

# GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 403

FREE

SEPTEMBER 2024



Moth makes West Sussex debut here  
All set for Bank Holiday Monday fête  
Work starts on playground upgrade



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### Deadline for October edition

10 September.

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# Writing from the Rectory: Roof support

Carrying out repair work on a Grade II listed church building like St Giles is full of complexity. Even if a faculty (the church equivalent of planning permission) is not required, approval for the work must be sought from the archdeacon, the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee must be followed and an approved church architect needs to be engaged to oversee the work (alongside our own vigilant Fabric Group members of course).

The church must also be able to fund the work required. Much had to be set in place, therefore, before Tarrant Steeplejacks arrived for work on St Giles Church's huge roof in late autumn of 2023 and completed their project there in early June this year. This included clearing moss, replacing tiles, investigating and repairing a tricky leak, and renovating lead work.

It's all finished now, at a cost of approximately £25,000 (assuming the recovery of VAT) – no small sum for a small parish like ours. Thankfully though, assiduous grant application by the chair of our Fabric Group, to whom thanks are warmly extended, has led to the cost to us being halved, with grants obtained from the Benefact Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, and Sussex Historic Churches Trust. It's still a goodly sum for us to fund, but thankfully less than it would have been.

Grant-making bodies like these are of inestimable help to churches like ours, making us glad to thank them publicly and sincerely for their generosity. To express our appreciation of one of them, the Sussex Historic Churches Trust, we are participating in its annual Ride and Stride sponsored event on Saturday 14 September – with any sponsorship raised divided equally between the trust and the

► *Continued on next page*



Steeplejacks from Tarrants clear moss from the top of St Giles Church as part of a project to make its roof watertight and in good repair.

► *Continued from previous page*

participant's home church. So we hope to put a little back into their coffers, as well as our own, thereby enabling the trust to support another historic church with a leaky roof or other maintenance problem.

Having walked to Chichester twice in the past two years and various other destinations in the preceding four, this year, in the spirit of Ride and Stride, we plan to visit as many churches as possible between Graffham and Amberley, with a much-appreciated lift home after visiting Amberley's celebrated tea rooms for refreshment. See page 7 for more details. As in previous years, Phillip and I are aiming to walk again. If you would like to join us or sponsor us (please sign form in church), you will be much welcomed. You can walk it all, or just as much as you like, just let me know. You are sure to enjoy it and can bring your dog too, to this event and the annual Animal Blessing Service the following day 15 September 10.30am at St Giles Church. All well behaved creatures welcome!

With a hopefully water-tight roof and still a little left in our coffers, we turn our attention now to the next area of the church needing attention, thanking everyone who supports St Giles both financially and practically, enabling it to remain fit for purpose as a much-loved ancient building in our community.

See the poster on page 9 for details of what promises to be a supersonic fund-raiser at the Empire Hall on 4 October.

God bless you all!



Reverend Vivien

	<b>Priest in charge:</b> Reverend Vivien Turner hello@stgilesgraffham.org 01798 867199
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A fence has been erected around the playground site while work is carried out there.

## Work underway on Rec's new playground

Work had begun as this edition of *Graffham Parish News* went to press on upgrading the playground at Graffham's recreation ground, as Glen and Asta Manchester contributed members of the workforce renovating their new home at Selham House to get the playground project off the ground. They swung into action on Monday 12 August, dismantling and clearing the old playground equipment and surrounding fence before embarking on the groundworks needed for the new space. They were then due to erect a new fence, and lay woodchip on the ground.

The Manchesters' 'donation in kind' significantly bolsters Graffham Parish Council's £20,000 pledge from its Community Investment Levy (CIL) fund towards the initial project target total of £50,000. Topping that up have been generous financial gifts from individuals – plus £1,000 from Graffham Festival.

Rachel Gerrett, of the project team, said: "It's been very exciting to see work finally getting underway after so many people have worked so hard for so long on the project. Huge thanks to Mr and Mrs Manchester and everyone who has helped." She pointed out, however, that equipping the playground with all the planned installations and equipment depended on additional donations being found as the fund was still shy of its target.

The new play space is being designed to cater for children of all ages and is sustainably sourced using natural materials. Elsted-based Playsafe has been selected as the provider and will maintain the equipment, too.

You can still contribute towards the new playground via its page by scanning this QR code (right) with your Smartphone camera, or type [gofund.me/546c06a7](https://gofund.me/546c06a7) in your web browser. As a charity, the project is eligible for Gift Aid, which adds 25 per cent to everything you donate – so please add this if you are a UK taxpayer. Any funds collected beyond the initial target will go towards more equipment for the playground and its on-going maintenance.



# Moth spotted here for first time in West Sussex

A moth never before seen in West Sussex was spotted as part of the Graffham Down Trust (GDT) annual picnic on Sunday 21 July – a Ringed Border, described by local naturalist and wildlife guide Michael Blencowe as “a mega-rarity”.

The find was featured on the BBC News website and an interview for Michael on BBC Radio Sussex’s morning show. He said: “I recognised the Ringed Border when I turned it over as a very rare moth – but I didn’t know how rare at first.”

Found in forests across mainland Europe, where its caterpillars feed on poplar trees, the moth has come to the UK recently via the Channel Islands. It had been recorded a handful of times in East Sussex and a few other southern counties, but never before in West Sussex. Sussex Wildlife Trust’s Bob Foreman described the find to the BBC as “a significant spot”.

Michael said its arrival here was indicative of climate change, with warmer conditions experienced in Southern England suiting its lifestyle.

With Butterfly Conservation officer Fiona Scully and South Downs National Park ranger Angela Ward, Michael had set up two moth light traps in GDT’s Bowley’s Field reserve ahead of the picnic, with “the warm, overcast conditions overnight perfect for attracting moths to the traps”.

When he rose to check them the following morning at the first light of day, at 4.45am, he was “completely overwhelmed by the number of moths that had been



Graffham Down Trust picnicers gather around the moth trap as Michael Blencowe prepares to show them the flying wonders attracted into its lairs overnight – including many rare species and one never before spotted in West Sussex, the Ringed Border.

attracted to the mercury vapour bulbs – there were hundreds of them!” Angela and Fiona joined him as they carefully collected the moths in pots, noting down each species’ name in preparation for the picnic, when dozens of GDT members, volunteers and friends were due to join them.

Michael said: “This whole process took a few hours and by the end we listed more than a hundred moth species – a really good haul.”

Among them were some of the most impressive moths found around here – the Privet Hawk-moth, which is Britain’s biggest moth, the pink Elephant Hawk-moth, the shining Burnished Brass, the stick-mimic Buff-tip and the Leopard Moth.

There were also Ruby Tigers, Rosy Footmen, Festoons, Purple Thorns, July Highflyers, Coronets, Snouts and Spectacles. He was excited to record some nationally rare species such as Olive Crescent, Scallop Shell, Plain Golden-Y, *Anania verbascalis* and the beautiful *Palpita vitrealis*.

He was even more amazed at what was waiting under the last eggbox in the trap

– the “mega-rarity” Ringed Border. He noted: “Graffham Down is one of the best places in Sussex for moths and many rarities have been found here. It’s fantastic that it is home to so many rare species and the diversity of moths in the moth traps were a reflection on the wide variety of habitats that can be found on this very special reserve.”



Above: The Ringed Border found on Graffham Down.

© Michael Blencowe.

Below: Michael shows off moths caught in his trap overnight ahead of the trust’s annual picnic.

© Matthew Sennitt.



# Do something amazing



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# Stride to help fund our and other historic churches

This year's Graffham parish sponsored walk – from the village along the Downs to Amberley on Saturday 14 September – will support Ride and Stride, the national fund-raising initiative for the Historic Churches Trust, which generously donated £5,000 towards St Giles' recently completed roof repairs. Under Ride and Stride, half the funds collected go to the church that raised them, and half to Historic Churches Trust.

Graffham walkers will set off from St Giles at around 8 am. Lifts back to Graffham will be arranged for those

completing the journey. If you would like to join the villagers tramping the near 11 mile trek, contact the Rev Vivien via [hello@stgilesgraffham.org](mailto:hello@stgilesgraffham.org). If you would like to sponsor the walkers, there are forms for signing in St Giles.

More than a dozen villagers took part in the past two Graffham walks – from St Giles to Chichester Cathedral. The previous walk took the form of a 'beating the bounds' tracing the boundary of Graffham with Woolavington parish.



## Pupils celebrate bumper A level results

Pupils at both Seaford College and Midhurst Rother College have been celebrating bumper A level results. The East Lavington private school achieved its highest ever A\*-A, A\*-B and A\*-C grades, trumping its pre-pandemic results of 2019. BTEC, CTEC and EPQ results were equally as impressive. Among the brightest achievers highlighted by the school was Graffham's Rose Hancock who gained A, B, C and EPQ A\* and is now heading to Newcastle University to read Marine Biology. Headmaster John Green, said: "I'm immensely proud of the results all our students have achieved. These impressive results are down to their hard work and determination to achieve their personal best, underpinned by the dedication of my amazing staff."

Just shy of 40 per cent of Midhurst Rother College candidates achieved grades A\*-A with 63 per cent gaining grades A\*-B. Of those studying for BTECs, 63 per cent also achieved Distinction\*-Distinction, equivalent to the top A levels. Principal Stuart Edwards said: "I am incredibly proud of our students' performances this year. They have shown real dedication to their studies and have achieved outstanding overall results."

## Bring-and-share lunch to mark harvest time

Graffham's annual Harvest Lunch will be held on Sunday 6 October from 12.30pm at the Empire Hall – a wonderful way for villagers to enjoy each other's company in a traditional way. All are welcome and there's no need to book. Like last year it will be a bring-and-share meal so take along whatever is your favourite dish – savoury or sweet – to share with your fellow villagers, but please note that the ovens



at the Empire Hall won't be available. Take along also any drinks you'd like – again, sharing is encouraged. Organiser Marie Bracey said: "It's amazing how it all works out with more than enough delicious delights to keep everyone happy! We would like especially to welcome as many families as possible." There will be children's activities to keep the young ones amused and happy. Those attending

will be invited to make a donation – with a small amount given to the Empire Hall to cover its hire costs but the bulk given to Petworth Foodbank.

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

## Village fête ready for Bank Holiday Monday

All's set for Graffham's summer fête, which takes place on the Rec on Bank Holiday Monday (26 August) from 2pm with all the usual fun and games for all the family, including our four-legged friends. As ever, the tea and cakes in the Pavilion, beer and Pimms tent, BBQ and ice cream stand are likely to be among the key attractions, with the egg toss, tug of war and coconut shy stoking big competition. If you are out to bag a bargain, there'll be a trove of pre-loved treasures, a car boot sale and Graffham's fashion exchange, relocated after two weeks at St Giles. Dog show classes range from the most handsome to waggiest tail. All proceeds go to maintaining the Rec. For full details, see centre pages – and it's not too late to offer to help! Contact David Sparkes 07958 655288.



# CONCORDE set to 'land' in Graffham

Fasten your seatbelts as 'Captain Concorde' Mike Bannister touches down at the Empire Hall to share his unrivalled insight into the world's only supersonic airliner. Mike knows Concorde better than anyone – from being appointed its youngest first officer as it started flying in 1977 to commanding its final flight as British Airways' Concorde Chief Pilot 26 years later. Since then, he's become the best-selling author of the definitive Concorde book – and an in-demand and entertaining speaker.



At this one-off fund-raising event, he'll give his unique perspective on a flying icon that enabled Royalty, celebs, moguls and everyman to sip Champagne while travelling faster than a bullet, at almost 25 miles a minute. He'll share videos and photos from his personal library, swap anecdotes with *Graffham Parish News* editor and former British Airways Chief Press Officer Michael Blunt and take questions from the audience. Prepare for take off!

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*All profits towards the maintenance of Graffham's St Giles Church building and churchyard*



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Architects' plans showing how High View looks from the north today (left) and its replacement, with the current elevation in pink for comparison

## Planners approve High View replacement

South Downs National Park and Chichester District Council planners have approved a proposal to demolish High View, two doors to the north of Graffham Village Shop, and replace it with an eco-friendly house.

Holly and Rich Sabin originally applied for permission in June last year and had to wait until 30 July this year for the final thumbs-up – with a hefty 19-point list of conditions, ranging from the need for the new building's 'green' roof, tiles and window finishings to be reviewed by the planning officials to requirements for the owners to install boxes for bats, hedgehogs and birds, a compost bin and secure spaces for parking bicycles, which they had committed to provide in any event.

Another condition is that a “construction and environmental management plan”, detailing how the demolition and redevelopment will be carried out, including parking vehicles, will need to be approved by the authorities before any work starts, in the interests of road safety and “protecting nearby residents from nuisance”.

The planners' go ahead came six weeks after they approved the demolition and replacement of Glebeland, directly across the road from High View.

**Pottery proposal permitted** South Downs National Park and Chichester District Council planners have also approved a proposal to convert a byre at Barnetts Farm, Fitzlea Wood Road, East Lavington, into a pottery studio.



*Come and hear how the past year has been for 'the grand old lady of the village and its plans for the year ahead – and have your say!*

### EMPIRE HALL AGM

Wednesday 18 September 6pm

Committee Room

All welcome

# Steps to bring nature back to Lavington pay off

*The Lavington Estate team provide a progress report on their journey towards returning nature to the land.*

While we've not enjoyed the best of summer weather, it's been good for the 130 plus parkland trees and 500 metres of new hedgerow (with help from Graffham Infant School) planted at Lavington Estate earlier this year as part of our on-going environmental stewardship scheme with Natural England designed to restore wildlife and landscape here.

The good news is that it already seems to be working. We have seen much higher numbers of birds, with several species successfully breeding young, notably Barn Owls, Kestrels and Little Owls – we have even had Peregrine Falcon visiting!

While we of course welcome visitors to Lavington, please always keep to rights of way and follow any signage – for your own safety – while work is being undertaken on the estate.

Approved Forestry Commission winter work in the woodlands and deer management has taken a breather, but will resume again in autumn, especially

by managing ash dieback next to rights of way and reducing fallow deer numbers to enable natural regeneration of trees. Deer management is critical to achieving a healthy environment and a healthy deer population. We are especially pleased to be working with Ben Marks and the.deer.project – check out their Instagram feeds!



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We've taken a good crop of hay and haylage in late summer. The soil has responded well to our organic approach with an exponential increase in earthworm population and hay yields. This in turn has seen very large numbers of Woodcock feeding through the night on the pastures.

We will shortly be taking the steps to restore more than 40 acres of wildflower meadows by resowing native wild flower seeds selected by Plantlife. Sheep will return shortly to graze the meadows low, then the fields will be harrowed hard, sown – from a drone! – and rolled, so the seeds make contact with the earth. With winter temperatures encouraging them to 'chit' they should be ready to germinate in the spring.

This whole process can take a while and unfortunately we have had to delay this work because of the past 18 months' wet weather. However, time, patience, science, a little bit of art and lots of passion will, we hope, see wildflower meadows rich with species returning to Lavington once again.



These stunning pictures are from a magical video capturing Lavington Estate's flourishing fauna and flora, filmed and edited by local wildlife and landscape photographer Anthony Hurren – watch it at [bit.ly/lavington-video-2024](https://bit.ly/lavington-video-2024)





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# Could you be a Graffham parish councillor?

Graffham Parish Council is looking for three new members to fill vacant positions and is warmly inviting applications from residents to join the existing six councillors by co-option.

Chairman Roger Coakes says: “Graffham is a thriving community with many organisations, clubs and activities, but the parish council has a central role in a number of key areas including planning, highways and byways, leisure facilities and the natural environment. The role of councillor is rewarding and not unduly time consuming - council meetings take place once every two months in an evening with occasional meetings to discuss matters such as planning issues and finance.”

Any applicant must be at least 18 years old and have British, eligible Commonwealth or EU citizenship. They must also be registered on the parish’s electoral roll or have lived or worked within the parish for the previous 12 months or lived within three miles of the parish for the previous 12 months.

To apply, contact parish clerk Caroline Davison at [clerk@graffham-pc.uk](mailto:clerk@graffham-pc.uk)

## Merger of civil parishes to be discussed

The potential for a merger of the civil parishes of Graffham and East Lavington is to be on the agenda at meetings of both parish councils this month. Graffham Parish Council is in session on Wednesday 4 September from 7pm in the Empire Hall to develop its own position on a potential combination with its neighbour. East Lavington follows on Monday 16 September from 6.15pm at Seaford College to review a business case for an amalgamation being compiled by Councillor Simon Longman before it decides whether or not to consult residents on such a move.

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## Property watch

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



**Ambersham Farmhouse, Ambersham GU28 0BX:** Grade II listed farmhouse with Sussex barn, courtyard of outbuildings and stables. Nine bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, garden room and office. Land of 4.7 acres including garden and pasture. Guide price £2.3 million. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst 01730 774837. Listed 25 July.*

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There's been a stunning display of heather on the village's commons this season. Thanks to Ginny Barrett © (left) and Hannah Grace © for these pictures posted on Facebook.

## Crimestoppers



**Digger's disappeared** A digger belonging to Pete Bradley was stolen from a field between Graffham War Memorial and Norwood Lane during or around the weekend of 3-4 August. Any information about the Takeuchi 2.5 tonner's disappearance or whereabouts should be reported to Sussex Police or Pete himself.

**Sussex Police's log of incidents locally in recent weeks. If you have any information which might help, please report it.**

**Ambersham Common:** A car's window was smashed, on 27 July.

**Barlavington, Petworth:** A holiday home was broken into on 27 July – nothing was stolen but it was left in a messy state.

**Upperton, Petworth Park:** Front and rear vehicle registration number plates were stolen from a vehicle on 27 July.

**Goodwood Racecourse:** A car was stolen from the car park during the horse racing festival, on 30 July.

**Elsted:** Number plates were stolen from a vehicle while it was parked by the village church on 30 July.

# Forge Cottage's Ken Biggs, 1932-2024

*Ken Biggs, who spent the final 11 of his 92 years living at The Forge, on Graffham's Street, passed away on 26 July. His funeral was held at St Giles on 19 August.*



Ken Biggs was born in Hove on 3 May 1932. An only child, his father was a manager with Midland Bank, opening branches in Burgess Hill and Hassocks, where the family settled. After Brighton College, where he represented the school at rugby and squash, Ken entered the timber trade – and wood would become his career for life. For his national service, he enrolled in the Royal Engineers, on the correct assumption that he'd learn a whole set of new skills. He spent the second of those two years in Berlin supporting the historic air lift.

After his return to civvy street, he joined a London company of timber importers, where Mavis was working as a statistician. After they'd both been there for around five years, he invited her for a spin in the Fairthorpe Electron sports car he'd just built – having drawn on those skills learned with the Royal Engineers. He proposed six months later and they married in her home town of Chingford, Essex, shortly afterwards. They were soon joined by sons Roger and Timothy.

They spent the first few years of married life in Surrey, at Reigate and Brockham. Then Ken was invited back to his original employer as Managing Director so the family moved to Ditchling, in East Sussex. Not long afterwards, Ken was appointed to the Board of his company's parent group – and the family upped sticks again, to Peasmore in Berkshire, which would be their home for 35 years.

When that business merged to create Meyer International, he became the larger group's Managing Director for Forest Products, which involved extensive travels to visit suppliers and potential partners in Scandinavia, Russia, Africa, Australia and North America, often accompanied by Mavis.

Their initial frequent home moves provided Ken with plenty of building and improvement projects to get his teeth into – which he enjoyed almost as much as his tinkering with cars... and sailing. For many years, he kept a Catapult catamaran in the South of France – until it was stolen. He then shared boats with friends, flitting mainly along England's South West Coast. To reduce travelling time to port, he and Mavis spent happy holidays in their hideaway on Exmoor.

He retired as soon as he could, at 60, to enable him to spend more time with his family and pursue his hobbies. Younger son Timothy had married a girl from Canada and they settled in Calgary, bringing up a daughter and son. Ken and Mavis

visited them there around 40 times in the past 20 years. Ken and Mavis downsized here to The Forge 11 years ago to be nearer their older son Roger. He and his family live at West Dean and he works at Barlavington. His daughter and son have recently graduated from Seaford College.

Ken's increasing loss of hearing discouraged him from making the most of Graffham's vibrant social whirl, but he and Mavis continued to enjoy smaller gatherings with new friends in the village and older ones from further afield. They celebrated their diamond anniversary quietly at home during the Covid lockdowns.

Apart from a minor stroke eight years ago, Ken remained fit and healthy until a weekend in late June, when he suddenly fell sick. Mavis drove him to A&E at Chichester's St Richard's Hospital where he was immediately admitted for keyhole surgery on his bowel. He recovered well – but then caught pneumonia which, after several weeks, overcame him.

Roger and his family cancelled their holiday – a special trip to Vietnam before their children left for university – to be with Ken and Mavis during his final weeks. Timothy flew over from Canada and his daughter Kaitlyn was able to see her grandfather for a final time while she visited Europe with her fiancé, whom her English relatives had not met before.

Mavis said: "The treatment Ken received at St Richard's was exemplary. All the staff there looked after him, and us, so very well and so caringly. I really cannot speak highly enough of them."

The many messages received since his passing paid tribute to a husband, father and friend remembered as generous and thoughtful, full of humour and kindness, a gentleman and, as one of his longest-standing colleagues put it, "a good egg".



Ken with the Fairthorpe Electron sports car he built and in which he took Mavis for a spin on their first date – and enjoying another of his passions, sailing on the high seas.



# From Town Hall: Helping the homeless

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



I've been camping a few times, but I can't say I enjoyed the experience – perhaps it was the company, rather than the hard bed or lukewarm shower. It was my choice to sleep outside under canvas and eat badly burnt food while enjoying plenty of fresh air and the sheer novelty of these few weeks. Sadly, in our modern society there are still many people that don't choose to sleep outside, but rather their lives have come to a crisis and they find themselves homeless.

It is often assumed those that are homeless chose to be, that they are alcoholics or substance abusers and all the other cliches that are associated with being on the streets. You don't have to investigate very much to find out that it is not always the case. Certainly some homeless people have been alcoholics or drug users, but behind each person who is sleeping rough, there is a story that is not easy to hear.

**John Cross will be holding councillor surgeries throughout his ward in the month ahead, for local residents to raise any issue they want with him – no bookings needed, just turn up:**

- **7 Sep Saturday 11am Bury Village Hall**
- **13 Sep Friday 10am Fittleworth Village Shop**
- **4 Oct Friday 10am Graffham Village Shop**
- **5 Oct Saturday 11am Bury Village Hall**

If you think sleeping rough is confined to big cities, then, again, it's not quite that simple. There are of course many homeless found in our cities, but there are many others who are homeless yet have jobs and seemingly are fine. Even in a rural area like ours, there are a few who sleep in their cars or a van parked up for a few days. They disappear for weeks and then return for a couple of days, going from layby to layby so as not to be seen. They live on the edge of society, without fixed abodes. Chichester District Council Chair Claire Apel has named Stonepillow as one of the charities that she supports. Stonepillow helps to get people off the streets and get them back on their feet, it even raises funds to get them into further education to help them get a trade or profession that will sustain their development and help them break a cycle of despair.

On 21 September I too am supporting Stonepillow by taking part in its annual fund-raising Big Sleep Out – sleeping out for a night, by Chichester Cathedral. If you would like to help or donate, go to [stonepillow.org.uk](http://stonepillow.org.uk)

# Garden Group's final outing for the summer

Graffham Garden Group's final outing for the summer is to Parham House, between Pulborough and Storrington, on Friday 13 September. Its four-acre walled garden features wide herbaceous borders, rose and vegetable gardens and orchard, with a 1920s Wendy house and a greenhouse with a pelargonium collection.

The group visit starts there at 12 noon and there's a chance afterwards to visit the house itself – one of the country's most noted Elizabethan properties – from 2pm.



A visit to the estate's tearoom is the perfect way to round things off.

The cost of entry to the gardens is £11.50 (pay on arrival) – but free to RHS and Historic Houses members.

To book your place – all welcome, not just garden group members – contact Nicky West at [nicolamwest@btinternet.com](mailto:nicolamwest@btinternet.com) or on 07796 144647. Car sharing is encouraged so please ask if you would like a lift!



## CHARITY BRIDGE TEA

*in aid of St Giles Church, Graffham*

**Thursday, 17 October 2024, 2-5pm**      The Empire Hall, Graffham

Donation of £60 per table

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## Wedding bells: Amy and Ali, 27 July

Amy Bannerman and Alasdair Brown don't live in Sussex, but they are regular visitors to the South Downs and, when they first came across Graffham, felt that it was the perfect place to exchange their wedding vows – which they duly did, at St Giles Church, on Saturday 27 July.

Amy, a doctor, said: “It's so beautiful here – and almost equidistant for both our families to travel to.”

It was just more than a year since Ali, as everyone calls him, popped the question, on a romantic break in Morocco, and since then the bride and groom have become more than familiar with the route between their Kingston-upon-Thames home and our neighbourhood, often joined here by their families.

With the final reading of their banns taking place during the last weekend of Graffham Festival 2024, they were able to join in many of those events and celebrations.

For their wedding, conducted by the Rev Vivien, and reception at Haylands Barn, they were joined by 140 relatives and friends.

Amy was accompanied by her sister Sarah Hassan as maid of honour. Ali, a loss adjuster, chose his brother Cameron as his best man, with five friends from his time at Caterham School as groomsmen.

Rather than flowers, the church was bedecked with bunting, gifted to them by one of their friends.

Amy entered St Giles to an instrumental version of Dire Straits' Romeo and Juliet. She left with her new husband to a peal from the church bells.



# Letters to the editor: The column YOU write

Something in *Graffham Parish News* or in the village particularly caught your eye? Drop us a line to [editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com)

**Wallace Square residents' use of West Gate:** Regarding the article in the August edition of *Graffham Parish News* about the use of the West Gate by Wallace Square, we, as residents there, have raised the issue of access with Seaford College multiple times over the past decade. Repeatedly, our request to be able to use the Graffham gate has been rejected, citing “the known restriction to residents at the time of (our) purchase” of these houses.

This “restriction” was written into covenants by Seaford College which were signed in good faith, only later becoming aware of a condition included by Chichester District Council (CDC) when granting planning permission for the Wallace Square development “not to restrict access to the land but to allow access via either the entrance marked A [Duncton] or B [Graffham]”.

Seaford College’s interpretation of this seems to be that access is to be provided via one entrance only. They have chosen A. It would, however, allow them the discretion to choose Graffham as the only access point if they so desired at any point – which appears to us to be entirely at odds with the debate and outcome of CDC’s consultation with Graffham Parish Council in 2009 when the planning application for Wallace Square was originally being considered. Planning communications in 2009 and recently indicate to us that CDC’s intent was that Wallace Square residents should be able to “access both gates”.

In our view, the licence to use West Gate that the school has offered us now does not comply with the original planning condition’s apparent intent of unrestricted access via both gates. Consequently, the matter is not closed for us. – **Chris McGolpin and Catherine Taylor, 1 Wallace Square, and John and Valerie Newens, 9 Wallace Square.**



## TEDDY TIME in the Pavilion TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am  
Pavilion, Graffham Rec

No charge. All welcome. Just come along!

# Graffham Parish News' septenary September quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers at the top of page 51 (no cheating!)

- 1 Graffham had seven villagers, six smallholders and a church in 1086, according to what?
- 2 In 1417 John Veerde became the seventh what of Graffham?
- 3 Which village landmark was built and opened in 1907?
- 4 Which series of chalk cliffs, part of the South Downs, extends from Cuckmere Haven, near Seaford, to Beachy Head in East Sussex?
- 5 Portrayed by Peter O'Toole in a 1962 film, who wrote the autobiographical *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, set in the Middle East during the First World War?
- 6 Counting Blackfriars road bridge as the first and heading east, which is the seventh bridge, opened in 1894, across the Thames?
- 7 Which James Bond 007 actor played for Scottish League Two side Bonnyrigg Rose?
- 8 Which cyclist is the only Briton to win seven Olympic gold medals?
- 9 Who had a hit with *7 Seconds* in 1994?
- 10 *Seventh Son of a Seventh Son* was the seventh studio album by which ferrous damsel-named English heavy metal band, released in 1988?





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# Nature Notes: Give thanks for earthworms!

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

We can spend all day planting and pruning, weeding and seeding, grunting and groaning in our gardens but it's time to face the facts, folks. Us gardeners aren't the ones who are doing the hard work. The real toil is in the soil – the engine room of the garden. Because down there, beneath our wellies, earthworms are wriggling, recycling and reincarnating our gardens.

They're so easily taken for granted. An earthworm isn't much to look at. A tube made of muscles with a mouth at one end and a bum at the other, but he and she (they're hermaphrodites) is responsible for making your garden grow.

These burrowing beauties really mix up the mud. Some drag dead leaves deep underground while their wormcasts return essential minerals back to the surface. This improves soil structure and their tiny tunnels help with drainage and allow aeration. Cleopatra declared them to be sacred and Aristotle called earthworms 'the

## Work parties 2024-25

Join us for some outdoor fun and exercise after which you can feel virtuous for having done something positive for your environment! Did we mention that coffee, tea and cakes are provided?

Meet at **Graffham's St Giles Church at 9.30am**. You'll need a pair of gloves, strong shoes or boots and warm clothing. Please email [jimkirke@hotmail.com](mailto:jimkirke@hotmail.com) if you plan to come along and say if you would like a ride up so that he can arrange transport.



15 September	Sunday	5 January	Sunday
20 October	Sunday	1 February	Saturday
23 November	Saturday	15 March	Saturday
15 December	Sunday	April	TBA

intestines of the soil'. Indeed, at some point every bit of your garden would have passed through a worm's belly. They munch their way through dead organic matter and make it available to even smaller decomposers – fungi and bacteria – who break it down even further. The nutrients released are reabsorbed by our plants.



What once was dead is returned to the living. It's one of those 'circle of life' things. There are about 3,000 different earthworm species worldwide with around 27 native species in Britain. There are lobs under your lawn, and brandlings in your compost bin. Some species live in leaf litter, others dig deep in the soil. There could be up to 2 million worms working underground in an area the size of a football pitch

Earthworms are part of a wildlife workforce that lives in your garden and provides an essential service for free. Birds, bees, beetles, fungi, hoverflies, woodlice and many others volunteer for us as pollinators, pest controllers, decomposers and recyclers. All we need to do is give them a home, leave them to it and they'll get on with the dirty work.

But it's the earthworm who's seen as the kingpin of the whole operation. "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world as these lowly organised creatures". Charles Darwin said that – and I ain't going to argue with him.

We just can't live without them. So, it's about time we start paying earthworms some respect and attention. Because when we're all dead and buried they'll be paying a whole lot of attention to us.

- You can find details of Michael's upcoming events, wildlife sightings and adventures or book him for a wildlife survey of your garden or land at:



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

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|---|------------------------------------|----------------------|
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| 2 | Prettiest Bitch (3-8 yrs)          | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 | Best Child Handler                 | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 | Best Puppy (Up to 2 yrs)           | <input type="text"/> |
| 5 | Best Owner Look-a-Like             | <input type="text"/> |
| 6 | Best Veteran Dog or Bitch (8yrs+)  | <input type="text"/> |
| 7 | The Waggiest Tail                  | <input type="text"/> |
| 8 | Best in Show (Winners Classes 1-7) | <input type="text"/> |



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**Any time you can spare, even just on the day, would be great.**

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graffhamrecepavilion@gmail.com



# Diary of a New Farm: Getting out and about

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

We've been taking Slow Grown Farm out and about and reaching new people to try our cheese and charcuterie – and we'll also be at Graffham Fête on August Bank Holiday Monday so look forward to seeing everyone there!

We attended our first Farmers' Market at Petersfield, which was a great success – despite there being three other cheesemakers there. We were also invited to host a pop-up stall at Tuppenny Barn Organic in Emsworth, a charity delivering regular social and therapeutic horticulture workshops to children and vulnerable individuals. They sell their organic home-grown fruit, vegetables, plants and flowers along with local bread, eggs and other goodies, in their beautiful round



**Brett and Katie with baby Otis make their debut at Petersfield market.**

straw-bale building with produce piled high on tables. Our stand was very popular and we're going to make it a regular feature, so we'll be there on the second Thursday of every month. As part of the Arun and Chichester Good Food Fortnight, we're hosting two special events at the farm. On Saturday 28 September at 3pm, people can experience a Foodie Farm Tour and be the first members of the public to be shown around our production facilities, including inside our cheese ageing room!

First, we'll start at the beginning and visit our pigs and cows in the woods and fields at Hoyle Farm, and to finish a detailed, guided tasting of all our current cheese and charcuterie. Aimed at families, the second event on Sunday 29 September at 11.30am will offer the rare chance to help feed our Saddleback pigs in the woods! Visitors will also accompany us in moving the cows and their calves to fresh grass. Under 12s go free for this tour. Afterwards, 1-2pm, it's back to HQ for our grass-fed beef burgers off the barbeque, and our pop-up shop will also be open re-stocked with our beef! No tickets needed for the shop or BBQ, but we can't guarantee there'll be burgers left so you may want to pre-order on our website. For this and tickets to the tours visit [www.slowgrownfarm.co.uk](http://www.slowgrownfarm.co.uk).



# Bill's bygones: Casino, Carol, Canon

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

**10 years ago – September 2014:** At Stansted Park, Graffham Cricket Club bowl the home side out for 34 thanks to a devastating spell of fast bowling by Joe Pink (five wickets for three runs) and win by seven wickets. The following week they defeat Midhurst by nine wickets at Cowdray. Graffham bowlers reach the final of the Petersfield Cup but are narrowly defeated by the hosts. *A Night at 007's Casino Royale* is held at Boswell's Cottage. Graffham Empire Movies screen *12 Years A Slave*. Alex Salmond resigns as SNP leader and First Minister after Scotland rejects independence 55%-45% in the referendum. Deaths of actors Donald Sinden (aged 90) and DUP politician Ian Paisley (88).

**25 years ago – September 1999:** Graffham and Heyshott girl guides spend 10 days beneath the North Face of the Eiger, having travelled there by coach, on a trip organised by Carol Tickner. A stoolball event hosted by Graffham raises more than £1,000 for the MacMillan Cancer Unit at the King Edward VII Hospital. Graffham Rustics re-elect Philip Trower as chairman and Mike Kemp as treasurer at its annual meeting, while Secretary Marilyn Mountford appeals for children aged 8 or over to play angels or animals in the forthcoming production of *Follow the Star*. Budgens removes genetically modified food from its shelves because of customer concern. The Midland Bank adopts the name of its owner, HSBC. Lou Bega's *Mambo No 5* and Vengaboys' *We're Going to Ibiza!* are UK number one singles. Deaths of Tory MP and diarist Alan Clarke (71) and singer Frankie Vaughan (71).

**50 years ago – September 1974:** A farewell party is held for Canon Edward Bradbrooke, who retires after eight years as Rector of Graffham with Woolavington. His farewell present is a colour television set (costing £195 back then) and cheque for £100 (worth about £1,400 at 2024 values). Paul Rixon takes over from Harold Roberts as licensee of the White Horse. Constant complaints lead to the abandoning of an experimental one-way traffic scheme in Midhurst. Prime Minister Harold Wilson announces the second general election of the year, to be held on 10 October. Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie is overthrown. Evel Knievel fails to cross the Snake River Canyon in a steam-powered rocket. Brian Clough is sacked as Leeds United manager after 44 days. BBC's Ceefax teletext service is launched. Death of Jack Lee (85), of Graffham's All Saints Cottages, who spent his entire working life on the Lavington estate, was a founder member of Graffham Rustics, rang St Giles' bells for 40 years and was a keen bowler.



A



B



C



D



E

## Bygones special: Celeb cricketers vs Graffham

Regular *Graffham Parish News* readers are likely to remember Pauline Goodwin's article on theatre impresario and Graffham resident Carey Ellison in our April 2024 edition. One of the many charity sports events he arranged in the village is marked by a small poster in the pavilion, a 12-a-side cricket match between a Graffham XI and a Stage XI held 55 years ago this month, on Sunday 14 September 1969.

The line-up of Graffham players contains many familiar village names – three Challens (Doug, Dick and Arthur), two Tupperts (Neville and Doug), two Howicks (Ken and Neil), Gordon Wakeford, Jeremy Kynoch (son of Jack, one of St Giles' churchwardens at the time), George Moss (who chaired the organising committee), Peter Baigent and John Durrell.

By contrast, most of the Stage XI players' names will mean nothing to anybody born in the last 40 years – but in 1969 they were instantly recognisable to TV and film watchers. Possibly the best remembered of them was John Noakes, *Blue Peter*'s longest-serving presenter, with 12 years on the show. With the exception of Timothy Combe, who was Cary Ellison's son-in-law and a director who worked on series such as *Doctor Who* and *Z-Cars*, the other team members were actors. Ian Hendry was the only one known as a leading man, having starred in the first series of *The Avengers*. He often played villains, for example in the cult gangster movie *Get Carter*, and was the subject of *This Is Your Life* in 1978. At the time of the match, he was married to actress Janet Munro, who officially opened the newly refurbished pavilion before the match started.

The Stage XI's captain was Edward de Souza, whose appearances ranged from *Doctor Who* in 1965 to the 1977 James Bond film *The Spy Who Loved Me*, from *The Sweeney* to *Coronation Street* (as recently as 2009). Julian Holloway, son of Stanley, appeared in eight *Carry On* films between 1967 and 1976 and was briefly married to jobbing English actress Zena Walker, who drew the winning raffle tickets on the day. Philip Stone was perhaps best known for his rôles as Pa in *A*



F



G



H



I



J

**Spot the celeb:** The actors who played in the match at Graffham included Edward de Souza, Harold Goodwin, Ian Hendry, Julian Holloway, Sam Kydd, John Noakes, Bryan Pringle, John Ronane, John Slater and Philip Stone – but who of them is who in the pictures on these pages? See page 37 for the answers.

*Clockwork Orange*, the sinister ghostly waiter Delbert Grady in *The Shining* and Captain Blumburt in *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. John Slater played DS Stone in *Z-Cars* from 1967 to 1974, and Sam Kydd apparently made more films (290+) than any other British actor, but also turned up in *Coronation Street* towards the end of his career. Bryan Pringle made his name in a 1965 Norman Wisdom film (*The Early Bird*) and later featured in *The Professionals*, *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*, *Inspector Morse* and *Prime Suspect*, as well as a well-known 1980s Heineken TV ad. Harold Goodwin made hundreds of appearances in British TV and films in bit parts, such as the airman tasked with giving Guy Gibson (Richard Todd) the bad news about his dog in *The Dam Busters* (1955). John Ronane was in both *The Six Wives of Henry VIII* and *Elizabeth R* and was a regular in *Strangers*, a popular television series which ran from 1978-1982.

The *Midhurst and Petworth Observer* published a brief report of the game. Graffham batted first and were soon in trouble at 20-5. However, they were rescued by Ken Howick, who scored 82, an innings which allowed the hosts to declare at 164-6 at tea. In the Stage XI reply, Ian Hendry top scored with 58 with support from Sam Kydd and Philip Stone, but they were bowled out for 147 to lose by 18 runs. Julian Holloway, who had been dismissed for a duck, apparently “kept up an amusing commentary” during the closing stages of the match. The proceeds of the match went towards the costs of the rejuvenated pavilion.

Not surprisingly few of the players are still with us, but there are some survivors, namely John Durrell, Jeremy Kynoch and (probably) Neil Howick of the Graffham team, and Edward de Souza (just turned 92), Timothy Combe (nearly 88) and Julian Holloway (80) of the thespians.

# Graffham Chronicles: Up the Marsh

*In her column this month, local historian Pauline Goodwin focusses on an area of the village on its western fringes.*

In a village such as Graffham, whose geography has been dictated by a trail of Downland springs, it is not surprising that watery places are, or have been, a dominant feature of the landscape. One such feature is the Graffham Marsh, which was identifiable on the 1597 'Three Manors' map, although it covered a much greater area in those days. Marshland is very much a feature of this part of West Sussex as Kipling said: "I'm just in love with all these three, The Weald and the Marsh and the Down countree."

The land known as the Marsh runs from the T-junction next to Willows Lee and up to Woodcote – but nowadays this area of Graffham would seem to be more accurately described as rush meadow. It is thought that straightening and intervention to the course and banks of local rivers, including the Rother have impacted on the water table. Graffham pond was beside Willows Lee but was filled in decades ago because of lack of water to keep it filled – and fly tipping.



**Graffham's Rush Meadow pictured in 2023 by Jonathan Goodwin**

of the hole (or the dragon) now, nor is it shown on the 1597 map but it was marked on an 1890 map, suggesting it was hand dug.

In addition to the farms bordering this stretch of road, it is now home to The White Horse, recently refocussed as a restaurant but previously a pub for a couple of centuries. Buildings on this site have transitioned through several identities. In 1718, the property then called Readen comprised a barn and lands. In 1834, more than a century later, various buildings, including a dwellinghouse with three gardens, a malthouse, a hay barn, a stable, cowstalls, two hovels and a piggery were



The White Horse as it looked a century or more ago (above) and (below) in the 1900s when it was a workers' ale house. All pictures from the Graffham Archive.

standing there. At that time, Rev Henry Manning bought it for £1,036 3s 9d, along with five parcels of land known as Lands near Colliers. It is unlikely that a public house was to be found on Manning's land as he was a stickler for sobriety, keeping a list of all parishioners fond of their ale!



However, Fid Bridger recalled visiting the back door of the White Horse as a lad in the 1840s to collect a quart of gin or similar.

The threat of closure in the 1970s prompted Jim Godman-Dorington to buy the White Horse and have it completely renovated in 1974 when Paul and Maggie Rixon became managers. Part of the front field was made into a car park so the "stoach" (the old Sussex word for cattle-trodden mud!) around the entrance was no more and the "first in/last out" restrictions no longer applied.

At the top of the Marsh is Woodcote, an ancient farm named in a 1331 document as the home of Henry atte Woodcote. Henry was the first of many who have farmed in this part of Graffham. The land on the brow of the hill and beyond at Woodcote has provided good farming for centuries. Being higher than the Marsh, it is part of the lower scarp of Downland, above the outflow of most springs.

However, in the days of James Rough and son, Billy, there was a pond on the smallholding. James bought the land in 1918 and arrived with his family from their previous Scottish home on 28 May that year. James was concerned to discover that the agent had failed to tell him he was contracted to haul coal from Selham Station

▶ *Continued on from previous page*

► *Continued on from previous page*

to Lavington House – leaving his horses with little energy for the work on the farm. Bill Rough took over the farm in 1948 after the death of his father. At this point he ordered a Fergusson tractor for £368. It was the latest design and allowed him to plough up a little field for Majestic potatoes. Although he loved horses, working with tractors was the making of Billy and he became well known throughout the village atop his grey Ferguson. He would sometimes play his fiddle at The White Horse. In 1973, he sold the farmland but kept the cottage. When current occupants John and Marie Bracey bought Marsh Farm, John discovered an old tractor there and had it carefully restored.

Beyond Marsh Farm, Haylands can be found nestled up under the sharply rising scarp of the Downs. Wendy Challen, who, as a child lived at 2 Flint Cottages, recalls that Nigel Clavering owned the farm before Jim Godman-Dorington bought it. Jim was a Graffham stalwart – a committee member, councillor, fête bowling-for-the-pig provider, churns of milk for events and even fête tractor rides!

During the late 1950s, at the approach to Haylands there was a handful of cottages for those employed on the farm. They included the Clarks, the Moretons, the Wakefords, the Shoops, the Challens, the Hewletts and the Franks. Added to this

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community were families who lived in the run of council houses built after the First World War, following the Addison Act of 1919 which provided state finance for the construction of 500,000 houses within three years.

Occupants of the Woodcote houses included village midwife Nurse Ruddock and postman Bob Drewett and his family.

One of the first families to settle there were Ned and Dorothy Challen who moved to 2 Woodcote from their cottage further down the Marsh. Dorothy had been born in 1895 at Thraves, now Church Farm, when it was separate cottages owned by the church. Her father was coachman to Rev Rowley Lascelles. So, ensconced in their new home, the expression was born and the trudge began for the rest of the family: “Up The Marsh!”



Jim Godman-Dorington – in his signature outfit of cap, wellies and jacket over a shirt and tie – gives youngsters a ride at the 1968 Graffham village fête.



Farming at Haylands in days gone by. Above: Harvesting in the early 1950s, with John Challen taking the sacks off a combine harvester driven by Jerry Weller. Right: Cows being walked to pasture in August 1933.



The celeb cricketers pictured on pages 32 and 33 were: A John Noakes, B John Ronane, C Harold Goodwin, D Bryan Pringle, E Ian Hendry, F Sam Kydd, G John Slater, H Philip Stone, I Julian Holloway, J Edward de Souza.

# Out and about: Millburgh Hall

*An occasional column by Jonathan Simons, amateur archivist and font of knowledge on things most people would prefer to forget.*

I was born and brought up in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight near high ground marked on old maps as Gallows Hill. Now, at the other end of my life, I find my head once more in the shadow of the noose – on Graffham’s Gallows Hill at Millburgh Hall.

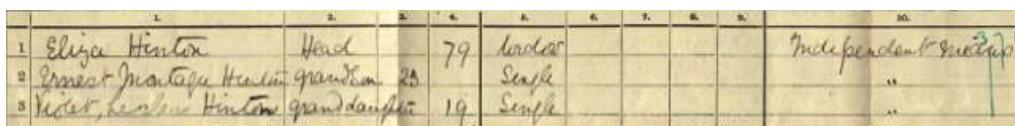
We believe that Millburgh Hall was built in the late 1800s, by the then Lord Cowdray, for his mistress. He called it Mount Pleasant, maybe in ironic contrast to its location. The Cowdray Park Estate, when contacted around 2010, denied it had ever owned the building and could not comment on the status of the lady in question or whether she had ever even moved in.

After its short-lived usage as a reputed love-nest, the building was reborn as the more conventional Selham Place. The record of the early years is patchy but from 1900 to 1920 it was apparently used as a hunting lodge by Monty Hinton, landlord of former Graffham ale house The Woodman. Thomas Sewell lived in Mount Pleasant Cottage and was presumably the butler.

From 1920 to 1933 I was told a Mr Lidderdale was in possession and then from 1933 to 1938 the owner was Mr Mysalt Griffin. These names appear on the 1921 census but they were all recorded as visitors staying at the Foresters Arms.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, Stephen Fraser Limited, a shipping company, was evacuated from London to the countryside and took over Selham Place. Among the workforce it brought were Lottie Ixer and her friend Olive. The two young women met up with local brothers Ted and Cecil Challen. There was a double wedding at the end of the war. Lottie’s fascinating memoir of those days has been published in past editions of *Graffham Parish News*.

In 1944, Selham Place was temporarily requisitioned by the Admiralty to house a section of the Fleet Air Arm Pay Office of HMS Daedalus. Stephen Fraser Ltd moved to Brookdene in the village. More about this and other military manoeuvres can be found in *The Selham Airfield*, written by local historian Tania Pons. After



1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
1	Eliza Hinton	Head	79	landl					Independent "single"
2	Ernest Montagu Hinton	grandson 25		Single					"
3	Robert Montagu Hinton	granddaughter 19		Single					"

The 1911 census return for what is now Millburgh Hall, listing three members of the Hinton family there. Monty Hinton was landlord of the village’s Woodman pub.



the war, the council took over Selham Place and converted it into housing. Local people and ex-service men were given priority. Lottie and Ted fitted the bill. A flat there was their first married home.

Meanwhile, Seaford College had abandoned its premises in Seaford during the war, as they were considered to be dangerously near the action, and had moved to Worthing. At the end of the hostilities, it moved further west to Lavington Park.

The school prospered and soon needed more accommodation for its boarders. Selham Place was on the market and the college snapped it up. The boys of the school's Millburgh House moved into what they informally called the House in the Woods but what had been officially renamed as Millburgh Hall. Masters and other staff lived in the building and on the site, which in those days extended across to today's Yaffle Cottage. Millburgh in Seaford, by the way, was originally 'Millberg', a hill with a mill on top. There is still a Millberg Road in Seaford near the former school site. By 1973, Millburgh Hall had changed hands and transformed itself into Selham House Country Hotel and Restaurant. I've met local residents who visited it at that time and actually had meals there – and survived!



Millburgh Hall as it looks today.



An archive advert promoting Millburgh Hall when an hotel.

In the 1990s, a charity took it over and converted it into a luxury AIDS hospice. There were rumours that Freddie Mercury was treated there. The owners could not get the referrals from the NHS to keep it going. The property's subsequent sale was slow on account of the fear of infection – according to someone down the Three Moles!

The building, sadly in need of repair, was acquired by a development company, Rippon Homes (Ripoff Homes as early residents dubbed it). It added a top floor and by 2001 the building had been converted to eight apartments. Jenny and I arrived in 2004, initially renting the top floor Apartment 8 and then buying it. When all the flats had been sold, Rippon Homes passed the freehold over to the newly formed Millburgh Hall Management Company. It is a lovely place to live.

*The later summer's kinder weather meant that most of Graffham's Tennis Week saw glorious sunshine and balmy evenings. The much-admired new tractor assisted in the preparation of the courts and pitch, with the whole event masterminded by the ever-present Richard Gyles. The grass courts were slightly soggy than usual, resulting in some challenging conditions. Charlie Gyles appeared to single-handedly erect the new club marquee, which played host to a number of events.*

## Graffham Tennis Club's Tennis Week



Tennis Week this year began on the Friday night of 19 July – coinciding with the final Family Friday at the end of Graffham and Duncton schools' summer term. The courts were laid out for pickleball so the latter's Sunday night regulars Beanie Bradley and David Sparkes could introduce the younger generation to this simpler form of tennis. Some of these youngsters gravitated towards the full courts and the ball machine challenges run by Denise Clay. As the sun sank lower the ice-cream van, barbeque and bar drew more and more customers, who stayed on until dark.



This drone shot by © David Sparkes shows, with the additional two grass courts created for Tennis Week, how all four of the club's courts were in high demand.



Contestants in the Generation Game Mixed Doubles circle round Richard Gyles as he announces the tournament's pairings – and eventual finalists Evie and Ted Syed, Richard Bates and Sally Pattie.

**Generation Game** Saturday morning was the occasion for the ‘Generation Game’ Mixed Doubles where much of the excitement, as ever, was in Richard Gyles’ great reveal of the partnerships, carefully chosen to provide a closely contested tournament. Two groups of six pairs played a round robin format over 15 minutes, with Richard sounding the klaxon as the time was up. With the addition of a ‘double bounce’ rule on the softer grass courts the matches were indeed close and the emerging finalists had to work hard to get there. Evie and Teddy Syed, representing the younger generation, had successfully mastered the low bounces and chose to play the final on the grass, but were unable to get past the eventual winners, Sally Pattie and Richard Bates.

**Parent and child cricket** Later the same day many of the same characters gathered for Brett Creed’s brilliant parent-and-child cricket competition – open to all comers, of course – played in a pairs format. An absolute highlight was the previously undiscovered talent of Connie Longman. Bowling consistently accurately, she managed to achieve a hat trick, with one of the wickets being that of her brother, Theo. Has such a feat happened before at the Rec?!



**Men's doubles** On Sunday five pairs played for the Men's B (clear the head) doubles tournament, with the round robin format comprising four full sets on the hard courts. David Sparkes and Theo Longman, Jeeva and Vincent Leysen, David Sanders and Simon Longman, Lawrence Bates and Steve Pringle plus Richard Bates and Rich Sabin battled each other for three or four hours with all pairs closely matched. Lawrence and Steve's effective combination of flair and consistency won the day, and they will lift the trophy at the end of season awards ceremony.



**Seniors' tournament** Monday's highlight was intended to be the seniors' tournament but persistent drizzle meant that event was refashioned as a table tennis round robin instead (pictured left). Pairs remained as had been picked for tennis by organiser Nettie Lanaghan, so were not altogether well-matched. Great fun was nevertheless had by all, and the winners were Andy Marriner and Philippa Sanders. As ever with senior events (for over 60s), lunch, with a bottle or two, followed.

**Graffham vs 'Rest of the World' juniors match** Tuesday 23 July saw the return of the annual junior tennis match as part of Graffham Tennis Week, with Graffham juniors taking on 'the rest of the world'! This event has been running since 2015 and it's always great to see lots of children on court playing matches and showing how much they've improved. This year was no exception with lots of great tennis and great fun on court, and it's particularly good to see all the matches played with fairness and sportsmanship throughout. Graffham won 4-1. The extra mixed matches at the end were cut short as the draw of the pizza was too much to resist!

#### Graffham vs 'Rest of the World' juniors results

Theo Longman and Jonathan Kennedy	6-2	Jack Tomblin and Oscar Barnes
Lawrence Bates and Maizie Amin	6-4	Aubrey Bamber and George Bamber
Jack Stevens and Ollie Douglass	3-6	Henry Barnes and Otto Smithers
Theo Longman and Jonathan Kennedy	6-1	Aubrey Bamber and George Bamber
Lawrence Bates and Maizie Amin	6-2	Jack Tomblin and Oscar Barnes

**Curry night magic** Coaching continued for the rest of the week with resident coach Richard Hopp, and as the week drew to a close the events became rather more



The club's new marquee – replacing the one destroyed in strong winds during 2023's Tennis Week – made a magical setting for the Sri Lankan curry night.

social in nature. A drizzly afternoon threatened the annual Sri Lankan curry night, prepared by a team led by Jeeva and Vasu, but the club's new marquee was transformed by Emma Amin into a magical venue for this oversubscribed event.

**Closing as Olympics opened** Friday evening concluded the week with the usual club night being played across all four courts, by now beginning to dry out. The wonderful new wide TV screen drew people in to watch the Olympic opening ceremony, with Graffham feeling rather smug in its late evening sunshine just as the heavens opened in Paris.

**Summer leagues** Home fixtures from September will be at weekends because of our lack of floodlights. Graffham are entering two Mixed teams in the winter league and are awaiting the fixture list.

### Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results

22 July	Lost 2-6	Ladies' Doubles	Div 1	v Steep A
24 July	Won 6-2	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	v Fernhurst A
29 July	Lost 0-8	Ladies' Doubles	Div 1	v Haslemere A
5 Aug	Drew 4-4	Ladies' Doubles	Div 4	v Liphook
6 Aug	Lost 2-6	Men's Doubles	Div 4	v Haslemere C
6 Aug	Lost 0-8	Ladies' Doubles	Div 1	v Headley
7 Aug	Won 8-0	Ladies' Doubles	Div 4	v Fernhurst C

# Graffham Ladies Cricket

Graffham's Ladies are hoping that their lack of match practice will not affect their attempt to gain a victory over West Wittering in the home fixture on Sunday 15 September. Start time will be confirmed in due course but this is a wonderful opportunity to bring a deck chair and enjoy the last summer fixture at the Rec.



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# Who's doing what at St Giles in September

Here's the rota for this month's 10.30am services. 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 Rev Vivien at [reverendvivien@gmail.com](mailto:reverendvivien@gmail.com)

Welcomers		Reader	Reading	Refreshments
1	Sue Hill	Sue Hill	Psalm 23	Ann Brown
8	TBA	TBA	James 2 v1-10,14-17	Sue Hill
15	Aparicio family	Sue Hill	Job 12 v7-10	Cindy and Beanie Bradley
22	Stuart Lewis	Stuart Lewis	James 3 v3-4.3,7-8	Sue Hill
29	TBA	Baptism family	TBA	TBA

Flowers	
1	Caroline Evans
8 and 15	Ginny Barrett
22 and 29	Jill Knight
Cleaning	
Ann Brown and Jan Brind	



## 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](mailto: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.



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# 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.

September				
1	Sun	10.30am	St Giles Day Parish Eucharist with Baptism of Ted and James Major	St Giles Church
6	Fri	7.30pm	Petworth Area Churches Together lecture	St Mary's Petworth
7	Sat	9.30am	Come and Sing!	St Giles Church
8	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 15	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
10	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel
11	Wed	12 noon	Wedding rehearsal	St Giles Church
12	Thu	1pm	Wedding of Ben and Charlotte	St Giles Church
14	Sat	8am-3pm	Ride and Stride sponsored walk	St Giles to Amberley
		10am-12 noon	Bellringing practice	St Giles Church
15	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion Trinity 16	St Giles Church
		10.30am	'Third Sunday' animal blessing service – all well-behaved creatures welcome!	St Giles Church
17	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel
		7.30pm	Deanery Synod	St Mary's Petworth
18	Wed	12.30pm	Food with Friends	The Rectory
		2.30pm	PCC Worship Group meeting	The Rectory
20	Fri	2pm	Wedding rehearsal	St Giles Church
21	Sat	2pm	Wedding of Harry and Catherine	St Giles Church
22	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 17	St Giles Church
		6.30pm	Taizé Prayer	All Saints Chapel
23	Mon	2.30pm	PCC Community Group meeting	
24	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am	All Saints Chapel
27	Fri	10.30am	Wedding rehearsal	St Giles Church
28	Sat	1pm	Wedding of Dan and Steph	St Giles Church
29	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 18 with Baptism of Charlie Summers	St Giles Church

# What's on in and around the village

For all St Giles and All Saints events, see pages 47. For all sports dates, see page 40-44.

August				
26	Mon		Summer bank holiday	
		From 2pm	<b>Graffham Summer Fête</b> (see centre pages)	Rec
28	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
31	Sat	10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
September				
2	Mon		WSSC schools term starts	
3	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
		10.45am	Arts Society Midhurst talk 'Fakes & Fortunes'	Methodist Hall, Midhurst
		11.30am-6.30pm	Midweek Racing	Goodwood
		1.15 for 2pm	Arts Society West Sussex talk on influence of Japanese art on Monet and van Gogh	Fittleworth Village Hall
4	Wed	7pm	Graffham Parish Council meeting	Empire Hall
			Seaford College term starts	
5	Thu	10am	UKHarvest surplus food market	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petworth
6	Fri		Goodwood Revival (till 8 Sep)	Goodwood
7	Sat	9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
		11am	Chichester District Councillor John Cross surgery	Bury Village Hall
8	Sun	7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
12	Thu	1pm	Wedding of Ben and Charlotte	St Giles Church
13	Fri	10am	Chichester District Councillor John Cross surgery	Fittleworth Shop
		12 noon	Graffham Garden Group outing to Parham House (see page 21)	Parham
14	Sat	From 8am	Annual parish Ride and Stride sponsored walk (see page 7)	From St Giles to Amberley
		7.30pm	Tesoro tenor and soprano duo	Three Moles
15	Sun	9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party (see p 26)	Meet at St Giles
16	Mon	6.15pm	East Lavington Parish Council meeting	Seaford College
18	Wed	6pm	Empire Hall AGM (see page 11)	Empire Hall
21	Sat	2pm	Wedding of Harry and Catherine	St Giles Church
24	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
25	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
		11.30am-6.30pm	Midweek Racing	Goodwood
27	Fri		Macmillan coffee morning day (see page 6)	

Continued on next page

28	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		1pm	Wedding of Dan and Steph	St Giles Church
29	Sun	11.30am	Family open day (see page 30)	Hoyle Farm

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

**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	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
	9am	Strength and mobility with Abi Martin <sup>1</sup>	Westerlands
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
Wednesdays	7.30pm	Bell Ringing practice - newcomers welcome	St Giles Church
	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
	6pm	Boxercise with Nina <sup>1</sup>	Westerlands
	7-8.30pm	Badminton <sup>8</sup> - all welcome	Empire Hall
Thursdays	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise <sup>9</sup>	Empire Hall
	6-7.15pm	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
Fridays	9-10.15am	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic <sup>10</sup>	Empire Hall
	evening	Tennis Club social evening	Rec
Saturdays	8am	Hard core exercise with Nina <sup>1</sup>	Westerlands
	10am	In motion with Gareth <sup>1</sup>	Westerlands
Sundays	5pm	Pickleball <sup>11</sup>	Empire Hall
	5pm	Casual football <sup>12</sup>	Rec

**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@hoppcoaching.co.uk](mailto:richard@hoppcoaching.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).

**<sup>11</sup>Pickleball:** Contact Beanie Bradley on 07500 080417.

**<sup>12</sup>Casual Football:** Contact Lucas Thornley on 07767 721997.





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**Quiz answers (from page 23)** 1 The Domesday Book. 2 Rector. 3 The Empire Hall. 4 The Seven Sisters. 5 TE Lawrence (of Arabia). 6 Tower Bridge. 7 Sean Connery. 8 Sir Jason Kenny. 9 Youssou N'Dour and Neneh Cherry. 10 Iron Maiden.

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
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# Directory: Useful local contact info

<b>DOCTORS</b>	Petworth Surgery	01798 342248
	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
<b>POLICE</b>	In emergency	999
	Non-emergency	101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 101
<b>BURST WATER MAINS</b>	Southern Water	0800 820 999
<b>POWER CUTS</b>	Scottish & Southern Electric	0800 0727 282
<b>99 FLEX BUS</b>	Linking Graffham with Chichester, Petworth etc	01243 858854 bit.ly/99flexbus
<b>All Saints Chapel Trust</b>	Chairman Clive Rowntree	01798 867536
<b>Badminton</b>	Louisa Thomas	louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Bees / Swarms</b>		
	Wisboro' Green B'keepers	Tom Moore 07984 606214/01798 343470
	Local beekeeper	Murray West evenings 01798 867048
<b>Chichester District Council</b>		01243 534734
	District Councillor	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
<b>Foresters Arms</b>		forestersarms-pub.co.uk 01798 867386
<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 Lunch Club</b>		Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
<b>Graffham Nursery</b>		School Office	01798 867324
<b>Graffham Parish Council</b>	Chairman	Roger Coakes	roger.coakes@grafttham-pc.uk
	Clerk	Caroline Davison	clerk@grafttham-pc.uk
<b>Graffham Parish News</b>	Editorial and circulation:		editor.graftthamparishnews@gmail.com
	Advertising:		ads.graftthamparishnews@gmail.com
	See also bottom of inside front cover		
<b>Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council</b>		stgilesgrafttham.org	
	Priest-in-Charge	Rev Vivien Turner	01798 867199
		hallo@stgilesgrafttham.org	
	Churchwardens	Ginny Barrett	01798 867113
		Cindy Bradley	07787 516522
	Acting Treasurer	Ginny Barrett	graftthampctreasurer@gmail.com
<b>Graffham Rec Committee</b>	Chairman	John Bracey	01798 867760
	Treasurer	Bernard Bayly	01798 867042
	Bookings Sec	Sonya Gillespie	graftthamrecpavilion@gmail.com
<b>Graffham Tennis Club</b>	Chairman	Simon Longman	01798 867317
	Membership	Richard Gyles	01798 867484
	Coaching	Emma Amin	01798 867063
<b>Graffham Village Shop</b>		Jeeva and Vasu	01798 867700
		graftthamvillageshop.co.uk	
<b>Graffham Vill'ge Shop Assoc</b>	Chairman	Steve Dover	07770 499223
	Treasurer	Andy Jones	andy.jones@grafttham.net
	Secretary	Ros Britton	rosalind.britton@btinternet.com
			07971 142252
<b>Katherine Maud Guillod Fund</b>		c/o Graffham PC Clerk	graftthampc@gmx.co.uk
<b>Lavington Estate</b>		info@lavingtonstud.co.uk	01798 867275
<b>Lavington Park Federation</b>		graftthamanddunton.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>		whitehorsegrafttham.com	01798 867331
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