

GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 391

FREE

SEPTEMBER 2023



White Horse reopens after upgrade

Remembering Maggie Paterson

Caring for our precious downland



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On the cover: Graffham's White Horse has re-opened its doors after extensive renovations this summer and is now once again welcoming guests to its bar, restaurant, overnight rooms and freshly landscaped garden – including its new outdoor terrace.

See page 5.

Picture by © White Horse.

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Writing from the Rectory: My recipe for life part 2

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.'

– Exodus 20.8,11

My August month of rest draws to a close with the Graffham Bank Holiday Fête. Late summer beckons with three weddings, the parish's annual sponsored walk, a harvest celebration and rural church conference, all in the diary for September, alongside regular Sunday and weekly activities and meeting commitments.

My working pattern is unlike most others, of course. In theory, I am a 'House for Duty' priest who, in exchange for a place to live in which to exercise ministry in the parish, commits to serving on Sundays and two other days of the week. Although this would give me the luxury of four days a week off, that makes little sense of a priestly vocation – which is not time-limited at all. So, my thinking is more about how to withdraw in order to be

► *Continued on next page*



The Rev Vivien, pictured here with husband Phillip, was presented with a yummy cake to mark her 'special' birthday in early August. She says: "Thanks to everyone who helped me enjoy a marvellous celebration. It's such a pleasure to be part of this village community, and occasions like this just emphasise its warmth and kindness!"



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stgilesgraffham.org



[@stgilesgraffham](https://www.facebook.com/stgilesgraffham)

► *Continued from previous page*

sustainably available the rest of the time, resulting in an idiosyncratic recipe to pace myself in life – as described in last month's magazine. Take:

♥ An hour off each day.

♥ A week off each month.

♥ A day off each week.

♥ A month off each year.

It's a rule of thumb which I approximate to, rather than follow invariably, there to draw me back when at risk of overstepping myself.

The need to pace oneself is universal. We must work this out according to our own set commitments, to avoid burnout or stagnation. In times gone by, society worked this out for us, setting Sundays apart as a rest day for as many as possible. Since society resisted this perceived limitation on its freedom and rebelled, leading to a 24/7 lifestyle, it's down to us to find peaceful, thoughtful times for ourselves. People's lack of willingness or ability or opportunity to do so is leading to much pressure, stress and depression in society, however.

We should remember the principle of Sabbath rest is a good one, whenever and however we take it, and work hard to ensure we rest well, too.

Vivien

Reverend Vivien

Striding to Chichester again in sponsored walk

This year's Graffham annual sponsored walk, in aid of St Giles Church and everything it does for the community, will take place on Tuesday 12 September. The destination will be the same as a year ago – Chichester Cathedral – but following a different route.

More than a dozen villagers took part in the trek in 2022, raising almost £4,000. Most completed the entire 11-mile route, taking around six hours, while others preferred to cover a more modest distance. Like last year, lifts back home will be arranged for those taking part. Walkers will set off from

St Giles at 8am, taking their own breakfasts and lunches to eat along the way. All are welcome to take part – or sponsor those who are walking. To register your interest, email hello@stgilesgraffham.org or contact the Revd Vivien.



All set for Bank Holiday Monday's village fête

All's set for Graffham's summer fête, which takes place on the Rec on Bank Holiday Monday (28 August) from 2pm with all the usual fun and games for all the family, including our four-legged friends. As ever, the tea and cakes in the Pavilion, beer and Pimms tent, BBQ and ice cream stand are likely to be among the key attractions, with the egg toss, tug of war and coconut shy stoking big competition.

If you're out to bag a bargain, there'll be Phil's trove of pre-loved treasures, a car boot sale and Graffham's fashion exchange, relocated after two weeks at St Giles. Dog show classes range from the most handsome dog or prettiest bitch to waggiest tail.

All proceeds go to maintaining the Rec. For full details, see centre pages – and it's not too late to offer to help! Contact Phil Jones on 07900 937000.



Bring-and-share as we're bringing in the sheaves

Bring-and-share is very much the theme for this year's harvest celebrations in Graffham. The village's Graffham Harvest dinner is reverting to the traditional format of 'bring -and -share', at lunchtime on Sunday 17 September from



12.30pm in the Empire Hall. Take along whatever is your favourite main course, side dish, salad, pud – whatever you'd like to share with friends! All dishes will be put on a serving table – and you can then just help yourself to whatever takes your fancy! Take your own drinks. All are very welcome! No need to book. There will be a collection for the Petworth Foodbank for anyone who wants to make a donation.

Also, as usual, parishioners are invited to donate food and other household consumables for the needy at the Harvest Festival Service at St Giles at 10.30 am that same day. Any items given will be combined with donations collected by Graffham Infant School to be given to our local homeless charity Stonepillow. All tinned or packaged food and toiletries are welcome. For more specifics, see stonepillow.org.uk/how-to-help/donate-food/



You can see Marsh Farm's (left) and Boswells Cottage's gardens in all their glory.

Two Graffham gardens to open for charity

Two Graffham gardens will open their gates to visitors this month, with teas and cakes an added attraction – all in aid of charity. They are Marie Bracey's Marsh Farm at Woodcote, just west of The White Horse, and Carole and Jim Kirke's Boswells Cottage, on The Street, close to the path towards Tagents.

Both will welcome visitors from the village to their cottage and vegetable gardens overlooking the Downs, on Wednesday 6 September, after receiving a private group tour the previous day. Any villager unable to make it on the Wednesday will be able to join the private Tuesday opening by prior arrangement. No bookings are needed for Wednesday visits when Marsh Farm will be open between 2 and 5pm and Boswells Cottage from 2 to 7pm.

Refreshments on the Wednesday will be available at Boswells Cottage, with donations in aid of Dementia UK, while teas and cakes will be offered on the Tuesday at Marsh Farm, with any donations in aid of Graffham's St Giles Church.

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**Graffham, Petworth, Midhurst
and surrounding areas.**



Guests at the White Horse re-opening garden party enjoy its new terrace.

Garden party marks White Horse re-opening

Family members and friends of the team at the White Horse along with some of the gastropub's suppliers and neighbours gathered for a summer garden party there on the evening of Thursday 27 July to celebrate the completion of its extensive renovations.

The historic inn, which has been catering for locals and customers from further afield for almost 125 years, closed in late April for the work to be carried out.

The garden party, complete with live music and food from its new giant "Green Egg" barbeque, was a chance to show off the transformation it has undergone since then.

The interior has been reworked to include now a private dining room for up to 10. Outside, the marquee, erected as the nation emerged from Covid lockdowns, has made way for a relandscaping of the garden, including a new terrace and outdoors bar at the back. Its six letting rooms have also been given a luxurious fresh look and feel.



The team in charge remains the same, led by Chris Connor, now in tandem with new owner Glen Manchester, of Selham, who was there to greet guests at the party.

From mid-July, the White Horse has been fully back open, Tuesdays to Saturdays from 12 noon to 11pm and Sunday lunch times. Bookings can be made as before – on 01798 867331, by email via info@whitehorsegraffham.com or through its website whitehorsegraffham.com

Graffham Parish Council's annual report

Graffham Parish Council Chairman Roger Coakes gave his yearly update to the village at the annual parish meeting at the Empire Hall in late July. Here's an edited version of his report.



With the elections in May, three experienced councillors, who all contributed a great deal to the village, stood down from Graffham Parish Council – Simon Mackie, who also retired as Chairman, Howard Charman, a past Chairman and in charge of finances, and Patrick Churchward, overseer of our highways and byways. A big thank you to you all – and to Sandy McQueen who agreed to stay on for the time being as Chairman of Planning, an onerous but important role.

Graffham suddenly lost its parish clerk at the end of last year, too, and it soon became apparent how essential to the proper running of council affairs the clerk is. Tracy Rowe kindly agreed to step into the void and guide our new council through the transition period. Her experience as a previous clerk of this parish has been invaluable and we owe her a huge debt of thanks. We are also extremely grateful to Amy Harte, parish clerk of our neighbour East Lavington, who has been persuaded to help us out, at least in the immediate future and, we hope, for longer.

Unfortunately the transition has been hampered by what I can only describe as data transfer difficulties and I cannot thank my colleagues, past and present, enough for their efforts in helping to sort this out. This is why the Graffham Parish website is more than a little out of date. All will soon be righted, however, and with our newly co-opted councillors Gillian Charlesworth, Rachel Gerrett, Fiona Jacob and Jo Morris on board we'll be able to concentrate on matters that really concern us all.

Extraordinary amount of voluntary work all the time

The past year has seen three major national events – the Jubilee, the Queen's death and the Coronation – all celebrated or solemnly marked in true Graffham style. These events take enormous effort and time to organise and a big thank you to all involved. Permanent reminders are the bench and flagpole at the War Memorial.

These events highlight the extraordinary amount of voluntary work that goes on in the parish all the time, from the Graffham Health Support Association and Empire Lunch Club to Carole Kirke's litter picking and the great work of the Graffham Down Trust – if you haven't visited the latter's Reservations you really should (see pages 14 – 18). I must also mention the Cardigan Club which has taken on the strimming of the graveyard which now looks very manicured and restful. There are

too many organisations and clubs to mention but it is heartening to see so many of Graffham's new residents becoming involved and giving time to the village.

We are privileged to live in such a beautiful part of the country with its dark skies and glorious countryside. The council's aim is to preserve the character of the village – but progress and conservation must go hand in hand. This is exemplified by the continuing roll out of high-speed broadband on the one hand and the care of the magnificent, but at risk, oak tree at the War Memorial, supervised by councillor Colin Barker, on the other.

Planning applications take up a good deal of the council's time and, while the ultimate decisions are taken elsewhere, the council robustly assesses the impact on neighbours and the village as a whole before supporting or objecting to them.

Highways and byways always top the list of concerns

Matters of concern within the village remain fairly constant and always top of the list is highways and byways, a role bravely taken on by Jo Morris. We are fortunate to have living within the parish Tom Richardson, our councillor on West Sussex County Council and its Highways lead, who has given us encouraging news about work to be carried out on our badly damaged roads and also the prospect of a 20mph limit within the village which our council has supported for some time. Frequent sources of frustration are the often misplaced and out of date 'road closed' and 'diversion' signs. Unfortunately these belong to the utility companies over whom we have little control, though councillor Jon Warren negotiated long and hard with Openreach to prevent them closing our main road into Graffham for a month!

Some of you may be aware of the Communities Infrastructure Levy (or CIL). This is a charge levied on developers within the South Downs National Park and distributed to towns and parishes to be used for improving local infrastructure. We have a number of projects including the recently completed patio area next to the Pavilion. Plans for the complete overhaul of the playground area are nearing completion. Also in the pipeline are the refurbishment of the old phone box at Pescods to house a second public access defibrillator and the refurbishment of the fingerpost signs. All of these projects will both enhance our facilities and give Graffham a bit of a facelift. We are always pleased to hear of new ideas for projects which will benefit the village and be an appropriate use of the CIL funds.

Finally communication, which is so important. All our council meetings are open and we welcome questions and suggestions either at the meetings or via email. I would also like to pay tribute to the team producing such a wonderful, entertaining and informative *Graffham Parish News* – a truly valuable village asset. Well done!

School report: A busy and challenging year

An edited version of the update to the annual meeting of Graffham Parish by Helen Martin, Head Teacher of Lavington Park Federation, which brings together Graffham Infant School and Duncton Junior School.

We had a busy and challenging year at Graffham and Duncton Schools. Thank you for the continued support from the village of Graffham.

Last September, we welcomed 18 children. They gained their confidence as a lovely Reception class, full of happy and very curious learners.

We will welcome 20 new children this September, which we are very pleased about, as this is a low birth year across the county. We will have 59 children at Graffham this month. This is especially important to us, as our budgets continue to struggle with rising costs in schools. This will continue to be an issue as we move forward and will take some very careful management.

We continue to appreciate additional funding from various sources to support the enrichment of our curriculum and support for families. We have requested some potential funding for the school therapist to increase her hours – we pay for her purely from trust funds locally. The need for families with parenting support is every increasing, and these therapeutic parenting sessions and play therapy for children make an important impact on family and school life.

You may have seen our hand-painted images of the children that have appeared along the fence at Graffham and are very beautiful. Each child created one, with their parent's help – in a messy and fun day!

We have supported the whole school community following the tragic death of one of our parents at Graffham (in a road accident). The school came together for a memorial on the Duncton School grounds, to support the children and families at this difficult time. The school community has gathered around to support each other and continues to look after each other more than ever before.



To find out more about our village school,
including 'virtual tours', see
graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk
Please also take a look at and 'like' us at
facebook.com/pg/friendsofgraffhamandduncton



From Town Hall: Funds for business, food, homes

Our representative on Chichester District Council, John Cross, provides the latest in his regular updates on his key issues of focus right now.



Funds supporting our community, provided or jointly administered by Chichester District Council, are the focus of this month's report.

Small and start-up businesses locally that applied for support from the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Fund should hear soon whether their applications were successful in its first round of grant provision. Thirty of them applied by the end-June deadline, seeking finance to help them 'build pride of place', support local businesses, reduce barriers to employment and enable businesses to develop new products, facilities or infrastructure. The next application process will be launched at the end of this year, for projects to be delivered in the next two years. If you are a local business, you can see if you might be eligible at chichester.gov.uk/sharedprosperityfund

Chichester District Council has also provided recently additional funding to support organisations providing food to those in dire need and other community initiatives, among them Chichester District Foodbank (which also covers the Petworth Foodbank), Family Support Work, and Petworth Community Garden.

Household Support Fund (HSF) is administered by West Sussex County Council, with Chichester District playing a role in distributing the financing it provides.

In the latest distribution, Chichester District has successfully bid for £300,000 which our Supporting You team will use to support financially vulnerable local residents. If you know someone who may benefit, see for more details chichester.gov.uk/supportingyoucampaign



TEDDY TIME IN THE PAVILION TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am
Pavilion, Graffham Rec

No charge.
All welcome.
Just come along!

Maggie Paterson, 1940-2023

Maggie Paterson, who died on Tuesday 18 July, just shy of her 83rd birthday, was one of the most active contributors to our community during the almost 50 years she lived at Fitzlea, on Graffham Common. Her eldest daughter Lucy Roberts, who now lives in Wales, remembers...

Maggie was born on the 31 July 1940 in the city of Durham where her father Fred Hadfield was a curate. Shortly after her birth, he joined the Royal Naval Voluntary Reserves as a chaplain and Maggie's mother Enid moved to her family home in the New Forest with Maggie and older sister Cecelia.

When father Fred returned home, the family moved to Botley, near Southampton, where he was rector from 1946-1951. They had a large rectory with a big garden where Enid would organise theatrical performances in which the whole family and much of the parish would participate – perhaps the start of Maggie's love of acting! The house was a very happy place and full of music.

In 1951, the family moved to Petersfield where Fred was vicar until 1959. When she left school Maggie worked for a short time as a chamber maid at Eton before going on to spend a summer season working at La Sablonnerie on Sark, a time she remembered very fondly.

**A thanksgiving service for
Maggie will be held at
St Mary's Church,
Easebourne, on
Monday 11 September at
2.30pm, following
a private family committal
at St Giles, Graffham.**

It was during her time in Petersfield that she met her husband to be, Michael, who was working as a solicitor there at the time. Maggie, however, initially followed her plans to become a nurse and went to pre-nursing school in Kent before beginning her formal training at London's King's College. She made lifelong friends during that period. She didn't complete her training because Michael persuaded her to marry him and become a full-time housewife and then mother. They wed in September 1960 in Petersfield Church and settled at first in Brown's Copse Cottage in Heyshott, which was quite tiny at the time.

Maggie threw herself into village life there, becoming a very active member of Heyshott Church and producing five children in fairly quick succession, although one died soon after birth. She and Michael loved entertaining and had many close friends in and around the area. She was always very welcoming to newcomers, and

was quick to help anyone in need. She drove the family around in a pale green minivan and never failed to pick up anyone who needed a lift, despite the squash!

In 1974, the family moved to Fitzlea, on Graffham Common, where the menagerie of cats and dogs was supplemented with poultry, ponies and much-loved sheep. Maggie loved her garden when she had time for it, but she threw herself into all aspects of village life.

She took her role as a member of Graffham Parish Council very seriously, and she and Michael joined the Rustics, Graffham's am dram group of the time, where she took the alto lead

for many years before taking over as producer. She really enjoyed her singing and was a keen member of St Giles' choir and Rogate Choral Society. A great supporter of the Empire Hall, she served as its chairman, founded the Graffham Lunch Club and organised the Burns Night dinner dances, both of which are still held there. She also became a dedicated churchwarden at Selham's St James', hosted the annual tandem cream teas and taught adult literacy at The Grange. The Graffham Down Trust marked the contribution of Michael (and Maggie) by naming one of its reserves after the family – Paterson. She absolutely loved village life and was always disappointed to miss any village event.

Fitzlea was always busy with friends calling, offspring and their friends in and out and always welcomed, along with endless preparations for 'events' such as Selham

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fête for which Maggie always made and sold mountains of delicious fudge. When Michael died in 1995, Maggie started a bed and breakfast business at Fitzlea. Many of her guests became firm friends. She continued with her many other interests but also made time for her growing family, so much enjoying having her granddaughter Lily growing up next door.

Sadly, Maggie suffered from ill health and from her 50s had problems with her hips. From her early 70s she became steadily frailer and in 2017 she 'retired' from Fitzlea and returned to Heyshott, to Poats Cottage from where she continued to attend as many events as she was able. She was desperately frustrated when she had to give up her driving and rely on others to transport her, but she didn't let that stop her. She was so delighted to be able to get to Burns' Night at the Empire Hall this year and one of the last social events she attended was the Graffham Lunch Club this summer, but most recently her greatest pleasure was time spent with her great-grand-daughter Olive.

Besides Lily and Olive, Maggie is survived by four children – Lucy, Kate, Johnny and Rob – and four other grandchildren: Twm, Tirion, Michael and Catrin.

Maggie will be greatly missed by us all.



*In her full Rustics revelry,
Maggie as Lady Jane in
Patience in 1990.*



EMPIRE HALL AGM

Wednesday 13 September 7pm
in (where else?!) the Empire Hall

*Come and hear how this amazing village
asset has been bouncing back
after the pandemic lockdowns
– and how you could help cement its future.*

Crimestoppers

Sussex Police updates on crimes reported across the local community.

Couple sought after elderly lady's Rolex stolen

Sussex Police would like to speak with this couple (right) in connection with the theft of a Rolex watch in Midhurst. An elderly woman was approached by a man and a woman in their 20s carrying clipboards on 18 July, at around 1.15pm. The suspects reportedly claimed to be deaf and asked the victim to sign a petition.



They hugged and shook her hand before walking away. Five minutes later the woman realised her watch was missing. Officers investigating the theft believe the people pictured have information that could assist with their enquiries. If you recognise them, please contact the police online or via 101 quoting 788 of 18/07.

Sofa-topped dangerous driver banned for year



A motorist has been convicted and disqualified from driving after ignoring warnings not to drive with a sofa on the soft roof of his convertible car. Matthew Dummer, of Stedham, loaded the furniture and a mattress on top of a Renault coupe in April 2021. A police officer warned him not to drive like that,

but 34-year-old Dummer was later seen driving on the A286 in Singleton with the mattress and sofa on top of the car. He was found guilty of dangerous driving at Portsmouth Crown Court and disqualified from driving for one year, ordered to complete 60 hours of unpaid work, pay £95 court costs and redo his driving test.

Local crimes reported in recent weeks: A vehicle was stolen in Petworth in early August, another two damaged at Bury and Fittleworth, a fourth had windows smashed at Eartham, a fifth had items taken from inside it at Midhurst and a sixth was broken into at East Dean. Number plates were stolen from another vehicle at Goodwood. In Midhurst a business premises was burgled and cash was stolen, while in Fernhurst a premises was burgled and power tools stolen.



Butterflies including (from left) the Duke of Burgundy, Holly Blue, Comma, Marbled White...

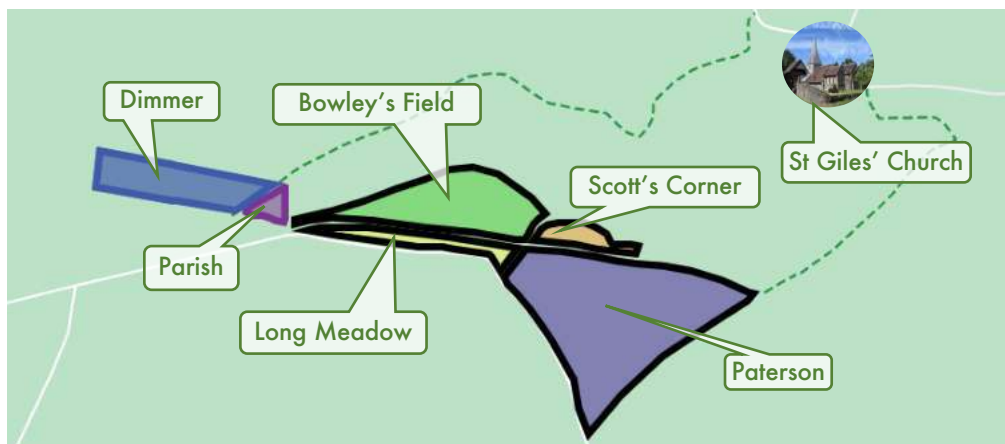
Caretaker of this rare and precious landscape

In a short series of features this summer, Graffham Parish News is putting the spotlight on some of the most exceptional corners of this special place we are lucky enough to call home. Last month we visited our own chalk stream habitat, Botany Bay. This month joint editor Philippa Sanders hikes up the hill to the south of the village to call on Graffham Down Trust.

High in the hills above our village lie nationally significant sanctuaries dedicated to preserving what the Wildlife Trusts describes as “typical of softly rolling pastoral landscapes, the short aromatic turf of lowland chalk grassland, flower-rich and humming with insects in the summer, its long use by humans lending it an ancient feel and often seen among prehistoric burial mounds, hill forts and old trackways”.



These six reserves, covering a total of almost 80 acres, are leased and managed by the Graffham Down Trust with its teams of volunteers, from the village and further afield, devoting their time and energy to serve as caretakers of this precious



Graffham Down Trust's six reserves, high above St Giles Church and the village.



...Common Blue, Dark Green Fritillary, Green Hairstreak, Clouded Yellow on the reserves.

landscape. Their aim is to restore and preserve this increasingly rare environment – not by returning it to its prehistoric form but to its state as grazing land of a couple of hundred years ago, when it is known that wildlife was thriving there.

The thin soil on top of the downland chalk yielded an environment rich in various forms of flora and fauna. Changes in agriculture, particularly in the 20th century, meant that our Downs were less regularly used for grazing. As a result, scrub encroached, hastened by the myxomatosis epidemics, leading to a dramatic decline in this type of habitat and, as a consequence, the plants, insects, animals and birds that relied on it for their existence, particularly butterflies. One of the trust's key aims has been to create wildlife corridors to encourage the spread of the scarce Duke of Burgundy butterfly from its Heyshott locale. With the area south of the reserves heavily forested, the need for these corridors is especially great.

Graffham Down Trust was formed in 1983 by a group of environmentally concerned Graffham residents with the co-operation of a local landowner. Most of its reserves are named after some of its past leading lights – Bowley, Dimmer, Parish, Paterson and Scott.

Jim Kirke recently succeeded the late Paul Dimmer as its chairman. Jim's experience in international agriculture working with national organisations comes

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Bowley's pictured in its summer glory, with wildflowers like magnets to butterflies.



The trust's annual butterfly walk each May always attracts those from near and far.



Above: Working parties in the winter usually end with refreshments around the bonfire.

Below: Jim in action clearing scrub.



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in particularly handy in liaising with bodies such as the South Downs National Park (SDNP), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and English Heritage. Supporting him is the GDT committee, including Jude and Matthew Sennitt, Neil McLean and Fiona Scully, along with the trust's trusty band of volunteers. Some of them monitor the progress of the reserves' butterfly, bird and plant life. Others are being trained to monitor the

50 dormice boxes there. Most volunteers help look after the landscape. Jim co-ordinates these teams throughout a year-round programme. Some of them turn out perhaps just once a year while others join once a month.

In May and June, they clear areas of brush to increase accessibility and to avoid vegetation overcoming the many ancient monuments (tumuli and cross dykes) up there. The summer months see them working to cut back overhanging branches at the field margins. In August and September, sheep are moved in to graze some of the



The reserves feature jaw-dropping displays of many wildflowers, including cowslips (above left), foxgloves (above right) and orchids such as the Early Purple (below).

reserves and the rides must be widened to let light in ahead of winter. With nesting over, work begins in October on the woodland. Coppicing these areas on a 20-year rotation programme opens up these parts of the reserves and takes them back to how they were used for centuries – as sources of charcoal. The resulting openings allow for a greater variety of plants.

Most work parties take place in the winter, generally once a month, on a Saturday or Sunday morning. Each is rounded off with the volunteers being treated to coffee, tea and homemade cakes around the brush-burning bonfires. “Apart from anything else, it’s a wonderful way to get out and meet people.” Jim points out. The involvement of the village is always encouraged, and many local youngsters have completed their Duke of Edinburgh volunteering programmes there.



In addition, the trust runs a monthly, mid-week session for the mental health charity MIND, and other events for specialists, such as SDNP rangers.

But you don’t have to join its work parties to visit its reserves. They are freely open all year round to all comers. To encourage visitors to see the best of what they offer, the trust arranges an annual ‘butterfly walk’ each May and its annual picnic in July, with regular sightings of the famed and rare Purple Emperor and Duke of Burgundy butterflies. Most of these events include the opening of a ‘moth trap’ –

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All creatures great and small: Grazers like Badger Faced Sheep are used to keep the vegetation in perfect shape for the reserves many other fauna, such as dormice.

All photos © Graffham Down Trust.

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a box-like device that encourages moths and butterflies within. After being counted and examined with experts on hand to identify them, they are then released back into the open air. For those with an ornithological bent, there is always the chance of catching view of the hawfinches or the tree pipits, just some of more than 50 feathered species seen there. Rarest of all, though, has been the sighting of Cossnard's Netwing beetle – the GDT reserves are only one of three locations in England and Wales where they have been spotted.

To make it easier for us humans to reach the top of Graffham Down, where the reserves are, at more than 200 metres (nearly 700 ft) above sea level, lifts in four-by-fours can be arranged for both these events and for the work parties.

Jim says this has been an excellent year for the trust's flora and fauna, particularly its insects and orchids. His and the trust's aim is to make every year excellent for all the plant, insect, bird and animal life that inhabit this rare and special landscape that they care for high on the hill above where we are lucky enough to live.

Like to get involved or find out more?

- ✿ If you would like to get involved in the Graffham Down Trust, look out for details of its winter work parties in *Graffham Parish News* and on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard.
- ✿ To find out more about the trust, see graffhamdowntrust.co.uk, facebook.com/GraffhamDownTrust/ or contact Jim via jimkirke@hotmail.com.
- ✿ You'll be able to meet all the trust's key players at its main fundraiser of the year, its quiz night at the Empire Hall on Saturday 30 September. See page 20 for full details.

AN EVENING WITH

Charlie Austen

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Nature Notes: Mink – a murderous import

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

The Wind in the Willows is one of Britain's most beloved books. Yet this story of riverbank wildlife would have no doubt lost some of its charm if, in the final chapter, Kenneth Grahame had introduced a new character – a deranged American serial killer who eats his victims.

It's easy to cast American Mink as the bad guys. With long, sleek bodies equipped with razor sharp teeth, they're natural born killers, as vicious in water as they are on land. Part polecat, part piranha. But it was the Mink's adaptation to winter and water – thick, waterproof fur – that was their downfall.

Enter the real villains of this tale – the ghastly women who craved Mink fur coats and the greedy men out make a fast buck from a Mink massacre.

American Mink were imported into the UK in 1929. By the 1950s, farms to breed them were springing up across Sussex, producing pelts at full pelt. But fur farmers had overlooked one important thing – mink were smarter than they were. One such East Sussex farm is remembered like this: "They built the cages with ordinary wire

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An American Mink in Southern England.

© Derek Middleton, SWT

netting. The Mink made short work of that and escaped. With stronger netting, they started again with more Mink, but again, the wire was no match for their teeth. After a third attempt with stronger wire, they gave up and just released the animals.”

The result of a new alien predator invading our waterways was catastrophic. Kingfishers, ducks, moorhens, fish and toads suddenly found themselves on the Mink’s menu and were swiftly dispatched with a Dracula-style neck bite. The most unfortunate victim was the Water Vole – Ratty from *The Wind in the Willows* – which Mink almost completely eradicated from Sussex.

A few years back I met with Jim ‘The Fish’ Smith who for decades walked and worked the River Ouse, which rises near Lower Beeding and flows eastwards and southwards to reach the sea near Newhaven. Jim has sadly now departed but legend has it that Ouse river water ran in his veins. He first encountered a Mink when one cruised past him downstream on a piece of driftwood.

He said: “I had never seen a Mink before and had no idea what it was but it wasn’t long before we saw God knows how many along the river.” During the 1960s, Jim and four others were employed to trap and humanely kill Mink along the Ouse, a full-time job which saw him catching 25-30 of the pests a week. Thankfully fashions and attitudes change and Mink farms are long gone but their ferocious, furry legacy remains in our rivers.

“These days you don’t see that many Mink so I have to conclude that the effort we have put in to controlling them has been successful,” Jim told me before he died. Though he chillingly added: “But you’re never going to get rid of all of them.”

Graffham Chronicles: A tale of two tombs

In her regular column, village historian Pauline Goodwin this month remembers former Lavington with Graffham rector Henry Manning, who went on to become the head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, and his wife Caroline who was born and died here.

The story of Graffham's Caroline and Henry Manning can best be illustrated by the gravestones of their final resting places.

Her humble grave is found in a corner of what is now the chapel of Seaford College but was in her day Woolavington's St Peter's Church. She died in 1837 at the age of 25. Her widower Henry left his wife's tomb unmarked because "he could not put on it the inscription he wished". It remained this way until Lavington Park was sold in 1903 when Anna, wife of the estate's new owner, Reginald Wilberforce, decided to mark the gravestone where Caroline "lay in her loveliness", alongside several of her family, amongst beech trees.

In contrast, her husband Henry was interred in a lavish sepulchre in the crypt of the then newly built Westminster Cathedral. In the 55 years after his wife's death he had metamorphosed from the Church of England Rector of Lavington with Graffham, as it was then known, to the position of the Roman Catholic Cardinal, Archbishop of Westminster, Primate of England and Wales, having renounced his Anglican faith and converted to Catholicism.

Caroline had been born one of the five daughters of Rev John Sargent, Rector of Lavington with Graffham. While we know this neighbourhood now for its idyllic calm, during her lifetime it was troubled by the Swing Riots of 1829-30, which saw farm workers rebel against wage cuts and the new threshing machine. In one of Caroline's letters, she wrote that the rioters threatened to burn barns and "have the parson's head", driving her father to say that he would "barricade us into the house for the winter". Their Beechwood House home must have seemed very vulnerable. The riots were put down brutally with nearly 2,000 people sent to trial across the South and East of England. Of these, 19 were executed and more than 500 transported. Certainly, these were unsettled times!

Henry was then serving as curate to her father. By the time they married, in 1833, the riots had been quashed, her father had died, and Henry had succeeded him as the parish's rector. Their marriage was conducted at St Peter's Church by her brother-in-law, Samuel Wilberforce, son of the great abolitionist. Samuel went on



Left: Caroline's small and simple gravestone at Woolavington's St Peter's Church.
Right: Henry's sepulchre at Westminster Cathedral.



to become Bishop of Oxford and, briefly, Bishop of Winchester.

Sadly, Caroline's frailness brought her marriage to an end after only four short years, when she contracted flu and tuberculosis. Upon her death, she was buried at Lavington amongst its calm, quiet beauty with roses

blooming. Each year thereafter Dorothy Wilberforce, Henry's great niece, picked one of these roses from her graveside and delivered it to Henry. Dorothy later told Henry's biographer, David Newsome, how the aged cardinal kissed the rose with tears in his eyes, overcome with grief. His sorrow for his lost love was kept hidden from the public but lasted his lifetime, as substantiated by three pieces of evidence.

Firstly, he always wore a locket around his neck containing a lock of her hair and her picture. Secondly, a small, discreet plaque in Chichester Cathedral marks his gift of a window in his wife's memory. Thirdly, on his deathbed he handed a small book containing her prayers and meditations to Herbert Vaughan, his successor as Cardinal of Westminster, with the words: "Not a day has passed since her death on which I have not prayed and meditated from this book."

After her death, he had remained at Lavington with Graffham for a further 14 years. The records of St Giles hold his book in which he recorded the precise church-going habits of his congregation alongside general notes about their characters and work. Five parishioners are labelled as "addictus inebrietate" (alcoholics). Maybe this accounts for the shepherds of the parish who insisted on having a tuft of sheep's wool nailed to their coffin to show God that they were unable to attend church while tending their flocks. During this time, in addition to his duties as rector of that parish, he was in 1841 made an Archdeacon of Chichester Cathedral. In this capacity, he

► *Continued on next page*
Graffham Parish News

► *Continued from previous page*

visited each parish within his district. Henry was also offered an appointment as Queen Victoria's minister but turned the opportunity down.

He was a prolific writer. In 1842, he published a treatise on The Unity of the Church, and had four volumes of sermons published, between 1842-1850, while still residing at Graffham. These books were in such demand that they were reprinted up to seven times.

Also, in 1842 he was appointed a select preacher at Oxford University, acting as an occasional relief to John Henry Newman (later Cardinal Newman) whose role was



Henry Manning in his days as Archbishop of Westminster.

coming to an end. Henry had attended Oxford University as a student, carving out a name for himself even then as a dynamic debater, and becoming firm friends with fellow student William Gladstone, the future Prime Minister.

The influence of Newman guided Manning "towards a High Church". One of his sermons showed his allegiance with the Tractarians, or the Oxford Movement, to which both Newman and Gladstone were members – an association of high church members of the Church Of England.

In 1850, Henry's belief in Anglicanism was finally shaken by the Gorham Judgment which allowed a secular court to dictate over divine church matters.

The following year, on 6 April 1851, he was received into the Catholic Church and ordained as a Catholic priest in June 1851. His influence rose quickly. In 1875 he was appointed Archbishop of Westminster. In that capacity he purchased the land on which Westminster Cathedral would be built and took part in the conclave that elected Pope Leo XIII.

He died on 14 January 1892 and was buried in Kensal Green Roman Catholic Cemetery before being interred in the newly built Westminster Cathedral in 1907.

Bishop Henry Vaughn recalled Manning saying on his death bed: "All the good I may have done, all the good I may have been, I owe to her" (Caroline). Hilaire Belloc, the writer, records that he admired Cardinal Henry Manning for his "great love... and great death."

Bill's bygones: Billy Connolly, Revival, Genesis

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 – September 2013: Rev Michael Barter is licenced as the new vicar of Graffham with Woolavington at St Giles' by Bishop of Horsham Rt Rev Mark Sowerby. John Green takes over as Headmaster of Seaford College. *Quartet* (starring Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins, Tom Courtenay) is screened by Graffham Empire Movies. Public consultation ends on plans for the South Downs National Park. Prime Minister David Cameron rejects an invitation for a head-to-head TV debate on Scottish independence with Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond. Death of broadcaster David Jacobs (aged 87).



From left: Seaford College's new head John Green, Graffham's new vicar Michael Barter and Bishop of Horsham Rt Rev Mark Sowerby.

25 years ago – September 1998: Marriage of Veronica Mozley to Marcus Hand at St Giles. Line dancing restarts at the Empire Hall. Top of the agenda at Graffham Parish Council's meeting is a spate of break-ins in the village – a Ford Fiesta, which crashes in West Lavington, contains some of the goods believed to have been stolen. First Goodwood Revival meeting, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the circuit's opening, with Barry Sheene and Damien Hill among the participants. At Headingley umpire Harold "Dickie" Bird stands in his last first-class match. Google founded. Death of Sir Geoffrey Bateman, eminent surgeon and, for 20 years, President of Graffham Garden Group (91).

50 years ago – September 1973: Marriage of Christine Worsdell and David Sharp at St Giles. Graffham Stoolball Club chairman Nellie Simmons hosts the end of season party at the Pavilion – 22 of the 30 matches played were won. Henry Kissinger sworn in as US Secretary of State. Concorde makes its first transatlantic flight. Jackie Stewart completes his 99th and final Formula 1 Grand Prix, having already been crowned World Champion for the third time. Chauvinist 55-year-old ex-Wimbledon champion Bobby Riggs challenges Billy Jean King (29) to an exhibition match and is defeated in three straight sets. Release of Genesis' fifth studio album *Selling England by the Pound*. Deaths of author JRR Tolkien (81) and poet WH Auden (66).

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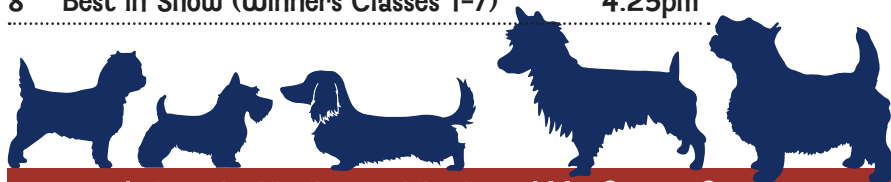
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5	Best Owner Look-a-Like	3.35pm
6	Best Veteran Dog or Bitch (8yrs+)	3.50pm
7	The Waggiest Tail	4.10pm
8	Best in Show (Winners Classes 1-7)	4.25pm



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Graffham Tennis Club



Tennis week: The hot and sunny days of June were long gone by the time Graffham's annual tennis week started on Friday 21 July, but enthusiasm was unabated all the same and the whole village took advantage of the grass courts which had been laid out late the previous evening.

Friday evening's opening event was the traditional **parent and child tournament**. Ten pairs entered, divided into 'older' and 'younger' groups. Coinciding with the final Family Friday at the Rec of the term, the temptations of the bar, BBQ and the ice-cream van proved irresistible to many of the competitors, who were seen brandishing their victuals in one hand and their rackets in the other.

The older group round robin finished with an effective final between Tessa and Owen Mills against Richard and Laurence Bates. A closely fought set ended with Richard and Laurence as victors – who celebrated by heading for the BBQ straight afterwards.

In the younger group some later arrivals and substitutions meant that a full round robin was not achieved but there were standout performances from Jules and Isla Sparkes and Mike and India Eely.

Saturday's traditional '**Generation Game**' mixed doubles was oversubscribed and restricted to 20 pairs, carefully selected by organising supremo Richard Gyles. It was a race against time to complete the competition before the rain set in. Using a 'speed-dating' format, matches were played against every pair in the two halves of the draw with a klaxon sounding the change-over, but the heavens opened just as the two winning pairs were about to start the final. The four finalists called it a draw and headed for the shelter of the marquee and the pavilion. Tessa Mills reached her second final in two days with partner Simon Longman, and would have come up against Andy Craig and Gill Lawson.



Left: Many of the parent and child players found the draw of the ice cream stand too much to resist. **Right:** Winners of the older group, Richard and Laurence Bates.



Generation game participants take shelter in the marquee before the overnight gales blew it to smithereens (below).



Saturday evening's **alumni tournament** also fell victim to the weather and the gang of 20-somethings made the best of things by transferring the table tennis table from the marquee to the pavilion and re-visiting old rivalries there.

Sunday featured both the scheduled **men's doubles** and the rescheduled parent/child cricket competition. Although the overnight gales had dealt Chris Major's marquee a terminal blow, the day dawned bright and breezy and with a hasty clear-up of the debris the men's doubles was able to begin. The competition had attracted 16 high-level competitors who had been paired by organiser Simon Longman to make for a close competition. Divided into two round robin groups, again playing in the 'speed-dating' format, the winners of each group played each other in a one-set final, with the runners-up taking each other on in a third-place play-off.

In an echo of years gone by, Andy (playing with Clive Lightfoot) and Ben Major (playing with Steve Pringle) enjoyed a fiercely contested set with Ben and Steve taking the bronze medal.



Men's doubles finalists Richard Bates and Andrew Wilson-Smith in white, winners Theo Longman and Ollie Sanders in red, and club chairman Simon Longman.

The final itself pitched Richard Bates and Andrew Wilson-Smith against youngsters Theo Longman and Ollie Sanders. The combination of Theo's tremendous passing shots from the baseline and Ollie's athletic net play resulted in a superb display for the spectators and a 6-2 victory for the younger generation.



The tennis week cricket match fielded players of all ages from six to 67.

The **cricket match** attracted competitors from a wide age spectrum (six to 67!) and Graffham's cricket maestro Brett Creed somehow arranged them all into two teams of roughly equal quality. While some of the younger ones' stamina didn't quite last the full three hours, there were plenty of replacements and the core of each team remained the same, under captains Bella Pool and Edward Caldwell.

Edward won the toss and elected to field first. Bella's team contained some real novices, including a US visitor with only baseball experience (Deanna), but they managed to hit some boundaries, despite losing wickets to Connie, Louise and Will. David Sanders was top scorer with 14 runs.

Edward's team replied strongly and despite a late substitution of Ian Thornley for Denise Clay, Bella's team couldn't restrict the scoring sufficiently and Connie Longman and Holly Sparkes were the top scorers in the team's victory. On the same day that the England team were frustrated by rain at Old Trafford, there were some real future stars down in West Sussex. The smallest bowlers, brother and sister Noah and Bronte, would have stunned any watching England scouts, and taught some of Brett's ladies' team a thing or two.

Monday saw the start of the week's **coaching**, with three groups taking up the morning sessions. The seniors' session, with nine participants, moved to the afternoon where, in the words of organiser Nettie Lanaghan, they "had a jolly afternoon of tennis and tea (homemade scones and cakes), with our fan club of two spaniels watching the action from the comfort of the bench outside, and were fortunate that it remained dry for the session".

The traditional Graffham versus Rest of the World junior match took place on



The youngsters filled all the club's courts throughout tennis week.

Tuesday afternoon. Graffham's coach Richard Hopp selected a team from his various other venues to take on Graffham's juniors and the matches were played in a sportsmanlike spirit, with each team using the grass courts for their warm-ups. In the end, the result was a clean sweep for the Graffham team of Lawrence Bates, Theo Longman, Owen Russell, Ben Sharman and Grace Sharman, though many of the sets ended up with a 6-5 scoreline.

The coaching continued all week while the highlight for many was the club curry night on the Wednesday evening. This was scheduled to have been preceded by a ladies' friendly against a Steep team. However, this sadly fell foul of the weather but the visitors still joined for the meal afterwards, affirming the good relationship between the two clubs.

As word spread that the curry was to be prepared by Jeeva, the organisers were inundated with ticket applications – but the destruction of the marquee meant that the numbers had to be restricted to 56, with diners squeezing into the pavilion.

If you have missed out on tennis week but would like to participate **next year**, save the date in your diary now – it is always scheduled to coincide with the first week of the West Sussex school holidays.

Ladies' singles: The Ladies' Singles tournament has been played throughout the summer and reached the semi-final stage as this edition went to press. Angie Thornley and Chloe Turrell faced each other in one half of the draw with Sarah Selman taking on Rebecca Ruff in the other. Watch for the winner next month!

East Hants League: The club's record in the East Hants League has been consistent with expectations. The Ladies A team looked to secure their place in Division 1 and the Ladies B set to finish second in Division 4. Andy Craig's Mixed Doubles seem to be doing the same in Division 2 while the men have struggled in Division 3, despite encouraging performances by Aria Jeeva and Charlie Biggs.

Our recent results:

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
17 July	Lost 0-8	Men's Doubles	Div 3	v Fernhurst A
17 July	Lost 0-8	Ladies' Doubles	Div 4	v Newman Collard B
24 July	Lost 2-6	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	v Swanmore B
31 July	Lost 0-8	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	v Haslemere B
3 Aug	Won 6-2	Ladies' Doubles	Div 1	v Swanmore B

Graffham Bowls Club

By Secretary Liz Pegram

The season is coming to an end. At the time of writing, we only had four more matches to play with the final home match against Headley on 25 August.

Graffham Bowls Club results		
Petworth	Away	Lost
Stedham	Home	Lost
Petworth	Home	Lost
Billingshurst	Home	Won
Pulborough	Away	Lost
Petersfield	Home	Won

In our internal competitions, the Jubilee Shield was won by Catriona Godsen and Kym Pegram and the Ladies Trophy by Wendy Folkes. The Finals Weekend for Internal Cups will be Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 September.



Club President Vera O'Hara presents the Ladies' Trophy to Wendy Folkes (left) and the Jubilee Shield to Catriona Godsen and Kym Pegram (right)



Graffham Cricket

Graffham's women cricketers, the Valkeries, will be sporting their own team colours for the first time for their next match – with the smart shirts sponsored by Graffham Village Shop.

The white tops with blue colours and matching club emblem will feature the logo of our neighbourhood store in its light green house colour on the front.

The new strip will make its debut for their match against regular opponents West Wittering on the Rec on the afternoon of Sunday 17 September.

All are welcome to cheer our side on as they seek an elusive victory!



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Graffham Parish News' septenary September quiz

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

- 1 Which notable event occurred in Midhurst on the night of 24 September 1793?
- 2 To which saint was the church in Cocking (right) dedicated in 2007?
- 3 The Septuagint was the first translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into which language?
- 4 Which Welsh entertainer, who is the only performer to top the UK album charts with a comedy LP (*We All Had Doctors' Papers*), is 80 on the 27th?
- 5 Who, on 9 September 1513, was the last British monarch to die in battle?
- 6 What is the plural of septum, meaning a wall or partition?
- 7 Which element, the molecule of which forms the most abundant gas in the atmosphere, has an atomic number of 7?
- 8 *Hafren* is the Welsh name for which river, flowing for 220 miles from Powys?
- 9 Which is September's birthstone?
- 10 Which actor links the films *The King and I* (1956), *The Magnificent Seven* (1960), *Return of the Seven* (1966) and *Westworld* (1973)?



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Quiz answers:

- 1 Cowdray House burnt down.
- 2 St Catherine of Siena.
- 3 (Ancient) Greek.
- 4 Max Boyce.
- 5 King James IV of Scotland (at Flodden).
- 6 Septa.
- 7 Nitrogen.
- 8 Severn.
- 9 Sapphire.
- 10 Yul Brynner.

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Property watch

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



Garden Cottage, Selham Road, Graffham GU28 0PT:

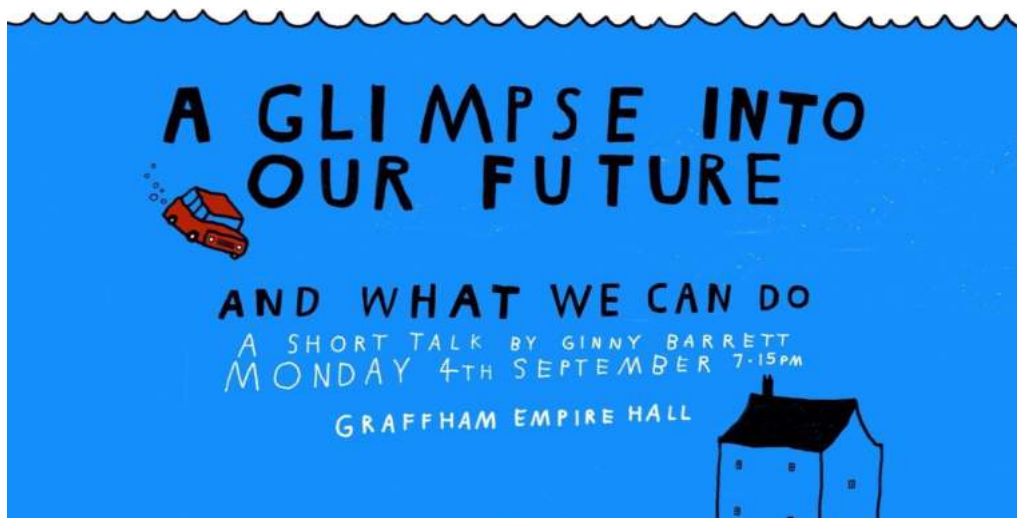
Three-bedroomed bungalow, one bathroom, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, carport, 0.3 acre garden. 101sq m/1,087sq ft. Guide price reduced 30 July to £635,000. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst, 01730 774837.*

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

Mulberry Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QA: Single storey rear/side extension and associated works plus increased vehicular access width to road. SDNP/23/02655/HOUS. *Received 27 Jun.*

Field east of Timbers, New Road, South Ambersham GU29 0BY: Change of use of part of arable field to allow for extension of polo practice ground with removal of condition 3 from planning permission 09/02763/COU. SDNP/23/02772/CND. Retrospective permission for formation of a practice polo ground with variation of conditions from planning permission 05/03159/COU. SDNP/23/02773/CND. *Received 3 Jul.*



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Could you help our parish watch its pounds?

St Giles is seeking a new Treasurer with Yvonne Churchward stepping down from the role in a few months after nearly six years in the role – and there is still time for potential successors to throw their hat into the ring.

Anyone interested need not be a regular member of the church's congregation although a desire to help keep its doors open for future generations is needed.

Equally, some understanding of basic accounting principles is helpful but can be easily learned. As Yvonne stresses: "I am certainly not an accountant!" She learned much of what is involved 'on the job' from the many sources of information easily available and the "wonderful support" from Chichester Diocese's team at Church House in Hove. She intends to provide a thorough handover and promises to be there to help as her successor beds in for a year or so.

She's loved her time in the role: "It is really rewarding to be able to give appropriate support and help to the PCC (parochial church council) both during meetings and in between time when queries may arise. For anyone who likes to steer and strengthen St Giles' finances, this is an interesting and worthwhile role.

"Managing the books and preparing the accounts can appear to be a daunting task – although it is far from scary! – and understandably isn't for everyone, however the role of the PCC Treasurer is so much more than dealing with numbers. You can also advise on a wide range of matters, from fund-raising to the maintenance of the church bells and projects to keeping the roof water tight and get involved as much as you like in lots of other areas, from attending at weddings to helping erect the new flagpole or installing the church's new heating system."

If you might be interested in the role, please contact Yvonne or via email at graffhampcctreasurer@gmail.com on 07808 781510, or touch base with the Rev Vivien.



TAIZE PRAYER

song, prayer and silence

Sunday 24 September 6.30pm,
All Saints Chapel, Graffham (opposite the village shop)

*All welcome to this short ecumenical service using a
pattern of worship from the Taize Community*

Kids' club and convicts

Petworth Area Churches Together (PACT) hosted more than 50 children from Petworth and its surrounding villages at its annual Kids' Club in late July, at the Herbert Shiner Community Hall. The youngsters indulged in all sorts of crafts, shared picnic lunches and home-made cakes, interspersed with some lively Christian songs. The event was supported by 20 teenage helpers and many other volunteers.



This year's PACT autumn lecture will be given by Ford Prison Chaplain, Rev Stephen Gurr, on Pastoral Care: More Than Just Tea and Sympathy, at St Mary's Petworth, on Friday 6 October at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Erratum: The Graffham Health Support Association collects prescriptions from Petworth Surgery on behalf of its members – not from Midhurst (*Graffham Parish News*, August 2023, page 15).

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Songs of praise! New hymn books for St Giles

A set of new hymn books has been acquired for use at St Giles' Church – and you could have one dedicated to the memory of whoever you'd like.

The red covered volumes are the latest versions of the traditional and well-loved *Ancient and Modern*, but sub-titled *Hymns for Refreshing Worship*, reflecting the addition of a selection of more contemporary songs – with its editors and contributors including Graffham's own Jan Brind, of Occam Cottage.

Ancient and Modern is still the hymn book used at the village's All Saints Chapel, opposite the village shop, and was the standard at St Giles too until *Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New* was adopted more than a decade ago.

Those orange-covered books will still be used but now in addition to the new *Ancient and Modern*, *Hymns for Refreshing Worship*.

Rev Vivien explained the thinking behind the move: "We are introducing the new books for the simple reason that we all need to be refreshed in our worship from time to time, and, just as new hymns have been composed over the centuries, they continue to be written now. The editors and contributors updating *Hymns Ancient and Modern* understood this. They have made excellent new hymn choices for us to explore in worship, as well as retaining the best and most familiar hymns long sung to praise God in worship."

The new volumes will be formally adopted and blessed at St Giles on, appropriately, St Giles Sunday, 3 September.

Parishioners are being invited to sponsor a copy in memory of someone who may have sung in St Giles before – their name can be inscribed in the front of one of the books with, perhaps, the title of their favourite hymn. If you would like someone to be included, please let Rev Vivien know.





In her copperplate calligraphy, parish administrator Diane Bellis inscribes names of previous worshippers at St Giles in the front covers of the church's new hymn books.

Who's doing what at St Giles next month

Here's the rota for 10.30am services on Sundays this month. If you cannot do your slot, please arrange a swap and advise Diane Bellis at diane.bellis@gmail.com and the Rev Vivien at reverendvivien@gmail.com

	Welcomer	Reader	Reading
3	Rich Sabin	Holly Sabin	Exodus 3 v1-15
10	Diane Bellis	Sue Hill	Ps 150 v1-6, Eph 5 v15-20
17	Eira Ashby + Tyler & Clayton	TBC	Deuteronomy 8 v7-18
24	Mary Coakes	TBC	Exodus 16 v2-15

	Flowers	
	3 & 10	Caroline Evans
	17 & 24	Diane Bellis
	Cleaning	
	Ann Brown and Jan Brind	


--

Did you know...? You can raise funds for St Giles Church whenever you shop online – and at zero cost to you. To find out how simple it is, just go to stgilesgraffham.org/shopping-online

Other denominations locally

Methodist: Midhurst. *Minister:* David Muskett *Tel:* 01730 233436. *email:* superintendent@esanddcircuit.org.uk. *Web:* 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. *Tel:* 01798 342169. *Web:* 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 *Meetings:* 2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30am.

United Reformed Church: Petworth. *Minister:* Revd Anne Lewitt *Tel:* 01798 872535. *Web:* petworthurc.co.uk *Worship:* Sundays 10.30am.

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 or Facebook's @stgilesgraffham for any changes.
- Teddy Time is at the Rec Pavilion every Wednesday 10.15 to 11.30am.

August				
31	Thu	6pm	Jake and Madeleine wedding rehearsal	St Giles Church
September				
1	Fri	2pm	Callum and Katie's wedding rehearsal	St Giles Church
2	Sat	1pm	Callum and Katie's wedding	St Giles Church
		4pm	Jake and Madeleine's wedding	St Giles Church
3	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist for St Giles Day	St Giles Church
10	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 14	St Giles Church
		6pm	BCP Evensong	All Saints Chapel
12	Tue	All day	Sponsored walk to Chichester Cathedral (see page 2)	From St Giles Church
17	Sun	9am	BCP Matins	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Family Harvest Eucharist	St Giles Church
		12.30pm	Harvest Lunch (see page 3)	Empire Hall
24	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 16	St Giles Church
		6.30pm	Taize Prayer Service	All Saints Chapel
26	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel
29	Fri	2.30pm	Lily and Harry wedding rehearsal	St Giles Church
30	Sat	12.30pm	Lily and Harry wedding	St Giles Church
October				
1	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 17	St Giles Church
8	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 18	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
10	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel

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

What's on in and around the village

August				
26	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
28	Mon		Summer bank holiday	
		2pm	Graffham summer fête (see centre pages)	Rec
29	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
September				
1	Fri		WSCC schools term starts	
2	Sat		10 th anniversary Floral Fringe Fair – 100 stalls, see floralfringefair.co.uk (also on Sun 3 Sept)	Loxwood RH14 OAL
		9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
		1pm	Callum and Katie's wedding	St Giles
		4pm	Jake and Madeleine's wedding	St Giles
		8pm	The Straw Dogs Irish folk band	Three Moles
4	Mon	7.15pm	A glimpse into the future talk by Ginny Barrett (see page 37)	Empire Hall
5	Tue		Midweek Racing	Goodwood
		10 for 10.45am	Arts Society Midhurst lecture on <i>Paris: City of Modernity</i> . See theartsocietymidhurst.co.uk	Methodist Hall, Midhurst
6	Wed		Seaford College term starts	
		2-5pm	Marsh Farm and Boswells Cottage open gardens (see page 4)	Graffham
8	Fri		Goodwood Revival (to 10 Sep)	Goodwood
		10.30am	Petworth Park historic guided walk – booking advised (also on Sat 9 Sept)	Petworth Park
		6.30pm	Petworth House late opening with talk on Joshua Reynolds – booking needed	Petworth House
10	Sun	7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
11	Mon	2.30pm	Thanksgiving service for Maggie Paterson (see page 10)	St Mary's Church, Easebourne
12	Tue	From 8am	Annual sponsored walk in aid of St Giles, to Chichester Cathedral (see page 2)	From St Giles
13	Wed	7pm	Empire Hall AGM	Empire Hall
17	Sun	12.30pm	Bring-and-share harvest lunch (see page 3)	Empire Hall
		Afternoon	Graffham women cricket vs West Wittering	Rec
18	Mon	6.15pm	East Lavington Parish Council meeting	Seaford Coll
19	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
23	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth

27	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ²	Empire Hall
			Midweek Racing	Goodwood
30	Sat	12.30pm	Harry and Lily's wedding	St Giles
		7.30pm	Graffham Down Trust quiz night (see page 20)	Empire Hall
October				
4	Wed	Evening	Graffham Parish Council meeting	
7	Sat	9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
		7.30pm	Evening with Charlie Austen (see page 19)	Empire Hall

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

²**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)			
Mondays	9-10am	Fitflows Fitness ¹	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ²	Empire Hall
Tuesdays	8.30am-12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
Wednesdays	9-10am	Yoga ³	Empire Hall
	10.15-11.30am	Teddy Time toddler group ⁴	Pavilion
	7-8.30pm	Badminton ⁵	Empire Hall
Thursdays	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ²	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise ⁶	Empire Hall
	6.15-7.30pm	Yoga ³	Empire Hall
Fridays	9-10.15am	Yoga ³	Empire Hall
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic ⁷	Empire Hall
	10.30-11.15am	Pilates ⁸	Empire Hall
	6pm	Tennis Club night	Pavilion

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

¹**Fitflow Fitness:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

²**Osteopath:** Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 867523 or see www.annashawcross.co.uk

³**Yoga:** Deborah Albone on 07790 867009.

⁴**Teddy Time:** No charge. All welcome. Just come along.

⁵**Badminton:** Contact Louisa Thomas, at louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk. All welcome.

⁶**Ease Into Exercise:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

⁷**Physiotherapy:** Contact Serena Cooper on 07884 445983 or at serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com.

⁸**Pilates:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

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