

Grafham Gossip

Deadline for July issue: by 9:00am on Monday 15th June

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
 Songs of Praise ~ 4.30 on Sunday
 Like to take part and / or offer help by 'church-sitting' on the day? Please contact Jill 07892 720835
 Donations of cakes welcome, please see the 'View' page 2

The Grafham Trout
Cocktail night
 Saturday
 6th June
 7-10pm

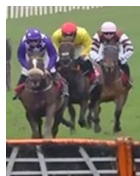


FUNDRAISING RACE NIGHT

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

To secure an entrance ticket please record your name on the sheets provided in the Grafham Village Shop with £3 per adult, as numbers have to be set at a maximum. All kids welcome.

A truly fun packed evening consisting of 8 video recorded horse races 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.

Raffle tickets and race bets will be cash only. Race bets are £1 per bet, buy numerous £1 tickets on either 1 horse or tickets on multiple horses, buy as you many as you like.

All winning bets paid in cash after each race

Editor's note...

Lots to do this month! Make sure you read every page carefully not to miss anything. There will be no issue in August, see page 2 for details.

Be sure to have fun in the village throughout June!
editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Parish Council Meeting at 7:30pm
 Tuesday 2nd June - Village Hall

Anglian Water will be attending to discuss the recent water cuts and outages affecting the village. All residents are encouraged to come along and share their experiences.



3rd and 4th July
 Grafham Beer Festival
 Not long now!
 See page 6 also

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	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
1st Sunday	7th June	09:30 11:00	Morning Worship Grafham Holy Communion Brampton with Baptism
Wednesday	10th June	09:00 to 09:30	Informal Morning Prayer Grafham
Saturday and 2nd Sunday	13th and 14th June	10:00 to 17:00 Sat 16.30 Sun	Flower Festival Grafham
2nd Sunday	14th June (No Taizé)	09:30 11:00 16.30	Holy Communion Ellington Morning Worship Brampton Songs of Praise after the Flower Festival Grafham
Wednesday	17th June	09:00 to 09:30	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
3rd Sunday	21st June	09:30 11:00	Morning Worship Ellington Holy Communion Brampton
Wednesday	24th June	09:00 to 09:30	Morning Prayer with Duncan Grafham
4th Sunday	28th June	09:30 11:00	Holy Communion Grafham Morning Worship Brampton
Wednesday	1st July	09:00 to 09:30	Informal Morning Prayer Grafham
1st Sunday	5th July	09:30 11:00	Holy Communion Grafham Morning Worship 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



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



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



View from the Pew

Time flies! We're into June and half way through the year. Here's hoping for some lovely sunny weather.

Our flower arrangers are gearing up for our famous Flower Festival on 13th and 14th June. See the advert on page 1. The theme this year is numbers. Come along and see what brilliant ideas our arrangers come up with. It's surprising how numbers affect our lives, one way or another. As usual teas will be served both afternoons from 2:00 pm. Donations of home made cakes would be very welcome for our tea table. Please contact Hazel (07870 307388) if you have something to bring. Our musical friends will be supplying us with some jolly tunes to enjoy. There will be a Songs of Praise on Sunday afternoon at 4:30 pm as the Festival ends.



There will be no Bioblitz this year. It has been decided that this will be a biennial event.

The Spring Concert at Brampton featuring the Military Wives choirs and the Rotary Voices choir gave a splendid performance of songs on 10th May. Favourites such as New York, New York, Eidelweiss, the theme tune from Les Misérables and a special favourite - Some Enchanted Evening. The audience numbered around 140 who were very generous with their donations to Christian Aid for which this concert was arranged. Afterwards the array of cakes on offer was amazing with something to please everyone.

Please send any dates and notices of all August events in time for the July deadline.
There will be no Grafham Gossip in August this year.

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. I have made some progress but I need much more time to get to terms with the software and hope to do so in August. Thanks, *Ed.*

Parish News May 2026

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



The May meeting was the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Below is the Chairman's Report summarising the council's activity over the past year.

As Chairman of the Parish Council, firstly I would like to put on record my thanks to all parish councillors for their hard work over the past 12 months and to our Clerk Lisa Hazel for all her efforts over the same period, which has made being Chairman much easier. We were sad to see Cllr Jo Dunn leave earlier this year following her move away from the village.

Over the last 12 months the Parish Council has achieved the following –

We held our third successful Remembrance Day celebration. My thanks go to Rev Clifford Owen for conducting the service, Brian Homewood for playing the Last Post and to the Royal British Legion for attending. As well as to all the residents who attended and to Cllr Diana Thomas for providing the cakes and making the teas and coffees.

The Parish Council has also supported our Community Shop in its efforts to build a new shop by supporting and funding the planning application for the project. Which I am delighted to say has been successful. Thanks go to Cllr David Russell and Martin Joyner.

The Parish Council are delighted that the EV Charger in the Village Hall car park is now operational, with the lease from HDC duly completed and hopefully will be a benefit to residents and visitors alike. The new gates at the entrance to the village on Buckden and Breach Road should be installed shortly along with dragon's teeth on Buckden Road. It is hoped this will help to reduce traffic speeds entering the village as drivers will be more aware of the village entrance.

The Grafham to Brampton Quiet Way has been paused to allow the repair and resurfacing of the road from Grafham to the A1 flyover to be completed, prior to the installation of the Quiet Way including bollards, murals on the road surface and signs on the railway bridge walls

The Parish Council also replaced the battery in the defibrillator, which will hopefully help to keep residents safe.

Also, the Parish Council is now undertaking an annual service of the MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) lights following last year's ant infestation.

Following the Parish Council's decision to rent the playing field to the Huntingdon Football Club for matches the old goal posts have been removed as they were no longer safe. We hope to see matches on the playing field soon.

I am pleased to report that the Parish Council replaced the damaged bench in the children's playground with a new metal bench and the bramble infested hedge with a new hedge and fence. Along with repainting the play equipment a bright yellow.

The Parish Council has also repainted the bike racks outside the Village Hall and provided more substantial handrails on the ramp, along with repairing the damaged bollards.

The Parish Council also funded the planting of the new wild-flower meadow in the churchyard. My thanks for undertaking this work goes to Cllr Alf Lesurf and Debbie Russell

The Parish Council again also provided donations to the Beer Festival, the Grafham Gossip, new signs for the Village Shop / Grafham Trout

The Parish Council would like to thank Jill Tyack for maintaining and improving the flowerbed and raised beds at the front of the Village Hall, which provide such a marvellous display throughout the year and the Parish Council was pleased to support this work with the purchase of a new hose pipe.

The Parish Council erected a Christmas tree adjacent to the village sign. Our thanks go to Chris Brown for providing the tree and to the Homewood's for the use of their electricity to light the tree

As Chairman of the Parish Council, I along with other Parish Council representatives met our MP Ben Obese-Jecty at the Houses of Parliament, in the Grafham Trout to discuss issues that are important to the parish and neighbouring parishes. Such as the proposed Quiet Way on the Grafham to Brampton Road, the development at Brampton Cross, flooding, A14 junctions etc.

The council's thanks also go to Cllr David Russell for installing the new solar panels for MVA (Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs) in the village. The speeds recorded show that they are helping to reduce speeds within the village and therefore making the village safer for residents.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Grafham Parish Council Chairman

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](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste) section of www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste

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

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



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

Woodwalton Marsh and Gamsey Wood Sunday 5th July 10:30 to 13:00

These two small nature reserves are managed by the Wildlife Trust and our leader will be Eamonn Lawlor. Woodwalton Marsh is a rare example of a meadow on calcareous clay. It's a site of special scientific interest and has some interesting species such as Dropwort, Pyramidal Orchids and Suphur Clover. Butterflies, including marbled white, grizzled skipper and ringlet may also be seen.

Gamsey Wood is believed to be part of the larger ancient forest that covered this area in Saxon times. Both sites have limited parking, so please car share if possible. Either park in Woodwalton village and walk to the reserve entrance (Grid ref TL211814, what3words///sizing.companies.wing), or you may find a space on the minor road leading from Woodwalton to Church End. Booking is essential for these walks.

There may be room for more details next month but also in July:

City Wildlife Haven, St Johns College Grounds, Cambridge. Wed 8th July 18:45 for 19:00 start

For all events, contact Tim Fryer **07941 261346** for more details timpfryer@gmail.com

Details of meeting points, bookings and payment are on the Wildlife Trust website: <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/wild-events>

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



Bank Holidays Boost Sales

May is usually a good month for the shop as there are two Bank Holiday weekends which brings in extra visitors and campers and certainly the first Bank Holiday weekend saw plenty of sales and fingers crossed that it stays that way. It's difficult to be sure but one also has the impression that due to the uncertain situation in the world let alone the costs and complications of holidays abroad more people are holidaying in the UK, and this in spite of our confusing May weather with the drip, drip, drop of little April showers ... and now you have an earworm ... what film was that song in?

A second year of profits?

Early indications are that the shop has had a second year of profits; thanks to villager, camper and visitor support overall sales and margins have improved, staff have been retained and depreciation costs have been reduced. This means that the shop has turned the corner, essential if we are to retain the shop but as recent readers will know we are now on a fund-raising drive to purchase and build a new and permanent building. Hence the focus below on ... fund raising.

Fund Raising: 100 Club First Draw

We specially brought forward the first draw in order to catch this edition of the newsletter and as a reward for one of the unsung heroes of the Parish Council and to keep it all apolitical we asked Parish Clerk Lisa Hazel to make the first draw. So far we have 57 subscribers signed up with 71 numbers in the draw; that means that the prize fund for the first draw was £177.50 with a first prize of £106.50 and two second prizes of £35.50. The winning numbers were **35 first and the two seconds were 10 and 68**. In accordance with the Club rules the winners' names were published in the shop and on the shop's Facebook page. We are pleased to say the winners who had obviously watched a lot of lottery draws were tickled pink and pleased as Punch as well as being on cloud nine, over the moon and in seventh heaven, though one who was obviously down wiv th' kidz was "stoked and pumped!"



Pulling the first ball



And the winning number was...

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



Our bag of balls

Parish Clerk Lisa Hazel picks the winning numbers from 100 Club organiser David Bretherton's bag of balls

Fund Raising: Race Night Saturday 13th June Grafham Village Hall

By the time you read this it may have happened but in case it hasn't the Race Night will be very, very soon: Saturday 13th June Grafham Village Hall. The doors will open at 6.15pm with the first race at 7.00pm. Each race has eight horses and there will be eight races. As this goes to press, it's great to hear all the horses have been bought and the winning owners are giving them plenty of oats. We are also very pleased and grateful to the various race sponsors: Lakeview Cars, Diana Thomas, Susanna and Nick Steiger, R&D Cleaning, Watertight Plumbing, Grafham Plumbing and Heating and the very mysterious Red Rackham and the Bird Brothers.

On the night Door Entrance £3/head and the Race Card is £2. Book a place and buy tickets from the Village Shop - Further details if needed from Ian 07845 389916. There is also be a raffle in aid of MAGPAS.

Even More Fund Raising

Although we have had a very generous grant from Huntingdonshire District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy this only covers about 60% of the building costs, so as well as our own fund raising David and Martin have thought it prudent to put in applications to both the National Lottery and the Cambridgeshire Community Fund which is supported by Thalia Waste Management. We hope we will be successful with at least one of these (it can't be both) and if successful it may mean we can ease off on other activities. Fingers crossed.

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

The Library Presents is back with upbeat events and intriguing tales for all ages

The Library Presents has lots of feel-good events to keep you entertained until 25th July. Come along to laugh, relax, meet new people, express yourself or support your wellbeing.

Some of the events in your local area are:

- Gel-plate printing Workshop at Huntingdon Library, Saturday 13th June 1:30pm
- Ask Granny (Comedy) at Huntingdon Library, Saturday 27th June 4:30pm (doors open 4.15pm)
- Writing for Friends Workshop at St Neots Library, Wednesday 15th July 7:00pm

Find more events on:

www.library.live/the-library-presents



VILLAGE YARD SALE!

Sunday 28th June 2026

Are you are interested in taking part in a village yard or garage sale?

Sell or offer your unwanted items from your own property in a community event

Please sign up in the Village Shop, or contact Susanna (via shop or Facebook message) for further information and to register

Buckden Repair Café

Sunday 21st June

Buckden Village Hall 13:30 - 16:30

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

Bookings: <https://forms.gle/3NjojicPWCLyMcVQ7> or more details from buckdenrepaircafe@gmail.com

Refreshments, including homemade cakes and scones available

Nothing to be mended - please join us for a cuppa.

Babysitting Services

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

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Call, WhatsApp or text Valarie on

07946 032290

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

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



Edith Cavell "I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

Edith Cavell (1865–1915) stands as one of the clearest moral voices of the First World War: a nurse who refused to take sides because, in her words, "I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."



Born in Swardston, Norfolk, Cavell trained as a nurse in London before becoming matron of a pioneering nursing school in Brussels. When war broke out and Belgium fell under German occupation, her hospital became a Red Cross centre treating wounded soldiers from both sides without discrimination.

Her Anglican faith and professional conviction shaped her simple principle: if someone was wounded, she would help them.

In 1914 she was drawn into a network that sheltered and guided Allied soldiers to safety in the neutral Netherlands. Over eleven months she helped around 200 British, French, and Belgian soldiers escape, even as she continued to care for German patients with the same compassion. Cavell was arrested in August 1915, held in solitary confinement, and tried by German military authorities.

She made a full confession, insisting she had acted from duty, not political allegiance. On 12 October 1915 she was executed by firing squad at the Tir National in Brussels, aged 49. Her death caused international outrage, yet her final message cut through the noise of propaganda: "Patriotism is not enough." I

wonder how that resonates in countries around our world today.

Her legacy is not one of martyrdom for a cause, but of steadfast humanity in a world tearing itself apart. Cavell showed that compassion does not ask for a uniform, a flag, or a side. In times of conflict — then and now — her life reminds us that suffering is universal, and the call to help one another transcends every border and every battle line. In Edith Cavell, we see the truth that in war, as in peace, we all need help — and we all deserve it.

In Matthew's gospel we read:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." And,
"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Matthew 5:9 & 5:44

Edith Cavell lived out this teaching with remarkable clarity. She cared for wounded soldiers from every army, refusing to let hatred or nationalism dictate her compassion. Her famous words, "Patriotism is not enough," resonate deeply with Jesus' call to love beyond borders and to work for peace even in the midst of war. Her words seem so apt for our current times.

Every blessing, Duncan

Marinated pork chops with smashed broad beans

This recipe makes use of broad beans which should be the shops by June; you could of course use frozen beans. The recipe also says to cook the chops with a griddle pan; you could grill or cook on a BBQ. If the herbs are not in your garden there are some growing in the raised bed outside the shop. This recipe serves 2 people.

Ingredients

- 1 tsp finely chopped rosemary
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- juice of ½ lemon, plus wedges to serve
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 pork chops
- 1 kg broad beans (about 300g podded weight)
- 1 handful of mint leaves



Method

- Mix the rosemary, garlic, lemon juice and olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Spread over the pork and leave to marinate while you pod the broad beans.
- Get a griddle pan smoking hot, shake any excess marinade off the pork chops and griddle for 3-5 minutes on each side, brushing with any extra marinade as you go. Meanwhile, bring a pan of salted water to the boil.
- Rest the pork chops while you cook the beans for 3 minutes in simmering water. Drain and crush with a potato masher. Stir in a handful of roughly torn mint; season. Serve the smashed beans with the pork chops, a lemon wedge and an extra drizzle of oil. I would also serve with mashed potatoes.

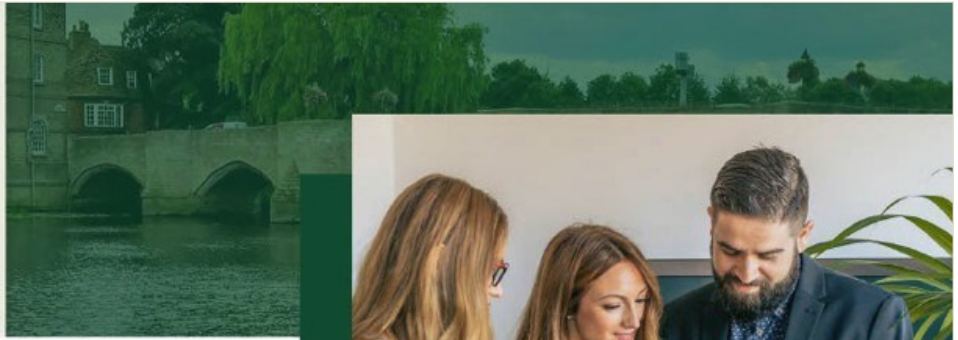
RHS Top Gardening Jobs for June - Summer arrives

Summer is here! The extra light and warmth encourages the garden to put on an exuberant burst of growth. This brings some of the first harvests from the vegetable garden, including tasty new potatoes and salads. As the conditions become drier, keep an eye on containers and if you haven't got one, it's never a bad time to install a water butt.

- Plant up summer hanging baskets and containers
- Use water wisely to keep your plants thriving
- Pinch out side-shoots on tomatoes
- Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes
- Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds
- Mow lawns at least once a week – but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife
- Plant out summer bedding
- Stake tall or floppy plants
- Prune many spring-flowering shrubs
- Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch



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



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✉ kimbolton@peterlane.co.uk



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Brampton Flower Club

3rd June Vanessa Wellock

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebrations, join us for this special floral show by Vanessa

Vivienne - Love or Hate Her!

Raffle, stalls, wine and celebration cake all for just £20 (members £15)

Doors open 6:45pm for 7:00pm

The Lady Olivia Hall 85 Central Avenue, Brampton

Full details/sales: 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

To advertise email: editor@grafhamgossip.co.uk



Churchyard Flowers and Brambles

Many barrow loads of brambles have now been evicted from the churchyard and we are gradually uncovering overgrown grave-stones. Thanks to the willing teams who have helped - there's plenty more to do but at least we've made a good start!

The new wildflowers are blooming well and seem to be thriving in their new habitat.



Grass cutters are doing a fabulous job keeping the mown areas looking great but would welcome more members of the team. If you can spare a few hours in the summer, do let us know and full training will be given - for the ride on mower, the strimmer and other machinery.

Do get in contact with me if you'd like to be involved.
debs.russell@gmail.com

Feed the Birds?

Bird Feeding and Disease Prevention

Many of us like to put out bird feeders to attract our garden birds. Personally I have been feeding them all year round and mostly attract pigeons, rooks, magpies, starlings and a good number of sparrows.

The Threat of Trichomonosis

However, there has been a lot of concern about the disease spread through the saliva of birds - a microscopic parasite *Trichomonas gallinae* - which causes the disease trichomonosis and has proved fatal to several species particularly chaffinches and greenfinches. The RSPB (whose magazine I got this information from) and various other interested bodies including the British Trust for Ornithology has led research looking at how season, weather, bird feeding and local bird abundance may affect these outbreaks. They also use long-term citizen science data (well done if you took part in the Big Garden Bird Watch!)

Will Peach, RSPB's Head of Conservation Science explains, "Using bird feeders carries risks and benefits for our birds. Research clearly shows that feeding helps birds get through periods of harsh winter weather. However, repeatedly attracting many birds to the same location to feed, risks disease spread, which we know has caused widespread mortality amongst several bird species."

The good news is that scientists believe we can help garden birds with a couple of simple shifts. The disease is a threat all year round but worse in the warmer months which is also when adult birds will be taking potentially infected food to feed their young.

Recommendations:

- **Adjust Seasonal Feeding:** From the beginning of May to the end of October pause feeding peanuts and seeds, gradually reducing during April. If you want to keep feeding birds during May-October put out small amounts of mealworms or suet.
- **Avoid Flat Surfaces:** Don't use flat feeding surfaces as they can retain regurgitated, damp food and bird faeces.
- **Spread feeders apart.**
- **Manage Food Quantities:** Put out enough in feeders that is eaten in two days.
- **Maintain Hygiene:** Clean feeders once a week.

I hope this is useful to you.

Jill Tyack



Chaffinch (male)



Greenfinch (female)

Photographs: Richard Brown

Taken from *The RSPB magazine Spring/Summer 2026*

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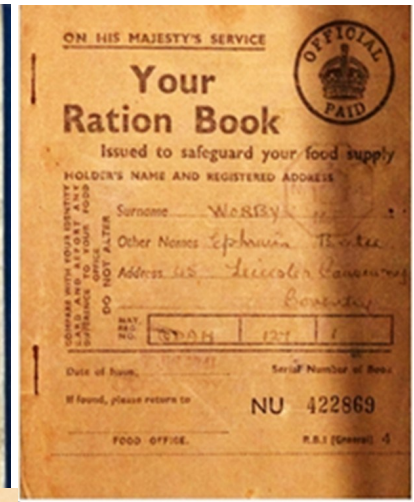
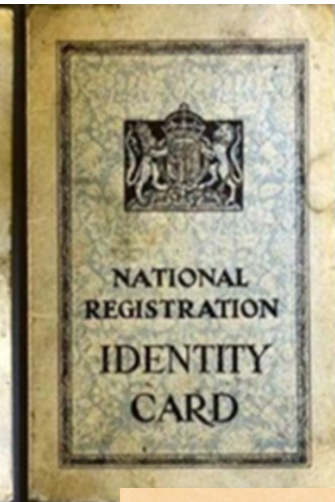
The Population of Grafham at the start of World War 2

Edward Biffin

After the selling-off of most of the land and associated housing in the northern part of old Grafham – in other words the current Grafham parish - by the Duke of Manchester in 1918 (see April 2026 article) the population of the old parish remained at about 200 until WW2, down from just short of 350 in the middle of the 19th Century and 225 in the years before WW1. The notes below refer only to the part of the old parish which is the current Grafham.

Details of the inhabitants in the late 1920s and early 1930s have not survived as the 1931 Census data was destroyed by an accidental catastrophic fire on December 19th, 1942, while in storage at the Office of Works in Hayes, Middlesex. However, with WW2 just starting the government used the process that had been initiated for carrying out a 1941 Census to obtain a 1939 Register of Information to produce identity cards and once rationing was introduced in January 1940, to issue ration books. Information in the Register was also used to administer conscription and the direction of labour. For those with ancestors in the village it is an important source of information.

The family history source that I use was a bit confusing when searching for Grafham entries as the village is not recognised. I knew that my former tenant was in the village at the time - and he was recorded as residing in 'Great Gransden'! Fortunately, the accompanying scan of the actual register page started with Herbert and Mary Odell at 'Model Farm, Grafham'. That mention of 'Grafham' is the only one on the twelve pages of our village entries and the pages before are for Great Gransden – hence the confusion. The entries are in geographical order from Model Farm to Station House, then Village Farm to Low Farm via Hill Farm, and finally down Church Hill to Glebe Farm; each property has the inhabitants listed by family in age order from the eldest, with their occupation described in a few words.



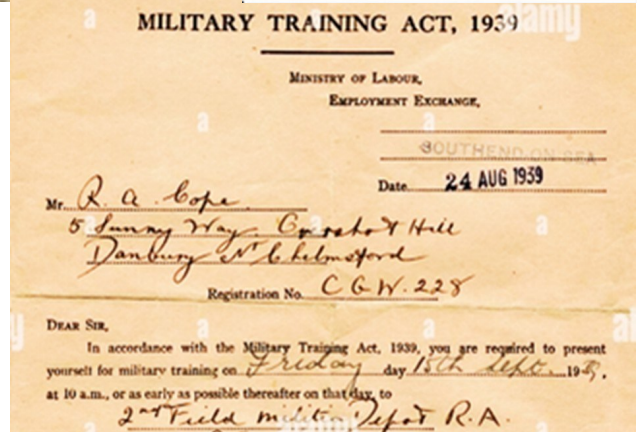
The other problem with the Register is that twelve of the entries are marked 'This entry is officially closed'. The rules are that the identities of people cannot be disclosed unless they were born more than 100 years ago (my tenant was born in 1912) or that they have been officially recorded in a UK death register (the daughter of the original owners of my cottage was only one year old in 1939 at Low Farm but is recorded in the Huntingdon death register in 2006 and so is listed in the published 1939 Register). However, the listing rules in the previous paragraph can help to postulate who the 'deleted'; people might have been – in my estimation two were younger children, six were young adults and four were older adults (two of them husbands of identified wives). It is likely that the children were very young and still alive recently, while the adults were victims of WW2 service in Europe and beyond where the circumstances of their demise or displacement did not allow their appearance in an official UK death register.

One reason one can only 'postulate' is the existence of a few cottages in multiple-family occupation – an extreme example was two cottages down from me where the four rooms housed the principal tenant, a 59 year old single farm worker, and his mate, a 32 year old tractor driver, who in turn had his 57 year mother doing domestic duties, helped by a 27 year old woman of a different family (married but no sign of the husband) and her 5 year old son.

Of the 56 dwellings in the village only 53 were occupied and housed 151 people. The most common cottage was 4 rooms with two occupants. The occupations were much more varied than shown in the 19th century Censuses, with the traditional farmers and farm-workers (including two female land workers) being augmented with ancillary trades such as milkmen, butchers, food canners, and the village acquiring its own bricklayers (although the brickworks had been abandoned for almost 30 years), builders and painters. Housekeeping and domestic duties kept 8 women in paid work, with another 7 doing it unpaid as part of their families, while some earned money from dress designing, hosiery and working in the post office. And the railway employed 6 workers.

This look at the residents as World War 2 is looming, rounds off this series on the Population of Grafham.

Past episodes of Edward's can be read on www.grafham.org.uk Click on Grafham Gossip to find pdf copies of all back issues. Ed



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



Your help is needed please, to fill the pages of the July Grafham Gossip! It currently looks like running short on content, so please send us your stories, events, letters, photos and news. Thanks! Ed.



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