

GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 408

FREE

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Singing along with school's new head
Woodcote serves up development proposals
Lavington consultation window closes
Full speed ahead on cutting limit to 20mph



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Writing from the Rectory: Good for the soul

How was January for you? If I imagined it would be a quiet month, after such a busy Advent and Christmas, I would have been wrong – it's been full on. So much so, that I nearly missed the deadline for submitting this letter.

I don't like being late for things. I visualise myself managing my commitments with great efficiency – completing reflections and services, preparing meeting agendas and delivering magazine content, all unexpectedly early. It is a dream, unfortunately.

Although I do plan to be efficient, my character is not as methodical as I would like, and the stress that comes upon me when work builds up too much makes me less efficient than ever, which delays me even more. I deliberately allow good time for planning services, which makes it really difficult for me to be late for them, but apart from that I'm too often preparing my excuses as I walk into meetings or agonising over the fact that there's absolutely no time left to complete my work unless a miracle takes place.

Hopefully someone reading this will say to themselves: "That's just like me!" Even better, maybe somebody has good ideas on how to solve it. In which case, please let me know. For now, I'm just taking comfort in the opportunity publicly to

▶ *Continued on next page*



Snowdrops – a sure sign that February has arrived in Graffham. © Rev Vivien.



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
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with Woolavington

| | |
|---|---|
| Priest in charge: | Reverend Vivien Turner |
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confess my inadequacy for its therapeutic value. Confession is good for you, we say, and indeed it is. It can be quite surprising how much relief a person can feel, telling the truth about something that is weighing them down, however important or unimportant it may feel. The season of Lent is a good time to do this, to examine and face the truth about oneself, in full confidence that approached honestly, this will be liberating, with forgiveness readily offered as appropriate, and even the possibility of real change.

It may not be quite time for me to say this yet though, as Ash Wednesday is later this year, not until Wednesday 5 March, which would make me early for something for a change! Indulge me, though, and receive this advance notice please, affording me the pleasure for once of being ahead of time!

And lo, this month's magazine letter appears, written quite unexpectedly, bringing a sigh of relief from me and, no doubt, our patient editor. Miracles do happen, you see, and honesty proves to be a very good policy.

Looking for another miracle now, our parish would really value some support fulfilling our financial and administrative responsibilities. If you can help, even in a small way, we'd be so glad to hear from you. Just drop me an email...

Every blessing!



Reverend Vivien



For the first time, Graffham hosted other churches from across the Petworth Deanery to open a series of talks and lunches during Christian Unity week. After prayers in All Saints Chapel, the group enjoyed soup and bread, prepared by Ann Brown, Sue Hill and Fiona Mackie, in the Rec Pavilion. One of the visitors commented: "Your hospitality was impressive - Graffham did us proud! You will be a hard act to follow, but it is the fellowship which matters, and it doesn't get much better than we had with you."

Woodcote serves up development proposals

Development proposals for The Woodcote, the Graffham restaurant-with-rooms that used to be The White Horse pub, were emerging as this edition of *Graffham Parish News* went to press. Plans include 16 guest suites in a new lodge – instead of the current six rooms where former farm outbuildings stood – along with a new field-to-fork fine dining restaurant in a separate thatched building, a bar, bistro and associated facilities. All would be highly eco-friendly.

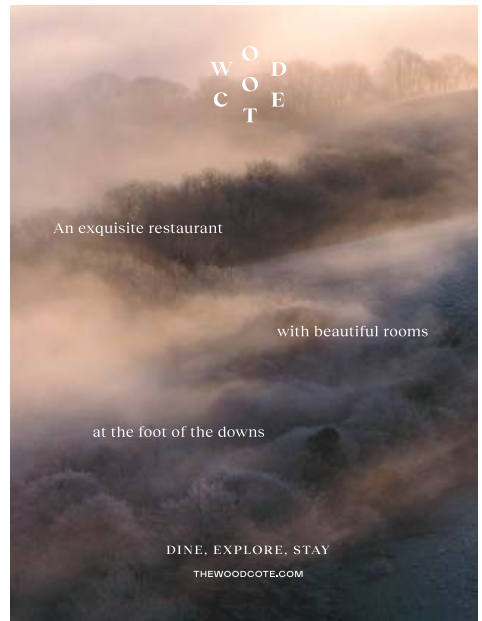
The planning consultants retained to support the proposals, Midhurst-based Whaleback, said: “This exciting and ambitious project aims to blend sustainability, heritage, and community, creating a destination that serves both locals and visitors. The Woodcote’s redevelopment aims to honour its heritage while securing its future as a community hub and destination.”

Villagers will be invited to comment on the proposals in a pre-planning consultation exercise to be launched in the coming days. This will include an exhibition in the Empire Hall with project team members on hand to respond to questions, pencilled in for Valentine’s Day afternoon, Friday 14 February, and site tours. Full details will be included in a leaflet to be mailed to every household in the community and available online at a project webpage, at www.whaleback.co.uk/thewoodcote

The Woodcote is owned by Selham House’s Glen and Asta Manchester, via their family holding group Ledmore Capital. The Manchesters in the autumn made a generous donation in kind to the new playpark at Graffham Rec, getting the project off the ground.

When they bought the White Horse two years ago, they also acquired the fields either side of the pub. A kitchen garden is currently being created in the one to the west of the building.

The pre-planning consultation comes just a month after a similar exercise was launched for completely unconnected proposals elsewhere in the village, at Lavington Stud and Estate, including Calloways (see next page).



Lavington proposal consultation window closes

The window for providing comments on the proposed developments at Lavington Estate and Stud, including Calloways, in the public consultation process closed on 17 January, after being extended by a week at the request of Graffham Parish Council. Around 40 submissions were made by villagers, the vast majority broadly in favour of the proposals although many raised varying levels of concern at the resulting potential increase in traffic through the village.

Owners James and Bianca Pitt, who bought the 650-acre estate four years ago, promised they would take account of all comments expressed as far as feasible when they come to file a formal planning application.

Although Graffham Parish Council had initially indicated it would discuss the outline plans at its January meeting, it later clarified that it would not consider them until an actual planning application is lodged.

Clerk Caroline Davidson explained: “Once a formal planning application is submitted then, as with all other planning applications within the parish, Graffham Parish Council (which is not the decision making body but a consultee) will consider its response and recommendations to the planning authority, taking account of the parish’s views and material planning considerations. We do not know when this will be, as a formal planning application has not yet been submitted. The council’s deliberations will, as always, be at a full parish council meeting which all parishioners and members of the public are welcome to attend.”

All the same, the public were invited to raise any issues at the council’s 15 January meeting. While 10 villagers attended, only two took the opportunity to speak – one to highlight the concerns over traffic and the second to comment on the process for handling the consultation and application. The council noted the points raised. The issue was not mentioned at East Lavington Parish Council’s meeting five days later.

Rather than host a full public meeting on the proposals at this stage, the Pitts issued an open invitation via Facebook’s Graffham Noticeboard to discuss the plans with them at two open mornings at the estate offices – but nobody took up this offer.

When they bought Lavington, planning approval had already been granted to convert the redundant agricultural buildings at Calloways, which lies in Graffham civil parish, into 10 homes and replace a bungalow there with another new house. They are now proposing to reduce the number of homes there to five, with other buildings converted instead into seven small units for local artisan craftspeople and not-for-profit organisations. If this proposed change is refused,



Architects' drawing of the proposed new main house at Lavington Stud and Estate, on the site currently occupied by the stud's stables and offices.

then the existing approved plan for 11 homes at Calloways would be followed through. Alongside this, they also want to demolish some of the more unsightly 20th century buildings at the old stud, now known as Home Farm, in East Lavington civil parish, to make way for a new eco-friendly estate house. Some of the other buildings there would be converted into a couple of holiday lets and estate offices, with the barn repurposed primarily for educational use, with one or two events a month. As with the existing Calloways planning approval, access for both developments would be via Graffham – which prompted the concern among some villagers of increased traffic nuisance.

Posting on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard, one even suggested that, to avoid vehicles heading to or from Calloways or Lavington from driving along The Street, a new access road should be built across the field between the war memorial and Rec. Another called for all construction lorries and vans to be required to access the sites only via Norwood Lane or the Seaford College drive rather than the village.

Putting the likely vehicle movements generated into some context, someone who has lived almost all her 40-year life in the village recalled the level of traffic generated when the stud was in full operation, several decades ago, with around 30 employees working there and up to 10 horse transport lorries or more a day leaving and returning there, via Graffham village. Another posted: "I really like the proposals and can't see what all the fuss is about!" Someone else added: "The proposal seems very reasonable and a compliment to the landscape and village."

Under James and Bianca's stewardship, almost 150 parkland trees and 500 metres of new hedging have been planted this year alone, and 40 acres of wildflower meadows restored by sowing them with native wild flower seeds. As a result, much more wildlife is being spotted on the estate. Meantime, they have also carried out extensive renovations of around a dozen of the estate's rental properties and restored barns and outbuildings after many years of decline.

- To find out more about the proposals, go to www.lavingtonestate.com.



An illustration, looking from the south, of how Calloways could be in the future, with fewer homes than previously approved and some units for small artisan enterprises.

Full speed ahead on cutting limit to 20mph

Graffham Parish Council is to ask for the speed limit in the restriction zone covering most of the village to be reduced from the current 30mph to 20mph, after consultation with the community showed 75 per cent in favour of such a move. The proposal received unanimous support of councillors at its first meeting of the year, held on Wednesday 15 January in the Rec Pavilion.

The suggestion was aired at its final session of 2024, on 6 November, prompted by the decision of Graffham Infant School to ask West Sussex County Council to lower the limit around its entrance to 20mph. As reported in the past two editions of *Graffham Parish News* and on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard, councillors at that meeting asked the community to give views on whether that slower restriction



should be extended to everywhere in the village currently covered by 30mph signs. Around two dozen residents responded, with only four against the idea and two neutral.

Advice received by the council is that this is most likely to be supported by the highways authority as it is the simplest and most cost-effective traffic calming measure to implement. Other options beyond this, such as extending the zone covered by the restriction or adding a 30mph limit beyond its boundaries would need cooperation from other neighbouring parishes, their communities and involve more cost in terms of changes to signage, road markings, traffic calming, enforcement. As such, they would take far longer to implement. The potential development at Calloways and Lavington Stud and Estate's Home Farm added pressure to make the village's roads safer as soon as possible.

The current 30mph zone starts close to the parish boundary with East Lavington at Popple Hill on the road in from Petworth, near Carpenters Town on the way in from Selham and approaching the Pound junction from the Woodcote (White Horse). It then extends to the far south end of The Street.

The parish council is asking our County Councillor for our Rother Valley ward, Tom Richardson, who is also WSCC's Advisor on Road Safety to the Cabinet Member for Highways, for advice on the best way to apply for a traffic regulation order that would bring about the speed limit reduction.

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Gillian succeeds Roger as Graffham Chairman

The development proposals for Calloways and the broader Lavington Stud and Estate indirectly resulted in the early resignation at the beginning of January of Graffham Parish Council Chairman Roger Coakes. At its meeting a few weeks later, on 15 January, Gillian Charlesworth was elected to succeed him.

Roger told *Graffham Parish News*: “Given the importance of these proposals to the village, I had assumed that they would be discussed at the parish council’s January meeting. I was subsequently more than a little taken aback to be informed that we should not discuss them until a planning application had been submitted and the parish council then formally asked for comments. I felt strongly that hearing the views of residents in a public forum and passing them on before the applicants finalised their plans could only be helpful to all concerned, while obviously there should be no pre-judgement of an application. I could therefore see no validity for the advice I had been given – yet as Chairman I thought I could not ignore that advice. In those circumstances, I felt there was no other course open to me other than to step down.”

Roger had in any event intended to stand down in a few months, at the council’s next annual meeting, after completing two years as its chairman and four years as a councillor. He commented: “It was a privilege to serve in that capacity, and I wish the new Chairman and council well in their work on behalf of Graffham.”

On behalf of fellow councillors, Deputy Chairman John Bracey thanked Roger for his service to the council and community.

New Chairman Gillian Charlesworth was co-opted as a Graffham parish councillor, serving as the council’s finance lead, two years ago. She moved into Squirrels, on The Street, with husband Peter in 2022, and very soon joined the Empire Hall management committee. While volunteering for community roles all her life, she has worked for a number of professional standards organisations, for the past five years as Group CEO of BRE, a charity-owned business dedicated to building safety and sustainability, employing 650 people.

After being named parish council Chairman, she said: “I am delighted to take on this role. Graffham is a fabulous village, and I have some thoughts on how the parish council might be more proactive in how we contribute to it. In particular, I

▶ *Continued on next page*



Standing down:
Roger



Stepping up:
Gillian

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can see an opportunity for the council to play a greater role in ensuring that wonderful community assets that we have been blessed with, like the Empire Hall and the Rec, are soundly managed and funded, so that they continue to provide recreation, community and entertainment for all long into the future. As a council, we will discuss and consult on ideas like this, as we have on the proposal to cut the speed limit in the village to 20mph.”

She stressed that all views on how the council could improve the village would be welcome. Please submit them by email to clerk@graffham-pc.uk.

Although Gillian is not the first female Chairman of Graffham Parish Council, it is believed that, with Roger’s resignation, this is the first time it has had a majority of female members. Remaining in place alongside her and John are Colin Barker, Rachel Gerrett and Fiona Jacob.

Graffham Parish Council has space for nine councillors in total, so it now has four vacancies, which can be filled by co-option. If you are interested in serving the community in this way, contact clerk@graffham-pc.uk for details on how to apply.

East Lavington holds off blocking Graffham merger

Graffham Parish Council is to seek the advice of experts at Chichester District Council on its next steps in its proposal to merge with neighbouring East Lavington Parish Council (ELPC) after its councillors agreed unanimously in a matter of minutes on 15 January to pursue the combination.

Their East Lavington counterparts, however, are split on the issue, after another long and lively discussion at their own meeting five days later. They delayed taking any decision on the matter until their next meeting, on 17 March, after failing to agree on the way forward. Before reconvening, they will seek legal advice on whether councillors can individually consult parishioners on the proposal.

Chairman Charles Britton nailed his colours firmly to the mast: “I could not support a merger since there would be no clear benefit for East Lavington residents.”

Councillor Barry Gosden agreed, noting that it would mean East Lavington households facing an increase in their precept (council tax) contribution. He also suggested that if the parish was to consider merging with a neighbour then all options should be considered, including a combination with Duncton as an alternative to Graffham.

Councillor Patrick Limpus, on the other hand, pointed out that nearly all the

council's £4,000 a year precept (council tax) is spent on administration: "Over a decade, that is £40,000 that could be used for something that delivers tangible benefits to our residents, most of whom already regard themselves as living in Graffham."

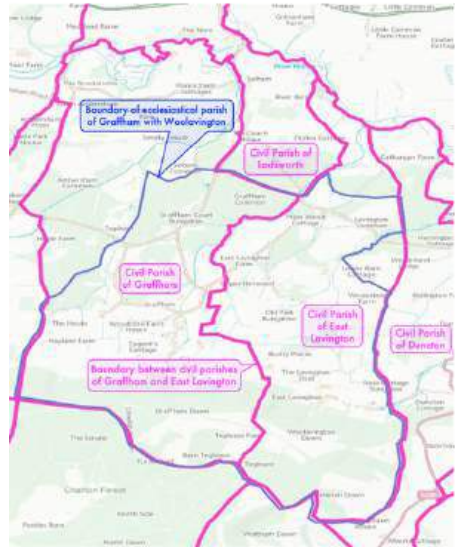
He was supported by Councillor Simon Longman who also wanted to consult parishioners on the merger proposal before voting. Councillor Will Yates said he was personally opposed to a merger but could not see why the views of parishioners should not be sought.

The only local member of the public attending "totally agreed" that residents should be consulted, adding: "I live in East Lavington but I associate with Graffham because that is where all our village facilities are."

Some members of both Graffham and East Lavington parish councils say that combining the two could result in long-term financial savings – particularly on duplicated administration – and other benefits. Graffham Parish Council funds many facilities that are also used by East Lavington residents – such as the Rec, the war memorial and defibrillators, while also nominating an Empire Hall trustee. Also, the proposal comes at a time when county and district councils are being brought together (see page 16).

Detractors point out that the two parishes are different communities – East Lavington is almost entirely rural, with Seaford College in its boundaries, and charges a lower precept.

East Lavington civil parish today covers 7.97 km² including Norwood, Westerlands, Lavington Estate and Seaford College. It has a population of around 275 (excluding Seaford College boarders). Graffham covers 11.81 km² including the village and, since 1933, Selham and South Ambersham. It is home to some 520 people. The boundary between the two is the stream under Popple Hill, running south a few hundred yards to the east of The Street. The Rec is just inside Graffham, but Tangletrees, overlooking it immediately to the north, is in East Lavington.



The boundaries of Graffham, East Lavington and other bordering civil parishes are in pink on this map and the boundary of the ecclesiastical parish of Graffham with Woolavington in blue.

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Graffham budget to rise by almost 10 per cent


Graffham Parish Council's budget for 2025-26 is to rise by almost 10 per cent after last year's increase of almost a third, councillors decided at their 15 January meeting. The latest hike – lifting expenditure from £17,500 for the year to £19,200 – reflects higher costs in maintaining the Rec, Pavilion and new playpark, and maintaining more defibrillators across the village.

Because of the changes in the way council tax is charged, however, most householders will pay little more than a year ago. Graffham's precept will remain at a fraction of the levels levied by many other parish councils in the district.

Graffham Parish's funding had been virtually unchanged since before the Covid pandemic – while inflation has pushed up all its costs significantly. Although it has endeavoured to contain its finances, its budget had been run at a deficit, funded by reducing its reserves, until the current year's rise in its precept.



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Remember the owl that sat proudly on our November front cover? Photographer © Anthony Hurren has snapped it at Lavington Stud and Estate again – but this time in mid-flight.

With pavilion, we now have five defibrillators

A new defibrillator was due to be installed at the end of January at the Rec – which means the parish now has five of the life-saving devices. The latest one was to be housed on the outside of the southern side of the Pavilion. Like the others, the code to access it will be displayed alongside it.

It follows the installation in November of another defibrillator in the old telephone box by Pescods, in The Street. The established equipment is on the south outside wall of the Empire Hall, at Graffham Infant School and in the former phone box opposite the Three Moles.

The installation of the new Pavilion defibrillator has been funded by the Katherine Maud Guillod Fund, which has supported village good causes for more than a century, while its on-going maintenance will be down to Graffham Parish Council. Defibrillators are devices that apply an electric charge to the heart to restore a normal heartbeat. The ones installed in Graffham provide easy-to-follow instructions as they are used. In an emergency, you are also advised to call 999 for medical help too.

Have your say on new South Downs local plan

South Downs National Park is currently seeking views on its draft revised local plan, detailing how and where development takes place in the area, locations for business growth, as well as key policies, such as protecting nature and heritage. The final version will set the framework against which future planning applications will be judged.

It proposes development of new housing in a number of nearby towns and villages, including Cocking, Easebourne, Lodsworth, Midhurst and Petworth.

Director Tim Slaney said: “This is not an entirely new local plan. We would like to keep many of the existing policies that are working well. We need to ensure the plan remains up-to-date and delivers on our priorities of nature recovery, climate action and a ‘National Park for All’.”

You can review the draft local plan online, and see how to make comments on it, at www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/the-south-downs-local-plan-review/ The authority is also holding a series of drop-in events about it, including at Petworth’s Leconfield Hall on Wednesday 12 February between 3.30 and 7.30pm. The consultation period closes on 17 March.

Playpark gifted £1,000 by Laing Foundation

The new playpark at Graffham Rec, opened just in time for the Christmas holidays, has received a £1,000 grant from the David Laing Foundation. Added to donations already given from around 30 village families, it means the fund for installing more equipment now stands at more than £15,000 – halfway to its final target.

The first phase of the development cost some £65,000, with major contributions in cash or kind from Graffham Parish Council, the Lottery Fund, and Selham House's Glen and Asta Manchester. You can still contribute via its Go Fund Me campaign, by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera, or type 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 indicate this if you are a UK taxpayer. Any funds collected beyond the target will go towards more equipment and its on-going maintenance.



It is the third contribution to the village in recent years by The David Laing Foundation, created in memory of the founder of the building group John Laing. It also donated to the pew heating system installed in St Giles two years ago and gave the Queen Elizabeth memorial bench that now sits outside the church's lady chapel.



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More road closures planned for this month

Several roads in and around Graffham and Ambersham will be closed for a few days this month to allow various works to be carried out.

Our West Sussex County Councillor Tom Richardson said: "I know closures are a pain, but it is finally the work we've all been chasing and nagging Highways about for the last couple of years, so it will be worth it! All the patching and drainage works are in preparation for full surface dressing of all the local roads."

This month's road closures scheduled include:

- 3-5 February – Norwood Lane for carriageway inspection and repairs.
- 6-10 February – Norwood Lane for Southern Water works.
- 12-14 February – Graffham Common Road for Southern Water to replace a stop tap outside The Folly.
- 24 February – Selham Road for drainage works.
- 24 February – New Road, Ambersham, for drain jetting works.
- 3-10 March – New Road, Ambersham, again for drain clearance works.

Take care of our bin men!

Residents and visitors in Graffham, East Lavington and across the area are being reminded by Chichester District council to take care on the roads when driving around its waste and recycling collection crews and their vehicles.

The local authority made the plea after seeing an increase in the number of incidents where crew members have experienced a risk to their safety by other road users.

Councillor Mark Chilton, Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Chichester Contract Services, said: "Our collection crews are our very own waste warriors. They perform such an important role in making sure our district is clean and tidy by completing their collections, and they take every precaution to complete their rounds safely. We are asking those on the district's roads to help us keep our crews safe by taking extra care when driving close to them."

Thursday Club to hear how to stay safe and well

Thursday Club's talk this month will be on the subject of 'Stay Safe/Stay Well' – in the Empire Hall on Thursday 13 February at 2.30pm. All welcome!

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

From Town Hall: The end of our councils is nigh

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



Local government here in our part of Sussex and throughout England is about to go through the biggest changes many of us will have witnessed in our lifetimes. Within three years, West Sussex County Council, Chichester District Council and their equivalents across the country will become history, replaced by new much larger authorities and by new mayors with more powers than our MPs.

It all stems from the White Paper on Devolution, published by the new Labour Government in Westminster nine days before Christmas, on 16 December – and being pushed through at breakneck speed.

All current County Councils will be abolished. In their place as the top tier of local government will be Strategic Authorities, covering larger swathes of population – each with no fewer than 1.5 million people, 50 per cent more than live in West Sussex today. Each Strategic Authority will be led by an elected Mayor.

County Councils and their equivalents were given until 10 January to respond to these proposals in the first phase of consultation on these monumental changes. In a move that some might describe as being like turkeys voting for Christmas, our own West Sussex County Council, along with East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council each on its own voted on 9 January to be combined into one Strategic Authority and to be in the first wave of this countrywide consolidation. Their pooled populations are in line with the government's 1.5 million target and their joint geographical area matches that covered by our local police, NHS and Integrated Care Board jurisdictions.

We were due to know by the end of last month whether the government will support their bid. If it does, then West Sussex County Council and those other two authorities will be dissolved by 2028 and a new Strategic Authority for all of Sussex put in place, headed by an elected Mayor.

At the same time, second tier local councils across the county will also be disbanded. They will be replaced by Unitary Authorities, again covering larger tracts of population, each at least half a million. Around 125,000 people live in the current Chichester District today. So the new Unitary Authority covering our own area would need to combine with another two to four nearby district or borough council areas in Sussex, potentially as far afield as Crawley and Haywards Heath.



All change: Under the changes proposed, the current two top tiers of local government in Sussex – West Sussex County Council with seven District or Borough Councils, East Sussex with five District or Borough Councils, and Brighton and Hove City Council – would be brought under one Strategic Authority covering the entire county. The 13 District and Borough Councils would be consolidated into three or four Unitary Authorities, potentially with Worthing and Adur Boroughs (outlined in red) combined with Brighton and Hove City, and Chichester District with several or all of the four others in West Sussex – Arun, Horsham, Crawley and Mid Sussex.

Discussions have not yet started on which councils might be combined, but, in my view, Chichester should be aiming to link with other districts or boroughs that are in a similar financial position – with reserves, no deficits and with comparable levels of council tax.

These new Unitary Authorities will have elected members – we’ve no idea as yet how many – and their leaders will each sit on the Strategic Authority covering their geographical region. So, for instance, the Leader of the Unitary Authority covering Chichester (and Graffham) would sit on the Sussex Strategic Authority, under its Mayor. It is thought that these new elected members of the Unitary Authority will have ‘constituencies’ bigger than the present district council wards, but smaller than the current County Council divisions. The Boundary Commission will be charged with defining the geographical areas they each cover. Again, all this must be done and dusted by 2028.

How responsibilities between the Strategic and Unitary Authorities are divvied up is not yet clear – neither are the ramifications for the councils that are currently closest to the people, the parishes.

Meantime, elections to West Sussex County Council were due to be held on 5 May

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this year. With all this change ahead, it is asking for those elections to be postponed. There is no consensus for this among the political parties. The national government will need to decide. It could be that county elections are postponed for two years. What are my personal thoughts about all this?

First, the Labour government has a large majority and has made it clear this is going to happen – and they are in a hurry.

Secondly, while I think a Strategic Authority is a good idea and that infrastructure, health, police and other regional bodies will benefit from this structure, there is going to be a price for the changes. That price is going to be local accountability. The elected Unitary Authorities are going to be large. To describe this whole package as devolution is disingenuous. If anything, it's the complete opposite. Democracy and accountability will move away from people – and that, to my mind, will be a great failing.

One final thought – a prediction – is that when this is all settled and you have, say, between 50 and 70 elected mayors from across the country, and remember these mayors will have greater powers than any MP, you could call them Senators and they could form the basis of a new elected second chamber in Parliament.

Save the date!

Graffham

Easter 

Market 

Saturday 12th April

10AM- 2.30PM

The Empire Hall, Graffham GU28 0QB

Funeral of Frances Heaton on 6 February

We are sad to report the death on 5 January of Frances Heaton, aged 80, of Tagents Farm, after a long illness. Her funeral will be held at St Giles Church on Thursday 6 February at 11.30am and afterwards at Eastwood Farm, Graffham, GU28 0QF. All who knew her are welcome.

After being appointed as the first female to serve on the Board of the Bank of England, from 1993, and Director General of the Mergers and Takeover Panel, from 1992, she was described by the press as “one of the most influential women in London’s financial circles”. Born in Winchester, she read Law at Trinity College, Dublin. She worked for the UK Treasury before entering banking. She went on to become a director of Lazards and served on the Boards of a number of leading companies, including Commercial Union and W S Atkins. She is survived by her husband Martin, sons Mark and Andrew and their families.

A full tribute is planned for our next edition.

Nonnington Lane’s James Sear: 1941-2025

We also regret to report the death on 7 January of James Sear, of Oak House, Nonnington Lane, aged 83. He had been in Easebourne’s Vine House care home for around a year as his Alzheimer’s worsened, then was admitted to St Richard’s Hospital, Chichester, where he passed away with his family around him.

James arrived here three years ago with his wife Heather and son Andrew. They followed eldest son Peter who, with his family, settled in this area shortly before them, initially at Duncton and now at Heyshott. Daughter Sarah-Jayne and her family are in Tring, Herts.

Until moving, the Sear family had spent all their lives in Theydon Bois, near Epping in Essex, where they had each been born. James entered the world there on 20 April 1941. Heather arrived six years later and lived four doors down from him, but they didn’t start dating until he was 24. They married four

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James at one of his happiest places
– sunny lunch at the Foresters.

▶ *Continued from previous page*

years later, in 1968. He worked initially as a poultry farmer before changing careers by becoming an estate agent. He went on to set up his own firm with his family, retiring in 2015.

What made them dig up their Essex roots to settle here? Andrew explained: “We could have moved anywhere. I travelled all over the country as a freelance musician and really liked this part of West Sussex. Mum, Dad and Peter checked it out and all fell in love with it too.”

James’ funeral will be held at St Giles Church on Tuesday 18 February at 12 noon.

Welcoming in the new year – with a power cut

Just as Graffham and East Lavington were about to herald in the New Year – off went the power! The Met Office had given a ‘yellow warning’ of strong winds – which duly tripped overhead electricity cables serving the neighbourhood at around 10.45pm, plunging 392 homes (according to Scottish and Southern Electricity) into darkness as the final countdown towards 2025 was underway.

While many called it a day (or year?), it didn’t stop revellers at the Foresters Arms ‘wild west’ themed open party, which continued by candlelight.

Most of the village was back on to the grid shortly after Big Ben chimed midnight.



The power cut did not dampen spirits at the Foresters Arms’ western-themed party, with the revels led by landlord David Gordon Smith and the pub’s Angelina Timofiichuk.

Westerlands opens its own online farm shop

Westerlands has launched a new online shop selling honey and meat from its farm – grass-fed high welfare lamb and beef from its Dexter herd.

All profits from its honey will go into planting more hedgerows to support its bees and other fauna and to help promote biodiversity on the estate.

See www.westerlands.com/farm/shop

Zoe and Jon's wedding lock-in drama

Belated congratulations to Zoe Scaman and Jon Warren, of Rose Cottage, The Street, Graffham, who married late last year in a civil ceremony at The Kennels in Goodwood. They had planned to wed in 2023 “but then life took over,” they said. When they finally managed to tie the knot, it was a small affair, with around 20 close family and friends attending them – although they plan more celebrations this year or next.

“It was a lovely day,” Zoe remembered, “made all the more exciting with my mother-in-law (Jon's Mum) giving the car keys to our daughter Audrey, who proceeded to lock herself and baby brother Jasper in the car on the driveway! I had to call out the fire brigade to break into the car and retrieve the keys (and the children) to enable us to get to the wedding on time! Quite the drama!

“Our lovely postman Carmen (who is also a volunteer fireman) said he heard all about it when he turned up for his shift at the fire station later that day – apparently a bride standing on the doorstep with two kids locked in a car is quite the tale to tell!”



Zoe and Jon with Audrey and Jasper after the wedding – and the rescue of the children from her locked car!

Graffham's new Headteacher hits the right notes

Just days into the new term, editor Michael Blunt meets the new man taking the lead at the village's infant school.

From day one of Charles Beckerson's tenure as the new Headteacher at Lavington Park Federation, he was filling its Graffham Infants and Duncton Junior Schools with the sound of music – with all the children and staff members joining in.

As an avid musician – owner and player of 15 guitars, give or take, with an album of his own songs available to stream on Spotify and a regular singer and guitarist in a function band – he's a firm believer in the benefits that music can bestow on education and has some 25 years of experience of bringing that about.

But there is a great deal more to Charles than that, underlining why the governors selected him to build on the firm foundations left by Helen Martin when she took early retirement at the end of 2024 after being at the helm of our village schools for almost 20 years. He has been Headteacher at two other schools already, achieving some glowing OFSTED reports along the way.

Charles wanted to be a teacher for as long as he can remember: "My Dad was Head of Design Technology at Guildford County School. I used to stand at my bedroom window in our family house in Haslemere to wave him off in the morning and told my Mum that I was going to be a teacher too when I grew up."

Leadership came naturally – at home as the eldest of four boys (and, yes, they did have their own band) and then with the Boy Scouts where he was an Assistant Leader at just 16. He inherited his musical genes from his mother and was playing the recorder and clarinet by time he was 10, when he first picked up a guitar and instantly fell in tune with it: "The instrument felt like an extension of myself."

After A levels, he took his BAQTS teachers' degree at Canterbury University College, with on-the-job training at schools in places like Rochester and Folkestone. He was one of just half a dozen in his year group to be offered a chance of work experience in East London. While there, at a Church of England school in Stoke Newington, the diocese educational consultant was so struck by Charles' potential that she encouraged him to take up a permanent post in her area as soon as he graduated.

As a result, Charles started his career proper at a school in Tottenham that was in special measures. After two years there, it had been turned around – and, with the new millennium upon us, Charles felt he could move closer to his family and

friends. So he took up a post at Liphook C of E Junior School, where he spent six happy years.

Then he was offered membership of the senior leadership team at St Barts C of E Primary School, back in his home town of Haslemere, as core subject leader responsible for English, Maths, Science and Information and Communications Technology.

After three years, he was appointed its Assistant Head, leading its early years and key stage 1.

Two years on, the school's Head moved on and Charles was invited to succeed him, on an acting basis initially before being made permanent. "I loved it, being able to influence the whole school community and set the vision for its future," he recalled. During his time there, the school grew in size from 300 to 420 pupils. One of his proudest achievements was the establishment of a specialist music centre there, working with charity The Music Works to convert premises that had previously been used by the Haslemere Children and Family Centre. A group of the school's children even had the opportunity to record at Rak Studios in London which led to a No1 hit in the children's iTunes chart and the chance to perform at the Barbican and the Royal Festival Hall.

While at St Barts, he met fellow teacher Cecilia, who hails from Sweden. They married in 2010 and now have a seven-year-old daughter, Aurora. After a while, the sea air beckoned the family and they moved to Chichester: "We love the city and wanted to be closer to the coast."

The commute back to Haslemere was less fun, though, so in 2022 he took up the Headteacher position at Bognor Regis' Edward Bryant, a primary school for more

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Charles outside Graffham School's entrance on day three of his first term as its new Headteacher.

▶ *Continued from previous page*

than 600 pupils, 40 per cent of whom had English as their second language, with 77 staff. A highlight of his time there was the establishment of its own special support centre, The Lighthouse, for children with additional needs.

Then last year a friend with connections to the Lavington Federation tipped him off that Helen had decided to step down as its head. Why was he interested?

He had driven through Duncton countless times but never been to Graffham. So he visited, to check out the villages and the schools, and “it felt absolutely right”.

He explained: “I was really attracted to working in a smaller school in a rural community where I could develop a family feel and also return to a Church of England school, because they match my own values and morals.”

He particularly likes the two campuses arrangement here, with the infants starting at Graffham then moving to Duncton for their junior years: “They have the benefit of feeling as if they are growing up by moving schools at the age of seven – but with the security of having the same headteacher, the same values and ethos and all in this beautiful countryside.

“It is clear that everyone here in Graffham knows how fantastic the school in the village is, with its unique old building and brilliant staff. The really good news is that Duncton is just as fantastic too!”

After a tough selection process, he accepted the job in the summer, visiting several



Could you spare us a moment or two?

We're urgently seeking a volunteer to help with our admin – playing a key role in looking after our beautiful and historic village church. Even if you have just an hour or so a week to spare, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact hello@stgilesgraffham.org.uk

times to get to know his new schools before taking up the reins with the start of the January term: “The reception I’ve been given has been truly wonderful – from the staff, from Giovanni Soffietto (chairman) and the rest of the governors, from the parents and from the children.”

One of his first tasks was to work with many of them to write a school song, weaving into its lyrics the schools’ vision and values.

After only three days, the children knew the chorus off by heart – not just the words and tune but also the hand gestures to go with it.

Setting down his guitar after a rendition in front of the Rev Vivien at assembly on the third day of term, he reflected: “How lucky I feel to be here!”



Graffham and Duncton Schools Song

Chorus

In Graffham and Duncton, we’re bright and true
 With kindness and respect in all that we do.
 With happy smiles and helping hands
 Friendship is here, together we stand.
 In Graffham and Duncton, we’re bright and true
 With kindness and respect in all that we do.
 We learn and play, we laugh and have fun
 In our happy schools, we shine like the sun.

Verse 1:

Welcoming and warm, we’re a caring community
 Our schools are a home from home like one big family
 Sing along to our school song...

Repeat chorus

Verse 2:

Hearts as wild as the wind embracing the outdoors
 Living life in all its fullness, who could ask for more?
 Sing along to our school song...

Repeat chorus

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Planning applications and decisions

Details for Graffham and East Lavington filed with the South Downs National Park since our previous edition (for details, see bit.ly/sdnp-planning)

Seaford given green light for new tennis courts

Seaford College has been given the go ahead by South Downs National Park and Chichester District planners to create eight new hard-surfaced tennis courts to the west of its sports hall and convert existing tennis courts at the side of its running track, to the east of the Lavington House main school building, into an all-weather hockey pitch along with an overflow car park.

The school had sought approval for the development in September 2022 but only received the thumbs up on 10 January this year. While East Lavington Parish Council made no objection to the proposal, it was opposed by the Friends of the South Downs and by half a dozen neighbours. *SDNP/22/04467/FUL*

Other planning decisions

The Priory, Selham Road, Selham GU28 0PW: Alterations to existing pool house, including single storey extension and replacement roof. New air source heat pump. *Approved. 20 Dec. SDNP/24/01938/HOUS*

Planning applications

Bishops Hill, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QA: Alterations to integral garage to create living accommodation, extension to west elevation, new rear porch, extension to roof on front elevation to create entrance portico, alterations to fenestration, re-cladding with render below, installation of solar panels and air source heat pump. *SDNP/24/05015/HOUS. Received 4 Dec 2024.*

Property watch

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

Coates, RH20 1ES: Grade II listed, attached farm cottage, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, reception/dining room, kitchen. 83 sq m (892 sq ft). Garden of 0.4 acres with shed. Guide price £490,000. *Savills, Petworth 01798 217950. Listed 17 Jan.*



To advertise in Graffham Parish News, contact
ads.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

Crime watch – stables and car broken into

Stables behind Woodlands, in Norwood Lane, were broken into on Friday night or Saturday morning, 3-4 January. Padlocks were damaged and gates left open, suggesting that the perpetrators approached the building via the nearby public footpath. Nothing was reported stolen, however.

A day later, on Sunday 5 January, a car parked on The Street close to St Giles Church had a window smashed and items stolen from inside.

Just before Christmas, on 21 December, an attempt to break into a home at Duncton's Burton Park Road was reported.

Sussex Police warn all residents to make sure their outbuildings and garages are locked and secure. For advice on keeping your property and vehicles safe, see www.sussex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention

Did you know...? You can recycle the tops from your plastic milk bottles and used printer cartridges – and raise funds for charities at the same time? Just drop them (as clean as you can make them!) into the appropriate boxes at St Giles Church.

BEAR PETWORTH

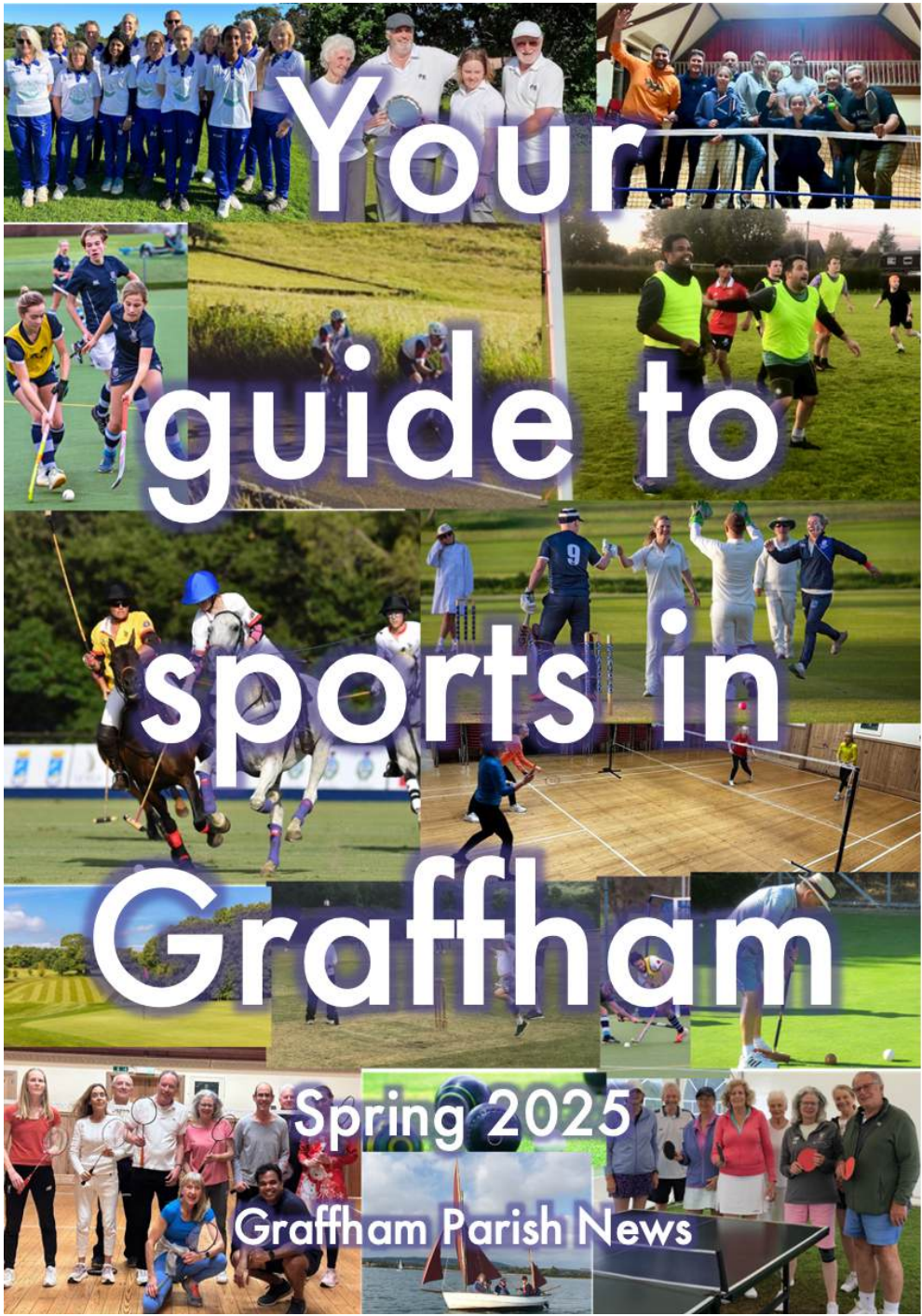
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BADMINTON

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Where | Empire Hall. |
| When | Wednesdays from 6.30pm (occasionally moved to Mondays). |
| Cost | 2024 fees were £80 per person. 2025 to be determined. |
| Contact | Christina Federowicz on 07900 055574 at chrissy.fed@icloud.com |



Play is organised to be inclusive, for all standards. Play is generally doubles and matches arranged appropriately.

BOWLS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Where | At the Rec. |
| When | Practice sessions every Monday from 6pm, from 20 April to mid-September. |
| Cost | Annual subs of £40 adults, £20 juniors. |
| Contact | Liz Pegram on 01798 867770 at kymandliz@btinternet.com |



All standards welcome. Friendly matches with other clubs. Internal cups.

CRICKET (LADIES)

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Where | At the Rec. |
| When | Most Thursdays from 6pm from April till the autumn. |
| Cost | Free. |
| Contact | Brett Creed on 07828 697344 at b.creed@btinternet.com |




All standards welcome. Around four friendly matches each summer.

GOLF

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Where | While there is a nine-hole course in East Lavington, at Seaford College, this is only available to the school's pupils, staff and associates. There are a number of top-level courses locally open to members and visitors, including Midhurst's Cowdray and Goodwood. |
|--------------|--|

CROQUET

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Where | Duncton's Rother Valley Croquet Club or Lodsworth Croquet Club |  |
| When | Duncton offers play throughout the year, Lodsworth in the summer season. | |
| Cost | Rother Valley: £215 adults. Lodsworth: £100 adults, £200 family, £30 juniors. | |
| Contact | Duncton's Rother Valley: rothervalleycroquet@outlook.com Lodsworth: johnrwest@btinternet. | |

Duncton's Rother Valley Club has two full-size and one practice lawn, while Lodsworth has one full-size lawn – both have club houses.

Taster sessions for anyone who might be interested in joining – next one's on 10 May 10.30am-1pm at Duncton (all you need are flat-soled shoes).

Training and social events. Internal tournaments. Matches against other clubs.


HORSE-RIDING AND POLO

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Where | There are several livery yards in the village and nearby where you can ask about opportunities to ride – and some of the UK's top polo lawns at a short chukka away at Ambersham and Easebourne. |
|--------------|--|

KEEP FIT, PILATES AND YOGA

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Where | Empire Hall and Westerlands |
| When, cost, contacts | See the listing of regular weekly activities on page 57 |

PICKLEBALL

| | | |
|----------------|--|--|
| Where | Empire Hall |  |
| When | Sundays from 6pm | |
| Cost | Free – thanks to sponsorship by The Three Moles. | |
| Contact | Beanie Bradley on 07500 080417 at beaniebradley@rocketmail.com | |

One of the world's fastest growing sports in popularity. All welcome, with juniors encouraged. Players rotate through the sessions.

TENNIS

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Where | At the Rec. |
| When | Club nights at 6pm on Fridays from April to September. League matches and social tennis all year. Various special and social events, including July's Tennis Week. |
| Cost | Annual subs of £90 for a family, £45 for an adult, £12.50 for a junior. |



Contact David Sanders on 07590 117595 or at admin@graffhamtennis.co.uk

Players of all ages welcome, whether novices or experienced.

Members can use the club's two recently resurfaced hard courts at any time other than during coaching or league matches. There is a court booking system. League tennis offers teams at various standards and is very inclusive. Club tournaments during the summer.

Through the club's links with the Lawn Tennis Associations, members can take part in the LTA ballot for Wimbledon tickets.

OTHER

Football: There's an occasional, impromptu kickabout on a Sunday evening on the Rec. Just turn up and join in. All welcome. **Hockey:** The Town (village) has been known to take on The Gown (Seaford College) every now and then. Watch out on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard! **Men's Cricket:** It's been a good few years since Graffham fielded a regular team, but every summer Jeeva talks of resurrecting the side. Speak to him if you are interested! **Stoolball:** This traditional Sussex sport used to be played regularly on the Rec – and still is once every other year or so. Again, watch out on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard! **Table tennis:** A set usually finds its way to the Rec during Tennis Week in July. **Cycling:** Lots of Graffham residents love to push their pedals. If you're interested in forming a cycle club, then over to you! **Boules:** There's been talk of creating a court at the Rec, but nothing seems to be imminent. Watch this space! **Sailing:** Lots of villagers sail out of Chichester Harbour. Ask around if you fancy crewing.

Bill's bygones: Rivalries, Ruffley, Rifkin

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 – February 2015: Mike Dimmer's novel *Rivalries Renewed*, a sequel to *Quest for Gold*, is published. Graffham Empire Movies screens *Gone Girl*. Novak Djokovic defeats Andy Murray to win the Men's Singles at the Australian Open. Gary Glitter (Paul Gadd) sentenced to 16 years' in prison. Deaths of John Treadgold, aged 83, canon of St George's Chapel, Windsor, Chaplain to the Queen and former Dean of Chichester, who spoke at an early Graffham Men's Breakfast and gave the address at St Giles' Jubilee Thanksgiving Service in 2012, along with actors Louis Jourdan (*Gigi*, *Octopussy*, 93) and Leonard Nimoy (Mr Spock, 83).

25 years ago – February 2000: A panto version of *Treasure Island*, written by Russell Walker and Phil Jones (playing Sir Roger Ruffley), is performed at the Empire Hall with Foresters landlord Lloyd Pocock (as Wide John Silver), John Head, Dave Ashby and Don Allen also featuring and musical direction by Richard Bailey – originally scheduled for a single show, demand for tickets is such that a second performance is added. Ill health forces Michael Kemp to stand down as organist at St Giles. Donations to the church's lychgate appeal exceed £5,000, more than halfway towards its target. The Graffham Parish Map Group stages an exhibition of its progress at the Empire Hall. Microsoft releases Windows 2000. Funeral at St Giles of 96-year-old Gwen Hamilton. Deaths of footballer Sir Stanley Matthews (85) and Peanuts cartoonist Charles M Schulz (77) and murder of eight-year-old Victoria Climbié.

50 years ago – February 1975: Caledonian Airways stewardess Miss Rifkin gives a talk to Graffham Youth Club entitled *Why I like my job*, although "it was unfortunate three girls had to miss it because of illness". The memorial service for Colonel Sydney Kennedy (commemorated with a room in the Empire Hall), who died aged 86, is held at St Mary's, Easbourne, but conducted by David Grant with the address given by Edward Bradbrooke, respectively the new and immediate past rectors of Graffham. Funeral at Arundel Cathedral of Bernard Marmaduke Fitzalan-Howard, 16th Duke of Norfolk, who died aged 66. Margaret Thatcher becomes leader of the Conservative Party. More than 40 die in the Moorgate train crash. Coal miners accept a 35 per cent pay rise. Michael Parkinson is accused of sexism after an edgy interview with actress Helen Mirren on his TV chat show. Pilot reach number one in the UK singles chart with *January*, where it stays for three weeks. Death of author PG Wodehouse (91).

TRUE STRAYS

Saturday
8th February

Empire Hall, Graffham,
Petworth, GU28 0QB

7.30 for 8.00pm

The True Strays are a vintage loving, blues fuelled, dirty rock and roll band. Their live shows are a joyous hoedown of huge bass driven riffs, a howling tornado of resonator guitar, cacophonous drums and soaring Hammond organ.



www.truestrays.com

"Their creations have vitality, it's more than just words and music, they pack a real punch and make you sit up and take notice..."

– Blues & Roots Radio

"Rockin' blues at it's best."

– Swingamajig

"A hip-shaking barrage of blues rock n roll."

– Clunk Magazine

Tickets from £15 plus booking fee through www.empirehall.org.uk/tickets

Americana roots and blues rock, True Strays are a must see band, with influences include greats like Muddy Waters and Howling Wolf, Jimi Hendrix and Fleetwood Mac, The Doors and Pink Floyd and more recent punk and rock and roll bands like Nirvana, QOTSA and Idles.

True Strays are lifelong friends, songwriters and country boys from Bristol, who are fast carving out a niche of their own in the UK Americana scene. Their music is a cathartic celebration of alternative roots Americana and blues rock.

They have completed countless UK tours, supported bands as diverse as Holy Moly and the Crackers and Elles Bailey, played their first European, Swedish and Norwegian dates, and survived 70+ festival shows at prestigious festivals like Green Man and Glastonbury. 2023 saw years of hard work behind the scenes coming to fruition with a prestigious invite to play alongside Joe Bonamassa on his Keeping The Blues Alive at Sea Cruise.

“Rising stars of the UK Americana scene”

The List



“Their creations have vitality, it’s more than just words and music, they pack a real punch and make you sit up and take notice...”

Blues & Roots Radio



“strong Americana”

BluesNews

Botany Bay marks 10 years of conservation

The wetland area of great biodiversity known as Botany Bay, tucked around its own chalk stream between the eastern end of Lavington Park and Beechwood Lane, has just marked its first decade as a conservancy. Its chairman, Dr Clive Lightfoot, looks back at the conservation group's initial 10 years.

Our vision statement emerging from a strategy meeting of key stakeholders back in February 2014 was centred on restoring the “natural vegetation, biodiversity and the regeneration of a wildflower meadow”. We saw Botany Bay being part of the patchwork of different habitats along the South Downs, providing educational opportunities as well as benefitting the local community. Ten years on, we are getting there!

Our first steps were both cautious and precarious – engaging experts to identify and advise on species and habitats that needed protection, deploying explosives experts to remove the main impediment to stream flow and dismantling all the old fish farm infrastructure. Five skip loads later, we settled into the hard work of restoring the site's natural vegetation and stream flow and making sure it was safe for visitors.

We cut out a large amount of cherry laurel, bamboo, and rhododendron to make more space for natural vegetation. In the chalk stream, we removed barriers and constructed small falls and pinch points to improve water flow and lengthen gravel beds and spawning areas for our resident population of wild brown trout. Traps were installed along the stream to control mink. We laid out chalk paths, fencing and brash barriers, installed bridges, a dipping platform, and put up an education shelter to host students, volunteers and visitors. We had to carry out quite a bit of tree work to keep our visitors safe, especially on ash suffering from dieback.

That was the first five years. In the past five years, interventions turned from restoration to habitat diversification within our meadow, woodland, ponds and stream. Now, what was a rough pasture meadow is a small copse that provides pollen for bees, insects and butterflies as well as winter food for birds, a 25-metre bee bank and a wildflower area which we are busy expanding to replace the entire rough pasture. We now provide much more pollen for bees, insects and butterflies as well as more winter food for birds.

In 2023, we recorded 53 plant, 25 butterfly, seven beetle, six moth, six fly, five bee and five dragon and damsel fly species there. The woodland area is managed sensitively, leaving dead wood habitat piles and monoliths creating space for bats (of which surveys regularly record between 10 and 13 species). We now have some

700 metres of mixed hedging along the woodland edges. The margin of our lake has seen 12 black poplar trees established, while across our woodland area we have planted around 130 trees including cherry, box, whitebeam, guelder rose, dogrose, hawthorn, blackthorn, spindle, disease resistant elm, small-leaved lime, oak, field maple, buckthorn and wild privet. Stream margins and pond habitats have also been diversified. Re-profiling and connecting ponds expanded shallow margins fit for introducing marsh marigolds and yellow flag as well as encouraging frogs, toads, and newts. We created wetland scallops in the stream margins, supporting damsel and dragonflies as well as many beetle species. In the stream, we constructed two berms increasing flow over gravel and helping sustain our healthy invertebrate indicator species counts.



Clive (second right) with partner Anne Dennig (right) and volunteers Jude and Matthew Sennitt, by a fallen tree used at Botany Bay to create the environment loved by wild native brown trout.

While we can justifiably celebrate the realisation of our vision, we now move our focus to managing for biodiversity. This will mean keeping a check on invasives like pendulous sedge, hemp agrimony, horsetail, and cherry laurel as well as managing species mixes in our wildflower meadow. We'll be expanding our riparian woodland into three shallow ponds with goat willow, river birch and alder. We will also be looking to introduce the native white-clawed crayfish and water voles in the stream. Lastly, we'll reach out to neighbours to interconnect habitats making wildlife corridors for species across the landscape – as far afield as Knepp. What we have achieved over these 10 years would not have been possible without the invaluable energy and support from South Downs National Park Authority, Portsmouth Services Fly Fishing Association, Sussex Wildlife Trust, The Wild Trout Trust, Arun and Rother Rivers Trust, The Environment Agency, The Woodland Trust, Seaford College, Weald Woodsman, Arun Trees, Built by Artizans, The Graffham Downs Trust and the many other groups, individuals and members of our Community Interest Group who have given us their time, from near and far. Thanks to them all.

Meet your neighbour: Calloways' Tilly Blyth

In an occasional series, editor Michael Blunt chats to a fellow villager.

When Tilly Blyth moved into her Graffham home from home in September, before starting her new job as Director of the Weald and Downland Living Museum at nearby Singleton, it felt that her life and come full circle in several ways.

While her feet, when she has a chance to put them up, are increasingly planted in her cottage at Calloways, she and husband Andrew Chitty (Tilly retained her surname when they married) are keeping their family home in London's Holloway as a base for when their three grown-up daughters can pop back to the parental nest.

So she's splitting her time between the countryside and the city – just as she did when she was growing up. After her own Mum and Dad separated, she would flit between her mother's house in the capital and the farm that had been in her father's line for generations in the rural border between Essex and Suffolk.

After schooling to the age of 16 at a London comp, she won a bursary to take her A levels (all in Sciences) here in the South Downs – at Bedales, just outside Petersfield, which both her parents and her aunts had attended before her.

Then it was off to Manchester University where she took a degree in Physics then a master's in Science before rounding her education off with a PhD at London's Brunel, focussing on Sociology and the History of the Internet. Isn't that a short history? "Most people think the internet was invented by Tim Berners-Lee in 1989, but it actually dates back to the 1960s – so more than half a century," she noted.

Explaining her fascination in this field, she added: "I'm not really the classic museum person or scientist. It's the social nature of science that really interests me – what it can do for people, how science and art connect, the stories behind it."

After gaining her doctorate, Dr Blyth "fell into" television, as a consultant to the BBC series *The Net*, which traced the development of the digital world. It was the first programme in the UK with its own website and email address.

It was there that she met Andrew. He cut his teeth at the BBC, as part of the *Horizon* documentary team, and in the early days of Channel 4, before setting up his own TV company, producing content for national broadcasters, governments, museums, theatres, you name it... He later also found time to serve as member of the national broadcasting watchdog OFCOM and on the government inquiry into the future of public service television, while also chairing the National Skills Council for Digital Media and working as Director of Creative England, championing creative

businesses in the English regions. For the past five years, he's been Professor of Creative Industries at Loughborough University's London campus.

Tilly went on to produce content for the BBC, for universities and increasingly for museums. So it was something of a natural step when she joined the Science Museum as a curator in the early 2000s. Including a brief stint on secondment to the British Library, she spent more than 20 years there. One of her favourite job titles was Keeper of Technologies and Engineering. She ended up as its Head of Collections and Principal Curator, leading its curatorial, library and archive, and research teams in



London, and helping steer it through the pandemic lockdowns. “It was an amazing and fun place to work. We created six new galleries, and exhibitions on Alan Turing and GCHQ.” Which may explain why she also now serves as a trustee of Bletchley Park (where Turing broke the Enigma code in World War II) and sits on British Heritage's Blue Plaques Panel. Filling out her CV is a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts and membership of BAFTA. She's kept her broadcasting links by co-presenting the BBC Radio 4 series *The Art of Innovation*.

She could quite easily have stayed at the Science Museum until retirement but, she chuckled, “I decided to push myself by doing something a bit different.”

She was appointed Professor and Head of the School of Museum Studies at Leicester University, widely seen as the gold standard in its field. Although she didn't much enjoy the commute and missed the creative aspects of her Science Museum roles, she wasn't looking for a move when, after two years, she was approached by a headhunter on a search for someone to take over from Simon Wardell as director of the Weald and Downland Living Museum.

She admitted: “I'd never actually been there although it had long been on my 'to do' list, so Andrew and I popped down to recce it and we were both blown away! As we left, he said it was simply the ideal job for me – and he was right!” After a rigorous selection process, Tilly was offered the post in June. Which meant she needed to find somewhere to live nearby, “ideally in a village with a bit of life to

▶ *Continued on next page*

▶ *Continued from previous page*

it”. After several weeks fruitlessly searching, she found that the Lavington Stud and Estate had put the Grade II listed, 300-year-old Calloways cottage up for rent. Finding it via the internet was not the only hint that it, and Graffham, would be the ideal match for her and Andrew.

She remembered: “It looked so nice and perfect online, so we arranged a visit – and it was even nicer and more perfect in real life! As we drove towards it, we spotted a hare in the road just ahead of us and rather than bounding off the tarmac it led us along the lane towards the house. What kind of a sign was that?!”

She and Andrew also checked out Graffham Village Shop on that visit. One of the customers being served ahead of her was astronaut Tim Peake, who lives locally, and whom she knew from her Science Museum days – “what a coincidence!”

Andrew and their girls – twins Odessa and Ruby, in their early 20s, the former on a year’s research scholarship at Harvard and the latter a model talent manager in Glasgow, and Cecily who has just started reading Classics at Cambridge – love it here too and are keen to spend more time in and around the village.

Tilly is thrilled to have swapped her hour-long train commute to Leicester for her 15-minute drive through the West Sussex countryside to Singleton. With 53 historic buildings currently on site, 65 year-round employees swelled by scores more at peak times plus hundreds of volunteers, hosting 130,000 visitors a year quite apart from being home to BBC’s popular *Repair Shop*, all sorts of courses and special events like weddings, she’s revelling in the learning curve the museum has given her. Within weeks, though, she had to take the tricky decisions to cancel its Advent Fair, one of its main winter events, because of bad weather and temporarily shut its iconic Downland Gridshell centrepiece building because of leaks.

Looking ahead, she said: “The museum is a magical place, in a beautiful landscape and where creativity and telling the story of our past are so important, with the community at the heart of everything it does. My job is to ensure it is nurtured and cherished, reconnecting the old traditions and skills with the here and now on as wide a scale as possible.”

Most of all, Tilly is rejoicing being back in the countryside. As a lark rather than a night owl, she is up every morning to snap a photo through her kitchen window of the sun rise across the meadows and Downs before taking the family whippet Libby out to discover the scores of footpaths in the vicinity, meeting many of the village’s fellow dog-walkers along the way “although I only know most of them by their dog’s names so far!”

Graffham Parish News' funtastic February quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers on page 61 (no cheating!)

- 1 Which of these Sussex villages has, like Graffham, a St Giles Church: [a] Coldwaltham, [b] Bodiam, [c] Horsted Keynes?
- 2 Which future Prime Minister moved to Binderton House in 1941: [a] Clement Attlee, [b] Anthony Eden, [c] Harold Macmillan?
- 3 Which public service did West Sussex County Council establish on 13 Feb 1925?
- 4 Who did Rt Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, succeed when he was appointed 10th Archbishop of Westminster 25 years ago?
- 5 How much does a first class postage stamp cost: a) 65p, b) £1.65, c) £2.65?
- 6 On what kind of tree do dates grow: [a] pine, [b] magnolia, [c] palm?
- 7 The Duke of Perth, Money Musk and the Dashing White Sergeant are all types of Scottish what?
- 8 How old will the Duchess of Kent (the oldest living member of the British royal family) be on 22 February?
- 9 In which film, released this month in 1985, set in the Pennsylvanian Amish community and starring Harrison Ford as Detective Sergeant John Book, did eight-year-old Lucas Haas play the title rôle?
- 10 "The Grieg Piano Concerto" was a famous 1971 sketch which featured conductor "Mr Preview" (André Previn) and which comedy duo?

Foodbank most wanted shopping items updated

Chichester District Foodbank – which also supports the needy in Midhurst, Petworth and their surrounding villages, including our own – has updated its list of most urgently needed items, which can be left in its donation baskets inside All Saints



Chapel, directly opposite Graffham Village Shop, or inside St Giles Church:

- Cooking oil.
- Dried pulses.
- Flour.
- Hot chocolate.
- Laundry detergent.
- Rice pudding or custard.
- Sandwich paste.
- Shampoo / conditioner.
- Shaving gel and razors.
- Tinned fruit.
- Tinned meats.
- Tinned or packet soup.
- Tinned tomatoes/passata.
- Toothbrushes.
- Treats (choc bars etc)
- UHT milk/equivalents.
- UHT fruit juice.
- Washing up liquid.

Nature Notes: Keep an eye out for our toads!

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

Ensnared, by the fire, in my corner of a pub on a visit to Lewes I didn't look far for inspiration for this month's article. Cursing and the clanging of brass on lead alerted me to a couple of lads playing that most Sussex of pub games – Toad in the Hole. The perfect excuse for some sycophantic toadying to an amphibian I adore, warts and all.

Toads are beautiful. Yes, I know they have lumpy, poisonous skin. Yes, I know they have a face like Ena Sharples. But that eye. That amazing eye. Next time you see a toad get right up close and allow yourself to be hypnotised by that mesmerizing golden-ringed eye. Fellow toad lover George Orwell called it “about the most beautiful eye of any living creature”.

In February that beautiful eye blinks open as toads awaken from their winter hibernation. From under stones, logs and leaves they emerge and start the long walk home – back to the pond where they were born. They proceed on this pilgrimage with a determined, unsteady gait – like one of those old men you see gingerly crossing the shingle on his way to his annual New Year's Day dip. But once 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 if you plan to come along and say if you would like a ride up so that he can arrange transport.



1 February

Saturday

15 March

Saturday

toad hits the water he is rejuvenated and has one thing on his mind. Croaking and brawling, a peaceful pond is transformed into an Ibiza pool party as male toads squabble over females in a writhing orgy of amorous amphibians.

The results of this Bacchanalian bonding are long polka dot

ribbons of spawn (unlike the frog's shapeless tapioca blobs) and by May the parent toads have left their breeding ponds to lead a more respectable life on dry land until their winter hibernation. Amazingly, these animals can live for over 40 years.

With their primordial appearance, annual gatherings and rituals there is a touch of the occult about the toad. Throughout England's history they have been vilified, linked to witchcraft and strange superstitions. And, when it comes to folklore, there's nowt so queer as toads. Rubbing toads on your body could cure cancer. A live toad in your mouth could cure thrush. Precious jewels (toadstones) were reputed to be hidden in a toad's head. Immortal toad-eaters were a sideshow attraction at country fairs. Travelling toad doctors could heal you with toad hearts and legs. The mysterious toad men used toad potions to cure horses (a practice that allegedly continued until the 1930s in some counties).

It took Kenneth Grahame's beloved *The Wind in the Willows* finally to drag the toad out of the dark ages and put him in a tweed suit and the hearts of the nation. Please keep an eye out for these amazing animals this spring.

- 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:



A toad, with its mesmerising golden-ringed eye.

© Dave Kilbey, Sussex Wildlife Trust



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Out and about: Hellebores

An occasional column by Jonathan Simons, amateur botanist and font of useless knowledge on so many things astonishing and bizarre.

Hellebores, not to be confused with the orchids known as Helleborines, are commonly encountered in gardens public and private – but, handsome as they are, they do not give me half the thrill of an encounter with a native plant in the wild.

In the 1970s I discovered Stinking Hellebore, *Helleborus foetidus*, in Arundel Park and around Box Hill and thought that very little could be so fine. Until, that is, I found Green Hellebore, *Helleborus viridis*, flourishing in Lordington Copse near Walderton and then even in two places back on my native Isle of Wight.

Moving to Graffham in 2004, I was rather surprised, if not shocked, to see Stinking Hellebore scattered in the verges up and down the Selham Road and in Middleheath Copse, far from the chalky or clay soils I imagined it required.

Unattended, each individual plant seems to take a year or two to develop and does not flower more than a couple of times after that. It thus relies on sowing seed and does not always appear in the same place. I feel that there must be private gardens around here that are keeping these apparently wild populations going.

More likely to be truly wild however is the one clump of Green Hellebore that I discovered in 2006 in Hoyle Copse, close to the public path. There are apparently good populations around Sutton but I have failed to locate them.

It was therefore a great joy to find a previously unrecorded patch so close to my new home. Needless to say, my attempt to create a Hellebore garden in the acid conditions at Millburgh Hall has not been a raging success. The Stinking Hellebore is just managing to survive generation to generation but exotic species, donated by well-wishers, come and quickly go. The Green Hellebore I paid good money for flowered once and disappeared.



Green Hellebores photographed by © Jonathon in Kent, above, and a single bloom at Millburgh Hall, below.





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If your thoughts in this usually dark and dank month are turning to how to exercise and keep fit throughout the year, then see our special pull-out-and-keep four-page guide to sports in Graffham, in the centre pages of this edition.

Graffham Tennis Club



Yet more cancellations due to the weather mean there is only one result to report, with Graffham's mixed doubles A team of Sian Green, Ollie Edwards, Emma Amin and Ross Anderson being pipped 3-5 by Steep on 12 January in the East Hants league. The backlog of matches needs to be completed by the end of March so expect more reports next month.

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants League home fixtures: February

All spectators welcome!

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|--------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| 8 | Sat | 1.15pm | Mixed Doubles | Div 3 | v Fernhurst B |
| 16 | Sun | 1pm | Mixed Doubles | Div 1 | v Medstead A |

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Missing person report

A story for the winter months by Graffham artist Susan Hill.

It is a quiet winter evening in the village. There are dusk walks for the dogs and horses being stabled. Boxing Day torpor sets in with the early sunset. Two houses glow cheerfully with fairy lights and from within a warmth of chatter, although many are darkened and empty as their occupants celebrate away from home. Owls and spirits abound and the navy sky is punctuated by stars. The South Downs keep watch above as they always do while residents settle on their sofas for an evening of TV. The wind is up.

As the lights go out, the village darkens and searches begin for torches and candles to last out the latest power cut. At this time, alert systems are no longer activated and peace on earth is assumed... that is not always a good assumption. Sheep in a field nervously dodge what may be a predator, and now the streets become impassable without the moonlight. Two houses have parties stopped midway and laughter and alcohol keep them unwary of what surrounds them.

The oldest cottage in the village had once been three tiny abodes in the 15th



© Martina Schneiderova.

A quiet winter evening in the village.

Century. Everybody hears stories of its history but beneath its charm and beauty lie dark secrets from its past that nobody now remembers or understands. In the early part of the 1400s the people living in this tiny hamlet led deprived lives and could never imagine the unthinking sentimentality and value conferred by our society on these poor small homes.

Half an hour away, the lights still burn and people carry on their Christmas celebrations as usual. However, the village has regressed into its soul and past as the darkness envelopes it.

Behind the phone box with its new defibrillator, a fox looks for leftovers but all he finds is old food wrappings. Halfway up to the top of the lane to the church, there

▶ *Continued on next page*

► *Continued from previous page*

is the sound of heavy breathing. It's hard to make out where exactly, but there is a gap where the new estate should be and surely there are fewer houses to make out in the gloom. The phone lines no longer exist and mobiles don't work without internet. A heart attack right now is not a good idea.

A hopeless search ensues for a lighted window and brings panic. Is that what this is? A panic attack or is it much more serious? If this is to be the end, then let it be in the place of sanctuary. Confess your sins as you make your way up to the church hoping to find an inhabited house. Do I exist, or am I faded past life? Passing night creatures and animals, there is only the feeling of an attachment to the past, all isolated from the present. How vulnerable we are away from our devices and connections, now no more protected than those who lived here 500 years ago

A cat creeps up a tree and an owl flits past. We can be old or new, no matter. Did we see someone flit behind or was it a stranger in odd clothes?

At dawn, two keys open the old church doors and welcome the return of light. Current restored, life resumed. All shall be well.



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Electoral roll of Graffham with Woolavington

Every church parish is obliged to keep a list of people entitled to be included on an Electoral Roll in the parish.

Purpose People named on the roll are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting when Parochial Church Council members and Deanery Synod members are elected and other matters of business of the parish considered. It is also used to provide an informal indication of how many people are active members of the Church of England in the parish.

Roll management Each year the roll is updated and every sixth year the existing roll is closed down and a new roll drawn up. As 2025 is a sixth year, we are asking people to consider now if they wish to apply or reapply for enrolment. You can do

so if you are a baptised lay person aged 16 or over or will be 16 in the next 12 months and fulfil one of three categories. In the first category a person declares themselves to be a member of the Church of England (or Church in communion with the Church of England) and a resident in the parish. Two other categories allow for people who do not live in the parish, though regularly attend church within it, to also have their names included on the roll (details are on the form).

Applying for enrolment Application forms for current roll members have been delivered to their homes. Forms for any other prospective members can be found on the table inside St Giles Church. Please deliver completed forms to Parish Electoral Roll Officer Fiona Mackie at Chelsea Cottage, which is near the Homes of Rest, on The Street, Graffham. The deadline for delivering forms is 9 March 2025 and the new Roll takes effect on 23 March 2025.

Celebrating Faith
Petworth
Deanery Celebration

A service celebrating the history and Christian faith in our Deanery with Bishop Martin and Bishop Ruth

Monday 24 February @ 2:00pm
St Mary's Church, Petworth

www.celebratingfaith.co.uk

Two bishops: Bishop Martin of Chichester and Bishop Ruth of Horsham will join Lord Egremont at a special service for the Deanery of Petworth at the town's St Mary's Church on Monday 24 February at 2pm to celebrate this year's 950th anniversary of Chichester Diocese and the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. All welcome.



A pony and some sheep joined the Nativity scene in St Giles Church for its packed crib service on Christmas Eve. Volunteers from among the younger members of the congregation played the various parts in the Rev Vivien's retelling of the birth of Jesus – many of them wearing outfits specially made for the occasion by Jill Knight.

Who's doing what at St Giles in February

| Flowers | | Cleaning |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 2 | Diane Bellis | Mary Coakes |
| 9 and 16 | Nettie Lanaghan | |
| 23 and 3 March | Barbara Edge | |

Other denominations locally

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

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

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

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

What's on at our village church and chapel

- All residents and visitors are welcome to all services.
- St Giles Church is at the far south end of Graffham Street, near the Downs.
- All Saints' Chapel is opposite Graffham Village Shop.
- Both St Giles Church and All Saints' Chapel are open daily.
- See stgilesgraffham.org or Facebook's @stgilesgraffham for any changes.

| February | | | | |
|----------|-----|-------------|--|-------------------|
| 1 | Sat | 9.30am | Come and Sing! | St Giles Church |
| 2 | Sun | 10.30am | Parish Eucharist for Candlemas <i>Reading: Malachi 3 v1-5</i> | St Giles Church |
| 4 | Tue | 9.30am | Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am | All Saints Chapel |
| 6 | Thu | 11.30am | Funeral Service for Frances Heaton RIP | St Giles Church |
| 8 | Sat | 10am-12noon | Bellringing Practice | St Giles Church |
| 9 | Sun | 10.30am | Parish Eucharist 4 before Lent <i>Reading: Isaiah 6 vs 1-8</i> | St Giles Church |
| | | 6pm | BCP Evensong | All Saints Chapel |
| 11 | Tue | 9.30am | Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am | All Saints Chapel |
| 12 | Wed | 12.30pm | Food with Friends | The Rectory |
| 16 | Sun | 9am | BCP Holy Communion | St Giles Church |
| | | 10.30am | Third Sunday Service <i>Reading: Jeremiah 17 vs 5-10</i> | St Giles Church |
| 18 | Tue | 9.30am | Morning Prayer then Pilgrims at 10am | All Saints Chapel |
| 20 | Thu | 2pm | PCC Worship Group meeting | |
| 23 | Sun | 10.30am | Parish Eucharist 2 before Lent <i>Reading: Revelation 4</i> | St Giles Church |
| 25 | Tue | | No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims | |
| March | | | | |
| 1 | Sat | 9.30am | Come and Sing! | St Giles Church |
| 2 | Sun | 10.30am | Parish Eucharist <i>Reading: Exodus 34 vs 29-end</i> | St Giles Church |
| 5 | Wed | 7pm | Ash Wednesday Eucharist with imposition of ashes | St Giles Church |
| 6 | Thu | | Messy Church Theme: Forgiveness | Pavilion |



TEDDY TIME in the Pavilion TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am
Pavilion, Graffham Rec

No charge. All welcome. Just come along!

What's on in and around the village

For all St Giles and All Saints events, see page 55. For sports dates, see page 49.

| February | | | | |
|----------|-----|-------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Sat | 9am-2pm | Midhurst Farmers Market | Midhurst |
| | | 9.30am | Graffham Down Trust work party (page 44) | Meet at St Giles |
| | | 6.30-9.30pm | Folk Under The Fermenters – see bit.ly/FolkUnderTheFermenters | Langham's Brewery, Lodsworth |
| 2 | Sun | | Candlemas | |
| | | 2-4pm | Open garden snowdrop festival | Manor of Dean, Tillington GU28 9AP |
| 4 | Tue | 10.45am | Arts Society of Midhurst talk <i>The Life and Work of Piero della Francesca</i> | Midhurst Methodist Hall |
| | | 2pm | Arts Society of West Sussex talk <i>A Carpet Ride to Khiva</i> | Fittleworth Village Hall |
| 6 | Thu | 11.30am | Funeral of Frances Heaton – see page 19 | St Giles Church |
| 8 | Sat | 7.30pm | True Strays in concert – see page 34-35 | Empire Hall |
| 9 | Sun | 7pm | Folk music night | Three Moles |
| 13 | Thu | 2.30pm | Thursday Club talk <i>Stay Safe/Stay Well</i> | Empire Hall |
| 14 | Fri | | Valentine's Day | |
| | | | Seaford College half-term (till 23 Feb) | |
| | | Afternoon | Exhibition on The Woodcote development proposals (to be confirmed) (see page 3) | Empire Hall |
| 15 | Sat | 7pm | Graffham Empire Movies presents <i>One Life</i> – see page 10 | Empire Hall |
| 16 | Sun | 6.30-8.30pm | Dark Skies Festival star-gazing event | Counters Gate Park, Goodwood |
| 17 | Mon | | WSCC schools half term (till 21 Feb) | |
| 18 | Tue | 9-11am | Great Feet foot health professional ¹ | Empire Hall |
| | | 12 noon | Funeral of James Sear (see page 19) | St Giles Church |
| 22 | Sat | 10-11am | Community garden work party | War Memorial |
| | | 9am-1pm | Petworth Farmers Market | Petworth |
| 26 | Wed | 12.30pm | Lunch Club ² | Empire Hall |

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

²**Graffham 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 £10 a head. Please book via Sarah on 01798 867567.

Need a helping hand...? Graffham with Woolavington's Parish Priest Discretionary Fund is available to help any parishioner in real financial need. It could be the answer to your prayers. Contact Rev Vivien to find out more.

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

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|-------------|
| Mondays | 9-10am | Fitflows Fitness ¹ | Empire Hall |
| | Daytime-evening | Osteopath ² | Empire Hall |
| Tuesdays | 8.30am- 12noon | Post Office | Empire Hall |
| | 8am | Strength and mobility with Gemma ³ | Westerlands |
| | 9.30am | Circuits with Gemma ³ | Westerlands |
| | Daytime-evening | Osteopath ² | Empire Hall |
| | 7.30pm | Bell ringing practice – newcomers welcome | St Giles |
| Wednesdays | 9- 10am | Yoga ⁴ | Empire Hall |
| | 10.15-11.30am | Teddy Time toddler group ⁵ | Pavilion |
| | 11.15am-12noon | Pilates ⁶ | Empire Hall |
| | 1.45-2.45pm | Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching ⁷ | Rec |
| | 5.30pm | Hard core exercise with Nina ³ | Westerlands |
| | 7-8.30pm | Badminton ⁸ – all welcome | Empire Hall |
| | Daytime-evening | Osteopath ² | Empire Hall |
| Thursdays | Daytime-evening | Osteopath ² | Empire Hall |
| | 10.45-11.45am | Ease Into Exercise ⁹ | Empire Hall |
| | 5.30pm | Kettleball with Gareth ³ | Westerlands |
| | 6-7.15pm | Yoga ⁴ | Empire Hall |
| Fridays | 9-10.15am | Yoga ⁴ | Empire Hall |
| | 9am-3pm | Physiotherapy clinic ¹⁰ | Empire Hall |
| Saturdays | 8am | Boxercise with Nina ³ | Westerlands |
| | 10am | Wildstrong with Gareth ³ | Westerlands |
| Sundays | 5pm | Pickleball ¹¹ | Empire Hall |
| | 5pm | Casual football ¹² | Rec |

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

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

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

³**For all Westerlands events:** Book online at www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit

⁴**Yoga:** Deborah Albon on 07790 367009.

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

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

⁷**Rusty Racquets:** Contact Richard Hopp at richard@hopppoaching.co.uk, on 07904 069457.

⁸**Badminton:** Contact Louisa Thomas, at louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk. All welcome.

⁹**Ease Into Exercise:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

¹⁰**Physiotherapy:** Contact Serena Cooper on 07884 445983 or at serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com.

¹¹**Pickleball:** Contact Beanie Bradley on 07500 080417.

¹²**Casual Football:** Contact Lucas Thornley on 07767 721997.

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Quiz answers (from page 41)

- 1 All of them. 2 [b] Anthony Eden.
3 West Sussex Library Service.
4 Cardinal Basil Hume. 5 [b] £1.65.
6 [c] Palm. 7 Country Dances. 8 92.
9 *Witness*. 10 Morecambe & Wise.



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Directory: Useful local contact info

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| DOCTORS | Petworth Surgery | 01798 342248 |
| | Midhurst Riverbank Medical Centre | 01730 812121 |
| | Haslemere Minor Injuries Unit | 01483 782334 |
| DEFIBRILLATORS | On wall outside Empire Hall | Code is C240Z |
| | In phone box outside Pescods | Code is C159X |
| FLOOD ALERT for Lods Bridge | To check river level | bit.ly/lodsbridge |
| POLICE | In emergency | 999 |
| | Non-emergency | 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 101 |
| BURST WATER MAINS | Southern Water | 0800 820 999 |
| POWER CUTS | Scottish & Southern Electric | 105 or 0800 0727 282 |
| 99 FLEX BUS | Linking Graffham with Chichester, Petworth etc | 01243 858854 bit.ly/99flexbus |
| All Saints Chapel Trust | Chairman Clive Rowntree | 01798 867536 |
| Badminton | Christina Federowicz | 07900 055574 |
| Bees / Swarms | | |
| | Wisboro' Green B'keepers | Tom Moore 07984 606214/01798 343470 |
| | Local beekeeper | Murray West evenings 01798 867048 |
| Chichester District Council | | 01243 534734 |
| | District Councillor | John Cross jcross@chichester.gov.uk 07592 307027 |
| | Dog Warden | Office hours 01243 534734 Emergency 01243 785339 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | | 03448 487969 |
| East Lavington Parish Council | Chairman Charles Britton Clerk Amy Harte | charles.britton@eastlavington-pc.uk 07889 979820 eastlavingtonpc@gmail.com |
| Empire Hall | | 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 |
| Foodbank | info@chichester.foodbank.org.uk | 01243 773687 |
| Foresters Arms | forestersarms-pub.co.uk | 01798 867386 |
| Graffham Archive | Robin Brind graffhamarchive@outlook.com | 01798 867619 |
| Graffham Bellringers | Tower Captain Howard Pescott | 01798 867029 |
| Graffham Bowls Club | Chairman Sheila Allen Secretary Liz Pegram | 01798 342869 01798 867770 |
| Graffham Cricket Club | Bill Barrett | 01798 867113 |
| Graffham Down Trust | Chairman Jim Kirke | 01798 867026 |
| Graffham Garden Group | Carole Kirke | 01798 867026 |
| Graff'm Health Support Assc | 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 |

| | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Graffham Lunch Club | | Sarah Lydiard-Wilson | 01798 867567 |
| Graffham Nursery | | School Office | 01798 867324 |
| Graffham Parish Council | Chairman | Gillian Charlesworth | gillian.charlesworth@graftam-pc.uk |
| | Clerk | Caroline Davison | clerk@graftam-pc.uk |
| Graffham Parish News | Editorial and circulation: | | editor.graftamparishnews@gmail.com |
| | Advertising: | | ads.graftamparishnews@gmail.com |
| | See also inside front cover | | |
| Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council | | | stgilesgraftam.org |
| | Priest-in-Charge | Rev Vivien Turner | 01798 867199 |
| | | | hallo@stgilesgraftam.org |
| | Churchwardens | Ginny Barrett | 01798 867113 |
| | | Cindy Bradley | 07787 516522 |
| | Treasurer | Dinah Lamming | graftampctreasurer@gmail.com |
| Graffham Rec Committee | Chairman | John Bracey | 01798 867760 |
| | Treasurer | Bernard Bayly | 01798 867042 |
| | Bookings Sec | Sonya Gillespie | graftamrecpavilion@gmail.com |
| Graffham Tennis Club | Chairman | Simon Longman | 01798 867317 |
| | Membership | David Sanders | 07590 117595 |
| | Coaching | Emma Amin | 01798 867063 |
| Graffham Village Shop | | Jeeva and Vasu | 01798 867700 |
| | | | graftamvillageshop.co.uk |
| Graffham Village Shop Assoc | Chairman | Steve Dover | 07770 499223 |
| | Treasurer | Andy Jones | andy.jones@graftam.net |
| | Secretary | Ros Britton | rosalind.britton@btinternet.com |
| Katherine Maud Guillod Fund | | c/o Graffham PC Clerk | graftampc@gmx.co.uk |
| Lavington Estate | | info@lavingtonstud.co.uk | 01798 867275 |
| Lavington Park Federation | | | graftamanddunton.w-sussex.sch.uk |
| | Graffham CE Infant School | | 01798 867324 |
| | Dunton CE Junior School | | 01798 342402 |
| | Friends of Graffham & Dunton Schools | | 01798 867324 |
| Long Bostle Downland Soc | | Gillian Brandt | 01798 867276 |
| MP Arundel & South Downs | | Andrew Griffith | andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk |
| Midhurst & Petworth Observer | | Nikki Jeffery | 01243 534163 |
| National Trust (Lavington Common) | | | 01730 816638 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | | Michael Crickmay | 01798 867486 |
| Osteopath | | Anna Shawcross | 01798 867523 |
| Oil Buying Syndicate | | Derek Bradnum | derekbradnum@gmail.com |
| Petworth Food Bank | | | 07501 921617 |
| Pilates at Empire Hall | | Nicky Capes | 07990 517858 |
| Potholes | To report a pothole or other road problem online | | bit.ly/report-potholes-west-sussex |
| Seaford College | | | 01798 867392 |
| Three Moles | | Ollie and Tom | thethreemoles.com 01798 861303 |
| Thursday Club | Secretary | Diane Bellis | 01798 867444 |
| West Sussex County Council | | General enquiries | 01243 777100 |
| | County Councillor | Tom Richardson | 07463 785039 |
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