

COMMUNITY NEWS**Busy times in Grafton Parish**

The last few weeks has seen a hive of community activity with residents coming together at Easter Events, Royal Wedding Celebrations and the Grafton Game Fair. The May Food Fair at Wilton Windmill may have taken place by the time you read this Community News, but don't forget that Grafton Goslings is holding a Designer Nearly New Sale at the Coronation Hall on Saturday 21 May. Many of these events have not only provided an opportunity for Grafton Parish residents to meet and socialise but have also raised significant monies for good causes.

We have all enjoyed a fabulous Spring in our beautiful corner of Wiltshire and we have our fingers crossed that events in the next few weeks also benefit from good weather, whilst hoping that our gardens and farms get more rain. Enclosed with this month's Community News is the Bag2School Collection (our next one will be in the Autumn) and also a flyer for St Nicholas' Church. Please support these worthy causes.

ARTIST DAYS

at

Wilton Windmill

**Sundays: 19th June
14th August
21st 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.
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 10th September 2011.

To book a place, please contact:
Hilary Arnold-Baker ~ 01672 870360 ~ hilaryarnoldbaker@talktalk.net



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 are available now. To register your interest, please email graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk.

Grafton Primary School – likely summer closure

On Thursday 21 April the statutory notice of the proposal to close Grafton Primary School was published in the Gazette and Herald. Copies have subsequently been posted at Grafton and Great Bedwyn schools, Marlborough St John's Secondary School, Pewsey and Marlborough Libraries and by Grafton Parish Council. The notice has also been sent for information to all neighbouring schools and the Diocese by Wiltshire Council.

Objections to, or comments on, the proposal must be made by 2 June – they should be sent to Director for Children & Education, Wiltshire Council, School Buildings & Places, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, BA14 8JB.

The majority of pupils now have places confirmed at alternative schools of their choice from September and we hope that the remainder will be confirmed shortly. Meetings are taking place to consider options for the future of Sunflowers Pre school and the Parish Council's land and buildings working party has been established.

Planning is underway to mark the closure of our school with an event. Anyone, especially former pupils, who would like to get involved is invited to contact the school office on **01672 810478** or admin@grafton.wilts.sch.uk.

For pupils, parents and staff these final summer terms will be very special and a fantastic programme of activities has been put together, including collaborative work with our neighbouring schools, sports festivals and some amazing trips. It will be a summer to remember.

The Friends of Grafton

With the likely closure of Grafton Primary School the Friends of Grafton fundraising activity is now focused on Sunflowers - and there is a lot going on! Thanks to everyone who came to the Easter Eggstravaganza on Easter Monday – the sun always seems to shine on us for this event! Lots of children followed the Treasure Hunt, lots of people threw eggs (and hoped they landed intact), many cakes were won on the tombola and delicious bacon and sausage sandwiches were consumed. Just over £160 was raised which is fantastic.

If you still have clothes to clear out after Grafton Goslings' Designer Nearly New Sale (or if you missed it) then make use of the Bag2School bag delivered with this months Community News and de-clutter your wardrobe. Fill the bag with quality second hand clothing and/or textiles as specified on the bag and drop off at Grafton Primary School on either:

Wednesday 25 May between 3.30pm and 5.30pm or Thursday 26 May before 9am

If you have bags for us but aren't able to deliver them on either of these dates please call us on **01672 810478** to make alternative arrangements. If you have more than 1 bagful please use black bin bags. Do spread the word to family and friends – the more bags we collect the more money we raise!

Save the date - 2011 Community Camp Friday 1 July, more details will be available shortly.

Chickens at Grafton Primary School!

East Grafton residents who came to the Royal Wedding Street Party or any residents who have walked past Grafton Primary School recently will have seen our fabulous free range chickens. Ex-battery chickens Violet, Naomi and Kate, are in what has been described by our vet as 'chicken heaven' on a corner of our field and are showing their appreciation by laying lots of eggs.

The chickens have been great – they are endlessly amusing; help to fulfil our need to care for others (particularly after a nasty attack by a local terrier!); have provided us with a little business to run (we're selling eggs at £1.00 per half dozen); and are incorporated into many lessons, including maths (if it takes 2 eggs to make an omelette how many eggs would you need to make omelettes for 3 people?) and science (sadly we lost Daisy soon after her arrival but her post mortem was the most amazing science lesson).

This is a lovely excerpt from some Class 2 writing about our chickens:

We love watching them scratch around in their own big patch of ground and it's funny when they come running over to the fence to "tell" you that they need clean water or more food. We're not so keen about the way they throw their newspaper all over the place!

We're delighted with our new found friends and think that they are enjoying life now too. We hope that they will continue to live happily ever after. They lay lots of eggs for us and we really appreciate it. To buy Grafton Primary School eggs just pop in to the school – we are selling them for just £1 per half dozen.

April 29 Community Round-up

What a fantastic day!

Residents across the Parish celebrated the Royal Wedding. After the morning's pageantry in Westminster & The Mall, Village Street Parties were held in East Grafton, Wilton, Wexcombe and Marten. The weather was kind and reports from each suggest that everyone, young & old, enjoyed bunting and cup cakes galore! Children in East Grafton painted commemorative china with Pots & Pigs and party music was provided by Steve Oakey. In Wilton there was a children's Treasure Hunt organised by Peter Davenport and we understand that a small number of ardent residents continued the Street Party well into the night, long after the road closure had been lifted! Wexcombe residents had champagne to toast the happy couple and enjoyed a BBQ, whilst in Marten a great time was had by all, including the occasional passerby that was enticed to join in!

Party-goers deliberated over the 'Guess the Newlyweds' Competition congratulations to Maureen Talbot who got the most correct newlywed couples and years and won a bottle of champagne kindly donated by Lara Ross of Wexcombe. The quiz and answers can be found at www.graftonparish.com. Please do take a look – there are some stunning recent (and not so recent) brides!

Children in each village joined in the wedding themed fancy dress competition and the winners were Lily Banting & Sebastian Horne (East Grafton), Sophie Pash & Lewis Derrick (Wilton), Niamh George & Toby Ross (Wexcombe) and Isla Hyslop & Max Bury (Marten). The winners received wedding and military 'sticker' books provided by the organisers of the Call My Wine Bluff evening.

Later in the afternoon many families moved to the Swan in Wilton where there was more fun and fairground rides. The Grand Prize Draw was made in aid of St Nicholas Church and Friends of Grafton. Thank you to everyone who bought and sold tickets and those parish business who donated prizes. Almost £700 was raised. A list of the prize winners is available www.graftonparish.com

Thank you to everyone who helped organise the parties. We hope to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next June in a similar way. If you have any suggestions or would like to get involved please email mail@graftonparish.com

PC Cath Hollands writes:

"The latest problem is that of off-road vehicles and motorcycles on the tracks and paths around the village. I am collating details, researching the options open and liaising with our Rural Crime Team so that we can have a joint initiative. This is difficult because these vehicles can access land which is very often inaccessible to our Police vehicles. If the vehicles and bikes are on private farm land and have permission from the landowner to be there, then we can do nothing. The ensuing nuisance regarding noise will have to be tackled through the Parish Council, the landowner and via the civil route."

Further details from Cath regarding "off roading" and legal requirements applicable to the use of any route with is open to the public can be found on www.graftonparish.com.

See page 4 for your local contact details for Community Police services.

'A Right Royal Party'

A hundred residents of Grafton Parish and their friends gathered together in the Coronation Hall to celebrate the marriage that morning of His Royal Highness Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton.

The hall was beautifully and tastefully decorated by a team under the direction of Fran Barclay. A three course dinner, worthy of the occasion was provided by the Swan, Wilton and special applause was reserved for the Ice Cream Wedding Cake. During dinner, thanks to the IT wizardry of Peter Vallis, we were able to watch re-plays of the day's events in London on the hall's big screen.

Music was provided by Corporal Andrew Woods of the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals. He is a brilliant pianist with a wide repertoire of music from the shows and a wide selection for hits old and new. The surprise came at the end of the evening, when Andrew was joined by Nick Evans of Wilton who sang superbly. Though space was limited a few couples then got onto the floor to dance!

Special mention must be made of the seven young people from East Grafton who so expertly served at the tables. They worked very hard; rightly deserving their applause, a good supper and a reward. Amelia, Ben, Louise, Stephanie, Joe, Kieran and Rachel - the Parish is very proud of what you achieved.

The Royal Toast was made by Mr Godfrey Beese and Miss Amelia Hicks proudly toasted the Royal Couple. General Michael Walsh, after thanking his team for their contribution to the planning and organisation of a much appreciated and successful Parish event, gave the final toast "Grafton Parish".

Royal Wedding Art Gallery

Thank you so much to Sunflowers, Grafton Goslings, the School and the many members of our Parish who made crowns and painted pictures for The Royal Wedding Art Gallery. They made a beautiful display and were very much admired and appreciated.

A time to sow..... A time to reap.....

A time to remember the farmers....

ROGATION SERVICE

Sunday 22 May at 10am

Manor Farm Wilton

(with Phoenix Brass Band)

News in Brief

Grafton and District Horticultural Society is organising a day trip by coach to RHS Wisley on Wednesday 15 June 2011. If you would like to join us please let Marijke Craig know on **01672 810364**.

The Bedwyns' & Grafton Link Scheme is a confidential service. A charity run by volunteers and funded by donations providing a service for people living in the Bedwyns and Grafton Parish.

Please call Brenda Nolson on **01672 870120** to use the service
Michael Fleckney on **01672 870911** for volunteering information.

Volunteers transport clients to and from medical appointments and local day-to-day engagements, make regular visits to keep people company, help with paperwork, dog-walks, errands and minor garden work and other small tasks. Volunteers are CRB checked and they control the hours and work done and claim a mileage allowance.

People use this vital service to increase their independence and improve their quality of life. It is available to young and old, for example if you are recovering from an accident or illness, you may need additional help.

The Link Scheme hosts a monthly coffee morning in the British Legion Hall in Great Bedwyn on the first Tuesday of every month from 11am to noon, to which everyone is welcome.

Bedwyn Patients' Participation Group are hosting coffee mornings in the Great Bedwyn Legion Hall at 11am every 3rd Tuesday of the month. Anyone in the Great Bedwyn surgery catchment area who would enjoy some company and a cup of tea is welcome to go along and it is free.

A draft Volunteering Strategy for Wiltshire is currently out for consultation (ending June 30) and the council is looking for your views. You can access the document and the questionnaire by visiting www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Highway Information Available Online

If you'd like to find out what work was done to highways over the last year in our area, then you can access this information at www.wiltshire.gov.uk and then select Parking, Transport & Streets. The report covers the Pewsey Community Area.

Faster broadband? There may be hope ...

Wiltshire Council recently announced that £16 million will be spent on improving internet access to businesses and families across the county. It's unlikely that more than a few places in Grafton Parish currently have access to standard broadband speeds of 2 mbps or above. So it would be fantastic to achieve this – let alone have high speed broadband of 20mbps and above.

To prioritise and target the areas which have the greatest need the council is gathering information from residents and businesses across the county. Go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/digitalinclusionbroadbandsurvey or call **0300 456 0100** to make lots of noise about our part of the county. The closing date is 3 June 2011.

The Wexcombe 10km run returns Sunday 18 September 2011.

The 10km run is a single lap, traffic-free race, approximately 10km, through beautiful undulating Wiltshire downland. Entry Fees: £7.00 in advance, £10.00 on the day. Maximum number of runners 300.

Refreshments, activities for the whole family and lots more will be provided so look out for further details in the next issues of the Community News. In the meantime email run@graftonparish.com for more information.

Our Doctor writes:

"Getting trained to use defibrillators is well worth doing. A recent study in Seattle showed an amazing 50% of people successfully defibrillated in the community were eventually discharged from hospital. There is a risk that following resuscitation an individual may be left with a disability but without the opportunity for an early defibrillation the outlook is very bleak indeed. Defibrillators have an in built computerised decision making programme that will only deliver a shock if appropriate. When local communities raise the money for equipment themselves then I think that congratulations are in order.

If you haven't already been to a training session then please make an effort to attend the next one in 2011. Email news@graftonparish.com and the next course will be organised by the Parish Council as soon as there is sufficient interest.

Best wishes, Tim Ballard."

Dates for your diary

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

MAY

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	Manor Farm, Wilton
23	09.30	Circuit Training	
24	09.15	Pilates	
24	10.00	Zumba	
24	09.30	Yoga	
25	11.00	Circuit Training	
25	15.30 to 17.30	Bags2School	Grafton School
26	08.00 to 09.00	Bags2School	Grafton School
26	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
26	13.30	Pilates	
31	19.30	Yoga	

JUNE

01	14.00	Wednesday Club	
02	19.30	Thursday Club	
05	11.00	Family Service & Baptism	St Nicholas
06	09.30	Circuit Training	
07	09.15	Pilates	
07	10.00	Zumba	
07	19.30	Yoga	
08	11.00	Circuit Training	
09	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
10	13.00	Circuit Training	
13	09.30	Circuit Training	
14	09.15	Pilates	
14	10.00	Zumba	
14	19.30	Yoga	
15	11.00	Circuit Training	
16	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
16	19.30	Thursday Club	
17	13.00	Circuit Training	
19	11.00	Parish Communion	St Nicholas
20	09.30	Circuit Training	
21	09.15	Pilates	
21	10.00	Zumba	
21	19.30	Yoga	
22	11.00	Circuit Training	
23	10.00	Goslings	
24	13.00	Circuit Training	
26	11.00	Family Service	St Nicholas

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.

Coronation Hall Function Committee

Do you know where the card tables are? Are you storing them for us? Please call **01672 810406** with any information.

To contact us:- news@graftonparish.com or a note into the letterbox by the hall. Deadline for the next issue is Friday 3 June. Editorial rights reserved.

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMINGS: Devizes Route H

25 May and 08 & 22 June.

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

Neighbourhood Policing Team contact details

Readers have asked for these to be included. Please save the details in a safe place.

Tel no **0845 408 7000** to report minor crimes.

Email pewseynt@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk for issues of concern (not crime) in your neighbourhood.

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The Grafton Game Fair - May 2011

Caroline Pearson writes:

"I know I'm biased but wasn't Saturday's Game Fair brilliant!

Thank you to everyone who came and supported and to all those who helped – you are all truly amazing and we couldn't have done it without you.

We had over 1,500 people through the door on what turned out to be the most perfect day. The kids ran riot over the bale maze all covered in face paints and ice cream, shoppers were armed with goodies from the fabulous stalls whilst the gundogs leapt over fences and into water on the hunt for their treasured dummies.

The rifle shooting, archery, raffle, registration, pizza ovens, teas stand, BBQ, Bar and the wonderfully helpful muscle bound Marlborough Rugby boys were all literally run off their feet from start to finish.

Over 250 people took part in the clay shoot over the two days – a huge undertaking to manage and organise. A special thank you must go to all the trappers and support team who faced the elements on Saturday morning – what a thunderstorm!

Dad, David and Jamie's motto was for people to 'leave with a smile on their face' and I am certain they achieved their goal – my gang certainly did!

We have hopefully raised a lot of money for Help for Heroes and St Nicholas' Church. We will let you know the final figure in the next Community News but for now, thank you again to all and everyone for your fantastic support and help."

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