

Have you noticed the lack of wildlife in the pond at Wilton in recent years? Very few ducks, coots or moorhens inhabit the area and this year we have only seen one duckling. The Parish Council is hoping to secure funding from the North Wessex Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to clean out the pond. Please sign one of the petitions that have been placed around the Parish to show your support and thereby help to secure the funding.

The Parish Council is also leading on improving our roads and road safety. A detailed plan is being produced with options for each of the villages affected by traffic issues - more on this in the August Community News.

From highways to super highways....improved Broadband is scheduled to reach the Parish next year! - read on for more information.

Grafton Parish broadband update

An extract from what a resident asked us is shown below:

"Wiltshire's 86 exchanges deliver an average of around 5Mb/s, which in fairness would keep most of us happy. But that figure reflects much faster speeds in the County's four or five major towns and their surrounding urban areas. East Grafton on the other hand, is pushed to reach 2Mb/s, with some of our residents hard put to get much above 1 Mb/s, at which level some things just don't work."

Wiltshire Council is funding this exercise so we contacted Stuart Wheeler our Wiltshire Councillor who has replied:

"I have checked at the council and the scheduled roll out of enhanced BT broadband service for the area including Grafton shown as early 2014 is still on time, so far as we are concerned. When we near the date of the scheduled rollout details will be circulated throughout the area giving more detail of exactly how the programme will be executed on the ground with an anticipated time table."

Bearing in mind the various exchanges serving our Parish we have now requested roll out plans for each of the hamlets. Fuller details will be published in the Community News as soon as they become available.

Email news@graftonparish.com if you would like us to follow-up a general concern which you feel that we may be able to address on your behalf. We will pass details onto the relevant bodies whenever we are able.

'THE ADVENTURE CRUISE'

CHILDREN'S CHURCH HOLIDAY CLUB 10.30 - 3.00
Age 5-11 £2 per Thursday session Bring a packed lunch

All venues are for children in all parishes including Grafton Parish

The club has a pirate theme in a series of 5 subjects and there will be games, crafts, stories, songs, all Bible-based

1 August	St Katharine's Church
8 August	Burbage Church Centre
15 August	Collingbourne Ducis Church
22 August	Shalbourne Church
29 August	Great Bedwyn Church

Teenagers could come and help of course
The Holiday Club is run by Rev. Michael McHugh and you can get more information from Sue Challen **01672 870202** or email suechallen@btopenworld.com



Engines in steam

Open daily 10.30 to 17.00hrs
Licensed cafe and site open everyday.

Adult ticket £8 (yearly ticket automatically allows you to visit the engines anytime within the year)

CROFTON BEAM ENGINES

Accompanied under 16's FREE.

A FREE LIVE MUSIC WEEKEND is being held on the Steaming Weekend of the 27 and 28 JULY.

Wiltshire and Bristol based musicians playing from 12-5pm Rock, Pop, Folk and Blues.

For more information see www.croftonbeamengines.org

Keeping Wilton's pond healthy and happy



Wilton's lovely village pond is a key feature of the village and keeping the pond and the wildlife it supports healthy and happy for the long term is important for us all. A number of projects to regenerate the pond have been discussed and a small working party has already taken place to clear part of the stream leading to Wide Water.

No one person or body has ownership of the pond which means that a collaborative approach is required. The Parish Council is supportive of this activity and has a plan to clean out the pond so that its environmental impact to our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) can be improved. Copies of a petition to demonstrate support for this plan can be found at key points around the parish including the Coronation Hall, The Swan pub, Wilton Windmill and Sunflowers at Grafton - please sign to lend your support.

Heritage Open Day at Wilton Windmill

Advance notice that Wilton Windmill will again be taking part in the national Heritage Open Day scheme. The usual fun of an open day at the Windmill is promised on Saturday 14 September from 12 noon to 4.30pm.

If you would like to help us on the day or make a cake for the refreshment tent, then please email secretary@wiltonwindmill.co.uk - we are always very grateful for your help.

St Nicholas Church Clean-up day

20 enthusiastic people turned up with dusters, mops and brushes and gave our church a good clean on Saturday 8 June. Many thanks to all who took part and did a great job.

Don't forget that we still need volunteers to help with church cleaning and flower arranging on any one month or on an ad hoc basis.

Please get in touch. Patricia Knowles **01672 810072**.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wexcombe's Open Farm Sunday

Sunday 9 June saw a Nationwide "Open Farm Sunday" organised by LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming), at Wexcombe we joined in by opening our farm from noon until 3pm. With a lot of help from many within the parish, a fun family occasion was organised.

Over 200 people came along (including an unannounced visit from Caroline Drummond the head of LEAF!) and we enjoyed a perfect sunny day.

A Farm Discovery Trail provided a short route with 12 different 'attractions' to find, from tractors and machinery to rams, lambs and chickens as well as ponies and the calves. An information sheet at each point helped to teach the children about the role of each of the 'attractions' on the farm today.

A BBQ of local produce, including Wexcombe Beef, plant, cake and ice cream stalls all went incredibly well. Children's races run over bales with edible prizes and six Tractor & Trailer Rides around the farm rounded off the entertainment.

With the brilliant turn out and our wonderful volunteers, we raised a fantastic £1,129 for the St. Nicholas' Church Roof Fund. Pictures taken on the day can be seen on www.wexcombefarm.co.uk

Help for the unemployed in our Parish

The Employment Prospects Improvement Club (EPIC) has been set up to help 16 to 25 year olds who are unemployed. Through regular coaching sessions and personal plans, members of EPIC have access to businesses and people who can help them prepare for employment. EPIC meets on the second and fourth Thursdays every month between 7pm and 9pm at The Shak in Wilcot Road, Pewsey. It costs £2 to join the scheme and more information can be found at www.epicpewsey.org.uk or you can email info@epicpewsey.org.uk.

If you would like to share your expertise and experience by volunteering to be a helper or perhaps run a session on a particular topic, then they would be very pleased to hear from you.

Neighbourhood Watch News

Canal Watch has been launched which is a new scheme which will run along the lines of Farm Watch - whereby a text alert will be distributed at the time an incident is reported. This will help canal residents to be aware of problems earlier and help to prevent burglaries and other incidents occurring. Further information can be found at <http://kanda.boatingcommunity.org.uk>

News for the last few weeks in our area includes the theft of red diesel and damage to a parked vehicle in The Knapp, both in Great Bedwyn. In Burbage between 4 and 6 July construction equipment was stolen from Southgrove. On 2 July, 3 metal 5-bar gates were stolen from East Grafton and some men were seen making off with them. For more details, see www.graftonparish.com. To get regular and more timely updates from the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, email mail@graftonparish.com with Subscribe in the heading of your email or sign up to the Grafton Parish Community News page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GraftonParishCommunityNews). If you have any information regarding these incidents please contact Pewsey police on 101.

Measles – Don't let your child catch it

The number of children catching measles in Wiltshire is rising. To be protected they need to be immunised with two doses of the MMR vaccine. For more information, visit the MMR road show at Pewsey Primary School on Wednesday 17 July between 2.30pm and 3.30pm, contact your local GP surgery or visit www.nhs.uk/measles.

Children's Cricket Club

The Children's Cricket Club is over for another season but all the children who joined had a fantastic time. On Saturdays over the last few months you may have seen many youngsters training and playing at the nets behind Batts Farm in Wilton. Everyone really enjoyed these sessions and the children's throwing, catching and batting skills improved immensely, with one 11 year old graduating to the Senior Team! Thanks to everyone who participated, especially Nick Hebden and Mike Hyslop.

OUR DOCTOR WRITES by Dr Tim Ballard

Summer seems to be here at last though the latest predictions about global warming and climate change predict that the next few summers may well be wetter yet! Health Professionals are concerned that that climate change is the biggest threat to health in the 21st century - food for thought for us all.

There has been little uptake locally for catch up MMR vaccines for those who are not protected. The outbreak in Wales is settling but it is still a problem. When reviewing those not covered we identified people who were not vaccinated against other illnesses either. Some of those are due to go to university now and are likely to be going on gap years and travelling. Please be careful and think again about vaccination. Polio is still endemic in third world countries and meningitis is a problem for university students when they move away from home.

The latest GP survey results are now available and you can find Great Bedwyn Surgery details at:

<http://results.gp-patient.co.uk/report/10/result.aspx>

The quality measures are wide spread. I was pleased with them but have a look and see what you think. Our patient group is about to meet again and we are always looking for new people to get involved. Please get in touch with Keith our Practice Manager **01672 870338** if you are interested.

Our Royal College has recently undertaken a survey of GPs. It was particularly illuminating about the state of British General Practice. 85% think that the profession is in crisis; 4 in 5 have considered quitting general practice; and nearly half don't feel that they can continue to provide safe patient care with current resources.

There have been weeks of relentless criticism over the A&E crisis but demand for GPs is also very high. Please think about this when you next make an appointment. We are really proud, as are other local practices, about the level of access that we offer. There is a downside though, in that ease of access can lower the threshold for people to request an appointment. For us to continue to offer this level of service it needs to be used wisely. We are all in this together.

Footsteps

Podiatry Services

07881802386

Now based in my own treatment room within Tidworth Leisure Centre appointments not always necessary.



Katie Bluff

BSc(HONS)Pod,SRCh,MCHs

10% Off Voucher



Big Lottery Funding makes a BIG difference for Sunflowers at Grafton

Winning Big Lottery Funding last year to set up The TreeHouse, our out of school care for primary school children, was a huge step for Sunflowers at Grafton. Over the past year we have carefully spent that funding and are delighted with the results which can be seen both inside and outside the building. Those walking by may have noticed that our corner of the field has been transformed - raised beds with vegetables and sensory plants, a mini greenhouse for our tomato plants, child-sized picnic benches, a fabulous climbing frame and super fenced areas for our chickens, rabbits and guinea pig.

Our community access policy remains in place and considerate users are very welcome to our gardens and playground when Sunflowers is closed. Please bear in mind that all spaces are designed and equipped for use by supervised children under 11 years' old. We simply ask that you take care and leave things as you find them. We do understand that it may be tempting for older children and young people to use the space but it really is not designed for over 11's. We will of course be monitoring access very carefully to ensure that use is appropriate.

The TreeHouse summer timetable is out now and whilst a number of days are fully booked there is availability on many other sessions - call **01672 810478** or email **admin@sunflowers-grafton.co.uk** for more information.

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St Nicholas' Church

As part of the Church's maintenance programme it has to have a thorough inspection of its infrastructure every 5 years. This has just taken place at St Nicholas' and unfortunately the list of repairs is extensive.

There is a lot of work to be done on the guttering and downpipes. Water is penetrating some walls especially those in the South Aisle. The Vestry floor and some windows need replacing too. Within the next 5 years the entire roof must be checked with damaged slates replaced where necessary.

Initial estimates, including extensive scaffolding, indicate an expenditure in the thousands of pounds to complete this work. Although the PCC may be able to obtain a grant to cover part of these costs, you will see that it is important that we redouble our efforts to raise money for these repairs. If they are not carried out in the near future the fabric of the church will deteriorate further.

We remain very grateful to members of the community who help us through their covenants.



Covenant forms are available from the PCC Secretary **01672 870266**
Martin Butt, Church Warden

Why your call is important

If you see any suspicious activity or experience a minor crime, you may decide not to contact the Police. It's too much hassle, nothing will happen, I don't want to get involved - all very common reasons for not taking things further.

It's really important that the Police are made aware of your concerns because:

- Calls received impact where cars patrol to help prevent an incident occurring.
- The suspicious person you saw may in fact have already committed crimes in other villages and knowing the movements and time of sighting of a suspicious person may help enormously in tracking them and the eventual resolution of a crime.
- The minor crime you experienced may have been done by someone who has done bigger crimes elsewhere.

So next time you think 'That looks a bit strange', please call the Police on **101** (if it is a non-emergency) - they would rather check out a false alarm than have to deal with a crime.



Dates for your diary

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

Bookings **01672 810406** or **hall@graftonparish.com**
Please leave landline contact numbers wherever possible

JULY

13	10.00	Art textile workshop	
13	11.00	Open Day	Sunflowers
14	18.00	Evensong	St N
15	19.00	Bingo	
21	11.00	Parish Communion	St N
28	11.00	Family Service	St N
29	19.00	Bingo	

AUGUST

04	11.00	Holy Communion	St N
11	18.00	Evensong	St N
12	19.00	Bingo	
18	11.00	Parish Communion	St N
25	11.00	Family Service	St N
26	19.00	Bingo	

Mobile library

17, 31 July 14, 28 August at the Coronation Hall 11.30
You can reserve items for delivery on the Mobile Library on 01225 713727 or, if you are unable to use the mobile library, you can arrange personal library services through the Outreach Services Librarian 01225 713706.
www.wiltshire.gov.uk to access to library services.

Regular weekly dates for your diary

Please check for full details with the relevant organiser.
Contact details are on page 4.

MONDAY

CIRCUIT & FITNESS



09.30 to 10.30 Monday

TUESDAY



09.30 to 10.30 Tuesday

Marlborough Multiples

15.00 to 16.30
Alternate Tuesdays

YOGA



19.30 to 21.00 Tuesday

WEDNESDAY

CIRCUIT & FITNESS



09.15 to 10.15 Wednesday



C.A.P. Dance & Fitness
Various classes for all ages between 15.30 and 19.00

THURSDAY



Baby and toddler group
10.00 to 11.30 Thursday

FRIDAY

PILATES

09.30 TO 10.30

KARATE CLASS

Children only 16.00 to 17.00

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 a larger advert
1/12 page £5. 1/6 page £10. 1/4 page £15
Discounts for 6 months and 12 months

Useful contacts

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

Bingo	hall@graftonparish.com
Church flowers/clean	01672 810072 Patricia Knowles
Circuit/fitness Training	01672 810266 Hen Mackinnon
Community News	news@graftonparish.com
Coronation Hall	01672 810406 hall@graftonparish.com
County Councillor	01672 810285 Stuart Wheeler
Cricket Club	pack.andy@googlemail.com
Dance and Fitness	07746 479345 Charlotte Price
Grafton Goslings	graftongoslings@yahoo.co.uk
Horticultural Society	01672 810364 Marijke Craig
Karate	07775 510143 Darren Pettifer
Link Scheme	01672 870120
Marlborough Multiples	07967 835831 Amber
Member of Parliament	01380 729358 Claire Perry
Parish Council	01672 810406 Alison Halfpenny
PCC Secretary	01672 870266 Millie Lemon
Pilates	01672 700125 Victoria
Police emergency	999 or 112
Police non emergency	101 ext 745818 M Camilleri
Sunflowers at Grafton	01672 810478 Lyndsey Turner
Wiltshire Good Neighbours	07557 110418 Mary Soellner
Windmill Society	secretary@wiltonwindmill.co.uk
Yoga	01672 841553 Lizzy Hawnt
Zumba	07747 617199 Lau Vergara

Local commercial listing

B&B West Grafton	Angie Orsich	01672 810339
Baby sitting/odd jobs	Tom Nield	01672 870196
Beauty & wellbeing	Amanda Toon	01672 811677
Builder	Sam Sanchez	07887 991249
Disco and Karaoke	Pete Vallis	01672 811326
Disco and Party	Steve	01672 811109
Dog training/walking	Carrie Holborow	07546 941709
Double glazing repairs	David Willcocks	01672 811979
Furniture	Holgate & Pack	01672 870887
Gardening	Sue Upham	01672 810526
Grafton Garage	Tony Gilbert	07845 006890
Hair and Beauty	Katherine Le Bon	07770 945307
Hat Hire	Victoria Frost	01672 810386
Holiday Cottages (local)	Mary Rhodes	01672 870659
House Sitting	Maxine Wallis	07879 993150
Kindling	Jo Harman	01672 810673
Logs/tree surgeon	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
Odd jobs/gardening	Dan Oakey	07783 644405
Odd Jobs	Kieran Maidment	07531 685353
Painting & Decorating	Neil Anderson	01264 731362
Pest Control	Julie Wilson	01672 811479
Printing clothing/signs	GraphicSignsandDesign@gmail.com	
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Usborne Books	Trish Highnett	07775 941646



You can email news@graftonparish.com with contributions or comments for the Community News. Deadline for the next issue 9 August 2013
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