



Community News

MARTEN | WEXCOMBE | WILTON | WEST GRAFTON | EAST GRAFTON

JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year!

Firstly, a huge thank you to Father Christmas and everyone at The Swan Inn and Grafton Parish Council for making Christmas so special! We are so lucky to have the festive traditions in the Parish that everyone looks forward to.

It has been a very difficult start to 2024 with all the rain. The long-term consequences on farming in the area is as yet unknown. The flooding in and around the Parish and even more severely in Pewsey and Marlborough has been devastating for those affected.

But what it has shown is the strength of community spirit, with people rallying together and working day and night to help save businesses and homes from the rising water.

The weather thankfully looks largely dry and colder over the next couple of weeks which would be very helpful to everyone.

LOTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO ...
HAPPY 2024
Come and chat about opportunities at Sunflowers. Working with children is joyful, rewarding and worthwhile. Lots of smiles and laughter. Never a dull moment. Work that makes a real difference to children and families.

We have opportunities of various shapes and sizes to chat about. Permanent and ad-hoc. All-year or term-time. Interested in nursery care? Let's talk! Interested in wraparound and holiday provision? Let's chat about how you might contribute to our TreeHouse clubs.

Call 01672 810478 or email admin@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk and chat to Alison or Sue.

Sunflowers is a straightforward, comfortable, kind place to be and we are a second home to many babies, toddlers and children. The work we do makes a real difference and our team work wonderfully together to provide education and care of the highest quality.

Getting Active in the New Year

There are lots of opportunities to get active and get fitter in 2024. The regular classes at the Coronation Hall are listed on page 4, and there is plenty of walking and cycling information at

www.visitpewseyvale.co.uk

Flood Report

From David Lemon, Chair of Grafton Parish Council

On Thursday night I had a call from a resident in West Grafton who had a torrent of water coming off the A338 and through their front door. He asked for help on the West Grafton WhatsApp and help arrived. Friends, neighbours and Parish residents dug culverts and ditches, unblocked drains and put out sand bags which the Parish Council hold at Manor Farm in Wilton. A local resident arrived with sand in dumpy bags and diverted more water away.

Within an hour it had gone from a hopeless situation to being a clean up job.

Whilst this was going on, the flooding was building up in Wilton and Marten and had crossed the road at the duck pond at Wilton. This was several feet deep in the road and backing up into the gardens of the houses and moving towards the residents' back doors. In the space of an hour the water had risen by more than one foot.

By 9pm I had delivered the last of the Parish Council's supply of inflatable sand bags and was now left with 2 half tonne bags of sand and 100 bags to put it in.

I asked for help on the Wilton WhatsApp and within 15 minutes approximately 30 or more people turned up to help. Sand was bagged, bags were tied and loaded into vehicles and distributed to those in need.

However the high rainfall and saturated fields meant the water kept rising and flooding that was at the back of the houses was now coming to the front.

Another tonne of sand and another 100 bags were found and kind donations from locals provided even more material.

One house at Marten was in serious danger of flooding and before the water could get through the front door of the cottage it was met by a wall of sand bags hastily erected by the volunteer force and so remained dry.

I'm sorry to report that two homes got wet but I am delighted to say that no more homes suffered flooding and in no small part is that down to the incredible people we have who live here and in other villages within the Parish.

Our neighbours needed help and got it by the bucket full. I would like to thank every person who came out and helped on Thursday night, and have continued Friday.

It was amazing to see a community come together like that. Well done everyone and thank you for all your help. Simply Incredible!

The Importance of WhatsApp

The fantastic community effort during the flood emergency was facilitated by ease of communication via our village WhatsApp groups. If you are not part of your village group please think again about joining. Information on joining is at the bottom of page 4.

Come and visit

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Thank you for your support as always.**



Trees for Grafton Parish

Just before Christmas, The Swan Inn ran a raffle for a luxury hamper to raise funds for the Parish trees. It was brilliantly supported and raised an amazing £688 for more trees!

Meanwhile, in Wexcombe, the weather forecast looked like it was going to be frozen for the planned planting day, so we decided not to just dig the holes on the Thursday, but plant the trees as well!

Enormous thanks to George Hosier and his team for making this project possible. All the trees have had guards put up round them and they seem to have withstood the high winds and rain of recent weeks. We will be planting a few more whips later in January.

This project was supported by Wessex Water who provided a grant.

For more information, contact Susie Brew -
susie.brew@hotmail.co.uk or via WhatsApp.



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- Register for Gastro News on enquiries@gastronicks.co.uk



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Local Business Listings

Airbnb Shepherds Hut	Emily Rance	07970 799214
Babysitting	Harry Rance	07555 185085
Babysitting	Livs Pearson	07974 400228
Bedwyn Link Scheme	Community Transport	07717 006787
Bicycle Repairs	Peter	07366 418484
B&B Grafton	Victoria Frost	07557 791604
Self Catering Grafton	Pip Browning	07884 453300
Self Catering Wilton	Millie Lemon	01672 870266
Celebration Cakes	Nat Neal	07711 373688
Computer Issues	Stuart	07881 912477
Dog Grooming	Victoria Lewis	07786 686192
Dog Training/Walking	Carrie Holborow	07546 941709
Double Glazing	David Willcocks	01672 811979
Into The Blooms - Florist	Gill Campbell	07833 670693
Gardening	Suz Upham	07799 765641
Garden Services	Chris Barnacle	07901 563444
Grafton Garage	Tony Gilbert	07845 006890
Logs/Tree Surgeon	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
Painting & Decorating	Neil Anderson	07751 956319
Fitness & Mobility Instructor	Hen Mackinnon	07977 511959
Printing	Jane Goldstein	01672 515444
Storage / Lockup	David Lemon	01672 870266
Sunflowers at Grafton	Julie McLernon	01672 810478
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Pinckneys Farm Shop	Wendy Skardon	07989 228864
Visit Pewsey Vale	Susie Brew	07802 444022
Yoga	Tim Brew	07747 780898

Mobile Library

Information on the monthly Mobile Library Service can be found at apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/librariesinformation/Library/Mobiles

The next mobile library is on Wednesday 7 February at the Coronation Hall in East Grafton from 11.40 to 12 noon.

East Grafton Coronation Hall

To book Coronation Hall or to find details on how to hire trestle tables visit: www.graftonparish.com or contact as follows:

Email: hall@graftonparish.com (anytime)

Call: 01672 216115 or 07479 281809 (9am to 6pm Monday to Friday)

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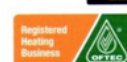
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Useful Minor Injuries Information

from Great Bedwyn Surgery

Andover – NO walk ins, book via 111

- Minor head injuries; facial and eye injuries; foreign body removal
- Fractures, bites, minor burns; wound assessment and closure
- An X-ray facility on site (if required) Monday to Friday from 9pm to 5pm, excluding bank holidays

Newbury/Thatcham – NO walk ins but can book in via 01635

273508/273300 or 111

- Allergic reactions i.e., wasp stings; burns, cuts, dislocated joints
- Foreign bodies, such as unwanted objects in ears, nose, throats
- Fractures, head and facial injuries; insect and animal bites
- Minor injuries after a road accident, for example neck strain, cuts, bruises, whiplash, sprains and strains
- Emergency contraception for women over 14 years

Swindon GWH – NO walk ins, book via 111 or, if serious, A&E

Dates for your diary

Proposed Road Closure

Please note the proposed closure of the Fairmile, from The Shears Inn at the Cadley Road turning, to the junction with the A338, from Monday 29 January to Friday 09 February.

As with all planned works, they may be subject to change.

Save a Life

Do you know how to use our Parish defibrillators? We are fortunate that local fundraising over the years means that each hamlet has a defibrillator which could be a life saver. The Parish Council is planning to run a training session in early spring, focusing on CPR and use of defibrillators. More information to follow.

January

13	10:30	Winter Works Open Day	Crofton Beam Engines
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February

04	11:00	Church Service	St Nicholas' Church
06	12:30	Winter Warmers Lunch	Coronation Hall
07	11:40	Mobile Library	Coronation Hall
10	10:30	Winter Works Open Day	Crofton Beam Engines
12	18:00	PC Planning Meeting	Tithe Barn, Manor Farm, Wilton

Local Clubs

Windmill Society	secretary@wiltonwindmill.co.uk
Horticultural Society	01672 810364 Marijke Craig
Crofton Beam Engines	crofton@katrust.org.uk
Grafton Goslings Baby & Toddler Group	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Dance classes	07746 479345 Charlotte Price
Yoga	07747 780898 Tim Brew
Zumba	07710 115324 Joanna Bury

Coronation Hall Regular Dates

Monday (weekly in term-time)	Charlotte Price	16:45
Tuesday (weekly in term-time)	Zumba	09:30
Tuesday (weekly in term-time)	Charlotte Price	16:15
Tuesday	Timmy B Yoga	19:00
Wednesday	Timmy B Yoga	09:30
Wednesday (weekly in term-time)	Charlotte Price	15:30
Thursday (weekly in term-time)	Grafton Goslings	10:00
Thursday (weekly in term-time)	Charlotte Price	16:45
Thursday	Timmy B Yoga	20:00
Monday (1st & 3rd week in month)	Alzheimer's Cafe	13:15
Tuesday (1st week in month)	Winter Warmers Lunch	12:30



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References available on request.

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Village WhatsApp Groups

New to WhatsApp? We can help - just get in touch

Text or WhatsApp to join:

East Grafton: Tamara **07711 824864**

Marten: Richard **07795 636767**

West Grafton: Annie **07802 923344**

Wilton: Tara **07833 320951**

Wexcombe: George **07786 332950**



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Deadline for content for the next issue is Friday 27 January

Email **news@graftonparish.co.uk** to contact the Community News team. Check **www.graftonparish.com/community-news/** for advertising rates and format.