

Localism – the new buzzword!

The Coalition Government is committed to passing powers and freedoms to local communities. The Localism Bill is being debated in Parliament and it includes some proposed big changes which will impact the way in which Wiltshire Council and Grafton Parish Council work – some of the changes being considered include; reforms to the planning system, changes to social housing, new rights and powers for communities and more freedom for local government.

If you are interested in finding out more, there is a meeting on the Localism Bill on 6 April at Burbage Village Hall starting at 6.30pm – all are welcome. Alternatively, if you would like to get more involved in local decision making your Parish Council will be pleased to see you at one of the bi-monthly meetings. Enjoy the beginnings of Spring in our beautiful Parish.

Lifesaver Training

on
Tuesday 22nd March 2011
7pm to 8.30pm

at
Grafton CofE Primary School
East Grafton

The defibrillators have been installed in all five villages in the parish - this training event will show you how to use them.

The training is free – courtesy of The Community Heartbeat Trust – and will cover:

- ❖ what to do in an emergency
- ❖ basic resuscitation
- ❖ how to use a defibrillator and where to find them

There will be lots of opportunities to ask any questions you may have and to 'have a go'.

Please note that we are not asking you to become a Community First Responder – this training is purely for your own use in a cardiac arrest situation.

Places are limited, so you must book in advance!

Call: Susie Brew on 01264 731404

Or email susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk

This training could save someone's life!

Around the world at Sunflowers

Children at Sunflowers are exploring countries around the world this term - making flags and making and tasting different foods. We'll be starting in France then moving on to Italy, Egypt, Switzerland and America. If you have experiences or items from any of these countries that you could share with the children we'd love to hear from you.

Calling all Daddies**Get ready for Mothers' Day at Sunflowers**

Bring your pre school children and join us for a craft morning at Sunflowers on Saturday 2 April at 10am. Our theme will be Mothers Day - so there are sure to be some lovely gifts to make and take away. It's a great opportunity to take a look at Sunflowers in action - come along and prepare to get messy! We'll keep you going with refreshments!

Grafton Primary School – consultation on closure update

Wiltshire Council's consultation on the closure of Grafton Primary School has been widely publicised throughout the parish – through the February Community News, posters on all village notice boards and at the Coronation Hall and The Swan, on the school website and through other efforts to generate interest in the consultation. Approximately 45 people attended the public meeting at school on 17 February to give their views, thank you to everyone who came. The consultation period closed on Monday 7 March and we hope that many parish residents have participated by responding to the proposal.

What happens next? Responses to the consultation paper will be summarised in a report produced by the Local Authority. The report will include a summary of responses received and will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services who will decide whether or not to publish a public notice proposing the closure of the school. This will take approximately 4 weeks and will be followed by a 6 week period for formal representations to be made. If there are objections to the public notice the matter will be considered and determined by the Cabinet of the Council.

Parents of pupils and staff are being kept informed about their choices should the closure go ahead but the governing body are continuing to follow up every opportunity to avoid closure. You can keep up-to-date through the Future of Grafton School page on the school website www.grafton.wilts.sch.uk which contains documentation regarding the proposed closure, including a Frequently Asked Questions document. In the meantime it is business as usual at school and Sunflowers with a great diary of events lined up for pupils this term.

The
Wilton Windmill
Society

May Food Fair
Saturday 14th May
12 noon to 5pm

Windmill-milled bread, hot local sausages and real ale

A May festival of delicacies from local suppliers, seafood to support
"Hugh's Fish Fight" and lots more

Star chef cookery demonstrations – cookery & food books – free tastings
and food to buy - Punch & Judy – music - children's games and family
attractions – refreshments tent - raffle

All the fun of the May Fair at the Windmill!

For more information, contact Susie Brew on 01264 731404 or
susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk

The Grafton Parish big tidy up

We are joining England's biggest ever litter pick to help keep our corner of the county looking lovely! Join us on **Saturday 26 March 2011** to litter pick in and around each of our parish villages – starting at **10.30am** at the meeting points below.

East Grafton – Coronation Hall

West Grafton – parish notice board

Wilton – opposite the duck pond

Wexcombe – bus stop

Marten - parish notice board

You are all very welcome – young, medium and old! Please bring a sturdy pair of gloves – gardening gloves will be ideal – we'll provide everything else. Go to www.thebigtidyup.org for more information.

A community event organised by the Friends of Grafton on behalf of Grafton C of E Primary School & Sunflowers Pre school



29 March 10am "The Primrose Fair" in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Coronation Hall.

Shop for gifts, home and garden wares. Super prize raffle, Coffee, cakes and hot cross buns.

Call June Pearson **01672 811911** for more details.

1 April 8pm "Call my Wine Bluff" Tickets £15

A group of three local 'experts' will either tell the truth or speak in hyperboles about a particular wine. Coronation Hall

There will be six to eight wines to taste and a small prize for the winning team.

Tickets are available from:

1. Jean Smith T: **01672 811182** E: jeanrosemarysmith@hotmail.com
2. Keith Haddrell T: **01672 811226** E: keith@thehaddrells.co.uk
3. An order in the Coronation Hall Post box for collection on the 1 April.

23 April 10.00 -10.45am EASTER GARDEN

Children up to 6 years and their parents are invited to help make the Easter Garden and hear the Easter Story at St Nicholas' Church

29 April from 2pm Royal Wedding Street Parties

Teams in each village are progressing plans for our Street Parties. There will be more information in the April Community News but in the meantime if you would like to get involved please contact the local coordinators.

East Grafton – Tamara Reay, Ann Dudney and Steve Oakey
Wilton – Henrietta Gillespie and Vanessa Fleckney
Wexcombe – Gabby Walker and Lara Ross
Marten – Mike Hyslop

The fun in each village will include high tea, a children's fancy dress competition and a raffle in aid of St Nicholas Church. If you are able to help or donate a raffle prize please contact Jamie Pearson on **07793 949608**

**A Parish Dinner To celebrate the Wedding of
H.R.H. Prince William & Miss Kate Middleton**

Coronation Hall Friday 29 April 7.30 for 8pm

Tickets: Residents £18 , on-residents £23 per head.

3 course dinner, provided by "The Swan"; sparkling wine on arrival; live music by a professional pianist and a Bar open 'till 11pm.
It promises to be a memorable and historic evening.

It would help both "The Swan" and those organising the event if you could book your tickets *NOW*.

Jean Smith **01672 811182** or jeanrosemarysmith@hotmail.com or place your name, contact details, the number of tickets required and a cheque made out to "the Coronation Hall", in the Coronation Hall letter Box

The Royal Wedding Art Gallery

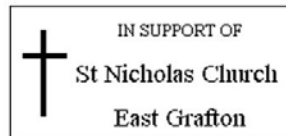
Create a crown for Catherine, design a crest for the happy couple, make a collage or paint a picture of your choice to celebrate the Royal Wedding. Lots of really original crown ideas in already using all sorts of wonderful materials!

An exhibition of your masterpieces will be displayed in The Coronation Hall during the week of The Wedding and at The Grafton Game Fair on Saturday 7 May for all to enjoy!

Pick up a sheet of artists paper from June Pearson, at Walnut Tree Cottage, East Grafton on Thursday 17 March from 10.30am until 1.00pm or at The Primrose Fair, Coronation Hall on Tuesday 29 March from 10.00am until 12.00.

For further information email june.walnuttree@btinternet.com.

GRAFTON GAME FAIR OPEN DAY
Saturday 7th May 2011 Wilton Water,
"Supporting the bravest in the country"



Visit the **Village Shopping Mall** with excellent stalls,
Local produce, sporting prints.

Kids Air Rifle Competition, Face Painting & Sand Pit,
Bale Maze and much more.

Fun, Food & Entertainment for Everyone
Wood fired Pizza, BBQ, Ice Creams and all Day Bar

Novice Shooting Instruction
Gun Dog Trials **Archery Competition**

For more details contact
Email: peter.lemon@talk21.com Tel: **01672 870266**
www.graftongamefair.com

A time to remember

You can arrange for a lily in memory of someone to be placed in the church during Easter. Contact Sally Butt on **01672 810743** by 1 April. Lilies are £2.50 each.

Grafton Goslings

Grafton Goslings Baby & Toddler Group continues to flourish at the weekly sessions at the Coronation Hall on Thursdays 10am – 11.30am (term time only). All parents, carers and little ones are welcome – there is a range of toys to play with, a weekly craft activity, snacks for children and refreshments for adults.

We still need helpers to join the kitchen rota and if anyone has a free hour or so once a term please email graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk We're also delighted to have our new storage shed in place which means that tidying away the toys is easier. Our shed would benefit from some insulation on the floor – so we'd like to hear from anyone who has any old carpet they'd like to donate (approx 2m x 2m). Please call **01672 810406** or email graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk

Become a Miller and a Guide
Saturday 19th March 2011
10.30am at The Swan Inn, Wilton

The Wilton Windmill Society is looking for more guides, millers and shop volunteers and we hope you can join us on **Saturday 19th March** to find out about these exciting opportunities. Lapsed volunteers are also very welcome to join us for a refresher!

We will meet for coffee at The Swan and then walk or drive up to the Windmill where milling will be taking place (weather permitting).

Members of the Windmill Society will then give you a taste of what being a volunteer involves.

We anticipate that we will finish back at The Swan by 1pm. It's a wonderful way to enjoy beautiful scenery in the company of friends whilst contributing to our historic working heritage.

The Windmill Open Season is from Easter to the end of September, on Sundays & Bank Holiday Mondays 2pm -5pm.

If you are interested, please contact Susie Brew on **01264 731404** or at susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk by **Friday 5th March** to reserve a place. See www.wiltonwindmill.co.uk for more information.

News in Brief

Free Wine tasting

The wines for "Call my Wine Bluff" are provided by Caviste of Hungerford who are providing a FREE wine tasting from 8pm 14 April

Thursday Club

The opportunity to meet your neighbours in a relaxed atmosphere for a quiet drink and snack in the Hall. See the calendar for dates

Library Services Review

Wiltshire Council has concluded the library provision review and there will be no change to the mobile library service and all 31 libraries will be maintained albeit with reduced hours. Many communities are investigating extending hours with volunteer assistance.

Pewsey Area Board Grants

Closing date for Community Area Grants is 25 March. If you have an idea for a community project then see www.wiltshire.gov.uk for more information.

New Recycling Services

Wiltshire Council confirms that doorstep cardboard and plastic recycling will start September 2011. Green waste collections will be free from Spring 2012.

Wilton Windmill Season

The season starts on 23 April. Guided tours of the mill and refreshments on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2pm to 5pm until the end of September.

Neighbourhood Policing Changes

The new team covering Pewsey East is Beat Manager PC Cath Hollands, PCSO Helen Ringstead and the Team Sergeant is Ben Braine. We hope to resume our regular police updates in future Community News editions.

Coronation Hall

Lara Ross is responsible for Hall bookings.

We are pleased to welcome the East Wilts Alzheimers Support Group for their monthly tea parties, NCT classes for mothers and babies and the Young Carers Association for events in the near future.

Parish Council meeting and Ambulance Service Update

The 3 March Parish Council meeting included a presentation from the Great Western Ambulance Service on response times to emergency calls. It was clear that, because we are such a rural area, the emergency services find it difficult to get to us quickly and this underlines the importance of being as self-sufficient as possible. The installation of the defibrillators is a good example of community resilience, but only if people in the community know what to do and how to use them.

The Parish Council AGM will take place on Thursday 24 March at the Coronation Hall starting at 7.15pm. All Parish Council meetings are open to the public.

Utilities in the Parish

Thames Water has now completed the mains work on the A338 in East Grafton and reseeding the ground is nearly complete.

There is an on-going capacity issue at the sewage works in East Grafton which requires regular removal of waste by lorry. Unfortunately there is no immediate plan to resolve this.

AV Referendum

A public meeting on the AV referendum on 7 April in the Bouverie Hall is being held by Pewsey Parish Council.

Pewsey Community Area

The annual review of the Area Plan, which sets out priorities for action to improve the quality of life in the Pewsey Community Area, is underway and the Partnership is consulting people who live in our area. The Consultation finishes 30 April. The plan is available on the Wiltshire County Council website:-

www.wiltshire.gov.uk or e-mail pewseyparishcoun@btconnect.com or Telephone **01672 562014**

Community Speedwatch – can you help?

In June last year Speedwatch volunteers carried out a number of traffic surveys on the A338 in East Grafton and the results showed that 5.5% of vehicles were driven in excess of the 30 mph limit. This may be a small percentage, but we'd like to reduce it further, making the village a much safer place for all of us, and need your help to achieve this. Wiltshire Council can provide Speedwatch equipment on a regular basis – and to take advantage of this we need a volunteer Team Leader to take on the project. See Page 4 for more details.

Grafton Game Fair needs any broken electric light bulbs

Please put them into the box to the left of the Coronation Hall porch.

Dates for your diary



All events take place in the Coronation Hall unless otherwise specified. www.graftonparish.com

MARCH

- 14 09.30 Circuit Training
- 14 19.00 Bingo *Grafton School*
- 15 09.15 Pilates
- 15 10.00 Zumba dance
- 15 19.30 Yoga
- 16 11.00 Circuit Training
- 16 19.30 Horticultural Society AGM
- 17 10.00 Grafton Goslings
- 18 13.00 Circuit Training
- 19 10.30 Windmill volunteer session *The Swan*
- 20 11.00 Parish Communion *St Nicholas*
- 22 09.15 Pilates
- 22 10.00 Zumba dance
- 22 19.30 Yoga
- 22 19.00 Defibrillator training *Grafton School*
- 24 10.00 Grafton Goslings
- 24 19.15 Parish Council AGM all welcome
- 26 10.30 Big Tidy Up *See page 1*
- 28 19.00 Bingo *Grafton School*
- 29 11.00 Primrose Fair and Coffee morning
- 29 19.30 Yoga
- 31 10.00 Grafton Goslings
- 31 19.30 Thursday Club

APRIL

- 01 13.00 Circuits
- 01 20.00 Call my wine bluff
- 02 10.00 Sunflowers Crafts *Grafton School*
- 03 11.00 Mothering Sunday Service *St Nicholas*
- 04 09.30 Circuits
- 05 09.15 Pilates
- 05 10.00 Zumba dance
- 06 11.00 Circuits
- 07 10.00 Grafton Goslings
- 12 19.30 Yoga
- 14 20.00 Free Wine tasting
- 17 09.30 Palm Sunday Service *St Nicholas*
- 20 19.30 Horticultural Society
- 23 10.00 Easter Garden *St Nicholas*
- 24 11.00 Easter Communion *St Nicholas*
- 25 Easter Eggstravaganza
- 26 09.15 Pilates
- 26 10.00 Zumba dance
- 28 10.00 Grafton Goslings
- 29 14.00 Royal wedding Street Parties *See page 1*
- 29 19.30 Royal Wedding Parish Dinner

Coronation Hall bookings 01672 810406

Private bookings are not shown in the calendar here so please make sure that you telephone or email hall@graftonparish.com in good time.

Hall courtesy notice.

9 April a party will finish at 23.30hrs

To contact us:- news@graftonparish.com or a note into the letterbox by the hall. Deadline for the next issue is Friday 9 April. Editorial rights reserved.

MOBILE LIBRARY TIMINGS: *Devizes Route H*

16 & 30 March and 13 & 27 April.

Marten post box 11.30-11.50am Severalls E Grafton
1.00-1.15pm Grafton Primary School 1.20-2.00pm

Useful contacts

Societies/Clubs/Organisations: 1 line free entry
Email news@graftonparish.com to be listed below.

Wednesday Club	01672 810349 Libby Gilbert
Cricket Club	pack.andy@googlemail.com
Bingo	hall@graftonparish.com
Windmill Society	susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk
Link Scheme	01672 870120
Church flowers/clean	01672 810743 Sally Butt
Parish Council	mail@graftonparish.com
PCC Secretary	01672 870266 Millie Lemon
Horticultural Soc	01672 810364 Marijke Craig
Art Club	libby_gilbert80@hotmail.com
Yoga	01672 841553 Lizzy Hawnt
Circuit Training	01672 810266 Hen Mackinnon
Pilates	07788 970976 Beth Knight
Zumba	07747 617199 Lau Vergara
Grafton CofE School	01672 810478 Jill Parr
Sunflowers preschool	07748 349856 Lyndsey Turner
Grafton Goslings	graffongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Friends of Grafton	01672 870253 Sue England
Thursday Club	01672 810406 Tom Dobson

Commercial Advertising

Business based in the Parish: 1 line listing – Free
Business based outside the Parish: 1 line – £1/issue. £10/pa.
Rates per issue for larger listing
1/12 page £5 1/6 page £10 1/4 page £15
Discounts for 6 months and 12 months

Disco and Karaoke	Pete Vallis	01672 811326
Disco and Party	Steve	01672 811109 07749 553681
Wellbeing Centre	Amanda Toon	01672 811677
Grafton Garage	Tony Gilbert	07845 006890
Seasoned Hardwood Logs	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
Kindling	Jo Harman	01672 810673
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Painting & Decorating	Neil Anderson	01264 731362
Hat Hire	Victoria Frost	01672 810386
KACIS Ironing Service	Karen Evans	07920 755372
Furniture	Holgate & Pack	01672 870887
House Sitting	Maxine Wallis	07879 993150
Pest Control	Julie Wilson	01672 811479
B&B West Grafton	Angie Orssich	01672 810339
Baby sitting/odd jobs	Tom Nield	01672 870196

Speed Watch Co-ordinator

The Parish Council is looking for a volunteer to liaise with authorities to obtain equipment, record usage and organise the team of volunteers who are very happy to continue the monitoring work. No more than 4 hours a month will be needed to complete these tasks.

Please email news@graftonparish.com if you are interested and would like to find out more.

News from Bedwyn Surgery - Our Doctor Writes

A new number for non emergency contact is about to be introduced. 111 will soon be used for contacting anybody involved in social or healthcare - from housing concerns to an urgent but non emergency need to contact your GP. This idea arises from the frustration of some who find it difficult to contact their GP and research which identified savings that could be made on receptionist costs. It is proposed that all appointments or queries to your practice will be handled in a 111 call centre. I am concerned that chaos will rule and local flexibility will be lost.

It has also been suggested that GPs should no longer do any home visits. At a time when localism is being championed it makes me wonder why vast amounts of money are about to be thrown at this project without a piloted scheme. When there is so much being introduced into the health system I think this is the wrong time and the wrong way to introduce another huge change. If you agree and you would like to preserve the current relationship with your practice please let your MP know. If you think I'm wide of the mark and these changes are a good idea then please let them know that as well. Our Patient Partnership Group in Bedwyn is formulating its own response.

Before Christmas I reported that the humble aspirin could decrease the chance of developing many common cancers by 25%. Needless to say there has been comment in the medical journals about this. It seems that if everybody suddenly started taking aspirin then the number of bleeds from stomach ulcers would rise and the NHS would not have enough specialists to deal with them. I think that the argument for taking low dose aspirin is a powerful one. It isn't right for everybody but I suggest you discuss it with your GP when you next see them.

Best wishes, Dr Tim Ballard

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PILATES SPIRIT

Beth Knight
Body Control Pilates
07788 970 976



Daytime Beginners Pilates classes

9:15am Tuesdays **East Grafton Coronation Hall**

Improved strength

A more toned and mobile body

Improved flexibility

A flatter stomach

Better posture

A sense of calm, fitness and well-being

Classes are small and tailored to individual needs and capabilities.

The beauty of the Pilates Method is that it lends itself to all levels of physical fitness and all ages.
Other classes in Ramsbury, Great Bedwyn, Wilcot, Bishops Cannings and Calne.

BEDWYN & GRAFTON LINK SCHEME coffee mornings in the British Legion Great Bedwyn first Tuesday in each month 11 till 12 noon