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Merry Christmas to everyone across our Parish from the Community News team. We wish you a Happy New Year and all good wishes for keeping safe and well in 2022.

Please note that the closing date for the January Community News is 7 January 2022. Closing date will return to the last Friday in each month thereafter.

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#### The Community Brunch & Market is back!

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the November market - it was so good to be back. Look out for news about the next market in the New Year.

#### **Our Vicar writes for Christmas**

Dear Reader,

This time last year we were worried about the Christmas Services that eventually never happened. This year we are facing the uncertainty, but with more hope and planning for a full calendar, investing life into our churches.

I have been very struck by my work with the various schools in our area. Each has a strapline, a motto, which has caused me to ponder the many ways in which they seek to create great things out of small people. Isn't this the very nub of the Christmas message? Out of a small child, born in difficult circumstances and soon to become a refugee, a life changing revelation was made. The theme has recurred in our reflections upon our parishes, the single person who takes ownership of an aspect of life and becomes the seed from which our communities grow. It is at the heart of so many of the parables told by Jesus and is at the heart of his narrative.

The point is that each little seed of growth is different, reflecting how unique and special each person is. Like the schools' strivings to provide roots for a child to grow. Creatively, our communities grow from simple initiatives.

This Christmas will see churches once more the physical heart of the community. We will not be foolish in this endeavour. If necessary, we will make hard decisions like we made last year.

Hopefully, this Christmas we will be able to do simple things like see loved ones. The ability to sing together, be together and grow together will address some of the scars of the last two years. It will not bring back the people we have lost, but it will provide the soil in which the seeds of love and fellowship can grow afresh.

With luck, the Grinch of coronavirus will make way for the child in the stable.

As we approach this Christmas, on behalf of all who keep our churches open and alive, I wish you a very joy filled season. Do join us and lend your voices to our singing.

Every Blessing, Michael

#### Turkeys and more!

We are now taking orders for the award winning, local, free range and organic turkeys as well as lots of goodies from Bill at The Swan – amazing mince pies, Christmas veg boxes, hams, Christmas puddings and more. Last date for turkey orders 4 December and last date for Swan extras 17 December.

For prices and more information please email pipmanorfarm@btconnect.com or text/call/Whatsapp **07884 453300** (9am to 6pm)

### Christmas Eve and Santa's Journey begins...

It won't be long now until Father Christmas will be travelling around our Parish on his brightly decorated sleigh with festive music and lights. Don't miss out on this traditional Christmas Eve journey.

18:00 Hollow Lane Wilton

18:10 Marten

18:20 Wexcombe

18:45 East Grafton (A338)

19.00 West Grafton

19.15 East Grafton (Severalls and Lynden Close)

19:20 Duck Pond Wilton

Parents: You may be aware that Father Christmas always visits The Swan on Christmas Day and that it is possible to arrange for your child to receive a present from him. Talk to Bill or one of the team at The Swan 01672 870274 for more information.

Last year Father Christmas had to keep socially distanced and so he was unable to visit Grafton Parish.

This year he is even happier to be able to meet you all so do please wrap up warm and give him a cheer to help him on his long journey!

## Carols by Candlelight Sunday 19 December, 4pm

Join friends and family for Carol singing on The Green and start Christmas off with cheer.

Mulled wine, sausage rolls, mince pies and all the Carols you can remember! Singing will be led by a local volunteer! Here are the Carols.

- Jinale Bells
- Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer
- Little Donkey
- Twelve days of Christmas
- Hark the Herald Angels sing
- Once in Royal David's City
- Good King Wenceslas looked out
- Ding Dong! Merrily on High

If you need prompts the Carol sheet is available on www.graftonparish.com Get your candles and lamps ready (in the Coronation Hall if just too wet of course!)

Volunteers please to help set up from 2pm and all cooks will be very welcome to join the Youth Group who will be making rolls and pies from 2pm. Please contact Annie on 07802 923344 or via clerk@graftonparish.com if you can join this community enterprise.

The Parish Council, PCC and Coronation Hall are sponsoring the event.

Contact details and general local information Anyone new to the Parish may be helped by referencing www.graftonparish.com where you can find most previous issues of the Community News to find our more about what goes on in our area. Why not have a browse on a cold winter's evening?





#### Parish Council Planning Meeting Monday 6 December, 6pm, Manor Farm Barn Wilton

Agendas will be posted on all hamlet noticeboards and on **www.graftonparish.com** 

The following planning applications will be discussed at this meeting (note that others may be received after publication of this Community News issue). The particulars in connection with these applications are available to view and comment on via the Wiltshire Council website by clicking/using the unique links provided:

**Application Reference:** PL/2021/10224 **Deadline:** 07/12/2021

Site Address: 8, Wexcombe, Marlborough, SN8 3SQ

**Proposal:** Proposed ground and first floor extension and new single storey garage.

https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-

application/0i3z000016q8V1

Application References: PL/2021/10534 Deadline: 14/12/2021 Site: Manor Farm Cottages, East Grafton, Marlborough, SN8 3DB Proposal: Single Storey Bedroom Extension to side of property. https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-

application/0i3z000016rI3H

**Application References:** PL/ 2021/10744 **Deadline:** 17/12/2021

Site: Manor Farm, Grafton Road, Wilton, SN8 3SP

**Application Type**: Prior approval Part 3 Class R: Agricultural buildings to a flexible

commercial use

Proposal: Application for Prior Approval for Change of Use of Agriculture Barn to

Mixed Industrial Units under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class R of GPDO.

https://development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s/planning-application/0i3z000016rguz/pl202110744

All applications can be found using **www.development.witshire.gov.uk** and entering search criteria.



#### **Our Doctor writes**

#### Happy Christmas from the Bedwyn Surgery!

This year Christmas may happen thanks to the high uptake of the Covid booster and flu vaccinations. We are in a very different place compared to last year and the potential to celebrate Christmas without restrictions is reason enough to encourage everyone who is eligible for a Covid booster and flu jab to have them. Keep yourself and your family safe this Christmas. And party!

Early studies have found that Covid booster jabs are more than 93% effective at stopping people catching the Delta variant and provides substantially greater protection against symptomatic illness than any two-dose regime. That protection may still wane but it will last longer than just two doses.

Although the number of cases remain high, the effect of the booster is already apparent with hospital admissions and death rates, especially in the over 85's, falling.

In addition to the booster, reducing transmission is crucial. This means testing frequently, especially before and after events with multiple people (eg your Christmas parties) and, if you test positive, then stay isolated. Tell others that you have been with so they can test or isolate themselves.

At the Old School Surgery we are holding booster vaccination clinics every Thursday afternoon at Ramsbury Surgery in the run up to Christmas. You are eligible if you are over 50 and had your second vaccination over 6 months ago. You may have already received a text message from the National Booking program which will allow you to book your booster vaccination anywhere. Alternatively you can wait for us to contact you or please do call the surgery if your second vaccination was over 6 months ago. By the time you read this article, the over 40s who are eligible for a booster will be able book through the National Booking program and 16 and 17 year olds will be able to book their second vaccination.

A huge thank you to everyone who has had their Covid booster and flu jab and to the staff at all our local surgeries who are working additional hours to ensure you get your vaccinations.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas this year. Take care, stay safe. Dr Angela Paddon and the team at The Old School Surgery.

## **Timmy B Yoga**

#### **Coronation Hall East Grafton**

Xmas Special Yoga & Sound bath Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 2.15pm - 5.30pm

Regular weekly classes

Tues 7.00pm - 8.15pm

Wed 9.30am - 10.45am



## BOOK ALL CLASSES ON WEBSITE:

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## Christmas is coming!

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www.print-image.co.uk



#### Playing field Ash trees with die-back disease

The Parish Council will be arranging for the felling of Ash trees with die-back disease over the next 18 months, prioritising the work depending on the severity of the disease and danger of collapse. A replanting plan will be constructed after this work has been completed.



### Sunflowers Help needed ...

Recruiting qualified, experienced and amazing early years team members is notoriously difficult. In usual circumstances our wonderful working environment, good terms and conditions and our reputation mean that recruitment has been 'easier' for us.

But not at the moment - a growing early years workforce crisis has been accelerated by the pandemic. Will steps be taken to address the underlying causes of this? We hope there will be a significant shift in our societal approach to caring roles but don't have time to hang about. We need to get on and recruit!

We have a 3-day per week, 6 month maternity contract which we need to fill. Candidates may not have relevant childcare qualifications but must have energy, commitment and an enormous sense of fun. Perhaps an ability to walk like a dinosaur or sing 'Jingle Bells' at the top of their voice?

Is that you? Or someone you know? Contact Alison or Sue on **01672 810478** or **admin@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk**.

#### **Royal British Region Poppy Appeal 2021**

#### Report from June Pearson, Voluntary Area Co-ordinator for the Royal British Legion Poppy appeal

On behalf of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal I am delighted to report that our area 'The Bedwyns' has raised £3,686.00

The total collected by Grafton Parish volunteers is £878.98. Many thanks to Mike Fleckney (Wilton), Susie Brew (Wexcombe), Annie Whitcher (W. Grafton) and Mike Hyslop (Marten) for giving their time to knock on doors in their villages. I cover East Grafton and find it a delight to say hello to people I see often - and those who I might see only once a year when I'm out and about with the poppy tray. The personal touch we give the Poppy Appeal as Parish residents by selling poppies, and donating to a National Remembrance 'at the door' is yet another reminder of the lovely friendships and good neighbourliness fostered in the Parish.

It was lovely to see Joe lay a wreath at the St Nicholas' Church Remembrance Service on behalf of the British Legion - and in memory of his Grandad, Ian Harman, who as a member of the Legion, was a stalwart in his support for this cause. Ian laid the RBL wreath every year - he passed away two months ago. A Parish resident for a lifetime - we salute him and thank him for the service he gave this Country and the camaraderie he shared with his army 'mates' who so often visited Korea and Legion reunions over many, many years.

#### Gastro Nick's - your Local Shop for ...



#### ... Fresh Fish, Deli, Wines, Hampers & Personal Service

- Fresh Fish & Seafood from premium South-West fish markets, arriving each Thursday, Friday & Saturday
- Celebration Hampers & Christmas Gifts. Early ordering recommended
- Excellent selection of boutique wines & spirits
- Directly sourced cheeses, charcuterie & deli ingredients
- Remember to pre-order your Christmas Turkey and Cheeses!

Register for Gastro News and/or the weekly Fish List: enquiries@gastronicks.co.uk



www.gastronicks.co.uk 01264 852701
4 Garland's Estate, Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis, SN8 3QE
Open Tuesday — Saturday
Monday - Saturday in December 9.30 — 5.30
\*\* Plenty of parking directly outside the shop\*\*

#### Tree planting at East Grafton village boundary

All residents are welcome on 15/16/17 December, starting 9am, to help plant 5 acres of trees to provide a local woodland. The site is south of the A338, at the entrance to East Grafton from the Hungerford side, where all volunteers will be very welcome. Dress in warm clothing and bring a spade! This initiative is led by David Lemon of Manor Farm Wilton.

### THE STABLES AT MANOR FARM

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Phone Harry Allen 07500423151



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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.

DECEMBER					
05	11.00	Feast of St Nicholas' Service	St N		
05	18.00	Quackers' Christmas Lights	Wilton		
07	12.30	Winter Warmers Christmas lunch			
06	18.00	PC Planning meeting	Wilton Manor Barn		
19	16.00	Carols by Candlelight	The Green		
24	18.00	Santa starts his ride around the Parish			
25	11.00	Christmas Service	St N		
JANUARY 2022					
02	11.00	Holy Communion	St N		
04	12.30	Winter Warmers			
07	24.00	Community News closing dat	te for copy		
10	19.30	Parish Council meeting			

#### **Bin collections over Christmas and New Year**

According to current information on Wiltshire Council website, all collections in our Parish will take place on the NORMAL days over the holiday period.

To check go to https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/christmas-waste-and-recycling-collections



**A reader writes:** Regrettably, a number of times a year, individuals or businesses within the parish seem to think it's acceptable to light sizeable

bonfires of what appears to be wet/green scrub or brashing materials, burning with acrid smoke. As today, it's done on a still day, without any apparent concern or respect for neighbouring parishioners or the adverse health impact being caused.

**Community News Closing dates** Our closing date is always the last Friday in the month and issues distributed by volunteers over the following weekend or within the next few days (thank you all). If you are publishing an event, advert or comment please be aware of the calendar period covered by each issue.

## To book the Hall: email hall@graftonparish.com or call 01672 216115 or 07479 281809

#### Calendar of regular dates at the Coronation Hall

Monday		Pilates	09.30
Monday	(weekly in term-time)	Dance	16.45
Tuesday	(weekly in term-time)	Zumba	09.30
Tuesday	(weekly in term-time)	Dance	16.15
Tuesday		TimmyB Yoga	19.00
Wednesday	у	TimmyB Yoga	09.30
Wednesday	y (weekly in term-time)	Dance	15.30
Thursday	(weekly in term time)	Grafton Goslings	10.00
Thursday		Pilates	13.30
Thursday		TimmyB Chair Yoga	15.00
Thursday	(weekly in term-time)	Dance	16.45
Monday	(1st & 3rd in month)	Alzheimer's Cafe	13.15
Tuesday	(1st in month)	Winter Warmers	12.30



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

Deadline for the next issue Friday 7 January 2022

## CLARIDGE

#### **Funeral Service**

Friendly Independent family funeral directors, Available 24 hours a day, all year round 01672 511836

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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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(Very Important Pet)

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### **Footsteps Podiatry Services 07881802386**

Please call to arrange an appointment for all aspects of chiropody or podiatric footcare required.

Clinic based in Tidworth Leisure Centre with free parking

Nailcare, Verrucae, Nail Surgery, Biomechanics, Dermal Filler, Chiropody/Podiatry





# 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.

07990 512342 Jasonlewis08@aol.com

**Village WhatsApp groups** - Text or WhatsApp to join: East Grafton (Tamara 07711 824864), West Grafton (Annie 07802 923344), Marten (Richard Pash 07795 636767), Wexcombe (George 07786 332950), Wilton (Tara 07833 320951). New to What's App? We can help - just get in touch.

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