

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2020

Covid 19 poses significant difficulties to the 2020 Poppy Appeal and as the Royal British Legion has the safety and welfare of local volunteers at heart I am informed that there will be no house-to-house sales this year and poppy trays will not be available for distribution to the 'normal' points of sale around our villages due to the virus.

As the RBL is committed to delivering the best Poppy Appeal possible under the present circumstances poppies will be available for sale from national supermarkets and regional stores.

There is a chance that a small number of sealed trays with poppies/merchandise will hopefully be delivered to my home. I await notification.

Having spoken to PCC members and representatives of our cluster churches, wreaths have been ordered and will be delivered to me well before November's Remembrance Sunday for Services to be held at village War Memorials.

I have a number of wooden poppy crosses for anyone wishing to remember family members who have served with the Armed Services.

Please contact me june.walnuttree@btinternet.com or telephone **01672 811997** if you would like one or more.

RBL merchandise is available from www.poppysshop.org.uk

June Pearson, Area Co-ordinator, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

Macmillan need us more than ever, to help the millions living with cancer.

World's Biggest Coffee Morning 2020 has been very different. The official date may have been in September but you can still hold yours whenever you like. Small gatherings across the Parish, tea or coffee, socially distanced or virtual – a Macmillan Coffee Morning is what we make it.

RAISE A MUG AND DONATE



Host a coffee morning for friends and neighbours in your garden and collect donations. You can make your donations direct at <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/hosting/donate-options/> or pop them into us at Sunflowers and we will pay in for you.

Even easier – visit the fundraising page set up by Sunflowers. All donations go direct to Macmillan <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/GraftonParishCoffeeMornings>

Have you seen something of concern in our parish?

Mywiltshire has been relaunched as Mywilts. To report on road conditions, fly-tipping, dog messes and much more visit wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting

**St Nicholas' Parochial Church Council (PCC) notice**

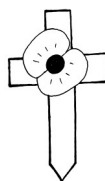
Unfortunately the church has had to be closed because some decorative woodwork has fallen from the ceiling.

Investigations are in progress and we hope that this can be remedied so that the church can be opened again before too long. We do not yet know what costs are involved so we will keep you informed of course.

Liz Hosier has taken over duties from Patricia Knowles and will be thrilled if anyone could come forward to offer some cleaning/floral help for when the church re-opens (**01264 731242**).

Thank you Patricia for diligently taking care of the church for so many years, it always looked fresh and shiny and the flowers have been admired by all who visited the church - quite an amazing effort indeed!

Once the church is open it is planned to hold one service per month, on the 4th Sunday. More updates in the November issue.

**Remembrance Day****8 November, 10.45am**

The Parochial Church Council and Parish Council are working together to welcome you to a short act of remembrance at the War Memorial, St Nicholas' Church.

Whatever Covid-19 rules that apply on 8 November will be strictly followed with clear notices posted on The Green to provide guidelines.

The rowan tree which was presented to the Parish at the WW1 Centenary is now flourishing, thanks to Annette Burke's careful nurturing, and will be planted by the war memorial at this time.

**Message from The Swan**

As winter arrives, we have made lots of changes to provide as safe an environment as possible for our customers.

Whilst under cover *al fresco* dining is still an option, inside there are now fewer tables and more space to enable social distancing. As per the new regulations we are wearing face masks and customers are asked to do the same until they are seated.

We are continuing to offer a takeaway menu, as well as takeaway Sunday roasts. We are also still offering vegbox deliveries. All the details are on our website www.theswanwilton.com

We would like to thank everybody for their continued support. It is going to be a long winter for all hospitality businesses, so please don't forget that we are here to serve you in any way we can.

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Notice about trees

Do remember that we live in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and also for East Grafton and Wilton in a Conservation Area. All work on trees should be carefully considered in line with the guidance on www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-trees-hedges

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Our Vicar writes

During my early years in ministry the AIDS pandemic struck. I worked in North America, London and Zimbabwe. All places where very different groups of people became victims to HIV. At that time, there was no cure and no treatment. In Zimbabwe, the average life expectancy shot down 20 years. For many people it was a terrifying time. I remember vividly the pre-death meeting in a smoky rondavel with a young nurse, whose funeral I attended a few weeks later. In North America, my incredibly talented liturgy professor died suddenly of pneumonia and the cause was denied.

We learnt many things from dealing with that pandemic. We learnt that the most efficient way of dealing with it was education. We learnt that we had to modify our behaviour patterns. We learnt also not to judge because the innocent became victims.

For now, there are many changes. Harvest is not being celebrated in the same way. Join our Zoom Service at 11 am on Sunday 11th October (www.savernakteteam.org.uk or email mtmch@hotmail.com for a link). We do not know what is happening with Remembrance because Government has not yet given us guidelines. The important thing is that we learn as we did before and change our behaviour to protect our neighbours.

There is nothing new under the sun! But as George Santayana said, *"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."*

Let us be wise and remember with hope as we face this new pandemic knowing that we have recently learnt to cope with another very different one.

What we have done once, we can do again!

Every Blessing, Michael

Great British September Clean

It was a great turnout across the parish for our re-scheduled litter pick on Saturday 19 September. Thanks to everyone who took part – we had a lovely mix of adults and children and it was definitely a couple of hours well spent. Whether you came along for the group litter pick or pick litter at other times we are all grateful for the effort that keeps our villages looking lovely.

Worth noting that it was the first outing for the super litter picking kit secured from Wiltshire Council last year by Sunflowers – it certainly made the job easier.

The Great British September Clean is backed by the key anti-litter charities including Keep Britain Tidy – see www.keeptobritaintidy.org – and is organised by Sunflowers at Grafton.



Summer holidays are over and the kids are back at school. Time to dust off your Yoga mat and join a class!

Wednesday 9.30am – Yoga for All
Wednesday 11am – Gentle Yoga (great for beginners)

Short of time? Why not join the early morning breakfast Yoga Club?
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Parish Council meeting 9 November 7.15pm

The Parish Council meeting will be held via Zoom in November. Please email clerk@graftonparish.com for joining instructions.

Agendas, together with minutes from the last meeting, will be posted on all hamlet notice boards and on www.graftonparish.com as normal.

If you have any topic to raise then please email clerk@graftonparish.com at least 5 days before the meeting and it will be included.



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Our Doctor writes about the Bedwyn Surgery Garden



Although rewarding, being a GP can be challenging and difficult at times. However, arriving at work and seeing the beautiful old school building and the garden with its riot of colour all year round fills me with joy and never ceases to put a smile on my face. A wonderful start to the day, every day.

Eric Bailey voluntarily created the garden for us a few years ago when he was an octogenarian. Now he has turned 90 he feels it is time for him to handover the maintenance of our garden to someone younger, (so that is practically everyone). His boundless energy is awesome and knowledge about plants is inspirational. It has been a privilege working with him. I will miss wandering around the garden as he tells me his plans and our chats in the practice kitchen over a cup of tea.

There is a huge amount of research into the benefits of gardening and gardens on health and wellbeing, although Eric is all the evidence I need. A group of scientists collated evidence from 22 worldwide studies in the period from 2001 to 2016. The studies compared gardeners with non-gardeners and people before and after they had participated in gardening. The results showed that gardening activities have a significant positive impact on a wide range of health outcomes, such as reducing depression, anxiety, anger, stress and fatigue. Gardening increases physical activity levels with improved vigour and a reduction in body mass index. Quality of life, satisfaction, self esteem, hope, sociability, sense of community, a healthier diet, improved memory and a reduction in loneliness were other positive outcomes. And there was a reduction in GP consultations! The conclusion: gardening improves physical, psychological, and social health, and can prevent various health issues facing today's society.

Last week I spent some time mowing the lawn, pulling up weeds and dead heading flowers. Tugging on bindweed is very therapeutic. However, equally satisfying was the time I spent chatting to passers by. The practice would like our garden to benefit the whole community. Herbs, like Rosemary, Thyme and Parsley grow in the borders so please pick some. Pull up a weed if you spot one. Sow some wild flower seeds with the foxgloves or pop a plant into a space. Even feel welcome to mow the lawn.

I am hoping a volunteer head gardener will replace Eric. For a job description please see the evidence above. You will be fit, happy and healthy and live a long, sociable life.

Garden and be well. With best wishes, Dr Angela Paddon and the team at the Old School Surgery



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

Local commercial listing

Baby sitting	Sophie	07557 915052
B&B Grafton	Victoria Frost	07557 791604
Builder	Sam Sanchez	07887 991249
Celebration Cakes	www.nattiesbakesandbites.co.uk	
Computer issues	Stuart	07881 912477
Disco and Karaoke	Pete Vallis	01672 811326
Disco and Party	Steve	01672 811109
Dog Grooming	Victoria	07786 868192
Dog training/walking	Carrie Holborow	07546 941709
Double glazing	David Willcocks	01672 811979
Farm Shop	Wendy	07989 228864
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
Storage/lock up	David Lemon	01672 870266
Sunflowers at Grafton	Julie McLernon	01672 810478
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274

Bonfire Night - Fireworks & Livestock "Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 it is illegal to light fireworks near fields or homes containing horses and livestock" Please be aware of this when it comes to bonfire night, some livestock was lost last year due to fireworks being let off close to them. Also, note that fines can be imposed for offenders.

News in brief

Alzheimer's Support is reopening its Memory Café on Monday 5 October at Coronation Hall. The charity is delighted to welcome members back after its Covid-related closure.

Alzheimer's Support has carried out a thorough risk assessment and strict guidelines set by Public Health England will be followed to ensure everyone stays safe.

The groups are currently open to existing members and their carers. New members are invited to contact the charity at www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk or call **01380 739055** to register and book a place.

Local walks close to our parish There are many stunning walks, long and short, around us. With the colder weather arriving soon why not explore some of these on www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk/portfolio/walking-in-the-pewsey-vale

Fancy cycling in the Pewsey Vale? www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk/portfolio/cycling-in-the-pewsey-vale for excellent maps and guides.

An offer from Marlborough to encourage custom in the town Free parking in Marlborough's George Lane car park on Fridays.

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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.

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

Coronation Hall update

Whilst classes have returned to the hall, the kitchen remains out of bounds and therefore, unfortunately, the Hall Committee is unable to take bookings for parties and similar events at present.

OCTOBER

11 11.00 Harvest Service *Zoom*

NOVEMBER

08 10.45 Act of Remembrance *St N*

09 19.15 Parish Council meeting *Zoom*

Wiltshire libraries have been working to find a way to operate safely and some libraries have now reopened (with limited hours). For the latest situation regarding Wiltshire Libraries (including the mobile library) please go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/libraries-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



Grafton Parish Council Food Bank update

If you are affected and need support then please call Kevin Burke on **07713 067113** who will treat your call with strict confidence and arrange for a delivery of basic essentials to be made on a regular basis.

Community Contacts

Church flowers/cleaning	Liz Hosier 01264 731242
Vicar, M. McHugh	01672 870779
Community News	news@graftonparish.com
Coronation Hall	07479 281809 hall@graftonparish.com
Junior Cricket	pdewinton@savills.com
Parish Council	clerk@graftonparish.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	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	
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

Deadline for the next issue Friday 30 October

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References available on request.

07990 512342 Jasonlewis08@aol.com

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