GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 394

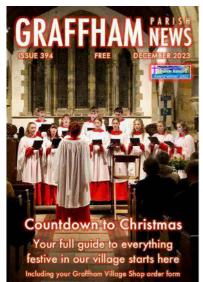
FREE DECEMBER 2023

Church Editors
Award winner 2022

Countdown to Christmas

Your full guide to everything festive in our village starts here

Including your Graffham Village Shop order form



On the cover: Christmas in our village starts with this, our biggest yet edition of Graffham Parish News, featuring on our cover the Seaford College Choir in St Giles a year ago – and where they will be returning for its Advent Service on Sunday 3 December. For all Christmas services and events, see page 3 onwards.

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Writing from the Rectory: Christmas presents

There are Christmas presents and Christmas presents. There are the ones which tick a box – the conventional gifts: the socks and scents and soaps and sweets which are perfectly acceptable, if not much more. In our own Christmas shopping, most of us have recourse to such presents, to make sure everyone is remembered at least. Then there are the inspired gifts – the ones which do not just show the giver has thought about a person, but they really know them. Lighting upon the perfect idea for a present makes us excited to give and see the delight it brings.

We'd love all our presents to do this, though it's often only occasionally we find the inspiration. Some though, it must be said, have a greater knack for it than others. Our eldest son is quite good at this. Last year it was a book, *The Old Convent: East Grinstead*, which hit the spot with me. This tells the story of Rev John Mason Neale, enthusiast of Catholic revival within Anglicanism in the 19th century, warden of Sackville College in East Grinstead, and founder of the Anglican sisterhood for whom the old convent there was built.

Neale was also an inspirational Christmas gift giver, for whom we all have reason to give thanks. If we like to sing carols, that is. Without Neale, there would be no *Good King Wenceslas*, no *O Come O Come Emmanuel*, nor *Good Christian Men*,

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

Rejoice, no In Dulci Jubilo. Published in 1853, these carols are inspirational and lasting gifts for Neale to have given to the world. They have not worn out after 170 years of singing. They are inspirational and lasting, both because we continue to enjoy singing them, and because they sing of the greatest Christmas gift of all – the incarnation of Emmanuel, God with us, come to ransom a world in captivity and restore peace on earth, simultaneously a spiritual and physical reality that promises fullness of life for evermore. Quite enough to cause good Christian men and women to sweetly rejoice.

So let us continue to be inspired by Neale's and others' carols this Christmas tide, singing with heart and soul and voice, at our Festival of Lessons and Carols, our Crib and Christmas Day Services, and even at the White Horse – spiritual truth expressed in song to uplift us and offer the precious gift of hope.

Ox and ass before Him bow,

And He is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

The dates and times of all our Christmas services appear on the opposite page and on page 63. In addition to the services above, please note also our Quiet Service on Wednesday 20 December. This reflective service provides an effective foil for all the busyness of Christmas preparation, and an opportunity to draw close to those we are unable to share Christmas with this year. All are welcome at all services.

And if you need inspiration for Christmas gifts, don't forget St Giles' Christmas Fair at the Empire Hall on Saturday 2 December (see from page 39) – the biggest fund-raiser of the year for our village church and all it does for our community.

Every blessing, and Merry Christmas to you all, with love,

Reverend Vivien

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with Woolavington

Priest in charge: 01798 867199

Reverend Vivien Turner hello@stgilesgraffham.org

Churchwarden: Ginny Barrett 01798 867113



stgilesgraffham.org



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2023

At St Giles' Church, Graffham*

Come and celebrate - in Graffham - the birth of Christ... and let St Giles' new pew heating system give you rosy cheeks!

ADVENT SERVICE

Sunday 3 December at 5pm With Seaford College Choir.

COMMUNAL CAROL SINGING AT THE WHITE HORSE

Sunday 10 December at 6pm

Join your neighbours for rousing renditions of your festive favourites, with mulled wine and seasonal nibbles promised!

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 17 December at 5pm

A traditional service of readings and music - with mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

CHRISTMAS QUIET SERVICE

Wednesday 20 December at 5pm

With an opportunity to remember departed loved ones.

CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

Sunday 24 December at 4pm

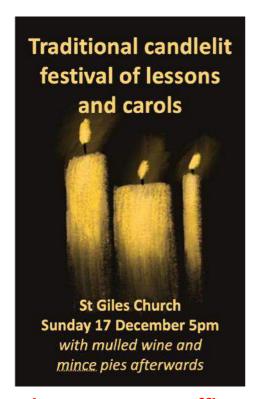
Re-telling the Christmas story, bringing hope to our world. A service for all ages. Tinsel, crowns and tea towels welcome! Who knows which animals will fill our bell tower stable?!

CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY EUCHARIST

Monday 25 December at 10.30am

Feel free to bring your favourite present to church!

×





Christmas in Graffham starts here and now

Christmas in Graffham kicks off at the start of December with lots of opportunities to quaff mulled wine, chomp on mince pies, sing some favourite carols and festive hits and pick up some 'not on the high street' gifts.

It all starts on Saturday 2 December with the village's traditional Christmas Fair, in the Empire Hall, from 11am to 2pm. See from page 39 for full details.

The next day, Sunday 3 December, Seaford College's choir will perform some spine-tingling seasonal anthems at the Advent service at St Giles Church at 5pm.

On Saturday 9 December, the Leconfield Singers will be performing traditional and contemporary carols at St Mary's Church, Petworth, at 6pm. Tickets from leconfieldsingers.co.uk/events

The next day, Sunday 10 December, there's a chance for all of Graffham to come together to sing a selection of all-time favourite carols and festive hits, at the White Horse from 6pm. St Giles' organist Brian Lanaghan will be tinkling the ivories with members of the church's choir on hand to lead the communal singalong, and a glass of mulled wine or non-alcoholic equivalent and nibbles promised for

everyone on arrival. Please advise the White Horse if you plan to join, on 01798 867331 or at info@whitehorsegraffham.com to help them cater appropriately.

The following Sunday, 17 December, Brian and the choir will be back in action, leading the traditional candlelit Festival of Lessons and Carols, at St Giles at 5pm, with mulled wine and mince pies for all afterwards. Again, all welcome.

The next day, on Monday 18 December at 6pm, around a dozen Graffham residents will be singing in Petworth Chorus' annual Carols by Candlelight concert – which

has been moved to a bigger venue this year because of demand for tickets in the recent past. It will take place in St Mary's Church in Petworth. There'll be a glass of complimentary fizz or soft equivalent and a mince pie. The singing starts at 6.30pm with the whole thing completed by around 8pm. Tickets from petworthchorus.co.uk.



For those who prefer some peace, St Giles will be holding its usual Christmas quiet service, 'Cloth for the Cradle', on Wednesday 20 December at 5pm.

The church is expected to be packed out on Christmas Eve for its family crib service, at 4pm. Last year, the belltower was turned into a recreation of Bethlehem's manger, complete with sheep, goats and a couple of donkeys. Who knows what livestock will be there this year! Time to dig out the tinsel, crowns and tea towels!

Then on Christmas Day itself, family eucharist takes place at St Giles at 10.30am.

Rev Vivien said: "We are all set to celebrate Christmas as only Graffham can – with carols, candles, animals, friends and neighbours and a selection of services and events to suit everyone. Whether you are new or old to the village or just passing by, you'll be assured of the warmest of welcomes!"

Meantime, Graffham Village Shop is preparing to cater for all your Christmas needs – see its order form in our centre pages.





Seaford Choir will be back for St Giles' Advent Service on Sunday 3 December – and maybe the donkeys, goats and sheep will return for the Christmas Eve Crib Service.

Repairs in progress to St Giles' roof

Steeplejacks have been in action on the roof of St Giles, when the weather has allowed, to assess repairs needed to plug leaks and keep the church watertight long into the future – while also giving it something of a late spring clean.

The repairs are likely to include repairing gutters, renovating flashing and, where necessary, replacing battens and felt. They are focusing on the area where the nave meets the belltower – which has caused some drips within the building in recent

times. While they have been up there, they have cleared off moss and debris.

Some tiles were replaced six years ago, but this is thought to be the first time in decades that the building has benefitted from such a major project. Before the work started, the roof was given a close inspection using a drone with a high resolution camera.

The repair work was expected to take a couple of weeks to complete, overseen by the Parochial Church Council, led by Fabric Group members Stuart Lewis and Phillip Turner, supported by architect Simon Dyson, working in liaison with the Diocese of Chichester.

The project is expected to cost up to £30,000. Applications have been made for grants from a number of trusts and charities that support work like this on churches, with any outstanding sum to be met from church reserves built up over the years – and any villagers who would like to contribute.



Repairing St Giles' roof may cost up to £30,000.

Repairs to blistering plaster and repainting walls inside the building and other enhancements have been put on hold until the roof repairs have been completed. It follows the installation a year ago of a new eco-friendly pew heating system.



Would you like to contribute towards the cost of repairing St Giles' roof? For easy ways to donate, see stgilesgraffham.org/giving or point your phone camera at this QR code.





Rev Vivien tries out St Giles' newly installed Queen Elizabeth memorial bench, with Ben Hilton, of Lockbund Sculpture Foundry, who made and installed it. Right: A relief of the late Queen with its dedication, that forms the centre of the bench's backrest.

QEII memorial bench installed at St Giles

A special bench, commemorating the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II, has been installed at St Giles – the first of only four commissioned, and a gift to the church by charitable trust The David Laing Foundation. It is now sitting securely on newly-created paving by the outside wall of the Lady Chapel, on the building's south side, where it will best catch the sun. Weighing 250kg (40 stone), it was delivered and fixed into position by a team of three from the foundry where it was made – the Lockbund Sculpture Foundry, at Cropredy, near Banbury.

The four benches commissioned are being gifted to parishes with close connections with the trustees of the Laing Foundation – among them Stuart Lewis, who is chairman of Graffham Parochial Church Council's Fabric Group, looking after St Giles' building and churchyard.

One of them will also feature a life-size sculpture of Sir John Laing, who developed the Carlisle-based family building firm into the national enterprise it became, with the rebuilding of Coventry Cathedral after World War II one of its best known projects. This statue depicts him at a moment of prayer — he was famous for praying at Cumberland's Furness Abbey while in a "black" state with his business facing ruin and a sense of shame that he had let down his father as well as the men employed by the firm, and, later, sitting back in the same spot at Furness Abbey, to give thanks and commitment to the promise he had made to gift the great majority of his earnings to good causes. That bench will, appropriately, be placed in the grounds of Furness Abbey early next year. The other two will be sited in Grafton Underwood, Northants, and in Brill, Bucks.

Roll out of new broadband nears completion

Openreach expects to complete its roll out of ultrafast full fibre broadband across Graffham, East Lavington and Hoyle this month (December) – and those who have or are being connected to it are being reminded they need to sign up with a provider.

By early November, almost 100 homes and businesses across the neighbourhood – nearly a third of all those covered by the project – had already been linked up, in postcode areas GU28 0NP/S/T/U/X/Z, in GU28 0PT/U and in GU28 0QD, covering much of The Street, the bulk of those in the Woodcote and Topleigh areas along with parts of Selham and Graffham Common Roads. The remaining 250 or so properties were expected to be connected last month (November) or by the end of this year.

Once they are connected to the new cabling, residents are notified within a few weeks and they should then sign up to be supplied by the provider of their choice to use the new ultrafast service.

Under the project, enough households and businesses in the community registered for the new fibre optic capability for it to be provided free throughout the neighbourhood, thanks to government funding – which is released to Openreach once customers sign up for a new high speed broadband supplier.

If you have any queries, please contact yasmeen.mohammed@openreach.co.uk – NOT any members of the volunteer Graffham project team.



What's orange and sounds like a parrot?

A carrot



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A tree blown over by Storm Ciarán brought down overhead cables with it blocking Graffham Common Road by Gallows Hill. Picture by © Stuart Gerrett.

Record 360mm of rain falls in a month

If you think Graffham's had a wet autumn, you're spot on – even though the village escaped Storm Ciarán largely unscathed. Weather watcher John Sutton, of The Street, measured 282mm (11.1ins) of rain in October alone – the second wettest month he has recorded since taking meteorological readings, only surpassed by November 2022, which had 304.1mm (12ins) of rain. Even January 2014 had less, at 281.8mm (11.1ins) of precipitation, after December 2013's 230.7mm (9.1ins).

The one-month period from 10 October to 9 November this year beat them all, however – with 360mm (14.2ins) deluging down from our darkened skies. The wettest single day was 18 October – when the annual village sponsored walk took place – with 48mm (1.9ins) cascading to the ground in just 24 hours.

Although the Met Office had given an amber warning of wind and a yellow alert for rain before Storm Ciarán swept into the village at the beginning of November, John described it as "a bit of a damp squib for Graffham" with only 5mm of rain recorded by his gauge in the 24 hours it passed through here – the lowest total for any day that week.

A few trees in the village were blown over, however – including one which brought down overhead cables with it, blocking Graffham Common Road by Gallows Hill, until neighbours cleared a path through the debris.

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Bin collections two days later after festivities

Bin collection days in Graffham will be a couple of days later than usual in the weeks after Christmas and New Year – on Fridays 28 December and 4 January then on Thursday 11 January before reverting back to Wednesdays from the following week. The garden recycling service will be suspended from Friday 22 December to Monday 8 January.

Chichester District Council has issued a reminder that the following festive items CAN be recycled in your red bin:

- Greetings cards and envelopes, and empty chocolate advent calendars.
- Wrapping paper and empty cardboard tubes but NOT shiny or metallic wrapping paper, ribbons or bows.
- Mince pie cases and other foil, plastic confectionary tubs and meat trays but NOT plastic film and wrapping.
- Cardboard boxes and packaging EXCEPT polystyrene.

You can use the garden recycling service to recycle your Christmas tree – or St Wilfrid's Hospice will do it for you in return for a donation. See www.stwh.co.uk

Thursday Club to hold its Christmas lunch

The Thursday Club will be tucking in for its December meeting – by holding its traditional Christmas lunch. It takes place at The Unicorn, Heyshott, on Thursday 14 December starting at 12.15 for 12.30pm, with two courses and a glass of wine at £28. Bookings were needed by Sunday 26 November, via Diana Bellis on 01798 867444.

Coffee morning raises £350 for school loo

A coffee morning hosted by Ann and Hugh Brown at their Frederick House home in The Street on Friday 17 November raised some £350 to help decorate the outside loo at Graffham Infant School, which the school kindly lets visitors to St Giles Church use.

Jon steps down from Graffham Parish Council

Jon Warren has tendered his resignation as a Graffham Parish Councillor after a year in the role because of the demands of his job as a newly promoted Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Logistic Corps and as a Dad of a young, growing family.

Meet your neighbour: Centenarian Betty Ringe

A regular feature in which we catch up with a local resident. This month, we chat with East Lavington's Betty Ringe as she celebrates a very special landmark.

Norwood Lane's Betty Ringe should be receiving a rather unusual item of mail with her Christmas cards this year – a greeting from the king congratulating her on her centenerary. Though it was likely to have arrived a month early. She was born Elizabeth Page in Guildford on 23 December 1923 – though the aunt who registered her arrival got the date wrong, so her birth certificate records it incorrectly as 23 November. They never felt the need to correct it officially.

When she was just a baby, her father died after being thrown from a horse. Her mother became a Mrs Robertson when she remarried a few years later to an optician. While he lived in Winchester, he hailed from Glasgow – and instilled in Betty a love of Robbie Burns.

Betty went to Winchester Grammar School until she was 16. She worked briefly for an electricity company then, with World War II in full flow, she trained as a nurse with the Red Cross. She remembers those times as hard, with strict matrons



overseeing her – but it was then that she met the man who would become her husband, engineer Don. They had to wait until after the war – and his return from Japan where he had been held as a prisoner of war – before they could marry.

They lived in Godalming, for 25 years, raising three daughters – Rosie, who sadly died of lung cancer, Josephine, who now lives in the West Country, and Julie, who is based in Duncton and visits her Mum every day.

Don and Betty then moved to their cottage here in East Lavington 30



Betty Ringe in front of a portrait she painted of one of her forebears.

years ago, after he retired. He passed away 20 years ago, but Betty has never thought of moving. She remains at home still, with Julie's help and assistance from a team of carers, a gardener and kindly neighbours, and can keep up a conversation, with a smile on her face, a twinkle in her eye and a lively sense of humour, surrounded by her paintings, music and books. "This is a wonderful place to live, an active community with lots of things to do," she said. "I have so many special memories of my time here. I love watching all the wildlife come into my garden."

She is a lady who has always liked to keep herself busy – enjoying her garden with its quarry, painting avidly, particularly portraits, playing the piano and reading voraciously. Her sketches used to feature regularly in this very magazine. A fervent supporter of Save the Children, she used to make the charity a "whopping big trifle" every year. She speaks French and Italian and used to travel extensively. As a girl, she loved swimming in the River Itchen, sung in a choir and enrolled in a poetry society.

Reflecting on a life that has seen many changes, when asked for her recipe for a long life, she replied: "People just need to be kind to one another, live alongside nature and do something you love."

Her family and friends will gather around her to celebrate her centenary on the 23rd – of December, not November.



Ray, accompanied by a goat, with some of his 85 turkeys at Norwood Lane.

Christmas is coming, and the turkeys getting fat

Christmas is coming and the turkeys getting fat – and they certainly are at South Downs Market Garden, in East Lavington, where 85 of the birds have been reared since June for this season's festive tables, many of them to be sold via Graffham Village Shop.

They'll be six months old by that time – a full month older than their counterparts sold in most butchers' shops and supermarkets across the country, reflecting the more natural life they will have led.

Since they could first walk, South Downs Market Garden turkeys have been allowed to roam freely in their one-acre field, protected from foxes and badgers by fencing – and their two 'flat mates', pedigree Boer goats Cora and Emilia.

They've been fed on nature's pure grown grass supplemented by only the very best and most natural grain and pellets. They can't be described officially as organic as their breeders Ray Davey and Kirstie Jones have not had time, space or inclination to complete all the necessary bureaucracy, but the meadow in which they are free to range has never been treated with insecticides or fertilisers in living memory.





South Downs Market Garden's flock of chickens roaming free in the summer, while its ducks enjoy their pond.

The mixed flock of black, white and bronze hens and toms has shelter from the rain if they choose and to roost at night, and where they can be housed if there's another outbreak of avian flu.

As Christmas approaches, they will be taken to a humane abattoir nearby in Sussex. The hens will have oven weights of between 4 and 6kgs, while the toms will be anything between 7 and 14kgs. Any birds not ordered via Graffham Village Shop will be sold to other farm and butcher outlets.

While rearing turkeys is a relatively new venture for Ray and Kirstie, they are far from spring chickens themselves when it comes to poultry. Strutting free in their land surrounding their turkey pen are some 150 hens and a few cockerels of various breeds – Sussex Whites, Marans, Warrens, Orpingtons and Bantams mainly – along with 40 quail and three geese. In another area, with a pond in the middle, are 50

ducks – Indian Runners, Aylesburys, Harlequins, Magpies and others.

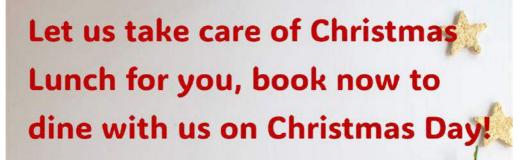
Most of these other types of poultry are being kept for their eggs. Ray and Kirstie pass on the 500 or so their flock produce every week to friends and colleagues while waiting for their formal registration from the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to sell them via retail outlets. It's not all feathers at South Downs Market Garden. In another field, close to the





Eggs from Ray and Kirstie's flock.

Graffham Parish News



Enjoy a drink on arrival followed by 4 courses with all the trimmings for £75 per person.

Give us a call or pop in for more information and a copy of the menu.

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

	Bar	Kitchen
24th Dec	12pm to 11pm	12-3pm
25th Dec	11am to 7pm	2.30pm (advance booking or
26th Dec	12pm to 10pm	12-2 and 5,30-8pm
27th Dec	Closed	Closed
28th Dec	12pm to 10pm	12-2pm and 5 30-8pm
29th Dec	12pm to 10pm	12-2pm and 5.30-9pm
30th Dec	12pm to 10pm	12-2pm and 5,30-9pm
31st Dec	12pm to 1am	12-2pm and 5.30-9pm
1st Jan	12pm to 10pm	12-2pm and 5.30-8pm



Continued from page 15

ducks' pond, are a pair of pigs, Petunia and Penelope – endangered, pedigree UK bred Berkshires, both females. Ray said: "There are only 300 of them left in the country, so they are very rare. They're described as the Wagu beef of the pig world. They provide the very best, highest quality pork." The plan is to breed from them and let the piglets and their mums roam free in the woodland surrounding the small holding. Ray's also started growing some vegetables – sweetcorn, courgettes and pumpkins with more to follow in time.

He kept a few chickens when he was young but his interest in them really took off when he moved to live with Andy and Jo Morgan at their equestrian centre, where his South Downs Market Garden is based, when he was 15. Later he met Kirstie and their poultry venture started spreading its wings.

Both of them still have day jobs, working in car sales, but hope to be able to devote themselves full-time to their farm soon. A key factor in deciding when is how successful their Christmas turkey venture is.

See facebook.com/SouthDownsMarketGarden or instagram.com/sdmg. southdownsmarketgarden/









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From Town Hall: Good cheer to our volunteers

Our representative on Chichester District Council, John Cross, provides his regular update on his key issues of focus right now.

In the six months that I've been your district councillor I've had the opportunity to meet many parish councillors, those that assist the the parish councils on sub committees and others in working groups that help promote issues in their community. We are indebted to our volunteers who enhance our lives. In this month's column, I highlight their hard work:

- The substantial effort that every month our authors, editors and contributors of your parish magazines and newsletters make, as well as those that distribute them. (*Editors: Thanks, John!*)
- The hours of labour volunteers put into community shops to ensure they prosper.
- The cake making and organisation to make tea and coffee mornings happen.
- Those that get on their hands and knees to clean the churches and halls.
- Those that put themselves out to run clubs for the elderly and young.
- Those that put their hand up to organise events, whether in spring, summer or the cold winter months.

There are too many to name here, but what they all have in common is that they all contribute valuable services to the villages we live in. I would go as far as to say they are the very foundation of our communities – without these volunteers we would live in isolation and our lives would be much poorer. The events that your community stage all need work and getting involved. If you are not happy about how something is organised, or think that a part of the community is ignored, then be one of those volunteers who puts up their hand and makes change!

I wish you a healthy and jolly Christmas,



Remembrance: Bertie Caldwell lays a wreath on behalf of the village's children in memory of those from Graffham and East Lavington who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars, at the service of remembrance at the war memorial on Sunday 12 November.



JOIN THREE ACCLAIMED SONGWRITERS FOR A NIGHT OF STRIPPED-BACK PERFORMANCES AND CANDID STORYTELLING

In a setting that blurs the lines between performer and audience, hear the inspiration behind the music from the artists themselves.

Spanning across folk, country and Americana, each songwriter will showcase their original songs in the timeless tradition of the songwriters circle.



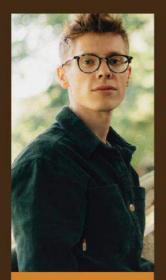
ED BLUNT is a genre-blurring tunesmith, likened to Paul Simon, James Taylor and Randy Newman. With a background in jazz and piano, his lyrics tell tales of the 21st century rich in unfiltered truths and his signature dry humour. In 2024, Ed will release his second album, *Grown Up*.



DAISY CHUTE is a Scottish-American singer-songwriter. Her music draws from the rich tapestry of her transatlantic heritage, resulting in award-winning, heartfelt songs. A banjo-wielding multi-instrumentalist, her spine-tingling vocals are complemented by intricate instrumentation and captivating stories.



JIM COZENS is a distinguished singer-songwriter and storyteller, crafting songs that resonate on both a deeply personal and universally touching level. His extensive career spans songwriting for fellow artists, as well as composing for radio, TV, and film.



ED BLUNT

"His songs are wry and completely brilliant"



DAISY

"A voice like the first rays of sunlight"



TIM COZENS

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Crimestoppers

Sussex Police updates on crimes reported across the local community.

Almost 60 burglaries and some 45 vehicle crimes across the Chichester district were reported to Sussex Police in the past month – mostly in the city itself. While none occurred in Graffham and East Lavington, several were in nearby villages.

Location of the burglaries included Halfway Bridge, Petworth's East Street, North Street and Station Road, Easebourne's Vanzell Road, Midhurst's Ashfield Close and Road, Lodsworth's Surrey Road, Upwaltham's Church Farm Lane, Lurgashall's High Hamstead Lane and Bepton's Severals Road.

With many of these break-ins focussed on sheds, garages or outbuildings, with bikes, power tools and gardening tools stolen, police are reminding residents to always keep them locked when they are not in use, drape a sheet or blanket over the top of mowers, bikes or high value property to keep them covered from view, consider installing a battery-operated shed alarm, record serial numbers or security-mark property with your post code and take photos of them. Also, always keep windows and doors locked when any property is unoccupied.

Vehicles were stolen from the A285 at Duncton and Midhurst's Sheep Lane. Others were broken into or targeted for their belongings in Cocking's The Croft, on the A286 near Midhurst, in Sutton's Barlavington Lane, Upwaltham's Droke Lane, Easebourne's Easebourne Lane and Lutener Road, Midhurst's Ashfield Road, Petworth's Hampers Green and Kirdford's Townfield.

Planning applications

Applications for Graffham and East Lavington filed with the South Downs National Park as this edition went to press. For details, see bit.ly/sdnp-planning

Nampara, The Street, GU28 0NS: Replacement of existing garage with ancillary building to provide home office, gym, games room and guest bedroom /annexe. SDNP/23/03865/HOUS. *Received 18 Sep*.

Down House, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QA: Single storey rear and side extension, replacement porch and removal of bay window, annex conversion and demolition of garage. SDNP/23/03780/HOUS. *Received: 12 Sep*.

Woodlands, Parsons Meadow, Norwood Lane, East Lavington: Retrospective application for siting two storage containers. SDNP/23/03553/FUL. *Received 25 Aug*. Continued on page 25



Work party dates

Saturday 9 December

Sunday 7 January

Saturday 10 February

Saturday 9 March

Coffee, tea and cakes provided!

Join us for some outdoor fun and exercise after which you can feel virtuous for having done something positive for your environment!



Work parties meet at St Giles Church, Graffham, at 9.45am.

You will need a pair of gloves, strong shoes or boots and warm clothing. Please email jimkirke@hotmail.com if you plan to come along and say if you would like a ride up so he can arrange transport.



1 Wallace Square, East Lavington GU28 0FJ: Replacement of existing 16 pv panels on west-facing garage roof with five new solar pv panels and installation of an additional five new solar PV panels on east-facing roof of garage. SDNP/23/04189/HOUS. *Received:* 6 Oct.

Property watch

Homes for sale locally, posted at rightmove.com since our previous edition:



Bex Mill Bungalow, Bex Lane, Heyshott GU29 0DQ: Two-bedroomed detached bungalow with one bathroom and open plan kitchen/living room. Cottage garden private gravel driveway. 72sq m/774sq ft. Offers over £400,000. *Porter, Midhurst 01730 771434. Listed 31 Oct.*

Garth House, Bell Lane, Cocking GU29 0HU: Fourbedroomed detached house, wet room, downstairs loo, sitting room, family room/library, kitchen breakfast room, lift, half acre garden, double garage. 119sq m/1,282q ft. Guide price £1.1 million. Southdown Properties, Midhurst, 01730 771322. Listed 16 Oct.





Manor Lodge, Cocking GU29 0HD: Two bedroomed Grade II yeoman's house, bathroom, downstairs loo, sitting room with inglenook, dining room, study, kitchen, utility room, third of an acre garden. 118sq m/1,266sq ft. Guide price £1.55 million. Stride and Son, Chichester, 020 3835 4104. Listed 4 Oct.

Sycamore Cottage, Cemetery Lane, Tillington GU28 9AH.: Three bedroomed detached bungalow, bathroom, separate shower, loo, sitting and dining rooms, kitchen, car port, workshop, gardens. 163sq m/1,755sq ft. Guide price £750,000. *Barrington and Co, Petworth, 01798 309657. Listed 6 Nov.*





3 Linton House, Upperton Road, Tillington GU28 9AB: One bedroomed leasehold ground floor flat, bathroom, sitting/dining room, kitchen, communal garden. 33sq m/352sq ft. Offers in region of £150,000. *Henry Adams, Midhurst 01730 771345*. *Listed 20 Oct*.



What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

zitiləzniT



THE FORESTERS ARMS
GRAFFHAM

GRILL AND LIVE MUSIC WITH MARY RED

len Gear's

MUSIC START 9:30-00:30 KITCHEN OPEN 12:00-14:00 17:00-21:00

> EVENING BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

> > B O O K A T A B L E 0 1 7 9 8 8 6 7 3 8 6

Welcome, Winnie!

Winnie Rosie Godman-Dorington (right) was born on 10 October to proud parents Archie and Amber Godman-Dorington, of Haylands Farm. Congratulations to all three of them!



Letters to the editor: The column YOU write

Something in this edition or elsewhere in the village particularly caught your eye? Let us know at editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

From Philip Trower, Badgers Cottage, Graffham: I read the article on All Saints in *Graffham Parish News*' November edition with great interest. I have always been a fan of the chapel and cottages' benefactors, the Lorings, though the Colonel died long before I moved to Graffham.

His needlepoint was amazing, largely freehand, such as the long strip in front of All Saints Chapel's altar rail. When the appeal was made for new kneelers for the chapel, I rashly volunteered to do two. The first had side panels dedicated to my parents with their dates and appropriate objects – a tennis racket and pen for my father who had been a writer on the sport and referee at Wimbledon, and a trug with a rose for my mother, who had been a passionately keen gardener. The second was in memory of the Colonel, and I got rather ambitious with the side panels – colonel's pips and the little chapel turret on the short sides, and the altar rails and screen on the long ones. Halfway through I thought I had bitten off more than I could chew, but I persevered, and it seemed to work.



It's not just the residents of Graffham and East
Lavington who read your favourite monthly news
magazine! The Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes,
The Ven Martin Lloyd Williams (left), enjoyed
perusing November's Graffham Parish News during
a meeting last month with the Rev Vivien. Do you
know of anyone out of the ordinary who we can
count as one of our readers? Let us know at
editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

Graffham Gourmet: The Foresters Arms

A new regular feature in which our food and drink critic checks out a local eatery. This month, we head to The Foresters Arms for its popular steak night.

The Foresters Arms has been at the centre of Graffham's social life since way back when. It is in evidence on the oldest maps of the village, and archive photos of white-aproned serving staff standing outside around horses and carts in about 1900 are freely available.



It had been closed for two years, much to the grief of its regulars,

when David Gordon-Smith and John Holbeck took over as landlords in 2017. They totally transformed it, tastefully smartening it up while retaining its age-old, cosy charm – low beams, wood-burner, glorious slight whiff of wood smoke...

I'd booked a table for five on one of its popular Wednesday steak nights, though sadly the wonderful usual flamenco guitarist was elsewhere that evening. It's one of several theme nights the pub offers – Spanish tapas, quiz and curries, all very popular, as are its Sunday roasts. As we arrived, so did two other neighbours. The friendly staff quickly arranged things so they could join us.

We ordered a varied opening round of drinks – pints of delicious traditional best bitter from the Long Man Brewery just the other side of Brighton (one of several local craft ales it generally has on tap) at £4.40, Moretti lager (£6.10) and a very quaffable Orchard Thieves cider (£5.70), along with a half of Guinness, glasses of red and white house wines and a lime soda.

We decided to forego starters and dive straight into the main course, though the venison scotch egg with mixed salad and cherry chilli mayo (£9.50), melted Camembert with caramelised onions, mixed grapes and bread (£9.25) and Thaistyle fritters with rice noodles (£9) looked particularly tempting and were being wolfed down with gusto at the table next door.

Five of us opted for the steak night special – £23.75 for a char-grilled striploin steak with mushrooms, tomato, battered onion rings and chunky chips with a choice of peppercorn or blue cheese sauce or garlic butter, with a beer or house wine included. The other two made the difficult choice of selecting from the seven other options on the a la carte menu, with one choosing slow cooked lamb shank with mixed vegetable fregola, at £23.45, and the other for scampi and French fries with tartar sauce (£16). Vegetarians were well catered for with delicious sounding black risotto with butternut squash, while those preferring traditional pub grub were

spoiled for choice – a beef burger with bacon, cheese salad and fries (£17.90), pie of the day with creamy mash and veg (£17.25) or battered fish and chips with peas and chunky chips (£16.75).

All portions were generously sized and perfectly cooked by Sebastian and Angelina in the kitchen. The steak eaters among us (me included) were highly impressed, with the meat tasting as if it had come straight from a charcoal fired barbeque and the chips and veg perfect. The lamb and scampi also got rave reviews.

As they all went down, another pint of best, a bottle of reasonably



A selection of Foresters Arms dishes.

priced and very drinkable Ladera Verde Chilean Merlot (£22) and table water were delivered. The most expensive of the six reds, six whites and two roses on the wine list was £48 a bottle. Among the fizz was a Prosecco at £9 for a 20cl pop, or Champagne Baron de Beaupre at £49 for a regular sized bottle.

Those of us with a small space left in our stomach chose from its eight-strong dessert menu, opting for a yummy Ukrainian speciality called Napoleon (£7.50), sticky toffee pudding with clotted cream (£7), scoops of ice cream at £2 a go, and a couple of affogatos. We split the bill equally between us - £35 a head, rounded up and including a tip for the excellent and smiling service.

Verdict: The Foresters Arms is very much a traditional inn straight out of central casting, a good choice for a drink or a meal, with a kitchen well above average, offering the usual pub grub favourites but also a varying range of dishes from around the world, all tasting great, of high standard and at reasonable prices.

Kitchen opening hours: 12 noon-2.30pm and 5.30-8.30pm Wednesdays to Fridays, 12 noon-3pm and 6-9pm Saturdays, and 12 noon-4pm Sundays. The bar's open for longer hours Wednesdays to Sundays.

Contacts: forestersarms-pub.co.uk, 01798 867386.



THE FORESTERS ARMS GRAFFHAM

Christmas

OPENING HOURS

24/12 BAR 12:00-CLOSING KITCHEN 12:00-16:00 REGULAR MENU CHRISTMAS EVE

25/12 CLOSED

26/12 BAR 12:00-CLOSING KITCHEN 12:00-16:00 REGULAR MENU BOXING DAY



1/01 CLOSED

2/01 CLOSED

Artist Richard to open doors to his studio

Villagers will have the opportunity to see the work of local artist Richard Davidson in his studio at the beginning of December. He moved to Graffham's Brookdene House two decades ago with his wife Alison just two years after completing his degree in Fine Art (Painting) and set up his own studio there – after working for 27 years as a city lawyer. The lure of the canvas tempted him to throw it all in and focus on what had been just a hobby.

His early studies were of clothing and other city accoutrements, executed principally in oil. As the years passed and he settled into countryside life, the

themes and media changed and, as Richard himself says, "would be unrecognisable to a 20-year younger me!"

Individual trees have proved a fascination, both those found here in Sussex and in his beloved Tuscany, painted either *en plein air* or from memory in the studio. Vases of brightly coloured flowers are a current theme and strong colours run right through his work. The vivid ochres, greens and



Richard in his studio.

siennas of the Tuscan landscape are recognisable to anyone with love of the region.

As a former chairman of Graffham Parish Council, Richard has been heavily involved in various village activities and a percentage of the proceeds from the December sale will go to St Giles Church. His open studio runs from 1 to 3 December, between 11am and 5pm. A large selection of his recent work will be on display, along with greeting cards. Everyone is welcome and Richard will be on hand to discuss his work. Brookdene is at The Street 's entrance to Lavington Stud, immediately on the left, just before the 'magic' gate.



What do you call a reindeer who can't see?

We love our advertisers – and so do our readers!

To advertise in Graffham Parish News, contact

ads.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

GRAFFHAM EMPIRE HALL

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY
DOORS OPEN 7PM • DANCING STARTS 7.30PM

DANCING TO THE SUSSEX PISTOLS PIPING IN THE HAGGIS BURNS SUPPER

Cost £30 per person Please bring your own drinks

Enquiries and to book please telephone Harriet Rowntree on 01798 867536



Dance practices in the Empire Hall: Sunday 7th, 14th and 21st of January 2024 4-6pm, £2 per session

Graffham Parish News' dazzling December quiz

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

- 1 From 1948 (when he bought Selham House) until his death in 1966, what was the Ameer of Bahawalpur's annual yuletide gift to Graffham?
- **2** Which saint 'invented' the nativity scene in 1223?
- **3** Between 50 million and 60 million of which arboreal item are grown in Europe every year?
- 4 Also known as olibanum, which aromatic resin is derived from trees of the genus Boswellia?



- **5** Which is the highest mountain in the Pennine Alps, located on the border between Switzerland and Italy?
- 6 Who was the last man to win BBC Sports Personality of the Year?
- 7 Which operatic diva, who died in 1977, would have been 100 this month?



- 8 In December of which year did The Beatles (left) complete their final UK tour: [a] 1965, [b] 1967, [c] 1969?
- **9** When he triumphed in 2020, aged 55, who became the oldest celeb to win *Strictly Come Dancing*?
- 10 Which comedy duo attracted an estimated television audience of 28 million (still a record) for their show on Christmas Day 1977?









PETWORTH

20th Century Furniture, Antiques and Gifts
Christmas gift guide now available in our shop & website









Stockist of Santa Maria Novella, Leach Pottery, David Mellor, Ichendorf, Kähler and Melin Tregwynt.

Open Monday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm 10A New Street, Petworth, GU28 0AS www.bearpetworth.com Tel: 01798 651066





Graffham Village Shop and Heath End Stores Christmas order form



Please complete and return this form ASAP to either shop To order:

All orders for turkeys must be made by Sunday 10 December. All orders for meat must be made by Tuesday 5 December. Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS.

To collect: All orders will be available for collection □ or delivery □ on Saturday 23 December (tox as appropriate).

Surname: Address:

First name: Telephone number:

For leg and shoulder, state whole or half and whether you'd like it boned and rolled. Pigs in blanket (10 per pack) dmb Sausage meat Shoulder Stuffing Leg

DAIRY Cutlets

Milk (Number of litres) Usual prices apply

...

All turkeys reared free range to the highest welfare BUTCHER Turkey standards here in the village.

State number of people to serve or weight in kg. Bronze / white / black

From our regular chicken supplier, at usual prices. State number of people to serve or weight kg. Chicken Whole chicken Breasts

Rack

Thighs Legs

Sodt bread (state type) Croissants Almond croissants Pain au chocolat Bread rolls Mince pies Christmas pudding Christmas cake	Sodt bread (state type)	Hungry Guest bread (state type)	French stick	Bread loaf - organic white	Bread loaf – organic brown	Freshly baked items in store at regular prices.	BAKERY	Brie style	Cheddar style	Goodwood cheese	Brandy butter	Double	Single	Cream eta (250ml – larger on request)	- full cream	- semi skimmed
---	-------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	---	--------	------------	---------------	-----------------	---------------	--------	--------	---------------------------------------	--------------	----------------

TATM	
All meat is organic. from Goodwood Farm	od Form
Raised sustainably and sensitive to the	o the
environment. At best available market prices.	
State number of people to serve or weight kg.	r weight kg.
Poef	
Rib joint	
Boned and rolled rib	120
Boned and rolled sirloin	
Boned and rolled topside	
Steak - fillet	
Steak - rump	
Steak - sirloin	
Steak - ribeye	
Braising steak	
Pork	
Leg	
(state whole or half and whether	
you'd like it boned and rolled).	-61
Shoulder boned and rolled	
Smoked gammon joint	
Bacon - smoked streaky	
Bacon - smoked back	
Bacon - unsmoked back	
Sausages eta	
Chipolatas (500g pack)	

Celery	
Cucumber	
Lettuce - little gem	
Lettuce - iceberg	
Lettuce - Nonnington Farm mixed leaf	
Rocket	
Tomatoes - large	
Tomatoes - cherry vine	
Vegetables	
Broccoli	
Brussel sprouts - stalk	
Butternut squash	
Carrots	
Cauliflower	
Courgette	
Leeks	
Onions (state red or white)	
Parsnip	
Potatoes	
Purple sprouting	
Other fruit & veg (specify)	
OTHER	
Crackers box of 10	
Apple sauce	
Specify:	
Specify:	

Once completed, please return to Graffham Village Shop or Heath End Stores – by 5 December for meat orders!

State quantity.

Cranberries

Grapefruit

Lemons

Limes

Blueberries

Bananas

Apples

Continued from Butcher etc on previous page

FRUIT AND VEG From our regular market suppliers. Usual prices.

Ē

Pineapple

Oranges

Raspberries

Strawberries

Almonds

Cashew

Brazil

Satsumas

Figs

Dates (box)

Walnuts

Mixed



Full details on next page and at stgilesgraffham.org/christmasfair

All the fun of Graffham's Christmas Fair

Graffham's Christmas Fair will take place as usual in the Empire Hall on the first Saturday in December – 2 December from 11am to 2pm. The Christmas tree will be sparkling, festive music playing, mulled wine, mince pies and hot sausage rolls ready to serve up, making it the perfect place to pick up some Christmas presents while catching up with friends and neighbours.

It's also one of the main fund-raising events of the year for St Giles, helping our beautiful, historic and peaceful village church meet its near £60,000 a year costs for maintaining its building, bells and burial ground and everything it does for the community – wedding venue, support for our schools, the bereaved, needy and



homeless, Sunday and special services ... So please support the fair generously!

There are some amazing lots up for grabs in its auction – see from page 42. And also an astonishing line-up of goodies you could win in its raffle – see page 41. Tickets were circulated with November's *Graffham Parish News* – so there's no excuse not to enter!

Cracker: Flashback to 2022's Christmas Fair.

As ever, the home produce stand is expected to do a roaring trade, with its delicious cakes, buns, biscuits, jams, pickles and other treats prepared by the village's cooks. A number of locals will be manning craft stalls – potter Joanna Morris, artists Izzy Barrett and Sue Hill, and cuddly toy maker Tracey-Jane Thompson. Fiona Mackie will be running a stall offering jewellery and trinkets – all donations welcome! And you'll also be able to pick up garden bits and pieces, and more. Di Bowden is in charge of the children's activities.



THE HOME PRODUCE STAND NEEDS YOU!

If you can contribute any goodies, please contact Gillian Charlesworth on 07973 768924 or at dalehousefemail@gmail.com



Graffham Christmas Fair's remarkable raffle

Some wonderful prizes are up for grabs in the 2023 Graffham Christmas Fair Grand Raffle – thanks to the generosity of the many donors from across the village.

Four books, each of five tickets (costing £1 a ticket), were delivered with November's edition of *Graffham Parish News*. Don't feel you have to buy them, but it'd be lovely if you do! More are available from Graffham Village Shop – and at the Christmas Fair in the Empire Hall on Saturday 2 December 2023, from 11am until the raffle is drawn at 1.30 pm.

To enter, fill in each ticket stub with your surname, phone number and, ideally, your email address. Then:

- Hand in your stubs and payment (by cash or card) at the Graffham Christmas Fair on Saturday 2 December 2023 before 1.15 pm.
- OR at Graffham Village Shop before Saturday 2 December 2023. Insert your stubs and cash payment in a sealed envelope marked 'Christmas Fair Raffle'.

The draw will be made on Saturday 2 December at about 1.30 pm at the Christmas Fair in the Empire Hall. Winners will be notified.

Good luck – and thanks again to all the prize donors!



Your raffle tickets were distributed with November's mag – but more will be available at the Christmas Fair.

Some of the great raffle prizes up for grabs:

- A fab festive hamper
- Another amazing hamper
- Box of six Wine Society bottles
- A voucher from Petworth's BEAR
- A festive wreath
- Slow Grown Farm charcuterie
- A super garden plant support
- A golf umbrella
- Bottles of grog
- Christmas crackers
- Other wonderful goodies
 For full list of prizes and details, stgilesgraffham.org/christmasfair



The happy elves drawing the raffle at 2022's Christmas Fair.

Graffham Christmas Fair's amazing auction

There are some amazing lots up for grabs in Graffham Christmas Fair's 2023 auction, thanks to many generous donors – unique experiences or treats that, normally, money could not buy, delicious food and drinks, many sourced from within our own village, and some fab 'not on the high street' items that would make perfect Christmas gifts.

Some of them are highlighted on these pages – for the complete list and full terms and conditions etc, see stgilesgraffham.org/auction You can submit your bids:

- In person Graffham Christmas Fair in the Empire Hall on Saturday 2 December 2023 before 1.30 pm.
- By email to graffhamchristmasfair@gmail.com before 6 pm on Friday 1 December. If bidding by email, ensure you clearly indicate:
 - The lot you're bidding for its name and number (eg A1 loop-the-loop).
 - The amount you are offering (in whole pounds only).
 - Your first and family name.
 - Your email address, telephone number and home address.

The status of each lot will be updated online regularly with the latest leading bid and bidder at stgilesgraffham.org/auction until Friday 1 December 2023 – so keep an eye on your favourite lots and feel free to increase any bid before the auction closes. Happy bidding and good luck!

AUCTION LOTS A: THRILLS AND CHILLS

A1: Loop-the-loop over Graffham

You've seen 20-year vet pilot Mark Stewart do his aerobatics over the village in his two-seater stunt plane. Now you can fly with him – with a chance to take the controls yourself!







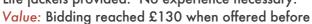
A2: Golf tuition with Seaford's pro

An hour-long, one-on-one lesson with Seaford College's golf pro and coach Jack Halsey, at the school's first-rate golfing facilities, which include a driving range and nine-hole course.

Value: Well over par

A3: Swallows and Amazons

A Saturday or Sunday, for up to two people, following the wind in Chichester Harbour, on a Drascombe Dabber day boat, to include a beach picnic, depending on tides and weather. Life jackets provided. No experience necessary.







A4: Cricket tuition with Chris Adams

Catch some tips in a 45-minute one-on-one training/tuition session with Chris "Grizzly" Adams, legendary captain of our own Sussex county side and capped by England at Test and one-day international level, now Head of Cricket at Seaford College.

Value: Boundaries galore!

A5: Kayaking on the River Arun

Half a day's kayaking on the beautiful and peaceful River Arun – under the instruction of Graffham resident Jacky Gregory. No previous experience necessary – Jacky will provide tips and training. Life jacket and kayak provided.



Value: Paddles - fetched £75 last time it was offered.



A6: Training with Dogs Doing Better

Dogs Doing Better, which delivers puppy and dog training, agility and pet gun dog training, is offering a one-hour session one-to-one, by highly qualified former Graffham resident Liz Nicholson

A7: Golf for four at Cowdray

Treat up to three friends (that's a foursome with you included!) for a round of golf at Cowdray Park Golf Club, described by website the socialgolfer.com as a "pretty golf course in some of the most spectacular rolling down-land ... considered one of the best in the south of England."



Value: Green fees at the weekend start at £50.



A8: Exclusive use of a heated swimming pool

A day's exclusive use of a Graffham pool kept spotlessly clean and comfortably heated by Stuart and Bridget Lewis.

Multiple prizes offered – so you can bid for more than one day's use.

Value: In at the deep end

A9: Golf for three and lunch at West Sussex

A round of golf for the winning bidder and up to two guests, followed by lunch, at West Sussex Golf Club, Pulborough, hosted by Sandy Macqueen. Value: Weekend green fees in the summer cost £175 a person.



AUCTION LOTS B: TREATS AND EATS

B1: Isle of Wight holiday home for a week

Sail across the Solent to Bembridge and stay in this top-notch holiday home, just ten minutes' walk from the beach, with its own heated and gated swimming pool, grass tennis court and swings in a large garden. Sleeping up to 10 in five bedrooms and with five bath/shower rooms, it has everything you'd expect from a top-class home away from home. See stgilesgraffham.org/auction for full details.



Reserve: £1,750 (against list price for a peak week of c £4,000)



B2: A Clive McBain original fingerpost painting

Acclaimed Graffham artist Clive McBain, a finalist in this year's internationally renowned David Shepherd Wildlife Artist of the Year competition, says this will be the last of his paintings of local fingerposts. Mounted and framed in white, it covers a total of some 289mm square.

Value: £2,500 if sold privately but sensible offers considered although the painting does have a reserve price.

B3: Meal for two at The White Horse

A meal for two, with a bottle of wine, at the village's historic White Horse, following its complete refurbishment this summer and now with Grant Jones, from one of Britain's most highly rated restaurants, Mayfair's Le Gavroche, as its new Chef du Cuisine.

Value: Delicious





B4: Painting of your house, pet or fav view

Commission renowned Graffham watercolour artist Sue Hill to create a painting of your pet, garden, home, favourite view or whatever.

Value: Winning bids of £100 and £275 before



B5: Ritz-style garden tea party

Afternoon tea in a Graffham garden with wildflower meadow and views of the Downs. Glass of fizz on arrival, then sandwiches, scones, cakes, tea and other posh delights, served on vintage china by Sally Blunt.

Reserve: £80 a couple (up to three couples max)

B6: Sunday lunch at the Three Moles

Our award-winning Three Moles pub has earned itself a reputation for serving some of the best Sunday roasts in West Sussex. Tuck in your napkin and loosen your belt for a three-course spectacular feast for two, with a bottle of house wine.

Value: £75







B7: Tea in a Romany caravan

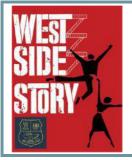
Hidden in a gem of a Graffham garden is this Romany caravan beautifully restored by Philip Trower – yours to relish for a few hours for yourself with up to three friends or family members for a special occasion, with a delicious tea included.

Value: Priceless, but fetched £100 when offered last

B8: Good natural health for your horse or dog

An assessment and treatment for your animal friend. Treatment can be beneficial for relief of existing pain, to help maintain healthy joints, muscles and tendons and the assessment of poor function, which may lead to injury or discomfort in the future. Yard visits for horses (local only please). Dogs can be seen at Anna's garden chalet in Graffham. May require veterinary consent. Value: £50-£70





B9: Seaford's West Side Story – for four

Four tickets for West Side Story, with its music by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim for a story based on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and set in mid-1950s New York – the next musical mounted by Seaford College, which has a reputation for staging near-professional productions. Pick a date between 13-16 March.

Value: Bright lights

B10: Vintage port

A bottle of Smith Woodhouse 2003 vintage port, carefully preserved in a diligently tended Graffham cellar. Perfect on its own or accompanying your Christmas Stilton.

Value: £60





B11: Weekend's use of log splitter

Make light work of splitting your felled timber. If more than two matching bids are received, Stuart Lewis has kindly offered to honour both. Value: Fetched £50 before

B12: £75 meal vouchers for Foresters Inn

A voucher for £75 to spend in the pub on food with drinks – more than enough for a main course for two with a bottle of wine, or to treat yourselves to one of its immensely popular tapas, steak or other special nights. Value: £75





B13: Haircut and blow dry with Dawn

A haircut and blowdry by hair and make-up artist Dawn Quinn, in the comfort of your own home. A number of Graffham ladies won't let anyone else touch their hair!

Value: £65

B14: A crate of Langham's best bitter

Twelve 500ml (near enough a pint) bottles of ale brewed just across the A272 at Lodsworth by the nearest brewer to Graffham, Langham's. Described as "a classic dry bitter with balanced malt flavours". ABV 4.5%. Value: £34.50



Jewellery, accessories and hats

New for this Christmas Fair will be a stand selling pre-loved items of jewellery and other fashion accessories – necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, and scarves and hats, etc. If you have any items you no longer need that you'd like to donate, take them along to the Empire Hall on the morning of the fair, Saturday 2 December at 11am.





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Nature Notes: Banksys of the natural world

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

At the start of the New Year, we'll be relying on bathroom scales and belt buckles to tell us how our health has fared over the festive period. But the health of our villages, towns and cities can be monitored by a group of amazing organisms which, though they're all around us, largely go unnoticed — lichens. Lichens are the Banksys of the natural world, bringing their anarchic wildlife graffiti into our unnatural human landscape, disrupting the dull uniformity of brickwork and concrete with a dazzling diverse range of patterns, shapes, textures and colours.

Considering that lichens cover 8 per cent of the land's surface, it's amazing that we hardly notice them. But next time you're out, stop and look around – you'll be overwhelmed. Lichens are everywhere. Luminous yellow and orange crusts radiate across roofs, walls, benches and fences. The bare branches and bark of trees are festooned with green lichen lobes. Even the concrete and the clay beneath your feet is covered with the white splodges of lichens which resemble trampled









Above and below, lichens' dazzling diverse range of patterns, shapes, textures and colours – like anarchic wildlife graffiti.

Pictures © Sussex Wildlife Trust.

chewing gum. Once you start looking, an invisible world of lichens will materialise and you'll feel like grabbing the nearest person by the lapels and, wild-eyed, yell: "They're everywhere—can't you see? We've been invaded!"

The secret behind their success is that each lichen is made of two different organisms – a fungus and an alga. The alga can photosynthesise and provides the food that fuels the fungus while the fungus gives the structure and protection which allows the alga to function. The fungus is the Lennon to the alga's McCartney. Working together they create something amazing and enduring.

Because lichens absorb water and nutrients through their surface, they don't require roots. This gives them the freedom to anchor themselves to any firm foundation – rock, wood, bone, concrete, glass, canvas, metal. They can also withstand severe desiccation. In periods without water, they simply switch off. When re-hydrated, they spring back to life like the Wicked Witch of the West in reverse.

This versatility and resilience means lichens can survive anywhere on our planet – and experiments have shown they'd probably do alright elsewhere, too. They recently achieved remarkable results in the Mars Simulation Laboratory and some folk claim that lichens could be the key to the human colonisation of the Red Planet.

Back on Earth their reliance on rainwater means that lichens are famously sensitive to air pollutants dissolved in rain. The presence or absence of certain lichens is a good indicator of pollution levels. What's good for their health is good for ours.

Here's wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas.







Graffham Chronicles: Memories of Christmas pasts

In her regular column, village historian Pauline Goodwin this month remembers how Graffham has celebrated Christmas over the years.

In this holiday season of festivals of light and rejoicing, history resounds with tales from the past. The oldest Graffham tradition that I have found dates back to 1642. A Sussex Archaeological library document reveals that monies were paid to a band of Graffham Mummers, or Tipteers as they are called in Sussex.

This was a resident group of actors and musicians who performed throughout the year in this parish, though mummers have always existed nationwide. Then, as now, their plays followed a common pattern with regional variations.

In 1900 James Boger said of the Tipteers in West Wittering that they "consist of six boys or men dressed in fantastic costume and some carrying wooden swords. The play is acted at Christmas time and is said to be very old... being handed down by word of mouth".

Theatrical performances were common, but dancing, joke-telling, singing, music and recitations were also included. Tipteering groups would devise characters that



A group of Tipteers, or Mummers, from 1936 in nearby Boxgrove, captured by legendary local photographer George Garland. West Sussex Records Office.

would feature in each of their groups' plays, like a modern-day James Bond with similar swashbuckling characteristics.

Music is very much part of the local Christmas tradition. Sussex has its own carol which is always included in Chichester Cathedral's Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. It was brought to prominence by Vaughan Williams, whose arrangement was published in English Folk Carols in 1911. The words come from a book compiled by Bishop Luke Wadding in 1684.

More locally, our present day neighbour Ginny Barrett composed the melody to a new carol, The Illminster Thorn, in 2017. The lyrics were written by the poet James Simpson of Heyshott. Ginny recalls that the tune came to her as she passed The White Horse but cannot explain the reasoning behind her inspiration.

It is interesting to note the association of the old White Horse dairy.

We'll go gathering milk and cream, the night that Christ is born,

Oh we'll go gathering milk and cream, with the flowering of the thorn.

Visiting George Philips to collect milk and cream from Hazel Durrell at his dairy behind The White Horse is within my memory!

A village musical event that so many enjoyed for more than five decades has been the CLIC carol concert, held at the Empire Hall. Betty Bradley, long-time resident of Graffham, recollects a very special moment from one of these concerts 20 years ago when the church choir performed one particular carol: "Diana (Bun) Payne was the conductor, and we sang *The Boar's Head Carol*.

Diana had made a boar's head and it



Back when the White Horse was also the village dairy. From Graffham Archive.

was carried round the hall while the choir was singing." Music comes from very unexpected places in Sussex at Christmas. A rather eccentric belief held by local folk is that bees can be heard singing in their hives at midnight on Christmas Eve.

Continued on next page



What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

Continued from previous page

The exact timing of this singing may be rather "creative", but this fanciful notion has recently been verified by Professor Martin Benscik of Nottingham University. He carried out a study with vibration detectors in hives and described the duets as extraordinary. His description of the sound is a series of "quacks" and "toots" by which the queen communicates with the worker bees — not exactly the full-blown bee choir I envisaged!

Honey from local bees has often been offered for sale at the Graffham Christmas Fair, an event very much looked forward to each year (taking place this year on Saturday 2 December, see from page 39). Alan Sargent, churchwarden from 2013 to 2019, mostly remembers "the magic atmosphere within the hall and the queue waiting impatiently at the door ready to pounce on the bric-a-brac stall". He also mentions the wonderful food and craftspeople like Georgie McQueen's "amazing Christmas creations", "Paula Burke's tree decorations" and Diana Kingsmill's knitted fashions. For more than a decade Diana worked year-round producing her knitted garments, many of them donated to local fund-raising.

Betty Bradley tells a wonderful story from times past when she and her husband, Maurice, provided a Christmas tree for the fair, after which it was moved to the church. This tree had a beautiful history! Maurice and Betty collected seed on a holiday which they brought back to Graffham and planted up. They nurtured the sapling for 20 years until it reached a good height.

Linda Smart, formerly Challen, who lived on Nonnington Lane in childhood, reminisces about the content of her Christmas stockings, which contained "useful items" including a tin of Gibbs toothpaste. Stuffed in the toe would be an orange. Oranges are said to represent a gift of gold from Santa, according to an ancient tale in which Saint Nick threw three bags of gold into a house of the poor and they landed in three stockings hung on the mantelpiece to dry.

In Sussex, orange rolling was a Christmas activity in which an orange was bowled into the centre of a circle. If the bowler's orange hit another, then the bowler kept the orange they had struck.

Rather like Linda whose stocking contained "useful objects", Christmas presents in the 1950s and 1960s were much more restrained, before consumerism had become prominent. Gifts were more confined to necessities rather than frivolity. When we lived at Hillside, our gift to our neighbour, the elderly Miss Bridger, at what is now called Chelsea Cottage, would be a one sack of kindling wood and another of logs. On Christmas morning my father, Dick Challen, would place them on her doorstep.





Christmas dinners in days gone by: Anyone who was anybody in the village joined for the Graffham Football Club dinner in the Empire Hall, while Graffham Garden Group lunches have ventured to local pubs before recently returning to the hall.

We would knock on her door and go and hide. We watched silently as she came to the door and she would call out "Merry Christmas". All of the employees at Lavington Stud were given a capon and bottle of Black and White whisky by the then owner Lady McDonald Buchanan.

Also in this era, the Foresters ran a Christmas Club. Locals would pay a weekly sum into their account and at Christmas there would be a big pay-out night when contributors would be given their saved cash with which to fund their festivities.

Other clubs and societies in the village held their annual dinners around this time of year and some still do. Martin Buckley, whose family, the Elphinstones, have lived at Heydon House for almost 100 years, recalls the "post-Christmas lunches introduced by Alan Longworth about 20 years ago" for the Graffham Garden Group. For many years, when Martin was chairman, he organised these. Now the baton has passed to Carol Kirke. They are held at local pubs or the Empire Hall with 25-30 gardeners attending (see page 18 for this year's details).

In days gone by, Graffham Football Club also held its Christmas dinner. I recognise about 30 of the participants, including my parents, in photographs of various of the events. The mix of people is quite intriguing with Graffham School teacher Miss Sabine, the Misses Hysom, Peggy Weller and Flo Loader in attendance with various Howicks, Tuppers, Worsdales, Wakefords, Lorings, Challens and Rev Townroe.

The Christmas story itself has featured in various village re-enactments like the

Continued on next page



Who's Rudolph's favourite pop star?

Continued from previous page

recent Posada with parish families taking it in turns to house the Mary, Joseph and Jesus family. When the last home had been visited the Holy Family processed to St Giles with local donkeys to be placed in the church nativity.

A rather less reverent example took place at Christmas in the 1960s after John Behan had built a stable in his Guillods garden for Kathleen Houghton's horse. The sister of Bronwen Jones, née Robinson, said that the stable reminded her of the nativity. The following night when John was out, a star was erected high over the stable. I remember being in awe of this as the star shone out high and bright lighting up the stable below, clearly seen from our Hillside home.

Here's to dreaming of a white Christmas rather like the one that Ann Rowney remembers "when snow had forced closure of the road from Pound Corner and everyone walked up and back to the lovely midnight service at St Giles".

A Sussex Merry Christmas to one and all.



Where does Santa go when he's ill?

Westerlands
Christmas Fair
Saturday 16th December
11am – 4pm
Graffham, Duncton Common Road
www.westerlands.com
Free Entry - Horse Rides
Crafts for Children
Horsebox Café
Superb Local Stallholders
-Dogs on Leads Welcome-

Bill's bygones: Christmas blackout, Grandsire, 50mph

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 - December 2013: Much of the village loses power from 23 December until Boxing Day after wild weather. In *Graffham Parish News*, outgoing Graffham Cricket Club captain Iain Stevenson reports five wins, one draw, five losses and seven cancellations in his last season, and highlights Sam Ward's retirement as club chairman after more than 20 years. Angela Merkel is elected Chancellor of Germany for a third term. Michael Schumacher suffers a serious head injury whilst skiing. Ben Stokes makes his Test match debut, but by Christmas England are 3-0 down in the Ashes. Deaths of Nelson Mandela (aged 95), BBC stalwart David Coleman (87), train robber Ronnie Biggs (84) and actor Peter O'Toole (81).

25 years ago - December 1998: A fund to pay for replacement of the soft cedar wood cladding in the spire of St Giles' (which had become damaged by woodpeckers) with hard oak 'shakes' is launched with a sponsored quarter peal of

Grandsire Doubles, requiring 1,260 ring changes in an hour. US President Clinton orders air strikes on Iraq, three days before the House of Representatives brings articles of impeachment against him. Hugo Chávez is elected President of Venezuela. Spice Girls (right) are



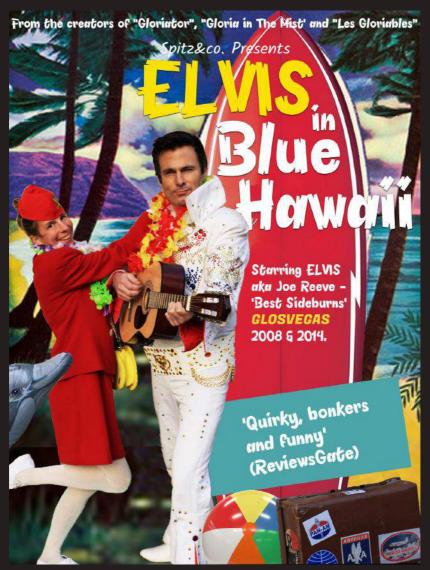
Christmas number one for the third year running with *Goodbye*. Death of impresario Lew Grade (91).

50 years ago – December 1973: Graffham & Selham's Women's Institute celebrate Florence Butters' 90th birthday at its December meeting, where Miss Beevor (Graffham school's erstwhile headmistress) gives a 'hilarious account' of her early years in the village. Funeral at St Giles of lifelong Graffham resident Albert Yallop, who died aged 84. A 50mph speed limit is introduced on all roads in the UK to reduce petrol consumption. Release of films *The Sting*,



starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford (left), *Papillon* (Steve McQueen and Dustin Hoffman), and *The Exorcist* and album *Band on the Run* by Paul McCartney and Wings. Christmas number one is *Merry Xmas Everybody* by Slade. Death of David Ben-Gurion (Israel's first Prime Minister, 87).

GRAFFHAM EMPIRE HALLFRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 8.00PM



DOORS AND BAR OPEN 7.30PM

Tickets £12.50 from www.empirehall.org.uk/tickets

The brand new comedy from Spitz & Co

(creators of Gloriator, Glorilla, and Les Gloriablès)

 expect the usual mayhem plus all your favourite Elvis songs





"An absolutely brilliant show!!! I laughed until I cried!!!"

(Audience member)

Visit www.spitzandco.com for more info

Determined to give Oscar-nominated Austin Butler a run for his money, award-winning Elvis impersonator Joe Reeve stars in his own version of the classic Elvis film "Blue Hawaii". His long-time tour manager Josephine Cunningham is there to keep the show on the road ... next stop Vegas!

"What an amazing show, I had a face ache from laughing so much."

Audience Reaction

EMPIRE HALL, GRAFFHAM GU28 OQB



Support St Giles while you Christmas shop

With the Christmas shopping rush almost upon us, villagers are being reminded that they can raise funds for our historic St Giles Church whenever they buy almost anything online - at no additional cost to you.

It's made possible through something called easyfundraising. Just register on its website and then you'll be asked if you would like retailers to donate to St Giles whenever you buy from them – with just one extra click.

Since St Giles signed up with easyfundraising two years ago, it has received almost £500 from retailers – at zero cost to the church or to shoppers. In total, the scheme

has benefited good causes across the UK by more than £40 million since it took off in 2005.

There are more than 7,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation - virtually every retailer or business selling online, Ocado. including Waitrose. Sainsbury, eBay, Amazon, John Lewis. M&S. Argos, booking.com, lastminute.com, MoreThan, Aviva, BT, Sky... who will give St Giles between 0.5 and 10 per cent of every pound you spend with them.

Graffham and Duncton Schools raise also funds via easyfundraising - you can choose which cause to support each time you shop.

And only use easyfundraising for your online shopping - continue to support Graffham Village Shop for your everyday needs!



How to raise funds for St Giles whenever you shop online - at zero cost to you:

- 1. Go to easyfundraising via bit.ly/stgilesfunding123 or point your phone camera at this QR code to go there directly, and register for free.
- 2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising.co.uk first and then find the shopping site you want from there and then start shopping. Or you can download a digital reminder for your computer, tablet or phone to claim your easyfundraising donation if you prefer to go to a retailer's site directly.
- 3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to St Giles at no extra cost to you whatsoever. It really is as simple as that! There are no catches or hidden charges.













Reports from the Rec

Edited by Philippa Sanders

November's sequence of storms put paid to much of the activity scheduled to take place on Graffham's Rec for the past month. There's talk of a Town vs Gown hockey rematch during the festive period and potentially a run in Christmas clobber around the village on Boxing Day – so watch out for details on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard.

Graffham Football

Sunday evening sessions have fallen foul of the weather but will continue on an occasional basis. Contact Lucas Thornley on 07767 21997.

During a recent Sunday evening session on the rec, some familiar faces defend a corner against an apparently younger team!



Graffham Tennis Club

Graffham Ladies continued their solid winter season in East Hants League's Division 2 with a 4-4 draw in dodgy weather conditions on 28 October against Steep B. Captain Sam Adams and Sarah Selman won all of their sets.



The Mixed team, facing tough challenges in the elevated heights of Division 1, fell foul of the November weather but will be relishing the visit of Haslemere A on Saturday 16 December, at 10am.



TEDDY TIME IN THE PAVILION TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am Pavilion, Graffham Rec

No charge.
All welcome.
Just come along!

Could you help our local Foodbank?

An update from Ines Garcia, Operations Coordinator Midhurst and Petworth foodbanks.

Christmas and New Year closure: Foodbanks across the Chichester district will be closing over Christmas. Our last deliveries will be on Friday 22 December. As it's a very busy time of year for all foodbanks, if you need a food parcel around this time then please ensure that you get a voucher by Wednesday 20 December so that we can get it all processed in time. We will be reopening on Tuesday 2 January.

The best place to get a voucher is via the Help Through Hardship phoneline (run jointly by Citizens Advice and Trussell Trust), on 0808 2082138.

Thanks for your donations throughout 2023: Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to the foodbank in 2023. Your support and generosity are essential for us to be able to continue our work. Demand for our emergency food parcels has remained high and winter is always especially busy for us. We always welcome any in-date, unopened and longlife items (including unopened toiletries). Donations can be left in the marked containers at Graffham Village Shop, Petworth Co-op, Midhurst Sainsbury's or Tesco. Only items that are in-date, unopened, with a full ingredients list (because of 'Natasha's Law', to protect allergy sufferers) can be accepted.

If you would prefer to donate money, please go to our website to use Enthuse (formerly Charity Checkout) or to see other ways you can donate via shopping – go to chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/

The Petworth Foodbank, which covers Graffham and its neighbouring villages, was fortunate to receive an amazing amount of harvest festival donations this year from schools and churches across the district, including Graffham.

Would you like to be a foodbank volunteer signposter? As a Trussell Trust foodbank, Chichester District Foodbank (which includes Petworth) is very much focused on helping people out of their crisis. So, as well as providing three days' worth of emergency food, we also refer them to organisations that may be able to help in other ways. Such is the need that we now have a Citizens Advice worker attached to us, to help on issues ranging from benefits, housing and debt to utility bills and more. Quick intervention is vital to avoid a client having his or her gas or electricity cut off or to ensure they are receiving the correct level of universal credit to avoid building up unmanageable levels of debt. In the midst of such

difficulty, it is hard to know where to turn particularly if you don't have a computer or smart phone to search for the right kind of support. Our telephone signposting team are able to let clients know where those sources of help can be found and refer them to our Citizens Advice worker as appropriate.

We are looking for a couple more people to join our team of signposters. The role is home-based but you'll definitely be part of our Petworth team. Training is provided. You need to be IT literate, with a good telephone manner and be able to offer a morning a week of your time (we particularly need to cover Monday morning at present but there is flexibility on the day). The hours are 9.30am to 12.30pm on your chosen morning but you do not need to sit by the phone all that time! To find out more and see if it is something you'd like to be involved with please e-mail petworth@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Need a helping hand...? Graffham with Woolavington's Parish Priest Discretionary Fund is available to help any parishioner in real financial need. Funded by donations to St Giles, it's already come to the rescue of multiple individuals and families in the village hit by the cost of living crisis. It could be the answer to your prayers. Contact Rev Vivien to find out more.



Who's doing what at St Giles in December

Here's the rota for 10.30am services 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

	Welcomers	Reader	Reading	Refreshments
3	Jan Brind	Nettie Lanaghan	Isaiah 64 v1-9	Nettie Lanaghan
10	Marie Bracey	Robert Knight	Isaiah 40 v1-11	Sue Hill
17	Eira Ashby	Sue Hill	Isaiah 61 v1-4, 8-end	None
24	Clive Rowntree	Clive Rowntree	2 Samuel 7 v1-11, 16	All Saints residents
25	Julie Clark	Gaye Foord	Isiah 9 v2-7	None
31	Ann Brown	Sue Hill	Isaiah 61 v10-62.3	Ann Brown
- 72		Flo	owers	



No flowers during Advent

Cleaning

Ann Brown and Jan Brind



RINGING and SINGING

To join Graffham's bellringers or occasional choir, contact Revd Vivien on 01798 867199 or at hello@stgilesgraffham.org

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							
	8am	Duncton	Thu	9.30am	Petworth		
Sun	9.30am	Midhurst	INU	12noon	Midhurst Convent		
	11am	Petworth	Fri	6.30pm	Petworth		
Tue	10.30am	Petworth	Sat	9.30am	Midhurst		
Wed	9.30am	Midhurst	Jui	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.

	November						
26	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist for Christ the King	St Giles Church			
20	Sun	6.30pm	Taize Prayer	All Saints Chapel			
28	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims				
			December				
2	Sat	11am-2pm	Christmas Fair (see from page 39)	Empire Hall			
		10.30am	Parish Eucharist for Advent Sunday	St Giles Church			
3			Advent Carol Service with Seaford College Choir	St Giles Church			
5	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer with Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel			
9	Sat	10am-12noon	Bellringing practice	St Giles Church			
		10.30am	Parish Eucharist Advent 2	St Giles Church			
10	Sun	4pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel			
	6pm		Communal carol singing	White Horse			
12	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer with Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel			
		9am	BCP Matins	St Giles Church			
1 <i>7</i>	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Advent 3	St Giles Church			
		5pm	Candlelit Festival of Lessons and Carols	St Giles Church			
19	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer with Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel			
20	Wed	5pm	'Cloth for the Cradle' Quiet Service	St Giles Church			
24	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Advent 4	St Giles Church			
	3011	4pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service	St Giles Church			
25	Mon	10.30am	CHRISTMAS DAY Family Eucharist	St Giles Church			
31	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Christmas 1	St Giles Church			
			January				
2	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims				
7	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist for Epiphany with families welcome	St Giles Church			
21	Sun	Зрт	Christian Unity Service	St Giles Church			

What's on in and around the village

			November	
			St Andrew's Day	
30	Thu	7 45	The Lost Trades and Tomorrow Bird concert	Leconfield Hall,
		7.45pm	See petworthsessions.co.uk	Petworth
			December	
		12noon-10pm	Midhurst Christmas street party	Midhurst
1	Fri	11am-5pm	Richard Davidson's Open Studio (till 3 Dec) (see page 31)	Brookdene House
2	Sat	11am-2pm	Graffham Christmas Fair (see from p 39)	Empire Hall
_	Sai	All day	Petworth Christmas Cracker	Petworth
3	Sun	5pm	Advent Service with Seaford College choir	St Giles
5	Tue	2pm	Arts Society West Sussex talk on Christmas Backstage at Covent Garden Opera House	Fittleworth Village Hall
6	Wed	7 _{pm}	Graffham Parish Council meeting	Empire Hall
Ĕ	Weu	9.45am	Graffham Down Trust work party (see p 24)	Meet at St Giles
9	Sat	6pm	Leconfield Singers Christmas concert	St Mary's Petworth
		брт	Communal carol singing (see page 4)	White Horse
10	10 Sun 7pm		Folk music night	Three Moles
12	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
13	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ² Christmas dinner	Empire Hall
14	Thu	12.15pm	Thursday Club Christmas lunch	Unicorn, Heyshott
15	Fri		WSCC schools & Seaford College terms end	
16	Sat	11am-4pm	Pop-up Christmas Fair (see page 54)	Westerlands
10	Jui	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
1 <i>7</i>	Sun	5pm	Festival of lessons and carols (pages 3 & 4)	St Giles
18	Mon	брт	Petworth Chorus' Carols by Candlelight (p 5)	St Mary's Petworth
24	Sun	4pm	Crib service – tinsel, crowns and tea towels welcome!	St Giles
0.5			Christmas Day	
25	Mon	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Service	St Giles
26	Tue		Boxing Day	
31	Sun		New Year's Eve party (see page 26)	Foresters Arms
31	SUN		New Year's Eve party (see page 17)	Three Moles
			January	
1	Mon		New Year's Day bank holiday	
2	Tue		ools term starts – but Midhurst Rother Colleg	e INSET day
7	Sun	9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party (see p 24)	Meet at St Giles

8	Mon		Seaford College term starts					
20	Sat	7pm	Songwriters Circle Music Night (p 20-21)	Empire Hall				
27	Sat	7pm	Burns Night celebration (see page 32)	Empire Hall				

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

²Lunch 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 via Sarah on 01798 867567.

Regula	r weekly activities	s (for notes, how to book, etc, see	below)
	8am	Functional circuit training ¹	Westerlands
Mondays	9-10am	Fitflows Fitness ²	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ³	Empire Hall
	8.30am-12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
Tuesdays	9.30am	Strength and mobility with Abi Martin	Westerlands
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ³	Empire Hall
	9-10am	Yoga⁴	Empire Hall
	10.15-11.30am	Teddy Time toddler group⁵	Pavilion
Wednesdays	11.15am-11noon	Pilates ⁶	Empire Hall
	7-8.30pm	Badminton ⁷	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ³	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ³	Empire Hall
Thursdays	9.30am	Strength and mobility with Abi Martin	Westerlands
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise ⁸	Empire Hall
	8am	Functional circuit training	Westerlands
Enidone	9-10.15am	Yoga⁴	Empire Hall
Fridays	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic ⁹	Empire Hall
	4pm	Functional circuit training	Westerlands

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

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



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¹For all Westerlands events: Book online at www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit

²Fitflows Fitness: Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

³Osteopath: Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 867523 or see www.annashawcross.co.uk

Yoga: Deborah Albon on 07790 867009.

⁵Teddy Time: No charge. All welcome. Just come along.

⁶Pilates: Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

⁷Badminton: Contact Louisa Thomas, at louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk. All welcome.

⁸Ease Into Exercise: Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.





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209 ((0.00))		Emergency	01243 785339	
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