

Are you involved?

It feels as if Spring is not far away and looking at the calendar of events being planned in Grafton Parish over the next few months there seems to be every opportunity to get out and enjoy our wonderful community. The Royal Wedding on the 29 April will be marked in a number of ways and there are many more events happening too – See page 2 for more information.

For such a small community it really is quite amazing how many of us are involved in some local event or organisation. A good number of people have recently stepped forward to join the new Coronation Hall Committee and nearly 80 others have committed to help in some way – perhaps joining a weekend working party to tidy the grounds or maintain the building. If you've not volunteered yet there are plenty of ways in which to help. Just email hall@graftonparish.com or call **01672 810406**.

You may have heard the sad news that Grafton School is currently in a Consultation Period on possible closure from August 2011. The Governing Body and the Parish Council are still exploring every route to enable some form of education establishment to remain in Grafton. There is more information about the School and the Consultation Period in the enclosed School Special. We will keep you informed of developments.

**1 April is "Call my Wine Bluff" evening**

The evening promises to be great fun so please do put the date in your diary and tell your friends. The object of the event is fund raising to partially offset some of the costs of the Parish's celebrations of the Royal Event.

To enjoy the evening - You don't have to know anything about wine!
- You don't even have to particularly like wine!

A group of three local 'experts' will either tell the truth or speak in hyperboles about a particular wine.

- In teams of preferably not more than 6, all you have to do is sample your wine and then decide which local celebrity is telling the truth.
- You do not have to make up a team - we will be delighted to find an excellent team for you!
- There will be six to eight wines to taste, water & biscuits on the tables and a small prize for the winning team.

An ideal date! 1 April starting at 8pm. Tickets £15.00 each.

Tickets are available from:

1. Jean Smith T: **01672 811182** E: jeanrosemarysmith@hotmail.com
2. Keith Haddrell T: **01672 811226** E: keith@thehaddrells.co.uk
3. An order in the Coronation Hall Post box for collection on the 1 April.

We need your name, contact details and number of tickets required.
Cheques payable to "The Coronation Hall" please.

THE PRIMROSE FAIR 2011

In Aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance



"Without You We Would Be Grounded"

Tuesday 29th March
at

The Coronation Hall, East Grafton
From 10:00 -12:30pm

Shop for unique gifts and stylish home and garden wares

Super prize raffle

Cakes and unwanted present drawer gifts most welcome for the 'home stall'

Lots of coffee, cake and hot cross buns

Please come along and bring a friend or two

Phone **June Pearson** on **01672 811997** or
Birdie Cannon on **01672 870377** for more details.

All offers of cakes, unwanted gifts, preserves and offers of help will be much appreciated. Last year we were so successful for "Help the Heroes" that we are looking to make this an annual charity event.

We are looking forward to your support.

**CORONATION HALL ALL SET FOR 2011**

On 24 January an excellent number of Grafton Parish residents came to the Hall to offer their support for the new Coronation Hall Committee. Whilst the Parish Council acts as 'Trustee Incorporate' under the Charity Commission, the hall and land are for the benefit of the Grafton Parish Community and thus belong to the Community.

Now that the new hall has been completed, under the guidance of the Parish Council, it has been agreed that the Hall should be run by representatives of the community at large and a new Committee has been born. Legally one member of the Parish Council is required to sit on this "Hall Function Committee" to comply with the requirements of the Charity Commission, otherwise the complement is entirely at the discretion of the residents of the Parish.

A follow up meeting has taken place when a new Coronation Hall Function Committee was formed to serve for one year during which it has the discretion to include other willing residents. We are pleased to welcome Nu Nu Hoggarth and June Pearson as joint Chairmen and they are encouraged by so many people offering to help with events and tasks. Keith Haddrell will be Booking Supervisor and Elinor Goodman is sharing the Publicity role with Chris Hoggarth. Philip Cook will be overseeing the structure of the building with Tom Dobson co-ordinating any work to be done in the grounds. Maria Vonsova will keep her eye on the kitchen whilst Tom Dobson tallies the bar stocks. Treasurer duties remain with Ann Dudney. Bill Clemence, Lara Ross and Gail Cox complete the Committee.

A unanimous vote of sincere thanks is given to Gale Harman for her sterling work as caretaker and unending support of the Hall and all the activities within it for the past 20+ years. You have been a very enthusiastic force and all your efforts are very much appreciated. We welcome Barbara Beaumont and Wendy Hogg as caretakers and look forward to a long and happy relationship. Barbara will be "doing her bit" on Mondays from 5pm unless there is a booking at that time. Contact details will be displayed on the notice board in the hall.



Village Street Parties 29 April 2-4pm

Currently parties are planned in:

East Grafton (in the school grounds)

Wilton (between the Pond and the Swan Inn)

Wexcombe (the field between 'Barn Hill' and No. 8)

Marten (the Bungalow)

Starting at 2pm and ending around 4pm everyone is invited and are asked to contribute to a 'bring & share' tea.

There will be Wedding themed fancy dress competitions for children, a raffle in aid of St Nicholas Church and fun for all.

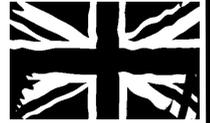
From 4pm, there will be more fun at the Swan Inn, Wilton when the 'fair ground rides' will be back and the raffle will be drawn.

More details will be in the March Community News. In the meantime if you would like to help or to donate a raffle prize please contact

Jamie Pearson on **07793 949608**

A Right Royal Party

A **Dinner** will be held in the Coronation Hall on the evening of **29 April**



Commencing 7.30 for 8pm and closing at 11pm

Tickets £18 per head for residents (non-residents £23)

Dress: Jackets and Party Frocks!

Tickets include a drink before Dinner and an excellent three course meal provided by The Swan.

Drinks during and after Dinner can be purchased from the bar.

It is hoped that many people from the Parish will join together **to celebrate this historic occasion.**

We will endeavour to collect and return elderly residents to their homes to ensure that they are able to attend what is undoubtedly going to be a **memorable event in the life of the Parish**

Please book your tickets NOW as numbers are limited. PRIORITY will naturally be given to those who reside within the Parish.

Order your tickets from Jean Smith Tel **01672 811182**

email **jeanrosemarysmith@hotmail.com**

or by an order and payment placed in the Coronation Hall letter Box

We will need your name, contact details and number of tickets required at each price please. (cheques payable to "the Coronation Hall" please)

A Royal Celebration Art Exhibition to reflect "The Royal Wedding"

Create a crown for Catherine, a crest for the happy couple or a picture of your choice.

A gallery of your creations will be exhibited in The Coronation Hall before and over the weekend of 29 April and afterwards at The Grafton Game Fair on Saturday the 7 May

Think about what you would like to create and look out for more details in next month's Community News.

Defibrillators Are Go!

On Saturday 5 February, more than 70 residents, helpers and trainers gathered at the Coronation Hall to learn about the defibrillator scheme. Introduced by Peter Lemon, Claire Perry, our MP, officially opened the launch and congratulated the parish on achieving all 5 defibrillator installations. Richard Schofield, on behalf of the Community Heartbeat Trust, led the training, ably assisted by Phil Baldwin, Liz Smith, Carolyn Whitrow, Hilly Arnold-Baker and Lou Keyes. Richard explained the physical impact of a cardiac arrest, how to assess what has happened and then what to do. Everyone had a chance to have a go at performing CPR and applying a defibrillator. Michael Walsh thanked everyone involved in the scheme for achieving such a magnificent result in such a short time.

Raising the alarm locally to get help on the ground is key and so airhorns were on sale to provide people with an alarm system to alert neighbours that they are in trouble. The horns are the same as those used on boats to raise the alarm and cost just £10 each, with any profit going to the scheme. Contact **mail@graftonparish.com** if you would like to purchase one.

Because there were people who were unable to go on Saturday, we will be holding another training session and are currently waiting to get a date. Watch this space!

The defibrillators can be found:-

East Grafton - **Coronation Hall** – on the right side of the building by the kitchen door

Wilton - **Telephone Box** – opposite The Swan

Marten - **Manor Farm**— down the drive, past the manor on the left 2nd store building.

West Grafton - **Mayfield's Stable Block** – right of the house

Wexcombe - **Manor Farm Lower Farmyard** – on the first brick building on the left



Become a Wilton Windmill Miller and a Guide

Saturday 19 March, 10.30am at The Swan, Wilton



The Wilton Windmill Society is looking for more guides, millers and shop volunteers and we hope that you can join us on **Saturday 19 March** to find out about these exciting opportunities. Lapsed volunteers are also very welcome to join us for a refresher!

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 and Bank Holiday Mondays 2pm—5pm.

If you are interested, please contact Susie Brew on **01264 731404** or at **susie.brew@hotmail.com** by Friday 5 March to reserve a place. See **www.wiltonwindmill.co.uk** for more details.

News in Brief

Free Wine tasting

The wines for "Call my Wine Bluff" are provided by Caviste of Hungerford who like the hall so much as a venue that they are providing a FREE wine tasting on the evening of the 14 April – a very attractive offer we feel! Another date for your diary!

Wilton Heritage Society, formed to secure the future of our red telephone kiosk now has nineteen members who generously donated £155. These monies are held by Grafton Parish Council and will be used to maintain the kiosk. The Society is seeking new donations so that this initial fund reaches £300.

Several adopted kiosks across the country have already been used as convenient homes for 'Heart Start' defibrillators. And now Wilton's kiosk is also equipped with one of the parish defibrillators. We are glad to have secured the future of our kiosk and its new role - housing this vital community item - makes the effort extremely worthwhile.

Thursday Club

As promised the Thursday Club will open again at 7.30pm on 10 March with the warmer weather and the promise of the opportunity to meet your neighbours in a relaxed atmosphere for a quiet drink and snack in the Hall. See the calendar for Thursdays when the club will meet.

Plant Sale planning

Please think of the Annual Church Plant sale when you are preparing your garden for the new season. Any and all extra plants, seedlings and cuttings will be very welcome. More details in the March Community News.

Coronation Hall work

To ease the current storage problem a shed will shortly be erected. The Hall will not be available 19 & 20 March when the acoustic panels will be fitted. If you can help during this time please leave a message for Phil Cook on **01672 810406**

St Nicholas Church enjoys all your support.



John Wraw, the Archdeacon, visited our church last Sunday and was clearly delighted to have the opportunity to preach to such a large congregation made up of people of all ages. There were between twenty and thirty children in church and this prompted the Archdeacon to guess that the average age of the congregation at St. Nicholas' was probably the **youngest in Wiltshire!** This bodes well for the future of the church; so thank you all very much for coming and helping to convey to the Church Authorities that we are a vibrant community who value the church as a component part of its sense of identity.

Rodney Harrison and Nicholas Leigh-Hunt both retire this summer and there have been lots of meetings recently. Had a prospective new vicar been in church on Sunday he (or she!) would have felt encouraged to come to this part of the world.

And do keep coming to church. It makes such a difference to the act of worship when there are plenty of people to sing and join in with the responses - and it is such an ideal place for members of the community to meet on a regular basis and feel part of a team.

Thank you Gabby Walker for accompanying all those hearty voices and Sally Butt for a very welcome hot cuppa after the service.

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.

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.

To contact us:- news@graftonparish.com or a note into the letterbox by the hall. Deadline for the next issue is Friday 4 March. Editorial rights reserved.

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.

Dates for your diary



All events take place in the Coronation Hall unless otherwise specified.

FEBRUARY

14	09.30	Circuit Training	
14	19.00	Bingo	<i>Grafton School</i>
15	19.30	Yoga	
16	11.00	Circuit Training	
17	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
17	19.00	School closure consultation meeting	<i>Grafton School</i>
18	13.00	Circuit Training	
20	11.00	Parish Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
27	11.00	Family Service and Baptism	<i>St Nicholas</i>
28	19.00	Bingo	<i>Grafton School</i>

MARCH

01	11.00	Link Scheme Coffee Morning	<i>See page 4</i>
01	19.30	Yoga	
02	11.00	Circuit Training	
02	14.00	Wednesday Club	
03	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
03	19.15	Parish Council meeting open to the public	
04	13.00	Circuit Training	
06	11.00	Family Service & Baptism	<i>St Nicholas</i>
06	15.00	Pancake Races	<i>The Green</i>
07	09.30	Circuit Training	
07	17.00	School Closure Consultation Closes	
08	19.30	Yoga	
09	11.00	Circuit Training	
10	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
10	19.30	Thursday Club	
11	13.00	Circuit Training	
14	09.30	Circuit Training	
14	19.00	Bingo	<i>Grafton School</i>
15	19.30	Yoga	
16	11.00	Circuit Training	
16	19.30	Horticultural Society AGM	
17	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
18	13.00	Circuit Training	
19	10.30	Windmill volunteer session	<i>The Swan</i>
20	11.00	Parish Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
22	19.30	Yoga	
23	11.00	Circuit Training	
24	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
24	19.15	Parish Council AGM all welcome	
26	10.30	Big Tidy Up	<i>The Parish grounds</i>
28	19.00	Bingo	<i>Grafton School</i>
29	11.00	Primrose Fair and Coffee morning	
29	19.30	Yoga	
30	11.00	Circuit Training	
31	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
31	19.30	Thursday Club	

Dates for your diary

1 April	"Call my Wine Bluff"
14 April	Wine Tasting
25 April	Easter Eggstravaganza
29 April	Royal Wedding day
5 May	Referendum
7,8 May	Game Fair at Wilton Water

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMINGS: *Devizes Route H*

16 and 30 February, 13 and 27 March.
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
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

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17 Bourne Vale
Hungerford

Congratulations
Grafton on your
defibrillator scheme
- I'm pleased to
have been involved!

News from Bedwyn Surgery - Our Doctor Writes

To say that there is a lot of interest in the impending changes that face the NHS is a little of an underestimate. These are the biggest changes to the NHS since its inception over 60 years ago. So what is it likely to mean?

You will have heard that the changes are putting GPs at the centre of the decision making process. This will entail controlling a budget of £80bn to deliver care. On a positive note GPs are well placed to understand the needs of the communities that they serve. To make a success of the proposed changes GPs will need certain skills and understanding and relationships will need to be forged with three groups.

- Hospital Clinicians who provide care for us when we are in hospital.
- Local Authorities who will in future also be the home of public health departments.
- Local patient groups.

A big problem with the changes is the unpredictability that comes with change and the introduction of new corporate structures designed to make the new system work. Personally I think that this is risky but surmountable. An even bigger problem is the government's assertion that the free market must be allowed to run free within healthcare. The difficulty is that healthcare which is state funded can never be a true free market. In addition if GPs are to make sure that our healthcare system is sustainable in the long term we need to think holistically about decisions and contracts for services. We need to think about the wider impact that these decisions have on our society including how far and how often people need to travel to access care and importantly how integrated the training of our future doctors and nurses is.

From the big national picture to the local..... If these changes are going to work anywhere they will work here. The quality of General Practice in our areas is as high as anywhere else in the country. Importantly we have the expertise and understanding in place. It is likely that our area of the East Kennet surgeries will join a larger group of more easterly Wiltshire practices but hopefully not lose the cohesive approach that we have recently developed. The uniting factor will be that Great Western Hospital in Swindon will be the centre of the local health community.

We live in interesting times! Best wishes. Dr Tim Ballard

GRAFTON AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our programme for 2011 starts on 16 March with the AGM followed by a talk on Umbellifers by Lynn Miles. Lynn lives in Boscombe Village near Salisbury and her garden is in the yellow book of the National Garden Scheme.

If you would like to join, do come along. The meeting is in the Coronation Hall, and starts at 7.30pm. We will be discussing the rest of this year's programme and it will be a good way to get to know other members over a glass of wine. Marijke Craig **01672 810364**

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BEDWYN & GRAFTON PARISHES' LINK SCHEME COFFEE MORNING

will be held in THE BRITISH LEGION Great Bedwyn

on Tuesday 1 March from 11am onwards for Coffee, refreshments and a chat
This facility is provided and used by many residents in our Parish