

Grafham Gossip

Deadline for April issue: by 9:00am on Sunday 15th March

Editor's note...

Welcome to the March issue of the Grafham Gossip. As the days finally begin to stretch out, it feels like the village is waking up right along with the daffodils.



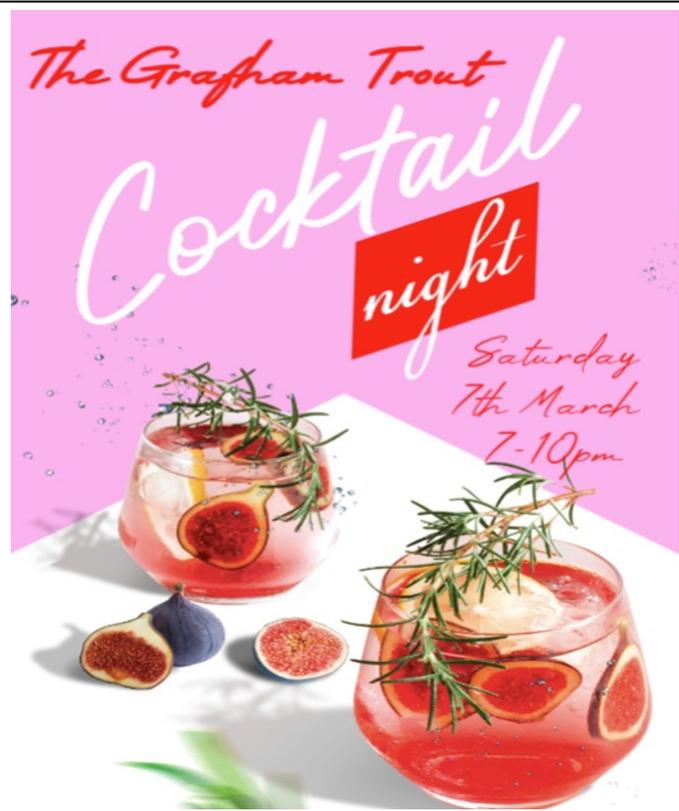
This month is a perfect example of what makes Grafham special - the sheer variety of ways we come together. Whether you're looking for a moment of quiet reflection at our **Lent Lunches**, see below and page 2, or to enjoy a friendly chat at **Tea and Chat**, see page 12, or fancy something a bit more "shaken and stirred" in the pub on **Cocktail Night**, see right, there's a seat at the table for everyone.

For those who enjoy a bit of local craft and nostalgia, don't miss the **Model Railway Exhibition** below, the second one for Grafham. It's also wonderful to see our younger residents getting involved with the **Messy Easter session** on Good Friday, see page 2. Let's give a hand to nature; join us in the churchyard for **wildflower planting** as we help make our village even more beautiful for the seasons to come, see page 5. Other Grafham activities for you to get involved in include **Line Dancing** and **Little Fishes** on page 12, or you could help make tea if your toddlers have grown, see notice on page 10.

Whatever you get up to this month, I hope to see you out and about!

Keep gossiping!

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



The Second Annual Grafham Charity



Model Railway Exhibition

Presented by Beds & Bucks NGRM in aid of **Dementia UK and Muscular Dystrophy UK**

Grafham Village Hall
Grafham Cambridgeshire PE28 0GB

Sunday 29th March 2026
10.00am - 4.00pm

Entry by voluntary contribution. (Cash only please)
ALL proceeds donated to charity

A full range of refreshments will be available
in the Community Shop, Pub and Hall
plus
Janet's wood-fired pizzas



Lent Lunches

Lent Lunches continue in
Grafham Village Hall on
Mondays 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd March
12:00 - 2:00pm See page 2

Sunday, 29th March 01:00
Clocks spring forward by 1 hour
to mark British Summer Time
(Daylight Saving Time)



ALL SAINTS GRAFHAM



Easter Day, 5th April
Open Church
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Easter flowers, Easter garden,
tea and cake

Read more in View from the Pew, page 2

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.



1st Sunday	1st March	09:30 11:00	Morning Worship Grafham Holy Communion Brampton
Wednesday	4th March	09:00 to 09:30	Informal Morning Prayer Grafham
2nd Sunday	8th March	09:30 11:00 18:30	Holy Communion Ellington Morning Worship Brampton Taizé Grafham
Wednesday	11th March	09:00 to 09:30	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
Mothering Sunday	15th March	09:30 11:00	Morning Worship Ellington Holy Communion Brampton
Wednesday	18th March	09:00 to 09:30	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
4th Sunday	22nd March	09:30 11:00	Holy Communion Grafham Morning Worship Brampton
Wednesday	25th March	09:00 to 09:30	Informal Morning Prayer Grafham
Palm Sunday	29th March	11:00	Three villages 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/worship and click on [Calendar](#)

Lent and Easter

Mondays	2/9/16/23 March	12:00 - 14:00	Bible study and simple lunch Grafham Village Hall
Thursdays	5/12/19/26 March	19:30 - 21:00	Lent Course. The Prodigal Son Church Hall Brampton
Monday	30 th March	19:00	Compline Ellington
Tuesday	31 st March	19:00	Compline Grafham
Wednesday	1 st April	19:00	Compline Brampton
Maundy Thursday	2 nd April	19:30	Holy Communion Brampton
Good Friday	3 rd April	10:30 14.00	Messy Easter Grafham Village Hall The Last Hour Brampton
Easter Sunday	5 th April	10:00 14.30 - 16.30	Three villages Communion Brampton Open Church Grafham

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

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

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



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



View from the Pew



As we emerge from a wet, dreary winter we look forward to some sunny days and the blooming of spring bulbs in our churchyard and gardens.

Our Lent lunches beginning on 23rd February will continue until 23rd March. These are held between 12:00 and 2:00pm in Grafham Village Hall. They consist of bible readings followed by a period of reflection and discussion and a simple lunch of soup and bread. Cash donations are given to Christian Aid.

Holy week begins on Sunday 29th March with Palm Sunday. This being the fifth Sunday of the month a traditional Palm Sunday service will be held at Brampton at 11:00am.

Although there is no service at Grafham on Easter Day 5th April, we shall again be welcoming visitors into church in the afternoon to enjoy tea and cake, admire the flower arrangements and Easter garden and perhaps listen to some jolly music. All are welcome to this popular event. An Easter Day service with Holy Communion will take place at Brampton at 11:00am.



Messy Church
Good Friday 3rd April
10:30 - 12.30
Grafham Village Hall



Messy Church worship is for everyone especially family groups.
There are various crafts, worship songs, Bible story and a talk, followed by a simple buffet meal.
We look forward to meeting you.

The Messy Church® name and logo are registered trade marks of Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF), a charity (233280) and company limited by guarantee (301324), registered in England and Wales

Parish News February 2026

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



Bird Boxes

The Parish Council are pleased to announce Wild About Huntingdon who have been working with prisoners at HMP Littlehey have donated three bird nest boxes to the Parish Council. The nest boxes will be positioned around the playing field providing safe nesting places for the local bird population.

Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough - Consultation

This statutory consultation seeks views on the proposals that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government has received following the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to submit proposals for unitary local government for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The four proposals in this consultation are:

Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council proposed two unitary councils. These would comprise the district areas of:

- **North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:** Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland
- **Greater Cambridge:** Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire County Council proposed two unitary councils. These would comprise the district areas of:

- **North West:** Peterborough, Fenland, Huntingdonshire
- **South East:** Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire

Huntingdonshire District Council proposed three unitary councils. These would comprise the district areas of:

- **North East:** Peterborough, Fenland, East Cambridgeshire
- **Central Huntingdonshire:** Huntingdonshire
- **South West:** Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire

Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council proposed three unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the district areas of:

- **Greater Peterborough:** Peterborough and nine wards from Huntingdonshire
- **Mid Cambridgeshire:** Fenland, East Cambridgeshire and 17 wards from Huntingdonshire
- **Greater Cambridge:** Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire

The consultation asks questions about each proposal to help inform the assessment of the proposals and will last for seven weeks from 5th February 2026 to 23:59 on 26th March 2026.

Residents are encouraged to respond by completing the online survey at:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

Wildflower Meadow

The Parish Council in conjunction with Grafham Church are helping to further develop the wildflower meadow in the churchyard. New plants have been ordered and a proposed community planting session is at 10:00am on 28th March. (Find more details on page 5.) Watch this space for further updates.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Chairman, Grafham Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Tuesday 3rd March 2026, 7:30pm in the village hall.

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, details above.

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



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

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

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.



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 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



City Wildlife Haven,
 St Johns College Grounds
 Wed 11th March at 7:30pm
 at Brampton Memorial Hall

Huntingdonshire Local Group of the Wildlife Trust is pleased to welcome David Austrin on Wednesday 11th March 2026. David is the Head Gardener at St. John's College, Cambridge. He will talk about the extensive college grounds which combine mixed formal and wildlife friendly gardening to provide a refuge for many native species of fauna and flora.

David trained at Kew Gardens, then developed his knowledge at Cambridge University Botanic Gardens before moving to St. Johns College. This promises to be an interesting talk, demonstrating what can be achieved in this environment. We are hoping to follow up this talk with a visit to the college grounds in the late spring or early summer.

Everyone is most welcome to attend these events. 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 please contact Tim – 07941 261346 or timpfryer@googlemail.com

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

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>





Help Bring Colour to Grafham!



10:00am 28th March

Join us as we plant around 40 wildflowers in the summer meadow at the south end of the churchyard. Thanks to the parish council for donating the plants.

The area has already been prepared with a weed-suppressing membrane to give the flowers the best chance to establish and brighten the space for everyone. Now we're ready to get them in the ground — and we'd love your help.



Bring a trowel (and a spade if you have one) and meet us at 10.00am on 28th March.

Refreshments will be available.

Do get in touch beforehand, you can reach me at debs.russell@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!



Talking Shop

Still Dry and Not Floating Away

February is always a quiet month in the shop, and we have been grateful to everyone helping with extra-donations for the Diamond Hampers food basket. Almost as important thinking back to the time when our roof seemed to leak regularly, we are still dry, except when visitors come in with dripping macs and wellies, and no we haven't floated off into Grafham Water. There certainly has been a lot of rain, though Valentine's Day was wonderfully sunny.

Great Start to Fund Raising for New Building

Thanks to sterling work by David and Martin, our application to Huntingdon District Council (HDC) for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding has been successful. We have now secured a grant of £46,415, which covers about 60% of the funding needed for the new building. A great start. And we now have 12 months to find the rest of the money. Some of this will come from applying for additional grants: Martin and David have identified some other pots of money, but we will also need to raise money in the village to do our bit. We have set ourselves a fund-raising target of £5,000. Thinking caps have been on and current plans include a Race Night; a second share offer, establishing a "100 Club" and a "Girls Night" (not sure yet what the men will do... fall asleep in front of the TV?) When these plans have been firmed up, we will give everyone plenty of notice. And finally, if there is anyone with fund-raising expertise it would be great if they could help out the Shop Committee if only for this short-term role.

Easter Treats and Mother's Day

With Easter Sunday (5th April) coming up – usually an excuse to eat a lot of chocolate and even to go to church(!) – Belinda will be checking out wholesalers to see what bargains they have in the chocolate department; while three weeks before that Sunday 15th March is Mother's Day, so for those absent minded, neglectful or errant children the shop will have a modest range of gifts (probably not flowers) and cards. And of course, for Easter do buy some real eggs and remember - however old you are - to paint faces on them. The shop may even run a competition for the best-looking egg!

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

Rhubarb cake

This recipe uses early forced rhubarb. Rhubarb is "forced" by excluding light in sheds or forcing pots. It is said that you can hear forced rhubarb growing, the stalks grow so rapidly - up to an inch per day - that they produce audible, percussive, cracking, and popping sounds as they snap and rub against each other.

Ingredients

- 200g softened butter, plus extra for greasing
- 200g caster sugar, plus 3 tbsp for the topping
- 3 large free-range eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract or almond extract
- 200g ground almonds
- 200g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 300g slender young rhubarb, trimmed and cut into roughly 2cm lengths



Method

- Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Grease a 23cm/9in cake tin with butter and line the base with baking paper.
- Put the butter, sugar, eggs, vanilla or almond extract, almonds, flour and baking powder in a food mixer or food processor. Beat until smooth and thick.
- Spoon the cake batter into the prepared tin. Top with the rhubarb, pressing it down gently. Sprinkle with the reserved 3 tablespoons of sugar.
- Bake for 1 hour 15 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Cover with foil if the cake starts to overbrown before it is cooked in the centre.
- Cool in the tin for 20 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack. Serve warm or cold.

Adult Cycle Training

Helping you to feel more confident cycling...



What is happening?

Starting in March 2026, we'll be working with our colleagues at Grafham Water Centre to deliver adult cycle training. We'll be visiting locations in Huntingdon, St Neots, Buckden and St Ives.

We'll offer a mix of one-to-one, small group and larger group sessions, all tailored to the abilities of the attendees.

Who can take part?

We've received funding from our Public Health team to prioritise the following groups for training: **women, elderly, ethnic minorities, carers and those living in areas of deprivation.**

Bookings are open to all, but we'll be targeting and encouraging participation from minorities. A survey will be sent out to attendees after completing a booking. This will request them to confirm if they identify with any of the priority groups.

What experience level is this aimed at?

Anyone can take part regardless of ability. Whether you're a beginner who has never cycled before or you're used to cycling but perhaps lack confidence on the roads. Our booking system will ask you to indicate your ability, and the session will be tailored to you and your individual needs.

When are the sessions?

Sapley Park, Huntingdon – Wednesday 4 March
 Buckden Towers, Buckden – Weds 11 March
 Stanton House, Huntingdon – Monday 18 March
 Riverside Car Park, St Neots – Sat 21 March
 Broad Leas, St Ives – Friday 10 April



Scan the QR code to book your session

or visit <https://grafhamwater.cinolla.com/grafham-water/>

For more information about Dr Bike sessions or Adult Cycling Training, email activetravel@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



cambridgeshire.gov.uk/active-travel

Dr Bike Sessions Huntingdonshire



What is Dr Bike?

Our qualified mechanic will attend to perform a free bike health check. This includes gear and brake adjustments, a safety check, lubrication of parts with recommendations for repairs where necessary.

Make sure to secure your slot by scanning the QR code below or visiting our booking page. There will be limited walk-in availability.



When is Dr Bike?

- Friday 13 March – St Ives
- Saturday 14 March – St Neots
- Monday 16 March – Yaxley
- Tuesday 17 March – Godmanchester
- Wednesday 18 March – Huntingdon
- Monday 20 April – Godmanchester
- Tuesday 21 April – St Neots
- Thursday 23 April – Ramsey
- Friday 24 April – St Ives
- Saturday 25 April – Huntingdon
- Monday 25 May – St Ives
- Tuesday 26 May – Godmanchester
- Wednesday 27 May – Huntingdon
- Thursday 28 May – Yaxley
- Saturday 30 May – St Neots



Scan the QR code to book your free slot now

or visit tinyurl.com/drbike2026 For other active travel events or projects visit cambridgeshire.gov.uk/active-travel



New weekly food waste collections are starting April

2026, making it easier for you to recycle more and waste less. By March 2026, every household will receive - free of charge:

- A 7 - litre grey kitchen caddy for food waste storage indoors
- A 23 - litre external grey food waste bin for weekly kerbside collection

Brampton Flower Club

If you are interested please come along to one of our monthly meetings, you will be made very welcome.

4th March
Lesley Beeton
Plan B

21st March
Floral Workshop

Doors open 6.45pm, demo 7.15pm.
For more details please contact margaret.horne@me.com

The Lady Olivia Hall,
85 Central Avenue, Brampton. PE28 QL

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 you that you cannot get to by 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



Ubumuntu means humanity – goodness, generosity and kindness.

Ubumuntu - Greatness of Heart Curates from our Diocese visit Rwanda



I recently travelled to the Diocese of Kigali with five other curates and our leaders, Steve and Kathrine, as part of the longstanding partnership between our two dioceses. The purpose of the visit, as set out in our invitation, was to strengthen fellowship, share learning, and spend time with clergy and congregations across the diocese. For me, this also carried a special joy, as East Leightonstone has its own parish link with Reverend Bosco in Nyamata, and it was a privilege to meet him in person.

Before travelling, I knew that Rwanda’s recent history would be very present alongside the colour, warmth, and music of Kigali. I also knew that our visits to the genocide memorials would be significant — and yes, I was a little anxious about that side of the trip. Nothing really prepares you for the way joy and sorrow sit side by side in Rwanda.

What stayed with me throughout the visit was the word **Ubumuntu** — a Kinyarwanda concept meaning *humanity, kindness, generosity, and “greatness of heart.”* At the Kigali memorial, I bought a small metal badge marked with the Ubumuntu symbol, a shape that looks both like a heart and like figures embracing. Wearing it later in the gardens, after hearing survivors’ recorded testimonies exploring forgiveness and watching a party of schoolchildren learning their history, the meaning settled more deeply in me.

Again and again, I found myself thinking in terms of the heart. I saw it in the Mothers’ Union, whose compassion for those living with trauma was full of dignity and hope. And I saw it in the children who instinctively wrapped their arms around our legs, greeting us with bright smiles in their schools — tiny reminders of humanity’s resilience.

It reminded me of the Good Samaritan: someone unexpected who stepped towards suffering with kindness and mercy. Ubumuntu echoes that same Christian calling - to love our neighbour, to cross boundaries for the sake of compassion, and to live with **greatness of heart**.

Rev Jen Forester

The team from Ely were greeted by Bishop Nathan, Rev. Bosco, Bishop Louis and Rev. Winnie on our first day in Kigali.



RHS Top Gardening Jobs for March - Spring arrives

Spring usually starts to arrive across the country in March, and the longer days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It’s time to get busy preparing seed beds and sowing seed, and it’s your last chance to prune roses.

- Prune bush and climbing roses
- Plant onion sets and shallots
- Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- Plant early potatoes
- Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)



- Cut back herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses that have been standing over winter
- Keep a few dandelions in your garden to support early bees, particularly pantaloon bees
- Start off dahlia tubers in pots or trays of damp peat-free compost
- Prune Buddleja to a low framework of stems to encourage new flowering growth

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

If you’d like to write a ‘one-off’ article or a regular feature for the

Grafham Gossip, send it by email to

editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



HIIT Resistance Tribe

GRAFHAM GETS FIT – OUTDOOR FITNESS FOR EVERYBODY!

Looking to get fit for summer... or fit for life?

Join my friendly outdoor fitness community right here in **Grafham**

All abilities welcome – whether you're just starting out or ready to level up

- * **Circuit Training, HIIT & Resistance Training**
- * **Small group sessions & women-only groups available**
- * **Fun, energising workouts with music**
- * **Outdoor setting with partial cover – train in all weathers!**

Enjoy fresh air, supportive coaching and a motivating atmosphere that makes exercise something you *look forward to*. I focus on building strength, confidence and long-term results – not quick fixes.

No mirrors No pressure
Just great workouts and a brilliant community

Based in Grafham village

Get in touch <https://hrtribe25.com>

Stronger for Summer Stronger Forever

Tracie x

Men United In Song

40 MEN WANTED!

We want **YOU** to perform live on stage in a charity event in the spectacular setting of Peterborough Cathedral.

- 9 week project
- Starting from scratch in March 2026
- Your chance to learn to sing
- No previous experience needed
- Professional direction and support
- Great social opportunities

Find out more at one of our sign-up sessions at the John Mansfield Campus PE1 4HX on

- Thursday 5th March 6.30pm - 10pm
- Friday 6th March 6.30pm - 10pm

For more information call **NOW** on **01733 425194**

Email menunited@peterboroughsings.org.uk

or scan this QR with your smartphone



Peterborough Singers Registered Charity: 1171960
Prostate Cancer UK Registered Charity: 1005641



Peter Lane & Partners are your Trusted Local Property Experts.

Good estate agency is about understanding your local market and providing an exceptional service, time and time again.

Looking for an estate agent who truly understands the property market? At Peter Lane & Partners, we've been serving the local community since 1990. Our passion for property and dedication to our clients has made us a leading estate agent in Huntingdon, Kimbolton, St Ives, St Neots and the surrounding villages.

Rated Excellent on Trustpilot and Rated 5 Stars on Google



Contact us now for a free, considered and professional market appraisal of your home

 Visit peterlane.co.uk to request a valuation online in just a few clicks

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

 kimbolton@peterlane.co.uk

Positive Progress Is Being Made In Cambridgeshire

When residents contact me about potholes on their street or changes to their bus route, I'm often able to share some genuinely positive news about the overall progress we're making (even during pothole season!) So, here's your update on the progress we're making across Cambridgeshire.

Tackling Potholes: Record Investment Paying Off

The council has nearly quadrupled its highway crews this winter. Instead of eight crews working across the county, there are now thirty, out making repairs every day, and it's working. Outstanding potholes are coming down week by week.

Since 2023-24, funding for highway maintenance has more than doubled, jumping from £24 million to £59 million. This year the council has allocated £73 million, adding £20 million of its own funding on top of what Government provides, and expects to do the same next year. That investment is making a difference on our roads, but it will still take time to repair the damage that has been done from a decade of under-investment.

And there's more good news for safer streets. The council has set aside another £150,000 this year for 20mph schemes in residential areas, funding around eight new schemes per year. If you'd like safer speeds where your family lives, get in touch - I'm more than happy to back applications in our area.

Our Voice is Saving Bus Services

When the Combined Authority proposed cutting thirty-five bus routes - including Route 65 between Buckden and St Neots - residents, the parish council and I spoke up, and it's made a difference. At last month's Transport Committee, I insisted on proper consultation before any cuts happen. The Combined Authority listened. They've now agreed to at least consult on the services - so we need to build a case to save route 65, otherwise it will be added to the growing list of bus routes that are closing.

I'm building a case for Route 65 to be improved rather than cut, gathering stories from people who rely on it. If you use this route, your experience matters - please share it with me. **When residents engage, we win battles like this.**

Protecting Vulnerable Families

The council is stepping up where Government has stepped back. When the Household Support Fund ends in March, we're bridging the gap with our own funding to keep holiday food vouchers going until September. No child should go hungry over the holidays, and we're making sure they don't.

Better still, the council's £780,000 investment last autumn to speed up Education Health and Care Plans is delivering results.

More children with special educational needs are getting their assessments on time, within the twenty-week target. That's real progress for **some** families who've been waiting too long. While this is progress in the right direction, it doesn't go nearly far enough. Cambridgeshire is experiencing an unsustainable issue with EHCP's. Councils across the country cannot afford the responsibilities they've been landed with, and children are not getting anywhere near the support and compassion they deserve - this must be addressed at a national level.

£1.2 Billion Budget: Investing in What Matters

The council is finalising a £1.2 billion budget for 2026-27, debated at Full Council on 10th February. Nearly two-thirds goes to caring for the most vulnerable - adult and child social care - with major investment in SEND, home to school transport, and highways. Yes, the council faces funding pressures in Special Educational Needs. That's why it's backing the F40 campaign for fairer education funding and real reform. The council isn't accepting the status quo - it's fighting for Cambridgeshire to get its fair share and to try to land the support our children and our parents urgently need.

Progress Through Partnership

Working alongside residents and listening to what matters to your communities is how we make real progress. When you contact me, when you share your stories, when you tell me what needs fixing - that's when things can change.

These aren't easy times for local government, but good things are happening here. And there's more to come.

If you have ideas, concerns, or just want to know what's happening in your area, please get in touch. Working together, residents and councillors are making Cambridgeshire better.

Staying Close:

If you'd like to read my full monthly parish report, I'll shortly be adding them to my website at dewey-beckett.co.uk

You'll almost always find me at your local parish council meeting. I tend to arrive slightly early, which would be a good chance to speak to me face to face.

My report in March will also list my yearly surgery sessions, so you can plan ahead to come and see me and a district or parish councillor if you wish.

Finally, I can be contacted directly by facebook, email or phone: Liam.beckett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk 07312 081 892

Cllr Liam Beckett



Really Useful Family History Show

The East Anglia Really Useful Family History Show is BACK for 2026!

Following our success in 2024, we are back with an even bigger and better show on Saturday 18th April 10:00am - 4:30pm at the Burgess Hall, St Ives. This FREE event will be jam packed with exhibitors and experts:

- Ask the local experts of fourteen family history societies covering East Anglia and beyond for help and advice
- Receive help researching your military ancestors and their medals
- Browse thousands of old photographic postcards and buy images of where your ancestors lived
- Buy genealogy supplies, books, maps, data CDs, war medals and more

- Attend a talk with renowned DNA expert Donna Rutherford
- Find new ways to break down your brick walls at our research session hosted by a panel of family history experts
- Take part in tutorials with the team at Family Tree Maker and learn how to make the most of their software
- Learn about new additions to their website with Family Search

Plus much, much more!

Join us for a great day out whether you are an experienced family historian or a complete novice - we have something for you!

Follow us on Facebook [#rufhsstives2026](https://www.facebook.com/rufhsstives2026) for more information

Free parking is available at the venue and light refreshments will be available to purchase



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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





Tea & Chat?

Do join us for Tea & Chat in Grafham Village Hall on



Thursday 26th March 2:30 - 4pm
Thursday 23rd April 2:30 - 4pm

All are welcome. Refreshments are free!

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

Grafham Trout

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

LINE DANCING

Mondays 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Fancy joining us?

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First session free (£2.50 weekly)



Grafham Village Shop

01480 810119

Winter Hours for Jan, Feb, March

Mon to Sat 8:00am - 4:00pm

Sundays/Bank holidays 10:00am - 2:00pm

For Shop News see Talking Shop page 5



facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop

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Contact Jane Rowley 01480 890986

littlefishes@eastleightonstone.com



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Send your news, views, letters, adverts, recipes and gossip for the April issue

to: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk by

9:00am on Sunday 15th March

Website: www.grafham.org.uk

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