

# GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 386

FREE

APRIL 2023



**BBC TV films Vicky's big Graffham ring**

**The Street Party planned for Coronation**

**All set for Easter – market, egg hunt and more**



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**On the cover:** Vicky Chase is interviewed for BBC TV's South Today at the start of her epic challenge to mark her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by ringing bells in 50 Sussex bell towers in 50 days, kicking off at Graffham's St Giles, where she learned to ring and teaches today.  
Full story – page 6.

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# Writing from the Rectory: The bells are silent

If you listen out for the bells of Graffham Church ringing at practices on Tuesday 4 or Saturday 8 April, you will be disappointed, because this is Holy Week, the most solemn week of the church year.

As Graffham Christians keep watch leading up to the death of Our Lord on Good Friday, and his placing in the tomb, there is no sound from the tower. 'The bells are silent', a powerful expression symbolically reflecting the mood of the community. In this way the bells of this world show silent respect for the Immensity of God's sacrificial love while looking forward to ring out joyfully once again on Easter Day.

Details of our Easter services at Graffham are featured on page 49 of this magazine. We have a range of services to suit



**Graffham's bellringers will be taking a break before Easter.**

everyone. The Easter egg hunt around St Giles' churchyard is always a highlight of this time of year for young and old alike – chocoholics of all ages welcome! Before it, we may even have donkeys join us for Palm Sunday...

We rejoice that our church has a wonderful team of ringers serving our bells now, learning to ring and improve their skills, week by week. Newcomers are always welcome, so if you are interested, come and discover more! Ringers give bells voice to call people to worship each Sunday and express local and national sorrows and joys. A big thank you to each one, as our own ringers prepare for

► *Continued on next page*



**Priest in charge:** Reverend Vivien Turner  
01798 867199 [hello@stgilesgraffham.org](mailto:hello@stgilesgraffham.org)

**Churchwarden:** Ginny Barrett 01798 867113



[stgilesgraffham.org](http://stgilesgraffham.org)



@stgilesgraffham

► *Continued from previous page*

the next great celebration of our nation in the Coronation of our new King Charles III and his Queen. The bells of Graffham will not be silent then, for sure.

This letter would not be complete without expressing thanks and good wishes to two special ringers, to:

- Vicky Chase for her enthusiastic support of Graffham ringing alongside our wonderful visiting ringing trainers, and her amazing project to ring in 50 towers in 50 days to celebrate her 50th birthday. Beginning at Graffham, of course, where Vicky learned to ring. We will not soon forget the media interest this has stirred!
- Howard Pescott, celebrating his own 50th birthday with a new challenge to take up the reins (ropes?) of bellringing Tower Captain at Graffham. We are delighted and wish him every blessing, keeping St Giles bells ringing into the future.

**From the church registers** We were delighted to read Banns of marriage for Georgia and Ted, and Louisa and Mark in March. Every blessing to all our wedding couples as you prepare for your wedding days.

Four people were commended to God in ashes burials, funeral, and memorial services last month – Jean Page and Stanley Owen Page on 25 February, John Rupert Bellis, a long-serving churchwarden here at Graffham, and Cyril Henry James ‘Scott’ Gray on 13 and 16 March respectively (see pages 18-23). We offer our sincere condolences to their families. May those for whom we have given thanks rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen



**Reverend Vivien**

## **Parish holds its annual meeting**

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Graffham with Woolavington held its annual parochial church meeting at St Giles on Sunday 26 March. Michael Blunt, Yvonne Churchward and Stuart Lewis were re-elected to the Parochial Church Council and Nettie Lanaghan invited to join. Sonya Gillespie and Howard Pescott were also co-opted. The trustees' annual report and financial statements for the year to end December 2022 were also published, with the accounts showing a small surplus, thanks to the generosity of so many people. You can read the report and review the accounts at [stgilesgraffham.org/2023-APCM/](http://stgilesgraffham.org/2023-APCM/)



**SATURDAY 1ST APRIL  
10.30 - 2.30PM**

*Wonderful  
raffle  
prizes*

# **GRAFFHAM** *Easter Market*

**LOTS OF STALLS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:**

**HATS! ARTS & CRAFTS**

**FOOD BEER GIFTS**

**PLANTS AND GARDENWARE**

**HOUSEWARES**

**PRODUCE INCLUDING CAKES AND PRESERVES**

**THE EASTER EGG HUNT**

**GRAND EASTER RAFFLE**

**REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING LIGHT LUNCHES,  
QUICHES, TEAS AND COFFEE**

**AND MORE**



**ENTRANCE ONLY £1 - CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE**

**Location: Empire Hall, Graffham, GU28 0QB**

**[www.empirehall.org.uk/home/easter-market](http://www.empirehall.org.uk/home/easter-market)**

# Plans shaping up to celebrate Coronation here

Plans are starting to take shape for how Graffham might mark the Coronation of King Charles III in May – with The Street Party to end all street parties and a special celebratory service in St Giles Church taking centre stage.

The coronation itself will take place in Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May. The following Monday has been declared a Bank Holiday making it a long weekend, just as for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

Buckingham Palace has issued guidance for how the nation should mark the event – which Graffham aims to follow.

Like churches across the country, St Giles will hold its special service to commemorate the coronation on Sunday 7 May morning – at 10.30am in our case. It will include music and other elements that will feature in similar events the length and breadth of Britain.

That afternoon there will be a nationwide Coronation Big Lunch. To make it different from June's jubilee celebration, the plan is to hold this slightly later in Graffham – in time for tea.

And, to ring the changes again, rather than gather on the rec, the proposal is to make the Graffham Coronation Big Tea a street party – in The Street, running along from front of the Empire Hall towards the Foresters Arms... The Street Party. Trestles will be laid out end to end to make it the longest single table the village has yet seen – decorated appropriately in red, white and blue.

Everyone will be asked to take along their own teas – with a suggestion that their food and drink should reflect the nations of the UK and the Commonwealth – Scotch eggs, Welsh cakes, Irish brack, English scones and cream, Cornish pasties, even Sussex churdles, Pimms, ale and maybe even fizz from some of our



local wineries... Villagers – especially those along The Street – are being encouraged to follow suit, with bunting, flags and decorations to outdo even June's jubilee festoons.

Planning is being led by a working party including representatives from St Giles Church and Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils, led, once again by the irrepressible Marie Bracey. If you would like to get involved or help pull everything together in any way, please contact her at [mariebracey@me.com](mailto:mariebracey@me.com)

All should be wrapped up in time for the evening's Coronation Concert at Windsor Castle, featuring some of the biggest names in entertainment, and live on the BBC.

Monday 8 May is intended nationally to be The Big Help Out Day, highlighting the positive impact volunteering has on communities across the nation. Ideas for how Graffham might get involved are being developed. All suggestions welcome!

Also planned for the Coronation weekend, after the successful Town versus Gown hockey match at Christmas, is a similar match between Seaford College and the local community – but this time at cricket, on Friday 5 May (see page 38).

## Book of Graffham tales to mark Coronation

Graffham artist Sue Hill is aiming to publish an illustrated book about the village in time for the Coronation. All proceeds from *Graffham Tales, History and Fable* will go to an orphanage in Tanzania. The book will feature a collection of Sue's immaculate water colours of buildings, landscapes and people from across the neighbourhood with words in her copperplate writing explaining why they are included. Expect the unexpected!

Sue said: "There's a tradition of publishing special books in Graffham to mark key Royal and other national events – the reprint of the history of the village, the WI handbook and so on – so it seemed appropriate to do something for King Charles III's ascent to the throne this year."

To pre-order your copy – the price of which will depend on the numbers printed – email [jonsugraffham@btinternet.com](mailto:jonsugraffham@btinternet.com).







Sussex County Association of Change Ringers visitors join Vicky (in the pink top) and St Giles' regulars at the start of her 50 in 50 at 50 challenge.

## Briefing from the Belfry: Vicky hits the headlines

*An occasional column from Graffham's team of bellringers*

The media descended on Graffham on Saturday 11 March to witness Vicky Chase embark on her mission to mark her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by ring bells in 50 belltowers across Sussex in 50 days.

She chose to make St Giles the first stop in her 50 in 50 at 50 challenge because this is where she first started learning how to ring bells, 38 years ago, and it is where she is supporting our village's current expansion of its team of ringers. They turned



BBC Radio Sussex's Krystyna O'Brien interviews Vicky live on air.

out in force to set Vicky on her way – along with many of her colleagues from the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers (SCACR).

There to record the event for posterity were BBC TV's *South Today* and BBC Radio Sussex, broadcasting live. Following last month's *Graffham Parish News*, print media also covered the story – from local newspapers like the *Midhurst and Petworth Observer* and *West Sussex County Times* to nationals like the *Sunday Mirror*.

These will hopefully have generated more contributions to the West Sussex Bell Restoration Fund, her chosen charity



– which you can support at [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/50towers](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/50towers) The first of her 50 rings slotted seamlessly into St Giles’ regular second Saturday of the month training session, with some of the county officials combining with her to perform ‘Bob Doubles’ faultlessly. Varying standards of ringers continued the session, with a break for Vicky to be presented with a cake by George White – her own teacher when she was learning the ropes at St Giles.

Vicky ensured that even complete beginners, including Krystyna O’Brien from BBC Radio Sussex, were given a chance to have a try at ringing, and Vicky’s twin boys also showed that they are likely to follow in their Mum’s footsteps.

She told BBC *South Today*: “I love bell ringing and I’d like to get more recruits for Sussex so that we can have a lot more church bells ringing.”

Rick Clay of the Bell Restoration Fund, who was also at Graffham for the big launch day, added: “It’s amazing. Vicky’s enthusiasm has had a real impact on ringing in Sussex.”



BBC South Today presenter Tom Hepworth introduces the item on Vicky Chase starting her challenge to mark her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by ringing bells in 50 church towers across Sussex in 50 days – starting at Graffham’s St Giles, where she learned her ropes.

## Mummers to start Three Moles’ beer walk



The Three Moles will be holding its 2023 Spring Beer Walk on St George’s Day – Sunday 23 April. The pub will open from 11am with the Prize Old Mummers group of traditional Mummers players performing at midday before the walk sets off, around the area’s amazing countryside with pop up bars in the woods along the way with different beers to try at each spot.

GRAFFHAM  
**HEALTH SUPPORT**  
ASSOCIATION



## FIRST AID TRAINING

In The Pavilion

Friday 14 April      10am-12noon or 1-3pm

*Open to all Graffham and East Lavington residents*

Each course will include training in CPR, defibrillator use  
and basic first aid, plus Q&As.

*£30 a person including refreshments*

Please book your place by email to Ann Rowney at  
[ann.rowney@icloud.com](mailto:ann.rowney@icloud.com), giving your name, contact  
details and session preference (morning or afternoon)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In The Pavilion

Friday 14 April      4.30pm

*Open to all Graffham and East Lavington residents*



St Giles Church was awash with daffodils for its annual Mothering Sunday service on 19 March. More than 50 people attended, almost half of them children who helped distribute posies to Mums and others deserving of some springtime colour. Helping make up the posies were, from left: Ann Brown, Bridget Lewis, Diane Bellis, Marie Bracey, Rosemary Sutton and Bumble Findlay.



## Steve shows off his lunchbox on Antiques Roadshow

Graffham viewers of BBC1's Antiques Roadshow on Sunday evening, 5 March, may have been surprised to see a couple of familiar faces getting expert opinions on and valuations of prized family heirlooms. Steve Dover and his wife Gill, of The Street, took part in a special episode of the peak time show from Cornwall's Eden Project – which also featured the Queen Consort, who was Duchess of Cornwall at the time of the recording.



Steve took along something he had been bequeathed by his Godfather – which was believed to have been a

lunchbox belonging to legendary French leader Napoleon Bonaparte. Pointing out that the silver and gold item did bear the genuine arms of Napoleon, antiques expert Duncan Campbell told them: “There’s every reason to think it was Napoleon’s lunchbox and the dates of the box line up with his dates. It has the smell of authenticity about it! It’s fabulous, it’s a lovely thing.”

Steve also took along another item which was also filmed for potential broadcast later – so watch this space!



# Countdown to parish and district council elections

Adults in Graffham and East Lavington civil parishes have until Tuesday 4 April to put forward their names to stand as parish councillors in next month's local government elections – which will also see voting for representatives to stand as Chichester District councillors.

Graffham Parish Council has nine councillors and East Lavington Parish Council has five. Elections are scheduled for Thursday 4 May. If you are interested in standing for either parish council, contact the appropriate clerk at [clerk@eastlavington-pc.uk](mailto:clerk@eastlavington-pc.uk) or [clerk@graffham-pc.uk](mailto:clerk@graffham-pc.uk)

All 36 councillors on Chichester District Council are also up for re-election on Thursday 4 May with nominations closing too on 4 April.

Boundary changes mean that Graffham and East Lavington will be in the new ward of Bury, formed from parts of the current Fittleworth ward, which includes both our parishes at present, plus parts of the existing Petworth division. Fittleworth ward is at present represented on Chichester District Council by Alan Sutton, standing for the Conservatives, who is also the council's Cabinet Member for Housing Communications, Licensing and Events.

The Conservatives are currently the biggest party on Chichester District Council with 17 representatives but do not have overall control. The next biggest group at present is the Liberal Democrats with 11 councillors. There are also now three Independents, two Greens, two 'Local Alliance' members, and a Labour member.

These will also be the first elections in the UK where voters will be required to show photo ID at the polling station before casting their vote. If you do not have a passport, photo driving licence or other appropriate photo ID, you can apply for 'voter authority certificate' from Chichester District Council before 25 April. The deadline to register to vote is 17 April.

## MP holds constituency surgery in Empire Hall

Our man at Westminster, Andrew Griffith, MP for Arundel and South Downs, held one of his regular constituency surgeries in Graffham's Empire Hall on Friday, 17 March, as part of his policy of staging these meetings in different parts of the area he represents.

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## School report: Anyone able to drive our minibus?

By the time you are reading this, the Easter holiday will be upon us. How quickly the time goes!

In the past term at Graffham Infants School we have been learning all about space in our special learning topic. We have made rockets, both enormous and small, learnt all about the different planets, discovered 'meteors' that have landed in our playground, painted a giant alien mural and laughed at our teachers dressed up as aliens and astronauts.

Our planned trip to the South Downs Planetarium had to be postponed because of snowy weather, but, at the time of writing, we very much hoped this would be rearranged before the end of term.

Sadly our problems with operating minibus transport between our schools at Graffham and Duncton are on-going. We are desperate to find one or more relief drivers who could help us keep this service going, as it is greatly relied upon by many families. If you know of anybody who might be willing to help us with this please get in touch via [office@graffhaminfant.org.uk](mailto:office@graffhaminfant.org.uk)



To find out more about our village school, including 'virtual tours', see [graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk)  
Please also take a look at and 'like' us at  
[facebook.com/pg/friendsograffhamandduncton](https://facebook.com/pg/friendsograffhamandduncton)



## Lent lunch raises £600 for earthquake victims

Almost £600 was raised for the Disasters' Emergency Committee's fund for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake by a Lent Lunch staged by St Giles Church on Wednesday 8 March. Some people enjoyed soup, bread, cheese and conversation at the event – which was moved late in the day to the Empire Hall from its originally proposed location of the Pavilion because of the heavy snow in the hours before.



### TEDDY TIME IN THE PAVILION TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am  
Pavilion, Graffham Rec

No charge. All welcome. Just come along!



# MIDHURST ARTISAN MAKERS & VINTAGE FAIR



DECORATIVE ANTIQUES | BROCANTE | HOMEWARE | CLOTHING

## MARKET SQUARE

Midhurst GU29 9NJ

Saturday 29th April 2023

10am - 4pm

NEAREST PARKING GRANGE CAR PARK

1 Bepton Rd, Midhurst GU29 9HJ



# Midhurst reopens after devastating fire

Local residents are being reminded that Midhurst is back open for business after the fire that destroyed the historic Angel Inn and adjoining buildings in the heart of the town on 16 March. While North Street remained closed to traffic as Graffham Parish News went to press, both car parks at the north and south ends of the town were accessible – with all parking charges waived until 16 April at least, to help support local businesses and residents.

Chichester District Council said: “Midhurst businesses need our support more than ever and so we are encouraging people to shop locally in Midhurst wherever they can. The majority of businesses are open and North Street is accessible to pedestrians.” Once parked, there is no need to take a ticket from the machine or book anything online via Mipermitt.

As we went to press, experts were assessing whether the frontage of the 400-year-old hotel could be saved, after the blaze destroyed its interior. More than 30 Ukrainian refugees who had been staying at the hotel were safely evacuated along with residents of neighbouring buildings.

# Toast back in his rack after five days off track

Simon, Jo and Rosalind Mitchell, of Coach House Cottage, by St Giles Church, have been celebrating the return home of their dog Toast after he went missing for five days. He disappeared after returning with them from his regular walk up Graffham Down.

After a frenetic search, in person and via social media, he was eventually found happy and in good condition more than 11 miles away in the countryside near South Harting.


A typical Eurasier, Toast is timid and easily frightened, shying away from anyone outside his family – making finding him more challenging.


Jo said: “We are all so delighted to have him back with us. Losing him was such a worry, but, thanks to so much kind support from so many people, this was a tale with a happy ending.”




# Graffham Garden Group visits for 2023

Graffham Garden Group has posted details of its programme of visits for this summer – which are open to all. Car sharing is encouraged so please always ask if you would like a lift!

<b>Wednesday 10 May 2pm</b>		<b>Leonardslee Gardens</b>
<b>Brighton Road, Lower Beeding, Horsham RH13 6PP</b>		
Described as ‘the finest woodland gardens in England’. These Grade 1 listed gardens comprise 240 acres of woodland and lakes set within a steep valley. Famous for outstanding displays of rhododendrons, azaleas, camelias, magnolias and bluebells. Tea room and restaurant.		
<b>£12.50</b> – special reduced group rate.	Numbers must be confirmed a week in advance so payment needs to be made now. To book your place, contact Nicky West on 07796 144647 or at <a href="mailto:nicolamwest@btinternet.com">nicolamwest@btinternet.com</a> .	

<b>Wednesday 21 June 2.30pm</b>		<b>Sandhill Farmhouse</b>
<b>Nyewood Road, Petersfield GU31 5HU</b>		
Owned by the founder and principal of the English Gardening School, Rosemary Alexander. A great example of good design and planting including roses, red and grass borders, white garden and potager.		
<b>£10 –</b> including tea and cake.	For this visit, please book by email to Marie Bracey <a href="mailto:mariebracey@me.com">mariebracey@me.com</a> .	

<b>Friday 11 August 10.15am</b>		<b>St Mary's Bramber House and Gardens</b>
<b>The Street, Steyning BN44 3WU</b>		
14th Century historic pilgrim inn. Still lived in today, its fine panelled interior includes the unique Elizabethan trompe l'oeil Painted Room. Five acres outside with rose gardens, ‘English Poetry Garden’, ‘King’s Garden’, landscaped water garden and rural museum.		
<b>£16.50 for exclusive use</b> <b>of the house and gardens</b> <b>with tour by experienced guide</b> <b>plus refreshments.</b>	To book your place, contact Nicky West at <a href="mailto:nicolamwest@btinternet.com">nicolamwest@btinternet.com</a> or on 07796 144647.	

# Who had the best daffodils in Graffham?

Graffham Garden Group's AGM on Friday 17 March in the Empire Hall's main hall attracted a strong turnout despite the simultaneous Graffham Parish Council meeting in the building's Committee Room. Members came to enjoy the meeting, the refreshments, the spring competition, plus a fascinating talk on the Botany Bay restoration project at Lavington Park – an area of ancient woodland with a beautiful chalk stream running through it.

Garden group chairman Carole Kirke reviewed activities in the past first post-pandemic year along with its financial report. Peter Hardcastle previewed plans for 2023's summer show – scheduled for Saturday 15 July – and Nicky West summarised the programme of garden visits for 2023 (see opposite page).

The group's main village enhancement projects, overseen by Trisha Wilson, were the planters at the war memorial and by the shop noticeboard – with their red, white and blue theme to be retained this year for the Coronation.

Refreshments were served during an interval while voting took place in the three contested categories.

Clive Lightfoot introduced the Botany Bay talk, which was presented by Anne Dennig and Matthew Sennitt. The project has been welcoming small groups of visitors with Graffham's Thursday Club due there on 6 April unless the weather is bad, in which case it will delay the visit by a week to 13 April (see page 37).

The GGG spring plant sale is in the Empire Hall on Saturday 13 May (see page 17).



**Winners:** Janet Wakeford took the prize for best spring flower arrangement (right), Nicky West won top honours for her saucer of hellebores (above centre) and Philip Trower received the Harmer Trophy from GGG chairman Carole Kirke for the best daffodils on display (left).



## Petworth Festival to stage June Edition

Petworth Festival has announced details of its first 'June Edition' – a short programme of events taking place earlier than its full schedule in July. It follows the special shows it staged during the Platinum Jubilee weekend last year, which proved to be a great hit. This year's June Edition will feature three events, all at Midhurst Rother College:



- Ben Waters, 'the fastest piano player in the west, the musicians' musician and friend and collaborator of the stars (the Rolling Stones, Ray Davies, Jeff Beck and so many more), and his impeccable band will reel off great hits by Fats Domino, Ian Stewart, Jerry Lee Lewis and Chuck Berry' – Friday 2 June 7.30-9.30pm.
- Gyles Brandreth, 'ex-MP, television regular and prolific author, unquestionably one of our national treasures and one of the most entertaining performers on the circuit', bringing stories from his latest book about the late Queen Elizabeth – Saturday 3 June 11.30am-1pm.
- Bernard d'Ascoli, the French pianist who won the prestigious Barcelona International Piano Competition, aged 19, despite being blind from birth, performing music by Ravel, Liszt and Chopin – Saturday 3 June 7.30-9.30pm.

## Coultershaw marks fire that destroyed mill

Coultershaw Heritage Site's 2023 season begins on Easter Sunday, 9 April, by commemorating the centenary of the fire that destroyed the old mill, by the bridge on the road to Petworth. There'll be a display in the warehouse recounting the story of the night of the blaze, open from 11am to 4.30pm. On Thursday 13 April the heritage site will be hosting a *Wind in the Willows* Family Fun Day, from 10.30am to 4pm. The site will be open every Sunday from Easter to September, with a varied programme of events and activities planned. See [coultershaw.co.uk](http://coultershaw.co.uk)



## Petworth House opens a 'chatty café'

The National Trust's Petworth House is launching a 'Chatty Café', offering anyone the chance to join a 'chatter & natter' table to meet local people including some of the estate's volunteers – every Wednesday in April and May from 10.30am to 12 noon and again from 2 to 3.30pm. You can stay as long as you like! The sessions will take place in the Audit Room Café – so no admission ticket is needed.



# Graffham Garden Group

Spring Plant Sale

Empire Hall, Graffham

Saturday 13 May 10-11am

A wide range of vegetable plants  
including tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes, beans

– and also some flowers,

such as sweet peas, ammi and cosmos

No pre-orders or deliveries – first come, first served!

Enquiries: Carole Kirke 01798 867026



## Graffham Down Trust

### May Butterfly Walk

Sunday May 14 at 10.30am

*We take a leisurely walk through the Graffham Down Reserves  
looking for spring butterflies and moths*

*It's a steep climb up, so if you'd like a lift to the top,  
email [jimkirke@hotmail.com](mailto:jimkirke@hotmail.com)*

Meet outside St Giles Church (GU28 0NJ)  
at the south end of Graffham, at the foot of the South Downs.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

*If you would like to attend, or for more information,  
please email Jude Sennitt at [sennitt2@gmail.com](mailto:sennitt2@gmail.com)*

# John Bellis, 1933-2023 – 18 years a churchwarden

*As reported in our March edition, John Bellis – a Graffham resident for more than half a century – passed away on 10 February in Chichester's St Richard's Hospital, where he was being treated for complications after catching covid. Here's an edited version of the tribute delivered by his niece Kirsty Klijn at his funeral at St Giles Church on 13 March.*

John Bellis was born almost 90 years ago, on 16 August 1933, just across the county border in Cranleigh. His younger brother Dick (Kirsty's Dad) followed a decade later when the family was living at Sutton Green (between Guildford and Woking). Because of that age difference, memories of John's earliest times are sparse.

Dick recalls riding crossbar on John's bike down to a lock on the nearby River Wey. A lad living next door, Andrew, had a horse – not unusual in those days as the area was rural – and John and Andrew used to ride it bareback over the common and in the woods while playing truant from school.

After the family moved a couple of miles to Mayford, John left school – he would have been about 15 or 16 at this point. Their father was in the timber trade so arranged for John to have an

apprenticeship with a local joinery company. Unfortunately, John hated it! He did, though, have a real interest in aeroplanes. So he left his apprenticeship and went to work at the nearby Fairoaks Airfield on Tiger Moths belonging to London University's Air Squadron – much to his father's annoyance!

This job was cut short after a couple of years when he was called for National Service at the age of 18. He thought about joining the RAF but decided in the end to join the Fleet Air Arm, working on carrier-borne aircraft in Northern Ireland, Scotland and overseas on the aircraft carrier HMS Eagle, maintaining and sometimes flying Fairey Gannet anti-submarine aircraft. He was in the Royal Navy for seven years. During the Suez crisis, while on service in the Mediterranean, he had appendicitis – they stopped the aircraft carrier to operate on him. When he was



**John in his later years, outside his Eggshell Cottage home in Graffham.**

**Picture © Mary Butterworth.**



John served on HMS Eagle (above left) – which had to halt its cruise so surgeons could remove his appendix. On board, he maintained and sometimes flew Fairey Gannet anti-submarine aircraft (above right). He then worked for Eagle Airways (below left) and helped develop the revolutionary Hawker Harrier VTOL fighter (below right).



demobbed, he went to work in the Mercedes Benz garage owned by Tommy Sopwith where he sometimes had to take Sopwith's Mercedes Benz 300SLR down to Goodwood for competitions.

But aviation beckoned him back. He joined British Eagle Airways at Blackbushe Airfield and then, when it shifted its operations, at Heathrow.

Around this time, John and brother Dick built a powerboat together from plans, using mahogany plywood, and fitted it with an 80 horse power engine. It proved to be seaworthy – and fast! When on dry land, John rode Norton motorbikes.

He went on to buy a car but in 1966 had a rather eventful journey home from a wedding celebration when he managed to roll his Volkswagen Beetle through a full 360 degrees. Undeterred, he started it up again and continued his journey – only without the windscreen and with a roof remodelled into a shape of a Gothic arch. John and Dick returned later that night to recover the windshield – surprisingly still in one piece!

John went on to work for Hawker aircraft at Dunsfold on the final construction and inspection of the famous Harrier Vertical Take Off and Landing fighter. He then went back to airlines, first with British Caledonian at Gatwick on VC10s and BAC1-11 jets then on to British Airways at Gatwick Airport where he had

► *Continued on next page*  
*Graffham Parish News*





**Pint in hand, John with Diane.**

Pictures on this page © Mary Butterworth.

► *Continued from previous page*

responsibility for signing off airworthiness of DC10s and 747 jumbo jets.

It was around this time that John met Diane and they married in 1981 – a joyful family occasion.

Retirement saw opportunities to travel – the Caribbean and Italy were particular favourites. John also became more involved in community groups – a founder member of his local Lions Club and a churchwarden at St Giles for 18 years, until well into his 80s.

He was known as a well-loved member of this community where he had made his home for more than 50 years, giving his time and energy to St Giles as well as supporting Diane with her longstanding dedication to girl guiding.

He had a generous, altruistic nature. His care and consideration for others will be remembered by many. For me, and my brother Rupert (who followed his uncle into aviation and is now a Captain on 777s for British Airways), John was that jolly uncle who visited us at various times throughout our childhood. My earliest memories are of his great sense of humour, chuckling laugh and a big, bushy beard! There was never a dull moment when Uncle John came to call as he entertained us with many anecdotes and his real sense of fun.

After we settled in Cumbria, he always made a point of keeping in touch, through phone calls and cards, and more recently through Facetime and email. I remember fondly that he would always end our conversations with the same phrase: “God Bless”. John, to you, God bless.



**Jolly Uncle John with a big bushy beard.**

# Ashes of Jean and Stan Page laid to rest

The ashes of Jean and Stanley Owen Page – who were long-term Graffham residents before moving a few years ago to Poundbury in Dorset – were interred in St Giles' churchyard on Saturday 25 February, in the grave of their son David.

Stan and Jean were born in neighbouring streets in Wimbledon and married in 1956. After first moving to Fernhurst, they settled in Graffham.

Stan was a World War II veteran and the annual observation of Remembrance Sunday was very important to him. It was fitting that, shortly before his death in 2019, he was appointed to the rank of Chevalier in the Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur in recognition of his contribution to the liberation of France. His medal was presented to him by France's Ambassador to the UK. Stan was also a devotee of the turf and enjoyed a chat about racing.

Jean was evacuated during the war to Frieth in Buckinghamshire, which started a love for the countryside which lasted for the rest of her life. She was a dedicated church goer and a great supporter of *Graffham Parish News* while Paula Burke and then Mary Butterworth were the editors. She adored the South Downs and walked all of it.



**Jean and Stan carrying the Graffham Parish News banner in the village parade to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2012. Photo © Mary Butterworth.**

They had two sons and a daughter – eldest Martin, then David and Claire.

Claire married James Godman-Dorington, brother of William and Andrew, in 1998. David tragically died in the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 while on holiday. To commemorate his life, Jean and Stan commissioned Graffham weavers Barbara Mullins and Ros Hitchens to make the kneelers to go in front of St Giles's altar rail – which are still in use today.

Martin passed away in 2015, shortly after Jean and Stan moved from Graffham. Although leaving the village was a wrench for them, they spent their final years close to Claire and their grandchildren. Jean died last autumn. Claire described her and Stan as wonderful parents and loving, fun grandparents.

# Louis Lambert, 1935-2023

*Louis Lambert, of Herringboom, Duncton Common Road, died on 12 February, aged 87. Family and friends gathered to celebrate the life of this in-demand local builder at Duncton Village Hall on 6 March.*

Louis John Lambert was born on 25 August 1935 in Ealing. One of six children, his father was a dentist who was posted across the country during the war, with the family following along. Upon their return to London, Louis was sent to St Benedict's School in Ealing and there was always an expectation that he would go on to join the monastery.

As it happens, his father was taken ill and went to convalesce at the Cistercian Monastery on Caldey Island in Pembrokeshire. Something in the peace and isolation of the island enticed Louis to choose the Cistercians over the Benedictines and he went on to live there for around 20 years. Relishing the outdoor, contemplative life he developed the practical skills from which Graffham would in due course benefit. He has been described as a 'man of the earth' and as well as caring for livestock he became the go-to monk for any repairs that were needed on the island, with its limited resources.

Always more comfortable outdoors than meditating in the chapel, Louis struggled with the changes in church dogma during the 1960s and he finally left the order in 1972. One of the abbots found him a position at a convent in Market Harborough where he converted an old stableblock into a 14-bedroom guest house, almost entirely on his own. He lived in a caravan for a year there and was looked after by the vocational Sisters while further honing his skills as a builder. Louis always described this as a 'gentle transition' out of monastic life!

Looking around for the next step, his mother, who had connections with a number of charities through her work with the Roman Catholic church, encouraged Louis to volunteer in India with the Boys' Town Society, working on a project to house, school and train orphaned, abandoned, or impoverished children so they could return to village life as adults with the skills to work in agriculture. He spent two years there, and in Australia, where, unable to obtain a work permit, he built an extension for some relatives and raised funds for Boys' Town.

Returning to the UK, Louis turned his attention to the health and social care sector, working with the Care and Rural Enterprises organisation to provide countryside experiences for the disabled. It was during a spell in Devon that he met Jan (Ellen), whom he married. They moved to West Sussex when Louis became a manager of

Burton Rough when it was a CARE residential home. It was around this time that they bought the cottage at Herringbroom, where Louis was to live for the rest of his life.

It was there that his children, Rhiannon and Owen, were born. Sadly the marriage did not last and Louis found himself the main carer of the two. He coped brilliantly as a working single father – the only dad on the Graffham school run for many years, and serving there on the PTA and as a governor.



His reputation as a builder was such that he never had to travel more than five miles for his work and was engaged regularly by many local families – the Brittons, Crickmays, Crows, Jeffersons, Jennings, Jollands and Muirs are some of those who will remember him fondly. He also tiled St Giles Church’s lychgate, erected to mark the millennium, and was often to be spotted up a ladder well into his seventies. His ‘retirement’ was spent living at Herringbroom with Rhiannon, her husband Vincent and their children Oliver and Ben, enjoying his garden and family life. Owen, his wife Janet and their children Ewan and Nate completed the family whose



happy relationships undoubtedly benefitted from Louis’s philosophy, carved out as it was on a rocky island in the Bristol Channel.

Paying tribute to him at his memorial service, Jenny Roos said: “Louis transformed people’s lives for the better – with his physical strength, with his intelligence, with his sensitivity, and with his care and concern. He was a clever collaborator and enjoyed the challenge of problem solving.”

## **‘Scott’ Gray’s ashes interred**

The ashes were buried in St Giles’ churchyard on Thursday 16 March of ‘Scott’ Cyril Henry James Gray. A proud Scot from Edinburgh, he lived much of his life in Portsmouth and Coventry. His grandchildren attend Graffham Infants and Duncton Junior Schools, and requested for his committal to be here. He leaves a widow Catherine.



# Meet your neighbour: Helen, next to the shop

*A regular feature in which we introduce local residents. This month, editor Michael Blunt catches up with Helen Reid, the new tenant of Chapel View, next to Graffham Village Shop.*

Helen Reid and her two young children moved into Graffham's house with the biggest 'adjoining larder' – Chapel View, next to and on top of the village shop – in January... from Barbados, with a pit stop of a few months at her Mum and Dad's in Pulborough between.

With her father in the Royal Air Force and her mother from a family of East African ex-pats, ingraining the travel bug into her DNA, she has spent most of her life as something of a nomad, and proudly so.

Soon after she made her first appearance, in Ely, Cambridgeshire, the family followed Dad on a posting to Northern Ireland, during The Troubles. Next stop was Hong Kong and then on to Germany, all with frequent visits along the way to her maternal relatives most of whom still live in Kenya, growing flowers to send to Britain and all over the world. Their nickname for Helen is Chui, which is Swahili for leopard, because whenever they went on safari with her they would inevitably spot the normally elusive spotted big cat.

When it was time for her secondary schooling she returned to the UK to attend Kings School and then Peter Symonds College in Winchester.

With education behind her and the roving genes running through her veins, she spent a couple of years backpacking around the world, mostly in Central America, then spent a few years living on various Caribbean islands. An uncle, who, as a senior accountant with one of the world's biggest firms, Grant Thornton, had been posted to the Cayman Islands, sent her an ad for a role he thought might suit her temporarily... which turned into more like a decade. She quickly became hooked on another passion – scuba, and became a certified diver: "The calm and peace I find in diving and only hearing your own bubbles is so serene."

While there, her son Cameron was born nine years ago with daughter Tilly following 18 months later.

They left in 2016 for Yakima near Seattle, where the Rocky Mountains meet the Pacific North West coast of the USA, but after four years there Helen brought Cameron and Tilly back to the country of her birth in August, after a brief stopover in Barbados for few months. With her Mum and Dad in Pulborough and her brother

in Brighton, Sussex was a natural place for her to give her children the stability she felt they needed.

While staying with her parents, she took up an accountancy position with a company with offices in Wisborough Green and Billingshurst.

Then, Chapel View – which is owned by the Graffham Village Shop Association – became available and she “jumped at it”. She said: “We’ve family just down the road. We all love the South Downs and walking. Cameron especially adores wildlife. So this is just the ideal place for us.”

She received the keys in January and spent a few weeks buying furniture and making it welcoming for Cameron and Tilly before they all moved in at the end of the month – and it couldn’t have suited them better. The children are remaining at their school in Pulborough for now but could switch to the Lavington Federation’s schools here in the future. “They’ve had so much moving around recently that a bit of stability is important for them at present,” Helen explained.

Meantime, as a single Mum with a full-time job, it’s been tricky to find the time to unpack all those boxes to make Chapel View the home they all want. But with interior design one of her hobbies, it’s a task she’s been relishing. And The Three Musketeers, as they call themselves, are settling into something of a familiar routine – complete with their own disco night in the kitchen on Friday evenings.

They’ve been bowled over by the reception they’ve received since moving in: “Everyone has been so welcoming and kind. We can’t wait to get to know more of our new neighbours and explore more of Graffham. It’s so beautiful here even in the winter – it must be majestic in the summer! We’re looking forward to seeing it at its most glorious!”



**Helen's swapped the Caribbean for Graffham.**

# Graffham Parish News' amazing April quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers below (no cheating now!)

- 1 According to legend, Ascalon was a lance used by who to kill what?
- 2 Which local corn mill was destroyed by fire in April 1923?
- 3 Which royal couple married at Westminster Abbey on 26 April 1923?
- 4 Italians use the word tedesco for which European nationality and language?
- 5 Which Welsh actress, best known for her role as a rep at a fictional 1950s holiday camp, would have been 80 on 16 April?



- 6 The first James Bond novel was published in April 1953 and has been made into a film twice (in 1967 and 2006). What is its title?
- 7 Whose studio albums *Let's Dance* (his 15th) and *Black Tie White Noise* (18th) were released this month in 1983 and 1993 respectively?
- 8 Approximately how many acres are equivalent to 800 hectares?
- 9 Which constellation's name is the Latin for "eagle" and has Altair as its brightest star?
- 10 Assuming it survives the move to Greatest Hits Radio, what is the maximum possible score in Ken Bruce's Pop Master quiz?





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1 St George to kill the dragon.  
 2 Coultershaw. 3 The late Queen's parents, the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother). 4 German. 5 Ruth Madoc. 6 Casino Royale. 7 David Bowie. 8 2,000 (1,976.84). 9 Aquila. 10 39.

**Quiz answers:**

# Diary of a New Farm: Pressure's on this month!

*Katie Forman and Brett Sacks continue their occasional diary as they establish Slow Grown Farm, at Hoyle, on Graffham's border with Heyshott.*

So much has happened at the farm lately, including the arrival of 13 Saddleback weaner pigs, who we bought from an organic farm in Slindon.

After months of watching our new production building being constructed, we finally got the keys and have well and truly moved in.

Since our six Large Black pigs came back from the abattoir it's been all hands on deck and with the help of butcher Olly from Seabrights in Haslemere, we've got our first salami and cured cuts into the ageing room. We've also produced a limited amount of pork which is available now – rolled legs for roasting, tenderloins, chops and sausages.

Although we are still in organic conversion so can't sell as organic yet, we've started as we mean to go on and sourced all added ingredients from organically certified producers, such as herbs for the sausages and spices for the salami.

We believe this pork is some of the best you can buy – bought as piglets from an organic producer then raised in the woodland of Hoyle Farm, foraging for insects, plants and nuts and fed organic, soy-free feed. The evidence is all in the taste. We were delighted to find it's absolutely delicious!

Our cured pork will be available in the coming months, but if you'd like to try out our roast, chops, sausages, tenderloin, mince or diced pork now, please order at [slowgrownfarm.co.uk](http://slowgrownfarm.co.uk). You can then collect your order from Hoyle Depot during a specific collection window – all will be explained when you order.

We're so excited to get our pork out to the people of Graffham, you can't get more local than meat raised right here in the village.

We aim to be hosting a stand at Graffham Easter Market in the Empire Hall on Saturday 1 April (see page 3) – so do come and say hallo!



**Slow Grown Farm pork is now available – from Hoyle, on Graffham's Heyshott border.**



# Nature Notes: Wheatears, hot from Africa

*A monthly column by former Sussex Wildlife Trust Head of Community Action for Wildlife Michael Blencowe.*

Winter is in the rear view mirror. Our summer migrant birds will soon be with us. As you read this, beating hearts and beating wings are powering tiny bodies through North African skies. At the forefront of this annual invasion are the wheatears.

Wheatears are our earliest returning African migrants. It's a fast 3,000 mile flight from Sierra Leone to Sussex for a one ounce wheatear and they've been recorded migrating at 500 miles a day. The dashing males arrive first. Their soft sun bleached shades of pink and buff topped with a dapper black bandit's mask. Along the South Downs Way, you'll see them scurrying over the grazed downland turf or perched along fence lines. When they fly, wheatears flash the white rump which gives them their name. Because wheatears have nothing to do with wheat or ears. Their original name was 'white arse'. Victorians and vicars bird watching in mixed company blushed when they spotted one. So their name was subtly censored.

Wheatear is a more palatable name for a tragically palatable bird. In Sussex



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wheatears were once considered a local delicacy and were served at the finest banquets in Lewes, Brighton and Eastbourne. Sussex shepherds would trap them to increase their income. In the late 19th Century, the birds fetched 3s 6d a dozen (£17.50 today). Shepherds could earn £14 a season (£1260 today) trapping wheatears – half their annual wage. Across the county shepherds were eventually banned from trapping wheatear as it distracted them from their sheep.

Gluttonous gourmets were so desperate for fresh wheatear that they would prowl the Downs and take birds straight from unmanned traps leaving a pile of coins for the shepherds. In 1900, outspoken and outraged Sussex conservationist W H Hudson wrote: “It is not fair that wheatears should be killed merely to enable London stockbrokers, sporting men, and other gorgeous persons who visit the coast, accompanied by ladies with yellow hair, to feed on them at the big Brighton hotels.”

But the damage was done. Trapping and the gradual loss of their sheep-grazed downland habitat caused the birds to disappear from the Sussex Downs. The wheatears we see here now unsurprisingly don’t hang around. Each spring they briefly return to their old downland haunts, flash their arses at us Sussex folk and keep on movin’. From here, they’ll head on to breeding sites in northern England and northern Europe. But for some of these birds their amazing migration continues for a further 2,000 miles across cold oceans to Greenland and Arctic Canada.

# Graffham, Woolavington and East Lavington

*Ros Britton, who lives in the civil parish of East Lavington and the ecclesiastical parish of Graffham with Woolavington, explains how the names of where we abide have emerged and how the relationships between the settlements that make up our neighbourhood have evolved over the centuries.*

Watching the wreaths being laid at the village's open air Remembrance Sunday service in November made me think about the relationship over time between the two civil parishes of Graffham and East Lavington as our village War Memorial commemorates the men of both parishes.

Somewhat confusing is the fact that the ecclesiastical (church) parish is named Graffham with Woolavington and covers most of both the two distinct civil parishes of Graffham and East Lavington, excluding the former's fairly recent additions of Selham and South Ambersham.

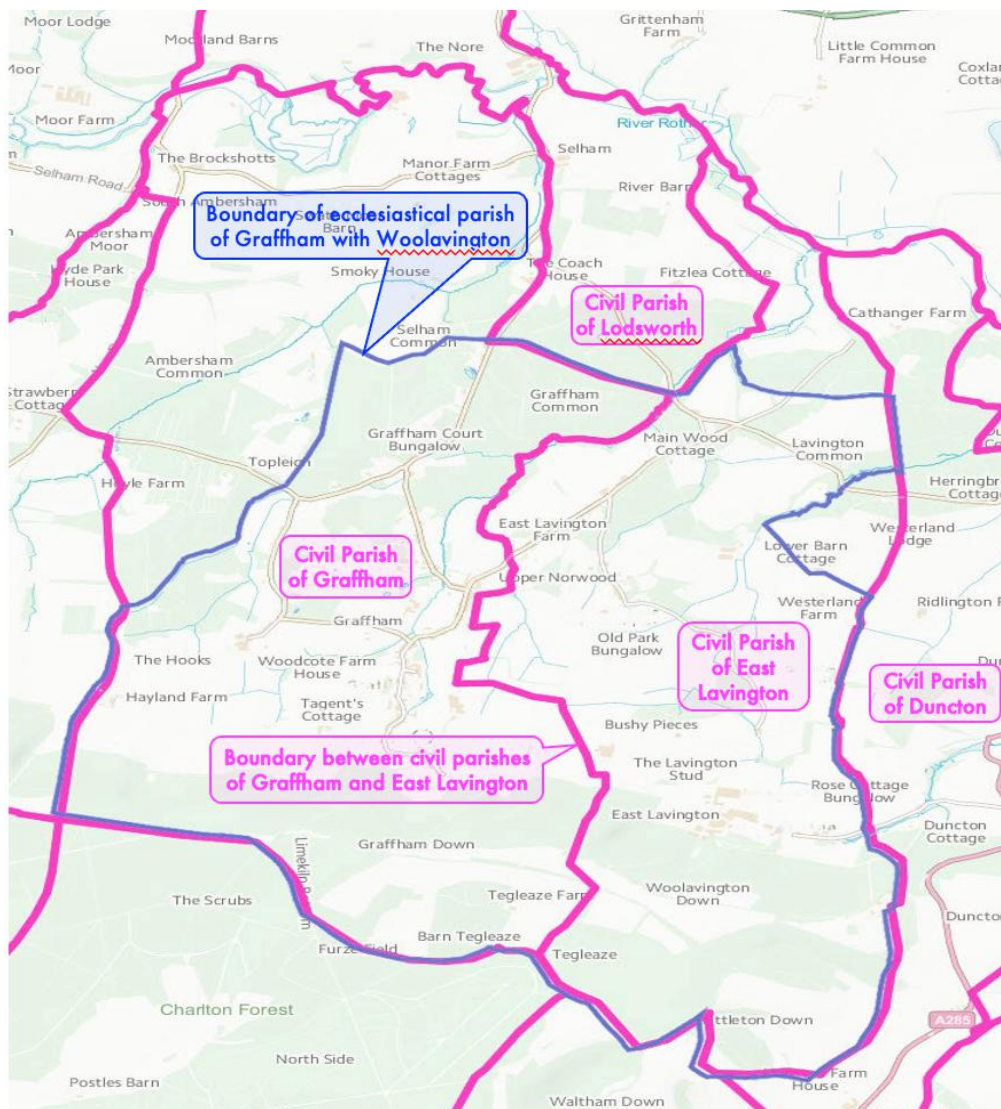
The reason for the use of both names – East Lavington and Woolavington – is not apparent as both names appear on older documents. Today the name of Woolavington is only used for the ecclesiastical parish.

The history of the two civil parishes – Graffham and East Lavington – has been interwoven over the centuries.

Going back to the Domesday Book in 1086, East Lavington was listed as the manor of Levitone with 11 villagers and seven smallholders, six plough teams, a church, woodland, 12 acres of meadow, ten pigs and an annual value to the Lord of £10. Graffham manor was described as having seven villagers and six smallholders, four and a half plough teams, eight pigs, one church and an annual value of £8.

Manors were essentially agricultural estates and were not always associated with a manor house. Graffham was the smaller manor at that time, and it is interesting to speculate as to why the village grew as it did and why East Lavington remained largely agricultural over the centuries. Probably its Lord of the Manor preferred the view towards Petworth to be over parkland and fields!

Throughout the Middle Ages, ownership of the lands of both Graffham, Woolavington and another manor called Wonworth (which seems to have been part of Graffham and may relate to its more wooded area) changed hands many times until the Earls of Arundel assumed ownership again in the 14th century. In 1578, Giles Garton, a London ironmonger, purchased the manors of Graffham, Woolavington and Wonworth from the Earls of Arundel for £4,000. Nine years



A map showing the boundaries of Graffham, East Lavington and other bordering civil parishes in pink and the boundary of the ecclesiastical parish of Graffham with Woolavington in blue .

later, in 1587, he built a mansion close to St Peter's Church, which is used now as Seaford College's chapel. Both the church and the house he built are shown on the map of the area in 1597. This house survived for 200 years before it was replaced by the present building which was further extended in the 19th century. An area

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now known as West Lavington, near Midhurst, was also owned by the manor of Woolavington but enclosed by other parishes. In 1851 it was granted status as a separate civil parish in its own right and is now part of the ecclesiastical parish of Cocking.

East Lavington civil parish today covers an area of nearly 2,000 acres and includes Norwood Lane (also known as Upper Norwood), Westerlands, Lavington Stud and Seaford College, whereas Graffham is now the larger of the two civil parishes, covering about 2,700 acres, and including both the village, Graffham Common and, since 1933, the civil parish of Selham and South Ambersham.

Also in 1851, it is believed, the ecclesiastical parishes of Graffham with Woolavington were combined into the single ecclesiastical parish that has survived to now. Although they had been separate parishes before, they may have shared the same incumbent priest. Graffham with Woolavington's ecclesiastical parish today roughly follows the boundaries of the two civil parishes of East Lavington and Graffham, but excluding the latter's Selham and South Ambersham additions.

During the second half of the 19th Century, legislation was enacted to regularise both civil and ecclesiastical boundaries and responsibilities. Even at this time most of the land was owned by the incumbent of Woolavington.

In 1935 the then Lord Woolavington died and the estate was broken up with most of the land and houses sold. Many of the older houses in both parishes are still able to look back at their deeds and note when their property was conveyed from the estate.

Over the years it has been suggested that the two civil parishes might join together as Graffham did with Selham and South Ambersham 90 years ago. The steps required to enable this to happen are considerable and to date few have wanted this to happen.

So, we remain as one ecclesiastical parish but two separate civil parishes closely linked by history and community.

**Did you know...?** You can recycle the tops from your plastic milk bottles and used printer cartridges – and raise funds for charities at the same time? Just drop them (as clean as you can make them!) into the appropriate boxes at St Giles Church. The milk bottle tops are recycled to make plastic toys for children, with proceeds given to Chestnut Tree Children's Hospital. Old printer cartridges are also sold for recycling, in aid of other good causes.

# Bill's bygones: Bond night, Chartres, Cliff

*A regular feature in which joint editor Bill Barrett looks back at what was happening in the village and the wider world this month in the past.*

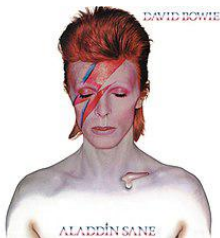
**10 years ago – April 2013:** Graffham Easter Market raises £1,400 for the Empire Hall, while Lent lunches raise £130 for children's charity The Snowdrop Trust. The Foresters Arms holds a Bond Night Supper before Graffham Empire Movies screens *Skyfall*. Kate Bush receives her CBE from the Queen. Auroras Encore, at 66/1, wins the 166th Grand National, the first to be televised by Channel 4 rather than the BBC. Deaths of Margaret Thatcher (aged 87) and England Test captain Mike Denness (72).



**Carole Kirk, Sarah Lydiard-Wilson and Nicky West at 2013's Easter market cake and quiche stand.**

**25 years ago – April 1998:** Graffham Village Shop Association holds its AGM, with Stuart Le Fevre as chairman, Mary Taylor honorary secretary and Colin Clayton honorary treasurer. Petworth's last building society branch (the Portman) closes. Bishop of Chichester Eric Kemp becomes the first Church of England bishop since the Reformation to be made a Canon of Honour of a Roman Catholic cathedral (Chartres) as is, more conventionally, Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, RC Bishop of Arundel and Brighton. The Good Friday agreement is signed in Belfast by the Irish and British governments and all Northern Ireland political parties except the DUP. Deaths of snooker champion Fred Davis (84), Cambodian dictator Pol Pot (72), Paul's wife Linda McCartney (56), singer Tammy Wynette (55) and drummer Cozy Powell (50).

**50 years ago – April 1973:** Bomb disposal experts are called twice within weeks to deal with unexploded devices at Hoyle and Heyshott. Cowdray Hunt holds its last point-to-point before merging with Chiddingfold and Leconfield.



VAT introduced. House of Commons votes against restoring death penalty. British Leyland launches the Austin Allegro. Cliff Richard represents the UK at the Eurovision Song Contest for second time and comes third with *Power to All Our Friends*. Release of David Bowie's sixth studio album *Aladdin Sane*. Death of artist Pablo Picasso (91).

# Graffham Chronicles: No careless tongues here

*In her regular column, village historian Pauline Goodwin this month looks at Graffham and East Lavington's World War II secrets.*

Our quiet little backwater was thrust deep into the heart of covert operations during World War II, even giving its name to a part of Operation Bodyguard, a military deception designed to detract from the planned invasion of Normandy – Operation Graffham, which provided a fictitious diversionary threat to Norway during the summer of 1944, using a deceptive visual and wireless (radio) strategy.

There are examples too of intelligence activities outside the parish, such as the operation of a British intelligence “secret house” for the French Resistance run by Tony and Barbara Bertram at Bignor Manor, which required regular low-flying sallies by Lysanders (Lizzies). These often caused Barbara concern as the aircraft even flew under the telegraph wires. A note was pinned up on the notice board at RAF Tangmere, during the latter stages of her pregnancy, requesting pilots to cease these extreme low-flying antics.

Three women have shed light on military activities of a sensitive nature, which took place right here in Graffham, involving actual boots on the ground:

- Lottie Reynolds, an employee of Stephen Fraser, a company that relocated in World War II to Selham House (now called Millburgh Hall).
- Tania Pons, local historian.
- Wren Officer Snowdon, PA to General Sturgess, officer in charge of Commando HQ, Lavington Park.

It is testament to the success of the wartime government's *Careless Talk* initiative outlawing discussion of military matters that meant these sensitive operations were rarely discussed, even in post-war years, until the initiation of the War Times Memory Project in 1999. As Lottie Reynolds wrote in her *Memories of Selham Place*: “It was in the spirit of the times, which we all respected, not to enquire about it.” She was referring to the airfield at Ambersham: “I cycled by frequently and can only remember seeing an ‘airsock’ flying occasionally near a collection of shabby small farm



**Lottie Reynolds at Selham House. She went on to marry a Challen and lived at Charwal for many years.**

buildings, and also sometimes what looked like farm machinery. I was not curious. I kept my thoughts to myself.”

Tania Pons spoke to Lottie while researching her book *A Midhurst Flying Field*, published in 2017 and detailing the Selham Airfield Project. She had discovered that this landing strip, called Royal Naval Air Station Cowdray Park, was not on any wartime maps of airfields.

Long since transformed into Ambersham polo field, it started in 1937 when Viscount Cowdray levelled one of his estate fields to create a private airfield. Planes were refuelled by Midhurst Engineering. Records show that by 1941 the Admiralty was paying rent for the Cowdray aerodrome. Three 20ft x 40ft Dutch barns were built there as hangars, making it look from above as if it was a working farm, so disguising the airfield from passing German planes. A low key approach to security also removed suspicion. A solitary little boy is recorded as cycling to the airfield, completely unchallenged, to watch Lysanders practising the pick-up of would-be agents’ mailbags, with a hook.

Ordinary daily life continued against this background of covert operations.

Royal Naval Air Station Daedalus at Lee-on-Solent used the Selham barn/hangars to repair planes such as the Supermarine Walrus, Fairey Swordfish and Albacore.



**Officer Snowden's boss,  
Major General Robert  
Sturgess, pictured in 1944.**

Twenty five Fleet Air Arm aircraft were stored there at any one time.

Tania also found out about life related to the airfield, including the 45 sailors who lived at Ambersham Farm, the two officers billeted in the village and the arrival of WRNS at Selham Hall. There were also secret training events at RNAS Cowdray.

The third discovery is a charming letter, written by Wren Officer Snowden and posted on The Seaford College website, read by Father Colin, the school's chaplain. Second Officer Snowden was PA to Major General Robert Sturgess, commander of the newly-formed Army and Royal Marines Commando Group, the headquarters of which was from spring 1944 at Lavington House, which is now Seaford's main building. Major General Sturgess is credited with establishing the first commando unit in World

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War II. He had been on many Commando raids including Operation Jubilee to Dieppe, Operation Ambassador to Guernsey, Operation Husky to Sicily and Operations Claymore and Archery to the Norwegian Islands of Lofoten and Vaagso. Complete copies of the German naval code were secured during these latter two raids, and they were subsequently passed to Bletchley Park.

WREN Snowdon was billeted with Mrs Euan Wallace and later Mrs Agar. The junior officers were billeted in the St Michael's School building, across the road at Burton Park. Also staying in one of Lavington Park cottages, incidentally, was Winston Churchill junior with his nanny. His mother Clementine Churchill, the legendary war-time leader's wife, visited him frequently.

Many high-powered meetings were held at the Lavington Commando HQ, attended, it is said by allied leaders, including Eisenhower.

Wren Snowdon's memories are particularly poignant. She describes her nights at Lavington Park listening to nightingales while the doodlebugs droned overhead. She made friends with the group's spaniel, called Dempsey. After dying from hard pad (canine distemper), the dog was buried at the park. His grave is still there.

Dempsey the dog was named after the war-time leader of 21st Army Group, Lieutenant General Sir Miles C. Dempsey, who played a significant role in planning, while at Lavington Park, and then executing Operation Goodwood, a key

element of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, led by the 21st Army Group with the US 1st Army group under its command.

The night before D-Day, vigil was kept throughout the night in Lavington Park's St Peter's Chapel. The following evening, messages were already being received announcing the successful arrival of the Commando Group in France. Snowdon attests to the success of the operation as she describes the allocation of space at Lavington House for a cheese room – to hold cheeses from Normandy sent back by brigade members for their families



**Lieutenant General Sir Miles Dempsey (left) pictured with D-Day commander General Sir Bernard Montgomery after the Allies landed in France in 1944.**



**Commandoes at their headquarters, Lavington House – now the main building of Seaford College – in November 1944.**

who had been living on draconian rations for some years. A special post room was set up to distribute the cheeses, which proved to be a great boost to morale.

When Wren Snowden was demobbed, she was proud to be awarded her green beret, in recognition of her contribution to the accomplishments and sacrifice of the group for which she had worked.

Lavington Park served as the Commando Group's HQ from April 1944 until spring 1946. To commemorate its association with the commandos, a commemorative plaque was commissioned and placed in what is now Seaford College's chapel in 1988, unveiled during a dedication service there on 27 November 1988. Regular memorial services for lost comrades have been held long since at their old Lavington HQ.

## THURSDAY CLUB

**Visit to Botany Bay nature reserve, Lavington Park**



**Thursday 6 April, 2pm – unless the weather is bad, in which case it will be a week later, 13 April**

**All welcome**

## Graffham Cricket

**Ladies versus West Wittering:** The first ladies' match of the season will be the annual away fixture at West Wittering on Sunday 30 April at 1pm. Practice sessions with Brett will begin on Thursday 6 April at 6pm at the tennis courts.

**Town to take on Gown for Coronation:** Following the successful Town versus Gown hockey match at Christmas, Seaford College have challenged the village to a Coronation Cricket Match at 6pm on Friday 5 May. Both teams will comprise six men and five women. Graffham captain Brett Creed welcomes potential team members aged 12 or over. A sign-up sheet will be at the Foresters Arms.

## Graffham Tennis Club

April is a quiet month in terms of league matches for Graffham as the absence of floodlights means that we can't play home fixtures before May when the evenings draw out. Nevertheless the summer league will begin, with Graffham entering two Ladies' teams, a Men's team and a Mixed team.

Club nights begin on Friday 14 April at 6pm. Just turn up and play some informal tennis. If you fancy entering one of the club tournaments the committee member on duty will be delighted to pass on your details.

Recent club match results:

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
26 Feb	Mixed Doubles	Div 3	v The Avenue	Won 5-3
26 Feb	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	v Fernhurst A	Drew 4-4
1 Mar	Ladies Doubles	Div 2	v Steep B	Lost 3-5
4 Mar	Mixed Doubles	Div 3	v Medstead	Lost 3-5
11 Mar	Ladies Doubles	Div 2	v Swanmore B	Won 5-3

## Graffham Bowls Club

*By Secretary Liz Pegram*

Graffham Bowls Club is holding an open day on Sunday 23 April from 2pm for anyone who would like to try bowls. Just bring flat shoes. If you can't make that date, you are welcome to come on any Monday evening at 6pm. Weather permitting, in all cases! We are a friendly club always ready to welcome new

# GRAFFHAM BOWLS CLUB

## OPEN DAY

Sunday 23 April from 2pm

Come and try bowls for free!

Bowls provided. Just bring flat shoes and we'll do the rest!

For further information, contact Liz on 01798 867770.



members – experienced or new. Our matches are all friendlies against local clubs, starting in May. Membership is open to anyone aged more than 12 years. Any 12 to 16 year olds must be accompanied by an adult. To find out more, contact Liz on 01798 867770.

## Rother Valley Croquet Club

Rother Valley Croquet Club – whose clubhouse and three lawns are just the other side of the A285 by Duncton Village Hall – marks the start of its summer season on 1 April. Newcomers – whether experienced or never having played before – are always welcome to join its established 80 friendly members. Coaching and equipment are available. Besides its own tournaments, it fields teams against other nearby clubs. To find out more, see [rothervalleycroquet.co.uk](http://rothervalleycroquet.co.uk)

## Running

Local running club Fittleworth Flyers Run Together is inviting anyone interested to join its Introduction to Running programme which, it says, will help you run from a standing start to up to 5 km in 10 weeks. It meets on Tuesdays at 7pm and Saturdays at 9am. For further details, contact Jenny on 07787 118820 or at [Jenny@running4fun.co.uk](mailto:Jenny@running4fun.co.uk), or see [groups.runtogether.co.uk/FittleworthFlyers](http://groups.runtogether.co.uk/FittleworthFlyers)



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# Property watch

*Homes for sale locally, posted at [rightmove.com](https://www.rightmove.com) since our previous edition:*

**13 Guillod Cottages, Graffham GU28 0NR:** Four-bedroomed semi-detached house, upstairs bathrooms, downstairs shower room, living room, kitchen, shed, cottage garden. 135sq m/1,458sq ft. Guide price £550,000. *Porter, Midhurst, 01730 771434. Added 6 Mar. Sold STC.*



**Garden Cottage, Selham Road, Graffham GU28 0PT:** Three-bedroomed bungalow, one bathroom, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, carport, 0.3 acre garden. 101sq m/1,087sq ft. Offers in excess of £700,000. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst, 01730 774837. Added 24 Feb.*

**Sunnyside, Selham GU28 0PJ:** Two-bedroomed semi-detached cosy cottage, sitting/dining room, kitchen, utility room, upstairs bathroom, downstairs cloakroom, mature gardens. 71sq m/768sq ft. Offers in region of £485,000. *Henry Adams, Midhurst, 01730 771345. Added 24 Mar.*



**Biddulph Mews, Burton Park, Duncton GU28 0PD:** Three-bedroomed semi-detached house in parkland setting, two shower rooms and downstairs loo, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, study, atrium, courtyard and communal gardens. 162sq m/1,743sq ft. Guide price £725,000. *Savills, Petworth, 01798 303558. Added 10 Mar.*

## Planning applications

*A summary of latest applications for planning approval in Graffham and East Lavington civil parishes filed with the South Downs National Park as this edition went to press. For details, see [bit.ly/sdnp-planning](https://bit.ly/sdnp-planning)*

**Tangletrees, north of the rec, Graffham GU28 0QA:** Replacement dwelling and associated landscaping. SDNP/23/00373/FUL. *Received: 27 Jan.*

**Little Bury, Norwood Lane, East Lavington GU28 0QG:** Change of use of redundant agricultural building to holiday let. SDNP/23/00909/FUL. *Rcvd 2 Mar.*

**4 St Giles Place / New Homes Of Rest, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NW:** Notification of intention to fell 1 no. Ash tree (T1) and crown reduce by 20% on 1 no. Ash tree (T2). SDNP/23/00787/TCA. *Received 23 Feb.*



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# Crimestoppers and police appeals

Sussex Police's log of incidents locally in recent weeks. If you have any information which might help, please report it, quoting the serial number – by phone on 101 or online at [bit.ly/crimeupdate](https://bit.ly/crimeupdate)

**Stopham, Pulborough, A283 junction with Lea Farm Lane:** Sussex Police are appealing for witnesses to a fatal collision involving a motorcyclist on Saturday 11 March at about 11.15am. Despite the efforts of paramedics, the male motorcyclist sadly died at the scene. The driver of a red SUV 4x4 vehicle who could be a significant witness to the incident is being sought in particular. If you have any information, please email [collision.appeal@sussex.police.uk](mailto:collision.appeal@sussex.police.uk) quoting Operation Broad.

**Petworth, Hampers Common:** Between Thursday 9 and Friday 10 March, a black Ford Focus was stolen. *Serial 0420 10/03.*

**Northchapel, Valentines Lea:** Between Thursday 9 and Friday 10 March, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0465 10/03.*

**Petworth, Market Square:** In the early hours of Monday 6 March a business premises was burgled. *Serial 0122 06/03.*

**Cocking, The Croft:** On the afternoon of Wednesday 8 March, both number plates were stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0897 08/03.*

**Cocking, The Croft:** Overnight between Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 March, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0372 02/02.*

**Petworth, Sheepdown Drive:** On Thursday 23 February, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0805 23/02.*

**Boxgrove, Church Lane:** Between Monday 20 and Friday 24 February a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 1392 25/02.*

**Northchapel, Valentines Lea:** Overnight between Sunday 19 and Monday 20 February, a dark blue Ford Transit was stolen. *Serial 0286 20/02.*

**Petworth, North Street:** On Saturday 18 February, a blue Vauxhall Zafira was stolen. *Serial 0374 23/02.*

**Lickfold, Surrey Road:** On the afternoon of Thursday 16 February, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0245 18/02.*

**Midhurst, Poplar Way:** Between Wednesday 15 and Saturday 18 February, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0504 19/02.*

**Woolbeding:** Overnight between Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 February, an attempt was made to burgle a shed. Two stone urns were then stolen from the grounds of the property. *Serial 0236 15/02.*

**Midhurst, New Road:** On the evening of Sunday 12 February, a vehicle was broken into and a chainsaw and tree surgeon's kit stolen. *Serial 0797 14/02.*

# Foodbank urgently needs 'signposter' volunteers

Petworth Foodbank – which covers our local town along with its surrounding villages, like Graffham – is urgently looking for volunteer 'signposters', working from home to talk with its clients over the phone – taking details so people in need can be issued with a food parcel, as well as referring them to other agencies (signposting), who can help them out of their current situation. This is a new and important role.



Anyone interested should have a good telephone manner, be compassionate and enjoy listening to others. You will also need to be reasonably IT literate. The role can be either half or full day – 9.30am to 12.30pm or to 4pm. There are vacancies on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Training will be provided. To find out more, email [info@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk) and put *Petworth Team* in the heading:

- If you need help from the foodbank, see [chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/](http://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/)

**Demand rises as donations drop** Since the start of the new year, Petworth Foodbank has experienced a marked increase in demand for emergency food parcels, as the cost of living crisis continues to bite. At the end of January, it had its busiest week since it opened 10 years ago. From the start of the new year to end of February, it has fed 118 people – up from 46 a year ago.

Meantime, the number of donations has dropped. In February, across the Chichester district, including Petworth, 4.6 tonnes of food was received but 12.3 tonnes given out.

A spokesman said: “While a drop in donations post-Christmas isn’t unusual, the unprecedented demand on the foodbank means that stock levels are reduced well below what is normal for this time of year. None of this is a surprise given the increase in food prices, the large hike in energy bills and other living costs.”

Donations to the foodbank can be left in the specially marked containers at Graffham Village Shop, Petworth Co-op or Midhurst Sainsbury’s or Tesco. Only items that are in-date, unopened and, because of ‘Natasha’s Law’ (to protect allergy sufferers), with a full ingredients list can be accepted.

Items in most urgent need this month include:

- Long-life fruit juice.
- Long-life milk.
- Long-life custard.
- Toilet rolls
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

# PACT's busy April – race, procession, prostitution

PACT – Petworth Area Churches Together – has three big events this April.

On Saturday 1 April, our Food Bank is organising a *Race Against Hunger*, inviting you to walk or run three miles in Petworth Park. Arrive by 2.20pm to start at 2.30pm outside the URC (United Reformed Church) in Petworth. We're asking everyone who takes part to donate £10.

Next day, on Sunday 2 April, our annual Palm Sunday procession takes place in Petworth, starting at the Sacred Heart Church in Angel Street at 3pm. We move off, hopefully with the Town Band playing, from there, to Middle Street, High Street, and then stop outside the URC for a short telling of the Story. Then on to Market Square, and ending at St Mary's Church for a cup of tea. Last year about 100 people walked with us – do join us this year!



Then on Friday 28 April at 7.30pm we will have a most interesting talk by Helena Croft of Streetlight UK, a frontline specialist support service focused on providing women in Sussex with tangible and material pathways out of a lifestyle of prostitution and violence, on *How to Reach Those Impacted by Sexual Exploitation in Sussex*. Free entry, with wine and canapés. All welcome.

## FITTLEWORTH GARDEN TRAIL

Sunday 30 April and Bank Holiday Monday 1 May 2-6pm

14 gardens open, from large country houses to smaller village cottages, from the formal to the informal, wild to walled. Chance also to see on-going restoration of 14th century Fulling Mill cottage and garden project, along with Winkoombe Arboretum's 800+ trees and shrubs.

Refreshments, teas, sandwiches, cakes and plants on sale.


£7 adults, accompanied under 12s free.  
All proceeds St. Marys Church, Fittleworth.





# What's on at our village church and chapel

- All residents of and visitors to Graffham are welcome to all services.
- St Giles Church is at the far south end of Graffham Street, near the Downs.
- All Saints' Chapel is opposite Graffham Village Shop.
- Both St Giles Church and All Saints' Chapel are open daily.
- See [stgilesgraffham.org](http://stgilesgraffham.org) or Facebook's @stgilesgraffham for any changes.
- Teddy Time is at the Rec Pavilion every Wednesday 10.15 to 11.30am

April				
FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES IN GRAFFHAM see opposite page				
2	Sun	10.30am	Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist	Rec Pavilion
4	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel
			No bellringing practice	
6	Thu	7pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot-washing ceremonies	St Giles Church
7	Fri	1 to 2pm	Good Friday reflective journey	All Saints Chapel to St Giles
		2 to 3pm	Good Friday before the Cross	
8	Sat		No bellringing practice	
9	Sun	6am	First Eucharist of Easter at dawn	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Family Eucharist Easter Day	St Giles Church
			No Evensong	
11	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
16	Sun	9am	BCP Matins	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Parish Eucharist Easter 2	St Giles Church
18	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel
23	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Easter 3	St Giles Church
25	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel
30	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Easter 4	St Giles Church
May				
7	Sun	10.30am	Thanksgiving Service for the Coronation of King Charles III	St Giles Church

We rely on the generosity of villagers and visitors to safeguard the future of Graffham's St Giles Church and the ability of our parish to deliver its mission to the community it serves – including this magazine. Please support them through a donation – preferably a regular one via our Parish Giving Scheme. For full details, see [www.bit.ly/stggive1](http://www.bit.ly/stggive1)

# Easter in Graffham and Woolavington



*The Rev Vivien previews the services and events planned for the village for this special season.*



**Holy Week in Graffham** We travel through the events of Holy Week, following our Lord's journey to the Cross to bring hope to our world.

**Sunday, 2 April 10.30am Palm Sunday Eucharist, St Giles Church**  
Blessing of palms and dramatised reading of the Passion Story.

**Thursday, 6 April Maundy Thursday Eucharist 7pm, followed by Watch of Prayer, St Giles Church**

Recalling the events in the Upper room, with our Lord's washing of the disciples' feet in humility and the institution of the Lord's Supper, followed by a Watch of Prayer.

**Good Friday, 7 April All Saints Chapel 1pm and St Giles Church 2-3pm** A reflective journey to keep vigil with readings and hymns until our Lord gives up his spirit on the Cross.



**Sunday, 9 April 6am Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter, St Giles – followed by breakfast** This service is sometimes held in the evening before

Easter Day, sometimes at dawn on Easter Sunday. From a fire kindled in the churchyard, the Easter candle will be lit and carried into a darkened church, as a sign of Christ's light overcoming darkness in the world. We hear the Exsultet, an ancient song sung in the candlelight, before sharing in thanksgiving in our first Easter Eucharist of 2023.





**Sunday, 9 April, 10.30am Easter Day Family Eucharist, St Giles** A celebration of Easter hope, with our church decorated with flowers and followed by St Giles' traditional Easter Egg hunt in and around the churchyard.



# Who's doing what at St Giles next month

If you cannot do your slot, please arrange a swap and advise Diane Bellis at [diane.bellis@gmail.com](mailto:diane.bellis@gmail.com) and the Rev Vivien at [reverendvivien@gmail.com](mailto:reverendvivien@gmail.com)

Sidespeople, readers and readings for Sunday 10.30am services in April		
2	All congregation	Liturgy of the Passion
6	Beanie Bradley	1 Corinthians 11 v 23-26
9	Dawn service: Phillip Turner	Colossians 3.1-4
	10.30am service: TBA	
16	Bill Barrett	
23	Michael Blunt	Acts 2.14a, 22-32
30	TBA	Acts 2.14a; 36-41
7	TBA	Isaiah 40.12-17; 25-end
	Flowers	
	9 and 16	Easter flowers
	23 and 30	Barbara Edge
	Cleaning	
	Diane Bellis and Sally Blunt	
		

## Other denominations locally

**Methodist:** Midhurst. *Minister:* David Muskett *Tel:* 01730 233436. *email:* [superintendent@esanddcircuit.org.uk](mailto:superintendent@esanddcircuit.org.uk). *Web:* [midhurstmethodist.com](http://midhurstmethodist.com) *Worship:* Sundays 10.00am, and Café Church 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 10.30am.

**Roman Catholic:** The Catholic Churches of Saints Anthony and George, Duncton, The Divine Motherhood and St Francis of Assisi, Midhurst, and The Sacred Heart, Petworth. *email:* [petworth.abdiocese.org.uk](http://petworth.abdiocese.org.uk). *Tel:* 01798 342169. *Web:* [www.petworthcatholic.org](http://www.petworthcatholic.org)

Mass					
Sun	8am	Duncton	Thu	9.30am	Petworth
	9.30am	Midhurst		12noon	Midhurst Convent
	11am	Petworth	Fri	6.30pm	Petworth
Tue	10.30am	Petworth	Sat	9.30am	Midhurst
Wed	9.30am	Midhurst		5.30pm	Petworth

**Society of Friends (Quakers):** St Anne's Community Centre, St Anne's Hill, Midhurst, GU29 9NN. *Web:* [sussexwestquakers.org.uk](http://sussexwestquakers.org.uk) *Meetings:* 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10.30am.

**United Reformed Church:** Petworth. *Minister:* Revd Anne Lewitt *Tel:* 01798 872535. *Web:* [petworthurc.co.uk](http://petworthurc.co.uk) *Worship:* Sundays 10.30am.

# What's on in and around the village

## April

1	Sat		Graffham Camping and Caravanning site and Westerlands' Woodfire Camping site reopen for the summer	
		10.30am-2.30pm	Graffham Easter Market (see page 3)	Empire Hall
		2.20pm	Petworth Foodbank Race Against Hunger – three miles round Petworth Park	Meet at URC, Petworth
		8pm	Langham Laughs comedy night	Langham Brewery
2	Sun		Palm Sunday	
		3pm	PACT Palm Sunday procession with (tbc) Petworth Town Band	From Sacred Heart Church
4	Tue	4pm	Deadlines for nominations for parish and district council elections	
		2pm	Arts Society West Sussex illustrated talk <i>Charlemagne, the first Carolingian Emperor</i>	Fittleworth Village Hall
6	Thu	2pm	Thursday Club outing to Botany Bay (if it is wet, on Thu 13 April)	Lavington Park
7	Fri		Good Friday	
			FOR DETAILS OF ALL EASTER SERVICES IN GRAFFHAM, see page 49	
9	Sun		Easter Sunday	
		11am-4.30pm	Heritage site open day (see page 16)	Coultershaw
10	Mon		Easter Monday	
13	Thu	10.30am-4pm	Wind in the Willows family fun day (see page 16)	Coultershaw Heritage Site
14	Fri	10am-12noon and 1-3pm	Graffham Health Support Assoc First Aid Training (see page 8)	Rec Pavilion
		4.30pm	Graffham Health Support Assoc AGM	Rec Pavilion
		6pm	Graffham Tennis Club nights start (see page 38)	Tennis Club
15	Sat	7pm	Leconfield Singers and English Philharmonia perform <i>Dido and Aeneas</i> and more	Arundel Cathedral
17	Mon		WSCC school term starts	
		9–11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall

*Continued on next page*



20	Wed	11am-4.30pm	Wind In The Willows family fun day	Coultershaw Heritage Site
21	Thu	8pm	Petfringe presents Ajay Srivastav's band plus The Lost Trades	Leconfield Hall, Petworth
22	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
23	Sat		St George's Day	
		12noon	Prize Old Mummers followed by Beer Walk	Three Moles
		2pm	Graffham Bowls Club open day (see page 39)	Bowls Club
24	Mon		Seaford College term starts	Graffham rec
25	Tue	9-11 am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
26	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
28	Fri	7.30pm	PACT talk on sexual exploitation (see page 47)	St Mary's P'w'th
29	Sat	10am-4pm	Artisan Makers and Vintage Fair (see page 12)	Midhurst Mark't Sq
30	Sun	1pm	Graffham ladies' cricket vs West Wittering	West Wittering
		2-6pm	Open gardens trail (also on Mon 1 May)	Fittleworth
May				
1	Mon		May bank holiday	
2	Tue	2pm	Arts Society West Sussex illustrated talk on <i>Incas and Their Predecessors Through Their Art and Textiles</i>	Fittleworth Village Hall
4	Thu	7am-10pm	Local government election day - Chichester District Council and, tbc, Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils	Empire Hall and other locations
5	Fri	6pm	Town vs Gown Coronation cricket match (see page 38)	Seaford College
6	Sat		Coronation of King Charles III	
7	Sun	10.30am	Coronation thanksgiving service	St Giles Church
		afternoon	The Street Party to celebrate the Coronation	The Street
10	Wed	2pm	Graffham Garden Group visit (see page 14)	Leonardslee
11	Thu	2.30pm	Thursday Club	Empire Hall
13	Sat	10-11am	Garden Group plant sale (see page 17)	Empire Hall
14	Sun	10.30am	Graffham Down Trust butterfly walk (see page 17)	Meet by St Giles Church
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles

<sup>1</sup>**Great Feet foot health professional:** Available to Graffham Health Support Association members only.

<sup>2</sup>**Lunch Club:** Graffham Empire Hall Lunch Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm for 12.45pm for a home cooked two-course meal and coffee, at £8 a head. Please book by calling Sarah on 01798 867567.

## Regular weekly activities (for notes, how to book, etc, see below)

<b>Mondays</b>	9-10am	Fitflows Fitness <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
<b>Tuesdays</b>	8.30am–12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
<b>Wednesdays</b>	9.15–10.15am	Yoga <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.15-11.30am	Teddy Time toddler group <sup>4</sup>	Pavilion
	7-8.30pm	Badminton <sup>5</sup>	Empire Hall
<b>Thursdays</b>	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>6</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise <sup>5</sup>	Empire Hall
	2-4pm	Post Office	Empire Hall
<b>Fridays</b>	9-10.15am	Yoga <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic <sup>7</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.30-11.15am	Pilates <sup>8</sup>	Empire Hall

**Empire Hall:** For booking and contact details, see Directory, inside back cover.

<sup>1</sup>**Fitflow Fitness:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

<sup>2</sup>**Osteopath:** Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 867523 or see [www.annashawcross.co.uk](http://www.annashawcross.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup>**Yoga:** Deborah Albone on 07790 867009.

<sup>4</sup>**Teddy Time:** No charge. All welcome. Just come along.

<sup>5</sup>**Badminton:** Contact Louisa Thomas, at [louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk). All welcome.

<sup>6</sup>**Ease Into Exercise:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

<sup>7</sup>**Physiotherapy:** Contact Serena Cooper on 07884 445983 or at [serenacooperphysiotherapy@outlook.co.uk](mailto:serenacooperphysiotherapy@outlook.co.uk)

<sup>8</sup>**Pilates:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.



Thanks to © Jonathan Simons for posting at Facebook's Beautiful Sights In and Around Graffham page this lovely picture from the village's Middleheath. As he noted, it seems as if the wild daffodils this year are better than ever. It might be because of the prolonged cold winter, which is what a lot of wild flowers appreciate.

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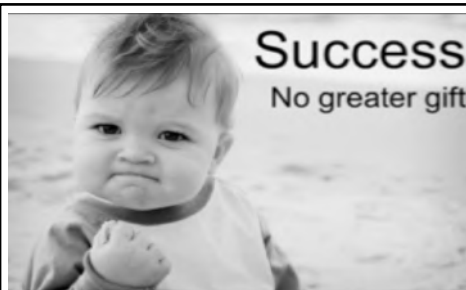
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<b>All Saints Chapel Trust</b>	Chairman	Clive Rowntree	01798 867536
<b>Badminton</b>		Louisa Thomas	louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Bees / Swarms</b>			
	Wisboro' Green B'keepers	Tom Moore	07984 606214/01798 343470
	Local beekeeper	Murray West	evenings 01798 867048
<b>Chichester District Council</b>			01243 534734
	District Councillor	Alan Sutton	asutton@chichester.gov.uk
			01798 342452
	Dog Warden	Office hours	01243 534734
		Emergency	01243 785339
<b>Citizens Advice Bureau</b>			03448 487969
<b>East Lavington Parish Council</b>	Chairman	Charles Britton	charles.britton@eastlavington-pc.uk
	Clerk	Amy Harte	07889 979820
			eastlavingtonpc@gmail.com
<b>Empire Hall</b>			
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	Churchwarden Ginny Barrett Treasurer Yvonne Churchward	01798 867113 07808 781510 graффhampcctreasurer@gmail.com
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