

COMMUNITY NEWS

There's something for everyone.....

Our vibrant community continues to thrive with the new Coronation Hall at its heart. Many local residents enjoyed the village tea shop setting at the official opening on 23 February by HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and new events and groups are being planned all the time.

Each week yoga and exercise classes take place, a new toddler group will start after Easter, there are regular 'Computer Help' sessions as well as meetings of the Grafton Horticultural Society. Recent events have included Pancake Races on The Green and the BIG tidy up. Coming up there is a fundraising Quiz night, a Help for Heroes Coffee morning, the Easter Eggstravaganza and the SOS Sausage Spectacular! Read on for more details.

If you haven't been to an event at the Hall yet, please do come along and meet new friends and neighbours.

A fantastic day for the Parish!

Grafton Parish Council has received many very complimentary letters from those who attended the official opening in the Hall on 23 February. The new hall looked amazing – there were huge photographic banners depicting Parish events and attractions compiled by Ann Dudney, a movie of the 2002 Golden Jubilee celebrations on the Green and June Pearson painted a stunning watercolour of the Parish which will be placed on permanent display in the Hall soon. Liz Hosier provided simple, country floral displays for the tables and Alison Comyn persuaded some very talented cake makers in the Parish to provide a wide selection of cakes for the event. Ian Harman and Pat Martin attended HRH The Duchess of Cornwall at the beginning and end of her visit dressed in their regalia.

Lucy Charman took photographs of the event and these are available on www.graftonparish.com, you can order your own copies there and we are sure that you will agree that Lucy has captured some stunning records of the day! If you want to see the photos and you do not have access to the internet please call **01672 810406** to arrange a viewing. There is a full report of the day (including mention of many willing helpers) compiled by Peter Lemon on the website and on the Hall notice board too. You may have already seen the local newspaper coverage and look out for the next issue of Wiltshire Life.

The celebrations concluded with the Duchess formally unveiling a commemorative plaque and saying a few words congratulating us on our achievements as a community.

A very big thank you goes out to everyone who helped organise the day and attended the function. We do hope that those of you who gave your time during the past few years in particular, went away feeling very proud of our community and of your contributions towards it.



There's a big world out there ...

Being involved in our community is important to Grafton CofE Primary School. We are part of many communities; our individual school, neighbouring schools with whom we work on a regular basis and Grafton parish, as well as the UK and global communities. During the last couple of months it is rewarding to see many of our activities contribute to this.

Being invited to participate in the Coronation Hall official opening was a source of great excitement, and of some confusion as pupils tried to work out who HRH The Duchess of Cornwall is! Pupils from school and Sunflowers made a guard of honour to welcome our visitor, many had the opportunity to speak to her and Louise and Shannon presented a posy. Few children have the opportunity to play a part in such an event so this was a real highlight for us.

The Friends of Grafton organise activities which we hope have a wide appeal through our community. A great crowd came to Pancake Races on The Green and the BIG tidy up saw many of the children out last weekend trying to pick up litter with litter pickers almost as tall as they are.

Our pupils have participated in workshops to discuss the diversity and similarity of British children and talked about linking up with pupils at a school in the Himalayas. They have worked with pupils from other local schools on literacy, sports, theatrical and music projects. We have celebrated achievements in our Special Sharing Assembly and come together in our new after school club celebrating God's World.

Helping our pupils to be prepared for the big world out there may be a weighty responsibility, but we have a great deal of fun achieving it.

A time to remember

St Nicholas' Church has a long tradition of displaying lilies during the Easter period. Each lily is bought in memory of someone dear and departed. This year the cost of a lily is £2.50. Easter is a fitting time to remember loved ones who have died and a lily is a fitting expression of remembrance. St Nicholas' Church is open every day so why not go and admire the flowers over Easter?

To order lilies please contact Sally Butt on **01672 810743** by 1 April.



Fun for little ones at the Hall

Babies and Pre Schoolers in Grafton will be enjoying the spacious new hall on Friday mornings at the new Baby & Toddler group and Dinky Dancers lessons that will run during term time from Friday 23 April 2010. At 9.30am there will be fun filled dance and action classes for 2-4 year old Dinky Dancers. And from 10.30am – 12 noon there will be toys, games, activities and story time for all babies and under 5s, as well as coffee and tea for parents and carers. Come along and meet other Grafton Parish parents – we hope to see you!

Good quality toddler toys, puzzles and baby items are needed – if you have any that your children or grandchildren have outgrown we would love to hear from you. Contact Caroline Pearson on **01672 870882** or caroline@thornacre.co.uk who can arrange collection if necessary. We're also looking for helpers for the refreshments and storytelling rotas so if you have an hour or two a month to spare please let Caroline know.

There are a few Dinky Dancers places remaining – email sharonmoore@dinkydancers.com for more information and costs. There will be a small charge per family for the toddler group to cover refreshments and hall hire.

In Response to Requests

Copies of the Grafton Parish Jubilee DVD which was shown during the Opening ceremony are now available. Please place your order together with your name, address and £5-£10 towards Hall funds into the Hall letterbox and we will deliver your DVD to you as soon as we can.

Computing could be easier

The first evening taster session was well attended and a 'suggestion box' of topics which people want to explore has been started. The first proper meeting was held on Wednesday 10 March at 3pm when emails, the web and backups were the main topics covered. On Tuesday 23 March at 3pm the main topic will be photographs and how to make the most of them, printing, emailing, storing and much more. A general session will be included too for those 'irritations and problems' which are pressing at the moment.

Please come and join us - Bob and Ann will be pleased to help you to make the most of your IT equipment. Bring along a laptop and/or details of your concerns and we will do our best solve your issues. Enrolment is £25 for 6 sessions and we have equipment which you can use in the Hall. If any secondary school pupils need help with preparing coursework or presentations then call **01672 810406** and we will do our best to arrange a session after school to help you too.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Grafton CofE Primary School

Monday 5 April 2010

10.30am – 12 noon

Eggsellent family entertainment

Lots of eggy activities!*

Refreshments including delicious bacon/sausage sandwiches.

Competitions for best dressed egg and/or finest Easter bonnet so bring your creations!

* No waste! We are sourcing out-of-date eggs for all eggy races and activities.

Grafton & District Horticultural Society

The first meeting of our gardening club will be in the Coronation Hall, on Wednesday 17 March 2010 at 7.30 pm. The lecture will be on **Creating a Downland Garden**, by Robert Harvey an environmental scientist and a photographer.

Our members will be renewing their membership at £12 for the year and for those of you who are thinking about joining, why not come along, find out what we are all about and have a look at our programme for 2010.

We look forward to meeting you.
Marijke Craig **01672 810364**

HELP for HEROES

Support for our wounded

EASTER COFFEE MORNING

Friday 26 March 10.30am to 12.30pm Coronation Hall

Twelve lovely individual craft and merchandise stalls.

Home stall, cakes, bric a brac, bring & buy

Super prize raffle.

Latest range of Help for Heroes merchandise.

Lots of coffee, cake and hot cross buns.

Please come along and bring a friend or two.

Home made cakes most welcome.

Phone June Pearson **01672 811997** for more details.

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

Please help us plan for numbers by booking your table in advance

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 CofE Primary School (60%) and Sunflowers Pre school (40%).

Election Time!

With an election on the horizon, now is the time to make sure you are registered to vote and to consider how you are going to vote.

You will need to be registered if you have turned 18 years old or have become a British citizen since the last election. If you are on the electoral register you are able to vote.

How to vote?

In Person at our Polling Station, The Coronation Hall
By Post or by Proxy

You can apply for postal or proxy votes at anytime. More information can be found on www.wiltshire.gov.uk or by using the link on www.graftonparish.com or you can pick up forms from the Coronation Hall.

WANTED:

We are looking for at least 6 adults to join the Community Speedwatch programme. Full training given to assist with occasional monitoring and recording of vehicles which exceed the speed limit at designated locations in the parish. If you can help please let us know by 20 March to mail@graftonparish.com or **01672 810406**

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Tuesday 13 to Thursday 15 April 2010

Coronation Hall, Grafton

For further information and bookings:

Contact **01672 810946** and see our web site

www.scholarwallahs.com

Power Cuts

Following the latest major power outage in the Parish we contacted Southern Electric to determine why we have had so many significant disruptions in the last 12 months. We will keep monitoring this too!

They tell us that the outages are not connected (no pun intended!) and not due to over demand on the system nor to old equipment.

These details relate to the most recent recorded incidents

Date	Location	Reason	Repair
02 OCT	CHICKEN SHED PMT	Transformer fault	Replaced
01 NOV	WEST GRAFTON	Wires down	Re-erected
09 JAN	WEST GRAFTON	Explosion reported	No fault found
21 FEB	VERNHAM DEAN	Pole box fault	Replaced



Save the Date

to

Save Your Bacon!

An entertaining evening is promised when all will be revealed!

Saturday 17 April – 6.30pm PROMPT at The Coronation Hall

Join us at an extensive Sausage Tasting Supper

Licensed Bar and Raffle

Tickets in advance £6 adults, £4 children are available from:

The Swan, Wilton

Susie Brew – Wexcombe - **01264 731404** - susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk

Phil Baldwin – East Grafton - **07810 207238** - flexouk@yahoo.co.uk

or mail@graftonparish.com

A fundraising event in aid of defibrillator installations in the Parish

Support our local runners in the London Marathon

Lee Plank and Mark Fleckney are running the London Marathon in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust on April 25 in memory of Rob Plank who died of leukaemia in September 2009 aged just 59. The Planks have lived in East Grafton, and the Fleckneys in Wilton for many years and both Lee and Mark were pupils at Grafton School. You can sponsor them at www.justgiving.com/Lee-Plank or www.justgiving.com/Mark-Fleckney or call Vanessa on **01672 870811**

GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL is pleased to invite you to the AGM on Thursday March 25 at 7.15pm in the Coronation Hall.

We hope that you will join us for some refreshments and a glass of wine or beer whilst we review 2009 with representatives from organisations in the Parish.

In recent months we have been very encouraged by the number of people who have come to our meetings and so this experimental format will, we hope, encourage more of you to "pop in" and see what we do on your behalf.

These meetings are not drawn out, we pride ourselves on getting through the business as fast as we reasonably can!

Drinks £1 each to include a light snack. We look forward to seeing you.

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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.

MARCH

13	10.30	Windmill Society	<i>The Swan</i>
14	11.00	Mothering Sunday	<i>St Nicholas</i>
15	09.30	Adult exercise class	
15	19.00	Bingo	
16	19.30	Yoga class	
17		Mobile Library	<i>See route below</i>
17	11.00	Adult Exercise class	
17	18.00	Horticultural Society	
18	19.30	Quiz and Supper	
21	11.00	Parish Communion and APCM	<i>St Nicholas</i>
22	09.30	Adult Exercise class	
23		Yoga class (09.30 and 19.30)	
23	15.00	Computing could be easier!	
24	11.00	Adult Exercise class	
25	19.15	Parish Council AGM	
26	10.30	Help for Heroes Easter Coffee Morning	
29	09.30	Adult Exercise class	
29	19.00	Bingo	
30		Yoga class (09.30 and 19.30)	
31		Mobile Library	<i>See route below</i>
31	11.00	Adult Exercise class	

APRIL

04	11.00	Easter Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
05	10.30	Eggstravaganza	<i>Grafton School</i>
07	14.30	Friendship Club	
12	19.00	Bingo	
14		Mobile Library	<i>See route below</i>
17	18.30	SOS sausage tasting and more!	
18	11.00	Parish Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
20		Yoga class (09.30 and 19.30)	
21	19.30	Horticultural Society AGM	
23	09.30	Dinky Dancers	
23	10.30	Baby and Toddler Group	
25	11.00	Family Service	<i>St Nicholas</i>
26	09.30	Adult Exercise class	
26	19.00	Bingo	
27		Yoga class (09.30 and 19.30)	
28	11.00	Adult Exercise class	
28		Mobile Library	<i>See route below</i>
30	09.30	Dinky Dancers	
30	10.30	Baby and Toddler Group	

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 telephone 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 April 2 and the earlier the better of course!

Your article may be condensed to conserve space.
Editorial rights reserved.

Just a reminder: Email news@graftonparish.com if your News does not arrive by the middle of the month. Additional copies are available at the Coronation Hall, at The Swan and on www.graftonparish.com.

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMINGS: Devizes Route H

Marten post box 11.30-11.50am Severalls E Grafton 1.00-1.15pm Grafton Primary School 1.20-2.00pm

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	07748 349856 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
Discounts for 6 months and 12 months

Disco and Karaoke	Pete Vallis	01672 811326
Wellbeing Centre	Amanda Toon	01672 811677
Grafton Garage	Tony Gilbert	07845 006890
Seasoned hardwood logs	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
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	07920 755372
Holgate & Pack	Furniture	01672 870887

Advertisement

OPEN AUDITIONS

For ABSENT FRIENDS

If you've ever wanted to get involved in **Amateur Dramatics** then The Marlborough Players are holding open auditions for their next production "Absent Friends" by Alan Ayckbourn on 11, 14 and 21 March at The Bear Hotel in Marlborough High Street at 7.30pm

Performances will take place week commencing 7 June at Marlborough Town Hall

For more information about the auditions whether you are interested in acting or helping out backstage please contact Sue Baxter on **07769 977779** or email suejbax@yahoo.co.uk.

Additional information can also be found on the website www.marlboroughplayers.co.uk

News in Brief

Traffic Speeds in Marten

At the Parish Council meeting on March 2 a number of Marten residents came to express their concerns regarding traffic travelling through their hamlet following our report regarding action being taken in Wexcombe and East Grafton. We have reacted to your concerns. To help with our fact finding see the WANTED notice on page 2.

Grit Bins – Your comments have been passed on

Annual Plant Sale and Dog Show - Sunday 16 May

There will be a sale of crafts and jewellery and stall holders are invited to reserve a stall with Sally Butt on **01672 810743**. If you can volunteer to help with preparations or on the day please contact Sally for this too.

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 help with submitting an application for funds to achieve a community based idea then email mail@graftonparish.com .

The BIG tidy up

On Saturday 6 March 55 hardy members of our parish took part in the BIG tidy up across our five villages. We filled over 20 bags with assorted rubbish from hedgerows and roadsides and picked up some unexpected larger items, including tyres, drums, pallets and a radiator! A **BIG thank you** to everyone who turned out to keep our corner of the county looking lovely.

Helping to keep children safe on-line

The on-line world of social networking sites, chat rooms and on-line gaming is a mystery to many parents, including many competent and confident users of technology. What steps can we take to help keep our children safe on-line? We have the opportunity to invite a member of the education team from Wiltshire Council to join us for an evening to talk about this.

As there would be a small charge of approx £5.00 to cover the cost of the event we'd like to gauge the level of interest before organising a date. If you are interested in attending please email news@graftonparish.com.

Grafton Life

Pupils from the school will continue interviewing next month, we have run out of space this time!

Pancake Races

A great afternoon on The Green on Shrove Tuesday shared by a great crowd. Some very competitive pancake racing and amazing pancake flipping. Thanks to everyone for their support.

Having a Spring Clean?

With lighter nights and warmer weather around the corner, you may be thinking of having a clear out. We're planning a fundraising Jumble Sale as well as the regular Friends of Grafton 'Bag2School' collection in June so please hold onto all the things you might be thinking of throwing away. Clothing, textiles, bric a brac, household items, toys etc. are all wanted - more details to follow in a future edition of the Community News.

Community fundraising – the easy way

Shopping online? Help raise money for the Coronation Hall and the Friends of Grafton when you use 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 to either Coronation Hall or Grafton CofE Primary School each time you buy

Filling your oil tank? If you need oil Wessex Petroleum give 1/2p for each litre of oil bought back to the village. Call **0800 980 6172** and quote charity reference **D19** (Coronation Hall and Friends of Grafton).

Recycling toner cartridges and mobile phones. Don't throw them away – recycle and raise money for the hall. Pick up an envelope from the notice board at the Coronation Hall or look for an envelope in the April issue of the Community News.

Still saving change in the Coronation Hall money pot? Drop it off at the parish council AGM or with your local parish councillor. The money raised is building up funds for equipment in the Hall.

Community oil bulk buy. It has proved very difficult to get a price agreed for a community bulk buy of oil because oil prices fluctuate daily and we are unable to respond quickly enough through the Community News. So, reluctantly, we are unable to offer this service at present. Thanks and apologies to all those who registered an interest. If anyone would be interested in coordinating a regular bulk buy as a community service we have some guidance from the suppliers and names of people interested in joining a scheme and would be happy to share this – news@graftonparish.com to find out more.