

COMMUNITY NEWS

Grafton Parish Council response teams

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/grafonparish.



Grafton Parish Council Food Bank fund

A Food Bank Fund has been established by Grafton Parish Council to provide support to residents and families who are struggling to make ends meet during this difficult time.

This is proving to be needed as several home deliveries have already been made in the past fortnight.

If you are in need of basic items then please contact Kevin Burke on **07713 067113** who will then arrange for a delivery to be made.

Your call will be kept completely confidential so please don't be afraid to make it.

We are also extremely grateful for donations being made at the Swan by customers adding to their payment or leaving cash in the Food Bank jar.

Grafton Superheroes supporting the NHS!

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Grafton Superhero Challenge on VE DAY 8 May. Caroline Pearson and Gabby Walker did a fabulous job of encouraging parishioners to dress up as Superheroes whilst doing their daily exercise! It was staggering to see what amazing fancy dress attire lurks in the back of wardrobes!! What a fantastic way to unite, when social distancing prevented us all gathering together on this important day.

This magnificent spectacle was to show support for Great Western Hospital and an online donation page was set up for anyone who wanted to make a donation to Brighter Futures (GWH's charity). The response was just incredible - with £2,000 (plus gift aid) raised for their Covid19 Support Appeal to help staff and patients during the pandemic. On behalf of Brighter Futures I would like to say the biggest thank you possible to everyone who took part, cheered as Superheroes zoomed by, or gave a much appreciated donation.

This is such a difficult time and once again you showed how generous, kind and fun Grafton parishioners are! It has also been so lovely to hear the loud claps for key workers at 8pm on Thursdays and to pass signs thanking the NHS.

If you'd like to take a look at the Superheroes in action please do take a look at the gallery of photos at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/grafonsuperheroes.

Thank you again to Caroline and Gabby for organising us all! You are both Superheroes!!!

Jane Leighton

Marten Support Group Report

Although the last few weeks have been a surreal and at times frustrating period for all, it has also been uplifting seeing the community band together and support each other. Like all the other villages in Grafton Parish, Marten set up its own WhatsApp group as a support tool for anyone in need. The majority of the residents have signed up and it has been great to see neighbours offering to pick up shopping, prescriptions, etc and all the while taking the time to check on each other.

It may feel like groundhog day for all at the moment but there are aspects of the last few weeks to draw a lot of comfort from, be that seeing and hearing neighbours clap for the NHS on a Thursday evening or families out walking in our wonderful countryside, to neighbours chatting across hedges making sure that all is alright. It is reassuring knowing that we are all in this together and the more we can come together as a community the stronger and better we will be in the long run!



A reader writes about dogs killing sheep

I have just seen something on Facebook about some sheep being killed because of dogs being off-lead, leaving some lambs without mothers. Please keep your dogs on leads when out for a walk and even more importantly when in a field with young livestock in?



The Swan Shop and Takeaway

Hopefully by the time that the next issue arrives we might have some news about a limited reopening, in the meantime we continue to operate as a shop and takeaway.

Our Shop

Full of life's essentials: bread, milk, butter, fresh fruit and vegetables, some grocery items, wine, beer, and flour (including Wilton Windmill bread flour). And now Marshfield Ice Cream minitubs, and litre tubs.

If you are not comfortable visiting the shop, you can order by email/ phone we can deliver, or you can collect (it will be brought to your car). We can take contactless or phone payments.

Vegboxes

Weekly delivery of three sizes of Vegbox containing a selection of seasonal vegetables and fruit. Order by Wednesday evening for delivery on Friday. Details on the website.

Check out our NEW Takeaway Menu

Monday and Thursday are "Pizza Nights", Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday we offer Fish & Chips, Burgers, Pies, Kebabs, and salads with vegetarian and gluten free options. The menu is on our website.

Please do not email takeaway orders. To enhance social distancing we book time slots for collections. Your order will be brought to your car.

On Fridays we will also be offering Rotisserie chickens to take away.

On Sundays we have been offering a complete takeaway family roast in two sizes, small for 2-3 people, or large for 4-6 people.

I would like to thank everybody in the parish for their continued support.

Bill

01672 870274

www.theswanwilton.co.uk

shop@theswanwilton.co.uk – for grocery and vegetable orders

vegbox@theswanwilton.co.uk – for vegbox orders

Timmy B Yoga

All classes run live over the internet via Zoom

Monday	9.30am – 10.45am	Yoga
Monday	7pm – 8pm	Yoga
Wednesday	9.30am – 10.30am	Yoga for All
Wednesday	11am – 12 noon	Gentle Yoga
Friday	9.30 am – 10.45am	Yoga

All bookings now available via mobile app
Call or email for information on how to book

tim.brew@hotmail.co.uk

07747 780898



Victoria Lewis: 07786 868 192 | 01264 731408

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Planning Application received

Application Ref: 20/03351/FUL Closing **25 June**

Proposal:- Engineering work to enable the construction of a retaining wall and stone steps to the higher level of the garden.

At: Coles Thatch, Hollow Lane, Wilton, SN8 3SR

Walking in the Vale

This walk takes you from the centre of Pewsey, along Green Drove and up to Pewsey White Horse. From here you go through Pewsey Hill Farm and past the magnificent Grade II listed barn and as you descend the hill, take time to look backwards up at Pewsey Hill Farm and Denny Sutton Hipend – it is quite breath taking. Then on to Manningford Abbots, stopping for a while at the charming 13th century church before heading back through the lanes and footpaths to the centre of Pewsey. A very enjoyable (just under) 7 mile walk. For full details and to download the leaflet, go to www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk/green-drove-pewsey-white-horse-manningford-abbots/.



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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07909 996639

East Grafton, West Grafton, Marten, Wilton and Wexcombe

COMMUNITY NEWS

Grafton Parish Community News

Report for the Parish Council APM 11 May 2020.

The team which creates monthly publications of the Community News has been working to inform our 5 hamlets about points of news, interest and events for 10+ years. Everyone involved volunteers their time and efforts for free and the advertising income funds the printing for every issue; this is the reason for the black and white printing and the limited size of each issue. We are very grateful to the advertisers for funding this "free to all" publication.

Noble volunteers trudge the paths to all doors in the Parish in rain, sun and wind delivering issues each month – including the current months of isolation. The Parish residents are very appreciative of this effort – thank you all.

Bearing in mind that not everyone in our Parish has access to the internet, our aim is to inform as many people as possible about items of interest in the hope that further details can be found through friends and neighbours who are connected to the internet.

The June issue of the Community News includes the reports from as many local organisations as possible to "spread the word". Traditionally these reports are presented to the Parish at the Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting prior to publication in the Community News. This year, with no APM in the Coronation Hall, the inclusion of these reports does seem to be even more important.

The team hopes that you gain from the delivery of the Community News and would encourage you to email news@grafftonparish.com with ideas, comments and requests for inclusion in future issues – space permitting of course. Thank you for your support and we look forward to keeping you informed during the next 10 years!



Grafton Parish Council held the Annual Parish Meeting using Zoom this year because of the Covid-19 isolations.

These pages contain the reports which are traditionally presented at the APM. Thank you to all the contributors for providing informative and comprehensive articles for the June Community News.

We hope that you find the information helpful and that, when life returns to normal, these vibrant organisations can once again contribute to the Grafton Parish Community.

Grafton Parish Council Chairman's report – 2019-20 a year of ups and downs

Traffic and Speeding

Huge thanks to Natalie Neal who stood down last year as a Parish Councillor and, amongst other things, the unenviable task of running the speed watch group. Mr Andrew Paine has taken over the mantle and of trying to cajole volunteers, to get Wiltshire to put on training events for volunteers and then get hold of the equipment to run the Speed Watch sessions.

Speed and/or traffic has been the theme for this 2019/20 year with Mike Hyslop making great strides with CATG (Community Area Transport Group) and achieving several traffic calming measures. The new painted lines, the re-enforcement of the speed limits on the roads, the cats eyes in the two narrow places in the centre of East Grafton and perhaps the jewel in the crown, the acquisition of the SID (Speed Indicator Device).

I am delighted to report that we have now achieved some of the traffic and speeding related goals we set out to achieve several years ago with more to come. Crispin Herrod-Taylor got the SID up and running last month and we look forward to utilising the data stored inside it as well as reducing speed through the village.

Village Fete

Kevin and Annette Burke put on a splendid village fete that was slightly thwarted by an unkind day's weather but those who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There was an abundance of fete style games, a BBQ and bar, cakes, art shows, dog shows, tug of war and even a chariot race (of sorts). The event raised enough to donate £350 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance, £250 for St Nicholas' Church and £200 towards the Youth Activities.

Youth Activities

The Youth Activities Group have been on some serious adventures this year, trips to Oasis in Swindon, Thruxton race track for go carting, Oxenwood in the dark for midnight orienteering, cake baking, pizza making, tie dying and crazy golfing. We are very lucky to have Annie Whitcher heading up this enterprise but as ever she needs more support and we hope more volunteers will come forward to help her.

Security

Sadly the Parish bubble was pricked last year when a number of homes were broken into. As Plato is credited with saying "Necessity is the mother of invention" and so out of the sadness and distress of being burgled Chris Beale led the village to its Neighbourhood Watch fightback. We had a very informative evening with the police, supported by members of the Parish, including Mr Wilcocks who offered a free check of windows and doors for parish residents. The police recommended WhatsApp groups (on mobile phones) to act as an early warning system when undesirables are lurking and these have been set up in the Parish.

Covid-19

The WhatsApp groups have, since the outbreak of Covid-19 which has isolated thousands of people in this country, taken on a whole new life. Speaking from my experience in Wilton the WhatsApp group has been a lifeline for the more vulnerable or senior members of our village. That ping reminds you that 50 friendly faces are within metres of your home should you need anything. It's been a great way for Bill Clemence to remind us when it is take-away Pizza night at the Swan or that a resident has got a massive shipment of compost coming in and would anyone like some for their gardens. What started as a way of warning us about bad things going on has turned (however irritating it might be on occasions) into a way of bringing everyone closer together - even though we've never really felt far apart.

Road Repairs

We still have reservations about our Parish Steward who believes socially isolating involves moving from one remote lay-by to the next! I am joking, because we have started to see improvements in his activities. Given the horrendous weather we have had since September, his main duties have been to repair potholes. I am pleased to report that we have found a reasonably straight forward approach to getting things done. Villagers tell a member of the PC what they want done, this is passed on to me and I physically meet with the Steward and pass it on to him. That way perhaps as much as 50% gets done which, whilst still poor, is a 50% improvement!

Thanks to Every Member of the PC

Mike Hatherell has been looking into the village plan and exploring the options of making a neighbourhood plan for the future. This is work in progress and may take a lot of time. Ann Dudney has been running the accounts, sorting out planning applications as well as working with the Community News Team to publicise local events and information. George Hosier has been overseeing the playing field and recently Ann Dudney has helped us to engage a gardener who will, we hope, will bring it back into good heart. Annie Whitcher, as Parish Council representative, is heavily involved in the running of the Coronation Hall in addition to her duties as Vice Chairman of the PC. George Hosier oversees the defibrillators in the Parish and ensures that they are maintained in good order for emergencies when they are needed.

I would like to state on the record that the Parish has a fantastic team as their Parish Council, diligent and hardworking, doing a great deal behind the scenes. When the Coronavirus outbreak happened, immediately a representative of the PC from each village jumped into action by organising groups of helpers for shopping or medicine collection and to be an ear for those in isolation. They really stepped forward for our community. I wish to pass on my thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for everything they have done this year.

David Lemon, Chairman Grafton Parish Council, chairman@graftonparish.com

St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council



Our church is unusually quiet and deserted during this unforeseen period of isolation. It was a shame that we had to cancel the traditional, stunning and scented display of lilies and other flowers for Easter but we sincerely hope to be able to hold another event when isolation is over.

Martin Butt resigned his duties as Church Warden at the Annual meeting after 15 years of dedicated service to the church and the community. He will be a hard act to follow! In the meantime, everyone is welcome to contact the Vicar, Michael McHugh, in respect of St Nicholas' Church matters.

The final Winter Warmers lunch of the season also had to be cancelled although prior to that the attendance had grown and the community spirit flourished amongst all the good food and company. These lunches are led by Liz Hosier who does an amazing job and whose efforts are much appreciated.

This year the PCC had plans for some exciting fundraising events to help with the running costs of the church, posters were printed, menus settled and plenty of entertainment planned. When the time is right and the community has recovered it is hoped that these events can take place – volunteers to help will be sought no doubt!

In the meantime "stay safe".



Grafton/Bedwyn Link Scheme report 2020

The Link has had another busy year with medical and social trips. Most of the trips are for hospital and doctors' surgery visits but there have been quite a few to day care centres and helping with shopping. We have managed to recruit eleven new volunteers which is encouraging.

We are financially in a good state, however we would still be grateful for any contribution the Parish Council can offer. Of course the advent of Covid-19 has brought our activities to a halt even though our services are probably needed more than ever.

Unfortunately as you are probably aware, most of our volunteers are over the age of 70 and have had to go into isolation for their well-being but we will be ready to return to our normal routine as soon as this is permitted.



Wilton Cricket Club 2019 report

2019 was a good year for Wilton C.C. Although we didn't win as many games as we would have liked - the season improved as the year went on and great fun was had by all. There were many great performances and the team was led brilliantly by Ash Elliott.

Wilton had 11 games scheduled for 2020 with the season set to run from 10th May to 6th September. As always these are all friendly Sunday games with the focus on enjoying ourselves! Unfortunately, due to the current situation the season is currently postponed until further notice. Once restrictions are lifted, we will organise some indoor nets and see if we can get some games in!

We had a few games last year when we had difficulty in getting a full team so are always on the lookout for new players! If you are interested in playing please contact Ben Fleckney **07545 619431** or **bfleckney@googlemail.com**.



Wilton Windmill Society

The Windmill Society had a successful 2019, being open to the public on every Sunday throughout the summer with record numbers of visitors. We were able to further support the community through the hosting of a successful murder mystery event for 140 people and opening for the National Heritage Open Day when the restored 19th century granary was formally opened to the public. I am also pleased to report that there were no health and safety related incidents reported during the year.

We entered 2020 in a strong financial position with £14,000 cash at hand, and the windmill in excellent condition ready for a new season of milling. The Covid19 pandemic has however caused the Society to cancel its planned opening and events in 2020 and it is assumed that the windmill will not re-open this year. However, 2021 is the double centenary of the windmill and a full season of events and investments are planned to commemorate this milestone.

The on-going success of the Windmill Society is due solely to the commitment of its volunteers and I am pleased to report that we have a full and active committee, together with sufficient volunteers ready to resume operations when we re-open in 2021.

James Marlow. Chairman Wilton Windmill Society.



Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership

Another busy year with a steady increase in membership. Sadly our members have been badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic, with many of them temporarily closed. We are working closely with our members to support them as much as we can and to ensure that they are aware of schemes, grants and other benefits they may be able to access during closure. Our focus is on being prepared as lockdown is lifted to ensure that the Vale of Pewsey is a destination of choice as many people look to have a break in the UK.

The North Wessex Downs Walking Festival in June has been cancelled. We were hosting 4 walks across the Vale of Pewsey so these will now take place in the 2021 festival. In November 2019, we represented the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership, North Wessex Downs AONB and Wilton Windmill at an Army Family Day at Tidworth where there was lots of interest in walking and cycling and introduced many people to the Vale for the first time.

We continue to be active on the Council of Partners at the NWD AONB representing the PVTP and PCAP and hosted one of the expert workshops at the November Annual Forum (on the subject of tourism).

For more information see our website, **www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk**

Projects Completed:

Special Offers campaign for 2020, Online competition in February, Online videos being released during lockdown, Walking & Cycling leaflets now complete (20 online and in print), Filming now complete (official launch at Bouverie Hall in July 2019) producing one full length film plus 9 short cut films



Sunflowers at Grafton

The year has come to an interesting end for us all with the changes necessitated by COVID-19. Since schools and nurseries closed on Friday 20 March 2020 Sunflowers has remained open on a much-reduced basis providing support for our key worker families.

The last 7 weeks have been much quieter and we have adjusted to this new way of being. As we write it is still unclear when we will be able to reopen and what sort of long term implications this crisis might have. But we are now planning how we reopen and look forward to seeing the little ones we have missed.

On the whole 2019/20 has been good year for Sunflowers at Grafton. Our nursery rooms are full and we have a steady stream of enquiries and new bookings. This year has seen a significant increase in uptake for our TreeHouse Breakfast & After School Clubs for children from Great Bedwyn, Burbage and St Katharine's Primary Schools. Our Holiday Club timetables continue to attract great interest too.

Strong and healthy teams underpin our success. We have teams within Sunflowers including our fabulous nursery and TreeHouse teams, minibus drivers and support team. We have a wonderful board of trustees who balance support for current plans and progressing strategic plans. And we have teams outside Sunflowers including an extensive network with whom we collaborate to deliver amazing childcare.

We aim to be an integral part of the Grafton Parish team too. Community access to our gardens and playground; making our minibus available to community groups; hosting local fundraising events; and supporting other community activities and events are all part of our commitment to Grafton Parish.

Maintaining strong links with, and making a positive contribution to, the Parish will always be a priority for us. We provide local employment opportunities and over 50% of our team live in Grafton Parish, Bedwyn and Burbage. Our board of trustees is made up of parents and members of the community and we always welcome conversations with parish residents who would like to contribute to the team.



Grafton Goslings baby & toddler group

The group meets weekly on Thursdays at the Coronation Hall, during term time. Goslings is supported by Sunflowers, but the main effort comes from the wonderful parents and carers who sign up for our weekly rota to keep the group running smoothly.

The group is warm and welcoming and is attended by Parish families and those from further afield. Our Thursday mornings are a super mix of chat, laughter, crafting, playing and singing and we look forward to re-starting once circumstances allow.

Grafton and District Horticultural Society

We have had another successful year greatly helped by the wonderful weather on the Wednesdays of our garden visits. The gardens were stunning, the owners made us very welcome and the lunches in the pubs beforehand were delicious. The last garden we visited in September even entertained us for lunch in the pool house!

The 4 evening meetings in the Hall were well attended and the lectures ranged from "growing wild flowers from seed" to "garden fallacies and myths".

Our Summer Buffet evening in July started with visiting 5 gardens in East Grafton and the Christmas Buffet supper was delicious and good fun with a brilliant quiz.

We have 42 members at present and new members are always welcome.

Marijke Craig, Chair GDHS **01672 810364**



A successful 4th year for Grafton Youth Group with 25 young people participating in activities, including 8 new faces.

We went trampolining at FreeDog, got locked in a room (with clues on how to escape!) at Clue HQ, swam rapids at Oasis and 'donutted' down ski slopes on huge rubber rings!

In the Coronation Hall we watched films, created candles in moulds, plant pots and even oyster shells, and had great fun designing and creating tie-dye Tee Shirts. In June we supported Grafton Fete by decorating several hundred cupcakes to sell in the café – resulting in some appetising and eclectic designs.

We are lucky to have a dedicated team of 5 adults who support the youth group and make it all happen smoothly and safely. Disappointingly 2020 activities are on hold. A much anticipated return to Thruxton Go Karting was next on the agenda, no fear we'll be racing to into action with a new exciting programme as soon as feasible.

For more information on Grafton Youth Activities contact **youthactivities@graftonparish.com**

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



www.graftonparish.com for local news, articles and reports.

Welcome to Grafton Parish and the Coronation Hall in Wiltshire

Home • Coronation Hall • Community News • Grafton Parish Council • Youth activities • DoBridgwater/GPHT
St Nicholas' Church • Posts • Contacts

Your Parish council supports community information sources which are provided by volunteers who do their best to keep you informed about activities and changes which may affect you in your day to day life in this stunning part of Wiltshire.

The website is updated with information and the site is funded by the Parish Council. Together with Data Protection and all the Parish email addresses this costs approximately £450 per year to provide.

Facebook and Twitter are also manned entirely by volunteers. The inclusion of planning applications on Facebook is our attempt to ensure that you are made aware of plans which have been submitted. Please Like our Facebook page and keep up to date with planning applications in the Parish.

You are probably well aware of the many requests for volunteers to help to make things happen! Generally time is rewarded with much fun and entertainment and it is true that the more people who come forward the easier each job becomes. Certainly there would be little to enjoy without volunteers stepping forward.

Email **news@graftonparish.com** or pop a note into the **Coronation Hall letterbox** if you can help and we will pass your details on.



Coronation Hall Report 2020

This report is written at a time when, for the first time since it was built, The Coronation Hall lies empty, unused and dormant. There will be no further activities or income until such time as the lockdown is ended. Kindly our regular hirers have all elected not to take any refunds, so they will all restart their classes with credit balances. It is thankful that the Hall has good reserves and will not come under any financial pressure during this period.

Over the course of the year there is one new regular hirer, Tim Brew's yoga classes, and prior to the lockdown Miss Charlotte had planned to increase her bookings for dance classes. The regular hirers still account for over 70% of the Hall's income.

This year there is a surplus of £909, down on last year, largely because there was a lot of "catching-up" after a quiet year in terms of maintenance. Just prior to lockdown the planned redecoration of the hall commenced. It is being partially undertaken for free by Community Payback (offenders ordered to carry out community service). This is a well organised and supervised scheme that came to our attention after the work that they carried out for Burbage Primary School. The hall has to provide/purchase materials and equipment, and there will be some work that they are unable to do, but it does mean that the amount that was originally earmarked for the redecoration will be significantly reduced.

During the past year the hall's costs were relatively static compared to the previous year, although there are inflationary increases across the board. The hall committee has agreed with The Parish Council that the hall will start paying for its share of the parish insurance policy. Given that money has been saved on the redecorating costs the hall has also agreed to contribute to enable the Speed Indicators to be erected.

On behalf of the committee Ann Dudney has been exploring the possibilities with regards the repair/renovation of the track and car park area. A permanent solution is not going to be cheap, and it is hard to see how it can be achieved without fundraising or grant funding.

The Community Brunch and Markets have continued with great success. Three were held in the last year and it is planned to continue with them as soon as possible.

Just prior to the lockdown it was agreed that a Clothes Bank would be installed at The Hall which would collect on behalf of The Wiltshire Air ambulance.

As a committee we would like to thank Maria for continuing as the Hall caretaker; she has carried out many of the outstanding maintenance jobs from the previous year and has also now undertaken the role of cleaner. The Hall is looking quite sparkling. Thanks also to Fran Barclay for continuing to plant and care for the hall's tubs and baskets.

Bill Clemence



Pewsey Community Area Partnership

Youth Activities – working with the groups in Grafton with Annie Whitcher and in Bedwyn. The Family Fun day which was planned for 17th April was cancelled due to coronavirus but will be reorganised once gatherings are allowed.

PCAP continues to run the Health & Wellbeing Group and administering the grant process with Wiltshire Council. All the grant funds were allocated in the 2019 – 2020 year. Using a grant from the Health & Wellbeing Fund, PCAP ran a project to deliver 2 chairs with arms to every village hall in the Pewsey Community Area (17 took the offer, 2 abstained).

Through the Health & Wellbeing Fund we have also set up a fortnightly Movement to Music Together exercise class (thanks to Sylvie Clayden and Henrietta Mackinnon), with referrals through social prescription from doctors' surgeries, as well as others who have wanted to join. This has now been run online but we are currently applying for grants to get this set up in a sustainable way online as this vulnerable group are likely going to be on lockdown for some time to come. We continue to organise and run the Memory Café in Pewsey on the 3rd Monday of the month and had a fantastic trip in June on the canal with The Bruce Trust. We had planned to do another two trips this year, but these have been put on hold until after the lockdown. The café is cancelled for the foreseeable future until this vulnerable group are able to come out of lockdown.

Dawn Wilson and Colin Gale chair and run the Pewsey Vale Rail User Group (PVRUG) – working closely with Bedwyn Rail User Group, Great Western Railway, TransWilts and the Great West Way. The new timetable providing much better connection options to London and the west, was launched in December.

In response to central Government's initiative - Better Deal For Bus Users - to provide grants for new and improved rural bus services via local councils, PCAP and PVRUG submitted a case for a new bus/rail link service. The bus link would provide a service between Marlborough, Burbage, Upavon and Devizes linking commuters with Great Bedwyn and Pewsey Stations. There is clear evidence that commuter numbers are increasing, demonstrated by the growing car parking issues at both stations as well as from the rail user data.

From the experience of Wiltshire Council's process regarding the closure of Everleigh Household Recycling Centre, as well as their handling of a number of other public consultations, PCAP, CPRE and Pewsey Parish Council joined forces to follow up on the significant concerns these consultations raised. The main issue was the manner in which public input was considered by Wiltshire Council and how decisions were being taken. The Group raised these concerns with Wiltshire Council where the Overview & Scrutiny were tasked to investigate the concerns and report back to Cabinet. A Task Group was set up and has confirmed shortfalls in Wiltshire Council's handling of public consultations. The Group are continuing to progress this issue. PCAP has been able to support small community groups who want to run events by providing insurance for them through our own insurance policy – we have helped Bedwyn Footpaths Group and Shalbourne Connect. If there are any small community groups who need access to banking and insurance (which you need if you apply for grants), then we may be able to help them.

Working with the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership and Pewsey Parish Council, the Pewsey Business Matters project is now completed, including regular (6 monthly) footfall counts (which will continue), business surveys and public surveys. The report has been completed and provided to Pewsey Parish Council and was being progressed before coronavirus started.

PCAP had commenced work on the adoption of the Good Verge Guide across the Pewsey Community Area, but this has been put on hold for the time-being.

Our thanks go to all the Parish Councils who have kindly donated towards the running costs of PCAP which enables this work to continue.



We're operating a postcode system for entry to our household recycling centres. Depending on your postcode, you can only access sites on certain days.

Find your postcode in the tables below. Don't forget to check the opening times of your local HRC before visiting and don't visit if it is not your specified day. We will review the postcode system after 14 June. Access for Wiltshire Council residents only.

Postcodes starting SN8 may visit on the dates below

Tues 19 May	Thurs 21 May	Sat 23 May	Mon 25 May	Wed 27 May	Fri 29 May	Sun 31 May
Tues 02 June	Thurs 04 June	Sat 06 June	Mon 08 June	Wed 10 June	Fri 12 June	Sun 14 June

Visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres for updated information after 14 June

New rules for visiting household recycling centres

You will need to take proof of your address including your postcode to prove that you are visiting on the correct date - this must be displayed in your vehicle window.

You will not get any assistance from staff at the recycling centres. Only 1 person per car and no soil, rubble, plasterboard, textiles or asbestos during this initial reopening phase.

Opening times 10am to 4pm.



Our Doctor writes

Although our main doors may be closed, general practices are working hard adapting to challenges on a daily basis to deliver a service using new technologies. This month I would like to update you about what is happening in general practice. We are still there for you!

COVID-19

People who think they have symptoms of COVID-19, most commonly a high fever over 38°C and a new persistent cough, should continue to phone NHS111 for advice and guidance. Please do not go to your GP surgery.

Non-COVID-19 Appointments

Since mid March GP practices have been using telephone and video consultations to assess patients. This will continue in order to minimise the risk of exposure to the virus for both patients and staff. Face to face consultations will be arranged if necessary to examine you and/or for blood tests. If you are asked to go to your surgery the clinician seeing you will be wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and keep the time spent with you to a minimum. Social distancing will be observed in the waiting room and with all other staff. You can arrange a telephone/video appointment by contacting your surgery by phone or using doctorlink. This is a virtual 24/7 health assistant that connects you to your local NHS service, allowing you to check your symptoms confidentially and book an appointment with your own GP. www.doctorlink.com. At The Old School Surgery you can book a 10 minute telephone/video consultation and this should be regarded in the same way as if it is a face to face appointment. If your appointment is about a rash or a skin condition the receptionist will ask you to send a photograph.

Referrals and investigations

All routine referrals and non urgent diagnostic tests were suspended in mid March. Urgent cancer referrals and emergency referrals have continued. However there has been a significant drop in the number of cancer referrals nationally. If you have symptoms which you are concerned may be due to cancer, please make a telephone appointment. The referral pathways to hospitals and community services are being restored. Staff were redeployed to other services to cope with Covid 19 patients. It is hoped that GPs locally will be able to start referring this week and have access to test such as X Ray and ultrasound very soon. The consultants at The Great Western Hospital in Swindon, The Royal United in Bath and Salisbury District Hospital have always been very supportive to GPs and available for advice. They have been even more amazing during the current crisis and provided additional access via telephone and email for both Covid and non-Covid patients. These lines of communication will remain open to help GPs manage patients we would normally refer. If you are referred to hospital your appointment will most likely be a telephone appointment initially.

Childhood Immunisations, Screening and monitoring blood tests

The childhood immunisation programme has not changed and continues despite the pandemic. If you are sent an invitation for your child to be immunised please contact your surgery. Screening requiring face to face interaction has been suspended. At present cervical screening is only available for women who have had an abnormal smear previously. At The Old School Surgery the practice nurses manage the immunisation and screening programmes so if you have any questions please ask for a telephone appointment with the nurse. If you are taking medicines (eg warfarin, methotrexate, lithium, azathioprine, amiodarone) which require monitoring with a regular blood test please make an appointment with your practice nurse.

Repeat prescriptions

There are shortages of certain medicines at present especially inhalers. The dispensary team at The Old School Surgery are working very hard to ensure alternatives are found. However this takes time and it is taking longer than the previous 3 days to process repeat prescriptions. Please would you order your repeat prescription a week in advance to enable the dispensary team time to resolve any problems.

Joint injections and minor surgery

At The Old School Surgery the doctors are only performing urgent minor surgery, for example, draining an abscess. Patients have enquired about having joints injected to help manage pain. The advice from NHS England is not to do any joint injections. Steroids used to inject joints can reduce immunity and if you contract Covid 19 after your joint injection there is the potential for you to have a more severe, life threatening infection.

Thank you once again for all your kind words of support. We are managing to eat all the delicious cakes, biscuits, chocolates, fruit and the flowers brighten up our work areas.

Stay alert/home, stay safe.

Dr Angela Paddon and the team at The Old School Surgery.

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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.

JUNE All events cancelled until further notice

East Grafton Coronation Hall - Closure

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

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

Mobile library at the Coronation Hall - Cancelled



A reader writes a thank you

A young man kindly spent hours on his John Deere mower the other day.

The resulting smart and open footpath from East Grafton to Wilton is very much appreciated.

Thank you very much.

Prospect Hospice - End of life specialists Appeal for support during Covid-19 pandemic

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected the nation in different ways but one area that has been hit harder than most is the charity sector.

For local charity Prospect Hospice, demand for services is increasing while, at the same time, vital funding dried up overnight. The charity continues to deliver essential specialist end of life care to local people, but is now struggling to find the funds to do this.

To combat this, the charity is launching an appeal to raise £2million to ensure its crucial services continue during this time and in the months and years to come. To donate and support Prospect Hospice, visit www.prospect-hospice.net/donate.

Community Contacts

Church flowers/cleaning	Patricia Knowles 01672 810072
Community News	news@grastonparish.com
Coronation Hall	07479 281809 hall@grastonparish.com
Junior Cricket	pdewinton@savills.com
Parish Council	clerk@grastonparish.com
PCC Secretary	01672 870266
St Nicholas' services	www.grastonparish.com
Winter Warmers	01264 731242 liz@wexcombefarm.co.uk
Youth Activities	Text Annie 07802923344

Local Clubs

Windmill Society	secretary@wiltonwindmill.co.uk
Horticultural Society	01672 810364 Marijke Craig
Crofton Beam Engines	crofton@katrust.org.uk
Grafton Goslings Baby & Toddler Group	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk

For help and information

Link Scheme	0771 7006787
Police emergency	999 or 112 - information 101
Member of Parliament	Danny Kruger 01380 729358
County Councillor	Stuart Wheeler 01672 810285

Deadline for the next issue Friday 26 June

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Footsteps Podiatry Services 07881802386

Please call Katie to arrange an appointment for all aspects of
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can be arranged.

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