

COMMUNITY NEWS

Whilst the risk of COVID-19 may be low in our region we are not out of the woods yet. If you are experiencing symptoms or need to isolate following a call from NHS test and trace please continue to use the village WhatsApp groups for support.

Each hamlet has its own WhatsApp Group which you can use to ask for, or offer, help. Call your co-ordinator for help in using this if you are unsure.

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 update

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.

Bruce Boats



Bedwyn Wharf based Bruce Boats (part of The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust) are offering several sponsored free day trips for carers working in care homes, day centres, and home-carers, aboard one of their specially equipped wide-beam canal boats as a bit of respite to say thank you. The Coronavirus crisis has highlighted to the whole nation the value of carers, whether working in care homes or the community. Each trip will cruise along the beautiful Kennet and Avon Canal in the heart of Wiltshire, gliding through peaceful countryside and stopping for lunch in a secluded spot. Trips will run alongside their usual hire programme once restrictions are lifted and it is safe to operate.

If you are a carer, or would like to nominate a carer for a free place, please contact us soon to make a reservation by emailing bookings@katrust.org.uk. If you'd like to sponsor a day trip, please contact ppease@hotmail.co.uk.



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Parish Council update

The first meeting in the Coronation Hall, following the lockdown period, will be held on 7 September at 7.15pm. By the time this issue arrives on your doorstep you will be able to see the second Speed Indicator Device (SID) on the A338 to the west of East Grafton. The Parish Council continues to encourage residents to enrol for Speedwatch by emailing clerk@graftonparish.com. Speedwatch has been suspended during lockdown but Wiltshire Police are planning to restart the use of speed cameras in the near future.

The full agenda will be published on the hamlet noticeboards and on www.graftonparish.com as usual - do please come along and join in the discussions if you wish. The Zoom meetings have been held without interruption and therefore the functions of the Parish Council have not been disrupted during the closure of open meeting.



St Nicholas' Church East Grafton

Due to circumstances beyond our control it is not possible to obtain information regarding services in our church, particularly Harvest Festival, at the time of publication. Please visit the church and read the notice on the lych gate to find out when services will be held in our church.

You can also visit www.savernaketeam.com to find out about services.

Thank you to all those who have responded to the plea for help with our church - your offers are very much appreciated. Please volunteer to help if you have not already done so, no amount of time or commitment is too small and the church really does need your support. The PCC is thrilled with the response so far and is looking forward to more names coming forward. Contact Patricia Knowles **01672 810072**.

What are Bruce Boats? Specialist wide-beam canal boats designed to allow easy access for wheelchair users or anyone with a mobility problem, and their carers or families. Lifts enable access to the saloon, kitchen, wet-room, large toilets and outdoor seating areas. For more information please go to www.bruceboats.katrust.org.uk.

NOTHING STOPS A COFFEE MORNING

But like everything else this year the World's Biggest Coffee Morning looks a little bit different! Many of us are cautious about being part of a large group but we've also missed being able to chat and catch up so rather than one big coffee morning at the Coronation Hall let's have smaller coffee mornings across the Parish.

Will you host a coffee morning for friends and neighbours in your garden? The official date for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Friday 25 September, but you can hold yours whenever you like (it might be weather dependent).

Sunflowers at Grafton will co-ordinate our Parish coffee mornings - email Alison and Sue to let us know if you like the idea of being a host - admin@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk

An incredible £27.5m was raised in 2019 and this year, the 30th birthday of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, Macmillan Cancer Support are aiming to raise even more.

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING





Do you need help with your pet?

Whether you are out working, feeling under the weather or have other pressing issues, I am on hand to help you out. I am fully insured, first aid trained and D.B.S. checked and ready to assist with dog walking or a home visit for your pet or to house sit.

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Please call or text Debbie to find out more
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Timmy B Yoga

Full new calendar just launched
Including Wednesday classes back at
East Grafton Village Hall
9.30am and 11.00am see website for details

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Getting help to apply for Universal Credit

With unemployment figures rising and the unwinding of the furlough scheme, do you or someone you know need help making a Universal Credit claim?

The Citizens Advice Help to Claim service can support you in the early stages of your Universal Credit claim, from the online application, through to support with your application before your first full payment.

An independent, confidential and impartial service is provided by trained advisers from Citizens Advice, providing help with things like how to gather evidence for your application or how to prepare for your work coach appointment. Call free: **0800 144 8 444**

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01264 852701



Grafton Parish Clean
Saturday 19 September,
10am

Having been rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Grafton Parish Tidy Up will now be taking place on Saturday 19 September, from 10am, across our 5 villages.

Look out for information about your village tidy up on the WhatsApp group or the Community News facebook page.



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Our Doctor writes



The National Flu Immunisation Programme 2020/2021 is going to present some challenges. Concerns about COVID-19 are likely to increase demand as additional groups are eligible, including:

- all school year groups up to and including year 7,
- people who expect to share living accommodation with a person on the NHS Shielded Patient List
- and also health and social care workers providing care at home (although the vaccination is to be provided by their employer).

People aged 50 to 64 who are not in an at risk group may be eligible, but will only be offered a vaccination in November and December subject to availability after other eligible groups.

Social distancing must be maintained before, during and after every jab, PPE is changed and areas cleaned between every person to avoid the spread of coronavirus. Needless to say there has been a lot of discussion about how to deliver the 2020/2021 flu vaccination programme safely and efficiently. Public Health England is considering revised guidance for PPE use for all immunisation services.

In addition to the groups mentioned above, eligibility for the flu vaccine includes:

- Those 65 or over on the 31st of March 2021,
- Those aged from six months to 64 years and in an at risk group. This includes people with long-term health conditions such as heart and lung disease, diabetes, kidney problems, treatment for cancer,
- Pregnant women,
- Those in long-term residential care,
- Carers.

Children aged 2 to 11 on 31st August 2020 and children aged from 6 months to 18 in at risk groups are eligible. School children up to and including year 7 will have their vaccination at school.

The flu vaccination is safe and cannot give you flu. It protects you against two types of influenza A viruses including H1N1, which is the virus that caused the swine flu pandemic in 2009 and the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. Influenza B is included, although depending on your age, you may only receive one rather than the two strains. Influenza B particularly affects children. The flu jab will not protect you against all the thousands of common cold viruses, so you can still catch a cold.

I would encourage everyone who is eligible to have a flu jab. The vaccinations are usually available from mid-September. At the Old School Surgery more information will be available nearer the time about how to book an appointment. Some pharmacies also provide a vaccination service.

Stay safe, best wishes Dr Angela Paddon

News in brief

Hillbarn Estate report on trees in the Brails

The estate undertakes regular assessment of the health of trees at the Brails and the most recent report has confirmed the insidious advance of the disease called chalara in the Brails's ash trees. The disease is caused by a fungal pathogen - ash trees colonised by the fungus display symptoms including foliar leaf spots, dead leaves and shoots, sparse thinning crowns, branch dieback, dead wood, bark lesions, and tree death. Unfortunately once infected the majority of ash trees will die.

Several ash trees have been identified as being hazardous and will be felled this winter between Great Bedwyn and Wilton and along the Windmill road. The report has also identified several other ash trees for future yearly safety inspections which means that the felling of ash will almost certainly become a regular event.

The Estate is currently analysing the spread and effect of the disease on the existing woodland management plan and is working closely with the Forestry Commission to protect as many trees as possible.

Richard Charles, Hillbarn Estate

Additional note from David Lemon on this subject: Ash trees lining the road linking Wilton and East Grafton are currently being assessed. Very sadly, the probability is that these trees will require felling.

Join the Prospect Hospice 40th anniversary raffle and you could win £2,000 cash!

In celebration of Prospect Hospice's 40th year, you could win some fantastic cash prizes in their 40th anniversary raffle, all thanks to the generous people at Imagine Cruising.

First prize **£2,000**, Second prize **£500**, Third prize **£250** and five prizes of **£50**.

To enter all you need to do is visit www.prospect-hospice.net/raffle. Tickets costs just £1 each and with every ticket purchased you will be contributing to the care and support that Prospect Hospice provide to local people living with a life limiting illness. Every pound really does make a difference so, whether you're looking to buy a single ticket or many, thank you for supporting Prospect Hospice in this way. Closing date Monday 5 October.

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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.

Mobile library at the Coronation Hall
Wednesday 23 September 11.40-12.00hrs

SEPTEMBER

07 19.15 Parish Council public meeting
19 10.00 Parish Clean
25 AM World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Coronation Hall Re-Opening for Classes

We are extremely pleased to be re-opening the Hall for exercise classes from September, it will be great to see it back in use again after so many months. A deep clean has taken place, sanitisers, gloves and masks are available and a one-way system and NHS Track-and-Trace is in operation.

If you attend one of the classes held at the Hall and want to check when they shall be re-starting classes, do get in contact with your class organiser:

Yoga - Lizzy Hawnt - 01672 841553

Yoga - Tim Brew - 07747 780898

Zumba - Jo Bury - 07710 115324

CAP Dance & Fitness - Charlotte Price - 07746 479345

Pilates - Tracey Rich - 07769 580148

Grafton Goslings - graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk

Please respect the parking space in front of the hall and do not use it unless you are attending events in the hall. This avoids problems for neighbours and ensures that cars are kept away from the kerbsides.

Community Contacts

Church flowers/cleaning	Patricia Knowles 01672 810072
Community News	news@graftonparish.com
Coronation Hall	07479 281809 hall@graftonparish.com
Junior Cricket	pdewinton@savills.com
Parish Council	clerk@graftonparish.com
PCC Secretary	01672 870266
St Nicholas' services	www.savernaketeam.com
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 25 September

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References available on request.

07990 512342 Jasonlewis08@aol.com

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