

Happy New Year

Christmas in Grafton Parish was the usual whirl of festivities and whilst local events in January are seasonally quieter, there's still plenty to get involved with if you've made resolutions of the get fit/lose weight variety.

Did you know that the Community News is now 3 years old? We have received lots of great feedback during this time - people appreciate its brevity and feel that's it's a quick and easy summary of everything that's happening across Grafton Parish. We're always keen to hear more feedback (good or bad) and the editorial team would be delighted to have extra help. If you'd like to get in touch, or offer your services then do email news@graftonparish.com

Christmas Round up

St Nicholas' Church



This year's Carol Service was very well attended, we counted 75 in the congregation. The service followed a more traditional pattern than in recent years, with Carols and Readings, but no Wise Men!

The Family Nativity Service was also very well attended with the congregation numbering 73. The majority were young children who helped our Vicar, Michael McHugh, to bring forward the Nativity Figures to create the scene in the stable. He had trouble getting Joseph to stand upright. Had Joseph stopped off at The Swan on his way to Nazareth? Had Michael stopped off there on his way to church? Children sang 'Away in a Manager' and Nick Evans sang a solo - Three Kings from Persia Lands Afar - which helped to make the service special. The Vicar demonstrated the overflowing power of God's love by getting one of the many children in Church to pour several pints of water into an egg cup, thus creating more of the flooding which we have all got used to over the last few weeks! Let's hope Michael doesn't take Noah as a subject for one of his sermons in the future.

On Christmas Day, Matthew Cookson from Great Bedwyn kindly took our Communion Service, in which he anticipated the Queen's Christmas message by quoting the last line of the Carol In the Bleak Mid Winter. "Yet what I can I give Him ... give my heart."

Martin Butt Church Warden

Wilton Windmill



The Wilton Windmill Society AGM took place on Thursday 6 December at Coronation Hall and was extremely well attended. Members and friends were able to peruse the stalls of the Gastronicks' Christmas Fair before and after the AGM business and also enjoyed a cheese and wine supper. The Fair continued on the Friday morning and helped to raise about £250 for the windmill funds. Thank you to everyone who supported the event and those who helped or contributed cakes. Thank you also to the Hall Committee who decorated the hall so beautifully just in time for our event!

Sunflowers at Grafton



December was a whirl of activity for everyone at Sunflowers at Grafton with lots of Christmas activities. We made Christmas cards and lovely decorations and sang many songs! We had a lovely afternoon at the Coronation Hall on Sunday 9 December for our Christmas Fayre. Shopping, socialising and super tea and cakes! Thanks to everyone who came along to support us – you helped raise just over £400 for new equipment and resources which is fantastic. Children met Father Christmas on an exciting barge trip on The Rose of Hungerford, and we were surprised again by Father Christmas when he visited our Christmas party. Early evening at St Nicholas' Church on Friday 21 December saw a wonderful crowd gather for our nativity play. The children were amazing and the play was full of magical moments, including Mary riding into church on a pony. Not a dry eye in the house! Our retiring collection totalled over £125 for Children In Need – heart warming indeed. Thanks also to everyone who made donations last weekend for the collection and recycling of their Christmas tree – the collection was timely as it fell just after twelfth night! Our very best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2013.

Reader contribution: What a wonderful Christmas Party we had in Coronation Hall! The Hall Committee had done a fabulous job of decorating the hall and had worked all day cooking delicious food for everyone to enjoy. They even organised Father Christmas and his elf to come and meet everyone and give the children presents. And of course we all enjoyed catching up with neighbours and friends. It was brilliant – thank you to everyone involved!

Poppy Day Collection

Michael Walsh, the Church Wardens and all those who raised money from door to door selling of Poppies are delighted to report that a **TOTAL of £1,368.35** was donated to the 'Royal British Legion Poppy Day Appeal', made up of £924.63 from the selling of poppies throughout the Parish and £443.72 from the collection taken at St Nicholas Church on Remembrance Sunday. This is a fine effort by the Parish. Hopefully next year we will raise the total to £1,500.

CLAIRE PERRY

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*I hold regular surgeries around the Constituency
- please call or email to book an appointment*



Opportunities to join Sunflowers at Grafton

We are looking forward to hearing from childcare professionals who may be interested in joining our dedicated team. We have experienced continued, steady growth over the past year and have a number of opportunities including permanent roles, bank work and a maternity cover contract.

What will you be doing?

Working as part of a team to ensure that our children have great fun and the very best experiences at Sunflowers at Grafton.

What skills, qualities and experience are required?

Essentials - NVQ3 Childcare or equivalent and relevant previous experience. Happy to work with nursery children at all stages (babies, toddlers and pre school) and with older primary school children at our out of school clubs. Comfortable with the responsibility of occasional cover at Room Leader level. Energetic and motivated, a good team player happy to contribute ideas and embrace change.

As we are open all year round the majority of roles are full time and include a combination of early starts (7.30am) and late finishes (6.30pm). If you are looking for part time work please do not be put off – we are very happy to consider part time and job share opportunities. Salaries for all roles are negotiable dependent on skills and experience.

Please contact us, either by phone **01672 810478** or email admin@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk, for an information pack and application form. The closing date for applications is Friday 25 January.

Sunflowers at Grafton is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants will be subject to a full Criminal Records Bureau check before an appointment is confirmed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Christmas tree collection

If you missed the Sunflowers Christmas tree collection service, you will be pleased to know that up to the end of January real Christmas trees can be put out for composting next to your garden waste bin on the normal collection day - which for Grafton parish is Thursday 17 January and Thursday 31 January.

Next Pewsey Area Board

The next Pewsey Area Board is on Monday 14 January at Burbage Village Hall starting at 7pm. On the agenda is Cabinet Representative for Children's Services, Councillor Lionel Grundy, Neighbourhood Development Plan for Pewsey update, the new Pewsey Blog Site and NHS Reforms. The following meeting is on Monday 11 March – venue to be confirmed. More information can be found on www.wiltshire.gov.uk

Email scam

A resident of our Parish used the non emergency 101 telephone number to report a suspicious email which just "might have been genuine" because it appeared to come from a friend in trouble and needing financial help at short notice. The speedy response, by someone in the force, who recognised both the tone and content of the email was very reassuring to the recipient. Well done to the Police force for solving what could have been a very worrying situation caused by an email account which had been hacked with malicious intent.

Rail services from Bedwyn

The Bedwyn Trains' Passenger Group has advised that people should follow through on making complaints to First Great Western about the poor quality of service that people have experienced recently to ensure First Group is listening. The email address is fgwfeedback@firstgroup.com, or you can call on **08457 000 125** or write to Customer Services Team, First Great Western, Freepost SWB40576,

Footsteps

Podiatry Services

07881802386

Now based in my own treatment room within Tidworth Leisure Centre appointments not always necessary.



Katie Bluff

BSc(HONS)Pod,SRCh,MCHs

10% Off Voucher

NEWS IN BRIEF

Traffic around Grafton Village Green - a request from residents

The track which runs to the West of the Green from opposite the Church, past houses and towards the Coronation Hall is privately owned and maintained. Please use the public road to travel North to the A338 from the Sunflowers area.

Don't forget your 'flu jab!

Don't forget to get your 'flu jab this winter. Flu is a highly contagious infection that anyone can catch, but it can be very serious for some. For most people flu is a relatively mild illness from which they recover in a week or two – yet every year people become seriously ill because they don't get their free flu jab. People identified as being 'at risk' are more vulnerable to the effects of seasonal flu (for example pregnant women and the elderly) and it's recognised that they can go on to develop a more serious illness, such as bronchitis and pneumonia. Flu is not the same as a cold and it affects people of all ages. The flu jab is completely safe, even for pregnant women, and it can't give you flu as it doesn't contain any live virus.

Neighbourhood watch

We have had a few notices from our local police force during the last months and so can we remind you that you can register to receive these warnings by emailing mail@graftonparish.com. The most recent information, which is also posted on our website www.graftonparish.com, related to unoccupied premises, including out buildings, which have been the focus of thieves operating in our patch.

Our Neighbourhood policing team has changed and Inspector Matthew Armstrong is now our Area Commander serving the Pewsey East area.

Latest news on successful energy saving initiative

Over 13,000 households have signed-up with the "Ready to Switch?" scheme to get a better energy deal (see December's Community News).

The scheme is being extended for another month to ensure the best deal possible is achieved.

Therefore the auction that was planned for the 18 December will now be held on the 29 January 2013.

For those already signed up, you do not need to do anything now – except to tell your friends and family to sign up too using www.readytoswitch.co.uk Following the auction, your personal offer will be sent to you in the week commencing the 4 February.

Recycling record

The introduction of fortnightly household waste collections in north and south Wiltshire has resulted in a marked reduction in the amount of household waste residents are sending to landfill. The best results have been recorded in North Wiltshire, with the average monthly amount of household waste sent to landfill reducing by 22%.

The new kerbside garden waste and plastic bottle and cardboard recycling collections have helped Wiltshire residents recycle 50% of their waste in the first six months of this financial year. This compares to last year when during the same period just 44% was recycled.

People can sign up for the garden waste service and request a second black recycling box if they need one, by either telephoning Wiltshire Council on **0300 4560102** or by visiting the waste and recycling pages at www.wiltshire.gov.uk. People should not leave extra rubbish out beside their household waste bin, but should ensure that all waste is placed inside the bin and that the lid is closed.

Getting fit in 2013

After the excesses of Christmas, it's time to get fit for the New Year. Circuit training, gym workouts, yoga, aerobics, aqua aerobics and swimming are all activities which are available at local leisure centres.

Wiltshire residents and visitors have a wide range of sporting facilities to choose from – and not just in our immediate area of Tidworth, Pewsey and Marlborough but right across the county. Details of all the facilities available can be found on the Leisure page at www.wiltshire.gov.uk.

As well as the different membership options, casual sport and leisure centre users in Wiltshire can take advantage of 'pay-as-you-go' sessions and discounts where applicable.

If leisure centres aren't your thing, then perhaps you could take advantage of the Get Wiltshire Walking scheme which organises group walks across the county. To join in on a walk or for more information, contact Rosie Golding on **07917 599964**, Sarah Sims on **07846 100233** or alternatively visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk where all the dates, times and locations of the walks can be found.

And don't forget about the fantastic wide range of keep fit activities available at the Coronation Hall every week (see details on this page). There's no excuse!



Events, clubs and other dates for your diary

All events take place in the Coronation Hall unless otherwise specified. St N refers to St Nicholas' church.

Bookings 01672 810406 or hall@graftonparish.com

Please leave landline contact numbers wherever possible

JANUARY

13	18.00	Evensong	St N
20	11.00	Parish Communion	St N
27	11.00	Family Service	St N

FEBRUARY

03	11.00	Holy Communion	St N
10	18.00	Evensong	St N
17	11.00	Parish Communion	St N
24	11.00	Family Service	St N

Mobile library 16,30 January, 13, 27 February
Martens 11.30 Coronation Hall 13.00

Regular weekly dates for your diary

Please check for full details with the relevant organiser.

Contact details are on page 4.

TUESDAY



10.15 to 11.15 Tuesday

TUESDAY and THURSDAY



09.15 to 10.00 Tuesday

Pilates classes

13.30 to 14.30 Thursday

MONDAY and WEDNESDAY

CIRCUIT & FITNESS



09.30 to 10.30 Monday

09.15 to 10.15 Wednesday

TUESDAY

YOGA



19.30 to 21.00 Tuesday

THURSDAY



Baby and toddler group
10.00 to 11.30 Thursday

WEDNESDAY



C.A.P. Dance & Fitness

Various classes for all ages between 15.30 and 19.00

FRIDAY

KARATE CLASS

16.00 TO 17.00 Friday

For children. Call 01672 810406 for details.

You can email news@graftonparish.com

with contributions or comments for the
Community News

Deadline for the next issue 8 February 2013

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 a larger listing

1/12 page £5. 1/6 page £10. 1/4 page £15

Useful contacts

Societies/Clubs/Organisations: 1 line free entry
Email news@graftonparish.com to be listed below.

Bingo	hall@graftonparish.com
Church flowers/clean	01672 810743 Sally Butt
Circuit/fitness Training	01672 810266 Hen Mackinnon
Community News	news@graftonparish.com
Coronation Hall	01672 810406 hall@graftonparish.com
Cricket Club	pack.andy@googlemail.com
Dance and Fitness	07746 479345 Charlotte Price
Grafton Goslings	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Horticultural Society	01672 810364 Marijke Craig
Link Scheme	01672 870120
Parish Council	01672 810406 Alison Halfpenny
PCC Secretary	01672 870266 Millie Lemon
Pilates	07788 970976 Beth Knight
Police emergency	999 or 112
Police non emergency	101
Sunflowers at Grafton	01672 810478 Lyndsey Turner
Windmill Society	secretary@wiltonwindmill.co.uk
Yoga	01672 841553 Lizzy Hawnt
Zumba	07747 617199 Lau Vergara

Local commercial listing

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
Dog grooming	Susan Hailstone	01264 731451
Dog training/walking	Carrie Holborow	07546 941709
Double glazing repairs	David Willcocks	01672 811979
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
Kindling	Jo Harman	01672 810673
Logs/tree surgeon	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
Odd jobs/gardening	Dan Oakey	07810 381783
Odd Jobs	Kieran Maidment	07531 685353
Painting & Decorating	Neil Anderson	01264 731362
Pest Control	Julie Wilson	01672 811479
Printing clothing/signs	GraphicSignsandDesign@gmail.com	
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Usborne Books	Trish Highnett	07775 941646

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References available on request.

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