

# GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 397

FREE

MARCH 2024



New silver screen fitted in hall

All the village's Easter treats

Inside: Your Easter Fair raffle tickets



**On the cover:** Graffham Empire Movies makes a welcome return next month after an intermission since the pandemic – following the installation of a new state-of-the-art sound and projection system in the Empire Hall, thanks to a grant from the Lottery Foundation.  
See pages 7-9.

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**Deadline for April edition:**

15 March.

**Printed by** Parish Magazine Printing,  
Holsworthy, Devon EX22 6TD.

**Graffham Parish News** is published and distributed free each month to every household in Graffham and East Lavington by the Parish of Graffham with Woolavington.



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# Writing from the Rectory: Good intentions

I'm writing this on Ash Wednesday, which is also Valentine's Day this year, and cleverly contains a hidden clue to the coming season within its name – vaLENTine! At the same time as the world celebrates love with chocolates, flowers and candlelit dinners, Christians are being signed with ash on their foreheads and commended to pursue six weeks of self-denial and reflective study, to prepare ourselves for the greater celebration of love which is the Christian feast of Easter. Valentine's Day is therefore just a hint of what is to come.

The more seriously we observe Lent, the deeper is our Easter joy. I sit here therefore with a raft of good intentions to assist my own observation of this time, in such a way as I may experience Easter joy in all possible fullness. My ambition is great, as it always is. I wait to see how well I fulfil my plans. By the time I read these words in print at the beginning of March, I will have a better idea of how I am doing.

I may be doing well. I hope so. I may have given up on some. The fact I see this as a real possibility sounds like I'm already anticipating failure. I hope I'm not, but it's useful to think ahead about what my attitude to the eventual outcome of my intentions should be. For those I continue to honour, I give thanks – while recognising it's really not to my credit that I do so, as much as God's continuing

► *Continued on next page*



**Do come and join us at St Giles Church's Holy Week and Easter services. Who knows – there may even also be some Easter eggs and real Easter lambs! See pages 40-41 for details.**



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Reverend Vivien Turner  
hello@stgilesgraffham.org

**Churchwarden:** Ginny Barrett 01798 867113



stgilesgraffham.org



@stgilesgraffham

► *Continued from previous page*

grace in enabling the opportunity. For those which have already fallen by the wayside, I soberly reflect on human frailty as being overly ambitious and proud, my own in particular, and God's grace in loving me anyway. So much so, that Christ gave his life for me, as for us all.

Perhaps I'm better served in fact by experiencing the humility of failure than the triumph of achievement. This is some consolation for those of us who try but can't quite manage to transform ourselves into a better, fitter, more faithful human being by our own efforts alone.

If you have taken up a Lenten discipline of some kind and are still going strong, may I encourage you to continue. For those who have tried, and it has not gone so well so far, may I encourage you to try again. And if that doesn't work, please receive the consolation of the previous paragraph. I shall find out when you are reading this, whether or not I am being consoled alongside you.

Wherever your Lenten journey takes you, however, whatever you learn about yourself and the God who loves you, may it have serious benefits leading to much Easter joy.

**Annual meetings** Our Annual Vestry Meeting to elect churchwardens, and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) for the election of parochial church members and to accept our parish reports, take place on Sunday 17 March at 11.30am. All are welcome to attend. Residents of Graffham civil parish are entitled to vote at the vestry meeting, and members of our parish's electoral roll at the APCM.

*With love,*



**Reverend Vivien**

## **Thank God for Mums!**

We all need a bit of mothering now  
and again – and can offer it too!



**Everyone's welcome at our  
Mothering Sunday  
service**

**St Giles Church  
Sunday 10 March  
10.30am**



# GRAFFHAM Easter Market

LOTS OF STALLS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:

**ARTS & CRAFTS FOOD GIFTS**

**SUMMERWEAR LINENS FRENCH SOAPS**

**GARDENWARE HOUSEWARES**

**PRODUCE INCLUDING CAKES AND PRESERVE**

**THE EASTER EGG HUNT**

**GRAND EASTER RAFFLE**

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

**AND MORE**

ENTRANCE ONLY £1 - CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE

LOCATION: EMPIRE HALL, GRAFFHAM, GU28 0QB

[WWW.EMPIREHALL.ORG.UK/HOME/EASTER-MARKET](http://WWW.EMPIREHALL.ORG.UK/HOME/EASTER-MARKET)

# Fab prizes to be won in Easter Market raffle

Some wonderful prizes are up for grabs in the 2024 Graffham Easter Market raffle – thanks to many generous local donors. Four books, each of five tickets (costing £1 a ticket), have been delivered with this edition of *Graffham Parish News*. Don't feel you have to buy them, but it'd be lovely if you do as this is the year's major fund-raiser to keep our wonderful Empire Hall shipshape!

If you want more raffle tickets, they are available from Graffham Village Shop – and at the Easter Market in the Empire Hall on Saturday 23 March 2024, from 10am until the raffle is drawn before it closes at 3pm.

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

- Hand in your stubs, cash payment and any unused tickets in an envelope at Graffham Village Shop before the close of business on Friday 22 March 2024.
- Hand in your stubs and payment by cash, card or contactless at Graffham Easter Market in the Empire Hall on Saturday 23 March 2024 in time for the draw shortly before 2pm.

Winners will be notified with the results posted on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard.

Good luck – and thanks again to all the kind donors of prizes!



**Your raffle tickets have been distributed with this magazine.**

## Some of the great raffle prizes up for grabs

- Pair of Goodwood Revival tickets.
- A family day out to Weald and Downland Museum.
- Tickets for two to Goodwood Races.
- A family day out to West Dean.
- Spring table decoration by Georgie Macqueen.
- Prosecco magnum from Hennings.
- Ornate bird house from Petworth's Red House.
- Beautiful floral wreath.
- Jigsaw from Austen's Home Hardware, Petworth.
- A yummy Easter egg.
- Various bottles and other goodies.

**The full list of prizes and full details will be displayed at the Easter Market**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE EASTER MARKET BY PROVIDING A PRIZE FOR THE RAFFLE?**

Contact Sally Blunt at 07854 732566

*All contributions welcome!*



## Grab some goodies at Graffham Easter Market

Spring is on its way, and Graffham's Easter Market is coming back in all its glory – on Saturday 23 March!

The Empire Hall will be full of colourful stalls brimming with lovely things to buy – French soaps, beautiful linens, lovely handmade wooden kitchen boards, fashions, freshly baked bread, Slow Grown Farm goodies, paintings and cards, local pottery...

There'll be Simnel cakes and hot cross buns on the usual Graffham produce stall of home-bakes and much much more! After all the shopping why not relax in the sunshine, chatting to your friends over a cup of tea and slice of cake?

Organiser Sally Blunt said: "The Easter Market is the main annual fund-raiser to keep our lovely, characterful Empire Hall going for now, tomorrow and for future generations and for us all to meet up and do what Graffham does best – have fun and natter! Lots of villagers have already kindly offered to help set things up, take things down and man stalls in between, but the more the merrier as many hands make light work. Are you new to the village and would like to get involved? Do get in touch, we would love to get to know you."

Please contact Sally Blunt at [sallyblunt@btinternet.com](mailto:sallyblunt@btinternet.com) or on 07854 732566.



### THE HOME PRODUCE STAND NEEDS YOU!

If you can contribute any goodies to the Easter Market, please contact Gaye Foord at [cgfoord@icloud.com](mailto:cgfoord@icloud.com)



## **'Be vigilant' say police after spate of car crime**

Graffham motorists are being warned to be extra vigilant after a spate of vehicle crime in recent weeks, with one car stolen, a window of a second smashed with valuables left inside stolen and a van broken into while parked outside The Cricketers pub in Duncton.

The spree started on the afternoon of Saturday 27 January when thieves stole a Volvo XC60 parked outside the Empire Hall, while the owner had popped inside the building.

A few days later, on Tuesday 6 February between 2.15 and 3.15pm, another car had its side window smashed while parked in the car park to the north of Graffham Rec, with the vandals stealing a handbag that had been left inside.

Later that same day, a van parked outside The Cricketers pub at Duncton was also broken into and two briefcases of paperwork snatched.

The police are reminding drivers to ensure they lock their vehicles, keep valuables out of sight if they are unable to remove them from the vehicle and store remote car keys away from doors and windows, ideally in a 'Faraday Bag'.

Separately, seven incidents of stolen vehicle number plates have been reported across the police's Chichester district, including at Midhurst and Wisborough Green.

## **£500 raised in days for security cameras at school**

A crowd surfing fund raiser to collect cash to pay for security cameras covering the approaches to Graffham Infant School hit its £500 target in a matter of days.

The project was launched by Graffham's Stuart Gerrett, father of two boys attending the school, with the school itself.

It follows an incident late last year in which two cars, owned by fellow parents, were broken into one afternoon and items stolen from the vehicles.

A few years ago, the windows of another car were smashed by robbers while the owner was attending a service at St Giles Church, across the road from the school. Earlier still, thieves syphoned off heating oil from the school's tank.

Stuart said: "The monitoring system will help increase security around this valuable part of our lovely village and hopefully act as a deterrent to future criminal activity outside the school. Thanks to all the generous donors for supporting the appeal."

# Empire Hall fitted with new audio visual system

The Empire Hall was kitted out last month with its own new state-of-the-art audio visual system, complete with a three-metre powered screen, high definition projector and high quality loudspeakers.

The equipment gives the village's 'grand old lady' capability to screen films, live sports, national events and other television programmes. It can also be used by the many clubs and societies that use the hall to host quiz nights, talks and the like.

Graffham Empire Movies is aiming to be among the first in the village to take advantage of the new equipment, using it for its first film night since before the pandemic (see next page).

The sound system comes complete with a hearing loop and a radio microphone, making it ideal for talks and announcements.

The project cost around £15,000 – funded thanks to a grant from the Lottery Foundation.

The system was installed by Sussex-based specialists MJ Visual, which has an enviable track record for fitting similar technology in cathedrals and churches, universities and offices, village halls and other public buildings throughout the South.

Before finalising the specification, an Empire Hall sub-committee visited a number of other venues in the county to assess the equipment installed there.

Empire Hall Management Committee Chairman Sally Blunt said: "This will make Graffham's wonderful Empire Hall an even more valuable asset for our community. Very many thanks to everyone involved in bringing it to fruition."

The new AV system is the latest improvement made to the Empire Hall, following the installation of ultrafast broadband complete with new wifi routers.



**Did you know...?** You can raise funds to help safeguard the future of Graffham's St Giles Church virtually whenever you shop online – at zero additional cost to you. More than 5,000 retailers participate, through easyfundraising, the UK's biggest charity fund-raising site. See [stgilesgraffham.org/shopping-online/](http://stgilesgraffham.org/shopping-online/)

# Graffham Empire Movies returns – with *Wonka*

The silver screen makes a welcome return to the village next month with the first of what is hoped to be regular ‘pop-up’ events by Graffham Empire Movies (GEM) after a four-year interval – thanks to installation of the Empire Hall’s new audio visual system (see previous page).

The first film to be shown in GEM’s new incarnation – on Friday 12 April – will be the newly released family-friendly blockbuster *Wonka*, based on Roald Dahl’s long-time favourite book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

It will be the village’s first movie night since the pandemic. Future screenings will depend on the audience response. GEM Chairman Michael Blunt said: “GEM had been in operation for many years with the twin aims of bringing the cinema to our village and raising funds for our magnificent Empire Hall – but the costs of hiring in the equipment that used to be needed meant achieving any kind of profit became increasingly challenging. The growth of movie streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime hit our attendance – and then of course Covid meant all cinemas had to go into complete hibernation.

“Many people locally have been asking when GEM might return – and the Empire Hall’s amazing new high quality equipment now makes this possible. We’ll be starting off with occasional ‘pop-up’ screenings at first, to gauge interest before committing to a regular schedule – and to see if there is anyone out there willing to help with organising things and choosing which movies to show.

“The film we’ve chosen for our re-opening, *Wonka*, should appeal to all ages – it’s real fun escapism with a terrific cast, beautifully filmed and with catchy songs.”

Created by the team behind the popular *Paddington* movies, *Wonka* is a musical fantasy starring Timothée Chalamet in the title role, with an all-star casting including Rowan Atkinson, Jim Carter, Olivia Coleman, Hugh Grant, Sally Hawkins and Matt Lucas. Released just before Christmas, one reviewer described it as “2023’s most enjoyable hit”. With a PG rating, it runs for one hour 56 minutes.

No advance booking is needed – just turn up on the night. Doors open at 6pm with the screening starting at 6.30pm. Refreshments available before the film and during the interval. Admission is just £10 for adults and £5 for under 18s. All payments by card/contactless only, please.

# *Graffham Empire Movies*

*is back – bringing the silver screen to our village*



*From the team behind the Paddington films – a perfect Easter treat*

***Friday 12 April***

***Empire Hall, Graffham***

*Doors open 6pm for 6.30pm start*

*£10 adults, £5 under 18s*

*No need to book – just come on the night!*

*Bar with delicious confections*

*Cash-free – cards or contactless only, please!*



The Songwriters' Circle sold out the Empire Hall, where two weeks later audience members joined 'Elvis' on the stage for a hilarious dance routine.

## Songwriters and Elvis fill the Empire Hall

The Empire Hall has had a busy start to the year, hosting a sell-out concert, a packed comedy performance, the traditional Graffham Burns' Night dinner dance (see next story) and the Graffham Garden Group new year lunch, besides its regular sports and social events (see pages 40-41).

Setting the ball rolling was a Songwriters' Circle concert on Saturday 20 January, showing four of Britain's most acclaimed singer songwriters – Ed Blunt, Jim Cozens, Daisy Chute and, a surprise late addition to the line-up, Hollie Rogers. Every one of the 125 seats was booked, with a lengthy waiting list, as the performers received a standing ovation.

Comedy troupe Spitz and Co made a welcome return to the Empire Hall, on 2 February, with their latest rendition *Elvis in Blue Hawaii* bringing tears of laughter to the packed audience.

Forthcoming events at the Empire Hall include its Easter Market (see pages 3-6) and the return of Graffham Empire Movies (see pages 8-9).

## Burns Night reeled by car theft and punctures

Graffham's Burns Night celebration in the Empire Hall, on Saturday 27 January, was its usual rip-roaring success – despite the theft of a car from outside the building while the event was being set up (see page 6) and two of the three cars carrying the Sussex Pistol Band suffering punctures at a “particularly evil pothole” near The Potteries, in East Lavington.

Many of those attending had brushed up their dancing skills at the dance practice sessions organised in the hall on Sundays throughout January, led by Susie Tink's

daughter Vikki Burcombe. After David Garrard addressed the haggis as usual and Philip Trower sang one of Burns' best known songs *My Love is Like a Red Red Rose* and gave a short tribute to one of the main founders of Graffham's Burns' Night tradition, Maggie Paterson, who sadly passed away shortly after last year's event, the near 60 dancers tucked into the traditional haggis, neeps and tatties at tables beautifully decorated by Karin Skanberg.

The event, masterminded by Clive and Harriet Rowntree, raised nearly £900 for the Empire Hall. Next year's Burns' Night will be a week earlier than usual – on Saturday 18 January. Mark the date in your diary now!



**Philip Trower paying tribute to the founder of Graffham's Burns' Night tradition, the late Maggie Patterson, and chief organisers Harriet (in the red top) and Clive Rowntree at the centre of a reel.**

## **MP drops in on team behind our full fibre drive**

Our MP Andrew Griffith met with members of the team who led the campaign to bring ultrafast broadband to Graffham, East Lavington and Hoyle in late January at the Foresters Arms. They were joined by local business owners and representatives



**MP Andrew Griffith (right) on his visit to Graffham with (from left) Simon Longman representing the village team that coordinated the campaign to bring ultrafast broadband to the community, with, representing local businesses, Foresters Arms landlord David Gordon-Smith and Westerlands' Antonia Jamison.**

of Openreach, which has now connected more than 300 premises locally to the full fibre network, all paid for through the government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme, with contributions from West Sussex County Council and Openreach.

Mr Griffith said: "Decent fast and reliable broadband is absolutely vital. Coming to politics after a business career, it was always going to be one of the top things I tried to deliver – supporting the local residents from Graffham who led this particular project on behalf of the community."

## Brain cancer fund raiser at Unicorn

The latest event to raise funds for Brain Tumour Research being staged by Heather Russell, of Guillods Cottages, whose daughter was diagnosed with the disease five years ago, takes places at Heyshott's Unicorn pub on the evening of Saturday 6 April, with live music from Willie Austen and Paul Stenton. Tickets, at £10 each, from the Unicorn.

## Thursday Club goes on a seashore safari

Sue and Clive Fennel are making a welcome return to Graffham's Thursday Club on – you guessed it – Thursday 14 March. After speaking to the group a year or so ago about the antics of women bargees during World War II, their topic this time around is Sussex Seashore Safari. The talk, at the Empire Hall, starts at 2.30pm and all are welcome.



## TAIZÉ PRAYER PALM SUNDAY

*song, prayer and silence*

Sunday 24 March 6.30pm,  
All Saints Chapel, Graffham (opposite the village shop)  
*All welcome to this short ecumenical service based around  
a pattern of worship from the Taizé Community*

## Letters to the editor: The column YOU write



### Thanks – on behalf of Graffham's dormice!

We are grateful for the donations totalling £70 so far towards the cost of the new dormouse boxes for installation in the reserves up on Graffham Down. The donation box is still in the shop for anyone who would still like to contribute. The money raised is enabling us to repair and replace the boxes for these endangered animals on the hill above our village, as you can see in the photo! – **The Dormice Team**, from left: Carole Kirke, Annie Dennig and Tricia Wilson.

## Fiona succeeds Sandy as council planning chair

Graffham Parish Council has a new Chairman of Planning with Sandy Macqueen stepping down from the role and as a councillor after eight years of service. He gave notice to resign ahead of the council election last May but agreed to stay on for a little longer to help the new councillors joining then to settle in. One of them



**Standing down: Sandy** will be filling the role he is now vacating – Fiona Jacob, who moved into Nonnington Lane with husband Ipe in 2019 (just in time for the pandemic!) after five years “in retirement” in France. After qualifying as a solicitor, she worked for a London law firm’s insurance litigation division before heading up the professional indemnity claims department for a large American insurance company. More recently, she trained to teach Pilates, which she now does part time.



**Taking over: Fiona**

Council Chairman Roger Coakes said: “Sandy has been an excellent Chairman of Planning and his calm, considered manner will be much missed. Our thanks to him and to Fiona Jacob who has kindly agreed to succeed him.”

## Last Graffham Down work party of early 2024

Graffham Down Trust’s final work party for the early part of the year has been slipped back by a week. It will now take place on Saturday 16 March. Everyone’s welcome to take part – just meet near St Giles Church at 9.30am for lifts up by 9.45am. Bring strong shoes and gardening gloves.

Always let Jim Kirke know in advance if you plan to attend, via [jimkirke@hotmail.com](mailto:jimkirke@hotmail.com), so that lifts can

be arranged – and so you can be advised if the work party is cancelled for any reason. The aim is to finish by 1pm – after copious coffee, tea and cake!



## Storm Isha blows out the village’s power

Much of Graffham and East Lavington was without electricity after Storm Isha blew through the village on the evening of 21 January – just after *Graffham Parish News*’ February edition went to press. While most properties were reconnected within hours, a few had to wait a full day for their power to be restored. As usual, the Three Moles – which has a standby generator for eventualities like this – was quick to offer the community phone charging facilities, warmth and light.



Some of the village's gardens opening as part of June's Graffham Festival.

## Open your garden or studio in Graffham Festival

The village's gardeners and artists are being encouraged to show off their handiwork and delights as part of June's Graffham Festival.

Is your garden a carefully tended green delight, a naturalistic haven for wildlife, a showcase of veggie growing goodness, or are its roses your pride and joy? If so, Graffham Festival would love to include it in the Open Gardens programme that will be a key element of the event's final weekend, 22-23 June.



Coordinator Holly Sabin said: "It doesn't need to be award-winning – it's just a lovely chance for us to enjoy seeing each other's gardens."

Please contact Holly at [hollysabin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hollysabin@yahoo.co.uk) if you might be interested in opening your garden for the weekend.

### Art trails have proved popular

The festival will also feature an open studio art trail over the three days of Friday, Saturday and Sunday 21-23 June.

Coordinator Richard Davidson said: "Art trails have proved to be extremely popular at previous festivals, showcasing the depth and variety of creative talent within the village while at the same time letting participants promote and market their work. We are hoping to have a record number of artists and craftspeople taking part this year and will do our best to make sure that anyone who doesn't have their own studio space can be accommodated elsewhere."

If you are interested in taking part and haven't already made contact, please get in touch with Richard on [richard.davidson@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.davidson@btinternet.com) or Sue Hill at [jonsugraffham@btinternet.com](mailto:jonsugraffham@btinternet.com). Graffham Festival overall will take place across



**Flashback to Graffham Festival 2018's open studios, from left: Sue Hill, Richard Davidson and Dominique Kenway. Pictures by © Mary Butterworth.**

ten days, from Friday 14 June to Sunday 23 June, with a packed programme of events to cater for all tastes and ages – and to involve the entire community. The tentative schedule also includes concerts, a revue, a floral celebration, barbeques, poetry readings, films and much more. It will be the first such event in the village since before the pandemic.

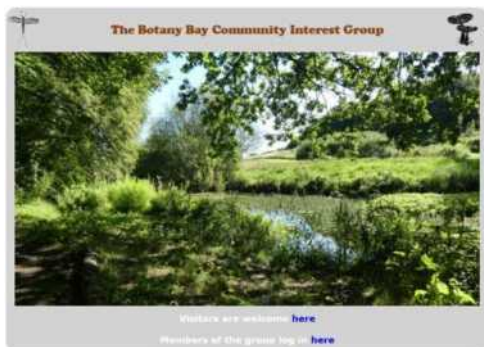
Phil Jones, who is leading the team of organisers, said: “We’ve a great tradition of this kind of thing here in Graffham – and, after missing out in the past few years, we are pulling out all the stops to make 2024’s festival our biggest and best yet. That needs everyone in the community to offer their talents, skills, enthusiasm and a little bit of time, to join in with a smile!”

## New website for Botany Bay launched

Botany Bay, the nature conservancy between the eastern end of Lavington Park and Beechwood Lane, has a new website with pages accessible by the public besides the established password-protected content for its team of volunteers. You can see it at [www.botanybayCIG.co.uk](http://www.botanybayCIG.co.uk).

The internet site has been developed by the Botany Bay team with the help of Graffham’s Jonathan Simons, who also created the Graffham Archive website.

Its gives general background information about the conservancy, detailing its various habitats, its history, some of the rare flora and fauna that call it home and its latest news. It also features a gallery of photos showing the different species recorded there and details on how to visit the reserve.



**Botany Bay's new website.**



INTRODUCING

# *The White Horse Café*

Open 7 days a week from 8am to 1pm.

Heaters and blankets provided.

Join us daily for Barista coffee, refreshments,  
and freshly baked treats.

If you wish, please order in advance via WhatsApp and  
we'll have your favourite cup ready 07843 277735.

*The White Horse*  
Graffham

**BREW TEA CO**

**MOON  
ROAST**

# White Horse Café opens while kitchen upgraded

The White Horse is taking an early spring break while work to upgrade its kitchen is underway – but its new horsebox café has now opened in its car park and will remain in operation throughout.

The restaurant, bar and bedrooms are scheduled to resume normal service on Thursday 28 March – just in time for the long Easter weekend. While they were all given a complete refurbishment last year, the planned improvements to the kitchen were postponed to enable the business to serve customers during the peak summer.

New head chef Grant Jones and his team will benefit now from an improved kitchen layout and new state-of-the-art equipment. They said: “We can't wait to welcome you back – when we will be able to share our plans for the May bank holiday weekends, summer evening events, special menus, entertainment, beautiful decorations and news of some exceptional new additions to the team...”

Until they resume service, and afterwards, the White Horse Café will be open seven days a week in the restaurant's car park, from 8am to 1pm daily offering freshly brewed coffee and other drinks prepared to order by barista Jamar, along with a selection of savoury and sweet treats, including fresh brownies, cookies and pastries.



## St Giles Church's Lent Lunch

*Please join us for soup, bread, cheese and conversation*

Empire Hall, Graffham

Wednesday 6 March 12.30-2.30pm

**Guest speaker: Nicky Garrard**

who will be talking about the event's designated charity, to which she is an adviser, *Minority Matters*, which aims to empower young people from isolated communities through engagement projects

**Everyone welcome!** If you would like to attend, please sign up on the form in Graffham Village Shop by 4 March to enable us to cater for you

**All donations to Minority Matters**

**[minoritymatters.org.uk](http://minoritymatters.org.uk)**

# Property watch

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

## For sale



**Lannowes, Church Lane, Lodsworth GU28 9DD:** Grade II link attached house. Six bedrooms, four bathrooms, hall, sitting, dining and garden rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility. External studio with kitchenette and shower room. Shed/workshop. Well stocked garden. Main house 265 sq m (2,851 sq ft). Guide price £1,375,000. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst 01730 774837. Listed 2 Feb.*

## For rent

**Selham:** Fully furnished four-bedroomed barn conversion with plenty of living/entertaining space, for a three-six month let. Three bathrooms, kitchen, reception room and reception hall. £9,000 pcm. *The Country House Company, 0239 263 2275. Listed 16 February.*





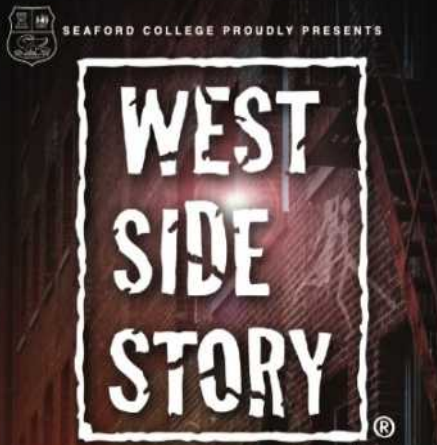
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13th, 14th, 15th & 16th  
March 2024

7.30pm  
Johnson Centre, Seaford College

Adults: £9\* • Children: £4.50\*

**BOOKINGS**  
[seaford.org/WestSideStory](https://seaford.org/WestSideStory)

# Planning matters

**Norwood Lane storage containers refused** An application for retrospective planning permission for the siting of two shipping containers in a field at the southern end of East Lavington's Norwood Lane has been turned down by South Downs National Park (SDN) and Chichester District Council (CDC). The applicants had said they needed the units to store equipment used for woodland management. The planning authorities ruled: "Insufficient information has been submitted to demonstrate a need for the containers and, as such, the development would result in the unjustified encroachment of development into the countryside which would be harmful to the character and appearance of the rural area, would fail to conserve or enhance the relative tranquillity of the rural location."

**Garage for Ripples approved** Plans to build a garage in the garden alongside Ripples in The Street, Graffham, have been approved by SDNP and CDC.

**Planning applications for Graffham and East Lavington filed with the South Downs National Park as we went to press (for details, see [bit.ly/sdnp-planning](https://bit.ly/sdnp-planning)):**

**Meadow Brook Farm, Woodcote Lane, Graffham GU28 0NZ:** Single storey rear extension. SDNP/24/00078/HOUS. *Received 9 Jan.*

**Tangletrees, The Rec, Graffham GU28 0QA:** Existing lawful development certificate for the continued use of land to the north of the established residential garden of Tangletrees as residential garden land. SDNP/24/00138/LDE. *Received 12 Jan.*

**Barnetts Farm, Fitzlea Wood Road, East Lavington GU28 0QN:** Convert byre into potting shed. SDNP/24/00185/HOUS and SDNP/24/00186/LIS. *Received 16 Jan.*

**The Paddocks, Selham Road, South Ambersham GU29 0BX:** Existing lawful development certificate for the continued use of mobile home as a residential unit. SDNP/24/00385/LDE. *Received 30 Jan.*






## RIP Anthea Hodgetts – funeral on 5 March



It was with great sadness that we learned just as this edition was going to press of the passing on Tuesday 13 February of Anthea Hodgetts, at her home at Thorney in The Street, where she lived for many years with her late husband Clifford. Her funeral will be held at St Giles Church on Tuesday 5 March at 12.30pm when she will be laid to rest alongside Clifford in the churchyard. A full tribute is planned for a future edition.



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# RIP Ron, Graffham's last surviving evacuee

Ron Probert, believed to be the last survivor of the 120 plus evacuees housed in Graffham during World War II passed away on 1 February, aged 95. His funeral will be on Thursday 7 March at 1pm at Arun Crematorium, Grevatts Lane, Yapton.

Born on 9 November 1928, he was ten when he left home in London with his mother Maude and younger brother Derek to take a train to rural Sussex on Sunday 3 September 1939 – the day war was declared between Britain and Germany. He spent what he described as “the three most memorable years of my life” in Graffham before returning to the capital to start full-time work, aged 14, joining his father who had remained there building vital military supplies.

While here, the three evacuees were billeted with gamekeeper Ernest King, his wife Hilda and their son Ronny at one of the two semi-detached Barnetts Cottages, which were recently demolished to make way for a new-build house, in Barnetts Lea Woods. The two families remained life-long closest of friends.

Ron attended Graffham School, walking the five miles there and back every day, in all weathers. He earned pocket money working at local farms.

In an interview with *Graffham Parish News* in late 2022, he remembered:

“At first we all slept in a brick shed in the garden, as an air raid shelter. When we were allowed back in the house, five of us shared a bedroom. The toilet was outside, with the *Daily Mirror* for lavatory paper. The only bath we'd have was outside too, in a trough filled with rainwater, once a week at most. All our drinking, cooking and washing water came from a spring in the woods and cooking was on a range burning wood we'd cut by hand – no electricity or mains drainage.”

After the war, Ron served in the London Fire Brigade. When he married Edna in 1954, they spent part of their honeymoon back in Graffham, at Fitzlea. He retired in the 1990s to Bersted, near Chichester, before seeing out his days at Middleton-on-Sea, returning regularly to Graffham. He is survived by daughter Sharon and two grandchildren.



**Ron as a boy scout with brother Derek in the village in World War II and pictured on a visit back to Graffham in 2022.**

# From Town Hall: Car park charges, dogs and sheep

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



A number of local residents have raised with me the recent decision by Chichester District Council to increase parking charges. Nobody wishes them to be raised, even though it is by less than inflation, but any responsible council must make sure its budget balances.

This present council inherited a budget in good order and intends to continue that track record. Inflation's increased, and, like everyone, the council costs have increased. That extra money must be found from somewhere.

Chichester District Council, like every local authority, has had little or no increase in funding from central government for years, and we do not wish to be in the same situation as many other councils, of all political colours, in going bankrupt. This modest increase in parking charges was one of several steps taken that will help to keep the council's budget healthy.

I end with a reminder to dog walkers in our countryside community that this is the time of year when sheep are lambing so you need to be extra alert as to what your

pet is doing. I have already heard of some horrible cases where farmers have lost sheep through dog attacks, but also of flocks of sheep that have been harassed by dogs, which can also be fatal to pregnant ewes.

A seemingly placid obedient dog can sometimes gallop off and cause great harm, so best to keep dogs on leads where livestock are around. A farmer is within his rights to shoot any dog that is attacking or harassing his flocks.

## **John Cross will be hosting District Councillor surgeries at:**

- **Graffham Village Shop on Saturday 23 March, 10.30-11-30pm.**
- **Bury Village Hall on Saturday 2 March, 10.30am-12.30pm.**
- **Fittleworth Village Shop on Wednesday 20 March, 10.30am-12 noon.**



# Graffham Garden Group AGM

Friday 8 March 2024, 7pm  
Empire Hall

**Including the village's  
spring flower competition**

- 1 Vase of seven daffodils
- 2 Vase of spring flowers
- 3 Saucer with three hellebore flowers in water

Bring your entries at 6.45pm

Complimentary wine and beer while  
voting for your favourite entries



**Talk by Ben Pope on 'making  
the most of what you have'**

*Ben's a head gardener at a  
West Sussex private garden,  
lecturer at West Dean, regular  
contributor to Gardens Illustrated  
and former Merrist Wood and  
RHS Wisley Best Overall Student*

**New members welcome  
– come and meet  
fellow Graffham gardeners!**

# Graffham Garden Group diary for 2024

Five outings are planned as part of Graffham Garden Group's programme of visits for this summer, taking in some of the best, most historic and newest gardens to open to the public locally. To book your place, contact Nicky West at [nicolamwest@btinternet.com](mailto:nicolamwest@btinternet.com) or on 07796 144647. The trips are open to all, not just members. Car sharing is encouraged so please always ask if you would like a lift!

**Thursday 25 April 10.30am**

**Visit to Lower House**

**Bowlhead Green, Godalming GU8 6NW**

New to the National Garden Scheme this year, Lower House has established azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias creating stunning vistas and quiet areas. Homemade teas available.



**£7. Pay on arrival.**

**Our visit is on an NGS day.**

**Saturday 11 May 10am**

**Spring plant sale**

**Empire Hall, Graffham**



A wide range of vegetable plants – including tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes and beans – and also some flowers, such as sweet peas, ammi and cosmos. No pre-orders or deliveries. First come, first served!

**Wednesday 29 May 10.30 am**

**Visit to Gilbert White's House**

**The Wakes, High Street, Selbourne GU34 3JH**

Featured recently on BBC1's *Countryfile*, the 17th century house is now a museum, with collections belonging to pioneering 18<sup>th</sup> century naturalist Gilbert White, South Pole explorer Lawrence Oates and his uncle, naturalist Frank Oates. The 18th century gardens have been restored to their former glory and include a wildflower meadow. Café and onsite brewery. The Selbourne Arms is a short walk for anyone who would like to have lunch after the tour.



**£12 including introductory talk.**

**Payment details nearer the time.**

**Monday 10 June 1pm**

**Visit to High Beeches**

**High Beeches Lane, Handcross RH17 6HQ**

27 acres of woodland and water gardens with the wildflower meadow its main feature in June. Takeaway refreshments available – or bring a picnic.

**£10 pay on arrival**  
**(free for Historic Houses members).**



**Saturday 13 July 2.30pm**

**Flower and produce show**

**Empire Hall, Graffham**



A chance to show off the results of your hard work in your garden and kitchen this summer, with classes for flowers, vegetables, fruit, baking and preserving, along with five photography classes – Graffham village life, a splash of colour, animal, reflections, and, for under 16s, any photograph. Don't be shy about your entries – it's the taking part that's important!

**Wednesday 7 August 2pm**

**Visit to Fittleworth House**

**Bedham Lane, Fittleworth RH20 1JH**

Three acres of country garden. Walled kitchen garden growing wide range of fruit, vegetables and dahlias. Mixed flower borders, roses and lawns. Glasshouse and potting shed. Teas available.

**£7. Pay on arrival. Our visit is on an NGS day.**



**Friday 13 September 12 noon**

**Visit to Parham House**

**Parham Park, Pulborough RH20 4HS**



A four acre walled garden with wide herbaceous borders, rose garden, vegetable garden and orchard, with a 1920s Wendy house and a greenhouse with pelargonium collection. Further gardens with lake and specimen trees. Tearoom. Should you wish to visit the house, note that it is not open until 2pm.

**£11.50 to visit the gardens only (RHS and Historic Houses members free). Pay on arrival.**

# Nature Notes: Team players from cradle to grave

*A regular column by Sussex naturalist and wildlife guide Michael Blencowe, who can regularly be spotted in and around Graffham.*

With winter in the rear view mirror, the English countryside starts to get noisy and active – nothing exemplifies this re-awakening energy quite like a rookery in springtime.

The first sound that a new born rook hears is other rooks. Lots of them. It's a sound that will surround it every day for the rest of its life. Rooks are one of our most sociable birds. They'll live, love, feed and fight together – team players from the rookery to the grave.

In a past life my walk to work took me past a rookery near my local railway station and I'd always pause each day to look up at the community of messy twig nests above me. There's a definite pleasure to be had from watching a rookery – the sort of pleasure you get from pulling up a deckchair in the garden and watching a neighbour hard at work. High in the trees the rooks are busy – carrying twigs back to their nests, building their nests, stealing twigs from their neighbour's nest when he's not looking, getting into a fight with the neighbour when they're caught. It's a tree-top soap opera.

It can be easy to dismiss them as unattractive, plain black birds with a croaky call that sounds like Tom Waits coughing up a hairball. But look closer and you'll see the rook's plumage contains a hidden beauty – an iridescent sheen which gives the bird a flash of exotic purple and green. Loose feathers hang low to their knees like a pair of baggy shorts, the sort favoured by teen skateboarders or middle-aged men who listen to The Foo Fighters.



**Sunshine shows off the exotic purple and green in a rook's plumage.**

Sure, that raucous 'KAAH' may not rival the nightingale's song but the communal cacophony gives constant reassurance to every individual rook that it belongs within the team. That call also helps rooks communicate the best local areas for feeding – the discovery of a worm-filled field is noisily shared to ensure that all can join in the feast. This teamwork is one way to tell them apart from their



**A parliament of rooks – that's their collective noun – in flight in a winter sunset.**  
**Picture by Carol Donaldson.**

similar looking but anti-social relative the carrion crow. Any rook on its own is a crow. If you see a group of crows they're rooks.

Outside the nesting season and away from the rookeries the birds gather each evening to roost. Rooks from all across the landscape and converge to form a super-flock of hundreds or even thousands of birds. Jackdaws, their smaller relatives, join in the party and this black cloud whirls across the sky, a crazy, cackling, cawing celebration of all things crow. As winter draws to an end this nightly ritual dissipates and rooks return to their rookeries, start collecting (and stealing) twigs and prepare themselves for the arrival of another generation of comrades in baggy shorts.

When I used to watch my local rookery, I'd often look down from the railway bridge to platform two and see the crowd of commuters awaiting the London train – a flock of people all living similar lives but without any interaction whatsoever between them. Sometimes I'm sure I'd catch one of them looking up at the wonderful chaos of the rookery above, no doubt wondering what it's like to never feel alone.

- You can find more details of Michael's upcoming events, wildlife sightings and adventures on his website:



[michaelblencowe.com](http://michaelblencowe.com)

# Graffham Chronicles: Graffham Archive

*In her regular column, village historian Pauline Goodwin this month looks at how a dedicated group of villagers have, over time, been preserving our community history.*

A popular modern-day activity is researching family ancestry. The Graffham Archive has more requests about ancestry than any other and often the Graffham Parish Council passes on requests it receives from the general public. Digging into our past seems to provide a satisfying sense of fulfilment.

From its early beginnings in 1979 the role of the Graffham Archive has gone far beyond this. Daphne Taylor, a Graffham resident from 1961 until her recent passing, was the instigator and original Keeper of the Archive. In a 1989 article, the Midhurst and Petworth Observer reported Daphne as saying: “We want it to be an on-going archive, not just looking back at the past.”

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, archives were being formed across the county with the National Archive and those of local authorities. It was a legal requirement to do so, as dictated by Local Government (Records) Acts of 1962 and 1972. The Local Government Association sets out why archives are important in its *Introduction to Archives* for councils. It declares: “Archives help to bring people together, introduces them to new ideas... instils a sense of pride in communities... improves quality of life... plays a vital role in the physical and mental wellbeing of communities.”

In Graffham, the initial drive to begin an archive had a more practical prompt. Daphne recalled: “In 1979, when we discovered someone had consigned an old shepherd’s smock to the bonfire, we felt that such stuff ought to be collected and preserved, along with family records.”

In an attempt to build up the archive and to encourage village participation, Daphne and her committee “sent out letters to every house in the village, asking to borrow old documents, held exhibitions for the West Sussex Archives Society and a did a lot of work with the school.”

At first the Graffham Archive committee was an autonomous sub-committee of the parish council but as the years rolled by it has become a totally independent body run by village enthusiasts – an organisation that exists for the village. President Abraham Lincoln’s words describe its ownership and governance most aptly: “Of the people, for the people, by the people.” According to minutes held in the archive,



**Just two of the hundreds of photos in the Graffham Archive. Left: Two of the original leading lights behind the Graffham Archive, Daphne Taylor (standing) and Barbara Mullins, at an Archive display in June 2000. Right: Michael Harmer of Perrot Wood showing off a Graffham Archive display of pottery shards found in the village at an Empire Hall exhibition in February 1992.**

its committee comprised a small number of members for the first 20 years who often served for a decade or so. Long serving members included Averil Beavor, Kate Bertram, Richard Challen, Angela Connor, Michael Harmer, Diana Kingsmill, Stuart Le Fevre and Rosemary Robson. Initially, the archive was stored in the Kennedy Room at the Empire Hall, which used to be the village library.

Everything was done on a shoestring budget. Apart from silver collections at the various exhibitions, a notable influx of funds came in the form of donations in 1990 of £220 from the parish council and £210 from the Guillod Trust. But by February 1996, the Archive had less than £30 to its name, with funding needed to renovate the items it already held and to provide storage for the slide collection donated by Bill Moore. It was agreed to hold raffles at school open days, with the two queens of all Graffham raffles, Flo Loader and Nellie Simmons, enlisted to sell tickets.

Local archival work escalated dramatically from the humble shepherd's smock to ancient records of local estates. From the very beginning, the Graffham Archive Committee worked in tandem with the West Sussex Record Office.

Daphne and her committees ran the Archive for almost 17 years after which Terry Daly and Diana White took control for 13 years until 2019. During Terry and Diana's tenure, the archive was moved in 2006 to the village school.

One offshoot of their work was the book *Graffham: Memories, Articles, Photos* produced by Diana with Mary Butterworth in 2015, and still available via Amazon.

► *Continued on next page*

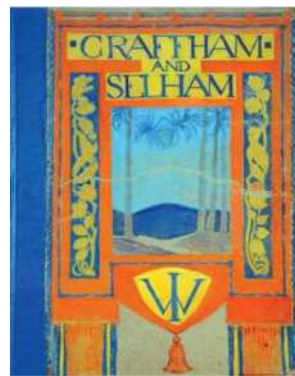
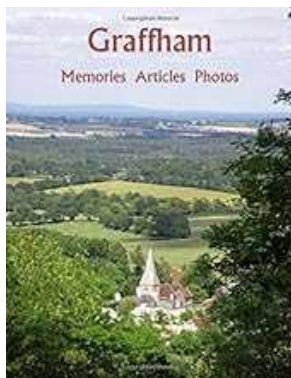
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This is an outstanding and comprehensive work unlikely to ever be equalled.

Robin Brind was enlisted as Archivist in July 2019. “Enlisted” is the key word as it seems that Robin was the most surprised of all to take over the mantle of Keeper of the Archive. On his regular dog walks, he would occasionally meet Terry Daly. Robin recalls: “We rarely spoke much except to remark

about the weather or comment on our dogs’ behaviour and health.” One day, Terry stopped Robin and said he had heard that he might be interested in taking over the Archive. Robin reminded Terry that he was new to the village and knew nothing about the village’s history. However, Robin agreed to visit the archive. He met Terry and Diana there on 26 July 2019, and after half an hour they gave Robin the keys and left! Robin says: “Hey presto, I was the Archivist! Actually, I love it, just wish I had more time to deal with it.”

Robin continues to liaise with the West Sussex Records Office, providing them with items such as every monthly edition of *Graffham Parish News*. As Keeper of the



**The 2015 book *Graffham: Memories, Articles, Photos* drew heavily on items preserved in the Graffham Archive – including its sort of predecessor, the post-war *WI Graffham and Selham Scrapbook*.**



**Current Keeper of the Archive Robin Brind**

Archive, Robin does a vast amount of research for articles in this magazine. Whereas memories are precious, historians like to see hard facts back up statements. Robin has overseen an innovative development within the archive during his tenure which is the digitalisation of archival content. This is an on-going process and Robin takes responsibility for most of the digitalisation – although he still values hard copies of documents which ensure the information contained within them will remain accessible for centuries to come.

The quantity of material in the archive has increased

and the project has grown in scale since those early days. Accessibility of the archive has always been an issue. Back in 2001, Maurice Bradley suggested that archival collections of slides of slides should be put together for local families to borrow. Twenty years later, in 2021, Ginny Barrett approached Jonathan Simons to ask if it was technically possible to put the Graffham Archive online. Jonathan had already become interested in the archive after seeing an exhibition in the early 2000s at the Empire Hall. The website was up and running by Christmas of that year with 657 items online. Visit it at [graffhamarchive.co.uk](http://graffhamarchive.co.uk)

The Archive is already a remarkable resource and it is good to see it moving forward, achieving those Local Government goals by building a sense of community.



The Graffham Archive's website – [graffhamarchive.co.uk](http://graffhamarchive.co.uk) – means you can search through much of its content from the comfort of your own home.

## RINGING and SINGING

To join Graffham's bellringers or occasional choir, contact  
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# Bill's bygones: Farewell Adam, herbs, weekenders

*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 – March 2014:** Possible options to solve the accident blackspot at the turning to Graffham on the Duncton Straight are discussed at Graffham Parish Council. After seven years, Adam Mordue calls it a day as landlord of the White Horse, which closes for refurbishment. *A Hard Day at the Orifice* is the Parish Breakfast topic at the Foresters, with the speaker Ginny Kingsmill. The new leisure and community centre at the Grange opens. Russia annexes Crimea. The first same-sex weddings take place in England and Wales. Deaths of Labour politician Tony Benn (88), actor James Ellis (*Z Cars*), scriptwriter Bob Larbey (*The Good Life*, 79) and Clarissa Dickson Wright (*Two Fat Ladies*, 66).

**25 years ago – March 1999:** Plans for a lychgate at St Giles' are approved. PC Rob Knight attends a Graffham Parish Council meeting to discuss the problem of parents driving up to the school too quickly. Sci-fi blockbuster *The Matrix* is released. UK number 1 single is Cher's *Strong Enough*. Deaths of John G Steele, teacher at Graffham school from 1952-1963 and founder of the Men's Forum (86), singer Dusty Springfield (59), violinist Yehudi Menuhin (82), film director Stanley Kubrick (70) and comedians Ernie Wise (73) and Rod Hull (and therefore also Emu) (63).

**50 years ago – March 1974:** The better turnout of Graffham (76%) than Heyshott (71%) voters at the recent election is attributed to the latter's higher number of "weekenders". Two recent accidents at the bottom of Church Hill are blamed on drivers doing more than 30 mph. The Petworth Society is founded. Three-day week restrictions are lifted. An attempt to kidnap Princess Anne is foiled in London. British Airways is created through the merger of BOAC and BEA. Imperial Japanese Army 2nd Lieutenant Hiroo Onoda surrenders in the Philippines after being persuaded by his former commanding officer that World War II had ended 29 years previously. The Terracotta Army is discovered in Xi'an, China. Wolves beat Manchester City 2-1 to win the League Cup. Red Rum wins his second Grand National. Deaths of villagers Miss Florence Hysom (81), of the Homes of Rest, and Miss Joyce Townend (71), of Stuart's Meadow.

# Graffham Tennis Club



**The club's annual 'key exchange'** takes place at the Rec on Sunday 24 March between 2 and 4pm. If you are new to the village, or to tennis, there will be plenty of people to welcome you. There will also be informal drop-in coaching by Richard Hopp.

**Match reports** The winter league reaches a climax by the end of this month. The Ladies A team, in Division 2, look to have secured their place in the division easily, despite some testing matches in recent weeks. A closely fought fixture against Haslemere C saw captain Sam Adams get straight off a flight from Australia and win two crucial sets with partner Caroline Perry! The mixed team have a fight on their hands to retain their place in Division 1 after last winter's promotion and the 'six-pointer' against Headley on 24 February will have been crucial.

## Recent results

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
<b>27 Jan</b>	Drew 4-4	Ladies Doubles	Div 2	vs Swanmore B
<b>1 Feb</b>	Lost 3-5	Ladies Doubles	Div 2	vs Newman Collard A
<b>3 Feb</b>	Lost 0-8	Mixed Doubles	Div 1	vs Swanmore
<b>10 Feb</b>	Lost 3-5	Ladies Doubles	Div 2	vs Haslemere C

## Upcoming fixtures

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants League home fixtures: March					
Do come and spend a winter afternoon supporting your teams!					
<b>2</b>	Sat	2pm	Mixed Doubles	Div 1	vs Medstead A
<b>9</b>	Sat	10am	Mixed Doubles	Div 1	vs Steep A
<b>23</b>	Sat	2pm	Ladies Doubles	Div 2	vs Swanmore B

# Graffham Ladies Cricket

The annual away fixture at West Wittering is coming up on 28 April and pre-season training will begin on Thursday 4 April at 6pm on the tennis courts until the pitch is dry. Everyone is welcome, even if you are a beginner and don't feel ready for a full match. Coach Brett Creed will be looking to hone players' skills in search of a long overdue victory against these regular opponents.

# Graffham Pickleball Club

*Pickleball continues on Sunday evenings and the sessions have attracted growing numbers. Organiser Beanie Bradley provides this colourful update:*

Graffham's new pickleball club is growing in numbers, ability, and most importantly, FUN. For those not in the know, pickleball is a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, played on a badminton-sized court with a slightly modified tennis net. Players use paddles to hit a plastic ball between them. It can be played as both singles and doubles.

We continue to play every Sunday at 6pm in the Empire Hall. The informal atmosphere allows for plenty of pickle-related puns! We look forward to seeing any serious tennis players and on 3 March will be adding in the challenge of a glow-in-the-dark 80s disco music session.

Awards for this month go to:

- **Star Player** Isabella Gorbea. At only seven-years-old, she can hold her own against the adults, offering great return shots that she has learnt from paddle tennis. We love her passion, commitment and personality.
- **Most Valuable Player** Her father Sebastian! The Foresters' head chef brings spice to the court too.
- **Kings and Queens of the Court** Cindy Bradley, Holly Sparkes, Beanie Bradley and Arya Jeeva.
- **Most Improved Player** Angelina Timofiichuk brings smiles and great commitment to the game.
- **Honourable mentions** go also to Pete Carr for playing through a hangover and Andy Jones (of the Andy/ Sandra duo) for his dramatic dives.



**Little Miss Pickle:  
Player of the  
month Isabella  
Gorbea.**

## Graffham's traditional great Easter egg toss

Graffham's traditional Easter egg toss is planned to take place as usual during the long weekend on the Rec. Watch on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard for confirmation of the day and time. The aim is to see who can catch a hen's egg thrown from the furthest distance away without it breaking.

# Graffham Parish News' fizzing February quiz

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

1 Which daughter of Claude Mullins became a controversial psychiatrist, wrote several medical books, had six children and died in Graffham on 24 March 2007, just short of her 81st birthday?

2 Which county rôle, currently performed by Andy Bliss QPM, is appointed annually in March?

3 Name the seven main rivers that run through the South Downs National Park.



4 International Women's Day is celebrated annually on which date?



5 How many properties are listed in the National Trust's handbook: [a] 524, [b] 624, [c] 724?

6 Released in March 1964 and sung by Millie Small, which ska hit sold more than 7 million copies and helped launch Island Records?

7 Golden Miller is the only horse to win which race five times, the third occasion being in March 1934 (the same month he won the Grand National)?



8 Which Manchester United and England goalkeeper will be 31 on 7 March?

9 Which Dad's Army actor died this month in 1984, aged 88?

10 In which Gilbert & Sullivan operetta does the Duke of Plaza-Toro appear?



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and surrounding areas.

# Who's doing what at St Giles in March

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](mailto:diane.bellis@gmail.com) and the Rev Vivien at [reverendvivien@gmail.com](mailto:reverendvivien@gmail.com)

Welcomers		Reader	Reading	Refreshments
3		Celia Lilly	Exodus 20 v1-17	Ann Brown
10	Rich Sabin	Holly Sabin	Exodus 2.1-10	
17	Marie Bracey	Jan Brind	John 12 v20-33	Fiona Mackie
24	Cindy Bradley	Beanie Bradley	Philippians 2 v5-11	
31	Ann Brown	Bill Barrett	Acts 10 v34-43	No refreshments
		Flowers		
		None for Lent		
		Cleaning		
		Diane Bellis and Barbara Edge		

## Other denominations locally

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

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

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

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

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

**Quiz answers (from previous page)**  
**1** Ann Dally. **2** High Sheriff of West Sussex. **3** Adur, Arun, Cuckmere, Itchen, Meon, Ouse, Rother. **4** 8 March. **5** 624. **6** My Boy Lollipop. **7** The Cheltenham Gold Cup. **8** Mary Earps. **9** Arnold Ridley (Private Godfrey). **10** The Gondoliers.

# What's on at our village church and chapel

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

March				
2	Sat	9.30am	'Come and Sing' singing practice	St Giles Church
3	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
5	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel
		12.30pm	Funeral of Anthea Hodgetts	St Giles Church
6	Wed	12.30-2pm	Lent lunch (see page 17)	Empire Hall
9	Sat	10am-12noon	Bell ringing practice	St Giles Church
10	Sun	10.30am	Mothering Sunday service	St Giles Church
		6pm	BCP Evensong	All Saints Chapel
12	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel
		7.30pm	Bellringers AGM	To be confirmed
13	Wed	7pm	PCC meeting	The Rectory
17	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Third Sunday Service	St Giles Church
		11.30am	Annual Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (see page 2)	St Giles Church
19	Tues	10am	Pilgrims Lent group	All Saints Chapel
24	Sun	10.30am	Palm Sunday Eucharist	St Giles Church
		6.30pm	Taize Prayer Service	All Saints Chapel
28	Thu	7pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot washing followed by Watch of Prayer	St Giles Church
29	Fri	2pm	Good Friday Service	St Giles Church
31	Sun	6am	Dawn Service with Easter fire on Easter Day	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Easter Family Eucharist with Easter eggs	

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 it through a donation – preferably a regular one via our Parish Giving Scheme. You can also raise donations for St Giles virtually every time you shop online – at no extra cost to you. For full details, see [www.bit.ly/stggive1](http://www.bit.ly/stggive1)

# Easter in Graffham and Woolavington



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



**Holy Week in Graffham** Everyone is welcome to join in any of these Holy Week and Easter opportunities to explore or deepen your faith, and I commend this to you.

**Sunday, 24 March 10.30am Palm Sunday Eucharist, St Giles Church**  
Blessing of palms and dramatised reading of the Passion Story.

**Thursday, 28 March Maundy Thursday Eucharist 7pm, followed by Watch of Prayer, St Giles Church**  
Recalling the events in the Upper Room, with our Lord's washing of the disciples' feet in humility and the institution of the Lord's Supper, followed by a Watch of Prayer.

**Good Friday, 29 March St Giles Church 2-3pm** A reflective journey to keep vigil with readings and hymns until our Lord gives up his spirit on the Cross.



**Sunday, 31 March 6am Dawn service with Easter fire, St Giles – followed by breakfast** This service is sometimes held in the evening before Easter



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

**Sunday, 31 March, 10.30am Easter Day Family Eucharist, St Giles** A celebration of Easter hope, with our church decorated with flowers. Who knows – there may even be Easter eggs to share and Easter lambs to cuddle...



# What's on in and around the village

## March

2	Sat	9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
		9.30am	Come and sing!	St Giles
5	Tue	10.45am	Arts Society Midhurst – Banksy: <i>Fraud or Genius?</i>	Midhurst Meth'd't Hill
		12.30pm	Funeral of Anthea Hodgetts RIP	St Giles
		2pm	Arts Society of West Sussex talk <i>Golden Road to Samarkand: Art of Uzbekistan</i>	Fittleworth Village Hall
6	Wed	12.30-2.30pm	Lent lunch (see page 17)	Empire Hall
		7pm	Graffham Parish Council meeting	Empire Hall
8	Fri	6.45 for 7pm	Graffham Garden Group AGM (see page 23)	Empire Hall
10	Sun	10.30am	Mothering Sunday service	St Giles Church
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
12	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
13	Wed	7.30pm	Seaford College presents <i>West Side Story</i> (p 18)	Seaford College
14	Thu	2.30pm	Thursday Club talk – Sussex Seashore Safari (see page 12)	Empire Hall
16	Sat	9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party (page 13)	Meet at St Giles
17	Sun	10am-1pm	Wildlife Walk with Michael Blencowe – see <a href="http://michaelblencowe.com/events/">michaelblencowe.com/events/</a>	Graffham
		11.30am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	St Giles Church
18	Mon	6.15pm	East Lavington Parish Council meeting	Seaford Coll
20	Wed	10.30-12noon	District councillor John Cross hosts surgery	Fittleworth Shop
22	Fri		Seaford College term ends	
23	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		10am-3pm	Graffham Easter Market (see pages 3-5)	Empire Hall
		10.30-11.30am	District councillor John Cross hosts surgery	Graffham Vill Shop
24	Sun	2-4pm	Graffham Tennis Club key exchange (see p 34)	Rec
25	Mon		Graffham Camping and Caravanning Club site opens for the season	
27	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
28	Thu	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>		
			WSCC schools term ends	
			White Horse scheduled to reopen (pages 16-17)	White Horse
29	Fri	<i>Good Friday</i>		
30	Sat	10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
31	Sun	<i>Easter Sunday</i> – for all Holy Week and Easter services in Graffham, see page 39		

## April

1	Mon	<i>Easter Monday</i>		
2	Tue		Junior Easter tennis course (till 5 April)	Rec
		9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
4	Thu	6pm	Graffham Ladies cricket coaching resumes	Rec

6	Sat	evening	Fund raiser with live music for Brain Tumour Trust (see page 12)	Unicorn, Heyshott
12	Fri	6.30 for 7pm	Graffham Empire Movies presents <i>Wonka</i> (p 8-9)	Empire Hall
15	Mon		WSSC school and Seaford College term starts	

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

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

Regular weekly activities (for notes, how to book, etc, see below)			
Mondays	8am	Functional circuit training <sup>1</sup>	Westerlands
	9-10am	Fitflows Fitness <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
Tuesdays	8.30am-12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
	9.30am	Strength and mobility with Abi Martin	Westerlands
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
Wednesdays	9-10am	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.15-11.30am	Teddy Time toddler group <sup>5</sup>	Pavilion
	11.15am-12noon	Pilates <sup>6</sup>	Empire Hall
	1.45-2.45pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching <sup>7</sup>	Rec
	7-8.30pm	Badminton <sup>8</sup>	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
Thursdays	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
	9.30am	Strength and mobility with Abi Martin	Westerlands
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise <sup>9</sup>	Empire Hall
	6-7.15pm	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
Fridays	8am	Functional circuit training <sup>1</sup>	Westerlands
	9-10.15am	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic <sup>10</sup>	Empire Hall
	3-4pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching <sup>7</sup>	Rec
	4pm	Functional circuit training <sup>1</sup>	Westerlands
Sundays	5pm	Pickleball	Empire Hall

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

**<sup>1</sup>For all Westerlands events:** Book online at [www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit](http://www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit)

**<sup>2</sup>Fitflows Fitness:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

**<sup>3</sup>Osteopath:** Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 867523 or see [www.annashawcross.co.uk](http://www.annashawcross.co.uk)

**<sup>4</sup>Yoga:** Deborah Albon on 07790 867009.

**<sup>5</sup>Teddy Time:** No charge. All welcome. Just come along.

**<sup>6</sup>Pilates:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

**<sup>7</sup>Rusty Racquets:** Contact Richard Hopp at [richard@hoppecoaching.co.uk](mailto:richard@hoppecoaching.co.uk), on 07904 069457.

**<sup>8</sup>Badminton:** Contact Louisa Thomas, at [louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk). All welcome.

**<sup>9</sup>Ease Into Exercise:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

**<sup>10</sup>Physiotherapy:** Contact Serena Cooper on 07884 445983 or at [serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com](mailto:serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com).

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# Directory: Useful local contact info

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	Midhurst Riverbank Medical Centre	01730 812121
	Haslemere Minor Injuries Unit	01483 782334
<b>DEFIBRILLATOR</b>	On wall outside Empire Hall	Code is <b>C240Z</b>
<b>FLOOD ALERT for Lods Bridge</b>	To check river level	bit.ly/lodsbridge
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	Non-emergency	101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 101
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<b>Badminton</b>	Louisa Thomas	louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Bees / Swarms</b>		
	Wisboro' Green B'keepers	Tom Moore 07984 606214/01798 343470
	Local beekeeper	Murray West evenings 01798 867048
<b>Chichester District Council</b>		01243 534734
	District Councillor	John Cross jcross@chichester.gov.uk 07592 307027
	Dog Warden	Office hours 01243 534734 Emergency 01243 785339
<b>Citizens Advice Bureau</b>		03448 487969
<b>East Lavington Parish Council</b>	Chairman Charles Britton Clerk Amy Harte	charles.britton@eastlavington-pc.uk 07889 979820 eastlavingtonpc@gmail.com
<b>Empire Hall</b>		empirehall.org.uk empirehall@gmail.com
	Chairman and Bookings	Sally Blunt bookings.empirehall@gmail.com
	Treasurer	Carole Sargent 01798 344790
	Maintenance	Gillian Charlesworth empirehall@gmail.com
<b>Empire Lunch Club</b>	Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
<b>Foodbank</b>	info@chichester.foodbank.org.uk	01243 773687
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<b>Graffham Archive</b>	Robin Brind	graffhamarchive@outlook.com 01798 867619
<b>Graffham Bellringers</b>	Tower Captain	Howard Pescott 01798 867029
<b>Graffham Bowls Club</b>	Chairman	Sheila Allen 01798 342869
	Secretary	Liz Pegram 01798 867770
<b>Graffham Cricket Club</b>		Bill Barrett 01798 867113
<b>Graffham Down Trust</b>	Chairman	Jim Kirke 01798 867026
<b>Graffham Garden Group</b>		Carole Kirke 01798 867026
<b>Graff'm Health Support Assc</b>	Chairman	Sarah Lydiard-Wilson 01798 867567
	Membership	Tracy Rowe 07881 698993
	Transport	07391 802541
	Prescription collection	Ann Rowney ann.rowney@icloud.com
	Loan of equipment	Karin Skanberg 07920 091014

<b>Graffham Nursery</b>	School Office	01798 867324
<b>Graffham Parish Council</b>	Chairman Roger Coakes Clerk Caroline Davison	roger.coakes@graffham-pc.uk clerk@graffham-pc.uk
<b>Graffham Parish News</b>	Editorial and circulation: Advertising:	editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com ads.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com See also bottom of inside front cover
<b>Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council</b>	Priest-in-Charge Rev Vivien Turner	stgilesgraftam.org 01798 867199 hallo@stgilesgraftam.org
	Churchwarden Ginny Barrett Treasurer Yvonne Churchward	01798 867113 07808 781510 graftampcctreasurer@gmail.com
<b>Graffham Rec Committee</b>	Chairman John Bracey Treasurer Bernard Bayly Bookings Sec Sonya Gillespie	01798 867760 01798 867042 graftamrecpavilion@gmail.com
<b>Graffham Tennis Club</b>	Chairman Simon Longman Membership Richard Gyles Coaching Emma Amin	01798 867317 01798 867484 01798 867063
<b>Graffham Village Shop</b>	Jeeva and Vasu	01798 867700 graftamvillageshop.co.uk
<b>Graffham Vill'ge Shop Assoc</b>	Chairman Steve Dover Treasurer Andy Paterson Secretary Neil McLean	07770 499223 andyp1692@gmail.com neil.mclean@brookorchard.com 07971 142252
<b>Katherine Maud Guilloid Fund</b>	c/o Graffham PC Clerk	graftampc@gmx.co.uk
<b>Lavington Estate</b>	info@lavingtonstud.co.uk	01798 867275
<b>Lavington Park Federation</b>		graftamanddunton.w-sussex.sch.uk
Graffham CE Infant School		01798 867324
Dunton CE Junior School		01798 342402
Friends of Graffham & Dunton Schools		01798 867324
<b>Long Bostle Downland Soc</b>	Gillian Brandt	01798 867276
<b>MP Arundel &amp; South Downs</b>	Andrew Griffith	andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk
<b>Midhurst &amp; Petworth Observer</b>	Nikki Jeffery	01243 534163
<b>National Trust (Lavington Common)</b>		01730 816638
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	Michael Crickmay	01798 867486
<b>Osteopath</b>	Anna Shawcross	01798 867523
<b>Oil Buying Syndicate</b>	Derek Bradnum	derekbradnum@gmail.com
<b>Petworth Food Bank</b>		07501 921617
<b>Pilates at Empire Hall</b>	Nicky Capes	07990 517858
<b>Seaford College</b>		01798 867392
<b>Three Moles</b>	Ollie and Tom	thethreemoles.com 01798 861303
<b>Thursday Club</b>	Secretary Diane Bellis	01798 867444
<b>West Sussex County Council</b>	General enquiries	01243 777100
County Councillor	Tom Richardson	07463 785039
<b>White Horse</b>	whitehorsegraftam.com	01798 867331
<b>Yoga at Empire Hall</b>	Deborah Albon	07790 867009



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