

COMMUNITY NEWS**Happy New Year 2010**

We hope that you had a wonderful festive season and that you managed to attend some of the events across the Parish. From the Christmas Party in the Coronation Hall to the Christmas morning service at St Nicholas, to the Wilton Illuminations many families participated in seasonal events and enjoyed the camaraderie and beauty of our rural community at this special time of year.

If your New Year's resolutions are of the 'lose weight – get fit variety' then be sure to sign up for some of the classes that are taking place in our new hall. There are day time and evening yoga, and day time circuit training classes, all led by local experts. So there should be no excuses about classes in Marlborough or Hungerford being 'too far' – our wonderful new hall means that we have lots of opportunities right on our doorstep. More information can be found on page 3.

With Spring (hopefully!) around the corner and if walking is more your thing then we are hoping to get a walking group going for local evening and weekend walks usually involving a refreshment stop along the way! If you are interested in getting involved please email news@graftonparish.com

Thank you for all the positive comments received about the Community News – it is designed to bring together people across our community and ensure that everyone is aware of the many activities and events in the Parish. We're aware that a small number of homes in East Grafton, didn't receive the December issue (apologies for this – we're dropping it in along with the January News). If you know of anyone else who didn't receive issue 2, then please let us know. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to help with distribution going forward – we are still looking for a few more helpers, so if you can assist 1 hour a month please email news@graftonparish.com

We are relying on advertising to fund future Community News, so if you have a business or organisation that you would like to advertise then please do get in touch. Don't forget that businesses based in the Parish have a free listing in our local business directory. See page 4 for more details.

Stay warm! And look out for edition 4 of the Community News in mid February.

HOT OFF THE PRESS**OFFICIAL CORONATION HALL OPENING****Save the date - Tuesday 23rd February 2010****All details in February issue!****If you have to move a mountain to be there then it will be worth it!****Expect a "celebrity surprise" and email mail@graftonparish.com to join in the preparations****Festive Grafton Parish**

Judging by the number of revellers at the Coronation Hall on December 19 many villagers came to the party but if you were unable to attend then here is a flavour of the fun had by all.

- The early start with children 'making and messing' for an hour using inspired amusements was a great success.
- The Community Choir's debut has prompted a number of enquiries about whether this could be continued through the year with practice sessions in the hall so that the AV equipment can be better matched to the beautiful voices and organ accompaniment.
- Father Christmas was his usual 'ho ho ho' self and his attendant elf provided superb crowd control. The Grotto was stunning and excited children, and parents, queued to visit this Lapland experience surrounded by snowy gardens, guarded by snowmen and sparkingly lit to perfection.
- About 400 mince pies, gallons of mulled wine and mountains of children's treats disappeared during the evening before the bar opened and the disco started. Next year we are considering a separate Christmas evening for the disco and bar—comments please!

The Christmas posters, which had been designed by so many talented artists of all ages, were an enormous success and drew compliments from many visitors. It seems a shame to ditch these – if you have any ideas then let us know.

Our thanks go to Hungerford Garden Centre for the two huge Christmas trees that they donated towards our decorations. Thank you to those who helped before, during and after – whether you baked mince pies, wrapped tombola prizes, made the mulled wine or decorated the hall, it was a great team effort.

Winning the competition to be Santa's Elf

At school there was a competition to be an Elf for Father Christmas at the village Christmas party. I wrote a letter in the shape of a Christmas tree and said that I had been a good boy this year and that I really wanted to be his Elf and have a ride on his sleigh.

On the night of the Christmas party I dressed up as an Elf and met Father Christmas by the duck pond in Wilton. He arrived in his sleigh and I got on and had a ride to the new village hall. We went into his Grotto and I helped him give out sweets to all the children. Then we went back to his sleigh and I had another ride back to the duck pond.

Thank you Father Christmas I had a really good time.
Luke Turner, aged 7, Grafton School

The Big Tidy Up at Grafton School

Having secured the Eco Schools Bronze Award we're pushing towards Silver and we started by joining schools nationwide in the Big Tidy Up on Thursday 26th November. Armed with huge bin liners and ready smiles, the whole school helped to clear the playground.

Being a litter conscious school this really didn't take long! Year 6 surged first into the playing fields, and finally out onto the village green. Liam Evans, Stacy Hawkins, Jack Vallis, Louise Banting, Cerys Bradley and former pupil Stephanie Mensing foraged valiantly. The prize for top litter picker went to Cerys Bradley who excelled herself by searching furthest afield. Well done, Cerys!

I hope the day's interest will generate an equal enthusiasm for God's World, the after-school club on Mondays, 3.15 – 4pm, drawing both on the Christian traditions of our school and on our commitment to caring for the environment around us. Eco Schools Silver Award, here we come!

Drama, singing and a great deal of excitement!



Children Come First

The term running up to Christmas is always a busy one. A whirl of singing, drama and creative activities. There is so much to fit in, but it is so much fun too.

Our work with the choir master from Salisbury Cathedral School culminated in a concert at Salisbury Cathedral in early December. It was an absolute delight – a great experience for the children. We, along with a number of other local schools, are now working with another singing coach and practising for a big production which will be performed in the new theatre at St Johns in the summer. Our vocal chords are well exercised!

Our Christmas productions are always great affairs and this year was no different. 'The Christmas Recipe' was performed to a very appreciative audience in our lovely village church. The older children performed it again to the residents at Brendoncare care home in Froxfield taking on all the roles of the younger children in addition to their own which was great fun for all.

Our thanks to General Walsh and Hilary Arnold-Baker who came in during the term to talk to the children about Remembrance Day and travels in the Himalayas respectively. Wrap all this up with a visit to the Watermill Theatre to see James and the Giant Peach, our school Carol Service, a Christmas party, some very creative moments making decorations and an opportunity to apply for the job of Elf working alongside Santa at the village Christmas party and you have a very busy, and very satisfying term.

Diseased trees on the Green to be replaced

You may have noticed that two trees on the Green are looking in pretty poor shape. The Parish Council has taken advice from the Arboricultural Officer at Wiltshire Council and unfortunately the trees in question have a form of Phytophthora and the felling of both trees has been recommended. The owners of the trees are aware and the trees will be felled soon – and the Parish Council understands that replacement trees will be planted.

Many parts of the Parish are within Conservation Areas and if you wish to fell or prune the roots or branches of a tree, or carry out other work which might damage a tree in a conservation area you must inform Wiltshire Council at least six weeks in advance. See www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandculture/treesandhedges for more information.

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Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital illustrated talk is planned for March.

"We run a 24hr 7days a week rescue and rehabilitation centre. We were out in your direction when there was a young barn owl stuck in a chimney at Folly Farm on the way to Great Bedwyn. We had to call out the fire brigade to assist us! We were able to release the bird later that evening none the worse for his ordeal." More tales in March!

Grafton Friendship club in search of members

The Friendship Club has provided friendships and support for members for 40+yrs. However the club is now looking for new blood. At the next meeting on Wednesday February 3rd at 2pm members will be discussing the future of the club over a cuppa and a cake in the Coronation Hall

There are too few members to keep the club viable but we are keen to provide a regular meeting place for parishioners. If you are free during the day then you might find a kindred spirit in the club - why not come and see for yourself? Call Libby Gilbert on **01672 810349** for more information, or if you need help getting along to the hall on February 3rd.

Computers can be friendly!

Are you confused by any of the following?

- ⇒ Those irritating IT words and functions.
- ⇒ This CD that you just can't copy any files onto.
- ⇒ That job which looked so easy and has taken a month to complete.
- ⇒ Those photos that you can't find, print or send to friends.
- ⇒ That email attachment or file that you can't open.



If the answer is "yes" to any of the above or if you have any other questions or problems then come along to the first of fortnightly casual sessions. The atmosphere will be informal and friendly, the language non-technical and the content/format constructed as we go along.

Subsequent meetings will address solutions to at least one topic which has been voted "priority irritant" at a prior gathering!

Do not bring anything other than pen, paper, your urgent problems and a donation to the first meeting on February 24th at 19.00hrs. If you are interested but are unable to drop in for the first session then please email news@graftonparish.com with your requests.

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Scholar Wallahs

Half Term Revision Classes for 8-11 year olds

Taking place over three mornings in the

Coronation Hall

February 16th 17th and 18th 2010

From 9.30—12.00

Led by two experienced tutors—a qualified Primary

Years Teacher and a Dyslexia Therapist -

Sessions will cover numeracy and literacy skills and include an arts/crafts workshop.

Suitable for Years 4 to 6 (ages 8-11 years)

Small group teaching with a maximum ratio of 1:6

Cost: £95 for the three morning sessions

For an enrolment form and further details:

www.scholarwallahs.com

Telephone: **01672 810946** Mob: **07796 132 384**

Scholar Wallahs

St Nicholas' Church, East Grafton



From time to time, I look in the Visitors Book in St. Nicholas' Church and it is interesting to see people coming from far and near who take the time to stop and admire the beautiful building and the peaceful churchyard. But it is sad to see so few attending the services each week – with falling congregation numbers, the church income reduces too.

On the plus side, we have events such as the glorious annual plant sale and the excellent Harvest Supper. Additionally, our lovely church is a desirable location for weddings and christenings (and funerals, of course), particularly when combined with the superb new Coronation Hall.

Did you know that it costs just under £44 every day to maintain and run the church, but our income, from collections at services and planned giving amounts to just £33 per day. To secure the future of St Nicholas' Church, we must find a way to generate that missing £11 per day. We all understand that is a huge task, but would ask you all to consider whether you can help us to achieve the goal of maintaining St. Nicholas' for future generations of Grafton Parishioners.

Why not come along to one of the services and make new friends? Or if you can't make it then enclosed with this edition of the Community News is a direct debit form for regular contributions to support the church – which if given under the Gift Aid scheme, we receive a 20% bonus, courtesy of the Treasury! Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Treasurer, Grafton Parochial Church Council

Join us for coffee!

If you would like to support your local school and can give 30 mins or an hour a week then come along to Grafton CofE Primary School to find out more on Tuesday, February 2nd at 10am.



It could be listening to children read, helping with a club or with art and crafts or utilising any particular skills or interests that you have. We understand that there are a number of people who indicated to Steve Oakey (Grafton Grafters) that they would like to help so please join us for coffee to get things started.

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Parish traffic limits under review

Wiltshire Council has reviewed speed limits on all A- & B-class roads throughout the county and recommendations have been made for changes to speed limits in our area. The A338 has been identified for a speed limit reduction, to 50mph, from the east on the stretch from the Topsy Miller junction to the East Grafton 30mph boundary and again from the western East Grafton 30mph boundary to the Burbage roundabout. Please note these are only proposals at this stage - any change of speed limit is subject to consultation and legal process. A further study of C-class & unclassified roads will follow in due course.

It has also been agreed to review the usage of roads through Wilton, as it seems that Sat Nav systems have resulted in an increase in Heavy Goods Vehicles passing through the village and the introduction of a weight-limit restriction on this route is under discussion.

Finally in the next few weeks vehicle speed surveys will be undertaken using the Metro Speed equipment in East Grafton and on the FairMile near Wexcombe. This will allow us to determine the nature of any speeding issues so the Police can address these as appropriate.

You can email mail@graftonparish.com with your views.



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.

JANUARY 2010

17th 11.00	Parish Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
18th 09.30	Adult exercise class	
18th 19.30	Bingo	
19th	Yoga class (9.30 and 19.30)	
20th	Mobile Library	<i>see route page 4</i>
24th 11.00	Family Service	<i>St Nicholas</i>
25th 09.30	Adult exercise class	
26th	Yoga class (9.30 and 19.30)	

FEBRUARY 2010

1st 09.30	Adult exercise class	
1st 19.00	Bingo	
2nd	Yoga class (09.30 and 19.30)	
2nd 10.00	Coffee morning	<i>Grafton School</i>
3rd	Mobile Library	<i>see route page 4</i>
3rd 14.00	Friendship club open meeting	
7th 11.00	Family Service and Baptism	<i>St Nicholas</i>
8th 09.30	Adult exercise class	
8th 20.00	Monthly quiz night	<i>The Swan</i>
9th 09.30	Yoga class (no evening class)	
15th 09.30	Adult exercise class	
15th 19.00	Bingo	
16th 09.30	Scholar Wallahs	
16th 19.30	Yoga class (no morning class)	
17th	Mobile Library	<i>see route page 4</i>
17th 09.30	Scholar Wallahs	
18th 09.30	Scholar Wallahs	
21st 11.00	Parish Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
22nd 09.30	Adult exercise class	
23rd morning	OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY	
23rd 19.30	Yoga class	
24th 19.00	Computers can be friendly!	
28th 1100	Family Service	<i>St Nicholas</i>

Snow, ice and road damage.

3 ways of reporting potholes, blocked ditches, drains and gulleys, overgrown hedges, footpaths etc

Call **0800 232323** to report road issues for a prompt response from Wiltshire Council.

mail@graftonparish.com for access to the Parish Steward via the Parish Council

www.fixmystreet.com for your concerns to be forwarded to the right organisation

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

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

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

Commercial Advertising

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
1/2 page £20 Full page £40
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

The destiny of the **telephone box in Wilton** is being reconsidered by the Parish Council. There are numerous examples in the press showing innovative ways in which these boxes have been used. Investigations are taking place into how this could be managed. Pass on your views.

Housing Development in the Parish expected to be limited for years to come

Across Wiltshire there will be a need for 44,400 new homes by the year 2026 of which around 500 are planned to be in the Pewsey Community area – this includes larger villages such as Pewsey, Bedwyn and Burbage as well as Grafton Parish. Some 300 of these 500 homes have already been built or have planning permission in place. Given the limited infrastructure (shops, public transport etc.) in the Parish it is envisaged that housing development will be very limited.

If you are interested in finding out more about the strategy for Wiltshire, you can access the full document at www.wiltshirecouncil.gov.uk. The consultation period has now closed, but if you have any views, you can register them with the Parish Council for consideration at Area Board or Area Partnership meetings.

Congratulations on beating the conditions and maintaining excellent service!

A very grateful resident has asked that we publicly thank the local tradesmen (Postman, Newspaper man, milkman for example) for their sterling work during the freezing weather.

Mobile Library

Did you know that there are regular visits by the mobile library to the Parish? The libraries hold books and for adults and children of all ages as well as story tapes, CDs and videos. The vehicles are wheelchair accessible. Customers can reserve items not available on the van. To borrow items you will need proof of your name and address such as an allowance book, bank / building society statement, driving licence or utility bill.

Stop Press!! - Parents and carers we're hoping to bring story telling sessions for under 5s to the Coronation Hall in the next few months. Look out for more details in future editions of the Community News.



MOBILE LIBRARY TIMINGS: Marten post box 11.30-11.50hrs
Severalls East Grafton 13.00-13.15hrs Grafton Primary School 13.20-14.00hrs

Recycle plastic and cardboard close by

Avoid a trip to Everleigh by making use of the plastic and cardboard recycling skips which will be in the Bouverie Hall car park, Pewsey on 20 January, 17 February and 17 March from 10.00am – Noon. Permanent facilities in George Lane, Marlborough too. Your Parish Council will arrange for skips to be sited in the Parish during 2010; information in later issues.

How to avoid a fire in your home or office

Now that work is completed on the Pypers Barn East Grafton, after the severe fire damage in 2009, it is timely to tell you of fire prevention services available.

You can call your local fire department **01380 723601** and request a free "Home fire safety visit" or you can use the online home risk assessment (if you do not have internet access then why not come along to one of the IT sessions in the Hall and do your assessment there?)

The free home fire safety visits are carried out by operational crews, they are completely free and you may be eligible for a free smoke alarm. You will not be sold anything.

Community fundraising

Raise funds for the the Coronation Hall and Friends of Grafton when making routine purchases:

Filling your oil tank? Don't forget that we hope to organise a community bulk buy in February – details in the next edition. If you need to order in the meantime then Wessex Petroleum give ½p for each litre of oil bought. Call 0800 980 6172 and quote charity reference D19 (Coronation Hall and Friends of Grafton).

Buying online? Go to your normal online retailer via www.thegivingmachine.co.uk. All major retailers are listed including Tesco, Next, Ebay, ELC, Amazon etc and all give a percentage of the order value each time you buy via the giving machine at no extra cost to you. Select either Coronation Hall or Grafton C of E Primary School as your beneficiary. Encourage your friends and family to shop this way too and this could be a great way of supporting your community organisations.

Donating a tax refund: If the Inland Revenue calculates a refund for you then there is an alternative to banking these small sums. Please think about passing on those few refunded pounds to the Coronation Hall fund.

There is a list of charities to which you can donate when your tax refund is notified to you. IR tax forms/web pages include the GRAFTON CORONATION HALL (Grafton is added to the name to make sure that you donate to OUR Coronation hall!). There are a multitude of village halls on the list so we are not unique in taking advantage of this tax break!

A good idea? We think so!

Lastly and very importantly

Grafton Parish is very lucky to have so many exclusive visits from Santa especially on Christmas eve and again on Christmas day. The 180+ people who consumed the mulled wine and mince pies at the Swan on Christmas day were all very appreciative of everyone's contribution and effort.

Thank you.