

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Dates for your diary

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

JUNE			
06	11.00	Holy Communion	<i>St N</i>
07	13.00	Parish Council planning meeting	
30	11.40	Mobile Library visits	
JULY			
04	11.00	Holy Communion	<i>St N</i>
06	12.30	Winter Warmers	
12	19.15	Parish Council public meeting	

## The Community News has grown this month !

This issue contains the reports from local organisations which are presented to the Parish Council annually as part of the community efforts to keep all Parish residents informed about local activities.

The Community News Team will be publishing the "back page list" of contact numbers every 4 months after this issue so do please "cut out and keep" this page for reference. Our space is limited and the inclusion of more up-to-the-minute news will be helped by this change. We hope that you agree! As always all comments are welcome at [news@graftonparish.com](mailto:news@graftonparish.com) so do please let us know what you think.



Like our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/GraftonParishCommunityNews)

**GraftonParishCommunityNews** or follow us on Twitter [www.twitter.com/graftonparish](https://www.twitter.com/graftonparish).

## Winter Warmers becomes Summer Sizzlers



We are back and so looking forward to seeing you and welcoming any newcomers to the Parish on Tuesday 6 July 12.30 at the Coronation Hall Please book your place with Liz Hosier **07831 545772** or email [liz@wexcombefarm.co.uk](mailto:liz@wexcombefarm.co.uk)

A delicious lunch of Summer Baked Chicken with Courgette and New Potatoes. Followed by Gooseberry Fool. Coffee or tea, a catch up with old friends and a good opportunity to meet new ones.

Can't wait to see you all. From the Winter Warmers team

## Vacancy - Cleaner - Coronation Hall

East Grafton Coronation Hall is looking for a cleaner who could provide between 2-4 hours per week, with occasional extra checks after parties and events.

If you would like to join our great team and help look after our fantastic Hall, please call Natalie on **07479 281809** or email [hall@graftonparish.com](mailto:hall@graftonparish.com) for further details.

## Parish Council planning meeting Monday 7 June at 1pm

Application No: PL/2021/03672 **Closing date: 17 June**  
Address: 9 and 10, Road To Lower Farm, Wexcombe, SN8 3SQ  
Proposal: Replace 2 semi detached dwellings with single detached dwelling

Application No: PL/2021/03765 **Closing date: 22 June**  
Proposal: Rear single storey garden room extension.  
Address: Mill Farm House, Marten, Marten, SN8 3SJ

Application No: PL/2021/04069 **Closing date: 25 June**  
Site: Upper Farm, Wexcombe, Marlborough, SN8 3SQ  
Proposal: Conversion of an existing agricultural building into a residential dwelling (C3 Use Class), together with associated residential curtilage, landscaping, parking and a garage. The proposals also include the demolition and removal of two redundant open sided barns and restoration of an existing former chapel (resubmission of 20/09147/FUL)



## We are back! It's time to get out and make friends, play and chat

Our friendly and welcoming baby and toddler group reopened on 20 May in the Coronation Hall (10am to 11.30am).

Capacity has to be limited to 15 adults (under 5's are not included in this number) to conform to COVID guidance and keep everyone safe. In order to keep to this limit Goslings has asked families to reserve places and is currently full.

We hope to revert back to drop-in sessions with no need to book from 21 June - fingers crossed! Keep an eye on the Grafton Goslings facebook page for further information [www.facebook.com/Graftongoslings/](https://www.facebook.com/Graftongoslings/)



## Grafton Parish Council update

Grafton Parish Council is delighted to welcome 3 new members. Rupert Bentley (Wilton), Richard Pash (Marten) and Edward Nelson (Wexcombe). During June the Councillor's responsibilities will be allocated and a full list will be posted on the Parish Council page of [www.graftonparish.com](https://www.graftonparish.com).

Please note that the planning application portal on the Wiltshire Council website has been relaunched and the new Public Register can be found using the following link [www.development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s](https://www.development.wiltshire.gov.uk/pr/s) or from Wiltshire Councils Home Page [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk) where you should select 'Search for planning applications' in the 'Featured links' at the top of the page. This was published in the May Community News, however there are a number of issues with the implementation which result in access to documents, for example, being extremely difficult. Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC) has written a lengthy analysis of complaints which need to be addressed. If you need to explore planning applications in the meantime do be warned.

Whilst on the subject of planning there are a few points which have been raised recently.

- Meetings are held in the Coronation Hall at 1pm in alternate months when planning applications arrive for consideration with closing dates prior to the next full Parish Council meeting. These are public meetings, advertised on noticeboards and only held when there are applications to consider.
- Most of the Parish resides in a Conservation Area where planning permission is required prior to any work on trees. Visit [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-trees-hedges](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-trees-hedges) for further details. No applications for tree works require public meetings and therefore do take note of any Wiltshire Council notice to inform neighbours of work to be done.
- East Grafton village green is all privately owned, unusually for a green in the centre of a village, and is subject to the standard village green regulations. Owners maintain the green and take out public liability insurance for their area. Parking is prohibited on any part of a village green, fencing and camping is not permitted and the area must be treated with respect at all times. The area outside the Coronation Hall was been classified as a carpark, within the planning application for the new Hall, so is no longer classified as part of the village green.

The Parish Council meetings will return to the Coronation Hall from the 12 July meeting when all residents of the Parish will be most welcome. We will be happy to leave Zoom behind as we return to open meetings and look forward to seeing you.

## News in brief

**Alzheimer's Support** has reopened its friendly Memory Cafe in East Grafton – and due to growing demand it now meets fortnightly instead of monthly.

The cafe meets every other Monday afternoon from 2pm at Coronation Hall. Open to people living with dementia and family carers, the café offers entertainment, a chance to chat informally with dementia professionals, and is a great place to make new friends over refreshments.

The cafe needs volunteers! Helpers of all ages are a key and valued part of the team and spend their time chatting with guests, joining in or leading small group activities, and helping to serve refreshments.

To find out more or book a place, [www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk/Pages/Category/activities](http://www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk/Pages/Category/activities) or call **01380 739055**.

Alzheimer's Support's community groups are all following Public Health England-approved risk assessment and procedures to ensure everyone stays safe.

**Education and training help from Wiltshire Council** Have you met **Wilfred Bot?** Ask him anything about education, employment or training on our Young Work Wiltshire page!

Wilfred is available 24/7 so young people can research and explore their education and training options any time of the day. You will also find a huge range of information on Work Wiltshire. Visit today – [www.workwiltshire.co.uk/young](http://www.workwiltshire.co.uk/young)

**The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)** is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to **"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."**

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, *The Queen's Green Canopy* will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service. Get involved – [www.queensgreencanopy.org](http://www.queensgreencanopy.org)

**Exciting FREE summer events for young people** at Bouverie Hall, Pewsey  
- Sunday 25 July - King Ramps (Skateboarding)  
- Sunday 22 August - Climbing Wall

### Our Doctor writes ... A Tentative Opening



It has been wonderful to see the front door of the surgery open as a first step to reopening. Patients who have a prebooked appointment with a doctor, nurse or the blood pressure machine can come in and check in on the screen. You can now book telephone appointments via the online booking system and we encourage you to do this to help free up the phone lines. Anyone picking up medicines or wanting to speak to a member of the reception team please continue to go to the back window. Face to face appointments have been available throughout the pandemic based on clinical need following a telephone assessment with a doctor or nurse. Until it is safe, this, along with social distancing and mask wearing needs to continue. When it will be safe is uncertain and with the Indian variant spreading rapidly this is now likely to be beyond the 21 June.

Again I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for your continued support, encouragement and thank you messages. We seem to be busier than ever with huge demand for appointments. In addition to providing routine, emergency and visit appointments, we are playing catch up from when the core services were suspended, delivering the vaccination programme and dealing with a large number of appointments generated from the online platforms such as DoctorLink. It is great to see so many of you using this online resource especially for minor illness symptoms and getting advice without contacting the surgery. Other excellent online resources are the NHS and Patient.info websites. If you require evidence of your vaccination status for travel this can be accessed from the gov.uk website and any queries about the vaccination programme can be found here or by contacting **119**.

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



**A reader writes** This morning, 26th May, it was the first dry and sunny morning we have had for quite a while, and someone lit a bonfire at around 08.30am! I'm sure I was not alone having washing actually on the line for the first time in ages, and my windows open to let some fresh air in! No chance for a good couple of hours.

**Bonfires are discouraged in all areas of the Parish**, particularly within the proximity of thatched houses, with a number of residents often commenting on the affects on those with compromised lungs.

## Timmy B Yoga

at

### Coronation Hall East Grafton

**Wednesdays**

**Yoga 9.30 – 10.30am**

**Gentle Yoga 11.00 – 12.00pm**

**NEW!! Thursdays NEW!!**

**Chair Yoga for all 3.00 – 4.00pm**

Message or call to reserve your space!



All classes must be booked

Book now to save your place

For full calendar and how to book

[www.timmybyyoga.co.uk](http://www.timmybyyoga.co.uk)

[info@timmybyyoga.co.uk](mailto:info@timmybyyoga.co.uk)

Facebook - @timmybyyoga

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# GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL AGM REPORTS 2021



## Grafton Parish Council Annual Chairman's Report 2020-21

A year dominated by COVID-19 has not allowed for any face to face meetings. However the usual 6 full meetings and 5 planning meetings did take place during the year via Zoom.

Your Parish Council initially set up 5 support groups to serve each hamlet in the Parish – these have proved very useful and they have spawned further groups, mostly using WhatsApp, to provide community links and items of interest and general information.

Kevin Burke and Bill Clemence (Swan in Wilton) ran a food bank which was very generously supported by locals and served all those who confidentially asked for help with fresh food during this difficult period.

We have been prudent with the finances and this has enabled the Parish Council, supported by successful grant applications, to fund a number of important projects.

### Traffic safety

The SIDS (Speed Indicator Devices) have been in place on the A338 for a year providing some staggering data. Because we felt that the A338 western entrance to the village would record faster traffic than the eastern end we were able to fund a second SID for that entrance. The Wiltshire Police were instrumental in providing the road counters which concluded the legal obligations for SID installations.

Some interesting statistics from the SIDS during one monitoring period:

- Eastern end on A338 – 24,000 vehicles travelled 30–35mph, 4,600 vehicles recorded 35–40mph, and 172 around 40 mph.
- Western end on A338 - (Erected in August) 6,000 vehicles travelled 30–35mph, 4,000 recorded 35–40mph, 2,000 over 40 mph and 16 vehicles well over 50 mph!

The Parish Council has successfully lobbied for and funded additional road works; new cat's eyes inserted on the A338 at the narrowest parts of the road and white gates at the perimeter to denote areas of settlement and to encourage drivers to slow down.

Due to the rules of the pandemic the "Speed Watch" team has been unable to further monitor traffic speeds. We are always keen to recruit others to join this very useful and effective team so do please volunteer and we will be back in action as soon as the rules allow this to restart.

### Defibrillators

Originally financed by successful fundraising projects, these 5 units (1 in each hamlet) all have a clean bill of health. We are very grateful to the dedicated team of people who check these regularly and report any issues. The Parish Council has replaced 1 unit completely and supplied others with new batteries, pads etc.

### Playing field

The field is regularly mowed and kept in good order, additionally Sunflowers at Grafton made temporary use of a small area erecting a gazebo, with COVID restrictions, to allow a safer space for the children outside.

### Parish Support Groups and food bank

Kevin Burke worked with Bill Clemence at the Swan to ensure that those who made requests for food boxes were regularly supplied. A massive thank you goes to them both and to all those kind people who donated towards this effort. The Support group WhatsApp helped to keep everyone connected and has spawned other local groups to provide help, information, contacts and advice.

### A number of other initiatives took place in the year, for example:

#### Act of Remembrance

In November we were able to hold a socially distant and brief remembrance service around the War Memorial. We planted the Rowan Tree that was given to the Parish to commemorate a century passing since the end of the First World War.

#### The trees at the end of Grafton Road and the A338.

Action has been taken to remove the dangerous hazard presented by trees growing through the pathway with the combined efforts of local residents, the power company and Wiltshire Council.

#### Parish Steward

We are making progress and little by little we are getting gullies drained, potholes filled, and grass mown. More could be done but there is a general improvement.

### Thank you very much

The Parish Council year ends on 31 March however it is important to recognise the contribution made by 2 councillors who have stood down at the time of the 4yearly election period in May 2021.

Mike Hyslop joined the council in 2010. Mike's roles have included Neighbourhood Planning, CATG (Community Area Transport Group), achieving the 40mph Speed limit for Marten. Speed initiatives in Grafton, general support and chairman.

Crispin Herrod-Taylor joined the council in 2013. Crispin's roles included PCAP (Pewsey Community Area Partnership), collecting SID data, improving the sound system in the Coronation Hall, maintaining a "hot line" to Lapland each Christmas and general support.

I would like to take this opportunity to massively thank them both for the huge efforts which they made during their time on the Parish Council. A thank you is also due to all the Councillors and the Clerk for the work which they have done, often in the background, to support the community in 2020-21.

**And finally:** On behalf on Grafton Parish Council may I wish you good health and a successful awakening from Covid-19 lockdowns. We are all very lucky to have experienced the last 18 months in such idyllic countryside. Keep safe. The Parish Council will be organising a community event as soon as it is feasible and will welcome all ideas so do come along to the meetings with your suggestions please.

Regards David Lemon (Chairman Grafton Parish Council) [chairman@griftonparish.com](mailto:chairman@griftonparish.com)





## Grafton and District Horticultural Society

On 18 March 2020 we planned to start our programme for 2020 with our AGM and a lecture by one of our favourite speakers.

However with the dark clouds of Covid getting closer and things cancelled around us, the Committee decided to notify the members that we would not have the meeting. The official lockdown started a few days later. Obviously we did not meet for the rest of the year.

We are now tentatively planning a few outings but many of our members are very apprehensive to start socialising again so we will see what happens. Fingers crossed.

Marijke Craig, Chair GDHS



## Grafton Parish SpeedWatch

Where did the last 8 months go?

Things have been up in the air with SpeedWatch for the past few months but seem to have largely settled down now. As some of you know Wiltshire Police did a team audit at the start of the year and found they'd lost quite a bit of paperwork which we had to resubmit (thank you!) On the plus side they do seem a bit better organised now and are even giving CSW volunteer training once again.

In theory we've been allowed to restart CSW activities for a couple of weeks now but have had to hold off while the police have been adding new teams and shuffling the camera rotas around. We now share the camera with Easton Royal (2 weeks on / 2 weeks off).

As soon as we are allowed to restart we will be needing more volunteers so do please put your name forward if you feel able to spare a couple of hours now and then, your efforts will definitely make a difference. Email [clerk@graftonparish.com](mailto:clerk@graftonparish.com) and you will be contacted with training details. It is not onerous - just camera instructions and a few procedural details!

Thanks & Regards, Andrew Paine (SpeedWatch Lead)



## Coronation Hall annual report

It is hard to believe that a year has passed with the Hall having been barely used other than for a handful of classes between lockdowns by some of our regular hirers. This would obviously have had a financial impact on the Hall's finances had it not been in receipt of the Government's Local Restrictions Support Grants. These grants have covered the loss of income and allowed the Hall Committee to cover the costs involved in ensuring compliance with Covid regulations and recommendations, and to be able to continue with some essential maintenance projects as well as some non-essential upgrades to the Hall's fabric.

The air-conditioning has had to be replaced, and the Committee took the opportunity install units more powerful than those originally fitted. Outside there are new gateposts, new upsized guttering, and repairs to the track up to and in front of the Hall.

The Hall is heated by an air source heat-pump and it sadly came to the end of its life. This was a major item of expense and had not been anticipated. However, the hall is now 12 years old and it is probable that items will start to wear out and will need to be replaced/updated.

With Lockdown restrictions continuing to ease the Hall will slowly come back to life. Charlotte's dance classes returned in April. In mid-May some adult classes, including Tim Brew's Yoga restarted and Winter Warmers returns in July. To encourage and support regular hirers and their clients to ease back into full swing a discount on fees has been offered until the end of 2020.

During the coming year the only planned item of expenditure is to replace all current light fittings to take LED lamps, whilst also exploring the viability of adding solar panels. In spite of these difficult times, we have acquired new hirers and the May election was also a boost to the Hall funds.

Although the last year could not be claimed as a huge success in terms of gaining income or for community usage of the facilities, thanks to the fact that considerable reserves have been set aside over the last 12 years, and by being in receipt of grants, it is not disastrous either. There are still good reserves and all being well the Hall will continue to be a facility that this fabulous community can be proud of, and well used again, still looking as good as new!

As a committee we would like to thank Maria for continuing as the Hall caretaker; she has carried out many of the aforementioned maintenance jobs and has kept the hall sparklingly clean. Thanks also to Fran Barclay for continuing to plant and care for the Hall's tubs and baskets.

See [www.graftonparish.com](http://www.graftonparish.com), call **07479 281809** or email [hall@graftonparish.com](mailto:hall@graftonparish.com) for Coronation Hall bookings & details of gazebo hire.

## Bedwyn and Grafton Link Scheme



At the moment we have 10 active phone co-ordinators and 18 active drivers.

During lockdown 2020 we made the decision to use the Link number as a COVID emergency helpline for anyone needing help with shopping, prescriptions etc and 8 of our phone co-ordinators continued to man the phone 7 days a week to help with this. From our usual 30 Link drivers we were down to about 3 who were willing to help transport people if necessary. No hospital appointments were running at that time, however we know we would need more so we recruited heavily due to the wonderful village community spirit and offers being made. Luckily we were able to recruit over 12 new younger drivers who were happy to drive for us once new hospital appointments were being made.

In March 2020 using the Link phone as the master phone we were able to set up a WhatsApp group with over 100 volunteers willing to help. We estimated we had over 300 jobs for help and support over the first 4 months of lockdown. This enabled friendships to develop between volunteers and neighbours.

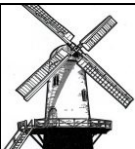
Bedwyn Link scheme was one of the few Link schemes that continued to run during this time as most other schemes had drivers who were shielding. This was a fantastic effort from our wonderful team of volunteers and existing Link volunteers who went over and above to help in this situation.

During this time, Link also was offered food parcels which residents wanted to go to those more in need. This started in March 2020 and we continued to help families in this low key capacity until Bedwyn Foodbank was started in November 2020 where we had 12 local individuals/families we were supporting over this time. We were inundated with donations and using that and grocery donations we successfully helped these families. We are ceasing foodbank at the end of June 2021 but we will continue to liaise closely with the local schools, church and doctors surgery and will use Link funds once the foodbank donations have ceased to help families if needed.

Normally in a month we do approximately 50 trips, mostly Marlborough, Swindon and local areas. Sometimes as far as Bath and Oxford and Reading. At present there are lot less, we are doing approximately 15 a month. It is starting to pick up though as we are lucky that as we have recruited younger Link drivers we are able to continue this service. We are hoping that most of our Link drivers will resume duty by the end of 2021.

To the end of December 2019 our income was just over £5000 and our expenditure about the same.

Many thanks Sarah Richardson



## Wilton Windmill Society Annual Report to Grafton Parish Council - May 2021

It has been an inevitable consequence of adhering to Government guidance for the control of the Covid 19 pandemic that the past twelve months has been a fallow year for the Windmill Society, with little of the normal guiding and public events that the Society usually organises taking place.

The inability to socially distance within the mill, and the fact that many volunteers are of an age that placed them in a more vulnerable category has meant that guiding has generally been limited to ad-hoc unguided tours provided at no charge. However, by putting appropriate measures in place the Society has been able to mill throughout the year and continue to sell flour through local outlets.

2021 is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mill and the initiatives and events planned by the committee in celebration of that milestone have sadly been deferred to next year. Nevertheless, it is still the intention of the Society to mark the occasion this year with a simple volunteer and Parish event towards the end of the summer.

The Mill continues to be fully operational although several maintenance jobs are now becoming more pressing. As such we are pleased to report that following a recent meeting with our Council representative and millwrights it has been agreed that all outstanding maintenance tasks will be completed this year with work planned to start within the month.

The finances of the Society remain on a sound footing. The public have been generous in their donations throughout the year and we maintain £15,000 cash at hand. This will allow us to implement a number of improvements to the site such as a new information board and benches.

The normal AGM cycle of the Society was interrupted last year with a decision of the Committee to defer the AGM from November 2020 to a time when social distancing rules allow a meeting to take place in doors. The Committee plan to meet in person on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May and will agree a date for the deferred AGM and plans for the remainder of the year.

James Marlow. Chairman Wilton Windmill Society



### St Nicholas' Church

The Church has experienced a locked down year in the same way as almost everything else in the Parish.

The problem with parts of the wooden ceiling falling down has meant that the Church has had to remain closed for much longer than anyone would have hoped. However the provision of Zoom services has filled the gap for many parishioners - not the same as joining a service in the Church of course but this has helped many who have joined in these virtual services.

Builders and scaffolding suppliers have now been engaged and are ready to commence work as soon as the project is given the go-ahead by the authorities. It is hoped that this will start at the end of June.

An accumulation of funds earmarked for an improvement to the heating, together with very generous donations from residents, will be used to enable the work to start. It is anticipated that small grants will be available to help with the funding although at the end of the project and when Covid-19 rules allow there will need to be more funds raised to ensure that the finances balance at the end of 2021.

It is hoped that, once the work is finished, the Church will again open every day and that the traditional and welcome superb flower arrangements will once again adorn our beautiful building.

Although it is still early in the year every effort will be made to ensure that the next annual celebration for "Harvest Festival" can become a celebration of the revival of the Church, the community and a vibrant future for St Nicholas.

You will have read in previous issues of the Community News that there is a need for volunteers to help with the jobs to be done to keep the Church open. Just as a reminder please think about whether you can spare only a few hours a year and, with a number of helpers, the tasks will not be at all onerous!

The Parochial Church Council is looking forward to welcoming you to St Nicholas on the first Sunday of each month at 11.00am for Holy Communion.

Zoom services 9am and 6pm Monday to Thursday using the following link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82668874600>

Meeting ID: 826 6887 4600 Password 021821

The Savernake Team continues to offer spiritual support and worship, including Sunday Services at 11am by zoom and daily prayer and reflections by email. More information is at [www.savernaketeam.org.uk/news-and-events/](http://www.savernaketeam.org.uk/news-and-events/)



### Sunflowers at Grafton

We have all found ourselves living and working in a completely different environment over the past year. COVID-19 had started to impact when we wrote our 2020 report to the Parish AGM, and it continues to impact now.

Our main priority over the past year has been to keep our team and families safe and well informed and to ensure that Sunflowers remained financially sound. This necessitated many operational changes and our Senior Leadership Team managed this with common sense, calmness and kindness.

Sunflowers at Grafton nursery rooms remained open to support key worker families during March, April and May 2020 and we began to welcome back all nursery families from June. Our out of school activities re-started on a much reduced basis in September 2020 and are likely to continue in this way until this summer.

The past year has underlined the tremendous strength and depth of the Sunflowers team. They have all demonstrated great resilience, patience and commitment. The pandemic vividly highlighted how much society depends upon essential workers and our team are proud to be part of that group.

We are pleased to report that, despite the challenges of the past year, our team is healthy and secure; our outstanding reputation preserved; we have a steady stream of enquiries and bookings and our organisation is financially sound.

Maintaining strong links with, and making a positive contribution to, the Parish will always be a priority for us. We were delighted to be selected as one of three beneficiaries of the Co-op Local Community Fund following an application to help to develop the Parish playing field. Working with the Parish Council, the plan is to extend facilities to include an outdoor table tennis table which can be used by all ages and natural climbing structures for young children.



### Grafton Goslings

Grafton Goslings baby & toddler group last met in mid-March 2020.

We are delighted to be planning to re-open in May and look forward to lots of fun in the Coronation Hall on a Thursday morning.

Sue England, Business Manager



## Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership

A busy year despite the pandemic, with many of our members being badly hit by the lockdowns and restrictions. We have done what we can to support our businesses during this very difficult time.

We have ensured that our members are kept up to date on grants, loans and other support that has been available, as well as the latest information on restrictions.

Our focus has been on keeping the Vale of Pewsey in people's minds so that they visit as restrictions ease. We have done this through plenty of social media activity, moving to a monthly newsletter to our public list, as well as creating a number of videos – Insider Guides to some of the walks we published and Staying in the Vale of Pewsey. We also hosted ITV This Morning for a feature on walking and had an article published on the Great West Way in our role as Destination Ambassadors.

The North Wessex Downs Walking Festival in June has been cancelled for the second year in a row. There may be something in the autumn, but more likely it will resume in 2022, when we will host a number of walks across the Pewsey Community Area (which had been planned for 2020 and 2021).

### Projects:

The PVTP has two projects for 2021 – Walkers Are Welcome accreditation and Itineraries. Our thanks go to the Coop Community Fund for supporting these projects. Thank you also to all the Parish Councils who have been helping.

Walkers Are Welcome requires us to set up a regular check of rights of way in scope through our Steering Group and other people who have volunteered to help walk the routes, as well as Bedwyn Footpaths Group. We now hold a supply of Wiltshire Council waymarkers so if you have any missing waymarkers, just contact Susie Brew at [susie@visitpewseyvale.co.uk](mailto:susie@visitpewseyvale.co.uk) and we can drop off some waymarkers to you.

We have everything in place to achieve our accreditation, however we need to get 5% of the population to support our accreditation, so we need to get just over 700 signatures on our online register - <https://bit.ly/3ivI6Dj>. Please spread the word – at the time of writing we are half way there! Once we have reached the right number, then we will be able to go for review and hopefully be registered as a Walkers Are Welcome destination.



## Pewsey Community Area Partnership

The Covid pandemic focused our efforts on helping get the online Covid contacts for the Pewsey Community Area up and running and assisting where we were able with local groups, for example by running the Buddy telephone service (now closed) during lockdown for the PCCA. In addition, PCAP brought together groups that had been set up to help with the pandemic and other community groups to ensure everyone knew what was going on.

We have also been supporting small, local community groups with provision of insurance and also banking facilities, which in turn enables these small groups to apply for grant funding for their projects. If you know of any voluntary groups who may benefit from this type of assistance, then just email Susie Brew at [pcap@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pcap@hotmail.co.uk).

**Youth Activities** – Youth group activities have been on hold due to the pandemic.

Funding has been secured for a couple of Fun Days for young people. The first is set for Sunday 25th July and will feature King Ramps with a portable 6ft half pipe with demos and workshops. The second is set for Sunday 22nd August with Wiltshire Outdoor Learning providing a 20m mobile climbing wall both in Bouverie Hall and in the car park. Together with Green Machine, tablets and PC's for all pupils at Pewsey Primary School was achieved early in lockdown.

**Pewsey Vale Health & Wellbeing Group** - PCAP continues to run the Health & Wellbeing Group and to administer the grant process with Wiltshire Council. All the grant funds were allocated in the 2020 – 2021 year.

Dawn Wilson has joined the Kennet & Avon Medical Partnership (KAMP) Patient Participation Group and has been working with them throughout the pandemic. The working relationship is much improved and there has been a real community effort and better communication during this period which will continue.

The fortnightly Movement to Music Together exercise class (run by Sylvie Clayden and Henrietta Mackinnon) managed to keep going through most of lockdown on Zoom. PCAP has funding for running two boat trips later in the year, as well as reopening the café and finding other opportunities for other social cafes. The Memory Café has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic and is planning to start again in April.

**Pewsey Vale Rail User Group** - Dawn Wilson and Colin Gale chair and run the Pewsey Vale Rail User Group – working closely with Bedwyn Rail User Group, Great Western Railway, TransWilts and the Great West Way. They have also been supporting the Devizes Gateway Station project together with the Bedwyn group.

**Finally, our sincerest thanks go to all the Parish Councils who have kindly donated towards the running costs of PCAP which enables this work to continue.**



## Grafton Parish Youth Group Report

Like many community groups Covid 19 has meant that Grafton Youth Group hasn't been active since March 2020. We had an exciting series of activities planned, ranging from a Cinema trip, Go Karting at Thruxton, plimsoll painting, chocolate making to a Games Night in Coronation Hall, We were disappointed it had to put it all on hold.

Since then some youth members have out grown the youth group, however there will be many more young people now able to participate. The youth group is open to all young people of secondary school age.

We are hoping to recommence the youth group in time for the new school year, if you'd like to participate and have ideas on you'd like to make happen let us know, get creative and inspire - the youth group exists for you.

In addition some adult helpers feel they have done their stint which means we are looking for adults interested in working with young people, just once a month.

To find out more about taking part and being an adult helper, either text Annie on **07802 923344** or email on [youthactivities@graftonparish.com](mailto:youthactivities@graftonparish.com)



## Calendar of regular classes at the Coronation Hall

Shaded entries are not held every week

Monday (first & third in month)	Alzheimer's Cafe	13.15
Monday (every week)	Dance	16.45
Monday (1 a month, alternate months starting February)	PC Planning meeting	13.00
Monday (1 a month, alternate months starting January)	PC public meeting	19.15
Tuesday (every week)	Zumba	09.30
Tuesday (first in month)	Winter Warmers	12.30
Tuesday (every week)	Dance	16.15
Wednesday (every week)	Timmy B yoga	09.30
Wednesday (every week)	Dance	15.30
Thursday (every week)	Goslings toddler club	10.00
Thursday (every week)	Pilates	13.30
Thursday (every week)	Timmy B yoga	15.00
Thursday (every week)	Dance	16.45
Friday (every week)	Pilates	09.30

## Our Vicar writes

You will hear a lot these days about 'cathedral thinking.' This approach allows us to build for future generations and is popular among advocates of climate change. It is about building in the present for the future, starting a Notre Dame or even a St Nicholas East Grafton so that it can be used by those who will follow us.

The history of East Grafton Church is one based on an initial bequest by Charles Brudenell Bruce celebrated in the West Window dated 1856. That window is the response of the parishioners to the wealthy person who made their wonderful place of worship possible. It is the place of baptisms, wedding, funerals and key community events throughout the year. It provides fellowship and support for the hamlets that make up the Parish.

But the heart of the building is the people who attend church, not just at high days and family events, but who pray together and are the worshipping community. They maintain the building for the wider community and provide for much communal care. They exercise their right to governance of the Parish Church by attendance at services and by being on the electoral roll. They provide for the 'running costs.' Their numbers have dropped, in the same way that the battens have dropped from our ceiling. Both issues need addressing for the long term future of St Nicholas.

Our churches reflect our world and the confusion therein. Like with climate change, it's not enough to commit money, you have to make a commitment to change your own life to produce the great change needed for future generations.

This pandemic and the ceiling decay have advanced a crisis we were drifting towards. If you want to share in 'cathedral vision' and keep your church going, then you need to come to services and share fellowship (brotherhood). This is the only way to ensure that your church will still be here for your grandchildren and their grandchildren ..... you will only find Christianity in something larger than yourselves, because one is a Christian "in" something, not merely a Christian.

You may think I am chipping at stone, but I am building a cathedral!

Gaze up and join me! Michael – Team Rector



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## CONTACT LIST TO CUT OUT AND KEEP

### Local commercial listing

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B&B Grafton	Victoria Frost	07557 791604
Builder	Sam Sanchez	07887 991249
Celebration Cakes	cakes@nattiesbakesandbites.co.uk	
Computer issues	Stuart	07881 912477
Disco and Karaoke	Pete Vallis	01672 811326
Dog Grooming	Victoria	07786 868192
Dog training/walking	Carrie Holborow	07546 941709
Double glazing	David Willcocks	01672 811979
Flowers	Gill Campbell	07833 670693
Gardening	Sue Upham	01672 810526
Grafton Garage	Tony Gilbert	07845 006890
Homeopathy	Emma H-Byass	07540 773531
Logs/tree surgeon	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
Painting & Decorating	Neil Anderson	01264 731362
Personal trainer	Hen Mackinnon	07977 511959
Pest Control	Julie Wilson	01672 811479
Printing	Jane Goldstein	01672 515444
Storage/lock up	David Lemon	01672 870266
Sunflowers at Grafton	Julie McLernon	01672 810478
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Pinckneys Farm Shop	Wendy	07989 228864

### Young entrepreneurs

Baby sitting	Sophie	07557 915052
Dog walking	Sebastian Horne	07548 719030

### Grafton Parish Council response teams

Parish food bank	Kevin Burke	07713 067113
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

### 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

### Community Contacts

Church flowers/cleaning	Liz Hosier 01264 731242
Vicar, M. McHugh	01672 870779
Community News	news@griftonparish.com
Coronation Hall	07479 281809 hall@griftonparish.com
Junior Cricket	pdewinton@savills.com
Parish Council	clerk@griftonparish.com
PCC Secretary	Millie Lemon 01672 870266
St Nicholas' services	www.savernaketeam.org.uk
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	griftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Dance classes	07746 479345 Charlotte Price
Pilates	07769 580148 Tracey Rich
Yoga for All	07747 780898 Tim Brew
Yoga	01672 841553 Lizzy Hawnt
Zumba	07710 115324 Joanna Bury

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**Village WhatsApp groups** - Text or WhatsApp to join: East Grafton  
(Tamara 07711 824864), West Grafton (Annie 07802 923344), Marten (Mike  
07799 760417), Wexcombe (George 07786 332950), Wilton (Tara 07833  
320951). New to What's App? We can help - just get in touch.

Printed by RIDGEWAY PRESS **www.ridgewaypress.co.uk**

Email **info@ridgewaypress.co.uk** Tel **01256 300420**

**Advertising rates per issue:**  $\frac{1}{12}$  page £5.50,  $\frac{1}{6}$  page £11,  $\frac{1}{4}$  page £16.50

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**Deadline for the next issue Friday 25 June**