

COMMUNITY NEWS

Local and proud ...

It really does feel that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Taking an optimistic stance might feel difficult at the moment but there are some bright spots. George at Wexcombe Manor Farm is one of three finalists for a Wiltshire Life Award (page 3). Good luck George. An update from Dr Paddon reassures us about the vaccination roll out (Page 3). Thanks to all of our amazing NHS team. Nights are lighter, there are signs of Spring in the fields, woodlands and gardens, and Valentine's Day is round the corner!

Our Parish is home to a remarkable number and range of businesses. The Community News has carried advertising for 28 Parish based businesses in the past 6 months and we have been cheered to see many of those adverts declaring where they are based to let you all know they are your neighbours. Local and proud!

Like organisations across the UK, some of these businesses may have been hit hard by COVID- 19 so we are putting a shout out to everyone across the Parish to do what they can to support our local economy.

Businesses of all sorts are supported by the Community News and our Young People listing features young entrepreneurs. All those located in the Parish are invited to join our 1-line local commercial listing free of charge. If you would like to let everyone know about your business please let us know at news@graftonparish.com.

Survey about rail services at Bedwyn, Pewsey and Hungerford stations

The Department for Transport is funding a study into the potential for a new rail station to serve the Devizes Community Area and this development has potential to improve services for customers in this area too.

Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group and Pewsey Vale Rail User Group have campaigned for a number of years for improved connections to the West (for Bath, Bristol, Salisbury and the South West etc.) and consideration is now being given to extending the services which currently stop at Bedwyn, through to Westbury, which would enable passengers to travel to Devizes, and also to connect at Westbury for destinations further West.

The Devizes Development Partnership is now keen to hear the views of people living in this area - please complete the survey which can be found at www.devizes.org.uk.

Like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/GraftonParishCommunityNews or follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/graftonparish.

Local commercial listing

B&B Grafton	Victoria Frost	07557 791604
Builder	Sam Sanchez	07887 991249
Celebration Cakes	www.nattiesbakesandbites.co.uk	
Computer issues	Stuart	07881 912477
Disco and Karaoke	Pete Vallis	01672 811326
Dog Grooming	Victoria	07786 868192
Dog training/walking	Carrie Holborow	07546 941709
Dog walking	Sebastian Horne	07548 719030
Double glazing	David Willcocks	01672 811979
Flowers	Gill Campbell	07833 670693
Gardening	Sue Upham	01672 810526
Grafton Garage	Tony Gilbert	07845 006890
Homeopathy	Emma H-Byass	07540 773531
Logs/tree surgeon	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
Painting & Decorating	Neil Anderson	01264 731362
Personal trainer	Hen Mackinnon	07977 511959
Pest Control	Julie Wilson	01672 811479
Printing	Jane Goldstein	01672 515444
Storage/lock up	David Lemon	01672 870266
Sunflowers at Grafton	Julie McLernon	01672 810478
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Pinckneys Farm Shop	Wendy	07989 228864

Young entrepreneurs

Baby sitting	Sophie	07557 915052
Dog walking	Sebastian Horne	07548 719030

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News from The Swan

The Swan Shop is open with a fine array of fresh fruit and vegetables, lunchtime pasties and sausage rolls and other daily baked goodies, as well as many of life's essentials. We are still baking pies, delivering weekly vegboxes and offering family meals (Mondays and Wednesdays).

We are selling fresh soup at lunchtime, by the mug or by the litre. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we have freshly baked sourdough loaves and focaccia delivered by The Baking Chambers, Marlborough's artisan baker.

There are some special Valentines gifts for your loved one, so pop in or have a look on website.

Our takeaway service continues throughout the week, and takeaway joints on a Sunday. As Valentines day falls on a Sunday this year you might like to consider booking one of these!

Please consider shopping locally at The Swan, it looks like we might be closed until at least May and possibly July, which is a daunting prospect.

We would like to thank you all again for your continued support.

01672 870274, www.theswanwilton.co.uk



Thank you to everyone who bought a turkey from us this year

We sold a few more than usual and have now donated the profits to Wiltshire Search and Rescue and St Nicholas' Church and this year we have also been able to make a donation to Grafton Parish Council.

Big thanks to Bill and his family at The Swan for letting us distribute the turkeys from the pub (and for the hot mince pies to keep us warm). Thanks also to Ruth who helped match turkeys and their owners on the day!

Pip at Manor Farm, East Grafton

Our Vicar writes

This third lockdown has led to a real feeling of carrying on with only vapours left in the tank. In preparing for our nightly prayer (available at 6 pm every weekday from our worship link) I came across 'Lead Kindly Light' to a film track of a bus travelling through a town in rain at night. It had the feeling of driving through a tunnel with the light at the end not turned on. It summed up my feelings.

I asked, what do people want at this time and the answer was hope. Hope can only come through love. That's easy! That's the Christian message! But it is not that easy!

Intellectually, I don't know how we have done it so far. I look around and I refer to certain people in the community as Saint X. I'm calling them X so they don't get embarrassed. For all of us, there has been someone who has been a saint. That person who can do more good than seems physically possible. A person who because they are able to love, their life has no boundaries. If you have YouTube, look up Nick Vujicic No Arms, No Legs, No Worries. 'Too much' does not exist.

We have survived a year of a very hard and difficult journey. The group most likely to die from CV have now received the vaccine. The roll out continues. The journey, like the hymn that talks about 'the night being long and being far from home' will only begin our slow return to a normal.

Our next journey will be a long financial one. I find myself asking whether our church buildings will remain open after all this loss of revenue. What we have learnt is that worship will continue. Somehow the number of people joining us in prayer has increased. Join us virtually and in our churches when it is safe.

What is clear is that the 'kindly light' that has been with us throughout all will continue as we move forward in hope. We don't necessarily know where the bus will stop to allow us to get off into a new home, but all will be lighter and clearer.

'Those angel faces smile, which I have loved, long since and lost awhile.' Michael McHugh

The Savernake Team continues to offer spiritual support and worship, including Sunday Services at 11am by zoom and daily prayer and reflections by email. More information is at www.savernaketeam.org.uk/news-and-events

St Nicholas' PCC has been working hard to find a solution to the loose and falling wooden decorations in the interior church roof. The height of the roof and the difficulty in accessing the area has proved to be a challenging problem. Various builders, roofers and experts have been approached with a view to exploring and solving the problem and quotations are being sought. The sad truth is that this is going to be a very expensive exercise. These investigation tasks are taking more time and effort than expected but work continues so that the church will be in a position to be opened as soon as lockdown rules allow.



Timmy B Yoga

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News in Brief

Link schemes in need of volunteers Link volunteers are a vital part of the transport services required to take people to/from vaccination centres. Link schemes help to keep local communities connected to vital services, by connecting volunteer drivers (using their own cars), with passengers who have limited access to transport. Depending on volunteer availability, this can involve taking someone to a medical appointment, taking them shopping or providing 'good neighbour' services like prescription collection. Find out more at www.communityfirst.org.uk/transport/link

A4 overnight temporary road closure 28 February to 10 March Between Mildenhall junction and Grand Avenue between 19.00 and 06.00.

Do you need to register for information/assistance if power is cut off? Scottish & Southern Electricity are the company that maintains and repairs the electricity networks as well as fix power cuts as quickly and safely as possible. If you have a disability, a chronic illness, use medical equipment reliant on electricity, are over 60 or have children under 5 you may be able to register to receive extra support. Call free on **08002943529** to discuss the right service for you.

Wiltshire Libraries and Mobile Library Service Books currently on loan will be automatically renewed during the lockdown. [Free access](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries) to thousands of eBooks; eMagazines; and eAudio-books. Details at the website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries

Wiltshire Citizens Advice Free, confidential, impartial advice on benefits, work, money and debt, consumer rights, family issues and more. Coronavirus has made life hard for many people. Whatever your situation, you will be given all the facts and possible outcomes so that you can make the decision that's right for you. Call for free **0800 144 8848** 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or contact via www.citizensadvicewiltshire.org.uk/contact-us

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Our Doctor writes a Covid update

As many of you are aware The Great Western Hospital recently declared a critical incident and the hospital remains extremely busy managing patients suffering from Covid-19 whilst trying to continue to deliver its normal services.

The Primary Care Network (PCN) comprising the 4 local practices (Ramsbury, KAMP, Burbage and The Old School Surgery) has started the Covid vaccination programme. Ramsbury and Pewsey are the two surgeries which meet the strict criteria required for a Covid vaccination centre and both are presently providing the Pfizer vaccination to the 75 to 80 year age group. Uniquely, we are the only PCN in Wiltshire with two approved sites. The doctors and nurses from all 4 practices are working evenings and weekends to ensure that you have your vaccination as soon as possible. Ramsbury Surgery provided an amazing service before Christmas and in early January to vaccinate the over 80s and the frontline NHS and care home staff. When it is the turn of your group you will be telephoned and invited for your vaccination. Remember it takes 2 weeks after the vaccination to develop immunity and none of the vaccinations provides 100% immunity. Even after your vaccination you still need to adhere to all the present lockdown rules. Your vaccination is not a license to socialise!

We are still working hard to perform all our usual GP services. I would like to remind you that there are a lot of resources available on-line about minor illnesses. The NHS website and Patient.info are excellent websites. Doctorlink is an on-line triage platform which asks a series of questions and directs you to the right care. If this, or Doctorlink determines you need GP contact, a report is sent automatically to the practice and an appointment is arranged in the time frame recommended in the assessment. At this exceptionally busy time please use these resources to see if you can find the advice you require.

Stay safe. Dr Angela Paddon and the team at The Old School Surgery.

A Farmer writes



I write this as there is snow lying on the ground, many children were sledging across our slopes enjoying a much needed release from the drudgery of the home schooling! The bulbs are just poking their leaves above the ground signalling the brighter times ahead!

Here on the farm, apart from the daily cattle jobs (moving them to fresh ground and unrolling bales of silage for them) there are lots of maintenance jobs underway at this time of year. We also take this slightly quieter time to plan future projects. This is normally also a time for conferences and meetings with other farmers to learn from one another. This year obviously this is taking the online "Zoom" format.

Back in November I was nominated for the Wiltshire Life Awards, in the "Conservation Project of the Year" category. This was in recognition for the work we are doing to build our Soil Health and reduce our carbon footprint. Seven years ago, in the winter downtime, I had set out to reduce our costs of cultivations. This led me to further investigate soil health and making a number of changes to our farming practices. We have stopped all ploughing and cultivations, we now use less diesel, fertiliser and chemicals. Our cows are moved to fresh ground everyday. These changes can bring benefits to our farm, the food we produce and the wider environment. This week the finalists of the awards were announced and we are in the final three with the winners announced on 19th March.

George Hosier, Wexcombe Manor Farm

The NHS Clinical Commissioning Group has launched a new website for vaccination queries from the public.

Questions about the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine can be answered by visiting www.bswccg.nhs.uk/latest-covid-19-updates



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Village WhatsApp groups - Text or WhatsApp to join: East Grafton (Tamara 07711 824864), West Grafton (Annie 07802 923344), Marten (Mike 07799 760417), Wexcombe (George 07786 332950), Wilton (Tara 07833 320951). New to What's App? We can help - just get in touch.

Dates for your diary

All events take place in the Coronation Hall unless otherwise specified. *St N* refers to St Nicholas' Church.

See www.graftonparish.com, call **07479 281809** or email hall@graftonparish.com for Coronation Hall booking information and details of gazebo hire.

February

08 13.00 Parish Council planning meeting *Zoom*

March

08 19.15 Parish Council meeting *Zoom*

Parish Council Planning meeting 8 February, 1pm, via Zoom

Application Ref: **20/11679/FUL** 9 Granary Close, East Grafton, SN8 3UA. Erect single storey shed Deadline: **09 February 2021**

Application Ref: **21/00197/FUL** Spinnicks Hill, Hollow Lane, Wilton, SN8 3SR. Ancillary Accommodation Deadline: **25 February 2021**

Zoom details available from clerk@graftonparish.com

Grafton Parish Council response teams

East Grafton	Kevin Burke	07713 067113
Marten	Mike Hyslop	07799 760417
West Grafton	Annie Whitcher	07802 923344
Wexcombe	George Hosier	07786 332950
Wilton	David Lemon	07974 400224



Grafton Parish Council Food Bank.

If you are affected and need support then please call Kevin Burke on **07713 067113** who will treat your call with strict confidence and arrange for a delivery of basic essentials to be made on a regular basis.

For help and information

Link Scheme	0771 7006787	
Police emergency	999 or 112 - information 101	
Member of Parliament	Danny Kruger	01380 729358
County Councillor	Stuart Wheeler	01672 810285

Community Contacts

Church flowers/cleaning	Liz Hosier 01264 731242
Vicar, M. McHugh	01672 870779
Community News	news@graftonparish.com
Coronation Hall	07479 281809 hall@graftonparish.com
Junior Cricket	pdewinton@savills.com
Parish Council	clerk@graftonparish.com
PCC Secretary	Millie Lemon 01672 870266
St Nicholas' services	www.savernaketeam.org.uk
Winter Warmers	01264 731242 liz@wexcombefarm.co.uk
Youth Activities	Text Annie 07802923344

Local Clubs

Windmill Society	secretary@wiltonwindmill.co.uk
Horticultural Society	01672 810364 Marijke Craig
Crofton Beam Engines	crofton@katrust.org.uk
Grafton Goslings Baby & Toddler Group	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Dance classes	07746 479345 Charlotte Price
Pilates	07769 580148 Tracey Rich
Yoga for All	07747 780898 Tim Brew
Yoga	01672 841553 Lizzy Hawnt
Zumba	07710 115324 Joanna Bury

Deadline for the next issue Friday 26 February

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