confirmed before printing. Ed)

How do I pay? Use a debit or credit card to book over the phone. Drivers are not able to accept cash or card payments.

For more details see

<https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand>



TIGER
On Demand

Arthur Rank Hospice

Visit Cambridge Colleges at Bridge the Gap

Bridge the Gap, a Cambridge community walk is returning for its special 25th year on Sunday 14th September. Join supporters for a walk on a brand new route featuring a selection of Cambridge colleges – access to many college gardens which are usually closed to the general public, all whilst raising funds for Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Romsey Mill.

Sign up at arhc.org.uk/fundraising/events-challenges/bridge-the-gap and don't forget three under 16s go free with every paying adult.



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity

making every moment count

Useful Phone Numbers

All emergencies **999**

Police non-emergencies **101**

NHS - help for your symptoms **111**

Hard of hearing textphone service **1800 1101** or for emergencies **Text 999**

Huntingdon Police Station **01480 456111**

Anti-terrorism Hotline **0800 789321**

Action Fraud **03001 232040**

Crimestoppers **0800 555111** (anonymous)

To report anti-social behaviour in Grafham **01480 388388** or email: crm_cpe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

To stop unwanted phone calls

Telephone Preference Service TPS **03450 700707**

To stop unwanted mail (Royal Mail) **03457 740740**

Power cut Call **105** or **08003 163105** or text **POWER** and your postcode to **80876**

<http://www.powercut105.com>



Website: www.grafham.org.uk

E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Talking Shop

Has anyone noticed the sunshine?

The sun shines so people visit Grafham and come to the shop. It rains and few visit. So there is an upside to global warming then. The shop seems have been busy almost all summer. Even though most gardeners and farmers would really like to see some rain, for the shop as they sang in Hair: "Let the sunshine in".

Fruit and Veg – Side One

We were really pleased to locate a local wholesaler to provide a regular supply of fruit and veg, unfortunately he is - we hope temporarily - out of action with medical issues. There is supposed to be someone covering for him but for the moment - with holidays and everything - we have not yet been able to connect. We will in - our other buying expeditions - do our best to get some seasonal fruit and veg.

Fruit and Veg – Side Two

Autumn is the season of mists (if only) and mellow fruitfulness. If you have any surplus fruit and veg, please, please donate it to the village shop far better than wasting it. If you are struggling to pick it or deliver it, please tell shop staff and hopefully someone can come and assist.

Southdown Lamb is ready to order

Locally grown lambs have been steadily growing in spite of the sun and the heat. They adopt Spanish hours and siesta under the hedges in the heat of the day and then sneak out in the early mornings and at night to graze that brown stuff that used be known as grass. An order form is in the shop with monthly collections from Sept to Dec. Fortunately there is no change in price £11/kg, which means a half lamb - depending on your preferred size - costs between £75 and £120.

Planning Permission for New Shop Building Submitted

Thanks to hard work by David Russell and Martin Joyner who had to navigate some eccentric colour coding and software requirements, the application for a new permanent building for the shop has been submitted by the Parish Council. A few encouraging words from a local county councillor also helped smooth the way. We now await the outcome. The gestation period is thought to be about three months but may be longer.

New Volunteer and Committee Member

Regular shop visitor and good conversationalist Colin Gough has kindly agreed to join the Shop Committee and also volunteer behind the till. Colin writes the following on his experience so far as a novice:

"As Napoleon said: "England is a nation of shopkeepers". It is only after (semi) retiring and moving to Grafham, I was able to experience this as a volunteer in the shop. I have to admit it took a couple of years to pluck up the courage. Was I confident enough? What if I made a mistake? Did I have to commit to every week?



Well, 26th July from 12-2pm was my first slot. With butterflies in my stomach, I stood with a fixed grin waiting for my first customer. All I can say is, why didn't I do this sooner? The time flew past, and nothing (major) went wrong. In all fairness not only had the training been thorough but there were so many experienced people at the other end of a phone if I needed help. Customers were invariably happy, chatty and patient. As for volunteering there's a WhatsApp group where hours that need covering are filled and, should something happen at short notice, there is (nearly) always someone to fill in. So, if you have a few hours available, want to meet people and involve yourself in the village all I can say is go on, try it, you'll like it."

So, for all you budding Arkwright's out there, come on in. The water's lovely, the till does not bite but watch out for the crocodiles!



www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk 01480 810119 See back page for Opening Hours

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



FOR SALE GRP DAYBOAT MOORED ON THE GT OUSE, HUNTINGDON - £2250 o.n.o.

This 18ft dayboat comprises a small forward cabin with bench seating either side and a forward cubby area. The rear area comprises the helm and more bench seating to hold 4 passengers comfortably.

Power is provided by a reliable 4 stroke, 8HP Honda outboard (completely overhauled and serviced, including engine de-scale, some 18 months ago.) Two new HD marine batteries fitted 18 months ago and a 12v fused switch panel includes battery meter plus a variety of USB and cigarette-style sockets for mobile phone charging etc.



Interior woodwork has also been recently sanded and re-varnished. Includes a tonneau cover and folding canopy if required. Boat deck requires minor repair and painting, hence the reduced price, but the boat is fully functional and is ideal for potting up and down the river.

Mooring is possible, but buyer will need to speak with boatyard to negotiate.

Call Gianni (07902407720) for further info.

Pepys House Open Days

Part of **Huntingdonshire History Festival**

Enjoy a tour of Brampton's
Brampton little house
of huge heritage!

Learn more about
your local area's connection
to one of history's most significant figures.

Tours free, with donations to
the Pepys House Charity welcomed.

2 August and 7 September

Drop in from 11am to 4pm

or **pre-book to guarantee your space**
and receive a **free guide book!**

Visit BuyTickets.at/PepysHouse for more info

Grafham Village Fireworks 2025

**Saturday 8th
November**

Gates 5pm

Fireworks

6:30pm

**Adults £5
Children (5-16) £3
Under 5s Free**

**Food & Drink
Available**



<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/grafhamvillagefireworks>



Get ready...
GO DIGITAL
Stay connected.

Is your landline ready?

The Digital Switchover is coming –
by 31 January 2027* traditional phone lines
will be upgraded with digital technology.

* Deadline confirmed by Openreach at time of publication.



Get Ready,
Go Digital,
Stay Connected

Is your landline ready? For more information, visit:

www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/digitalswitchover



*Help keep me stress-free! Please send in your contributions on time! Email:
editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk as early as you like, but definitely by 9am on 15th. Thanks, Ed*

Website: www.grafham.org.uk

E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Brownings

26.07.2025 San Antonio, Texas

I have been a fan of your newsletter for several years now. I really enjoy reading it. I corresponded with you some time ago about the "mysterious author" of "Out and About", wanting to tell him how much I enjoyed his articles about strolling the area. I think I got a feeling of the Grafham/Perry area because of his vivid descriptions. My ancestors are from the Grafham/Perry area and I have been researching them for some time, hoping to get a feel for their story and their backgrounds. Then I stumbled upon the articles by Edward Biffin, which gave me a perspective on the history of the area. Then in the August issue, he listed the farmers, and there were my ancestors--the Brownings! I have so many questions for him, and with his permission, I would like to correspond with him. Please give him my name and email address. I would appreciate hearing from him.

Thank you again for your wonderful, informative newsletter. And know that it is being enjoyed in Texas as well as in England!

Sincerely, Jessica Leslie

Hello again Jessica,

Thank you for another letter from Texas. How exciting it must have been for you to find your ancestors mentioned in the August issue! I have passed on your contact details to Edward. Good luck with your research. Let us know how you get on.

All the best, Editor, Grafham Gossip

30/07/2025 Edward Biffin wrote:

Hello Jessica,

This is Edward Biffin, who has been writing articles about the history of Grafham for over five years – indeed I have been making notes about historic things in my area since I moved here 50 years ago (I was born and went to school in south-east London and then spent 4 years at Oxford before getting my first employment in London). I live in a couple of rural cottages outside Grafham village with my Chinese husband and just over 10,000 books.

About a year ago I extended the research to include the Census returns in the mid-to-later 19th and early 20th centuries. It has taken a bit of time as the original data is not necessarily as clear as one would like, and the transcripts on the website I use are sometimes inaccurate (people born in 'Oxford' when the original says 'Offord' – a village 4 miles away, or a dad aged "2" fathering a son when the original has the returning officer's 'tick' accepting the data partly obscuring the '3' of 32!

However I now have a reasonable family spreadsheet covering 1841 to 1911. The Brownings first appear as a group of young people aged 9 to 19 in 1851, in three separate dwellings, then just two of them in one dwelling – almost certainly Village Farm – in 1861 and 1871. After which they disappear. Is this helpful?

Edward

02/08/2025 Jessica Leslie wrote

Edward,

I have been following your articles for some time now and being a history enthusiast myself, I have really enjoyed reading them, as well as other articles in the newsletter. Someday, I plan to visit Grafham and try to find some of the locations of the Browning lands. (An 1807 map of East and West Perry was attached.)

I am curious about the 1851 census where you mention Brownings in three separate dwellings, especially Village Farm. Can you tell me who they are and where Village Farm is? All of this is so interesting to me. Wish I could go back in time and meet them!

Cheers, Jessica

07/08/2025 Edward Biffin wrote:

Jessica,

Thanks for your very interesting map - it means that I will be widening my analysis of the local Census returns for the 19th Century when the shorter days are upon us - at this time of year the battles in my one acre garden have daytime priority.

Your map covers parts of two 19th/earlier 20th century parishes - Grafham (East Perry) and Great Staughton (West Perry). My main analysis so far has not included East Perry as that area was taken out of Grafham when Grafham Water was constructed in the 1960s to form part of a new Perry parish, so for the Grafham newsletter that is not 'Grafham'. I did do a bit of research when it came to writing about farms, and after talking to Jon Magee (the minister of the Perry Baptist Church) at our monthly Grafham Tea and Chat, I put together some notes about East Perry for him and his congregation – it showed a branch of the Brownings were occupying 'Grafham Farm' in 1851 and 1861.

The 1851 Brownings in 'Grafham' were in three groups:

John aged 18 occupation 'farming' and two sisters - It is a bit of guesswork as the address given is 'Church End' but it is almost certainly one of two cottages at the Great House site – now the caravan site. Not recorded in the Census transcript but visible in the original document is '125 acres and 5 labourers', which would correspond with 'Village Farm' land owned by the Duke of Manchester - so I need to amend the August Gossip table! (This happens all the time as more probing around one topic yields unexpected results on another). The annotation on the map of lands originally in the ownership of Lady Olivia Bernard Sparrow shows that the 'Village Farm' building was post 1852 but pre 1866.

Joseph aged 19 occupation 'farmer', unmarried, farming 255 acres with 7 labourers. With him in the dwelling was James, his brother aged 13 who was 'employed on the farm', a housekeeper and two farm servants. The dwelling is listed under 'Grafham W end' but this seems to cover everywhere except the valley and the centre by the church, and the most likely site, given the acreage, is the former Top Farm just off the Buckden Road. This was the site of Grafham's third moated manor, and the farmhouse was inside the moat with farm buildings outside. In the 1850s/60s two farmworkers cottages were built on the Buckden Road. These still survive but all trace of the farm and farm buildings have been lost.

The other Brownings were at 'Grafham Farm' in Perry as noted above. Again, it has been demolished but was there until the early 1960s.

Edward



Peter & Lane

PARTNERS

— EST 1990 —

Perry

Guide Price £295,000

At a Glance:

- Attractively refreshed, remodelled and improved semi-detached home.
- Generously proportioned lounge with dining area.
- Opening to well-crafted, fully refitted kitchen with comprehensive range of cabinets and integrated appliances.
- Hardwood conservatory/sunlounge.
- Two comfortable bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom.
- Replacement internal doors and quality floor coverings.
- Gas central heating.
- Driveway, covered area and garage currently configured for workshop and storage.
- EPC Rating - D



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Apple and Blackberry Crumble

This time of year the hedge rows are full of blackberries, but the recipe will work with another fruit to mix with the apples or you could just use apples. If you have a heatproof dish that will fit, you can cook this in an air fryer in half the time. The method is in italics at the end.

Ingredients: For four people.

- 600g cooking apples peeled, cored and roughly chopped
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon or ginger
- 2 tbsp caster sugar
- 2 tbsp blackberries or dried berries, cherries or sultanas (optional)

For the crumble

- 100g butter
- 150g plain flour
- 75g demerara sugar
- 2 tbsp porridge oats
- Cream, custard or vanilla ice cream, to serve



Method

- Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan.
- Place the flour and sugar in a large bowl and mix well. Taking a few cubes of butter at a time rub into the mixture. Keep rubbing until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs and all the butter is incorporated. Then mix in the porridge oats.
- Place the fruit in a large bowl and sprinkle over the sugar, cinnamon or ginger. Stir well, being careful not to break up the fruit.
- Butter a 24cm/9in ovenproof dish. Spoon the fruit mixture into the bottom, then sprinkle the crumble mixture on top.
- Bake for 40–45 minutes until the crumble is browned and the fruit mixture bubbling.
- Leave to cool slightly, then serve warm with cream, custard or ice cream.

Air Fryer Method

- *Heat the air-fryer to 180C. Put the apples, cinnamon or ginger, sugar and blackberries or dried fruit, in a heatproof dish with 2 tbsp water. Cover and cook for 10-12 mins until the apples have softened and become juicy.*
- *Meanwhile, rub the butter into the flour, then stir in the sugar, oats and a pinch of salt until you have a coarse breadcrumb-like consistency.*
- *Stir the apple/fruit mixture, then sprinkle over the crumble in an even layer. Air-fry for a further 10 mins until golden brown.*
- *Leave to cool slightly, then serve warm with cream, custard or ice cream.*



The Library Presents returns this September with a Fourteen-week Autumn Season



Zig Zag Gelli Print Book Workshop

Suitable for: Adults and families with children aged 7+ yrs
Under 12's must be accompanied by an adult with a ticket

Saturday 25 October
1pm

Running time: 2 hours
Tickets: £6.50 / £3

Create unique monoprints and use them to create a one-of-a-kind zigzag book. Charlotte and Patsy from Studio84 will show you how to utilise recycled materials to print colourful layers of texture and pattern and explore how to ink and print an exciting variety of images. Please wear old clothes / bring an apron.

For tickets, access information and details of all our events visit:
www.library.live/the-library-presents or scan the QR code ►



Bringing arts activities to venues across Cambridgeshire



The thrilling programme starts in September and includes music, puppetry, dance, theatre, storytelling and workshops in arts, crafts and much more. With 33 events hosted in 26 venues across the county, there is sure to be something for everyone.

Events in your area include: *Under the Frozen Moon* (Puppetry) and *Billy Kidd Show* (Magic). Also, we have workshops with *Sea Shanty*, *Africa Music* and *Fun Dance*.

Thanks to public funding from Arts Council England, tickets are affordably priced between £3 and £9, with concessions available.

Guests can look forward to a unique and intimate experience, quite unlike anything offered by a traditional theatre or larger entertainment venue. Everyone is welcome - we aim to make our activities as welcoming and accessible as possible. Detailed access information for all activities is on the Events page on our website.

Tickets are now on sale. Take a look at the full programme schedule, pick up a brochure and purchase tickets in participating libraries and online: www.library.live/the-library-presents

Buckden Local History Society - Programme of talks for 2025/26

See <https://www.buckdenhistory.co.uk/programme>

Website: www.grafham.org.uk

E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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Community notices are free.

Business adverts are priced according to size.

They start at £6.00 for a small box, payable in advance.

This money goes towards the cost of printing the newsletter.

Community Notices

No charge if no profit is made:

Community Info, Free to good home, Help wanted.

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

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

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

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King Prawn £2.50 extra

Bar Special Offer

Drink and Starter **£9.95**

King Prawn or Mixed Kebab **£10.95**

<http://cinnamonhuntingdon.co.uk>



CAMBRIDGESHIRE



For advice on how to maximise the energy efficiency of your home, save money on energy bills and cut carbon emissions go to: <https://www.actiononenergycambs.org> or use the QR code.

Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Robinson's Coaches are running a trip
on Monday 15th December 2025

for the 2pm matinee show at Thursford in Norfolk.

Adult tickets are £79, OAPs are £77 and children are £65.

Leaving Buckden Towers at 9:38am.

If anyone is interested please call Tim at Robinson's Coaches, Kimbolton direct on 01480 860581 to reserve your seat and to pay for your ticket to this very special, Christmas Spectacular *Tina*



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



We are desperately short of helpers.
Contact: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Little Fishes from September

There are no Little Fishes Stay + Play sessions during August, but from September, if you can spare an hour on Wednesday mornings,

please join our tea rota!



Email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

RHS Top Gardening Jobs for September

September is generally a cooler, gustier month than August and the days are noticeably shorter. While there's not as much to do in the ornamental garden at this time of the year, if you have a fruit or vegetable patch, you'll be busy reaping the rewards of harvest. It's also time to get out and start planting spring-flowering bulbs for next year and you can collect seeds for next summer's colour too. Make the most of the remaining warmth while you can!



1. Divide herbaceous perennials
2. Pick autumn raspberries
3. Collect and sow seed from perennials and hardy annuals
4. Dig up remaining potatoes before slug damage spoils them
5. Net ponds before leaf fall gets underway
6. Keep up with watering of new plants, using rain or grey water if possible
7. Start to reduce the frequency of houseplant watering
8. Clean out cold frames and greenhouses so that they are ready for use in the autumn
9. Cover leafy vegetable crops with bird-proof netting
10. Plant spring flowering bulbs

Find more advice from the Royal Horticultural Society and: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/in-month/september>



HCCN Celebrates 10 Years of Support and Community

On Saturday 2nd August 2025, the Hunts Community Cancer Network (HCCN) hosted its 10-Year Anniversary Celebration at the Delta Hotels by Marriott in Huntingdon. We're so grateful to the Delta team for generously supporting the evening and helping us bring everyone together in such a welcoming space. The evening brought together friends, supporters, and key figures from across the community to reflect on a decade of compassion, connection, and growth.

Guests were welcomed by the smooth sounds of The Jazz Cats, who kindly donated their time and talent for the evening. Long-standing supporters of HCCN, the band regularly raise funds on our behalf through their own events, helping to support our work in the most joyful of ways – a true reminder of the community spirit that's at the heart of everything we do. As the evening unfolded, speeches were given by some of the people who have helped shape the charity's journey.

Ste Greenhall, HCCN's newest Patron and breakfast presenter at Black Cat Radio, opened the night with warm words of welcome. Chair of Trustees, Jan Davis, reflected on the early days of HCCN, the milestones reached over the past decade, and the vital role the community has played in keeping the charity growing and evolving.

"Tonight, we celebrate the successes we have achieved and the part you all have played in our journey," she shared. *"And take a moment to remember the friends we've lost."*



Join our Weekly Cancer Support Groups

Men's Group
Wednesdays 10:00am
The Montagu Club,
14 Hartford Road,
PE29 3QD

Women's Group
Wednesdays 6:30pm
Bradbury House
Mayfield Road
PE29 1UL



GET ACTIVE WITH hccn

Prehab & Rehab Exercise Classes

Huntingdon
Tuesdays: 9:50 - 10:50
Thursdays: 12:30 - 1:30

St Ives
Mondays: 12:45 - 13:45

St Neots
Wednesdays: 16:30 - 17:30



Looking ahead, she spoke with pride about how far the charity has come, and her hopes for the future:

"We are helping more people in more locations, growing our social media and online presence, and being smarter in our fundraising. Each one of our trustees leads a key area of activity. We are optimistic about our plans for continued, sustainable growth."

She also took a moment to thank those who keep HCCN running behind the scenes:

"Without our skilled Trustees, their dedication and passion, we wouldn't have a charity. And without our valued volunteers to help run our drop-in groups and activities, HCCN wouldn't be able to supply so many supportive activities and build such an amazing community!"

The evening also offered a chance to reflect on the roots of HCCN and the pioneering work that made it possible.

HCCN supports adults 18+ living with or beyond a cancer diagnosis in Huntingdonshire, providing a range of services to improve physical, emotional, and social wellbeing.

Learn more at www.hccnthecharity.org



Tea & Chat?



Just a reminder that there is
no Tea & Chat in August
so the next date will be on

Thursday 25th September at 2.30 - 4pm
in Grafham Village Hall.

This will be our annual fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Support, so it would be wonderful if you would bring some cash and bake some cakes to support this worthy cause. Do put the date in your diaries!

In October, Tea & Chat will be on

Thursday 30th October 2.30 - 4pm

Hope to see you soon!

For more details contact: **Sandra 07931 129772**



Summer 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 - 19.00

Short of something to read?



Grafham Church porch has a good selection of paperbacks

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Choose 'Book Donations' on the screen.

(Suggested donation £1 per book)

Forgot to pay? Scan this QR code!

Donations of books welcome too,
but paperbacks only,
no hardbacks or text books please.



The Mobile Library

Route H24 visits **Breach Road, Grafham** from **10:10 to 10:35**
on the **4th Wednesday of every month.**

For renewals and information call: **03450 455225**

or email: yourlibrary@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Mondays 6:30pm - 8:00pm

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Opening Hours

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Sundays/Bank holidays 10:00am - 4:00 pm

facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop

Email: admin@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk



For Shop News see Talking Shop page 5

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Grafham Village Hall

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Contact Jane Rowley **01480 890986**

littlefishes@eastleightonstone.com

Grafham Village Hall and Astro Court



For all reservations please use the online booking platform on the village website:

<https://grafham.org.uk/village-hall-astro-pitch-booking/>

or: <https://bit.ly/3EJTTxn>

Please remember to

send your news, views, photos, letters, adverts, recipes and gossip

to: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk by

the next deadline, 09:00 am on

Monday 15th September for October issue

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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