

Grafham Gossip

Deadline for October issue: by 9:00am on Tuesday 15th September



Grafham Trout

Sausage & Cider Festival

**Saturday
September 5th
2pm till late**

**BBQ and live music
throughout the day**

Editor's Note...

September is when students are welcomed back at the start of a new school year, villagers traditionally get together for a harvest meal and Harvest Praise, see page 2, and the first cider apples head to the press - don't forget our Cider Festival!

Read on for village and local events this month; Parish News on page 3 includes details of car park development plans submitted and a consultation underway; find Shop updates on page 5. David shares his experience of electric cars on page 9 and there's plenty more in this jam-packed issue, so grab a cuppa and enjoy!

Remember to send in your news, views, photos, adverts and gossip by the 9am deadline on Tuesday 15th September.

See you, out and about, this month!

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Tea & Chat



Annual fund raiser for

Macmillan Cancer Support

Thursday 24th September

2:30 - 4:00pm

in Grafham Village Hall

It would be wonderful if you would bring some cash and bake some cakes to support this worthy cause.

For details contact: Sandra 07931 129772

Future Tea & Chat dates
can be found on the back page.

Charity Walk around Cambridge Colleges

Join Arthur Rank Hospice Charity and Romsey Mill on Sunday 13th Sept for the 'Bridge the Gap' Walk around Cambridge colleges.



Arthur Rank Hospice Charity
making every moment count

With a brand new route for 2026, starting from Parkers Piece in Cambridge you can visit colleges - Jesus, St John's, Trinity, Gonville and Caius, Queens' and Downing.

The Society of Cambridge Tourist Guides will also be on route ready to answer your questions and entertain you with fascinating facts and stories along the way.

Book now at: arhc.org.uk/btg
or telephone 01223 676888

Up to three under 16s are free with every paying adult

Help!

One of our delivery team volunteers has moved out of the village!

Are you able to deliver the Grafham Gossip to the Wyvern?

If you can help, please contact:

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



It involves delivering the paper copies as soon as possible after printing. This is towards the end of the month, usually about 10 days after the 15th deadline.

Thanks, Ed.

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 and a QR code for books can be found in the notice on the back page.



5th Sunday 30th August **11:00 Three villages Communion with baptism Brampton**

1st Sunday 6th Sept **09:30 Morning Worship Grafham**
Taizé moved to 1st Sunday this month
11:00 Holy Communion Brampton
18:30 Taizé Grafham

Wednesday 9th Sept **09:00 Informal Morning Prayer Grafham**

2nd Sunday 13th Sept **09:30 Holy Communion Ellington**
11:00 Harvest Festival Brampton
12:30 for 13:00 Lunch in Grafham Village Hall (see 'View' below)
15:00 Harvest Songs of Praise Grafham

Wednesday 16th Sept **09:00 Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham**

3rd Sunday 20th Sept **09:30 Morning Worship Ellington**
11:00 Holy Communion Brampton

Wednesday 23rd Sept **09:00 Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham**

4th Sunday 27th Sept **09:30 Holy Communion Grafham**
11:00 Morning Worship Brampton

Wednesday 30th Sept **09:00 Informal Morning Prayer Grafham**

1st Sunday 4th October **09:30 Morning Worship Grafham**
11:00 Holy Communion Brampton

Listed on the left and below, you will find:

- Grafham Services
 - Sunday services for Brampton and Ellington
 - Some extra services at times e.g. Christmas, Easter
- The Brampton 11.00 Sunday service is live-streamed every week and can be accessed via www.eastleightonstone.com

For a full list of services for all three churches visit:

www.eastleightonstone.com

and click on: 'See the Calendar for more'

Sunday Evening Youth

meets at All Saints Church, Huntingdon

6:00 - 7:30 pm on Sundays and sometimes on Fridays
 (due to bank holidays)

For more details contact: children@eastleightonstone.com

Contacting the clergy:

Rev. 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



To join the mailing list for the Parish Newsletter, visit:

www.eastleightonstone.com and click on 'Get in touch'



For Grafham Church Donations at any time, please scan the QR code.
 Thank you

View from the Pew

July is a fairly quiet month in our church with little to report but it was a pleasure to celebrate a wedding on Saturday 4th when Elaine and Thomas made their marriage vows. The bride wore a lovely dress with a pearl edged bodice and her bridesmaid was a picture in a lilac dress with matching jacket. Two pageboys carried the wedding rings. We wish Elaine and Thomas God's blessings on a long and happy marriage.

Also on that day, a number of us from Grafham went to Ely Cathedral where our Authorised Lay Minister Frankie was ordained. It was a beautiful day and a lovely service led by Bishop Sarah. We wish Frankie well in her Curacy in Godmanchester and Hilton, although we will miss seeing her at Grafham as often as before.

Our next event will be our Harvest Festival on 13th September including a bring and share lunch in the village hall 12:30 for 1:00pm followed by Harvest Praise in the church. 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. If anyone is willing to give items of food to be donated to Godmanchester Foodbank, these may be brought to the service at 3:00pm at Grafham.



Readers are reminded that during the scorching weather our church has been a haven of cool to come and relax in quiet contemplation or to peruse our bookshelves of paperback novels in the porch. Everyone is welcome to this peaceful space.



Ever wondered what actually happens to your food waste?

Huntingdonshire District Council has released a short film explaining exactly what happens from the moment you put your caddy out for collection. Since the weekly collection began in March, residents have diverted around 1,500 tonnes from general waste.

Watch it at: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/make-full-use-of-your-weekly-food-waste-collection>

If you'd like to hear more, our next waste minimisation meeting is Thursday 10th September, 5:30–6:30 pm at Pathfinder House, Huntingdon. Reserve here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/MzDCRdUbmW>

Parish News

Minutes of parish council meetings can be found on the village website: <https://grafham.org.uk/parish-council>



HDC Local Government Reorganisation - Update

We have been informed by the Government that the anticipated announcement on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was not made on the 16th of July 2026 as previously expected.

However, the Government has advised that this decision has been delayed and is now expected to be made by October 2026. Further information is being sought from Government, including an explanation for the delay.

Grafham to Brampton Quiet Lane - Update

The Quiet Lane works have been temporarily paused to allow alignment with the recently agreed maintenance and resurfacing works on Brampton Road / Grafham Road. As you are aware, pre-patching works (filling in the potholes) was recently carried out. These works were carried out to allow time for the surface to settle and firm up. The full re-surfacing will then be done later, at the same time as the main Quiet Lane works, under a second road closure. We will confirm the dates for this as soon as we can.

A Thank You to Our Watering Volunteer

The Parish Council would like to say a big thank you to the kind resident who has been voluntarily watering our playground hedge!

Thanks to their kindness, these newly planted shrubs are staying alive and healthy particularly in this very hot weather! We truly appreciate you looking out for our shared spaces!

Football Club

The Football Club has completely withdrawn from hiring the playing field and have now removed their container.

Do you like to shop in St Neots, Huntingdon or St Ives?

Plans developed by Capital & Centric in partnership with Huntingdonshire District Council, will transform the following car parks:

Tebbutts Road car park in St Neots into a mixed-use development. The proposals include two five-storey buildings with up to 83 homes, commercial units, a walled garden and a community pavilion surrounded by green open space.

The Cattle Market / Waitrose car park in St Ives + Bus Station could become a neighbourhood with 120 homes, a gym and restaurants.

Princes Street car park and Huntingdon bus station into 78 new homes, a 'centralised hub' for business, and new green spaces.

The developers have submitted plans and a consultation is underway. If you have any comments to make on this please contact your District Councillor Cllr Stephen Cawley whose details are below.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Grafham Parish Council Chairman

The next Parish Council meeting is on Tuesday 7th September at 7:30pm

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

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.

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 **Sunil Gogna** s.gogna@grafhampc.org **Diana Thomas** d.thomas@grafhampc.org

Alf Lesurf a.lesurf@grafhampc.org **Nicholas Blackburn** n.blackburn@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

Parish Councillors Responsibilities

Ian Gardener - Council Chair, Grass Cutting and Playing Field with assistance from Clerk

David Russell - Vice Chair, Neighbourhood Plan / Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) / Broadband / Data Protection)

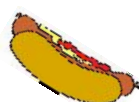
Patrick Curran - Village Hall Committee / Shop Committee / MUGA

Sunil Gogna - Highways and Footpaths

Diana Thomas - Village Hall Bookings

Alf Lesurf - Wildflower Meadow, Hedges, Verge Maintenance / Westwood Lodge and Trees

Nicholas Blackburn - Children's Play Area.



Saturday 5th September
Remember the Sausage and Cider Festival!
See the poster on the front page!



“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 of

www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste

Changes to Disposal of Food Waste Find out more on the Food Waste page of www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk

September							October						
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	Blu+ F	G*	4	5	6				G*	2	3	4
7	8	Blk+ F	10	11	12	13	5	8	Blk+ F	8	9	10	11
14	15	Blu+ F	G*	18	19	20	12	13	Blu+ F	G*	16	17	18
21	22	Blk+ F	24	25	26	27	19	20	Blk+ F	22	23	24	25
28	29	Blu+ F					26	27	Blu+ F	G*	30	31	

For waste and recycling services, visit:

www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins or call 01480 388640

between 8:45am and 5:00pm

F= New Food Caddy

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/food-waste>

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.



TIGER
On Demand

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 to download the Tiger on Demand app, from Google Play or 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' 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 on boarding.
- 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 and to keep up to date, see

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

St Neots Thursdays
Wellness every Thursday

What To Expect
Weekly Drop-In (Every Thursday)

Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa and a chat in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. No booking required. 2:30pm - 5:30pm

Bring Your Arts & Crafts
Feel free to bring along your projects, share ideas, or simply enjoy some creative time in good company.

Weekly Activities
All sessions are listed in the timetable below and are led by qualified instructors.
Please speak with your medical team before starting any new activity

Week	Activity	Times
1 st	Chair Yoga	3pm - 4pm
-	Mat Yoga	4pm - 5pm
2 nd	Tai Chi (Seated)	3pm - 4pm
-	Tai Chi	4pm - 5pm
3 rd	RightStart (Seated)	3pm - 4pm
-	RightStart - Circuit	4pm - 5pm
4 th	Chair Yoga	3pm - 4pm
-	Mat Yoga	4pm - 5pm
5 th	Chair Pilates	3pm - 4pm
-	Mat Pilates	4pm - 5pm

Activities may occasionally change due to instructor availability. Please check with HCCN if attending for a specific activity.

Where
Eatons Community Centre, 18 The Maltings, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8ES

Can't Make it?
We're Still Here for You!

If you can't attend, HCCN offers a range of activities and support across Huntingdonshire. For any questions, email: info@hccnthecharity.org, or visit our website to view the full timetable.

www.hccnthecharity.org/activities-timetable/

www.hccnthecharity.org
Charity Number: 1163051

Supported by
St Neots Town Council

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

Gossip

It's the middle of August. We have just, I hope survived our fourth heatwave, combines are back in the barn over a month early, farmers are bored or making dust out of concrete and most of our ice creams have not all melted!

The shop is definitely the coolest (and of course the most fashionable) place to be if you don't melt on the way over or get stuck to the tarmac. Given the age profile of the village, many of our residents and regular volunteers have escaped to cooler climes such as Portugal and the Mediterranean. All of which is a round about way of asking anyone and everyone to think about doing a turn as a volunteer at the shop. Belinda is very willing to talk through what is involved and to highlight quieter and busier shifts depending on your enthusiasm for conversation!



Carbs and Cakes

Newly spotted on the shelves are a selection of new swiss rolls and battenbergs; and not faraway some helpful carbs: pasta, noodles and rice. Those Tilda microwaveable rice packets are particularly useful, especially if you have a habit of wandering away from the hob while boiling rice. Oh the joy of the Brillo pad and a rice blackened saucepan... been there done that too many times.



Grant News

We have hopefully finalised the small print on our very important Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant from Huntingdon District Council. We have also just heard that one of our other two grant applications to Thalia is going forward for further detailed consideration. Sadly the National Lottery have turned down our initial application though we could apply again. Even so, and with fingers-crossed, we may not have to do any more heavy duty fund raising activity.

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

Is your landline your lifeline?

Landlines are changing. By January 2027, traditional landlines will be upgraded with digital technology. This national upgrade is known as the **Digital Switchover**. It means that landline calls will be made over the internet instead of the old telephone network. Telephone providers are re-sponsible for switching customers to the upgraded service, but everyone is encouraged to check if and how the change will affect them.

Do you rely on a personal alarm or telecare device? It's important to check how the Digital Switchover will affect you, especially if you rely on personal alarms or telecare devices (like fall detectors or life-lines), which may stop working.

For many, the change is simple. All you will have to do is plug your landline phone into a broadband router instead of a traditional phone socket. But if you don't have an internet connection at home, or if you rely on your landline every day, this change might affect you more.

Three things you can do now to prepare for the Digital Switchover

- 1. Call your phone company** – Ask if the change affects your phone line or any connected devices. Ask to speak to customer services and use the number on your most recent bill.
- 2. Ask for help if you need it** – A trusted friend, family member or neighbour can help you make the call to your phone provider or speak to your provider on your behalf.
- 3. Watch out for scams** – Your phone provider will **not** ask for money upfront. If something does not feel right, hang up and call the official number.

The good news is landlines are not going away, you can usually keep your existing phone and number, and it's the responsibility of your phone company to guide you through the process. We know that for many people, the landline is more than just a phone - it's a lifeline. That's why **Connecting Cambridgeshire** is here to help make sure no one is left behind.

Don't wait - call your phone provider today

Local libraries and community champions are providing information hubs for vulnerable residents

Recognising that older and more vulnerable residents are best supported in trusted, community locations, libraries are acting as information hubs for the campaign. Every library, including community and mobile libraries have free printed information about the Digital Switchover. Vulnerable residents, for whom their landline is a lifeline, should ask for a copy of the leaflet "Prepare for the Digital Switchover in 3 easy steps". For more information, visit: www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/digitalswitchover.



Please send in your contributions on time! Email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk as early as you like, but definitely by 9am on 15th September. Thanks Ed



Christians Together
in Brampton, Grafham and Ellington

christian aid 2026

**Thank you if you helped to
fund aid today and fuel hope for tomorrow**
by counting your blessings through Lent.

You will

Support those seeking refuge
and peace from conflict
and unimaginable trauma.

Support the growth of hope
where hardship means hunger

**You will
make a difference**



Thank you
if you came to the
concert at St. Mary Magdalene Church

**Your generous donations at the concert,
in church, at Befrienders and Lent lunches or
simply given to Nicola have amounted to
a grand total of £1203.00**

caid.org.uk/compassion



**COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS**

BRAMPTON BEFRIENDERS



FACT Community Transport

• Dial-A-Ride

Provides **door-to-door** shopping trips for people unable to access public transport due to age, disability, mobility or lack of local bus routes. Bus passes can be used.

• Dial-A-Car

You must register and pay for this service. It is pre-bookable for visits to friends, relatives, medical appointments or anywhere that you cannot get to using the Dial-A-Ride service.

More info: www.fact-cambs.co.uk Tel: 01354 661234

Email Info@Cotransport.org

Babysitting Services

Valarie, a friendly and trustworthy
14 year old in the village, offers babysitting
for local families.

Experienced with young children,
reliable and caring

Evening, weekends and school holidays
Call, WhatsApp or text Valarie on

07946 032290



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Grafham Water are looking for volunteers to help maintain and improve the beautiful landscape and facilities, increasing its value both for visitors and wildlife.

With opportunities ranging from gardening, litter picking, and assisting with path surfacing to fencing, vegetation management and the upkeep of our beautiful park there are many ways you can help.

As a token of our appreciation, you'll receive an annual car parking pass for Grafham Water Park, plus free refreshments to keep you going whilst you work!

If you are interested please
email: parksinfo@anglianwater.co.uk

Brampton Flower Club

Wednesday 2nd Sept

TIM MEAKIN

presenting his floral show 'Lets Celebrate'

Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start
Everybody is welcome. Visitor fee £8

The Lady Olivia Hall
85 Central Avenue, Brampton

Any queries please contact Maggie Horne:
margaret.horne@me.com



Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Robinson's Coaches are running a trip
on 16th December 2026

Adult tickets are £82, concessions £80,
children £70 (Admission included)

Save the date - tickets sell really fast

Contact:

Robinson's Coaches, Kimbolton 01480 860581

Brampton's Mothers Union

Mothers' Union is an international Christian movement dedicated to ending poverty, violence and social injustice in communities in the UK and around the world.

Celebrating 150 years, in 2026, with over four million members in approximately 84 countries, Mothers' Union work with people of all faiths and none, transforming lives, strengthening families and communities, and advocating for meaningful change.

Local Brampton celebrations marked the 150th anniversary with a celebratory meal in May. In June Brampton's members joined the 150th Celebratory Service held at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and in August at Ely Cathedral.

Our next meeting Tuesday September 8th at 7.30pm in the Brampton Church Hall, will be reflecting on the 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner. Everyone is welcome.

Advance Diary Date: Tuesday 13th October Annual Pudding Evening

If you would like to find out about Mothers' Union in Brampton, please email: mu@eastleightonstone.com



Cancer Support, Wellbeing and Connection - Every Thursday in St Neots

Something special is happening every Thursday afternoon at The Eatons Community Centre, bringing people together through gentle activity, friendship and support.



Hunts Community Cancer Network (HCCN) supports adults aged 18+ living with or beyond a cancer diagnosis in Huntingdonshire. The charity has launched a free weekly support and activities group in Eaton Socon, giving people across St

Neots and the surrounding villages a welcoming place to stay active, meet others and access support closer to home.

Each week, qualified instructors lead gentle, evidence-based activity sessions suitable for a range of abilities. Activities vary throughout the month and include Chair Yoga, Mat Yoga, seated Tai Chi, standing Tai Chi, seated RightStart, RightStart circuits, Chair Pilates and Mat Pilates.

The sessions offer a calm and supportive space where everyone can move at their own pace. Whether you would like to take part in a class, enjoy a cuppa and a chat, or simply come along to find out more, you will receive a warm welcome.

Every Thursday, the group meets from 2.30pm to 5.30pm, a friendly social and support.



During this time we have two one-hour activity sessions running from 3pm to 4pm and 4pm to 5pm. Activities vary throughout the month. There is no need to book, just come along.

This free weekly group is part of our commitment to making support more accessible across Huntingdonshire. Following the success of our groups in Sawtry, St Ives and Huntingdon, together with the Get Active sessions at One Leisure, we heard clearly that St Neots wanted a regular, local space where people could stay active, meet others and feel supported.

Whether you've recently been diagnosed, are receiving treatment or are adjusting to life after cancer, or you know someone who could benefit, the group offers a welcoming place to stay active, meet others and take time for yourself.

We'd love to welcome you every Thursday at **Eatons Community Centre, 18 The Maltings, Eaton Socon, St Neots PE19 8ES.**

To join an activity session or find out more, simply pop in and say hello or email: info@hccnthecharity.org

To stay in touch and find out what else we offer to support you, register your interest at: www.hccnthecharity.org/ouroffer.

Together, we're helping people live well, stay connected and feel supported, right here in St Neots.

About HCCN:

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

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

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

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PARTNERS
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*Rated Excellent on Trustpilot
and Rated 5 Stars on Google*



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market appraisal of your home*



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Call us to book your FREE property valuation.
Rated Excellent on Trustpilot 01480 860400



kimbolton@peterlane.co.uk



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Schedule your service today!



**Wildlife Trust for
Beds, Cambs
& Northants**
Hunts Local Group



**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
Environmental Records Centre:
Making The Best Use Of Our Records**

Wednesday 9th September 7:30

We begin the autumn season with a joint meeting of Hunts Fauna and Flora and the Hunts Local Group of the Wildlife Trust. This month we are pleased to welcome Jo Wright who will talk about the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Office (CPERC).

Jo will explain what CPERC do, why there is a necessity for their work and how you can contribute to their records should you wish. This will include advice on apps and websites to use and training available. A section of the talk will include a workshop and a question and answer session on how to submit records, including supporting documentation and advice leaflets. Jo will also provide statistics on records specifically for Huntingdonshire.

Everyone is most welcome to attend and booking is not necessary. 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 contact Tim Fryer **07941 261346**

timpfryer@gmail.com

To find out more about the Wildlife Trust visit:

<https://www.wildlifebcn.org/wild-events>

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

Ten years of living with EVs in Grafham

There are now lots of electric vehicles and hybrids of all makes in Grafham and I thought it might be a good time to reflect upon the experiences of our EV journey.

In 2016 our faithful Seat Alambra was on its last legs and costing close on £100 to fill up with diesel. Our Accountant said that given the tax incentives and Government grants we should buy an electric car. There was not much choice at that time. We chose a Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV, a hybrid, which came with a complimentary 3.5kW home charger.

At that time I had a daily round trip commute to Daventry of 100 miles. The Outlander only had a range of 25 miles on pure electric but it would decide when best to use this with the petrol engine cutting in when necessary. Fortunately near where I worked, Daventry Council had installed a bank of 3.5kW chargers that were available for free use. I was able to get a full electric charge at both ends of my journey. The clever car worked out the electric usage percentage for the journey at 70%. My 500 mile weekly commute was now made up of 350 miles of cheap or free electricity and only 150 miles on petrol. Visits to the petrol station became less frequent. When we went on longer trips we would not bother with electric charging unless we fell over a charger.

In 2020 we went fully electric with a Nissan Leaf 64kW. The cost of change on the trade-in was £15000. The range on full electric was 220 miles. The car had two charging sockets, one for the 3.5kW home charger and the other a Chademo, for fast charging. More of that later. The national charging network was in its infancy and most Motorway Service Stations only had one or two Chademo charging points and there was usually a queue to use them. Given that it took close on an hour to fully charge the car this could be frustrating. Luckily most of our usage of the car was local and covered by the home charger.

When our daughter went to study in Newcastle we had to plan our travel. Using the ZAP MAP app we would map out our charging route. We would make an early morning start and get to Blythe Services and bag a charger. From there we would contact Nissan in Newcastle who allowed Leaf owners to charge at their showrooms for free and book a slot.

Forward to 2026. The charging network is now massive and



each Motorway Service Station has 100s. Our car will only charge at a maximum of 50kW and still takes 45 minutes to give a us an 80% charge, but at least there no queues. We did consider changing the car when Nissan dropped the Chademo in favour of CCS charging sockets that are now the industry standard. However, a clever engineer developed an adaptor which for £500 enabled us to connect our Chademo socket to the CCS chargers.

Our car has only done 46,000 miles. It has cost £1000 for new discs, pads and tyres. Servicing, now that it is out of warranty, is reasonable and only every other year. The battery health is still at 100% and after nine years we have only just started paying Road Tax. It would resell for about £10000. Our mileage has dropped away since being retired and we rarely take it on long journeys. We have Octopus Energy as our electricity supplier and use the five hours overnight charge of 8p per kWh rate and power ups during the day to charge the car.

On to the maths and money (approximately). The 220 miles range divided by 64 kW gives 3.5 miles per kW. It costs (3.5 x 8p), 28p per hour to charge overnight and each hour puts 10.5 miles into the battery. Five hours of overnight charging costs £1.40 and puts 52.5 miles into the battery. If we need more miles we just charge for longer at the slightly higher rate. Should we need to quickly charge the battery then we can go to the Shell garage at Buckden which currently costs 60p per Kw which equates to £39 for 220 miles.

The Leaf is here to stay for the foreseeable future and petrol stations only for a cheeky Greggs.

David Charman

Murder at the Museum 12th-28th Sept 7:30pm for approx. 90mins £20 per person

St Neots Museum is teaming up with RAW Theatre Productions for an evening of history, mystery and murder. The evening begins with a special guided tour, where talented actors bring some of St Neots' most fascinating moments from history to life. But before the tour can end, tragedy strikes. A body is discovered, and the death appears anything but accidental.

Examine the crime scene, analyse the evidence, question the suspects and piece together the clues. Can you uncover the killer's identity and their motive before the evening?

Age guidance: 10+ (includes discussions of murder and violence)

Discover St Neots - <https://discoverstneots.co.uk/whats-on/murder-at-the-museum>

The Library Presents Autumn / Winter Season

The Library Presents brings music, drama, art, and dance performances to local libraries across Cambridgeshire during the autumn and winter seasons. Enjoy family shows, comedy, dance, and theatre like puppet shows and local folk music.

Events take place in participating libraries throughout Cambridgeshire, including Huntingdon, St Neots and and St Ives. The season features relaxed, neurodiverse-friendly performances, BSL interpreters, and hearing loops. You can view the full schedule and book tickets online at [Library Live, https://www.library.live/the-library-presents](https://www.library.live/the-library-presents)

If you'd like to write a 'one-off' article or a regular feature for the Grafham Gossip, send it by email to:
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Send us your stories, events, recipes letters, photos and news. Thanks! Ed.

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Little Fishes Stay + Play sessions
meet on Wednesday mornings in
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Email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



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<https://www.actiononenergycambs.org>

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Sausage, squash and apple tray bake

September sees British apples and squashes ripen. Here is a tray bake recipe that uses both. Grasmere sausages from the shop would be good. The recipe serves 6

Ingredients

- 1 small butternut squash, about 750g
- 2 red onions, sliced into rings
- 2 cooking apples, unpeeled, cored and sliced
- 12 pork sausages
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp runny honey
- 1 tsp English mustard
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 15g/½oz fresh flatleaf parsley, finely chopped, to garnish – if you like



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan.
2. Cut the squash into quarters and leave it unpeeled. Remove the seeds then cut each quarter into 5mm slices.
3. Place the squash a very large baking tray with the onion, apple and sausages. Drizzle with 1 tablespoon oil and season well with salt and pepper. Roast for 20 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, whisk together the honey, mustard and remaining oil in a small bowl. Drizzle over the sausages and vegetables and turn to coat everything in the dressing.
5. Return to the oven for 10 minutes until the sausages are browned and cooked through and the vegetables are tender. Sprinkle over the parsley, if using, and serve.

The Royal British Legion – Brampton and District Branch

The Royal British Legion is the UK's largest armed forces charity and provides a range of support to veterans and their families. It was founded on 15th May 1921 as a voice for the ex-service community as a bringing together of four organisations: the Comrades of the Great War, the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers, the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers and incorporated the fundraising department of the Officers' Association.

The British Legion is probably best known for the yearly Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Services, but it is also a campaigning organisation that promotes the welfare and interests of current and former members of the British Armed Forces. Further information about the Legion, as it is affectionately known, can be found here: [Royal British Legion | Armed Forces Charity](https://www.rbl.org.uk/)



The Brampton and District Branch, which originally covered Brampton, Ellington, Easton and Spaldwick, was formed on 27th October 1937. Spaldwick has now moved under Kimbolton, but we have gained Grafham, Upton, the Alconburys, Alconbury Weald and the Stukeleys.

© Royal British Legion
Registered Charity Number
219279, Branch BR0601

Our current President is John Bridge OBE DL and other Officers are Clive Wood (Chair), Ian McDonald (Vice Chair), Carole Rose (Secretary) and Siobhan Grehan (Treasurer).

There is a long-held belief that the Royal British Legion is only for veterans of the First and Second World Wars and where "old men" meet to discuss war stories. Yes, we have a few Second World War veterans, however it also supports veterans from other conflicts since the then – Korea, Bosnia, Falklands and Afghanistan, amongst others. People also think that you had to have served in order to be a member of the Royal British Legion, however, many of our Branch members, including myself, do not fall into this category.

Huntingdonshire is known to have the largest population of forces veterans in the country and we also have many members who are currently serving with the Armed Forces and live in the villages that we cover.

We attend as many activities in the various villages that we can, and this year we have attended two village fêtes (Alconbury and Brampton), and will be at Alconbury Weald Heritage Day as well as the Brampton Christmas Fayre. We also play a large part in the annual Remembrance Parade in Brampton and Services in other villages.

In the past we have arranged visits to Madingley American Cemetery, Duxford, the National Arboretum and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight amongst others. We are looking into trips to other places in the upcoming years.

We meet on the last Monday of the month (apart from December) at 7.30 as follows:

January, April and July - General Meetings
October – Annual General Meeting

February, March, May, June, August, September and
November – Social Meeting where we meet for a drink and a chat.

Other regular events are:

"NAAFI Break" – last Friday of each month 10.00 am to 12.00 pm at Montague House, Brampton Park – see our Facebook Page for more information: <https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/brampton-district>
Model Club – third Sunday of the month 1 pm to 3pm at present in Montague House, Brampton Park

Should you require any further information about the Brampton and District Branch, our activities, meeting venues or would like to join us, please contact Carole Rose at bramptonrbl.secretary@rbl.community or call 07938 026 504, or come along to one of our monthly events, where you will be made very welcome.

Carole Rose
Secretary, Brampton and District Branch



To advertise in the Grafham Gossip email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk





Tea & Chat?

Do join us for Tea & Chat
in Grafham Village Hall

All welcome. Refreshments are free!

Thursday 24th September 2:30 - 4:00pm

Thursday 29th October 2:30 - 4:00pm

On Thursday 24th September we will be
fund-raising for **Macmillan Cancer Relief**.

See poster on page 1

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



Summer Opening Times

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Thurs - 18:00 - 22:00

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Please remember to

send your news, views, letters, adverts,
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to: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

as early as you like, but definitely by
9:00am on Tues 15th September.

Thanks Ed.

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For Shop News see Talking Shop page 5

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Also, see page 5

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