

Thank you very much Father Christmas and your able elf for doing such a wonderful job for us all, it is very much appreciated.

At the January Parish Council meeting Annie Whitcher from West Grafton was welcomed as a new Councillor with responsibilities for liaising with Pewsey Community Area Partnership and Pewsey Area Board. Annie runs her own business, has experience in community projects and has been in West Grafton for 12 years.

Grafton and Bedwyn Link scheme provides a valuable service for residents including errands to collect medicines, read books or documents and help people who are in need of some assistance with day to day activities as well as provide transport to vital appointments. New volunteers are always welcome to help to spread the commitment - the tasks are not onerous but very rewarding. Mileage is reimbursed and information is available from the service telephone so please give them a call on **0771 7006787** if you can offer just a bit of time to this worthy cause.

All the very best to everyone across the parish for 2015.

An opportunity for anyone 13 to 15 years of age to "Be a soldier for a day"

9am 12 March at Tidworth for your uniform fitting ready for a full day with REME.

You will be investigating vehicles, enjoying a mess meal, learning training routines and visiting the Armoured Company Exercising on Salisbury Plain.

This offer is open to all boys and girls in Grafton parish between 13 and 15 years of age (although you may be considered if you are older).

The entire day will mirror the activities of the Close Support Battalion of the British Army's Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and will be under the supervision and leadership of trained personnel.

If you are selected then it will be necessary to obtain permission to be excused from your school.

If you are interested please apply by email to news@graftonparish.com or call **01672 810717**. Space is limited so do not delay!

This is a rare opportunity - certainly worth serious consideration - and promises to be great fun and very informative.

The cost of this experience is donated as a treat for curious youngsters in the parish! **Closing date 6 February.**



Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin'-race!



CELEBRATE BURN'S NIGHT

In true Scottish style. Hoch Aye!

At The Coronation Hall

East Grafton

Saturday, 24th January

At 7.30pm

Enjoy a delicious three course supper

Then reel the night away!

Complimentary glass of wine or whiskey to everyone sporting a token of tartan!

Tickets £20.00 each

Tara Adamson **01672 870947** or June Pearson **01672 811997**



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They have very good heat output, produce little ash, are clean burning, and are excellent for helping damp logs to burn.

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Holgate & Pack
Brail Farm, Great Bedwyn
SN8 3LY

For information please ring **01672 870877**

WINTER WARMER PARISH
LUNCH

THE CORONATION HALL



Wednesday 11 February at 12.30pm

Fabulous Lunch at just

£5 per head

and includes a glass of wine or beer

To book, and any questions or dietary requirements call Liz Hosier on

01264 731242

If you would like a lift to the hall phone:

Ronnie Pearson 01672 811997

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Help keep our local roads safe - have you got your dustbin stickers yet?

The Parish Council has been considering for some time, local concerns about traffic speeds on roads across the Parish. Discussions are ongoing with Wiltshire Council about reviewing speed limits in certain areas but in the meantime the Parish Council continues to drive forward initiatives including:

- Dustbin Stickers to remind drivers to slow down.
If your dustbins are placed in a prominent position (either year-round, or on collection days) please do display stickers. These can be collected from The Swan in Wilton or Sunflowers at Grafton or email clerk@graftonparish.com
- Community Speedwatch.
Many local villages use regular Community Speedwatch sessions to deter speeding drivers and we hope to re-instate this in the next few months too. Have you got 2-3 hours a month to join a small team (morning or evening)? If so, Anna would love to hear from you on 01672 811335 to arrange some training in readiness for the arrival of the equipment.
- Set the Example!
Finally, of course, everyone can do their bit by slowing to the speed limit each time you enter one of our villages. It is very satisfying to watch those travelling behind you as they follow your example and *it works!*



Our Minibus is available to organisations and community groups to hire at the weekends

Bookings can be made via Community First – Community Transport - through a scheme known as WAVeSS. This is the Wiltshire All Vehicles Sharing Scheme and allows groups looking for transportation to hire at a reasonable cost and where needed and if available, find a qualified driver.

There are guidelines around who can hire and for what purpose - information can be found on

www.communityfirst.org.uk/community-first-services/community-transport/wavess or by contacting Community First on 01380 732816.

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News in Brief

Grafton Parish Council change to meeting dates

Parish Council meetings have now changed to take place on Monday evenings (previously on Thursdays). The next meeting is on 2 March. This change is to facilitate regular bookings at the Coronation Hall and the Annual meeting will be held on 18 May 2015 as a result.

New youth groups and an ice rink.

To launch the new Local Youth Network, there will be an ice rink at the Co-op car park on Saturday 14 February and the new Youth Group will meet on Friday nights from 6 February at 7pm at the Fire Station Community Room to the rear of Pewsey Fire Station. Fee £1. Free WiFi, crafts, music, Xbox and other activities for 13 to 19's. There is also a "Youth night hangout" at the Moonrakers! For 13 to 19 years old only on Thursday 22 January from 8pm. Your choice of music, play pool or just chat, it's your evening! Details of all events on the Pewsey Local Youth Network Facebook page.

Just what you've bee-n waiting for!

The Kennet Bee Keepers Association have lots of new courses for 2015 so if you fancy yourself as an apiarist, then see their website for more details – www.kennet-beekeepers.co.uk

Police update

Congratulations to our local Neighbourhood Police Team. The latest crime figures for the Pewsey Community Area show a reduction in overall crime including burglaries and thefts from cars when parked at beauty spots, but the local Policing Team will continue to target these areas in 2015. Help reduce these thefts even further by remembering to lock outbuildings and doors and to remove anything of value from your car before leaving it.

If you know an elderly or vulnerable person who may need help in securing their property, The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust is available to help free of charge. More information can be found on www.wiltshire.police.uk

Temporary closure of A345 Upavon Road

The A345 will be closed between the Woodbridge roundabout and Upavon from 2 February to 27 February for essential sewer improvements by Wessex Water. There will be diversions in place through the Rushall Road and Pewsey Road lanes but the closure is likely to impact any journeys in this area.

Crofton winter work open days

7 February and 7 March 10.30 to 15.30 open free of charge. See December issue or www.croftonbeamengines.org for full details.

Find out what's going on

Sign up to the Community Messaging website and you will get notifications of policing and other community safety issues automatically. It's a simple registration process and can be found at www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

See an Issue – Report it with the Wiltshire app!

Wiltshire Council has designed an "app" to be used on your smart phone or tablet called "My Wiltshire". The app is intended for you to report issues like dog mess, street lighting, fly tipping, graffiti, parking and much more.

The app is simple to use; once you have registered you can log the problem. You will then receive a reference number and a date of when the work should be completed by. You can even attach pictures to your report for clarification. A manhole cover which had become dislodged near West Grafton was reported with a photograph and 24hrs later it was put right!

So, if see anything around our Parish that needs the Council's attention, please get it reported! If you don't want to use your smart phones or tablets, you can still log reports on the Wiltshire Councils website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/report.htm

Wilton roads and drains

Urgent drainage works in Wilton continue into January. Work in Hollow Lane is complete and Chapel Hill is next on the list, so a diversion will be in place for travelling from East Grafton into Wilton. Once this drainage work is completed the road resurfacing originally scheduled for autumn 2014 will be taking place.

pilates
by nature

Mondays 18.45
Fridays 09.30
Fridays 10.45

SPACES AVAILABLE for this term

Private training also available

Intermediate: Milton Lilbourne
Improver: Coronation Hall
Gentle: Coronation Hall

Contact Tracey on 07796 225942 or tracey@pilatesbynature.com

Dates for your diary

All events take place in the Coronation Hall unless otherwise specified (contact details on page 4).
St N refers to St Nicholas' Church.

JANUARY

24 19:30 Burns Night
25 16:00 Family Worship *St N*

FEBRUARY

01 11.00 Holy Communion *St N*
06 Closing date for "Soldier for a day"
07 10.30 Open day *Crofton Beam Engines*
08 18.00 Evensong *St N*
11 12.30 Winter Warmer Lunch
15 11.00 Holy Communion *St N*
22 16.00 Family Worship *St N*

Mobile library dates at the Coronation Hall
28 January 11, 25 February 11.30 to 12.00

Regular weekly dates for your diary

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

MONDAY

CIRCUIT & FITNESS  09:15 to 10:15 Monday
Henrietta MacKinnon

YOGA  11:00 to 12:30 Monday

Bingo  19:00 to 20:30
Alternate Mondays

TUESDAY

 09:15 to 10:30 Tuesday
ZUMBA

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
Henrietta MacKinnon

 **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
GRAFTON GOSLINGS

YOGA  19:30 to 21:00 Thursday

FRIDAY

 09:30 to 10:30 Friday
pilates by nature

 10:45 to 11:45 Friday
Beginners and gentle work
pilates by nature

KARATE CLASS Children only 16:30 to 17:00

Useful contacts

Societies/Clubs/Organisations: 1 line free entry

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	07479 281809 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	0771 7006787
Marlborough Multiples	07967 835831 Amber
Member of Parliament	01380 729358 Claire Perry
Parish Council	clerk@graftonparish.com 01672 811335
PCC Secretary	01672 870266 Millie Lemon
Pilates	07796 225942 Tracey Rich
Police emergency	999 or 112
Police non emergency	101 Jonathan Mills
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	01672 484464 Joanna Bury

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
Builder & roofing	Dan and Co	07936 586228
Business Support	Natalie Bullock	07711 373688
Cake making	www.faysfairycakes.co.uk	
Car washing	wiltonwashers@gmail.com	
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
Kindling	Jo Harman	01672 810673
Logs/tree surgeon	Jeremy Hawkins	07980 536156
Painting & Decorating	Neil Anderson	01264 731362
Pest Control	Julie Wilson	01672 811479
Printing clothing/signs	www.SCSigns.co.uk	
Swan Inn	Bill Clemence	01672 870274
Usborne Books	Trish Highnett	07775 941646

Advertising rates per issue:

Business based in the Parish: 1 line listing – Free
 Business based outside the Parish: 1 line – £1/issue £10/pa
 For larger adverts: 1/12 page £5 1/6 page £10 1/4 page £15



email news@graftonparish.com with contributions for the Community News.
 Deadline for the next issue 7 February 2014. Editorial rights reserved.

Planning applications. Full details available on www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningapplicationssearchonline.htm

Grit/Salt Contacts

Wilton:	David Lemon	01672 870266
East Grafton:	James Allen	01672 810753
West Grafton:	James Allen	01672 810753
Wexcombe:	George Hosier	07786 332950
Marten:	David Lemon	01672 870266

Our Doctor writes

After the celebrations and the over-indulgence it's back to normal with hopefully one or two New Year's resolutions aimed at improving health and wellbeing. The most productive of all of the health related resolutions is stopping smoking but it can be remarkably hard to do. The new e-cigarettes haven't got a completely clean bill of health and the nicotine in them certainly maintains the addiction but the real damage from smoking comes not from the nicotine but from the poisonous carbon monoxide and all of the cancer causing tars that the vapes or e-cigarettes don't have. The latest evidence actually shows that they do actually help a lot of people to stop altogether and these e-cigarettes are dramatically safer than conventional smoking. So the message is clear. Stopping smoking altogether is the best thing you can do – with the help of your GP if you need it. If you can't manage then make the switch.

I was asked recently about the news showing that a large proportion of the population are taking prescription medicines. The truth with issues like this is never simple but the majority of prescribed medicines are now aimed at decreasing the risk of ageing related problems such as heart attacks and strokes. Strokes in particular are a major problem and a threat to wellbeing. People aren't dying in anywhere near the numbers in early and middle age that they did only a few decades ago. The evidence is that medicines are helpful especially if they are aimed at tackling one or two health problems. As we age though many of us will develop four or five incurable conditions that we need to live with and can't be cured. This is where things start to become less clear and more complex. The evidence suggests that taking lots of medicines, especially later on in life can be a problem in itself. Most of the research into medicines is done with people with only one condition, which doesn't represent the real world. The really important message is to be continually interested in your health and wellbeing as the years go by. Doctors may be experts in illness but each individual is the most important expert about themselves. Ask your GP about your medicines and whether the benefits really outweigh the risks.

I wish you a very healthy and happy New Year,

Dr Tim Ballard

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Jason Lewis Carpenter Carpentry & Maintenance

All building work undertaken, painting, tiling, all types of locks, kitchens, home improvements, plastic doors & windows, general maintenance.

References available on request.

07990 512342 Jasonlewis08@aol.com