



Community News

MARTEN | WEXCOMBE | WILTON | WEST GRAFTON | EAST GRAFTON

SEPTEMBER 2026



Evening Steam & Star Gazing

26 September 18:30-22:00

An evening of Astronomy: local astromomers will set up telescopes for visitors to marvel at the heavens (weather permitting). Richard Fleet will give a presentation during the evening; a look at our motion through the Galaxy and beyond - first lecture at 19:00 second at 20:00. There will be plenty of opportunity to see the engines working before viewing the sky through the telescopes (do dress warmly and bring binoculars).

Entry is £10 per adult (under 16's free) - refreshments available from Smithy Tea Room.

September Steaming - 26 & 27 September 10:00-16:30

For the grand finale for the year there will be plenty of guests in the shape of traction engines and other road steam as well as the usual steaming activities. A chance for young and old to enjoy and marvel at steam and how this part of England looked during the industrial revolution.

Childrens activities include a trail guiding round the station, crafting area and a "stained glass" window of Crofton for them to colour in.

It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited

Let's do whatever it takes to make cancer care better for everyone, whoever and wherever they are

Place: Coronation Hall - East Grafton
Date: Friday 25 September, 2026
Time: 10.30am - 12pm
Contact: Sunflowers at Grafton

Email admin@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk or call 01672 810478 if you'd like to help by baking for us or for more information about our community coffee morning



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261007), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (6046). Also operating in Northern Ireland. MAC030383

Autumn in the Parish

Moving in to the next season, cooler weather, darker evenings, but still plenty going on in the Parish (and no room for an editorial)!



Make a difference: Become a Charity Trustee

Join the team who are passionate about maintaining and developing the wonderful nursery and wraparound care at Sunflowers at Grafton. We celebrate our fifteenth birthday this year and trustees are looking to the future with renewed strategy and momentum.

We are a registered charity operated as a company limited by guarantee and are keen to recruit members of our local community to our board of trustees. Trustees play an essential role and act in the best interests of the charity. This isn't about handling day-to-day work, but more about strategic planning, wise management and supporting the Sunflowers Senior Leadership Team.

Having the right mix of knowledge and skills on our board is vital and we are particularly keen to chat if you could bring one or more of the following:

- Property and buildings expertise to help us manage the challenge of our Victorian school buildings.
- Financial expertise to help us analyse activity and plan for the future.
- Experience of successful large grant fundraising and community or local business fundraising.
- Expertise or interest in sustainability to drive our vision and delivery of our climate action plan.

Meetings are held quarterly at the Coronation Hall and trustees will contribute to one of our workgroups which is likely to involve some activity between meetings.

To find out more about joining our board of trustees, please contact Sue England at trustees@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk for an informal conversation.

Parish Rounders

The inter- village rounders match will take place on 18 September at 5.00pm, with the rounders starting by 5.30pm. There will be three teams this year:

Wilton - Red Team, captained by Ellie Johnson 07752 522872

East Grafton - Blue Team, captained by Jono Ratnage 07789 811214

Marten/ Wexcombe / West Grafton - Green Team captained by Lucy Pash 07743 593062.

Please contact the team captains if you would like to take part, or just turn up, preferably wearing something of the right colour. All ages and abilities are very welcome and encouraged!

There will be a barbecue, with both meat and vegetarian and vegan options, with a bar offering beer, cider, wine and soft drinks. There will also be some face painting to help the team spirit!

Please come along to take part or just to support this good fun Parish community evening. Thanks, Andy Pack

Planning Applications

No Applications Received

Our Farmer Writes September 2026

The hottest, driest summer..... Well yes it's been hot and very dry all summer; harvest was the earliest since 1976, the spring sown crops suffered with virtually no rainfall, however the winter wheat was not as bad as may have been expected.

Our cattle and chickens have fared better than the crops through this Summer, we have not yet had to revert to feeding the Winter rations to our cows as many other farmers have had to, but if significant rain does not come soon we will.

The chicken have been moving around the farm following the cows and have continued to lay unhindered by the heat. Sales of beef and eggs from our little honesty farm shop have been going well, thank you to all who have supported this new venture of ours.

The hot dry weather has not been to everyone's liking, but two birds of prey have had a very successful year, both Kestrel's and barn owls have had a bumper year breeding and it is great to see them happily hunting for mice and voles along our hedges and across our fields.

Wexcombe Farm

Winter Warmers Community Lunch

Winter Warmers will be back at Coronation Hall on Tuesday 6 October from 1230 - everyone is very welcome.

For more information and any special dietary requirements please contact Liz on 07831 545772

Can You Help?

St Nicholas' Church is setting up a new cleaning rota and would love your support. If you can spare a little time to help keep the Church looking its best, please get in touch with Caroline caroline@thornacre.co.uk or Whatsapp 07974 400228.

Coronation Hall: Your Parish Venue

The Hall Committee is pleased to offer a special discounted rate for Parish residents - more information at <https://graftonparish.com/coronation-hall/>

Coronation Hall is also keen to hear from local families about the types of activities and events they would like at the hall - email hall@graftonparish.com.

Timmy B Yoga

Weekly Yoga Classes
Tuesday 7pm Wednesday 9.30am
Coronation Hall, East Grafton
Restarts 8th September

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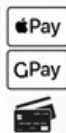
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Circles Welding Fabrication

Pottery Throwing for Beginners

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I run classes for 2 people at a time in my home studio in Wilton. No experience necessary. Come and have a go in a fun and relaxed environment

The classes will be split into 2 sessions.
First session 2½ hours to throw. Second session 1½ hours to glaze.

Classes are for 2 people, at £70 per person (includes both sessions)
One on One classes are an option at £120.

Please contact me to arrange a suitable date and time.

07887 763999

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Dates for your diary

September

06	11:00	Holy Communion	St Nicholas' Church
07	19:00	Julian Meeting	St Nicholas' Church
16	11:40	Mobile Library	Coronation Hall
18	18:00	Parish Rounders	The Green, East Grafton
20	15:00	Family Service	St Nicholas's Church
26	10:00	Artisan Farmers' Market	The Cattle Shed

October

04	10:00	Harvest Service (HC)	St Nicholas' Church
05	1900	Julian Meeting	St Nicholas' Church
18	15:00	Family Service	St Nicholas' Church
31	10:00	Artisan Farmers' Market	The Cattle Shed

Local Clubs

Windmill Society	info@wiltonwindmill.co.uk
Horticultural Society	07725 655230 Marijke Craig
Crofton Beam Engines	crofton@katrust.org.uk
Baby & Toddler Group	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Dance classes	07746 479345 Charlotte Price
Yoga	07747 780898 Tim Brew
Zumba	07710 115324 Joanna Bury
Pilates	07749 980744 Grace Dobie

Coronation Hall Regular Dates

Tuesday (weekly in term-time)	Zumba	09:30
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	Pilates	12:00
Thursday (weekly in term-time)	Charlotte Price	16:45
Monday (1st & 3rd week in month)	Alzheimer's Cafe	13:15



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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 19 August at the Coronation Hall in East Grafton from 11.40 to 12 noon.



Matt Stephens

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Email: **hall@graftonparish.com** (anytime)

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



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 25 September

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