

Difficult times — but a strong Community

You may have heard that Wiltshire Council's report following the consultation on proposed closure of Grafton School was published recently with the recommendation that the School close at the end of the Summer Term.

There has been a school in Grafton Parish for over 150 years and contemplating its closure is difficult. It has been widely acknowledged that Grafton Primary School has not been the school of choice for Parish parents for many years and despite the great efforts made by staff, governors and Grafton School parents it has not been possible to secure a future for the school. Though only a small proportion of Parish children currently attend our school the closure of one of the focal points of the community will still be felt strongly across the Parish.

On a happier note, as always there are many community events happening across the Parish in the next few weeks. The Thursday Club is meeting on 21 April with drinks and food for all the family. There's family fun at the Easter Eggstravaganza on Easter Monday, street parties are taking place to celebrate the Royal Wedding, followed by the Right Royal Party at the Coronation Hall. Grafton Game Fair's family day is on 7 May and the May Food Fair at Wilton Windmill on 14 May. Lots of opportunities to enjoy Spring in our beautiful Parish.

**PARISH ROYAL WEDDING
CELEBRATIONS**

Coronation Hall - East Grafton

29 April 2011

7.30pm for 8pm

Tickets are selling fast & numbers are limited!

DO BOOK NOW by contactingJean Smith on **01672 811182** or at**jeanrosemarysmith@hotmail.com**

Magnificent dinner provided by 'The Swan' including Champagne!

Live music by a professional pianist

Wines and soft drinks will be available

Grafton Primary School – likely summer closure

On Monday 21 March Wiltshire Council published their report following the public consultation on the future of Grafton Primary School. There was a comprehensive response to the consultation with 213 written responses which is the largest number Wiltshire Council have received to an issue of this kind. Sadly, as no new partnership opportunities have emerged, the recommendation is that the school should close this summer and Statutory Notice to Close will shortly be published. The full report is available online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk and also on the school website www.grafton.wilts.sch.uk.

There is the opportunity to lodge an appeal against the statutory notice during the 6 week appeal period. Regrettably it seems unlikely that without significant changes in circumstances that an appeal will be successful. In the meantime the governing body continues its efforts to follow up every opportunity that may secure a future for Grafton School and is working closely with the Sunflowers Committee to establish a viable plan to enable Sunflowers to continue.

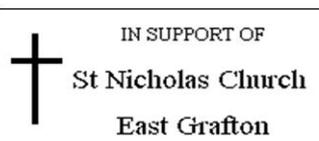
The consultation also sought views on which schools the Grafton Parish catchment area should be redesignated to, should the school close. There was an overwhelming desire from all parts of the Grafton Parish community that that the catchment be redesignated as a whole, and that links with the Great Bedwyn community and school were the strongest. Therefore it is proposed to redesignate the catchment to Great Bedwyn School.

It appears that all parties – pupils, parents, staff, governors and our wider community - are taking a pragmatic approach to the news. At school one of the first priorities is to ensure that parents are able to secure places for their children at an alternative school of their choice from September and good progress is being made with this. From the wider community perspective what happens to the buildings and land is a key question and whilst the ultimate decisions will be taken by Salisbury Diocese and Wiltshire Council who own the buildings and land respectively, the Parish Council has confirmed that it is setting up a working party for involvement in this.

To keep up to date with news please check the 'Future of Grafton School' page on the school website.

GRAFTON GAME FAIR OPEN DAY

Saturday 7th May 2011 Wilton Water,

"Supporting the bravest in the country"

Visit the **Village Shopping Mall** with excellent stalls,
Local produce, sporting prints.

**Kids Air Rifle Competition, Face Painting & Sand Pit,
Bale Maze and much more.**

Fun, Food & Entertainment for Everyone

Wood fired Pizza, BBQ, Ice Creams and all Day Bar

Novice Shooting Instruction**Gun Dog Trials****Archery Competition**

For more details contact

Email: peter.lemon@talk21.com Tel: **01672 870266**www.graftongamefair.com**EASTER****EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

Monday 25 April 2011

10.30am to 12 noon

Eggsellent family entertainment
at**Grafton CofE Primary School**

Egg hunt, egg throwing and other eggy activities!*

Plus Hook the Duck, cake raffle and lots more.

Refreshments including delicious bacon/sausage sandwiches

Competition 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 activities!

*The Friends of Grafton—Proceeds from fundraising and donations are divided
equally between Grafton CofE Primary School and Sunflowers Pre school*

**Thursday Club**

21 April & 19 May

Coronation Hall, East Grafton

From 6.30pm onwards

Burgers, Hot Dogs and Pizza will be on sale for
adults and children! The bar will also be open**Everyone is welcome!**

Wilton Windmill



May Food Fair

Saturday 14 May ~ 12 noon to 5pm

A Festival of Local Food

Wind-milled bread, barbecues and real ale

Free tastings and artisan food market

Pimms, home-made teas

Fresh seafood to aid Hugh's Fish Fight

Cookery demonstrations and Cooks' Bookshop

Live music, Punch & Judy

Farm animals and children's games

A great family day out!

For more information, contact Susie Brew on 01264 731404 or susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk

St Nicholas' Church AGM

The PCC Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 20 March after a short Church service. Sadly Rodney Harrison was unable to chair the meeting because he was ill with a lung infection, so Mary Edwards from Collingbourne stood in.

Church Wardens, Goff Beese and Martin Butt, will continue their duties. June Pearson from East Grafton was elected on to the committee. Chris Garman stood down as our Treasurer having done a wonderful job for many years. We are delighted that Peter Horne has kindly taken on the role. The rest of the committee remains in place.

23 April 10.00 -10.45am EASTER GARDEN

Children up to 6 years and their parents are invited to help make the Easter Garden and hear the Easter Story at St Nicholas' Church

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The Royal Wedding Art Gallery

Come on all you budding artists — create a crown for Catherine, design a crest for the happy couple, make a collage or paint a picture of your choice to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

An exhibition of your masterpieces will be displayed in The Coronation Hall during the week of The Wedding and at The Grafton Game Fair on Saturday 7 May for all to enjoy!

Please deliver your masterpieces for The Exhibition to The Coronation Hall on Tuesday 26 April between 3.00pm and 5.00pm. Art paper is still available for collection from June Pearson at Walnut Tree Cottage, East Grafton.

For further information email june.walnuttree@btinternet.com or call **01672 811997**.

Royal Wedding Street Parties – Friday 29 April 2pm

The Royal Wedding Day will soon be here and street parties will be taking place in East Grafton, Wilton, Wexcombe and Marten. Please note that the road will be closed in Wilton from 8am until 6pm between the Duck Pond and the Swan Inn. Access to Wilton and Bedwyn from the A338 will be via Hollow Lane.



Join in the fun! – we're running a guess the 'Newlyweds & Year' photo competition. To submit your wedding photo please either scan it and send as an attachment to news@graftonparish.com or put your photo in an envelope into the post box at the Coronation Hall (please note the name of the couple and the year in the covering email/envelope). All original photos will be returned.

There will be a Grand Prize Draw in aid of St Nicholas Church with fantastic prizes. We'll be selling tickets over the next couple of weeks, so even if you're not able to attend the party please do show your support by buying tickets.

Residents of East Grafton, Wilton and Wexcombe should receive a special Royal Wedding Party flyer with this month's Community News. For more information, contact: Tamara Reay, Ann Dudney & Steve Oakey (East Grafton), Henrietta Gillespie & Vanessa Fleckney (Wilton), Lara Ross & Gabby Walker (Wexcombe) or Mike Hyslop (Marten).

The Friends of Grafton – always up to something!

Thanks to everyone who turned out for the BIG tidy up on Saturday 6 March – we managed to fill 22 bags plus some odds and ends including half a car bumper! It's always amazing how much litter is on the road sides – even in our tidy looking corner of Wiltshire. Thanks again to all who supported us and to those who managed the activity in each village on the day - Dougie Willcock (Wilton), Jenny Hatfield (Wexcombe), Nigel Braybrook (Marten) and June Pearson (East Grafton).

We hope to see lots of you at the Easter Eggstravaganza on Easter Monday – always great fun!

If you're shopping at Tesco or Sainsburys please collect the vouchers and drop them in at school – it all helps! Plus a note for your diary – the next Bag2School collection is on Thursday 26 May – don't throw away those clothes, shoes, bags etc in the meantime!

Advertisement

Fun & Varied Circuit Training

Henrietta MacKinnon



**Mondays 0930 Wednesdays 1100
Fridays 1300 at the Coronation Hall**

A FUN mixture of cardiovascular and resistance exercises in varied circuit formats to help to invigorate, improve fitness and energy levels, tone, enhance self esteem and mood.

Cost @ £5 per person per session - minimum of 8 people. Sessions booked as a 6 week course. Suitable for any age 18 years and over with clean bill of health.

Contact : Henrietta MacKinnon on 07977 511959 or henriettamackinnon@yahoo.co.uk

News in Brief

Wilton Windmill Season

The season starts on 23 April. Guided tours of the mill and refreshments on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2pm to 5pm until the end of September.

Mugs Needed!

If you have an excess of mugs (not chipped or cracked), they would be warmly welcomed in the Coronation Hall. Please leave them outside the kitchen door at the hall or drop them off in the kitchen when the hall is open.

Annual Plant Sale News

The St Nicholas Annual Plant Sale is taking place on Saturday 7 May at the Wilton Game Fair, where there will also be a cake stall and cream teas will be served. If you would like to help and/or bake a cake, please contact Sally Butt on **01672 810743**. You can drop cakes off in advance to Kintore, The Green East Grafton or take them directly to the Game Fair on the Saturday morning.

Grafton Game Fair needs any broken electric light bulbs

Please put them into the box to the left of the Coronation Hall porch.

The Primrose Fair

The Fair was a huge success and a very enjoyable social event, raising about £1000 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. As usual we were very fortunate in having the best home baked cakes in the country as well as super raffle prizes and generous gifts to sell. Thank you to everyone involved and those who supported the event.

Exciting Times in Parish Councils!

With the changes coming in under the Localism Bill, it's an exciting and dynamic time to get involved at the local level of government. Grafton Parish Council has a vacancy for a parish councillor—if you are interested, please submit your application with a brief CV to **mail@graftonparish.com** or by post to the Parish Clerk, 6 Upper Brooklands, Wilton, Marlborough, SN8 3ST

Call My Wine Bluff

The hall was packed on 1 April to try and outwit the local 'wine experts'. Thanks go to Martin Butt, Nu-Nu Hoggarth and Tim Brew for demonstrating their expertise and to Caviste of Hungerford, as well as the team who organised and set up the hall. £700 was raised to go towards the Parish Royal Wedding Celebrations.

Playing Outside on Summer Evenings

With the lighter (and hopefully warmer) evenings, don't forget that Grafton Primary School has an open grounds policy and encourages the use of the playground and field by children and young people across our community. Of course more classes take place outside in the summer months so please do not use the small fenced gardens as these contain class materials which are not for public use but you are welcome to play in the lovely open spaces – we are very happy to see the grounds used responsibly, with care and respect.

Bin Collections

Wiltshire Council has confirmed that Thursday bin and recycling collections in our area will remain unchanged throughout the April and May Bank and Public Holiday weekends.

Parish Council AGM

The Grafton Parish Council AGM took place on 24 March where local organisations were represented to provide updates to the parish. Chris Garman stood down as Chairman and councillor of Grafton Parish. Thanks go to Chris for his huge contribution to the parish council over the years. Minutes of the meeting can be found on notice boards and on **www.graftonparish.com**.

Appointment of New Team Rector

A draft profile document for the appointment will be available for perusal in St Nicholas' Church, East Grafton on the following dates:

5 to 10 April—First Draft

19 to 26 April—Final Draft

Details on how to provide feedback will be available at the viewings.

Defibrillator Scheme

22 March saw another packed training session at the School for parishioners to learn what to do in an emergency and how to use the public access defibrillators. Many thanks to Sue Vallis and Carolyn Whitrow for so ably helping Richard Schofield with the training and to Ann Dudney for making sure it ran smoothly. Further training sessions will be held later in the year. If you would like to register interest or buy an emergency air horn, please email **susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk**.

News from Bedwyn Surgery & Our Community Beat Officer

We're sorry but we didn't have enough room for April's articles from Tim Ballard at Bedwyn Surgery and Cath Hollands at Wiltshire Police. You can find the full text on **www.graftonparish.com**. They should be back in May!

Dates for your diary



All events take place in the Coronation Hall unless otherwise specified. **www.graftonparish.com**

APRIL

17	09.30	Palm Sunday Service	<i>St Nicholas</i>
20	19.30	Horticultural Society	
21	18.30	Thursday Club	
23	10.00	Easter Garden	<i>St Nicholas</i>
23	14.00	Open Season Starts	<i>Wilton Windmill</i>
24	11.00	Easter Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
25	10.30	Easter Eggstravaganza	<i>Grafton School</i>
26	09.15	Pilates	
26	10.00	Zumba Dance	
26	15.00	Royal Wedding art drop-off	
27	11.00	Circuit Training	
28	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
29	14.00	Royal Wedding Street Parties	<i>See page 2</i>
29	19.30	Royal Wedding Parish Dinner	

MAY

03	09.15	Pilates	
03	10.00	Zumba Dance	
03	19.30	Yoga	
04	11.00	Circuit Training	
04	14.00	Wednesday Club	
05	07.00	AV Referendum	
05	10.00	Grafton Goslings	<i>Grafton School</i>
06	13.00	Circuit Training	
07		Grafton Game Fair	<i>Wilton Water</i>
09	09.30	Circuit Training	
10	09.15	Pilates	
10	10.00	Zumba Dance	
10	19.30	Yoga	
11	11.00	Circuit Training	
12	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
12	19.15	Grafton Parish Council	
13	13.00	Circuit Training	
14	12.00	May Food Fair	<i>Wilton Windmill</i>
15	11.00	Parish Communion	
16	09.30	Circuit Training	
17	09.15	Pilates	
17	10.00	Zumba Dance	
17	19.30	Yoga	
18	11.00	Circuit Training	
19	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
19	18.30	Thursday Club	
20	13.00	Circuit Training	
21	14.00	Grafton Goslings Designer Nearly New Sale	
22	10.00	Rogation	<i>Manor Farm, Wilton</i>

AV Referendum

The Coronation Hall is the polling station for the AV Referendum on Thursday 5 May from 7am to 10pm

Coronation Hall bookings 01672 810406

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. Deadline for the next issue is Friday 6 May. Editorial rights reserved.

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMINGS: Devizes Route H

16 & 30 March and 13 & 27 April.
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.

Wednesday 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
Circuit Training	01672 810266 Hen Mackinnon
Pilates	07788 970976 Beth Knight
Zumba	07747 617199 Lau Vergara
Grafton CofE School	01672 810478 Jill Parr
Sunflowers preschool	07748 349856 Lyndsey Turner
Grafton Goslings	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Friends of Grafton	01672 870253 Sue England
Thursday Club	01672 810406 Tom Dobson

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
Disco and Party	Steve	01672 811109 07749 553681
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
Furniture	Holgate & Pack	01672 870887
House Sitting	Maxine Wallis	07879 993150
Pest Control	Julie Wilson	01672 811479
B&B West Grafton	Angie Orssich	01672 810339
Baby sitting/odd jobs	Tom Nield	01672 870196
Domestic & Garden Help	Maria Vonsova	01672 810713

Speed Watch Co-ordinator

The Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to liaise with authorities to obtain equipment, record usage and organise the team of volunteers who are very happy to continue the monitoring work. No more than 4 hours a month will be needed to complete these tasks.

Please email news@graftonparish.com if you are interested and would like to find out more.



Grafton Goslings'
Designer Nearly New Sale
Saturday 21 May
2pm - 4pm
Coronation Hall, East Grafton

Having a Spring Clear Out?
Got things you'll never get around to putting on eBay?
Sell them at the our Designer Nearly New Sale on Saturday 21 May.

Along the lines of NCT Nearly New Sales, we'll be selling good quality branded children's, women's and men's clothing & accessories as well as toys & equipment.

Sellers price and label their own goods and Grafton Goslings sell them on your behalf. Sellers receive 70% of the sale proceeds with 30% going towards new toys and resources for Grafton Goslings Baby & Toddler Group.

More information and sellers packs will be available shortly. To register your interest, please email graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk.

BEDWYN & GRAFTON LINK SCHEME coffee mornings in the British Legion, Great Bedwyn first Tuesday in each month 11am to 12 noon

Advertisement

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A time to remember

You can arrange for a lily in memory of someone to be placed in the Church during Easter. Contact Sally Butt on **01672 810743**. The Lilies will be arranged in Church for everyone to see over the Easter period.

Parish Council of Grafton Ward — Vacancy for a Councillor

There is a vacancy on the above Council caused by retirement of a councillor. A bye-election to fill the vacancy will be held if within 14 days (not counting a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Bank Holiday) from the date below ten electors for the ward/parish give notice in writing claiming such election to the Returning Officer. The address to the Returning Officer is: 6 Upper Brooklands, Wilton, Marlborough, Wiltshire. SN8 3ST

If no such notice is given, the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-option.
Date 5 April 2011 - M Evans

Wilton Cricket Club

The sun is shining, so it must be time for cricket! If you'd like to join or watch your local cricket team, these are some of the dates already in the calendar:

8 May	Ramsbury	29 May	Chute
15 May	Aldbourn	5 June	Bishops Cannings
22 May	Kennet Valley		

Games are normally held at Great Bedwyn. Practice is on Friday evenings behind Batts Farm in Wilton from about 6.30pm onwards.

BEDWYNS' LINK SCHEME AGM

Incorporating the GRAFTONS' LINK SCHEME, covering
The Bedwys, St Katharines, Wilton, E&W Grafton, Wexcombe & Marten
Thursday 5 May at 7.30pm
The Cricket Pavilion, Great Bedwyn
Everyone is welcome!