

Grand Opening of the Coronation Hall – An Event not to be Missed

All eyes will be on Grafton when the new Coronation Hall is opened by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall. The children of Grafton CofE School and Sunflowers Pre School will be forming a guard of honour. There will be an opportunity for local residents to join other guests inside the hall during the visit. If you'd like to be there please complete the ballot slip below and return it to the letterbox at the hall by 17th February.

Enjoy reading this edition of the Community News – look out for the March News which will include a full review of events from the opening of the Hall on 23rd February.

We hope to see you on the 23rd, or at another Parish event in the next few weeks.

We are delighted to welcome

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall

to open our new Coronation Hall at 12noon on Tuesday 23rd February

We have reviewed all the fundraising and community events that have taken place with the aim of rebuilding the hall and we have invited a number of community volunteers. Half of the space available is reserved for residents of the parish who are invited to enter our ballot. You should complete the form below and post it in the letterbox at the Coronation Hall by 8pm on 17th February to join the restricted numbers inside the hall.

The Hall will be set out as a village tea shop with cakes and refreshments. Guests will be asked to group by their allocated tables and The Duchess will walk informally around the hall, to meet us and to find out about our community and how we achieved our goal.

If you are not successful in the ballot then you are most welcome to join us in the covered area in front of the hall at around 1pm where we are assured that you will have an opportunity to enjoy an informal end to the visit (weather dependent).

Everyone is welcome to come into the hall and enjoy refreshments after the Royal Party has departed.

Whilst the timing of the Opening Ceremony is not ideal for everyone and we regret that the details of the event could not be announced earlier, we hope you agree that this will be a wonderful day for the Parish. Later in the year, when the warmer weather arrives, we hope to have a weekend Parish party.

We would like to thank Michael Walsh for all his hard work in making this visit and event possible.

Grafton wins Area Board Community Grants

Grafton Parish has received funding for the Community News and towards computer equipment for the new Coronation Hall.

If you need funds to achieve a community based idea then the Area Board Grants may be able to help. A completed application form should be submitted to Wiltshire Council for review at the next Area Board meeting. If you need help with submitting an application email mail@grastonparish.com.

Farewell, old friend

The Grafton Parish News produced its last edition in December 2009, after nearly 30 years of uninterrupted publication and distribution by dedicated volunteers in the Parish. The first mock-up was done by Goff and Anne Beese when locals in the Parish felt disadvantaged by being restricted to just one or two pages at the back of the Burbage Parish Magazine. Phyllis Gilbert persuaded her daughter, Libby, to type the new magazine, and John Gilbert worked out the format for printing. This first edition of the Grafton Parish News was very well received and thus the bi-monthly publication was born.

During the following years, Phyllis Gilbert helped Anne Beese to collate the contributions. Mark Williams donated the assembly and printing in the early days and later Libby Gilbert printed each edition, as well as continuing to do all the typing for it. At this stage, a new printer was donated by John Gilbert and the printing accessories were either made or adapted by him. The publication has always been self-financing, but the current ink and paper costs are now prohibitive.

Over the years, there have been a number of regular contributors, whose observations, comments and anecdotes have made the publication quite unique, for example Marie Dixon's interesting articles on birds. It is timely now to publicly thank all those who have helped to make the Grafton Parish News so successful for so many years.

If anyone would like to offer to spend a few nostalgic hours going through the Grafton Parish News archive to extract articles of local importance and records of notable events, then please contact news@grastonparish.com. We would appreciate the chance to retain this history in the Parish.

Thank you to the team of Grafton Parish News volunteers; your efforts have been appreciated.

Pancake Races

Join us for pancake races on The Green on

Shrove Tuesday, February 16th, at 3pm



Races for children and grown-ups and plenty of fresh pancakes to eat from the Coronation Hall. Please bring your own frying pan!

A community and fundraising event run by the Friends of Grafton on behalf of Grafton CofE Primary School and Sunflowers Pre school.

Coronation Hall Official Opening Invitation Ballot

Grafton Parish Council is pleased to invite you to enter a ballot for an invitation to the ceremony on 23rd February. You must be over 12 years old.

Please complete the details on the reverse of this slip and put the ballot into the Coronation Hall letter box by 17th February 8pm.

Those who are successful will be given an invitation and badge with further details about the event.

If you think that you might be the oldest person in the Parish please add your age to your slip!

Good luck!



QUIZ NIGHT and SUPPER

Thursday 18th March 2010

At the Coronation Hall

Doors open 7.30 for 8pm start

Teams of four to six people

Tickets £5 per person to include supper

Pay bar

Tickets from Grafton School **01672 810478**

or Gabby Walker **01264 731338** and Lucy Pash **01672 870665**

Proceeds from fundraising and donations are divided between Grafton CoE Primary School (60%) and Sunflowers Pre school (40%).



Emergency Planning

Wiltshire Council organises exercises annually to enable local organisations, such as Parish Councils and the emergency services, to practice how they would react when presented with an emergency.

A team of volunteers open a series of sealed envelopes at certain times during the evening. Each envelope contains "lifelike" information on recent events, the time that has elapsed and problems to be tackled. The team then discusses solutions and reports back to Wiltshire Council HQ with updates.

The latest scenario was that the sun had emitted solar flares. These are a real threat and they produce magnetic pulses which can destroy power grids, as was demonstrated in Canada in 2003.

In the last exercise the power was operating to begin with, but it quickly went out and so we were putting together a communication system to deal with the emergency without electricity. As the exercise progressed, events compounded, accidents happened and we were forced to draw on diverse resources in our Parish!

Anyway, you will be pleased to know that we, as a Parish, are well placed to manage in such an emergency – we have wells and natural springs, wood burners, resourceful sheds and garages and most importantly, we have a community who we were certain would pull together in this sort of situation.

If you would like to get involved in this year's exercise, then please email mail@graftonparish.com or come to one of the Parish Council meetings to register your interest.

Grafton Friendship Club

We would like to welcome any new member, of any age, to our meetings. Get out of the house for an hour or two – come and join us for a cup of tea and a chat in the brand new Coronation Hall on Wednesday 3rd March at 1pm. We have summer outings to friends in the district, as well as a fine Christmas lunch. We also have speakers during the year.

If you'd like more details, please ring Libby Gilbert on **01672 810349**

OPENING CEREMONY BALLOT *Please write clearly.*

Name _____

Telephone number _____ Age _____

Address _____

I wish to enter the ballot to attend the hall opening on 23rd February.

Only 1 name per ballot – complete details on another piece of paper if more than one person in your household wishes to enter the ballot..

Grafton Life – an interview with Jamie Pearson

We continue our series of local features with the senior pupils at Grafton School interviewing Jamie Pearson, the Parish Councillor responsible for managing the building of the new Coronation Hall. By Liam, Jack, Cerys, Stacey and Louise.

The new hall seems to be much larger than the old one - was it a difficult project?

The new hall is around 20m long, 5m longer than the old one which makes it around 50% bigger than before. The planning and fundraising for the new hall took some time but the actual build was quite quick as we were determined to have it ready for the Parish Christmas Party. We had a really good team working on the project with around 15 builders and a project manager. Plus, the Parish Council divided up the main responsibilities between them. It was a great team effort.

What features and facilities are there in the new hall?

We wanted to make it the best we could so we managed to incorporate a sprung floor which makes it cushioned for dancing and yoga, there is a commercial kitchen which we hope will make the hall attractive for functions such as weddings and parties. There's also under floor heating, an air pump which keeps the temperature in the hall constant and an internet connection which can be used by people using the hall.

How much did the new hall cost?

The building and fit out costs were around £350,000. There were lots of fundraising events across the Parish and we were very lucky to receive grants from the Big Lottery and the former Kennet District Council.

Why did you get involved with the building of the new hall?

My job as a property trader means I have experience of the building trade. I have worked as a trader for 14 years, I buy land, mainly in London and other big cities and get planning permission before selling it on.

How long have you lived in Grafton and what do you do in your spare time.

I have lived in Hollow Lane, Wilton since 2002. I live with my wife Caroline, our children Olivia 2 and Edward 1. We have a pony called Twinkle and a horse named Ruby plus 2 dogs and a cat. In my spare time I enjoy watching Star Wars and X Factor. I support Liverpool Football Club.

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Wilton Windmill Society

Come & Join Us!

Saturday 13th March 2010

10.30am at The Swan Inn, Wilton



The Wilton Windmill Society is looking for more millers, guides, shop and event volunteers and we hope you can join us on **Saturday 13th March** to find out about these exciting opportunities.

We will meet for coffee at The Swan and then walk or drive up to the Windmill where milling will be taking place (weather permitting).

Members of the Windmill Society will then give you a taste of what being a volunteer involves.

We anticipate that we will finish back at The Swan by 1pm.

It's a wonderful way to enjoy beautiful scenery in the company of friends whilst contributing to our historic working heritage.

The Windmill Open Season is from Easter to the end of September, on Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays 2pm -5pm.

If you are interested, please contact Susie Brew on **01264 731404** or at susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk by **Friday 5th March** to reserve a place (which are limited).

See www.wiltonwindmill.co.uk for more information

Exercise Classes Stepping Up a Gear at the Coronation Hall

The Monday morning circuit training classes are proving so successful that an additional weekly class is being added.

The new class will begin on Wednesday 24th February from 11am – 12noon. Everyone is welcome – you can exercise at your own pace in a friendly atmosphere. Classes cost £5 per session.

Contact Henrietta Mackinnon on **07977 511 959** or henriettamackinnon@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

The Grafton Parish Big Tidy Up

We are joining England's biggest ever litter pick to help keep our corner of the county looking lovely! Join us on **Saturday March 6th** to litter pick in and around each of our parish villages – starting at **10am** at the meeting points below.

East Grafton – Coronation Hall

West Grafton – parish notice board

Wilton – opposite the duck pond

Wexcombe – bus stop

Marten - parish notice board

You are all very welcome – young, medium and old! Please bring a sturdy pair of gloves – gardening gloves will be ideal – we'll provide everything else.

Go to www.thebigtidyup.org for more information.

This is a community event organised by the Friends of Grafton on behalf of Grafton CofE Primary School and Sunflowers Pre school.



Dates for your diary

Notice boards and www.graftonparish.com will have the latest updates. All events take place in the Coronation Hall unless otherwise specified.

FEBRUARY

- 15 09.30 Adult exercise class
- 15 19.00 Bingo
- 16 15.00 Pancake races *The Green*
- 16 19.30 Yoga class (no morning class)
- 17 Mobile Library *see route below*
- 21 11.00 Parish Communion *St Nicholas*
- 22 09.30 Adult exercise class
- 23 **11.30 OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY**
- 23 19.30 Yoga class
- 24 11.00 Adult Exercise class
- 25 19.00 Computers can be friendly!
- 28 11.00 Family Service *St Nicholas*

MARCH

- 1 09.30 Adult exercise class
- 1 12.00 Ladies lunch *The Swan*
- 1 19.00 Bingo
- 2 09.30 Yoga class
- 2 19.15 Parish Council Open meeting
- 3 11.00 Adult exercise class
- 3 Mobile Library *see route below*
- 3 13.00 Friendship Club
- 6 10.00 Big Tidy Up *See notice*
- 7 11.00 Holy Communion *St Nicholas*
- 8 09.30 Adult Exercise class
- 9 Yoga class (09.30 and 19.30)
- 10 11.00 Adult Exercise class
- 11 18.00 The Blessings Book
- 13 10.30 Windmill Society *The Swan*
- 14 11.00 Mothering Sunday *St Nicholas*
- 15 09.30 Adult exercise class
- 15 19.00 Bingo
- 16 19.30 Yoga class
- 17 11.00 Adult Exercise class
- 17 Mobile Library *See route below*
- 17 18.00 Horticultural Society
- 18 19.30 Quiz and Supper
- 21 11.00 Parish Communion and APCM *St Nicholas*
- 22 09.30 Adult Exercise class
- 23 Yoga class (09.30 and 19.30)

Grafton Parish Cinema is GO!

We have the equipment and a huge list of films to choose from. A team is gathering together to select our first Cinema schedule, to organise the refreshments and to run the bar.

Please contact Rosie Pack on **01672 870058** if you would like to join her team. Meanwhile why not look at the hall notice board or on www.graftonparish.com where you could help by voting for one of the films already on the shortlist for the first evening viewing?

"Help for Heroes" Easter Coffee Morning

Friday 26th March 10.30hrs. Call June Pearson **01672 811997** for craft table bookings and details on how to help!

Workshop - Tune into Positive Energy

Lizzi Vandorpe, author of The Blessings Book is running a workshop on how to tune in to our positive energy and handle life challenges with acceptance. The 3 hour workshop on March 11th at the Coronation Hall is £15 and will include refreshments and a copy of Lizzi's new book. Enquiries to: Liz@theblessingsbook.com

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Coronation Hall bookings 01672 810406

Avoid disappointment! Book early to use the Coronation Hall. Private bookings are not shown in the calendar here so please make sure that you tel **01672 810406** or email hall@graftonparish.com in good time.

To contact us:- news@graftonparish.com or a note into the letterbox by the hall.

You are invited to contribute to the next issue by Friday 5th March and the earlier the better of course! Your article may be condensed to conserve space. Editorial rights reserved.

Just a reminder that the Community News should be distributed around the middle of each month to every house in the Parish. If your copy doesn't arrive – please do let us know at news@graftonparish.com. Additional copies are available at the Coronation Hall, at The Swan and on www.graftonparish.com.

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMINGS:

Marten post box 11.30-11.50hrs Severalls E Grafton 13.00-13.15hrs Grafton Primary School 13.20-14.00hrs

Useful contacts

Societies/Clubs/Organisations: 1 line free entry
Email news@graftonparish.com to be listed below.

Friendship Club	01672 810349 Libby Gilbert
Cricket Club	pack.andy@googlemail.com
Bingo	hall@graftonparish.com
Windmill Society	susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk
Link Scheme	01672 870120
Church flowers/clean	01672 810743 Sally Butt
Parish Council	mail@graftonparish.com
PCC Secretary	01672 870266 Millie Lemon
Horticultural Soc	01672 810364 Marijke Craig
Art Club	libby_gilbert80@hotmail.com
Yoga	01672 841553 Lizzy Hawnt
Adult exercise	01672 810266 Hen Mackinnon
Grafton CofE School	01672 810478 Jill Parr
Sunflowers preschool	0774 8349856 Lyndsey Turner

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Business based in the Parish: 1 line listing – Free
Business based outside the Parish: 1 line – £1/issue. £10/pa.
Rates per issue for larger listing
1/12 page £5 1/6 page £10 1/4 page £15
Discounts for 6 months and 12 months

Disco and Karaoke	Pete Vallis	01672 811326
Your Wellbeing Centre	Amanda Toon	01672 811677
Grafton Garage	Tony Gilbert	07845 006890
Seasoned hardwood logs	Jeremy Hawkins	07980536156
Kindling	Jo Harman	01672 810673
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Painting & decorating	Neil Anderson	01264 731362
Hat hire	Victoria Frost	01672 810386
KACIS Ironing Service	Karen Evans	0783 335 6688



Sunflowers are busy, busy, busy ...

If you are thinking about pre school for a little one please drop in to see us at Sunflowers – we are open until 3pm Monday and 12.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (though some sessions are now full and we have waiting lists in place). Lots of fun and fabulous activities based around our 'Nursery Rhymes' theme this term and 'People who help us' theme next term. Call 07833356688 for more information

Wiltshire Area Boards - Feedback Wanted!

Area Boards have been implemented, as part of the new Wiltshire Council, to provide a new way of involving people in local decisions.

Our locally elected councillors together with other organisations such as the Police, NHS, MOD, parish councils etc discuss issues within the community before decisions are made. Meetings are held locally every two months and the public are invited to participate. Area Boards also provide valuable access to community grant funds.

Wiltshire Council wants to find out how well these new boards are working and where further improvements are needed. A short online questionnaire, which should take no more than 5 minutes to complete, can be found on www.wiltshire.gov.uk or via the link on the Grafton Parish website. Please be assured that all survey returns will be completely anonymous.

News in Brief

Traffic Speeds in Marten

Following the article in the Community News about speed checks and investigations in East Grafton and Wexcombe, we have received a number of comments about traffic speeds in Marten. These have been passed to the Parish Council for discussion at the next meeting and will be referred to the Police and transport authorities for consideration.

Grit Bins – Your help needed

The recent weather has prompted questions about the number and refilling of grit bins in the Parish. Wiltshire Council has over 1200 bins across the County but no records of any in this area. Please let us know at news@graftonparish.com if there is a bin in your area and its location, or if you feel a new bin is needed. The Parish Council will then ensure that the Council's records are updated and our bins will be on the bin refilling programme.

Digital Switchover is coming to Grafton – starts March 2010

If you receive your TV signal from the Mendip Transmitter (West TV rather than Meridian) you will probably be affected by the digital switchover that starts on March 24th. Digital TVs will need retuning, other TVs will need a set top box to continue receiving the new digital TV signal. More information is available at www.digitaluk.co.uk or on Tel **08456 50 50 50**. The Digital Switchover scheme is available to help over 75s, or those receiving certain allowances, to retune TV equipment.

Children's Road Safety - An urgent message for parents & drivers

There have been a number of recent incidents where lives could have been at risk, especially on the stretch of the Severalls near to Lynden Close. Parents, please remind your children that if they are playing they should take extra care before crossing the road. And drivers, please remember that whilst the speed limit in that area is 30mph, there are often local children playing so please approach with caution.

Annual Plant Sale and Dog Show - Sunday 16 May

A date for diaries – the annual plant sale and dog show, a St Nicholas Church and Friends of Grafton event, will take place at the Coronation Hall on Sunday 16th May at 2.30pm. There will be a sale of crafts and jewellery and stall holders are invited to reserve a stall with Sally Butt on **01672 810743**

Home Energy Check

Enclosed with this edition of the Community News is a Home Energy Check survey from the Energy Saving Trust. If you complete this and return it to the freepost address and you will receive free advice on energy saving measures, specific to your home, which will show you how you can save energy and money.

Oil Bulk Buy

We have been unable to organise the Oil Bulk Buy for February so have postponed this until late March. More details will be in the March Community News – if you're planning to refill your tank please do wait until then if you can, as we will be able to negotiate a competitive group rate. If you would like to register your interest please email news@graftonparish.com

"Computers are friendly?" reminder

Just bring paper, pens and some money for your refreshments to the first informal session at 7pm on 25th February. Whatever your interest we will do our best to help you. If there is sufficient interest in a particular subject, manipulating photos for example, then we will hold separate topic-based sessions in the future.

Parish Council AGM: Date has changed, venue stays the same.

Please join us for refreshments before the meeting on **Thursday 25th March** at 19.15hrs. Full agenda on the notice boards as usual.

Save the date for an evening out

An "SOS event" will be held in the Coronation Hall on Saturday 17th April.

Intrigued? Then keep the date free and await further details in March issue!

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