

### New Beginnings

Sadly our school's long history has finally come to a close. The evening event to mark 165 Years of Grafton School was enjoyed by many and followed the Special Sharing Assembly and the Leavers' Church Service earlier in the day.

The theme of the Church service was New Beginnings and the children spoke about what they were looking forward to at their new schools. It is hoped that there will be New Beginnings for the school buildings and land too. The Sunflowers Committee is continuing discussions with the Diocese on extending Sunflowers and there are many ideas for how the school field might be put to good use when the proposed Community Asset Transfer to the Parish Council is complete. Please keep an eye on future editions of the Community News for more information.

Finally, if you have any community ideas or issues that you would like to have aired – do let us know at [news@graftonparish.com](mailto:news@graftonparish.com) We can't promise to cover everything, but we will certainly try.

#### 165 Years at Grafton – 15 July 2011

Around 150 current and former pupils, parents, staff, governors and volunteers enjoyed the event to mark the closure of Grafton School after 165 Years. The playing field looked amazing and luckily the forecast bad weather held off until the end of the evening. There was an opportunity to see photographs and memorabilia going back many years and a huge, fantastic cake had been made in the shape of the school. A BBQ supper was provided by The Swan Inn which everyone enjoyed whilst listening to a string quartet.

The evening was rounded off by the burying of a time capsule in the school garden – the capsule had been filled earlier that day by the pupils and staff, with the last item being the school bell. The cake was cut by Dave French, who it was claimed was the oldest former pupil of the school attending the event. Current pupils put in special requests for certain parts of the school building and playground when receiving their slice of cake! Finally Jill Parr, Head Teacher and General Michael Walsh made short speeches to round off the evening.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the event – especially the 30 or so helpers who pitched in as the event closed to pack everything up before the heavens really opened. The marquees were finally down and everything into the school buildings by 10.30pm – a fantastic community effort.

Earlier that day the children had marked their last day at Grafton School with a special sharing assembly and then at 2pm the traditional leaver's service at St Nicholas. Whilst sadly this year, everyone was leaving - Alex Cox (in Rodney Harrison's absence) led a lovely service with a theme of 'New Beginnings', Luke Turner read a passage from Genesis and the children spoke about what they were looking forward to at their new schools.

The children have enjoyed many special activities and trips in their last term at Grafton. They have been to London to see the Lion King and a trip on the London Eye, to Legoland, to the Beach and to Marwell Zoo. They also enjoyed walking to Wilton Windmill followed by an art afternoon at school with help from Hilary Arnold-Baker. They are spending the last week of the Summer Term at their new schools in readiness for September. Best wishes and good luck to everyone.

### Grafton Community Camp

Our second Community Camp (and the final Friends of Grafton event) built on the success of last year and was blessed with fantastic weather. Eight families joined us for a Friday evening and Saturday morning packed with things to do.



Dean from Wiltshire Wildlife Trust joined us on Friday evening and led the children through fire lighting (no matches!) to get the camp fire going, shelter building and a scavenger hunt. On Saturday morning a visit from Darren and Dawn with one of their Harris Hawks followed by camp fire cooking was thoroughly enjoyed by all – the orange cakes were a hit, but bacon and eggs in a paper bag not quite as successful! It was great fun in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere – roll on next year!

### Grafton Parish Council

Mike Hyslop, representing Marten, is welcomed as our new Parish Councillor and will take on the task of assisting the implementation of the Localism Bill requirements which are extremely pertinent for our Parish. All meetings are open to the public and we would like to remind residents that our meetings always allow time for visitors to speak and raise subjects which are important to them. Please use this opportunity to raise issues that are important or send your comments to [clerk@graftonparish.com](mailto:clerk@graftonparish.com) for consideration at meetings.

#### Neighbourhood watch

With the recent incident in East Grafton, which was averted through the vigilance of residents (see the Community Police article), the Parish Council has proposed to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Whilst we are still consulting with the scheme organisers to potentially incorporate other benefits of the scheme, in the first instance a communication system is being put in place to ensure that any relevant notifications from the Police Neighbourhood Policing Teams can be cascaded throughout the parish.

We recognise that this process will exclude anyone who isn't on email, but it is better that we do this as a simple non labour-intensive solution rather than do nothing. If you don't have access to email, then a neighbour who is on-line may be able to let you know if any notices come through.

To subscribe to the mailing list, please email [nhw@graftonparish.com](mailto:nhw@graftonparish.com) with "Subscribe" in the heading of the email. The subscription list will be held on a secure Microsoft server and we will not share your details with other organisations.

Further updates on the progress of Neighbourhood Watch in Grafton Parish will be published in the Community News and on the website, [www.graftonparish.com](http://www.graftonparish.com).

## Parochial Church Council

On Sunday 24 July, The Rev. Rodney Harrison plans to conduct his last service before retiring. The service will take place at 11am at St. Mary's Church in Great Bedwyn. Rodney and his wife Jenny have given nearly nine years sterling service throughout Grafton Parish and they will both be missed. As some of you will know, Rodney has been unwell recently for which he is undergoing treatment and being well looked after. Rodney says that it has been a privilege and a joy to serve the Grafton Communities. On behalf of the Parish, thank you and good luck to both Rodney & Jenny for the future.

### News in brief

#### ***Emergency air horns and defibrillator update***

Air horns are still available for purchase at £10 each by contacting [defib@graftonparish.com](mailto:defib@graftonparish.com) or the mailbox at the Coronation Hall. Air horns can be used to call for 'on the ground' assistance from neighbours if you have an emergency.

A training session for defibrillators is planned for October (date to be confirmed). We would welcome any suggestions for additional training that could be included. If you have an idea, then please email [defib@graftonparish.com](mailto:defib@graftonparish.com). There will be a small charge for the next training session.

#### ***Thank you!***

Robin Arkell would like to thank everyone in Wexcombe who kindly donated to the collection which raised £100 for Barnado's charity.

#### ***Emergency Carers' Card Scheme***

This scheme that is run by Wiltshire Council for those who have someone dependent upon them on them for care. In the event of the carer being involved in an accident this card can be used to contact the council which will ensure that the cared for person is looked after. The scheme is free. For more information, see [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) or call **0800 066 5068**.

#### ***Free Home Insulation***

The Wiltshire Warm and Well scheme is open to private tenants and home owners who meet criteria relating to age, income or circumstances. [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) or call **0300 456 0100** to find out who qualifies. Lofts and cavity walls can be insulated for free.

#### ***Pewsey Area Board News***

The last meeting in the Coronation Hall included an update from John Brady, Cabinet Representative for Finance regarding the challenges facing the council and a presentation on Highways Maintenance by (the rather aptly named) Bill Parks, Head of Highways & Street Scene. Area Board grants are available for community projects and further details can be found at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk).

#### ***Recycling News***

Free Garden Waste Recycling – Anyone not currently using this service has to register by 30 September to obtain a green bin. Contact [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenbin](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenbin) or **0300 456 0102** or complete forms currently being delivered by the postman. Collections will commence in March 2012.

Cardboard & Plastic Recycling – Blue-lidded bins will be delivered in November to everyone automatically and the service will commence 2 weeks after this.

If you have issues with bin storage – you can contact the Council to discuss your situation on the number above.

#### ***Wiltshire's Future***

The Wiltshire Core Strategy document is out for review until 8 August. The document sets out the planning and development strategy for the next 15 years for Wiltshire. For more information, see [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk).

### Keeping on top of speeding in Grafton Parish

Recent editions of the Community News have included appeals for a Co-ordinator to manage a speed watch team in the parish. We're pleased to report that, whilst no one came forward, the responsibility has now been taken on by a member of the Parish Council so we can look forward to some speed monitoring activity in the parish. It has been pointed out that this activity may be better placed at locations other than the A338 on the Green, for example it would be good to focus on areas where children are known to play including the Severalls or at danger spots such as blind corners in villages.

This feedback will be passed on and we hope that alternative locations will be explored. However we do have to report that there may be limited opportunities because, as you might expect, there are many regulations covering the siting of this equipment.

We'll keep you informed.

#### **Wexcombe 10 km Run – Sunday 18 September** In aid of The Alzheimer's Society and St Nicholas Church

The run is single lap and traffic free at Wexcombe Manor Farm. The event includes a 10km run, a 5 km walk, a children's 1.2km Fun Run for 8+ year olds as well as the obstacle course races for younger children and a tractor ride. There will be a barbecue, refreshments and cakes. Please support us either by burning off some calories whilst running or walking or you can just come and eat cake and cheer on the runners. Any help with marshalling will be appreciated so please do let us know. In the meantime, here are a few tips to help you plan your training schedule:

For further training tips you can contact [henriettamackinnon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:henriettamackinnon@yahoo.co.uk) or **07977511959**

#### **Report from PC Cath Holland** (full text on [www.graftonparish.com](http://www.graftonparish.com))

A white male, pale complexion, sharp facial feature, dark hair, approx 40 years old has been calling at houses under suspicious circumstances. It is this event which has alerted our force that fast communications with residents is vital and to this end we are updating our computer records to ensure that we have the most up to date contact details for Parish Councils and Neighbourhood watch schemes.

The latest 'craze' among the youngsters in our area seems to be inhaling Nitrous Oxide, also known as laughing gas or happy gas. It is not classed as a drug and there is no offence to possess or use it. However anyone selling it has to have a special licence as it is classed as a medicine.

# ARTIST DAYS

at

## Wilton Windmill

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August

Come and enjoy a day in the fresh air at Wilton Windmill (just off the A338 between Hungerford & Burbage, SN8 3SW)

Glorious views, fascinating industrial architecture, vintage machinery to draw and paint.

Open to artists of all levels – please bring your own materials.

Professional artist/tutor on site to offer help.

**ENTRY** - £5 per artist includes:

Morning: Self directed – bring a picnic

Afternoon 2-5 pm: Free entry to mill interior

Free tea or coffee

Advice from artist/tutor

Free entry for 1 piece of windmill-related artwork to the Art Exhibition at the Windmill Heritage Open Day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

To book a place, please contact:

Hilary Arnold-Baker ~ 01672 870360 ~ [hilaryarnoldbaker@talktalk.net](mailto:hilaryarnoldbaker@talktalk.net)

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN OUR AREA

#### Wilton Cricket Club – Juniors

Wilton Cricket Club has set up a 4 week programme for juniors

Come and join us. No need to book

**Saturday 23 July to Saturday 13 August**

come along to one or two or all sessions starting at **10.30am**

with each session lasting approx 1 ½ hours

based at the **practice nets in Wilton**

(behind old Batts Farm site, opposite The Swan)

Planned and run by an experienced coach

with members of the Wilton cricket team assisting

Open to Grafton parish children aged approx 7 to 11 years

Please email [scwinstanley@waitrose.com](mailto:scwinstanley@waitrose.com) for further information

#### Summer Activities for 13 to 19 year olds

Marlborough Development Centre has launched its activities and events for the summer holidays for teenagers, taking place between 25 July and 19 August. For more information, call Jan Bowra on **01672 512762** or **07747 455746**.

#### Summer Reading Challenge

The Library Service is running the 2011 Summer Reading Challenge from 16 July to 3 September and this year's theme is Circus Stars. The scheme is available to children between the ages of 4 and 11. There are 6 books to read and incentives for progress include a yoyo, stickers, a medal and completion certificate. For more information, see [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) or call **0300 456 0100**.

#### Coffee Morning to support Christian Aid in Africa

**Thursday 18 August**

The PCC of St. Nicholas is organising a coffee morning to help fund Christian Aid's work in the drought ridden Horn of Africa at The Coronation Hall on Thursday 18 August from 10am until 12pm.

If anyone is away and would like to make a donation, give a raffle prize or supply a cake on the day we will happily collect - please contact June [Pearson.june.walnuttree@btinternet.com](mailto:Pearson.june.walnuttree@btinternet.com)

### Dates for your diary

All events take place in the Coronation Hall unless otherwise specified. Summer is a quiet time in the hall.

#### JULY

18 09.30 Circuit Training

19 09.15 Pilates

19 10.00 Zumba

20 11.00 Circuit training

21 10.00 Grafton Goslings

#### AUGUST

01 14.00 Alzheimer's Assoc Tea

01 19.00 Bingo

02 09.15 Pilates

03 14.00 Wednesday Club

07 11.00 Family Service

*St Nicholas*

09 09.15 Pilates

16 09.15 Pilates

18 10.00 PCC Christian Aid coffee morning

21 11.00 Holy Communion

*St Nicholas*

23 09.15 Pilates

28 11.00 Family Service

*St Nicholas*

30 09.15 Pilates

31 19.15 Parish Council meeting

#### Coronation Hall Function Committee

Please ensure that you book the loan of equipment from the hall to avoid problems for other hirers.

The hall key codes will be changing on the first of each month in future in line with insurance requirements.

The committee is very impressed with the continued care and attention that hirers use and the efforts taken to ensure that the hall is left in a very good state at the end of each letting. It is important that hirers of the hall take the trouble to clear up the waste bins when they leave as smelly contents can be very uninviting for the subsequent hirers.

Summer months are always quiet in the hall (as seen in the calendar above) and so we are taking this opportunity to touch up damaged areas and generally complete an MOT on the building and area around.

If you are able to help then please let us know.

Coronation Hall bookings **01672 810406** or [hall@griftonparish.com](mailto:hall@griftonparish.com)

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

#### World's Biggest Coffee Morning

**Friday 20 September**

Every cup will help improve the lives of people living with cancer.

Sunflowers at Grafton are hosting a coffee morning to support Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday 30 September.

Come and join us from 10.30am to 12pm for a cup of coffee or tea (and no doubt some wonderful home made cakes) and help people living with cancer. Bring the children – they are very welcome.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sunflowers at Grafton.

To contact us:- [news@griftonparish.com](mailto:news@griftonparish.com) or a note into the letterbox by the hall. Deadline for the next issue is Friday 12 August. Editorial rights reserved.

## Useful contacts

**Societies/Clubs/Organisations:** 1 line free entry  
Email [news@graftonparish.com](mailto:news@graftonparish.com) to be listed below.

Art Club	libby_gilbert80@hotmail.com
Bingo	hall@graftonparish.com
Church flowers/clean	01672 810743 Sally Butt
Circuit Training	01672 810266 Hen Mackinnon
Cricket Club	pack.andy@googlemail.com
Grafton Goslings	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Horticultural Soc	01672 810364 Marijke Craig
Link Scheme	01672 870120
Parish Council	mail@graftonparish.com
PCC Secretary	01672 870266 Millie Lemon
Pilates	07788 970976 Beth Knight
Police	08454 087000 PC Hollands
Sunflowers preschool	07748 349856 Lyndsey Turner
Wednesday Club	01672 810349 Libby Gilbert
Windmill Society	susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk
Yoga	01672 841553 Lizzy Hawnt
Zumba	07747 617199 Lau Vergara

B&B West Grafton	Angie Orssich	01672 810339
Baby sitting/odd jobs	Tom Nield	01672 870196
Baby sitting	Florence Butt	01672 810743
Disco and Karaoke	Pete Vallis	01672 811326
Disco and Party	Steve	01672 811109 07749 553681
Domestic/Garden Help	Maria Vonsova	01672 810713
Furniture	Holgate & Pack	01672 870887
Grafton Garage	Tony Gilbert	07845 006890
Hat Hire	Victoria Frost	01672 810386
House Sitting	Maxine Wallis	07879 993150
KACIS Ironing Service	Karen Evans	07920 755372
Kindling	Jo Harman	01672 810673
Painting & Decorating	Neil Anderson	01264 731362
Pest Control	Julie Wilson	01672 811479
Seasoned Hardwood Logs	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Wellbeing Centre	Amanda Toon	01672 811677



Advertisement

**Footsteps**  
**Podiatry Services**  
**Give your feet a treat**

**07881 802386**

NEW CLINIC NOW OPEN WITHIN  
THE CASTLE PRACTICE DOCTOR'S SURGERY,  
TIDWORTH

**Katie Bluff**

**10% DISCOUNT**  
**WITH THIS VOUCHER**



**Jason Lewis**

**Carpenter**

**Carpentry & Maintenance**

All building work undertaken, painting, Tiling, all types of locks, kitchens, home improvements, plastic doors & windows, general maintenance.

References available on request.

**01488 686293 07990512342 Jasonlewis08@aol.com**

**MANNINGFORD**  
**CROFT**  
PROPERTY SALES  
AND LETTINGS  
MACLAINE

A specialist residential property agency handling the sale & rental of quality property in and around the Vale of Pewsey & Marlborough Downs offering expert advice on bespoke marketing for property of all shapes and sizes from country houses and small estates and family houses, to retirement flats & houses for residents over 55.

Working hard & taking time to produce outstanding results for clients.

Mark Chick & Simon Walker 1 High Street, Pewsey, SN9 5AF  
Tel: **01672 564555** [www.manningfordcroft.com](http://www.manningfordcroft.com)

**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

### Our Doctor Writes

A few weeks ago I was asked to put on a presentation followed by a Q&A session about the NHS reforms. This was because there was a feeling that there was a lot of misinformation and a generally poor understanding of what the proposed changes in the Health and Social Care bill could mean. The NHS future forum has recommended some key changes to the original proposal.

- more collaborative approach to health commissioning with decisions focussed on providing integrated person centred care.
- the Secretary of State to retain responsibility to provide NHS care for the population rather than to promote it.
- the ability of private companies to enter the NHS and provide services remains. It will be interesting to see how the option of using them plays out in the future.

Whatever finally happens though we are in the jaws of a dilemma with a need for the NHS to become more effective and efficient. This will inevitably lead to hospital closures, although in an area like ours the district general hospital, in our case GWH will remain. But it is highly likely that the care that is delivered there will need to be radically restructured with much more care delivered in innovative ways out in the community.

Tim Ballard

This is an extract from the July bulletin the full text is on [www.graftonparish.com](http://www.graftonparish.com) under the Community News section.