

What a memorable year our Parish has had!

The end of the year is always a time for reflecting on the previous twelve months and looking forward to the next year and it is surprising how much happens in such a short space of time.

Our primary school has closed and so we have lost a very long established part of our community but Sunflowers has taken over the premises and is set to expand during 2012 with good prospects for providing a great start for the children of the parish and beyond. The playing field adjacent to the building is being transferred to the Parish Council as a community facility and a public meeting will be held early in 2012 to which every resident will be invited to help plan the future for this wonderful space.

We have said farewell to our vicar and team rector and we now learn that no suitable candidates have come forward to fill these vacancies, although a very innovative approach with special guest service takers is a welcome addition to the Church calendar. The congregation remains positive and supportive.

Chris Garman has retired as Parish Council Chairman and your Parish Council has broken new ground with the innovation of a system whereby the Chairman and Vice Chairman operate on rotation. This has been very successful and has spread the work and the experience between all the Councillors as they take over the reins for 4 monthly/2 meeting periods. Recently Peter Lemon has retired after 25+ years and Crash Evans after 5+ years. We are looking for a new Parish Clerk as we say farewell to Maggie Evans who is retiring after 8 years diligent work on behalf of the Parish Council. There is much happening in 2012 when the Localism Bill will come into force and our community will need to defend all that we treasure.

The new Hall Function Committee has settled in and bookings continue to bring in revenue to cover the running costs. The increase in lettings has meant that a more commercial cleaning and maintenance rota has been put into place. The Committee wishes to thank Barbara Beaumont for doing such a splendid job keeping the Hall in good order for the last year. There is always much to do to keep the building up to scratch and visitors continue to be impressed by the facilities, the ambiance and the setting of this tremendous village asset. The Committee is always keen to recruit new members so please email hall@graftonparish.com if you would like to become involved. The Parish Community Christmas party is the Hall Committee's way of saying thank you to everyone for their support and help.

Grafton Goslings baby and toddler group continues to flourish and fill the Hall each week with a vibrant gathering of Mums, Dads, carers and toddlers. The junior cricket team is all set to expand activities and membership with the help of a recently received grant towards equipment. In addition to all of these activities the Parish has raised huge amounts of money for Help4Heroes, St Nicholas Church and hosted many other Charity events in the Coronation Hall.

**Party Time in Grafton Parish**

The Grafton **Community Christmas Party** will take place on **18 December** from 4pm to 6.30pm

All residents of the Parish are welcome to join in the festivities for which there will not be any charge. It is the Hall Function Committee's way of saying thank you to all those who help during the year and to provide a chance for you to meet up with your neighbours.

Father Christmas will be arriving on his sleigh across the green (a sight not to be missed)

An **Entertainer** has been booked to provide something new for the children.

This promises to be a bumper party with lots of mince pies and mulled wine.

Party treats for children and all the Christmas festivities

14 December from 2pm to 4pm is preparation time so please join us in the hall to help get ready for the big occasion; no previous experience required!

**WILTON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
& FATHER CHRISTMAS**

Sunday 11 December from 4pm

Mulled wine, venison burgers and turkey sausages

Traditional Christmas Fair at The Swan

Enjoy the festive Christmas atmosphere from 4pm then Stroll along to Quackers at the duck pond to see the

Christmas lights illuminated at 5pm

Return to the Swan to await the arrival of Father Christmas

If you would like your child to deliver their Christmas letter to Father Christmas, and receive a treat, please obtain a ticket (£1) in advance from The Swan.

Please be aware of the dangers of children walking along the road and near the Duck Pond, and parents please take full responsibility for your children's behaviour at all times. Safety must come first.

The lights will be on throughout the Christmas season for your enjoyment.

The car park at The Swan will be used for the festivities and by Father Christmas. Parking will be tricky in Wilton. We suggest, where possible, you arrive on foot.

CHRISTMAS DAY FATHER CHRISTMAS RETURNS

Mulled wine and mince pies at The Swan from 12.00 noon

Father Christmas to arrive shortly afterwards

For more information about Santa and present deliveries please contact The Swan on 01672 870274

**Quackers' Illuminations**

On Sunday 11 December at 5pm the Christmas lights will be switched on in Wilton. This annual treat is organised and funded by Doug and Sylvia Willcock, Quackers' owners, as a community event and therefore it is not an open public display. We are very lucky to enjoy such a treat and so please show your appreciation for all this hard work by taking care as you move around the very restricted area near the pond and The Swan. Thanks also to the large team of Quackers' helpers who are involved in putting up and taking down the lights.

Grafton Parish Clerk vacancy

If you are interested in the workings of the Parish Council and have a small amount of time which you could devote to performing the administrative tasks for your Parish Council then please contact us by email to chairman@graftonparish.com. Experience with minute taking combined with good communication and computer skills would be ideal for the position. The majority of the role involves distributing information to Parish Councillors who hold responsibility for functions within the Council. The post comes with a nominal salary and expenses are also covered.

Do not hesitate to apply even if you are unsure about what is involved as we will be only too happy to explain, help and organise training where necessary. Someone local to our Parish is much preferred because we pride ourselves on striving to do the best for our community. This position would fit in well with other commitments, apart from attending meetings, because you will be able to work to your own timetable and it will not be necessary to be available every day. You will be given a hand over period of 3-4 months before Maggie Evans retires at the end of our financial year on 31 March 2012.

Grafton Parish Councillor fixed term vacancy - closing date 10 January 2012.

Do you take pride in our community? If the answer is yes then the Parish Council is looking for two new Parish Councillors and is interested in receiving more applications from motivated community members. We have received two applications at the time of going to press. Importantly you should be aware that the entire Parish Council will be standing down for **elections on 2 May 2013** so this is a **short and fixed term commitment**. This is an exciting time for our Parish and you will experience all the workings of the council including the assessment of the implications and implementation of the Localism Bill. If you would like to explore what it means to be a Parish Councillor this is the ideal time to apply. Why not put yourself forward by emailing clerk@graftonparish.com to find out more.

Christmas greetings and best wishes for 2012 from your Grafton Parish Councillors.



Junipers

Creative and Sensory Play
"Everything Creative in One Class"

CLASSES AT CORONATION HALL, EAST GRAFTON FROM JANUARY
A 45 minute structured music and sensory class
where babies and toddlers enjoy
singing, sensory discovery, messy play, art and dance



Bubble Berries
4 - 11 months



Rainbow Berries
11 - 22 months



Dazzle Berries
22 months - preschool

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www.juniperscreativeplay.com
info@juniperscreativeplay.com

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now

Classes coming soon

Coronation Hall Wednesday Afternoon/Evenings

C.A.P Dance & Fitness



Training as a RAD Ballet teacher, ISTD Modern & Tap teacher, and qualified as a NATD Freestyle teacher, C.A.P can offer a variety of dance classes for ages 3+

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Classes for Children and adults include Ballet, Jazz, Latin, Freestyle, Tap and modern.

Call Charlotte Price on **07746 479 345** or email CAPdanceandfitness@hotmail.co.uk

Festive spirit with Sunflowers at Grafton



Never has so much glitter been used! We've been decorating our lovely rooms with some beautiful hand made decorations and this week our Christmas trees have been dressed – all very exciting for the little ones. We've also been busy practising our Christmas Play and some wonderful Christmas songs. If you'd like to come along then you are very welcome to join us for the performance on Friday 16 December at 4pm in St Nicholas' Church.

In our second month of operation we are delighted with the progress made so far. Interest in our services remains high and the vast majority of parents and carers who come and see us are registering for a place – testament to the great work being done by our Sunflowers team. You may have seen members of the team out and about with the little ones and babies in our double buggies – you can't miss our orange sweatshirts!

Thank you to everyone who filled a Bag2School for us recently. We had a good pile of bags for collection and all contributions are appreciated. Look out for tickets for our Christmas Draw – there are some fantastic prizes to be won. You may already have some tickets but if not they are available from Sunflowers or The Swan, or from one of our Sunflowers families. The Draw will be made on 16 December following the Christmas Play.

With thanks to everyone for their good wishes and to the many people who have helped us along the way – we wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Linden Close Litter problems

Residents of this area in the Parish have requested that people please respect their neighbourhood and take their rubbish with them when they pass by.

There has been a lot of rubbish discarded along the roadside recently and everyone would be very grateful if people could please take their litter home with them. This message applies to our Parish in general of course.

Grafton Green "smells and mud"

We have reports of smells from drains in the environs of the Coronation Hall. The Committee has been working hard with the water board to locate the cause of these and a solution appears to be located in the main drains nearby. All should be fixed by the time you receive this edition of the Community News.

Increased mud in the parking area in front of the Coronation Hall will be tackled as soon as a solution can be found. In the meantime please remember that there is hard standing amongst the grass and cars can be safely parked in the prescribed area in the meantime.

CHURCH SERVICES IN THE SAVERNAKE TEAM

	<i>Church</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Taken by</i>
December				
11	St Katharine's	11.00	Matins	Lay led
	Great Bedwyn	18.00	Carols	Robert Gist
18	Great Bedwyn	09.30	Family Service	Lay led
	St Nicholas	11.00	Carols	Alan Deboo
	St Katharine's	18.00	Carols	Robert Gist
25	St Nicholas	11.00	Holy Communion	Alan Deboo
January				
08	St Nicholas	11.00	Cluster Holy Communion	Paul Abram
15	St Nicholas	11.00	Holy Communion	Mary Edwards
22	St Nicholas	11.00	Family Service	Lay led

Join the choir

We welcome everyone who would like to join the choir in the choir stalls at the 18 December Carol Service.

Special Guest conducting service on 8 January

On the second Sunday of the New Year we welcome the Rev Paul Abram, MVO, MA, a distinguished Churchman and former Chaplain to her Majesty's Forces, who will conduct morning service at St Nicholas Church.

The Rev Paul, a former Deputy Priest in Ordinary to the Queen was a Chaplain of the Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula at The Tower of London from 1996 to 2007. A graduate of Keble College Oxford and Chichester Theological College, he was ordained as a Priest in 1963. After becoming a Curate in Redcar he joined the Royal Army chaplains Department in 1965, serving for the next 24 years with great distinction as a padre with, inter alia, the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces both at home and on active service in many troubled areas of the World.

Whilst at the Tower of London he was appointed Chaplain to many Societies and Livery Companies ranging from The Mission to Seafarers [formerly Mission to Seamen] and HMS President to the Builders' Merchants' Company and, in 2003, Personal Chaplain to the Lord Mayor of London.

St Nicholas' round-up

Remembrance service

Our parish church was filled to capacity for the Remembrance Service which was taken by Chris Stock from Chute. There is always rather a lot to think about in this service and I was pleased that we had planned proceedings carefully beforehand. During his sermon Chris Stock told us something of four of the men, one from each of the Parishes, who had lost their lives. This was very moving and prompted many members of the congregation to want to find out some of the details of other soldiers from this part of Wiltshire who died in the two wars. The vicar drew our attention to the fact that these men were doing their duty, fully aware of the grimness of their prospects, just as Our Lord Jesus did in the days leading up to his crucifixion. Over £800 was collected for the British Legion from the 249 people in church.

Once again the trumpet was played very well indeed by Lizzie Pete. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this very special service.

Martin Butt, Church Warden.

Stir up Sunday

Alan Deboo took our "stirring service" in the Coronation Hall. There were about 40 people to help stir the mixture for 100 puddings after a traditional Family Service. All children stirred the mixture with a massive paddle and were eager to learn the ancient traditions surrounding this Christmas treat.

Dates for your diary



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

DECEMBER

11	17.00	Wilton Christmas lights ON	<i>Wilton Pond</i>
11	17.30	Father Christmas arrives	<i>The Swan</i>
12	09.30	Circuit Training	
12	19.00	Bingo	
13	09.15	Pilates	
13	10.00	Zumba	
14	09.30	Circuit Training	
14	14.00	Bake and decorate for Christmas	
14	19.00	Horticultural Society	
15	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
15	13.30	Pilates	
16	16.00	Sunflowers Christmas Play	<i>St Nicholas</i>
17	10.30	Yoga in aid of Dogs' Trust	
18	11.00	Carols	<i>St Nicholas</i>
18	16.00	Parish Community Christmas party	
20	10.00	Zumba	
24	18.00	Santa's Journey	<i>All Parish hamlets</i>
25	11.00	Holy Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
25	12.00	Santa comes to Wilton	<i>The Swan</i>

JANUARY

04	11.00	Junipers creative and sensory play	
05	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
06	13.00	Circuit Training	
08	11.00	Holy Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
09	09.30	Circuit Training	
09	19.00	Bingo	
10	09.15	Pilates	
10	10.00	Zumba	
10	19.30	Yoga	
11	09.30	Circuit Training	
11	11.00	Junipers creative and sensory play	
12	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
12	19.15	Parish Council open meeting	
13	13.00	Circuit Training	
15	11.00	Holy Communion	<i>St Nicholas</i>
16	09.30	Circuit Training	
16	19.00	Horticultural Society	
17	09.15	Pilates	
17	10.00	Zumba	
17	19.30	Yoga	
18	09.30	Circuit Training	
18	11.00	Junipers creative and sensory play	
19	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
19	13.30	Pilates	
20	13.00	Circuit Training	
22	11.00	Family Service	<i>St Nicholas</i>
23	09.30	Circuit Training	
23	19.00	Bingo	
24	09.15	Pilates	
24	10.00	Zumba	
24	19.30	Yoga	
25	09.30	Circuit Training	
25	11.00	Junipers creative and sensory play	
26	10.00	Grafton Goslings	
26	13.30	Pilates	
27	13.00	Circuit Training	

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all hirers of the Hall

There are plans to restart the cinema now that the acoustic problems have been solved. We are looking for help to get this off the ground so please let us know at hall@graftonparish.com if you can spare a little time for this project.

Bookings 01672 810406 or hall@graftonparish.com
Please leave landline contact numbers wherever possible



Christmas Eve: Santa's journey begins.....

Hollow Lane Wilton 6.00pm Marten 6.15pm Wexcombe 6.30-6.45pm
East Grafton 6.45-7.00pm Duck pond Wilton 7.00-7.15pm

Useful contacts

Societies/Clubs/Organisations: 1 line free entry
Email 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
Coronation Hall	01672 810406 Lara Ross
Cricket Club	pack.andy@googlemail.com
Grafton Goslings	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Horticultural Soc	01672 810364 Marijke Craig
Link Scheme	01672 870120
Parish Council	clerk@graftonparish.com
PCC Secretary	01672 870266 Millie Lemon
Pilates	07788 970976 Beth Knight
Police emergency	999 or 112
Police non emergency	101
Sunflowers at Grafton	01674 810478 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
Beauty & wellbeing	Amanda Toon	01672 811677
Builder	Sam Sanchez	07887 991249
Disco and Karaoke	Pete Vallis	01672 811326
Disco and Party	Steve	01672 811109
Furniture	Holgate & Pack	01672 870887
Grafton Garage	Tony Gilbert	07845 006890
Hair and Beauty	Katherine Le Bon	07770 945307
Hat Hire	Victoria Frost	01672 810386
Holiday Cottages (local)	Mary Rhodes	01672 870659
House Sitting	Maxine Wallis	07879 993150
Ironing Service	Karen Evans	07920 755372
Kindling	Jo Harman	01672 810673
Logs	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
Odd jobs/gardening	Dan Oakey	07810 381783
Painting & Decorating	Neil Anderson	01264 731362
Pest Control	Julie Wilson	01672 811479
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Usborne Books	Trish Highnett	07775 941646

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Discounts for 6 months and 12 months

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year from your Community News team

We are always interested in contributions and comments from residents of the Parish. Email news@graftonparish.com and we will do our best to address the issues raised.

Our Doctor Writes

I've just spent a fascinating Saturday at the National Council meeting of the Royal College of GPs. We had a whole day of debates but the highlight was about what it is to be a generalist. In short there are those in medicine who have a wide remit and tend to deal with a range of health problems and those who specialise in certain problems or certain sorts of patients. The core for me was that for the generalist diseases or illnesses should not be seen in isolation or as a focus that becomes an important end in itself but that care is person centred and health is seen as a resource for living.

Even at Christmas it's perhaps unusual to get something for nothing. The same is very true in medicine. I read an article in a recent BMJ that pondered the effect on children of the health seeking behaviour of their parents. It is increasingly not unusual for children to be brought to see doctors with very minor illnesses or within a very short period at the onset of a problem like a winter cough and cold. Not only is it difficult for a doctor to be able to categorically exclude the possibility that an apparently minor illness will not develop into something more serious but the visit to the doctor itself was argued to be a potential problem in itself. We run the risk of children growing up believing that doctors need to be seen for all illnesses. It is a difficult area and I'm not suggesting for a moment that parents shouldn't seek advice about children when they are really unwell but we need to remember that you never get something for nothing.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year from all of our team at the surgery in Great Bedwyn.

Best wishes Tim Ballard

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

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