

Grafham Gossip

Deadline for June issue: by 9:00am on Friday 15th May

Editor's note...

Spring has arrived, and our May issue is bursting with activity! This month, keep an eye out for posters featuring upcoming events in May including Bingo night, Spring Concert and Wildlife Trust walks. Save the dates for June's Cocktail Night, Flower Festival, Race Night and for our Beer Festival in July! Must reads include Parish News, page 3, Talking Shop, page 5 and Duncan's Chewing the Cud on page 7. Look out for new adverts too!



Happy May Day! editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

**Tues 12th May Grafham Village Hall
Annual Parish Meeting 7:00 - 8:00pm**

A meeting of the parish community - an open, informal forum designed to give residents a voice in parish affairs

For more details, see Parish News p.3

**Annual Parish Council Meeting
8:00pm onwards**

Members of the public may attend, but it is a formal council meeting with a structured agenda.

Grafham Flower Festival

*13th and 14th June
Sat 10:00 - 5:00
Sun 10:00 - 4:30*

Theme: Numbers

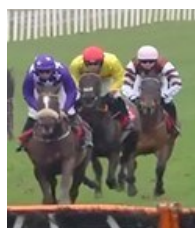
Details on page 6



**FUNDRAISING
RACE NIGHT**



For the shop and a charity raffle for Magpas



**Saturday 13th June
Grafham Village Hall
Doors Open 6:15pm
First Race 7:00pm**

Entrance £3 cash Race cards on night £2 cash

Find more details on page 9

BINGO NIGHT
AT THE GRAFHAM TROUT
Saturday 9th May
Childrens Bingo 5-6pm
Adults Cash Prize Bingo from 7pm

Spring Litter Pick Sat 16th May
Meet at Grafham Village Hall 10:00 am
See Parish News page 3 for details

FREE Spring Concert

featuring
military wives
Choirs
Wyton & Brampton



St.Mary Magdalene Church
Brampton

**Sunday May 10th
at 3pm**

followed by
tea and cake



Donations will be gratefully received for
Christian Aid and choir charities

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.



4th Sunday	26th April	09:30 11:00	Holy Communion Grafham Morning Worship Brampton
Wednesday	29th April	09:00 to 09:30	Informal Morning Prayer Grafham
1st Sunday	3rd May	09:30 11:00	Morning Worship Grafham Holy Communion Brampton
Wednesday	6th May	09:00 to 09:30	Informal Morning Prayer Grafham
2nd Sunday	10th May	09:30 11:00 18:30	Holy Communion Ellington Morning Worship Brampton Taizé Grafham
Wednesday	13th May	09:00 to 09:30	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
3rd Sunday	17th May	10.00 11:00	Morning Worship Ellington Holy Communion Brampton
Wednesday	20th May	09:00 to 09:30	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
4th Sunday	24th May	09:30 11:00	Holy Communion Grafham Morning Worship Brampton
Wednesday	27th May	09:00 to 09:30	Informal Morning Prayer Grafham
5th Sunday	31st May	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**

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

To join the mailing list for the East Leightonstone Parish Newsletter, visit: www.eastleightonstone.com and click **News**

View from the Pew

The vernal equinox has now passed giving us longer days and it was good to see white narcissi in bloom along the path in our churchyard on a sunny Easter day. The Easter garden outside the porch, prepared by Jill showed the stone of the tomb had been rolled away in accordance with the resurrection of Jesus as we know from our Gospel stories.



Open Church took place in the afternoon when we welcomed visitors to enjoy tea and cake and sit and listen to the lovely music provided by our local musicians. It was a very pleasant way to spend an hour or two. We are very grateful to all those who donated cake and served the teas.



A couple of our diligent churchyard gardeners have been on their knees putting wildflower plants into the Spring meadow. These had been kindly donated by the Parish Council, to whom grateful thanks are due. We hope that these plants will thrive now. Previous attempts to raise wildflowers in the area have been challenging. (Find more in 'Churchyard flowers and Brambles' on page 9. Ed)

Looking forward to 10th May a Spring Concert will be held in St Mary Magdelene Church, Brampton at 3:00pm by the Military Wives Choirs and the Rotary Voices Choir. (See the advert on page 1.) Refreshments following the concert will be provided by our Fellowship Impact Group. Admission is free but donations will be gratefully received for Christian Aid and choir charities. Do come along to this delightful afternoon of music.

It's Christian Aid week 10th to 16th May



Don't miss the poster on page 6



See page 9 for more details of the next Churchyard Session 10:00am on 29th April





Parish News April 2026

Spring Litter Pick – 16th May

The Parish Council's annual Spring Litter pick is just around the corner, and we would love to see as many residents as possible join in.

Date: Saturday 16th May

Time: 10.00 am

Meeting Point: Grafham Village Hall

All equipment will be provided, and volunteers of all ages are welcome. Free tea and cake will be provided afterwards as a thank you for your time and energy.

Food Waste Collection

The weekly food waste collections have now started. The food waste will be collected every week on the same day as normal waste and recycling collections.

Please put your outdoor food waste recycling bin, with the handle in the locked position, at the edge of your property with your other waste or recycling.

Parish Council Update – Uncontested Election

The recent parish council election was uncontested, meaning no vote will take place. All existing council members will continue in their roles for the new term.

We do, however, still have one vacant seat on the council. If you are interested in getting involved, supporting local projects, and helping shape the future of our community, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information about what the role involves: clerk@grafhampc.org

Highways Update – Potholes Marked for Repair

The Parish Council Chairman recently carried out a full drive-around inspection of the village with Local Highways. Every pothole identified has now been marked yellow, ready for repair by the highways team.

Grafham to Brampton Quietway – Update

Brampton Road has now been designated as a Quiet Lane, with an associated advisory 20mph speed limit.

Grafham to Brampton Road is to be resurfaced in 2027/28, therefore, a decision has been taken to temporarily pause the Quiet Lane works to ensure works can align with the proposed resurfacing works along the Grafham to Brampton Road.

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

May Meetings on 12th May - Update

The following meetings will be held on the 12th of May 2026 in Grafham Village Hall.

1. The Annual Parish Meeting 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Anglian Water The Visitor Operations Manager, Anglian Water, will be in attendance to provide a verbal update on what has been happening in the park recently. Please note they will not be able to answer any questions on the recent water outages.

Repair Café - A Repair Café is a free community event or meeting place where volunteers help visitors fix broken household items to reduce waste and promote sustainability. The Parish Council has arranged for a representative to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to provide more details.

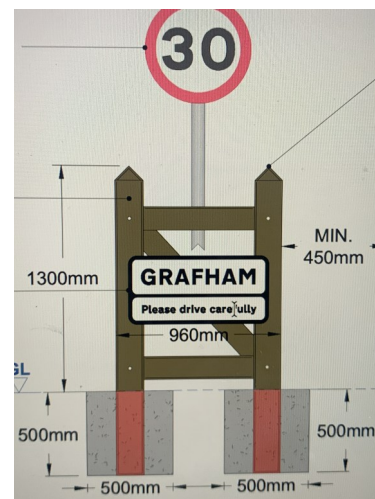
2. The Annual Parish Council Meeting – 8.00pm onwards

This is the first formal Parish Council meeting of the new Council year.

Grafham Design Plans LHI Bid 2025 - 2026 Update

Designs have now been drawn up for proposed gateway features which are to be installed on Breach Road and Buckden Road as per photo.

In addition, Dragons Teeth are to be installed on the westbound approach lane of Buckden Road.



Cllr Ian Gardener

Chairman, Grafham Parish Council

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

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

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>



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



The Hunts Local Group of the Wildlife Trust and The Hunts Fauna and Flora Society offer joint programmes

Midloe Grange Farm, Stirtloe Sunday 3rd May 2:30pm

This walk will be led by the farm's owner, David Felce. David will show us his ancient wildflower meadow, ponds, hedges and field margins sown with grasses and wildflowers. He will explain how he balances the needs of wildlife and farming and his latest venture participating in a National Register for Biodiversity Net Gain. Everyone is invited to share tea and cake at the end of the walk.

Old Sulehay Nature Reserve Friday 22nd May 10:30am

This walk will be led by Leo Barrett. We will look at the ancient woodland that is covered with bluebells and wild garlic, plus the more open areas of grassland where there is rare flora to be found. We will also look for bullfinches, warblers, nuthatch and treecreepers. We will stop for a picnic lunch.

Details of meeting points, bookings and payment can be found on the Wildlife Trust website:

<https://www.wildlifebcn.org/wild-events>
(£5 members, £6 non-members)

Contact Tim Fryer **07941 261346** timpfryer@gmail.com

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>





Talking Shop

Ice Cream Sales Down; Overall Profits Up

As the chilly dry winds blow in, we are wondering if we will ever sell any ice creams. Never mind, it seems we have had a pretty good Easter break with some good sales at the weekends, giving us a good start to the new financial year, the excitement of fund raising and the

prospect - fingers crossed of a new building this time next year. Initial results from last year suggest that we have been making money again, all good omens for tripping the light fantastic and interesting times ahead*.

Fund Raising: 100 Club

So far, we have two main activities lined up for fund-raising for the new building and topping up the grants we have received and/or hope to receive. First off, the mark is the 100 Club. David has acquired some new balls for this, and he is busy polishing them in anticipation of the first draw in May. Uptake has been pretty good, but there is always room for more to take part. If everyone subscribes there will be a monthly prize of £150 (and two £50 second prizes). If you haven't signed up yet drop David a line or give him a call, he will be happy to pop round with an application form. Text him on 07948 799683 or email: 100club@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk

Fund Raising: Race Night Saturday 13th June Grafham Village Hall – Be there or be...

One of Grafham's Social and Family highlights of the year is our Race Night which is being organised by Super Trooper Ian. There should be a separate advert about this somewhere in the Gossip, but in case you missed it because you don't do adverts, everyone is welcome: Grafhamites, Ellingtonians, friends, colleagues, other villages, campers etc. The doors will open at 6.15pm with the first race at 7.00pm. Each race will have eight horses, and depending on how soft the ground is, there will be between six and eight races. You can buy a horse £5, pick a unique name and it will be allocated a race. Sponsors are needed for each race @ £30 per race, they will also get free publicity in the programme. Door Entrance £3/head and the Race Card is £2. Book a place by buying tickets from the Village Shop - Further details if needed from Ian 07845.389916. There will also be a raffle in aid of MAGPAS.

New Coca Cola Fridge

Coca Cola have kindly given us free lease of a new drinks' fridge. The only requirement is that it should mostly stock the Coca Cola family of drinks in it. As we already supply most of their products it was very much a no-brainer... a small quantity of other brands maybe hidden at the bottom!

Committee Members and Volunteers Needed

The shop really depends on residents to help make it all happen whether in the background on the committee or helping behind the counter. A number of villagers have "done their time" and will be stepping back in the coming months. This will leave the shop very short handed of volunteers. Please, please consider stepping forward and taking your turn. If your thing is behind the scenes then we will need at least two/three new faces on the committee by the time of the AGM (October). The committee meets about ten times a year usually on a mid-week night for an hour/ hour and half. Volunteers are also needed to help out behind the till; full training is given, the till does not bite and it's a wonderful opportunity to meet not only locals but the many interesting and interested visitors to the village. If you are willing to help out, please talk to Belinda, other volunteers or email

admin@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk

*Pratshop

Fantasy author and humourist Terry Pratchett wrote the Discworld series of 41 comic fantasy novels between 1983 and 2015. Four titles of his were squeezed into the first paragraph. Can you spot them?

See back page for Opening Hours

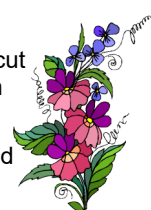
www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk 01480 810119



RHS Top Gardening Jobs for May - Summer's on its way

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on when the last frost is in your area, and you can take softwood cuttings. It's also time to let the lawn grow long and get a buzz from seeing all the insects that arrive to feed on the flowers.

- Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants
- Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
- Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
- Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible
- Hoe off weeds in vegetable patches
- Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
- Mow lawns – but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife or mow less often so flowers can bloom
- Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs
- Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs and remove by hand if causing damage



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



Christians Together
in Brampton, Grafham and Ellington

christian aid **2026**
May 10th - 16th

Help fund aid today and fuel hope for tomorrow
Have you counted your blessings through Lent ?

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

You can
make a difference

Support the growth of hope
where hardship means hunger

ENJOY

the FREE concert at St.Mary Magdalene Church, Brampton
on Sunday May 10th



at 3pm
and
DONATE.



Donations also received gratefully by Nicola
at London House, 28 High Street Brampton
or in St.Mary Magdalene Church.

Cash or cheques payable to Christian Aid welcome

or donate at

caid.org.uk/compassion



COUNT YOUR
BLESSINGS



BRAMPTON BEFRIENDERS



METHODIST CHURCH
BRAMPTON

Grafham Flower Festival

13th and 14th June
Saturday 10:00 - 5:00
Sunday 10:00 - 4:30
Theme - Numbers



Free Entry Live music
Refreshments available in the afternoons
Like to take part? Contact Jill 07892 720835
Help is provided so no experience is needed!
Songs of Praise ~ 4.30 on Sunday

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

FACT Community Transport

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routes. Bus passes can be used.

• Dial-A-Car

More info: www.fact-cambs.co.uk

Tel: 01354 661234

Email Info@Cotransport.org

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.

Chewing the Cud with Rev. Duncan Goldthorpe
Rector of The Parish of East Leightonstone and Rural Dean for Huntingdon



Corrie ten Boom: A Life of Courage, Faith and Unshakeable Hope



In a world once again shaken by war - from the shattered streets of Ukraine to the grief-filled communities of the Middle East - stories of courage feel urgently needed. In times when fear, displacement, and uncertainty dominate the headlines, the life of Corrie ten Boom offers a powerful reminder that steadfast hope can rise even in the darkest seasons of human history.

Corrie ten Boom's life stands as one of the twentieth century's most compelling testimonies to courage and compassion in the face of overwhelming darkness. Born in 1892 in Haarlem, Netherlands, Corrie grew up in a devout Christian family whose home was marked by hospitality, prayer and a deep commitment to serving others. That foundation would shape her destiny in ways she could never have imagined.

When the Nazis invaded the Netherlands during the Second World War, the ten Boom family refused to remain passive. Motivated by their faith and a profound belief in the dignity of every human life, they opened their home as a refuge for Jews fleeing persecution. Their small watchmaker's shop became the centre of an underground network, hiding the vulnerable behind a secret wall built into Corrie's bedroom. It was an act of quiet defiance that risked everything.

In 1944, the family was betrayed. Corrie, her sister Betsie, and their father were arrested. Her father died shortly after his imprisonment, and Corrie and Betsie were eventually transported to Ravensbrück concentration camp. Amid starvation, brutality and disease, the sisters clung to their faith. Betsie, frail but resolute, often reminded Corrie that "There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still." Those words became a lifeline.

Betsie died in the camp, but Corrie survived - released due to a clerical error just days before women her age were sent to the gas chambers.

After the war, she travelled the world sharing her story, preaching forgiveness, reconciliation, and the unbreakable hope found in Christ. Corrie continued this ministry until her death on 15th April 1983, poignantly her 91st birthday.

Corrie's legacy is not simply one of survival but of transformation. She demonstrated that even in the darkest circumstances, ordinary people can choose extraordinary love. Her willingness to forgive her captors, her insistence that light is stronger than darkness, and her belief that God can redeem any suffering have encouraged generations to stand firm in adversity. Corrie ten Boom's life reminds us that courage is not the absence of fear but the decision to act in love despite it - a message as vital today as ever.

*Every blessing
Duncan*

Greek Salad

Well May should see some warm weather – how about a Greek Salad either as a side dish alongside the first BBQ of the year or as a vegetarian main dish. This recipe is for 4 people.

Ingredients

- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 4 large ripe tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 1 medium cucumber, roughly chopped
- 200g feta cheese, cut into cubes
- 100g black olives, (pitted to avoid inadvertently damaging your teeth!)
- handful fresh mint leaves, torn
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 4 tsp extra virgin olive oil
- 4 tsp fresh lemon juice
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 4 slices/chunks of wholemeal bread



Method

- Put the onion, tomatoes and cucumber in a bowl and season to taste.
- Scatter the feta, olives and mint leaves on top. Sprinkle over the oregano and toss lightly.
- Drizzle over the oil and lemon juice and serve with warmed pitta bread.

Combined District Council and Town/Parish Council Elections - May 2026

On Thursday 7th May 2026, elections will take place in all of Huntingdonshire's District Council wards and all town/parish councils. 52 district councillors will be elected to represent 26 wards, and 650 town and parish councillors will be elected to represent 71 town and parish councils.

You can only vote at the polling station stated on your poll card and you will need an accepted form of [photographic ID](#) to vote.

See: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/elections/voter-id>

Find more information here: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/elections/upcoming-elections> There is some more information on Grafham village website too www.grafham.org.uk



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Schedule your service today!

To advertise email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Brampton Flower Club

May 7th Karen Longbottom *Spring into Summer*

Teas/Coffee & Biscuits, Floral Sales Table & Raffle for the Arrangements

Do come along and enjoy a super evening. Visitor fee £8. Annual Membership is just £45
Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7.15pm start

The Lady Olivia Hall. 85 Central Avenue, Brampton



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



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✉ kimbolton@peterlane.co.uk

Churchyard Flowers and Brambles



A huge thankyou to everyone who helped to plant the wild flowers in the churchyard. We had a great turnout and a lovely sunny morning. We ate some delicious cakes after our efforts – what is there not to enjoy? The plants were planted through a membrane which will prevent grasses taking over. The membrane will stay in place until the plants are firmly established. They were watered daily for a while over April, so we hope they are happy!

Here's hoping that the plants will look like this in a few year's time – we'll see what happens...



As you can see, we've had a later flush of daffodils in the churchyard. A kind donation by Simon means there are now many more daffodils in bloom than ever before.



We still have some brambles and it would be great to have a session to remove these thugs We discovered a baby's grave whilst having a look at the area. There may be other forgotten tombstones to unearth or even a few plants which have been almost crowded out!

It would be great if you can join us on April 29th 10am - midday for some or all of the session.

Contact debs.russell@gmail.com for details.

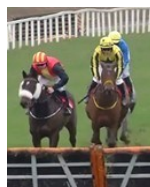
*Save the date
Coming soon!*



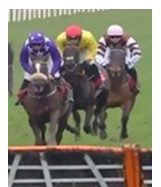
FUNDRAISING RACE NIGHT



For the shop and a charity raffle for Magpas
Saturday 13th June Grafham Village Hall



**Doors Open 6:15pm
First Race 7:00pm**



**Entrance £3 cash
Race cards on night £2 cash**

Raffle tickets, race cards and race bets will be cash only
To secure an entrance ticket please record your name on the sheets provided in the Grafham Village Shop or the Grafham Trout Pub, as numbers have to be set at a maximum. All kids welcome.

All drinks and snacks will remain card only and will be available in the Village Hall and the Grafham Trout pub throughout the evening.

A truly fun packed evening consisting of 6-8 horse races (time dependent) with the final horse race being an auction in the hall to pick the 8 owners. The winning owner will receive 50% of the cash staked by those 8 owners. All races have 8 runners.

On the night all race tickets, per horse / pig are £1, buy numerous £1 tickets on either 1 horse or multiple horses, as you like.

All winning bets paid in cash after each race

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For advice on how to maximise the
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emissions go to:

<https://www.actiononenergycambs.org>
or use the QR code.



Community Notices

No charge if no profit is made:

Community Info, Free to good home, Help wanted.

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

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

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

Cinnamon Bar and Indian Restaurant



Open 7 days a week
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Thursday Night is '**Banquet Night**'
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1 Starter, 1 Main, 1 Side.

Any Rice or any Nan **£20.95**

King Prawn £2.50 extra

Bar Special Offer

Drink and Starter **£9.95**

King Prawn or Mixed Kebab **£10.95**

<http://cinnamonhuntingdon.co.uk>

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Perfect for weddings, parties and
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lakeviewpaddock.com



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



Police Drone Pilot Training in Grafham

We would like to extend our thanks to the residents of Grafham and Ellington, whilst we carried out Beds, Cambs and Herts Police drone pilot CPD (Continuing Professional Development) over the past couple of months, utilising the playing field at the village hall in Grafham. This turned into a great community engagement opportunity as we were approached by so many lovely members of the public who were inquisitive around what we were doing. These sessions are essential in order for our Police Remote Pilots to remain in licence as set out by the NPCC National Drone Standards, so thank you for having us.



Why the Police Use Drones – And What They’re Used For

Police drones are becoming an increasingly valuable tool in modern policing. Understandably, people often have questions about why they’re used and what they can (and can’t) do.

What is a Police Drone?

A police drone is a small, remotely piloted aircraft equipped with a camera. Our police drones also carry thermal imaging equipment, which can detect heat rather than visible light. They are flown by specially trained police officers and are used only for specific policing purposes.

Drones are not used routinely and are never flown “just to watch people.”

Why Do the Police Use Drones?

The main reasons are safety, speed, and efficiency. Drones allow officers to get an overview of a situation from the air without putting people at risk. In many cases, this can prevent the need for more intrusive tactics, such as police helicopters, dogs, or large-scale cordons.

They also help the police respond more quickly, particularly in rural areas where distances can be large.



Common Situations Where Drones Are Used

Searching for Missing People

One of the most frequent uses of drones is locating missing or vulnerable people, such as someone with dementia, a distressed individual, or a lost child. Thermal cameras can spot body heat in fields, woodland, or at night, helping officers find people faster and potentially save lives.

Keeping Officers and the Public Safe

Drones can be used to assess dangerous situations before officers’ approach, for example:

- Searching for a suspect believed to be carrying a weapon
 - Major incidents
 - Monitoring large fires or hazardous incidents
- This reduces the risk of injury to everyone involved.

Serious Incidents and Crime Scenes

Drones can quickly capture aerial images of collision scenes or major incidents. This can:

- Help re-open roads sooner
- Provide accurate records for investigations
- Reduce disruption to local residents

Public Events and Crowd Safety

At larger events, drones may be used to monitor crowd movement, spot safety risks early, and help officers respond quickly if someone needs assistance.

Every deployment must have a **clear policing purpose** and be authorised in line with strict rules.

Why Not Just Use a Helicopter?

Police helicopters are still important, but they are expensive, noisy, and not always available. Drones are:

- Quieter
- Cheaper to operate
- Faster to deploy in many situations

Using a drone can often mean less disruption for the community, not more.



Operational Support Unit

There will probably be no Grafham Gossip in August

I use Microsoft Publisher to produce the Gossip. From October Microsoft will no longer be supporting Publisher, so I plan to use Affinity Publisher instead.

This is proving to be a very steep learning curve, so I will need time to get to terms with the software.

Hopefully, I’ll be ready in time for the September issue.

There will be more updates in the next couple of issues.

Ed.

Grafham Churchyard

In the churchyard at Grafham Church there are designated areas of grass that are cut by a small team of volunteers.

We are looking for four more people to help. You would be working in a team of two. It takes about two hours, three or four times from March to the end of September. You can choose when you want to do it within a set week. One member of the team strims and mows using a small mower with a collection box and the other member of the team speeds around on the F1 look-alike sit-on mower.

Full training and safety instructions will be given.

If you could help, please contact:

Brian Homewood on brianihomewood@outlook.com





Tea & Chat?

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



Thursday 30th April 2:30 - 4pm
Thursday 28th May 2:30 - 4pm
Thursday 25th June 2:30 - 4pm

All are welcome. Refreshments are free!

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

Grafham Village Shop

01480 810119

Opening Hours

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

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

For Shop News see Talking Shop page 5

facebook.com/GrafhamCommunityShop

admin@grafhamvillageshop.co.uk www.grafhamvillageshop.co.uk



Grafham Trout

Summer Opening Times

Mon to Wed - Closed

Thurs -- 18:00 - 22:00

Fri -- 18:00 - 23:00

Sat -- 13:00 - 23:00

Sun -- 13:00 - 19:00

Open longer for special events

Bank Holidays - 13.00 - 19.00

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

Free play time followed by a short Bible story, action songs and simple craft.



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>

Short of something to read?

Grafham Church porch has a good selection of paperbacks

Please leave a donation by cash in the blue tin attached to the bookshelf or pay by card or phone using our contactless device, which may be in the church if not in the porch.

Choose 'Book Donations' on the screen. (Suggested donation £1 per book)



Forgot to pay? Scan this QR code!



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

The Mobile Library

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



For renewals and information call: **03450 455225** or email: yourlibrary@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Grafham Quiz night

Last Thursday of every month

Starting at 8pm

Teams of 4, £1 entry per person

To advertise email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk

Community notices are free.

Business adverts are priced according to size.

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

This money goes towards the printing costs.

Send your news, views, letters, adverts, recipes and gossip for the June issue to: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk by 9:00am on Friday 15th May