

COMMUNITY NEWS



Local Farmers launch Southern Streams Project

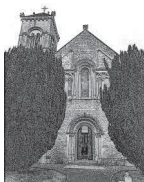
Our local farmers have set up a farming cluster group called Southern Streams. It involves more than 25 different, but like-minded farmers.

The group covers 25,000 acres of land that delivers water to the rivers Dun & Shalbourne (tributaries of) or directly to the River Kennet. The area includes the end of the Pewsey Vale to the start of the Chute Causeway, along the North Wessex Downs to the river Kennet at Hungerford and to Savernake Forest.

The farmers in the group are all committed to enriching the landscape and biodiversity of our environment, whilst enhancing water quality in the rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. There are long term projects to capture water and prevent flooding to create wetland habitats. The aim is to increase woodlands and hedgerows as well as creating wildlife corridors on a landscape scale. The farmers are working to improve carbon sequestration and contribute to the national target of net zero carbon emissions. Once the group is fully established the Southern Streams logo will be on local signs and there will be a bird watching app on the website.

For more information visit

www.southernstreams.co.uk and see what is planned in the local countryside. If there are any local wildlife experts or enthusiasts who would like to get involved with this initiative please feel free to do so, all the contacts can be found on the website.



An update on the situation regarding St Nicholas' Church from Michael McHugh (Vicar) and the members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

Readers will be well aware by now that our Church is closed because of falling small timbers from the roof, in addition to the Covid19 restrictions. Complications because of the height of the roof and the exact purpose of the timbers has been challenging for builders who have quoted for the repairs.

Three quotations for the remedial work required for the roof have now been received. An expensive part of all quotations received is the requirement for scaffolding which will cost around £12,000 including VAT. Prudent housekeeping has ensured that the PCC retained £10,000 in reserve for building works (originally earmarked as a contribution for the installation of a heating system). Costs for the work to repair/reinstate the timbers are likely to be £14,000 including VAT making a total cost of approximately £26,000. Grants are being researched although it appears unlikely that the total costs would be covered this way and therefore fundraising is essential.

The Church is a focal part of the Parish and the PCC is extremely keen to ensure that it continues to play a vital part in community cohesion. Winter Warmers, the vibrant services at important dates in the calendar (Christmas, Easter, Remembrance for example) and other community events are all part of the important role played by St Nicholas'.

Please join the Zoom meeting on **Thursday 25 March at 7pm** to find out what is planned to resolve these roof problems and how we can all help. Details of the meeting: Meeting ID: 820 1278 7111 Passcode: 467910

If you are able to donate with/without gift aid towards funding this project then please email **graftontres@savernaketeam.com** for details and rest assured that your help will be much appreciated and treated in total confidence.

On a more positive note:

Sunday 28 March 4pm is Palm Sunday service. This will be held in the grounds of St Nicholas' Church with the palm crosses as usual, Covid-19 rules mean that an outside service is required so let's make this a unique Palm Sunday.

Easter Sunday 4 April will, hopefully, be celebrated at St Nicholas with the timings and location displayed in the Church lych gate and on all the hamlet WhatsApp Groups so mark the date in your diary and be sure to join in the Easter celebration.

APCM 29 April at 7pm The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held using Zoom. More details will be in the April issue. It is sincerely hoped that at this meeting a firm plan for the roof repair will be placed before everyone.

If anyone is unable to join in a Zoom meeting and has a wish to join in the discussion please contact Michael McHugh **01672 870779** or email **mtmch@hotmail.com** and he will do his best to ensure that you are included in the discussions.

THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN IS BACK!



Each year Sunflowers at Grafton organise a litter pick across the five Grafton Parish villages to help keep our corner of the county looking lovely. Due to current covid restrictions it is not possible to have an organised group litter pick - so we're facilitating a more relaxed approach instead.

Keep an eye on your village WhatsApp group for information about where to find litter picking kit in your village; keep an eye on WhatsApp chatter to see what has been done so far and which areas remain to be done; then set aside an hour or so and off you go. Perhaps you can co-ordinate with a neighbour and catch up whilst tidying up? ♡



Good news for the Parish playing field!

Shoppers at Pewsey Co-op may have noticed that Sunflowers at Grafton has been selected as one of three beneficiaries of the Co-op Local Community Fund. Funds will be used to encourage parishioners of all ages to use our community spaces, specifically the Parish playing field, to meet, play and enjoy activities together.

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.

How can you help? The more Co-op members who select us as their cause, the more funds we receive. It is easy to select us at **membership.coop.co.uk/causes/52454**. If you aren't a Co-op Member it is easy to join online at **coop.co.uk/membership** or by downloading the Co-op app.

Family and friends around the country who shop at the Co-op can choose to support our project too, so please encourage them to select us. The more people who support us, the merrier the result for the playing field!

Dates for your diary

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

MARCH

08 19.15 Parish Council meeting *Zoom*
25 19.00 PCC roof update meeting *Zoom*

28 16.00 Palm Sunday in St Nicholas' churchyard

APRIL

04 TBA Easter Sunday celebration - See notices

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



Calling all Cooks and Bakers!

Do you have a favourite recipe, one that your family and friends are always asking you to make?

Would you like to share this with others and have it included in "The Parish Kitchen" Cookbook? We are putting together a publication including recipes old and new, family favourites, be it savoury or sweet, simple or a little complicated. Whether it is a main course, side dish, salad, cake, biscuit or sweet, meat based, vegetarian or vegan we'd love to hear from you!

Please email your recipes in word format with any pictures as well to Jane and Natalie at theparishkitchengrafton@gmail.com

You will also be supporting local groups as we will be donating a proportion of the profits from sales between "Winter Warmers" and the "Grafton Youth Group".

We look forward to reading your recipes!

Jane Goldstein & Nat Neal

Parish Council Meeting

8 March, 7.15pm via Zoom

Details available from clerk@graftonparish.com

Full agenda will be published on all village noticeboards and on www.graftonparish.com

Planning Applications:

Application Ref:

21/00802/FUL Longcroft, Marten, North West To Junction A338, Marten, SN8 3SJ First floor conversion of bungalow. Closing date 11 March 2021

Application Ref:

21/00668/FUL Bank Farm, Hollow Lane, Wilton, SN8 3SR Erection of pool house. Closing date 09 March 2021

Application Ref:

21/01212/FUL Dean Cottage, Marten, SN8 3SJ Proposed garden studio with balcony over and glass balustrade. Removal of existing timber balcony, balustrading and supports. Closing date 29 March 2021



Our doctor writes a vaccination update

At the time of writing this article, the 65 to 69 year age group, the clinically vulnerable group aged 16 to 64 and people who are carers are presently being invited for vaccination. All 65 to 69-year-olds have been sent a letter from the NHS with information on how to book a vaccination online with the national vaccination programme. Although this letter states to wait for your GP practice to contact you if you would prefer to have your vaccination through your practice, I would like to advise you the practices in our Primary Care Network (KAMP, Burbage, Ramsbury and The Old School Surgery) are not actively telephoning this cohort. I am sure you can appreciate the clinically vulnerable group is huge and as the cohorts reduce in age the number of patients increases. We simply do not have the resources to telephone everyone. So please, please help reduce workload by booking online. If you are unable to book online or to attend a national booking centre please call your practice, rather than wait to be contacted. The PCN only has a few days notice that a batch of vaccinations is being delivered and the priority then focuses on the logistics of setting up clinics and contacting patients. All this is happening in addition to providing core GP services.

Please do not contact your practice about your second vaccination. At present you can expect your vaccination at, or close to 12 weeks after your first one. Your practice will contact you.

Every practice in the PCN have staff that are shielding and cannot be at work. The announcement that the shielding period is being extended until the end of March will impact every practice. At The Old School Surgery two members of our reception team are not able to work. Their work is being covered by the remaining reception team along with our administrative team, dispensary staff and our practice manager, Donna. This is not sustainable and going forward we have recruited temporary staff to help. They have all volunteered and are all young. Their training is limited and they will try their very best to help you. Ben Marren and Olivia Pais are 17 and Ben Drewett is 20. Dr Julia Hempenstall volunteered her children, but her eldest is only 9, so we declined!

Thank you for your wonderful letters and cards of thanks and appreciation. It gives us a huge boost whenever someone says 'Thank you'.

We are also enjoying all the cakes you bake. I assure you with the variety (lemon drizzle, fruit, blueberry muffins, Black Forest, apple, carrot) we are getting our 'five a day'. Take care, stay safe. Keep well!

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

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School & college leaver opportunities

This regularly updated vacancy bulletin provides details of current employment, apprenticeship, traineeship and volunteering vacancies in Wiltshire suitable for school and college leavers. www.workwiltshire.co.uk/young/bulletin

A pack of fun to explore ... It is more important than ever to take care of yourself and those around you. This free pack is full of fun and easy creative activities for all. Download The Feel Good Pack www.poundarts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Feel-Good-Pack-FINAL_compressed.pdf

Katie writes from Footsteps Podiatry Services

This past year has been a crazy year for everyone but in many different ways. I read one quote, which said, "We are all in the same storm but not in the same boat". Thankfully I am one of the lucky ones who can still work and my children are of an age where they can home school themselves. For this I am truly grateful.

Footsteps Podiatry has been present in Tidworth Leisure Centre since Feb 2011 but previously I had a clinic in Romsey since I graduated in 1999. To this day I still love the job I do and patients I meet everyday. From the young to the old, financially stable to the homeless, people that are on their own to the people with big families and pretty much everyone in between. Each and every one of my patients has an interesting story to tell.

We are all busy people leading busy lives. Let me put it like this, if I didn't brush my hair everyday it's going to get messier. The same goes for brushing our teeth, we need to brush twice a day for good dental hygiene.

We are always on our feet and tend to neglect them because they are covered up and out of sight. It's important to prioritise health and look after our body as a whole.

Although I do cut toenails there is a whole lot more to my medical training than just this. For instance, corn & callus debridement, nail surgery, under local anesthesia for in-growing toenails, diabetic footcare, filler injections to specific areas under local anaesthesia, biomechanical evaluations for orthotics to name a few. At the same time as treating the patient for what they originally attend an appointment for, due to a detailed medical history plus conversation other things can be picked up like melanoma, diabetes etc.

My advice to everyone is to get a regular footcare health check, especially as we get older and less able to attend to our feet.

Please give me a call, text or email and get an appointment made for any issues you may think you have. **07881802386** or **katie@thepodiatrist.org.uk**

Age UK Wiltshire's free-IT help and advice:

- Advice on what equipment to use and how to better use it as well as the best ways for you to access the internet.
- Support you to achieve the things you want to do with technology.
- Help for those whose friends or family are unable to assist.
- Make technology equipment more affordable by checking your entitlement to welfare benefits and grants.

If you would like to find out more call **01380 710 296** or email **click@ageukwiltshire.org.uk**



The Gastro Wheels are still turning!



- Fresh Fish & Seafood arrives each Thursday & Friday and can be prepared to your requirements by Nick. Sign up to our e-mail Fish List to receive advance information & place an order for collection
- Artisan Breads, Soups, Savouries and Pastries to take away
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- Friday Pizza Nights are back from their festive break—call to book your collection slot

Continuing

- Our Totally Flexi-Box Collection Scheme— just email your order 48 hours in advance stating your preferred collection date & time. A list of suggested products is available

We are currently open Tuesday ~ Friday 9:30 to 5:00

and Saturday 10:00 to 4:00.

www.gastronicks.co.uk 01264 852701 enquiries@gastronicks.co.uk

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Local commercial listing

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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@grafonparish.com
Coronation Hall	07479 281809 hall@grafonparish.com
Junior Cricket	pdewinton@savills.com
Parish Council	clerk@grafonparish.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	gratongoslings@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.

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