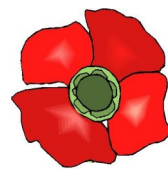


Grafham Gossip



Deadline for December /January issue: by 9am on Saturday 15th November

please join us for a **Free Entry**

Halloween PARTY

NOVEMBER 1ST
5-7 PM

Crafts, snacks and music

The Grafham Trout Village Pub

Act of Remembrance

Saturday 8th November at 10:45

Grafham Village Hall grounds

Find all the details on page 3

The Grafham Trout Cocktail night

Saturday 22nd November 7-10pm

Grafham Village Fireworks 2025

Saturday 8th November
Gates 5pm
Fireworks 6:30pm

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

Food & Drink Available

BOOK NOW
ticketsource

<https://www.facebook.com/GrafhamVillageFireworks>

TIMBER FOR THE BONFIRE

If you have timber suitable for the bonfire, please deliver it to the far side of the 5 a-side pitch, Grafham Village Hall, at 3pm on Saturday 8th November where Steve will be in charge!

Or call Dan 07802 645264

who will collect it on the morning of Saturday 8th.

Please make sure that there's nothing included that is explosive or that might give off noxious fumes.



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

Website: www.grafham.org.uk

E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



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	26th Oct	09:30	Holy Communion Grafham
		11:00	Morning Worship with baptism Brampton
		15:00	Service of Thanksgiving for those we love but no longer see Brampton
1st Sunday	2nd Nov	09:30	Morning Worship with baptism Grafham
		11:00	Holy Communion Brampton
Saturday	8th Nov	10.45	Act of Remembrance Grafham Village Hall see notice on page 3
2nd Sunday	9th Nov	10.45	Act of Remembrance Ellington
		11:00	Remembrance Day Service Brampton
		18:30	Taizé Grafham
Wednesday	12th Nov	09:00	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
3rd Sunday	16th Nov	09:30	Morning Worship Ellington
		11:00	Holy Communion Brampton
Wednesday	19th Nov	09:00	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
4th Sunday	23rd Nov	09:30	Holy Communion Grafham
		11:00	Morning Worship Brampton
5th Sunday	30th Nov	11:00	All Together Holy Communion Brampton
			Advent Sunday
1st Sunday	4th Dec	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

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

Contacting the clergy:

Duncan Goldthorpe 01480 459246 or 07907 694177

rev.duncan.goldthorpe@eastleightonstone.com

Churchwardens:

Sue Roberts 07916 431086 sue@eastleightonstone.com

Brian Radbone 07916 431091 brian@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 sarah@huntingdonparish.org

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



View from the Pew

As I write in mid October I note that we are still enjoying our Harvest flowers in autumn colours on the font. We are grateful to our monthly flower arrangers who keep our church looking welcoming throughout the year. If anyone would like to join our monthly rota arranging flowers for the font and altar, Hazel would be delighted to hear from you (07870 307388). Hazel and Jill would be happy to assist with advice and guidance.



Following on from last month's information about the planned Supper Night this was a very enjoyable evening. The hotpots and accompaniments were appreciated by all. The Fellowship Impact Group will be doing some research to identify what other events our three congregations would like.



Editor's note...

There's a lot going on in Grafham this month, so make a note of the dates now in case you forget.

Happy Thanksgiving on 27th November to all our American readers! Remember to look out for those Black Friday bargains online and in the shops.

Also, remember there is no separate issue for January, so notices and details of upcoming events in both December and January need to be included in the next issue. Send all information in by the deadline, Saturday 15th November.

Thank you and keep gossiping!
editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Macmillan Tea and Chat

Thank you all very much for your generous donations to Macmillan Cancer Support at Tea & Chat in September.

As a result, we were able to send **£200** to this amazing charity.

Find dates and times of the next Tea & Chat meetings, on the back page.

All are welcome!

Parish News

October 2025

Playing Field Football Club Proposal Update

The Parish Council and Village Hall have been in discussions with Huntingdon Town Football Club (the Hunters) regarding potential use of the playing field.

The Hunters are seeking additional pitches for boys, girls and pan-disability players to play games this season and for future seasons and they would like boys and girls from Grafham to join the club. The proposal is to limit matches to one per week to be held at the weekend. Three sizes of pitches will be marked out on the playing field and the Hunters have reduced their pitch requirement to using just one at any time

As part of the proposal:

1. The village hall will not be available for use by the Hunters.
2. Toilet Facilities - The Hunters accept that the Village Hall will not be available and propose providing three portaloos, which could be sited behind the multi-use games area (MUGA). They will maintain them and arrange emptying, probably once a year.
3. Car Parking - They will encourage car sharing and anticipate no more than 15 cars. The Hunters are liaising with the Cinnamon to accommodate any additional remaining cars.
4. Dog walkers will need to keep their dogs on a lead during matches and clear up any mess, as they already have to.
5. Noise - With just one match, the Hunters consider the noise level should be no greater than other children's group activities that we might normally have within the village.
6. Storage - A 20ft shipping container which will be required to store goalposts and ground maintenance equipment could be located behind the MUGA next to the current existing container.
7. Bins and Litter Picking - The Hunters will take full responsibility for clearing up any litter dropped by those attending the matches.

Why Grafham?

The Hunters have investigated various sites and found all to be fully used, with the exception of Grafham. The Parish Council feel this is a great opportunity to bring more community activity and energy to the village. Therefore, the Parish Council has provisionally approved the hire of the playing field to the Hunters. A "Heads of Agreement" is being drafted up and subject to approval on both sides and signing of the document, the Hunters will start using the playing field from November.

Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS)

The solar panels are working well and keeping the batteries adequately powered.

Dog Waste Reminder – Playing Field

The Parish Council has noticed a growing number of dog poo bags being left around the playing field, especially in the vegetation at the bottom end. It is great that owners are bagging up after their dogs – thank you! But please remember to **dispose of the bags properly in the bin**. Leaving them on the ground or in the bushes creates a health hazard and spoils the area for everyone. Let's keep our village clean and welcoming for all.

The Parish Council kindly requests that dog owners keep their dogs on leads when children are playing on the playing field.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Chairman, Grafham Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Tuesday 4th November 2025, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Act of Remembrance

Grafham Parish Council invites you to join us for an Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on
Saturday 8th November at 10:45 in Grafham Village Hall grounds



The ceremony will include a minute's silence at 11:00 am.
Tea, coffee, and cake will be served in the Village Hall following the service.
We look forward to coming together as a community to remember and honour.



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

November							December						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2	1	2	Blk	4	5	6	7
3	4	Blk	6	7	8	9	8	9	Blu	G*	12	13	14
10	11	Blu	G*	14	15	16	15	16	Blk	18	19	20	21
17	18	Blk	20	21	22	23	22	Blu	G*	25	26	27	28
24	25	Blu	G*	28	29	30	29	30	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 on: www.tigerondemand.co.uk or you can call **01480 595440**. Mon to Sat 06:00 – 19:30

How much does it cost?

- Adults £3.00 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 - choose 'Senior' or 'Person with disability' option on booking. Show your pass to the driver when you board.



TIGER
On Demand

- Tiger Pass Holders (Under 25 yrs - you need to apply for a FREE pass, see website below)
£1 per journey, ask for the 'Reduced' fare option when booking. Show your pass to the driver when you board.

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>

Wildlife Trust Marine Marvels and Ocean Wanderings

Wednesday 12th November 7.30pm at Brampton Memorial Hall

Huntingdonshire Local Group

The Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome back Frances Dipper, an internationally acclaimed marine biologist and author. She will share her amazing knowledge of her favourite marine habits and species that she gained whilst working, living and visiting the shores and shallow seas around Great Britain and abroad. Everyone is most welcome to attend. The charge is £5.00 (£4.00 for Wildlife Trust members; under 18s free.) Payment is by cash or card.

We meet at Brampton Memorial Hall, Thrapston Road, Brampton, PE28 4TB. For more information, please contact Tim – 07941 261346 or timpfryer@googlemail.com

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

www.wildlifebcn.org



**Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants**

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



Autumn is definitely here

Things are very much quieter now with the cooler nights and damp dull days keeping visitors away in search of sunnier climes. Nevertheless, the shop chugs on and we have been making plans for Christmas and even more excitingly our long term future.

Talking Shop

Christmas is Coming, and the...

Does anyone have a fat goose for Christmas? They are delicious, not as meaty as a turkey and the advantage to this is that there are not another 11 days of "going cold turkey". Anyway, enough distractions. The point is that the GFB (Grafham Festive Bag) will be returning again this year, but in a slightly different format. The arrangement will be that shoppers will pick their own bag and provided they buy at least £30 of starred goods will get a free hessian bag* and a 20% discount on the starred goods. The starred goods will be appropriate Christmassy food and gifts *while stocks last*.

Planning Permission Granted

Thanks to David, Martin and the Parish Council we now have planning permission for a permanent slightly larger L-shaped structure on our existing site. It will have a loo and space for a mini coffee-bar which all sounds very exciting. However, we are only in the foothills of what needs to be done. Our next steps include getting grant funding, the team are hopeful that the various grants around may provide all or most of the costs covered, though we may also need to do some fund raising if there is a shortfall. We also need to finalise the specifications so we get as many costs covered upfront in the grant application. One small step forward for Grafham...

New Products

One of the things you learn about running a small shop is that you do need to try out new products every now and then. It creates interest in customers and may identify a new opportunity, so thank you Belinda for introducing various new items such as Lipton's Iced Tea, Very Lazy cook's ingredients, Oasis & Rio drinks, some funky earrings and new Real Norfolk cakes.



The Goughmeister's latest taste challenge

The Jams and Pickles were a delight and I have managed to work through several jars so far. Like the delicious honey the shop stocks, it has the added advantage of being branded Grafham Village Shop so they can double up nicely as gifts (although mine don't get that far... they would be good for the GFB). My favourite? Lemon and Lime Curd, it's like Lemon Curd with attitude. I am on the second jar in two weeks, and that is with Fruits of the Forest Jam and Raspberry Conserve finished as well. All have been absolutely delicious, although I do ladle it on a little thick. I personally find them fruity and not overly sugary and very moreish – be warned, they are addictive. As well as the jams there are a range of marmalades which are already proving popular. There are also chutneys and pickles, and, although I have not as yet tried them all, I would recommend Sweet Chilli Chutney, not particularly hot but full of flavour and goes with just about anything – I want to try one of those new Norfolk Cakes but have also started a diet so they may have to wait a while.

New Committee Members Needed

Debbie and Patrick who have been co-chairing the shop and sharing leadership responsibilities plan to step down from the shop committee at the AGM in 2026. They will have done 3 ½ years in the hot seat and would like to take break. As a result, we need to ask other Grafham residents to take a turn at the tiller. Debbie (accounts & banking) and Patrick (marketing and business admin) have found that sharing the role has made the job a lot easier and plays to their strengths. The Committee already has some well-seasoned and experienced shop supporters, but we need fresh blood and someone willing to take over some of these not too onerous roles. Key things to note – it is quite fun, a novel experience and satisfying, you will learn new skills, meet new people, there is lots of support and training available and you do not have to work behind the till – tho' a little bit of hands-on activity is no bad thing. If you what like to find out more, collar one of the committee if you know them or contact Debbie on accouts@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk or Patrick at admin@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk

See back page for Opening Hours

www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk 01480 810119

Website: www.grafham.org.uk

E-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Christmas Market

Sunday 7th December

Grafham Village Hall

Gifts - Drinks - Cakes
Christmas Cards - Decorations

OPEN 1PM-4PM FREE ENTRY

Drinks served in The Grafham Trout

Advance Notice



Monday 15th December 7pm

Details in the next issue

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



Christians Together
in Brampton, Grafham and Ellington

Thank you very much to everyone who supported

christian
aid 2025

In May 2025, for the first time since lock down, we were able to host the talented singers and musicians from Brampton Village Primary School at our much loved Musical Tea event. Thank you to all those who sang or played, poured tea or baked cakes. A lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all and significant funds were raised. Many people made Lent count this year by counting their blessings into a jar with coins and also many notes. These contributions help the wistful dreams of others to be fulfilled and raise hope for better days to come. Showing love for our neighbours in this way helps to make a difference which will improve or save lives. Well done!

Musical Teas, Count Your Blessings
and other opportunities to fundraise whilst
socialising over lunches, suppers and tea or coffee
have resulted in a grand total of:

£ 2000.00

MUSICAL
Teas
with
Brampton Village Primary School



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.

Website: www.grafham.org.ukE-mail: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Remembering

At this time of year, the shortening days and gathering darkness create space for reflection before the busyness of Christmas. Perhaps this is also a moment to hold the memory of loved ones close, even as we miss their physical presence.

Grief is deeply personal. Some of us may be remembering recent deaths, the pain still raw. Others carry losses from years ago, the sharp edges softened but the absence still felt. Wherever we are in our journey, it's natural to hold both pain and blessing together – mourning what we've lost while treasuring happy memories.

Later in the month, Remembrance Sunday invites us to remember not just individual loss, but collective sacrifice and conflict's impact on nations and communities. We remember in order to learn, holding onto hope that future generations will choose peace over war, and that history's lessons will guide us toward a better path.

If we need a quiet space to remember, our church is open daily for reflection and prayer. In our prayer corner, there's a prayer tree where everyone is invited to write a loved one's name in remembrance or a prayer for family and friends who are grieving.

This November, may we find comfort in our memories, strength in God's loving presence, and in the support we give and receive from one another.

Rev Jen Forester



RHS Top Gardening Jobs for November

As the final golden leaves fall from the trees, the ground more frequently becomes a glittering carpet of frost. Tender plants will need protecting from frost, gales and freezing rains. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots. Remember winter can be a tough time for birds in terms of water and food, so keep supplies well topped up.

1. Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds
2. Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
3. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
4. Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
5. Plant out winter bedding
6. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
7. Insulate outdoor containers from frost - hessian sacking or reused bubble wrap works well
8. Sow some sweet peas indoors, putting them in a cold frost-free place as soon as they germinate
9. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
10. Don't burn your woody waste - compost it or recycle into dead hedges or log piles



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

Sticky squash and sweet potato traybake

At the moment the supermarkets are full of butternut squash, you could even substitute pumpkin after the children have finished making lanterns!

Ingredients For 4 - 6 people.

For the traybake

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 tsp honey
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- ½ small pumpkin or 1 small butternut squash (approx. 600g/1lb 5oz), cut into 3cm/1¼in chunks, seeds reserved
- 2 sweet potatoes, cut into 3cm/1¼in chunks
- 2 red peppers, deseeded and cut into thick wedges
- 2 red onions, cut into thick wedges
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the crispy pumpkin seeds

- reserved seeds (from above), washed and patted dry with kitchen paper
- 1 tsp olive oil
- pinch smoked paprika

To serve

- 100g / 3½oz watercress or rocket
- 250g / 9oz natural yoghurt
- 1-2 tbsp sriracha (hot sauce)



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan
2. Whisk the oil, vinegar, honey, garlic and spices together in a large bowl. Add the vegetables, season with a pinch of salt and pepper and mix thoroughly. Tip everything into a large roasting tin and shake out into an even layer. Roast for 50 minutes, giving everything a shake and a mix halfway through cooking.
3. Meanwhile, make the crispy pumpkin seeds by mixing them with the oil and a pinch of salt. Spread out on a non-stick baking tray (or a tray lined with greaseproof paper) and bake alongside the vegetables for 20 minutes until crisp. Season with a pinch of smoked paprika and set aside to cool.
4. Remove the vegetables from the oven and stir through the watercress. Mix the yoghurt and sriracha together, drizzle over the vegetables and serve topped with the crispy pumpkin seeds.



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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 pootling up and down the river.



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

**Call Gianni
(07902407720)
for further info.**

Buckden Repair Café

Buckden Village Hall,
13.30 - 16.30 Saturday 8th November

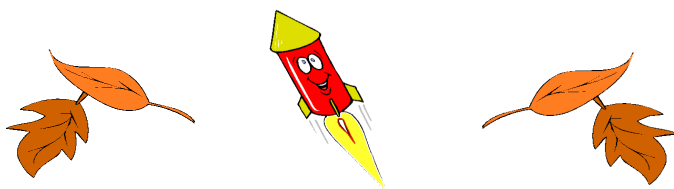
Bring along your stuff that's too good to throw away but needs fixing, for a free repair.
(Donations very welcome)

Bookings open October 1st at
<https://forms.gle/3NjojicPWCLyMcVQ7>

or more details from
buckdenrepaircafe@gmail.com

Refreshments, including homemade cakes and scones

Nothing to be mended but fancy seeing what is going on, then please join us for a cuppa.



The Population of Grafham 1841 to 1911 Part 9, where did the farmworkers live?

Continuing to look at dwellings and the Census, which last month disclosed an anomaly where 'Low Grafham' had multiple families but no apparent houses for them to live in, we now look at 1871, 1881 and 1891. The table below shows how the dwellings are grouped in the these censuses in the order they are catalogued. These years cover the period after the arrival of the railway and the erection of the first two sets of cottages in Breach Road (sometimes called 'Station Road').

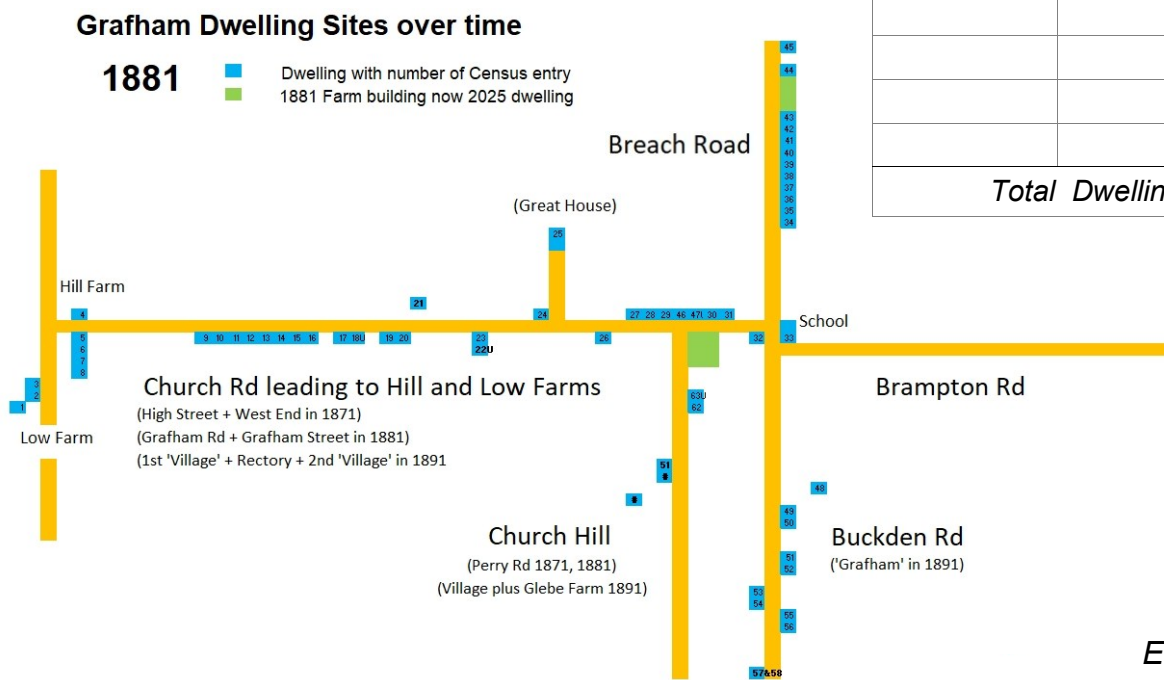
The maps available to show where dwellings were located include the 1863 revision of the Olivia Bernard Sparrow (OBS) Estate map, the 1881 revision of the OS 1" map and the 1887 first edition OS 25" map.

In contrast to the 1841-1861 Censuses, every entry in the next three surveys can be related to a dwelling known to exist in the period, including the Breach Road cottages and the newly constructed farmworker cottages associated with Low, Village, Glebe (Rectory) and Top Farms. I have constructed diagrammatic representations of the village road and dwelling geography and the 1881 image has Church Road leading to Hill and Low Farms on the left and Brampton Road, which by this time had no dwellings on it, on the right. The main north-bound road is Breach Road and the southbound continuation is Buckden Road ('Grafham' in 1891). To the west the second southbound road is Church Hill (Perry Road, or Village plus Glebe Farm in 1891). Church Road is called High Street + West End in 1871, Grafham Road + Grafham Street in 1881, and the first two 'Villages' in 1891.

Note that the diagram excludes East Perry, which was then part of Grafham. And that no maps show any dwellings in Grafham under what is now Grafham Water except for Low and Glebe Farm and their cottages.

As well as Farm labourers, which I now hope to cover in the next article, this period saw the presence of Railway Labourers for the first time, after the opening of the railway in 1866. Interestingly only one was living in the village near the station; the other four were in two groups near Orchard Row and Hill Farm where footpaths gave direct access to the track.

Census		
1871	1881	1891
Great House	Low Farm	Model Farm
1 Dwelling	3 Dwellings	1 Dwelling
West End	Hill Farm	Grafham
24 Dwellings	1 Dwelling	8 Dwellings
Low Farm	Grafham Rd	High Farm
1 Dwelling	11 Dwellings	1 Dwelling
Rectory	Grafham St	School
1 Dwelling	8 Dwellings	1 Dwelling
High Street	Manor House	Station Rd
8 Dwellings	1 Dwelling	12 Dwellings
School	Rectory	Village Fm
1 Dwelling	1 Dwelling	1 Dwelling
Breach Road	Grafham St	Village
12 Dwellings	8 Dwellings	6 Dwellings
Perry Road	School	Rectory
5 Dwellings	1 Dwelling	1 Dwellings
Buckden Rd	Station Rd	Great House
10 Dwellings	12 Dwellings	2 Dwellings
	Buckden Rd	Village
	11 Dwellings	23 Dwellings
	Perry Rd	Low Farm
	5 Dwellings	1 Dwelling
		Village
		2 Dwellings
		Glebe Farm
		3 Dwellings
Total Dwellings 62 - 63		



Edward Biffin

Deadline - 9.00am Saturday 15th November for the December/January issue
There is no separate issue for January 2025 so please send all contributions for December and January by 9am on Saturday 15th November. Thanks, Ed editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

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This money goes towards the cost of printing the newsletter.

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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

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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

Could you help make tea?

Little Fishes Stay + Play sessions meet on Wednesday
 mornings in the Village Hall during term time.

If you can spare an hour, please join
 our tea rota!

Email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



OUT AND ABOUT

(An occasional rumination on life in and around Grafham)

September 2025 No. 14 Part 2

(Continued from last month....)

The reservoir is quite low; hardly surprising given the lack of rainfall, and we are obliged to cross over a beach of broken shells, clay and sand before we arrive at the water's edge. There's quite a breeze blowing as I lob a length of stick into the water and watch as the dog gingerly makes her way in to retrieve it. She has never been a swimmer as such and is happy just paddling around up to her chest and immersing her snout below the waves.

She grabs the stick and brings it back to shore where yours truly is then obliged to take it off of her and hurl it back into the water once more. This rather repetitive game continues for a while until the stick meets its end like so many others have – chewed and snapped into ever smaller bits. With the stick finally destroyed she looks at me as if to ask where it went. Some ten minutes later, we head back to dry land and continue our gentle plod around the edge of the reservoir.

We come across the usual mix of geese, swans, ducks, cormorants and grebes, most of whom are either resting gently by the water's edge or out in the water itself ducking and diving for food. They seem wholly unperturbed by our presence and certainly the dog never shows a desire to disturb them. We stand and watch a while before moving on.

The dog is now standing on the edge of an embankment that juts out into the water and is simply staring out over the pond; what has caught her attention, I know not. I call her, but she ignores me – I think she is beginning to go deaf – and it takes quite a few calls before she finally turns and rejoins me. I mock chase her, but she doesn't react and I think this is the signal to indicate that she is quite tired and ready to go home.

We follow a path through the trees and shortly join a broad track that will take us home. We turn left and some 50 yds later, we are at the bottom of Church Hill again, but instead of taking the tarmacked road we dive into the wooded plantation and walk parallel to the road. This, of course, allows for more stick-snapping opportunities, so progress is fairly slow. I look around me and watch the breeze catching the branches which sway gently and occasionally clatter against each other. It is quiet in here, almost sombre as we make our way through the stand while the daylight begins to decrease quite noticeably.

On the way, the dog seems to have chewed her way through half a hundredweight of wood – for those of you brought up on the metric system, a hundredweight is about 112 pounds,

which in turn, is around 50 kilos. I'll bet you're still none the wiser, eh? And don't get me started on rods, poles and perches!

Despite the slow progress, we eventually come upon a gap in the hedge which allows us out and back onto the road. There's nobody around here either – some days I do wonder whether I've missed an apocalyptic event – so we simply continue our march homeward – actually, more of a crawl given that she refuses to move at anything resembling speed.

We stop by a pair of cottages opposite the old stables (or at least I think they used to be stables) where someone has placed a bowl of water out in the front for passing dogs. Again, I am assuming it has been done for this reason. If not, apologies to you! The dog stops and takes a long, steady draught of water. This seems to have re-invigorated her and with energy renewed, we continue to the junction, cross the road and then head along Brampton Road.

We eventually arrive at and then turn left into Van Diemens; at which point I just happen to spot the lights on in the Trout. How serendipitous is that? Well, you have to support these local ventures, don't you? With little hesitation, it must be said, we cross over and make our way to the pub like moths to the proverbial flame.

The interior of the Trout glows warmly and invitingly and we, or at least, me, simply cannot resist being drawn into its comforting bosom (you're probably not allowed to say that anymore.) I get a cheery welcome from the bar person (sorry, forgot the name) as I survey what's on offer. Just to be completely unoriginal, I opt for a pint o' bitter and dog happily gets a biscuit or two. This should keep us both happy for a while.

We settle down by a window and look out at the encroaching gloom of late afternoon. Again, it's just me, the dog and the bar person. I'm beginning to take this personally now! The dog lays down on the floor and starts to chew the biscuits while I sup the ale. I glug about a half before resting the glass back on the table. Ah, yes, very nice! I must say that it's difficult to think of a better way of wrapping up an afternoon walk, I reckon. Cheers!

Part 1 in October's issue and other past episodes of Out and About can be read on www.grafham.org.uk
Click on Grafham Gossip to find pdf copies of back issues.



Travelling Nativity 2025

Grafham's Nativity set will be travelling round the village again, from **Monday 1st December**. The Travelling Nativity box contains knitted nativity figures to play with plus books, jigsaws and games suitable for preschool and Key Stage 1 children.

The box goes from house to house. This is available free to anyone in Grafham. All you need to do is call or text Jill Tyack on 07892 720835 and book it for a night.

The nativity figures will end up in church on **Wednesday 24th December at 3pm** for our traditional and popular Crib Service. If you have not been before why not give it a go - it is short and 'user-friendly' and you can be sure of a very warm welcome!





Tea & Chat?

Do join us for our monthly
Tea & Chat in Grafham Village Hall
on the last Thursday of each month.
Refreshments are free!



Thursday 30th October 2.30 - 4pm
Thursday 27th November 2.30 - 4pm

Thank you all very much for your generous
donations to Macmillan Cancer Support at
Tea & Chat in September.

As a result, we were able to send
£200 to this amazing charity.



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



Winter Opening Times

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 - 19.00

Short of something to read?



Grafham Church porch has a
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church if not in the porch.

Choose 'Book Donations' on the screen.
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Route H24 visits **Breach Road,**
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Opening Hours

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

facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop

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For Shop News see Talking Shop page 5

East Leightonstone Parish - Brampton, Ellington, Grafham

Little Fishes

Stay + Play for 0 - 4 years

Grafham Village Hall

Wednesdays 10:00 to 11:30

Term time only

Just turn up on the day



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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>

There is no January issue

*so send your news, views, photos, letters, adverts,
recipes and gossip for the December / January issue
to: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk by*

Saturday 15th November

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

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