

COMMUNITY NEWS

Grafton Parish Council sets up hamlet response teams

It was unanimously agreed by the Parish Councillors that each hamlet should create its own volunteer and support group. These were created in the first week of March and have been expanding ever since. Details of each group are shown below, so if you need any help or can offer any help then do please make contact with your hamlet co-ordinator.

East Grafton	Kevin Burke	07713 067113
Marten	Mike Hyslop	07799 760417
West Grafton	Annie Whitcher	07802 923344
Wexcombe	George Hosier	07786 332950
Wilton	David Lemon	07974 400224

Each hamlet has its own WhatsApp Group which you can use to ask for, or offer, help. Call your co-ordinator for help in using this if you are unsure.



Like our Facebook page www.facebook.com/GraftonParishCommunityNews or follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/graftonparish.

East Grafton Response Team

Leaflets were delivered to every household in East Grafton over the weekend of 14 March detailing contact names and numbers in the event of emergency requirement i.e. for shopping or prescription collection etc.

As a result we received several calls from people generously offering voluntary support and a WhatsApp group was duly created.

Thanks to all those volunteers we have been able to successfully provide the necessary quick response to a variety of requests for help including getting a lawn mower started!!

With the new lockdown measures in place people should not be afraid to ask for help. The mobile phone number **07713 067113** is monitored between 9am and 7pm every day.

St Nicholas' Church Easter lily notice

Donations have already been made for Lilies in remembrance of loved ones which usually decorate the church over the Easter period.

The Easter Sunday service will now not take place and worshippers and visitors who would normally enjoy the flowers will be much reduced. Therefore it has been decided not to decorate the Church in the usual way.

If you have made such a donation this can be simply refunded should you wish, please contact Patricia on **01672 810072** who will ensure that this is repaid. However, an alternative remembrance scroll and flower arrangement of say, beautiful roses, could be made in time for our Christmas services when hopefully the crisis may be over.

Sunflowers at Grafton

Supporting our key worker families



Thank goodness for the great spirit of our Sunflowers team. The rapidly changing situation over the past couple of weeks has been hugely challenging for us all.

Like many schools and nurseries across the country we have scaled back and now have restricted opening to care for the children of our key workers.

We are missing all of our other children and are looking at ways to keep in touch over the coming weeks. So many of us have discovered the joy of Zoom in the last week or so haven't we?

The next couple of months are going to be very difficult for many organisations – irrespective of size and charitable or not. The financial implications of this crisis are significant but we are absolutely committed to providing security for our wonderful team and securing the future of Sunflowers, so that we can continue to grow and provide brilliant childcare in the future.

HUGE THANKS TO OUR TEAM OF DELIVERERS - ALL OF WHOM ARE DELIVERING WITH THEIR DISPOSABLE GLOVES ON THIS MONTH

We will be including updates from each response team in following issues of the Community News. Do remember that every Community News issue is always published on www.graftonparish.com so this will be useful should we encounter any future printing or distribution problems.



The Swan - Coronavirus response

Here at The Swan we have started various activities to keep ourselves busy.

We have opened as a small village shop. This is not on our social media or website as, for the time being, we would prefer to keep this Grafton Parish's own little secret. We would not be able to offer this service to the wider community and we will all be safer that way.

We are offering some of life's essentials: bread, milk, butter, fresh fruit and vegetables, some grocery items, wine and beer.

If you prefer not to come into the shop you can phone through an order and we will bring your shopping to the car. Payment will be taken by contactless card transactions.

We are offering a takeaway and ready-made foodservice. The menu is on our website, our Facebook and Instagram pages. On Fridays we will be offering Rotisserie chickens to take away. On Sundays we have been offering a complete takeaway family roast.

We are also attempting to put together a weekly "veg box" scheme; please register your interest by email if this is something that you would like.

Because everything is moving and changing by the day, we would encourage you all to check our website and social media pages for up to date information, or contact us by email.

(01672) 870274

www.theswanwilton.co.uk
swanwilton1@gmail.com

Shop Opening Times: 10.00 am – 3.00 pm everyday

Current Takeaways times - Mon, Thurs, Fri, Sat : 12 – 2.00 pm and
5 - 9.00 pm (last orders at 8.30 pm) Sunday: 12 – 3.00 pm

(N.B. No takeaways on Tuesday or Wednesday)

Great Bedwyn Surgery - Our doctor writes

Everything is changing on a daily basis and by the time you read this article in your Parish magazine the advice here may have changed again. There is a lot of information available on the NHS and Public Health England websites and I would encourage you to look at these websites if you are concerned about your health and whether you are suffering from symptoms of COVID-19. The most current information about what to do can be found on these sites. At the time of writing this article the advice is to stay socially isolated for 7 days if you have a fever above 37.8 and/or a new persistent cough or 14 days if you live with someone who has a fever and a new cough. If you are unwell with difficulty breathing you need to call 111.

I would like to explain about the changes in GP practice in response to this pandemic. This affects all GP practices not just The Old School Surgery at Great Bedwyn. Before I do this though, I would like to thank all of the patients who have been affected by the sudden changes to the way we practice for their understanding, patience and for the offers of help we have received so that we can continue to provide a community service.

NHS England has advised all GP practices to change to a telephone appointment triage system. The ability to book your appointment online has been suspended. This is to minimise the number of patients coming into practices and reduce the risk of exposing the practice staff and patients in the waiting room to the virus. We are trying to keep everyone safe. Do not come to the surgery if you have a fever or a new persistent cough. If you need to come the initial point of contact is now via the window at the rear of the surgery. If you are invited into the building, use the hand sanitizer before entering and try to stay at least a meter away from anyone in the waiting room and staff. I'm sure you can appreciate it that if members of the Practice team become unwell we will struggle to provide a service. At present at The Old School Surgery we have one doctor who is unable to work because a family member is unwell and she has had to self-isolate. Dr Hannah Graystone is pregnant and cannot work at the surgery as she is considered high risk. In the next few days we hope to have remote access systems in place so the staff can work from home.

Please telephone the surgery for an appointment. In order to establish whether you need a same day urgent telephone appointment or a routine telephone appointment you may need to give the receptionist some information about the reason you are calling. A doctor or nurse will call you as close to your appointment time as possible. If you require an examination, blood test, other investigation or treatment, the doctor will arrange a time for a face to face appointment. Those of you needing wound dressings or monitoring blood tests because you are on certain medicines still need to have these done, so do call for an appointment.

The dispensary team at The Old School Surgery have been exceptionally busy over the last few days. Many of you are requesting medication early just in case you have to self-isolate. Please be considerate and order your medication as you normally would. Supplies of certain medicines are already reduced and everyone needs their medicines. The surgery is exploring ways to deliver your medicine should you need to self-isolate. You may still collect medicine if you are well.

If you have a hospital appointment or procedure the hospital will contact you. Further information can be found on relevant the hospital's website. For GWH this is www.gwh.nhs.uk.

I would encourage everyone to think about reducing their social interactions. Please consider whether it is absolutely necessary to go to your GP practice or local village shops. Consider the effect on the community if these vital resources had to close because of illness.

Stay safe Dr Angela Paddon

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Burbage Surgery - CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

You are now only able to book telephone appointments with Nurses and GPs. Please book these online if possible to free up the telephones. You may be invited to attend the surgery if appropriate. Please do not attend the Surgery unless specifically asked to do so by the staff.

We are continuing to dispense medication as normal. Please order your repeat prescriptions online if you can. There are a great many volunteers who have offered to help with delivery of medication, please contact the surgery for more information. You can find the latest information and advice from Public Health England on nhs.uk

Defer your council tax During the COVID-19 situation you can choose to defer your April and May 2020 payments and make the 10 payments between June 2020 and March 2021.

Call **0300 456 0109** or email counciltax@wiltshire.gov.uk to request the deferral.

St Nicholas' Church services and Quiz notice

Whilst church services and fundraising St Georges' Day +1 quiz will not go ahead due to the church closures, we hope everyone is aware that services are being transmitted on-line and on TV. So church goes ahead but in a different format than usual. Details can be found on the Church of England website at www.churchofengland.org and www.salisburyanglican.org

Winter Warmers

For those who would normally attend the Winter Warmers on April 7, we are sad to say it will not go ahead due to the Covid 19. This would have been the last session for the season. We will post notices in the Community News when we resume business as normal. Do keep in contact with each other by phone or email over this difficult time to compensate for the lack of social meetings. With our best wishes for your safety from the Winter Warmers Team.

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Community Safety Update - Grafton burglar caught

Following the news of additional resources for Wiltshire Constabulary, it has been confirmed that 37 newly qualified Police Officers will be joining later this month.

They will be split between Swindon and Wiltshire divisions, with deployment across the County's Community Policing Teams - meeting the objective to increase Police visibility throughout our rural areas.

Very good news to report - the perpetrator of at least one of East Grafton's burglaries is now behind bars, having confessed to no less than 75 such crimes - involving stolen goods to a value in excess of half a million pounds.



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Do you need help with your pet?

Whether you are out working, feeling under the weather or have other pressing issues, I am on hand to help you out. I am fully insured, first aid trained and D.B.S. checked and ready to assist with dog walking or a home visit for your pet or to house sit.

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Parish Council planning meetings are suspended

Planning applications continue to be processed by Wiltshire Council with this statement of procedures:

"As our applications are available online, you will still be able to view the plans and details and will hopefully be able to adapt new ways of working to communicate your views to us. As this is an ongoing national situation we hope you will understand that we are unable to freeze planning applications, particularly given the need to keep economic activity moving.

We have had a high percentage of applications dealt with under delegated powers for a long time, and this will continue. At present we are currently reviewing the position regarding the holding of planning committees and will advise you if this impacts on your applications."

There is one application on file at present, shown below, applications are also posted on our facebook pages so please keep a look out for others. Please send your comments on www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-submit-planning-application

20/01443/FUL and 20/02145/LBC

Site Location: Mayfield A338 South To Manor Farm West Grafton SN8 3BY

Proposal: Demolition of existing single storey porch and conservatory and erection of replacement porch and single storey rear extension; replace part of existing thatch roof with new tiled roof; other external and internal alterations.

Information regarding the **Parish Council AGM, APM** will be included in the May issue when the legal requirement on procedures required become clearer.

Timmy B Yoga

All classes now available over the internet on live web stream

Monday 9.30 - 10.45 - Yoga
Wednesday 9.30 - 10.30 - Yoga for All
Wednesday 11.00 - 12.00 - Gentle Yoga
Friday - 9.30 - 10.45 - Yoga

All bookings now available via mobile app
Call or email for information on how to book
tim.brew@hotmail.co.uk
07747 780898

Our very grateful thanks to ...

Martin Butt, who is retiring after 15 years of dedication and service as Church Warden for St Nicholas' Church. Many of us know Martin and have loved listening to him speak either in church or at parish get-togethers.

Martin's wife Sally has, unofficially, taken on the position of Deputy Church Warden in support of Martin in recent times.

Thank you both for your commitment and devotedness to St Nicholas' and the Parish. Enjoy your well deserved retirement.



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Dates for your diary

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

APRIL/MAY All events cancelled until further notice

East Grafton Coronation Hall - Closure

Due to the unprecedented situation with regards to Coronavirus, East Grafton Coronation Hall will be closed until Government advice dictates otherwise.

We shall review on a monthly basis and inform you as soon as we are able to re-open (be it via Community News, Facebook or Twitter). We will, of course, ensure there is a full deep-clean of the Hall before we re-open.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact with Natalie at Hall@graftonparish.com

See www.graftonparish.com, call **07479 281809** or email hall@graftonparish.com for Coronation Hall booking information and details of gazebo hire.

Mobile library at the Coronation Hall - Cancelled



Go Karting at Thruxton

An update for this and other events will be circulated via email and Facebook. We have an adventurous programme ready for when life returns to normal.

If you are interested in knowing more about Grafton Youth Activities, email youthactivities@graftonparish.com or text **07802 923344**.

Youth Activities is an initiative started by Grafton Parish Council and is aimed at young people at secondary school or in further education

Activities for children - CHUMVI CLUB

For the last three years I have been leading an after-school club at Great Bedwyn Primary School called CHUMVI CLUB. The Club is linked with Kids' Tusk Force UK - Bedwyn School is the ambassador school for the initiative.

We participate in wonderful activities based mainly on Sub-Saharan elephants, the plight they face on a daily basis AND conservation work that is vital to protect them and a host of other species.

Every week I'll post a downloadable activity on Kids' Tusk Force UK's (very family friendly) Facebook - if you aren't a Facebook fan or would rather email me I'll send it to you - info@kidstuskforceuk.org.uk OR june.walnuttree@btinternet.com

The first post is 'Follow The Swallow' - your children can download an outline map of Africa and Europe then literally follow the swallows by filling in all the landmarks they fly over as they leave Africa to journey North for the Summer. I'll provide all the landmarks you'll need to find - all you have to do is look them up in a geography book and plot the migration yourselves. Beautifully decorated 'maps' can be forwarded to me for posting on KTF's Facebook.

I will post a different activity on KTF/UK Facebook every week.

Hope you'll join Bedwyn School's Chumvi Club and enjoy the activities as much as they have! June Pearson.



Wilton Junior Cricket Club

Although traditionally run for 11-15 year olds during May and June, this year it is unlikely to take place until later in the year. Further information in the May issue.

Piers de Winton pdewinton@savills.com

Deadline for the next issue Friday 24 April

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