

GRAFFHAM

PARISH NEWS

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FREE

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Graffham's glorious Goodwood

St Giles to get plastered for 150th landmark

How did your house look half a century ago?



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



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On the cover: Glorious Goodwood lived up to its name for Graffham this year – with local lass Sophie Forsyth winning its top race for amateur women jockeys and an owner from the village taking the honours in the festival's opener.
Full story on page 12.

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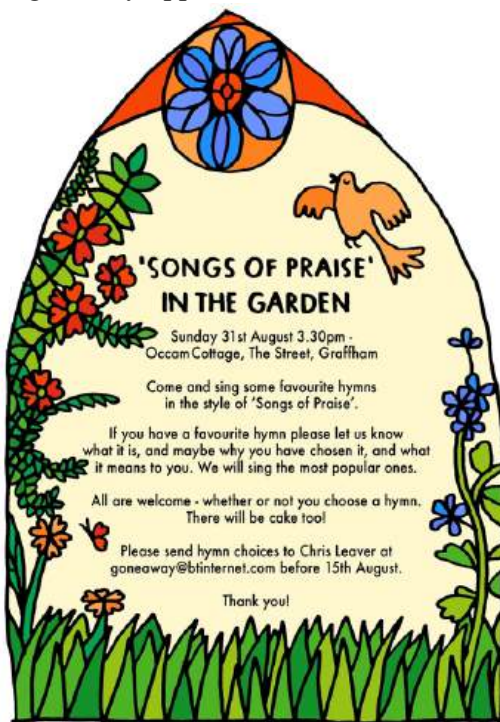
Writing from the Rectory: Sing for joy!

Once again, I find myself reflecting on something taking place on the cusp of the month for this edition. Sunday 31 August is the date set for *Songs of Praise in the Garden*. You may be just in time to come along to this, if reading September's magazine early, or reflecting on experiencing it if that merry gathering has already taken place. Don't miss it.

It takes place in the garden of Occam Cottage nearly opposite the War Memorial, with musical accompaniment by Ellen Oakley. Just bring a garden chair and follow the sound. Cake provided! The repertoire of hymn choices for *Songs of Praise in the Garden* has not been down to the church. Instead, village residents have been invited to suggest their favourites and maybe explain why that choice means so much to them.

I wonder, what is your own favourite, a traditional hymn, or one composed more recently? Is it the words or the music that speaks most vividly to you? Does it remind you of an important occasion, or a special person or time in your life, prompt a feeling that you are glad

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to experience, express faith for you in a compelling way, tell of the beauty of creation, or remind you of a sports team even?

There are no wrong reasons for liking hymns and plenty of good reasons to do so. Singing to time-honoured words and music, individual voices joining together to make a single great expression of praise can be positively uplifting. For example, 200 people recently sang *Jerusalem* in full voice at a wedding this summer at St Giles. The sound had to be heard to be believed and lifts my spirits just to recall it. Singing hymns does us good. Hymns stir our joy, and sometimes national identity. They are a repository of our traditions and character, as well as our faith. They express who we are and can make us even better.

The date – Sunday 31 August, as noted above – is also the eve of St Giles Day, which is held on 1 September, another good reason to celebrate in song.

This hymn-fest could also be considered a curtain raiser for an even more significant celebration, the 150th anniversary of the Rededication of St Giles Church. Hymns aiming to stir roof-raising experiences of joyful song are being chosen for a special anniversary Service on Sunday 2 November, a unique occasion to express who we are as a community and be imprinted on our collective village consciousness as a day of memorable praise and joy.

So sing some favourites, whenever and wherever you can, in church or at this garden event. Tune up your voices and get ready to raise the sound of music. There are plenty of chances to sing our hearts out in Graffham this autumn!

With love,



Reverend Vivien

GRAFFHAM VILLAGE SHOP CAR PARK

Villagers and visitors are politely reminded that, during Graffham Village Shop opening hours, its car park should only be used for leaving your vehicle temporarily while you are visiting the shop itself or the picture framer next door – not for long stays or for other purposes.

Mini exhibition traces the history of our church

A mini exhibition tracing the history of Graffham's St Giles will be on display in locations around the community in the run-up to celebrations this autumn to mark the 150th anniversary of the church's rededication after its rebuilding in 1875 in memory of the village's former Lord of the Manor Bishop Samuel Wilberforce.

The Bishop of Chichester will visit on All Saints Sunday 2 November for a special service – just as his predecessor did a century and a half ago, when the Archbishop of Canterbury and three other bishops led the rededication in honour of their friend, who had been squire of Graffham and East Lavington for more than three decades until his death in 1873.

The 'pop-up' display panels outline the history of the building which has been at the centre of the parish for around a thousand years and the man in whose honour it was renovated and extended a century and a



The exhibition is centred on two large display panels.

Designed by village graphic artist Karin Skanberg with text and images compiled by *Graffham Parish News* editor Michael Blunt and local historian Pauline Goodwin, it will be on show at Graffham fête on the Rec on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August (see centre pages) and in St Giles itself afterwards.

Meantime, you can read all about how the building was transformed and the people behind it in a series of features starting in this edition. See page 36.

Chancel and nave to get plastered and painted

There will be limited access to St Giles for a few weeks this month (September) as scaffolding is installed to enable workmen to carry out repairs to plasterwork and repaint some of the walls ahead of November's special 150th anniversary service.

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The work will focus on the chancel and western wall of the nave, the areas of the church's interior most affected by damp and time. After cracks in their surfaces have been repaired, the walls will be given four coats of limewash. These renovations have been delayed until the completion of an overhaul of the building's roof, to ensure it is watertight.

A specialist firm from Singleton has been selected to undertake the project, after a competitive tender, with advice from the diocese architect. He will also oversee the work, to ensure it meets the exacting requirements needed for a historic, Grade II listed church. All necessary approvals have been granted for it to be carried out.

Grants are being sought from a number of charitable foundations towards the expected £15,000 cost – and parishioners are being invited to contribute via stgilesgraffham.org/giving/

Harvest celebration returns to evening time

Graffham's annual harvest meal returns to its traditional Friday evening timing this month – after switching to lunchtimes in recent years. It will be held on Friday 26 September from 6.30pm in the Empire Hall. All are welcome and there's no need to book. It will be a bring-and-share meal so take along whatever is your favourite dish – savoury and/or sweet – to share with your fellow villagers, plus your own drinks. Again, sharing is encouraged. Those attending will be invited to make a



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

Organiser Marie Bracey said: "It's amazing how it all works out with more than enough delicious delights to keep everyone happy! Our harvest meal is a wonderful way for villagers to enjoy each other's company in a traditional way. We would like especially to welcome as many families as possible."

Also, as usual, parishioners are invited to donate food and other household consumables for the needy at the Harvest Festival Service at St Giles at 10.30 am on Sunday 21 September. Any items given contributed be combined with donations collected by Graffham Infant School to be given to our local homeless charity Stonepillow. All tinned or packaged food and toiletries are welcome. For more specifics, see stonepillow.org.uk/how-to-help/donate-food/

Woodcote planning decision awaited

As this edition went to press, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) was still giving 1 August 2025 as its “determination deadline” for The Woodcote’s expansion plans – although no decision had been posted.

If the officers decide to refer the issue to the body’s planning committee for a ruling, its next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11 September, at the SDNPA’s offices at Midhurst, starting at 10am. Whether The Woodcote will be on the agenda will not be confirmed until the agenda is posted five days ahead of the meeting. Members of the public are able to attend – or you can watch the meeting live or by ‘catch-up’ via its YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/@SDNPACcommittees. The public and parish councils are able to speak at its meetings, in line with the ‘public participation’ protocols detailed on its website.



The former White Horse would triple in size if the Woodcote’s plans are approved.

The restaurant with rooms that used to be The White Horse wants to triple in size, knocking down its existing six guest rooms and building 16 new ones in the field further to the south, converting the former pub into a bar and bistro, constructing a new restaurant, private dining/event room, lounge, kitchen, staff and service areas, making a new car park for some 70 vehicles with an overflow parking area and kitchen and flower gardens. More than 100 objections have been filed, including from the SDNPA’s Landscape and Design Officers, while gaining some letters of support. You can read all comments made about the proposal at bit.ly/woodcote-planning

Date set for parish meeting on council merger

A date has been set for a joint Parish Meeting of East Lavington and Graffham for electors to give their views on whether or not the two parish councils should merge. It will be held on Tuesday 14 October, in the Empire Hall, starting at 6.30pm.

All residents of both civil parishes are welcome to attend and will be invited to speak, whether for, against or indifferent on the issue, though numbers called to talk and the length of time they are given may be limited depending on the numbers.

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Graffham Parish Council is in favour of combining with its East Lavington neighbour after its own annual meeting of its parish, in May, showed a clear majority of those attending in favour. Its Chairman Gillian Charlesworth has formally written to East Lavington to confirm that position. East Lavington's councillors are split on the proposal but have agreed to consult residents on the idea after its own annual parish meeting clearly showed support for consultation.

Next month's edition will include the full background.

East Lavington's Amy is Graffham's new clerk



Amy Harte has been appointed the new clerk to Graffham Parish Council. She will combine the role with her existing duties as clerk to neighbouring East Lavington Parish Council. She has previously also served as clerk to Duncton Parish Council. A resident of Duncton, her children attended Graffham Infant School. At Graffham Parish Council, she succeeds Caroline Davison, who has stepped down after a couple of years.

Local colleges celebrate awesome A level results

Students at both Midhurst Rother and Seaford have been celebrating some of the colleges' best yet sets of A level and equivalent results.

More Seaford students than ever have gained entry to their first-choice universities after increasing the number of A*s achieved and maintaining its already excellent A* to C grades. More of its leavers than ever before are also heading to the top



Seaford students celebrate their results.

Russell Group universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Exeter and Durham. Others are taking different routes, though – one has gained a contract with Sussex Cricket, another has signed as a professional with Harlequins Rugby Club and one more has been offered a golf scholarship at a top US university.

Midhurst Rother saw its biggest yet cohort of students sitting A levels, achieving a fine set of grades, gaining entries to Cambridge, Bristol and other top universities.

Final bits of kit to be added to Play Park

Graffham Play Park will be closed for around a week in the month or so ahead to enable its final bits of kit to be fitted after Chichester District Council made a grant of almost £16,000 to the scheme – taking its fund-raising to its target.

The work has been scheduled for after schools return from holidays, to avoid as much as possible disappointing its young users. It is expected to be carried out later this September or possibly October – the exact date is to be confirmed – when the facility will be unavailable for a few days.

The final items of equipment to be added include a ‘spinning cup’ and playhouse for toddlers, a seesaw and a big multi-play ‘scrambler’. They will be built in natural materials and fitted by Playsafe, from nearby Elsted, like the swings, zipwire, tunnel, slide, roundabout and climbing frame installed in the Play Park’s first phase late last year. That was opened just in time for the Christmas holidays

by our MP Andrew Griffith, after an initial £65,000 was raised in cash and kind. Graffham Parish Council set the ball rolling with £20,000 from its Community Investment Levy fund. Villagers and friends collectively pledged £15,000, topped up by £3,000 of Gift Aid, with further contributions from Graffham Tennis Club and Graffham Festival 2024. Ensuring the



project came to life was a ‘donation in kind’ from Selham House’s Glen and Asta Manchester, with their building team carrying out all the ground works and supplying the woodchip, new fencing and gates.

Just ahead of the re-opening, the Lottery Fund kicked off phase 2 of fund-raising with a £16,000 gift.

Rachel Gerrett, who has been leading the team behind the project, said: “These final elements will allow children of different ages and abilities to play at the same time, providing several different types of physical challenge.”

Rec Chairman John Bracey added: “It is a real credit to the village that this once-in-a-generation project has been completed entirely through charitable and public grants, private donations and Gift Aid – without having to dip into the parish council precept for one penny – thanks to all the generous people concerned.”



Part of Graffham Infant School's roof – without its lead, ripped off by thieves.

Thieves strip lead from roof of village school

Thieves have stripped lead from part of the roof of Graffham Infant School. The damage was spotted on Monday 18 August, so it could have been done over the preceding weekend.

Chairman of the Governors Giovanni Soffietto said: “It’s no secret that rural schools are already up against it financially, and this is another cost and inconvenience to be dealt with now by our governors and staff. Putting it right will be especially challenging given Graffham is lucky enough to be one of only two schools in Sussex in buildings that are listed for their architectural interest.”

Neighbours are asked to see if they have any dashcam or video footage which may help identify the culprits or if they spotted any suspicious vehicles or people.

Bill Bailey walks via Graffham on cancer trek

Comedian, musician and *Strictly Come Dancing* winner Bill Bailey passed over Graffham Down in July on a sponsored walk along the South Downs Way for Macmillan Cancer Support. “It’s 20 years since I lost my Mum to cancer, and I’ll



Bill takes a selfie on the Downs close to Graffham.

always appreciate the help and support we got from Macmillan,” he said.

He was joined by family and friends for his week-long 100 mile (160km) hike from Winchester to Eastbourne – including his 93-year-old Dad. He had to walk one section with his eyes closed because of a suspected allergic reaction.

At the end of the trail, he said: “It’s tough going at times, but of course there are huge stretches of spectacular beauty.”

You can support his effort via [justgiving.com/page/bills-city-to-sea-walk](https://www.justgiving.com/page/bills-city-to-sea-walk)

Village fête all set for Bank Holiday Monday

All's set for Graffham's summer fête, which takes place on the Rec on Bank Holiday Monday (25 August) from 2pm with the usual fun and games for all the family, including our four-legged friends. As ever, the tea and cakes in the Pavilion, beer and Pimms tent, BBQ and ice cream stand are likely to be among the key attractions, with the egg toss, tug of war and coconut shy stoking big competition. If you are out to bag a bargain, there'll be a trove of pre-loved treasures (aka bric-a-brac), a car boot sale and Graffham's fashion exchange, relocated after a week at St Giles. All proceeds go to maintaining the Rec. For full details, see centre pages – and it's not too late to offer to help! Contact David Sparkes 07958 655288.



Hostelries hotting up for Revival weekend

Goodwood Revival takes place in mid September – with Graffham venues planning special events. The festival runs from Friday to Sunday 12 to 14 September – when local roads are expected to be busy with classic cars heading to the jamboree and pubs and restaurants particularly full of customers wearing vintage clothing.

The Three Moles will be staging the last of its summer music nights on the Saturday, with pirate folk-rockers The Captain's Beard singing sea shanties, upbeat originals and downright silly songs in its garden, with its regular folk night indoors on the Sunday evening.



Some 'splendid classic and modern cars' are promised to set the scene for what The Woodcote hopes will become a new annual tradition – its Goodwood Revival Grill, on the final day of the Revival, Sunday. It will be offering an extended all-day service, with a barbecue offering fresh, locally sourced produce.

The following week, The Foresters Arms will be holding the second of its 'sip and paint' afternoons – a relaxed creative fun afternoon in the garden for complete novices or budding artists, with water colour and acrylics, canvas and brushes provided, on Wednesday 17 September.



See how your house looked half a century ago

Graffham Archive is offering you the chance to get hold of a photograph of your house in the village from half a century ago.

It is digitising a collection of around a thousand colour slides (remember them?!) taken in the 1970s and 1980s by Bill Moore, who lived at 3 Stuarts Cottage, almost opposite where Graffham Village Shop now stands.

The images, of village buildings, people and places, have been safely secured within Graffham Archive's filing cabinets, locked away at Graffham Infant School.

They were brought to the closer attention of archivist Robin Brind and webmaster Jonathan Simons through a request to loan out a selection by local historian and *Graffham Parish News* columnist Pauleen Goodwin.

Bill was a qualified heating engineer who retired to Graffham where he became the organist at St Giles Church and unofficial recorder of the local scene. He is believed to have taken around 17,000 photos of the area in total, with Graffham Archive holding those thought to be most worth preserving. He died in 1990 and is buried in the churchyard. Robin and Jonathan decided that the collection could be more

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[illegible]

Bill's meticulously handwritten index to his photos of the village's houses, people and places from the 1970s and 1980s can now be seen at graffhamarchive.co.uk – helping you trace images of how your home here looked half a century ago.

You may care to look for your own house in the index. Then, if you email Robin and Jonathan at graffhamarchive@outlook.com with the index number, they can digitise the slides for you.



Just four of the thousand or so colour slides of Graffham houses, people and places from Bill's collection, now held by Graffham Archive, clockwise from top left: Millburgh Hall, Pescods (then still a store), Four Winds (now named Occam Cottage), and Walters Cottage.





Local lass Sophie Forsyth on Woodcote Girl storms through the field in the Markel Magnolia Cup on Ladies' Day at this year's Goodwood Festival.

Graffham's great and glorious Goodwood

Glorious Goodwood lived up to its name for Graffham this year – with a local lass winning its top race for amateur women jockeys and an owner from the village taking the honours in one of the meet's most prestigious races.

Sophie Forsyth, who attended Graffham Infant School while growing up in the neighbourhood and whose parents Anthony and Nella now live at St Giles Place, rode her mount home ahead of 11 other horses in the Markel Magnolia Cup at the Qatar Goodwood Festival on Thursday 31 July – appropriately its Ladies' Day.

The race, now in its 15th year, attracts huge publicity, not just for the novelty of its jockeys – all women riders who have never raced professionally – but also because it raises funds for charity. This year, it brought in £741,000 for the King's Trust International and Project Lehar, which supports young under-privileged women in India, taking the total it has raised for charities since its inception to £3.5 million.

The jockeys came from all walks of life, although some were high profile, such as TV presenter Gabby Logan's daughter Lois. Their silks were designed by top fashion house Rixo.

Sophie and her older sister Annie, who now runs her own eventing and livery stables, learned to ride here with Jane Stickley at Eastwood Stud Farm, but Sophie stopped riding at 18 when she left for Sheffield University. Now, 11 years later and an underwriter with insurers Markel, she became intrigued by the possibility of

competing in the race, which her firm sponsors. Remembering fondly her after-school summer term Friday evening visits to Goodwood, she determined to revitalise her interest in horses and fulfil a long-held ambition to ride the famous furlongs at what is widely regarded as Britain's, if not the world's, most beautiful racecourse.

Being selected to take part in the race involved a lengthy vetting procedure over several months with stringent fitness testing demanded by Goodwood itself. The field of potential jockeys, which included a previous winner, was narrowed down so that the successful entrants could spend the final months identifying and training with the right horse and team.

Sophie returned to the saddle initially at sister Annie's yard, near Chiddingfold, then, before reporting for duty at her day job, rode out at the stables of Epsom trainer Pat Phelan. She identified the right mount for the race itself through work connections – Treacherous, trained by Ledbury-based Ed de Giles. She began regular training on the 11-year-old bay gelding from May, riding daily over the gallops at his Hereford yard for two weeks in July. As race day neared, fate was to



Proud Dad and Mum Anthony and Nella 'photobomb' one of Sophie's TV interviews in the winner's enclosure.

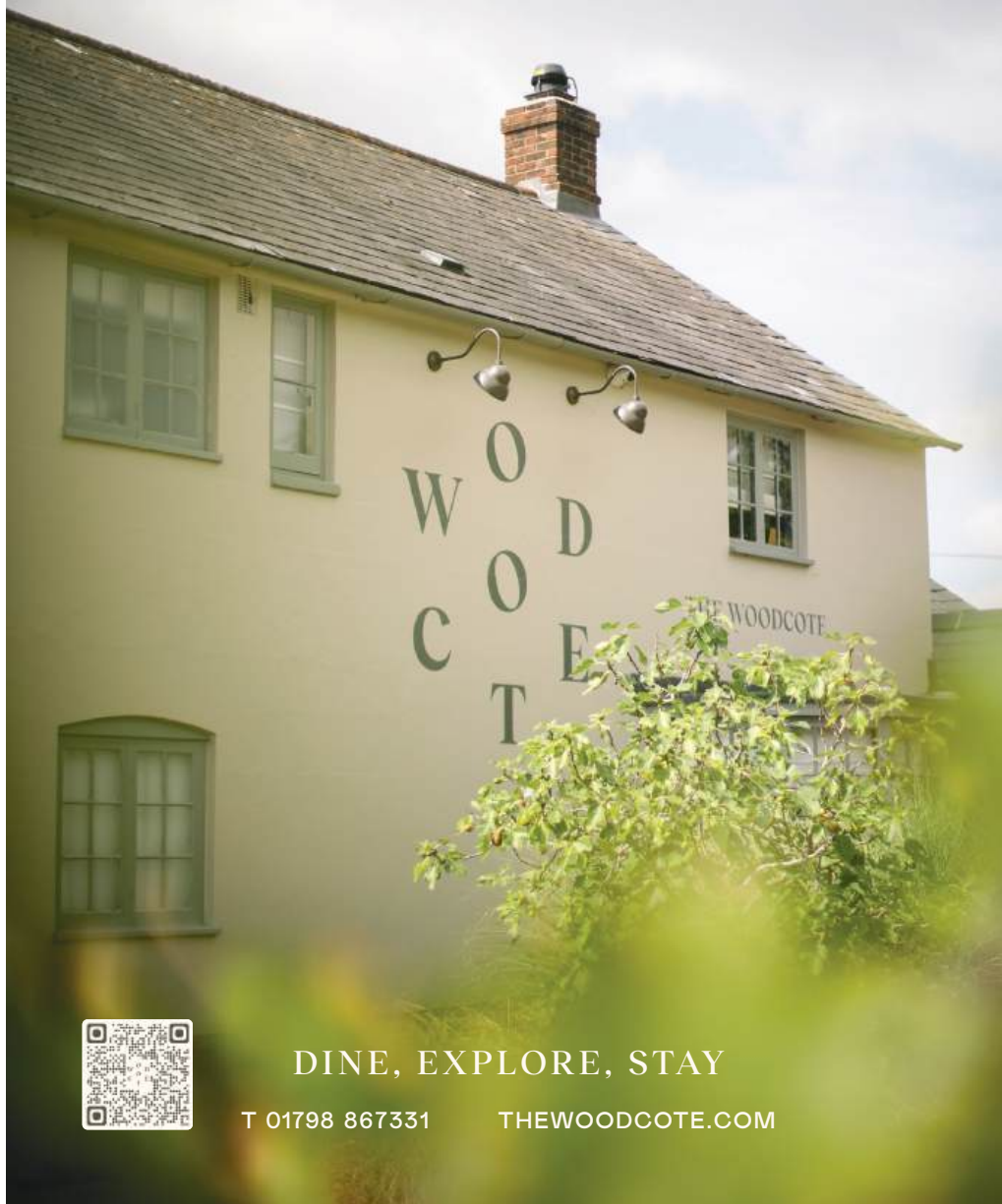
► [Continued on page 15](#)



Sophie with sponsors Glen and Asta Manchester – whose horse Westridge won the prestigious Chesterfield Cup on the festival's opening day.



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deliver another local link. All horses in the Markel Magnolia Cup are sponsored and, by chance, Treacherous' backers for this year's run turned out to be Glen and Asta Manchester, of Selham House and The Woodcote. Without even knowing of Sophie's links with the village, they chose Woodcote Girl as her steed's alias.

Following trainer Ed de Giles' instructions, Sophie calmly kept her mount in the huddle of other runners for much of the race before accelerating through the field as the clear winner. In her many TV interviews afterwards, she said: "With two furlongs to go, we were coming up from behind and I let him move forward – and he just went! He was just brilliant, amazing. He loves to race and was simply incredible." She added: "Everyone has been so helpful in getting me to the right position and giving me advice. What a whirlwind!"

Glen and Asta were as thrilled as Sophie and her proud Mum and Dad. Glen said: "Sophie was fantastic. She's a very impressive, talented young woman. She rode beautifully. We were delighted for her." It was the Manchesters' second visit to the winner's enclosure at this year's Goodwood Festival, after their four-year-old bay gelding Westridge stormed home in the meet's very first race, the prestigious Chesterfield Cup, which has been run over ten furlongs since 1830.

Beanie wins fourth England polo 'cap'

Beanie Bradley, of Norwood Lane and The Foresters Arms, was slated to win her fourth polo 'cap', playing for England Girls against South Africa on 22 August at the Guards Polo Club in Windsor, the King and Prince of Wales' home ground.

It was a return match between the two sides, after the home team's visit to Plettenburg Bay in our winter, when Beanie captained England to victory in a two-match series and was awarded the Most Valuable Player title – despite being the only one not playing the sport full-time. She is the youngest female to represent England at polo.

• [More sport – pages 48-51.](#)



[Beanie in action in a previous match.](#)

Planning 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

Rose Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NL: Replacement of windows with new timber casements and replace double glazing with thinner heritage double-glazed units. Underfloor heating to ground floor. Wall panelling in two bedrooms. SDNP/25/02199/LIS. *Approved 7 Aug 2025.*

Graffham Infant School, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NJ: Replacement of and repairs to pitched roof including upgrading insulation, and associated works. SDNP/25/01581/LIS. *Approved 7 Aug 2025.*

Hartley Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NP: Replacement of two ground floor windows and double patio doors. SDNP/25/00026/LIS and SDNP/25/00025/HOUS. *Approved 7 Aug 2025*

Property watch

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



Laudacre, Beechwood Lane, East Lavington GU28 0NA: Detached house, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, sitting room, kitchen/dining room. 271 sq m (2,916 sq ft). 2.5 acre garden with chalk stream. Double and single garages. Guide price £2.1 million. *RH & RW Clutton, Petworth 01798 303593. Listed 1 Aug.*

Minne Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NL: Semi-detached period cottage, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room, kitchen/dining room, conservatory. 122 sq m (1,309 sq ft). Garden, outbuildings including studio and garage. £725,000. *Southdown Properties, Midhurst 01730 771322. Listed 8 Aug.*



Police appeal for witnesses to fatal crash

Sussex Police have appealed for witnesses after an 18-year-old woman from Emsworth died in an accident when the white Vauxhall Corsa car she was driving southbound on the A286 Chilgrove Road at Binderton just south of West Dean crashed at around 11.15pm on Sunday 3 August. She was declared dead at the scene. Anyone who saw what happened or has dashcam, closed circuit television or mobile video of the incident is asked to email Sussex Police at collision.appeal@sussex.police.uk quoting Operation Parham.



Could your photo win a top prize in the South Downs National Park competition – as Joe James' Pony Heaven did in 2019?

Cash to be won in South Downs photo contest

Cash prizes are up for grabs for your best photos of the South Downs, in a competition marking the 15th anniversary of the national park's founding. Under the banner *Three cheers for 15 years: South Downs favourites*, the judges are looking for your best photos of the region's locations, views, towns and villages, heritage, food and drink, or whatever you come up with!

In the general category, prizes range from £250 for first place to £50 for fourth. There's also £150 for the best in the wildlife category, and £75 for the runner-up. There are also special prizes for children and teenagers. There'll be a public vote to choose the 'People's Choice' with the winner receiving £100. The deadline for entries is on Friday 31 October 2025, with the results revealed in January. For details, see www.southdowns.gov.uk and search three-cheers-for-15



Hear how the past year has been for 'the grand old lady of the village', show your thanks to the outgoing committee and welcome in the new team

EMPIRE HALL AGM

Monday 1 September 7pm

Committee Room

All welcome

Movie night is back – starting in the open air

Graffham Empire Movies (GEM) is gearing up for its 2025 autumn season – starting by linking up with the Foresters Arms to offer a late summer screening in the great outdoors. That first event, on Saturday 6 September in the pub's garden, will be a fund-raiser for St Giles Church, whereas GEM usually makes donations to support the Empire Hall, where its screenings otherwise are held, using the building's new state-of-the-art audio visual system.

There's no entrance charge or advanced booking for the Foresters' film, though the audience is encouraged to make full use of the pub's bar and kitchen. For GEM screenings at the Empire Hall, tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for under 18s, bookable in advance via ticketsource.co.uk/GEM or at the door on the night. Again, there's a bar – and interval ice creams.

Saturday 6 September 8pm

Foresters Arms garden

A Good Year

Certificate 12A 118 minutes



A classic rom-com based on a book by Peter Mayle, directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russell Crowe, Albert Finney and Tom Hollander. Max is a successful, arrogant but cheeky workaholic London trader who inherits a Provencal vineyard from his uncle, which he determines to sell.

Saturday 18 October 7 for 7.30pm

Empire Hall

A Complete Unknown

Certificate 15 141 minutes



Rated one of the best films of the past year with nine Oscar nominations, the biopic tells the story of a then unknown Bob Dylan's arrival in New York and his meteoric rise, culminating in a ground-breaking performance that reverberates around the world. Timothee Chalamet stars.

Saturday 22 November 7 for 7.30pm

Empire Hall

Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy

Certificate 15 125 minutes



The latest in the hilarious diary series, based on the books by Helen Fielding, starring Renée Zellweger, Hugh Grant, Colin Firth and the rest of the usual cast, with Bridget now a widowed single mother navigating parenthood, work and modern dating with the support of her friends and family.

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Unicorn date to raise brain tumour charity funds

Heather and Rob Russell, of Guillods Cottages, are arranging another special evening at Heyshott's Unicorn to raise funds for the Brain Tumour Charity. It will take place on Saturday 4 October from 6pm, with live music from Willie Austen and Paul Stenton, a buffet dinner and raffle. Tickets, at £10 each, are available from The Unicorn. Heather, Rob and their family have been raising funds for the cause since their daughter Jade was diagnosed with the condition, and they lost a dear friend to cancer of the brain.



Making the Rother r-eel-y w-eel-coming

Steps are being taken to ease the journeys of one of the UK's most endangered species as they migrate up the River Rother after making their 4,000-mile journey across the Atlantic Ocean from the Sargasso Sea – the European eel. South Downs National Park and Western Sussex Rivers Trust are working to remove barriers on



our local water course and install fish passes to help the eels head upstream, where they will stay for 15 to 30 years, growing to up to one metre long, before returning to spawn and die in the marine area off Bermuda where they were born.

The European eel was once common in our local waterways, but the numbers arriving in Britain have fallen by around 95 per cent in the past 40 years, because of habitat loss, damming, pollution and overfishing. They are now regarded by the International Union for Conservation of Nature as critically endangered.

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Wedding bells: Polly and Patrick



Polly Lamming and Paddy Dunn were surrounded by flowers as they emerged through the door of Heyshott's St James Church on a sunny Saturday 26 July to head to their reception in Graffham. That was held in a marquee erected behind her mother Dinah's home at Ariel Cottage, in The Street – just as for her sister Olivia's nuptials 11 months before. The family had a house in Heyshott until Dinah moved here a couple of years ago, hence the choice of location for the ceremony itself. The newlyweds live in Fulham but visit Graffham frequently.

Ina Bridger 6 October 1932–24 July 2025

Ina Bridger was the last Graffham resident from a family with village connections going back more than a century. Her grandfather, James Rough, had moved here from Scotland in the 1900s to farm at Marsh Farm. His son William, Ina's father, followed in his footsteps working on the farm and living at Woodcote.

It was here that Ina was born and spent her first few years, alongside brother Rod, loving life in the cottages which had the modern amenity of piped water but no electricity. She made friends with the neighbours' ginger tomcat as well as a large toad that lived in one of the many ponds that existed for watering carthorses.

In due course, her grandfather bought Marsh Farm and the family moved into his cottage at Calloways – more convenient for Graffham school, which she attended until her family moved away and she was pschooled at Slindon and Chichester.

Of the war years, she remembered “the biggest trauma was being fitted with a gas



Ina with her father Billy Rough in his Home Guard uniform, brother Rod and (seated) mother Lily at Marsh Farm.

mask – and we were plagued by frequent gas mask practices”. She also recalled smoke bombs being dropped by the enemy on a field next to the Selham fête, and the difficulties faced by the integration of London evacuees though her family played their part by taking in relatives into a rather cosy two-bedroomed cottage. Her father William, better known as Billy, served in the Home Guard, watching for signs of invasion from up on the hill.

The family moved back to the village in 1947 following grandfather James' death. William took on Marsh Farm, to the dismay of Ina's mother who was a South London girl. That year's exceptionally hard winter did not help and the family struggled to make a go of it despite trying both pigs and dairy.



Ina in her early years at Marsh Farm and later in her Marsh Cottage greenhouse.

After passing her school certificate, Ina trained as a nurse at London's King's College Hospital. In her final year at school she had made friends with Wendy Bridger, who introduced Ina to her brother Michael, then training to be a doctor at St Thomas's in London. The two of them studied hard in parallel and eventually married on 5 December 1953 after Ina had earned a distinction in her final exams.

The wedding almost didn't happen. She caught chicken pox two days before the big day. Michael drove them down to Graffham on his motorbike – and the vicar said that they should go ahead all the same as everyone in the village had already got the bug anyway! The photo in the local paper was not the most flattering.

The next years involved a fair amount of moving around as Michael qualified as a GP. Ina worked until pregnant with the eldest of their three girls (Penny, Vicki and Mandie), staying at home until the youngest was at school. The family by this point were living in Southampton, where Michael was practising. As the doctor's wife with medical training herself, Ina was frequently called upon to assist by neighbours. However, after recovery from TB, she decided became a teacher, initially in primary and later in further education.

They spent large parts of the summer holidays back in the idyllic setting of Marsh Farm, so it was hardly surprising that Ina and Michael were drawn back to the area in retirement, moving into Marsh Cottage, where a great aunt had previously lived.

► [Continued on page 25](#)

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► *Continued on from page 23*

In Graffham tradition they immersed themselves in village life. They drove the village minibus as well as doing lifts for the Graffham Health Support Association. Ina was active in the Graffham Garden Group, attended Thursday Club and Ease into Exercise and joined the team that compiled the village's Millenium Map. She suspected, though, that she might be the only *Guardian* reader in Graffham.

After Michael died in 2019, gardening and painting were her great loves, as well, of course, as their daughters, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In the final years of her life, Graffham yielded a new friendship. As Ina began to lose her sight, she became close to Richard Auckland, whom she had met through Ease into Exercise. They bonded quickly over a shared sense of humour and he visited her weekly when she moved into Petworth Cottage Nursing Home, where she had tended the bedside of her dear Michael only six years previously. Richard read to her from a 19-page memoir compiled for her by her daughters and rich in village lore. Much of this article is drawn from that record of the village's past – and which is now destined for the Graffham Archive.

Family was important to Ina, above all, so it was fitting that she was laid to rest, after her funeral in St Giles on Friday 15 August alongside Michael in the village churchyard – not far from her parents, grandparents and aunts and uncles.

Martin Heaton 24 October 1942–6 August 2025

Martin Heaton, of Tagents Farm, died on 6 August, aged 82 – seven months after he lost his wife Frances. They had married in 1969 and moved to their home in Graffham's Dirty Lane in 1982. He leaves their sons Andrew and Mark and their families. His funeral will be held at St Giles Church on Friday 12 September at 11.30am. A full tribute is planned for next month's edition.



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Sonia Williams 7 February 1929–8 August 2025

Through all of Sonia's 50 years in Graffham, she was known and loved by so many villagers, but a catastrophe in her early years brought her to a much wider audience.

She was born in Kew in 1929 to an English mother, Marguerite, and a Danish father Emil Bech, who was the UK representative of Royal Copenhagen China. With her older sister Barbara and younger brother Derek, they enjoyed both London life as well as weekends and holidays at their summer house on the Bay Estate, in Aldwick, Bognor Regis.

The family moved there full-time early in World War II, though the prevalence of dogfights in the skies above, much as they were relished by Derek in particular, prompted Sonia's parents to take a monumental decision.

Relatives of Marguerite's in Canada had proposed that she and the children



SS City of Benares, which was torpedoed with Sonia, her siblings and their mother on board. They are pictured below after being rescued – Sonia on the right with (from left) sister Barbara, brother Derek, mother Marguerite and family friend Colin Ryder Richardson, who went on to be the adoptive father of designer and TV presenter Anna Ryder Richardson.



evacuate there to live with them. A government scheme called the Children's Overseas Reception Board (CORB) was sending unaccompanied children and the Bechs paid for their children to sail with their mother on the British ship SS City of Benares. She set off from Liverpool on 13 September 1941 with a total of 408 people on board, including 99 children, as part of a convoy bound for Montreal.

Four days after leaving port and 600 miles off the coast of Ireland, she was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk. Barbara was able to get into a lifeboat. In the cold ocean with lifejackets, Marguerite, Sonia and Derek managed to reach a flimsy raft.

Sonia's resilience helped keep them positive despite fearing that Barbara was lost and that they were doomed.

After eight hours adrift at sea, they were rescued and reunited with Barbara. In total, 262 adults and children perished in the disaster. Just one in five of the youngsters survived, and the only family group to come through was Sonia's. One immediate result was that the policy of overseas evacuation was stopped.

The 70th anniversary of the sinking in 2011 was marked by many media outlets. An internet search will yield interviews with Sonia for the Imperial War Museum, the Liverpool Maritime Museum and the BBC among others. When researching the event for her 2019 book *Torpedoed!*, author Deborah Heiligman spent a week living with Sonia here in the village. She re-told the story for a young audience but the volume is nonetheless a gripping read for adults, too. There are many copies, signed by Sonia, on Graffham bookshelves.

Upon their repatriation to Britain, the family returned to the Bay Estate but soon moved to a larger farmhouse by the duckpond in Aldwick, a property which still stands today. Sonia attended Chichester High School for Girls and, on the suggestion of a tutor, then trained as a primary teacher herself, under the Froebel educational scheme. While she recalled some hair-raising experiences teaching Art and Pottery, she was always drawn to Drama and this became a focus at the principal schools where she taught, in Canada and West Sussex.

Away from teaching and with her cut-glass enunciation, Sonia threw herself into the Bognor Regis Amateur Theatrical Society, and it was there that she met husband-to-be Derek Williams, a local solicitor. After they married in May 1968, the pair formed an inseparable team on and off stage. They bought Hillside in Graffham in 1974 as a holiday home. Derek opened an office in Petworth so they could move to the village permanently in 1978, just up The Street at Squirrels.

Unsurprisingly, the two of them engaged wholeheartedly with Graffham's own am-dram troupe, the Rustics, becoming leading figures in the group until it eventually folded. In that time, Sonia produced six plays – her favourite was *Dear Octopus* – and

▶ [Continued on page 29](#)



[Sonia with Derek after 40 years of marriage, at their Squirrels home in Graffham in 2009.](#)

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► Continued from page 27

prompted or did props for countless others. One of the last productions in which she acted was the rip-roaring success *Daisy Pulls it Off*, in which she played the matron. Fellow Rustics stalwart Philip Trower remembers in particular Sonia's regular performances of the Kipling poem *Eddi of Manhood End* at the pre-Christmas Clic-Sargent fund-raisers at the Empire Hall.

Sonia was inevitably involved with many other local groups – Graffham Village Shop Association, Thursday Club, the Good Companions, Beavers and St Giles Church, where Derek was organist. She also did some teaching at Seaford College, mainly Elocution, and volunteered for many years at Graffham Infant School, listening to children reading.

She and Derek spent a long and happy retirement at Squirrels with various pets, most memorably Spot the dog. After Derek died on 31 December 2015, Sonia



In one of her Rustics roles, as a maid in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, in 2002.

continued living there. As time went on, she was greatly helped by villagers Peter Challen and Maureen Bolton, especially during lockdown, before she moved into a care home in Farnham, near her nephew Andrew (Barbara's son) and his wife Morna.

Her good friend Jane Pine-Coffin recalled an incident which seemed to sum up Sonia's exuberant personality. They were at the theatre when some ladies in the row in front of them turned round and studied Sonia closely before exclaiming: "You are that famous actress!" It turned out that they thought she was Judi Dench. Sonia didn't disabuse them.

A memorial service will be held at St Giles Church on Thursday 25 September at 12 noon. All welcome.



Sonia was still out and about with a smile until she left Graffham, here watching the village's Platinum Jubilee parade in 2022.

Garden Group's last of the summer time

Graffham Garden Group has just one more outing to a local garden scheduled for this summer. To book your place, contact Nicky on 07796 144647 or at nicolamwest@btinternet.com Its trips are open to all, not just members. Car sharing is encouraged so please always ask if you would like a lift!

Sunday 21 September 1pm

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Graffham Parish News' super September quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers on page 63 (no cheating!)

- 1 The Women's Institute in Graffham morphed into which group that still meets monthly?
- 2 Dr Tim Fooks of Pulborough currently occupies which office, which was held by Jim Godman-Dorrington in 1986/87?
- 3 According to the 2021 census, the population density of Worthing is 3,424 persons per square kilometre. What is the Chichester equivalent: [a] 158, [b] 580, [c] 1,580?
- 4 Which nationality were the pilots of 303 squadron, based at Northolt airport and celebrated for their heroics during the Battle of Britain?
- 5 How is the imperious butterfly *Apatura iris*, recently spotted on Graffham Down, better known?
- 6 Osteoblast cells synthesise which bodily tissue?
- 7 In which country was polo first played?
- 8 Who was named British and Irish Lions player of the series after the recent final Test against Australia?
- 9 On 23 September 1955, which quiz show became the first broadcast on ITV: [a] *Double Your Money*, [b] *Take Your Pick!*, [c] *Spot the Tune*?
- 10 With which US surgical sitcom do you associate actors Alan Alda, Mike Farrell, Loretta Swit and Gary Burghoff (amongst others)?

Keep dogs on leads around Down reserves

Dog walkers are being urged to keep their pets on leads when visiting Graffham Down Trust's reserves and adjacent land following the return of the 'badger' sheep there. The flock of distinctive animals will be up on the hill above the village for the next few months to nibble the grass and low vegetation down ahead of the winter, which will encourage the growth of wild flowers next summer.



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- 2 Prettiest Bitch (3-8 yrs)
- 3 Best Child Handler
- 4 Best Puppy (Up to 2 yrs)
- 5 Best Owner Look-a-Like
- 6 Best Veteran Dog or Bitch (8yrs+)
- 7 The Waggiest Tail
- 8 Best in Show (Winners Classes 1-7)



Judging by Bernard Bayly and George Grammer



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Letters to the editor: The column YOU write

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

Our inns must be allowed to adapt for them to prosper As Jim Kirke pointed out in his letter to the editor in July's *Graffham Parish News*, there are many aspects to this lovely village that make it such a fantastic place to live – including our pubs.

With so many of them around the country closing, we are very lucky to be so well served here. However, even brief discussions with their landlords indicate that making enough money to stay in business is difficult, especially in winter, so we should not be complacent about them staying open. They can't survive by selling drinks alone – they have to boost their income by serving food and/or renting rooms. But they also need sufficient dining tables and enough rooms to cover the cost of providing these services, and they have to differentiate to attract customers.

You only have to look at the hard work that the Three Moles put in, re-profiling their outside area and then putting on events in their garden, or the way the Foresters has become a great village pub serving good food. Then we have the Woodcote (formerly The White Horse), which wants to go up-market and add more rooms to

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make it profitable. While I disagree with the size it is seeking to become, I do think that it should be allowed to increase its footprint by a more modest amount to allow more tables and more rooms to rent, and I think it would be great to have a local, upmarket restaurant that serves food grown or raised locally.

I know some people don't go to pubs and restaurants – but many of us do, and I am concerned that if we don't allow some progress, and support them all, then we may end up with fewer of them and a less vibrant village. – [Steve Dover, Heydon's Loft, The Street, Graffham.](#)

Mind the verges! Two very modern tractors pulling heavily laden trailers drove deliberately on the grass verge in front of our house (Jaysfield, next to the Foresters Arms) on Thursday 31 July at 7.45 pm, which not only damaged the grass with deep ruts but pushed the edging rocks dangerously into the carriageway. Although two cars were parked on the opposite side of the carriageway, there was more than half the width available on our side of the hard road surface. The drivers of these tractors should not be allowed to drive heavy damaging vehicles on the public highways of Sussex. Hopefully they do not live in Graffham. If they do, then they should be ashamed. – [Derek Stewart Smith, Jaysfield, The Street, Graffham.](#)

Fun and fascinating parish mag I just wanted to let you know how much I was entertained, while boringly recovering from a summer lurgy, with a long overdue catch up with some recent editions of our excellent *Graffham Parish News*. They were so much fun to read and so full of interesting features and pictures. I learnt a great deal about many people of our village and indeed the history of Graffham itself. – [Georgie Macqueen, The Old Rectory, Graffham.](#)

Attractions to open for free on Heritage Day

Several local attractions will be opening their doors for free over Heritage Open Days weekend, 20-21 September, including Petworth House, Petworth Cottage Museum, Coultershaw Heritage Site and Burton Mill, which will be milling on both days from 11am to 4pm. There will also be walking tours around Petworth every hour from 11am, and each lasting an hour, to find out more about the town's heritage. Tickets for the walks will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis from the Church Lodge visitor entrance to Petworth House. For further details about the walks, email geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com Across the UK, some 5,000 museums, manor houses, gardens, factories and breweries will be opening their doors.



heritage open days

Graffham Chronicles: St Giles' transformation



Our parish church St Giles was rebuilt a century and a half ago this year in memory of the village's Lord of the Manor, Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, one of the leading lights of the Victorian era. In the first of a series of three articles marking this milestone for our community, editor Michael Blunt and local historian Pauline Goodwin look back at the building's history.

There's been a church in Graffham for a thousand years, although much of today's St Giles dates back only a century and a half. It was substantially rebuilt and expanded in the 1870s in memory of the village's Lord of the Manor, Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, a leading light of the Victorian era and son of the legendary anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce.



St Giles' font is Saxon while its west door is medieval.



St Giles was rebuilt in the 1870s as a tribute to the village's squire Bishop Samuel Wilberforce.

In its entry for Graffham, the Domesday Book of 1086 noted simply: "There is a church." There's believed to have been a wooden Saxon house of worship before then, though Christianity was late reaching this part of the South Downs. For sure, today's font is considered to be Saxon. When excavations were dug for St Giles' renewal a century and a half ago, the partial footprint of a Norman church was uncovered and used as

foundations for the new structure. The pillars inside today's church date back to those Norman times. The west doorway is from the 1300s while the entrance to the vestry is from a century later. The tower's oldest bell is dated 1621. The first rector of Graffham recorded was William de Wilmyngton, who served from 1278 to 1294, while the earliest entry in our parish registers is from 3 May 1655. So, the history of St Giles is long even though much of its early days are unrecorded.

After our village's highly respected, well connected and much loved Lord of the Manor Bishop Samuel Wilberforce died in 1873, his family and friends established a fund for memorials in his honour. Many were established, in London and in his former dioceses of Oxford and Winchester. Among the projects they agreed to support in 1874 was the restoration and enlargement of

► *Continued on page 38*

Our parish church through the centuries

1597: The earliest identified depiction of the church is from the Three Manor Estate Map of the village, until recently West Sussex Records Office's oldest map (right).



1804: The first proper picture of the church identified is this watercolour by Henry Petrie. He painted and sketched hundreds of churches in Sussex, most of which are now held by Sussex Archaeological Society's Sharpe Collection. This shows the church before it was restructured in the 1870s – and before what are now The Old Rectory and Church Cottage were built (in 1805) and the Buchanan memorial and lychgate erected.



1805-1831: This watercolour, by an unknown artist, is again before the church's rebuilding. Graffham Infant School (built in 1832) is not seen, but today's Old Rectory and Church Cottage (built in 1805) are depicted. It would be several more decades before the field this (east) side of the church became its extension burial ground. Note that Graffham Down is far less wooded than it is today. This painting was recently uncovered at The Rectory.



1912: One of the earliest photographs of the church, a picture postcard from less than 40 years after its rebuilding. Other than a few large trees in the churchyard, little has changed today.



2025: St Giles as we know it now, in this photograph taken on a sunny day in July. The main difference from the 1912 postcard (left) is the addition of the lychgate, marking the year 2000.

► Continued from page 36

the church at Graffham, described as ‘a parish annexed to’ the Wilberforce’s home estate Lavington Park, which extended then across what are now Seaford College’s grounds along with Lavington Stud and Estate plus Westerlands, Nonnington, Tagents and Haylands Farms, including most of the villages of Graffham and East Lavington.



Architect G E Street, who designed the renovated St Giles in the mid 1870s.

A sum of £2,885 was allocated – equivalent to around £400,000 at today’s values but which went much further in those days. G E Street, who served under Wilberforce as architect to the diocese of Oxford, was appointed to draw up the design. Although he specialised in churches, he is best known for London’s Royal Courts of Justice. William Shearburn, of Dorking in Surrey, was the project’s builder. Architectural archaeologists describe the quality of his craftsmanship as high.

The building had benefitted from some renovation a couple of decades earlier, when the rector had been



Is this how St Giles’ interior looked before its rebuilding? This painting, uncovered in The Rectory, appears to be a match to the watercolour of the church’s exterior from 1805-31 (previous page).

Lady Chapel was built, too – as a private area for the Wilberforce family back then. The current window with its five lancets under triple rear arches was inserted in the chancel’s eastern wall, with stained glass by the prolific London firm of Clayton and Bell. Among its other commissions were for the west window of King’s College Chapel in Cambridge, London’s Albert Memorial and Westminster

Wilberforce’s great friend Henry Manning, who was to later convert to Roman Catholicism, going on to lead the denomination in England. All the same, it was agreed that a more radical restructuring of the building was needed.

Street aimed to maintain its medieval appearance, so he retained the late 12th Century two-bay arcades and their pillars with their square, multi-scalloped capitals, adding a third, smaller arch at the eastern side to extend the nave to the east. At that eastern end, a new chancel and north vestry were erected. Today’s



1912: This postcard shows St Giles just a few decades after its restructuring, with the rood screen between the nave and chancel and, on the right, the private area for the Wilberforce/Sargent family, now the Lady Chapel. Note also the candelabras in those days before electricity reached the village.



2025: As it looks today. Scaffolding will be erected in much of this area this month for cracked plasterwork to be repaired and its west walls given four coats of limewash so St Giles is looking at its best for the special service on 2 November to mark the 150th anniversary of its rebuilding.

Cathedral, and Truro's Cathedral. The building's exterior was faced with unusually dark and superbly knapped flintwork and fine, hand-chiselled Pulborough stonework. The oak pews could seat 300 – almost the entire parish population then.

Upon the work's completion, St Giles was rededicated on All Saints Sunday 2 November 1875 in a grand service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archibald Campbell Tait, the first Scot to hold the post. At least four other bishops also attended – from Chichester, Winchester, Rochester and Ely – along with many other members of the clergy, all in their vestments, and the village choir 'strengthened by the addition of some of the boys from Chichester Cathedral'. So many friends wanted to attend that a special train was run for them, from London Victoria to the now closed railway station at Selham, next to today's Three Moles pub, with the Wilberforces providing transport between there and Graffham.

G E Street intended to restore the 13th Century tower once the main building was completed – but it was still in place a decade later, when it was declared

► *Continued on next page*



1875: A stone tablet just inside St Giles' south door records the church's rededication after its rebuilding at a service led by the Archbishop of Canterbury and four other bishops.

The weathercock on St Giles' spire and shingles damaged by time and woodpeckers were renovated in the early 1950s – when 'health and safety' was not such a big thing.

Pictures courtesy of Graffham Archive, West Sussex Record Office, Sharpe Collection, National Portrait Gallery, Colin Barker and others.



► *Continued from page 39*

unsafe. He had died by then so his son A E Street oversaw its replacement in 1889 in lighter and rougher flintwork with triple-lancet openings and a big broach spire. The original weathered 13th Century west doorway was set into this new tower.

Smaller changes have been made to St Giles since then – the screen between the chancel and nave removed, the Wilberforce private area converted into a Lady Chapel, the graveyard around the church closed and the new burial ground across



2000: The Bishop of Horsham Lindsay Urwin blesses the new lychgate installed to mark the new millennium.

the road opened at the dawning of the 20th Century, electricity and running water installed, the old harmonium replaced with an organ which has more recently gone all-electric, the ring of bells increased to a full six plus a sextant, the lychgate added at the south entrance to the churchyard to mark the year 2000, and heating systems upgraded, most recently with the first eco-friendly 'pew heating' in the diocese in 2022.

Throughout, St Giles has remained at the centre of the lives of our vibrant village and the generations who have called this special place home.

Next month: Meet Samuel Wilberforce, the squire and bishop in whose memory St Giles was rebuilt 150 years ago.

Bill's bygones: Tyson, Trudeau, Topol

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

10 years ago – September 2015: Graffham Noticeboard on Facebook celebrates its first anniversary. The Tennis Club sponsors this month's issue of *Graffham Parish News*. Ballroom and Latin dance classes start at the Empire Hall. Graffham Empire Movies presents *Far from the Madding Crowd*. Alastair Brown assumes his appointment as Head of Seaford College Prep School. A flypast takes place at Goodwood to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Queen Elizabeth II becomes the longest reigning monarch in British history on 9 September. Jeremy Corbyn becomes leader of the Labour Party. Volkswagen is alleged to have installed software to rig diesel emissions tests in 11 million of its vehicles worldwide. Release of Ridley Scott sci-fi movie *The Martian*, starring Matt Damon. Deaths of cricketers Frank Tyson (aged 85) and Brian Close (84), art critic Brian Sewell (84) and novelist Jackie Collins (77).

25 years ago – September 2000: Elsa Barden embarks on a 100km walk along the Great Wall of China – raising £3,000 for the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths. Anthony Dimmer narrowly defeats Ben Major in Graffham Tennis Club's men's singles final, but Ben gets his revenge in the doubles when he partners Andrew Wilson-Smith to victory over Anthony and Mike Dimmer. Karen Bennett beats Rosemary Sutton in the ladies' singles, Henrietta Bell and Fred Godman-Dorington win the ladies' doubles, and Chris Major and Dorothe Haverhals the mixed doubles. For the first time in the Bowls Club's 74-year history, all three cup singles finals are won by one player in a season – 78-year-old Percy Elliott. Funeral of Mandy Sheppard at St Giles. At the Sydney Olympics, Great Britain wins 11 gold, 10 silver and seven bronze medals. Deaths of holiday camp founder Sir Fred Pontin (93), former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau (80), journalist Desmond Wilcox (69) and TV presenter Paula Yates (41).

50 years ago – September 1975: A public meeting is held at Seaford College after East Lavington Parish Council rejects an application from Peter Broadbridge to build a bungalow on Norwood Lane, only to have its decision overturned by Chichester District Council. Keith Michell plays Iago to Topol's Othello at the Chichester Festival Theatre. The first episodes of *Fawlty Towers* (BBC2) and *Space 1999* (ITV) are broadcast. The Hilton Hotel in London is bombed by the IRA. The National Railway Museum is opened in York. Niki Lauda becomes Formula One World Champion. Release of Pink Floyd album *Wish You Were Here*. US President Gerald Ford survives two assassination attempts (both by women) within 17 days.

Nature Notes: Say hello and wave goodbye

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

Every September, Sussex becomes an international hub for some amazing long distance journeys. Migration will never cease to amaze me.

In August I watched a family of freshly fledged reed warblers crashing around on their first flights from a local reedbed. They could barely stay airborne for more than a few seconds. Yet they are now joining our other summer migrants – falcons and doves, swallows and martins, whitethroats, whinchats, wheatears and wagtails in a mass evacuation of England.

They pour out through the river valleys of Sussex and across the seas, mountains and deserts beyond, over every church house, gin house, school house and outhouse between Coates Common and the Côte d'Ivoire.

And as they head south, they'll pass butterflies still intent on pushing north – painted ladies, clouded yellows, red admirals and other beautiful insects which surge into Sussex from Spain in September. Other insects are also making the



Question 1 -Who is putting on this amazing Quiz?

Graffham Down Trust

Question 2 -When is this amazing Quiz?

Saturday October 4th at 7:30pm

Question 3 -What is the venue?

The Empire Hall in Graffham

Question 4 -Who will be the quiz host?

The Amazing Michael Blencowe!!!

Question 5 -What is provided?

Nibbles, Bar, Prizes and LOADs of FUN

Question 6 -What is the link to buy tickets?

<https://buytickets.at/graffhamdowntrust>



Among our West Sussex migrants are (from left) hummingbird hawkmoths (©David Philips, Sussex Wildlife Trust), sea lampreys, reed warblers (©SWT) and migrant hawk dragonflies (©David Martin SWT).

cross-Channel trip on delicate wings – dragonflies, such as the migrant hawk – all trying to make the most of the summer before it fades.

At night, the insect invasion continues with continental moths such as vestals, silver-Ys, convolvulus hawkmoths. Look out for the amazing hummingbird hawkmoth – the ‘Golden Snitch’ of the moth world, it’s whirring wings a blur as it nectars in your flowerbed.

Meanwhile other bird species are just arriving from the north – some only refuelling as they pass through, and others who find the winter temperature in Sussex higher than the Highlands and balmier than the Baltic and so will stay with us, including waders and wildfowl feeding on the brooks, and owls and harriers hunting over the Downs.

Sussex gardens will also become a desirable winter destination too. ‘Your’ blackbird, with whom you have shared your garden all summer, may shortly be joined by a blackbird belonging to Mr and Mrs Morgansson of Kongsvinger, Norway.

And throughout Sussex run our aquatic migration highways – our rivers. Throughout the year the Rother, Arun, Adur and others, the mighty sea trout and the weird sea lamprey channel from the deep ocean to shallow spawning grounds upstream.

Head out for a walk this autumn to say hello and wave goodbye to our migrating marvels.

- 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:



Out and about: As sweet as an Elgar cello concerto

An occasional column by Jonathan Simons, aspirant dendrologist* and font of useless knowledge on many things you may prefer not to bother with.



The sweet chestnut, *Castanea sativa*, is an introduced tree but no relation to the horse chestnut. In West Sussex there are extensive areas north of the River Rother covered with sweet chestnut coppice. The wood is used extensively in fencing, decking, cladding and so on. These coppices do not contain such a rich varied ground flora as the native hazel but wild daffodils and bluebells are often able to make use of

this alien environment. The area north of Fittleworth is perhaps the most stunning – where Sir Edward Elgar chopped a lot of wood as therapy to help him sort out the twiddly bits in the cello concerto.

However, sweet chestnut trees that are left to mature are magnificent in themselves. They can grow to great heights with intricate spiralling bark ridges on the trunks giving each individual a distinctive awe-inspiring character. The best place to see them locally in good numbers is The Race, a remarkable avenue of trees leading north from Easebourne church. There are also some very old examples in Burton and Petworth Parks. In Graffham, as far as I can judge, the tallest and oldest of them are near the roadside on Gallows Hill. The leaves and flowers are late arrivals but when they are in full bloom the countless white spreading flower heads look like a giant exploding firework.

It is from mature trees like this that the best nuts can be gathered. I have very fond memories of visits to London and its hot chestnut stalls. We had a chestnut roasting pan at home but were never able to recreate the experience as the local trees always produced a poor crop. Decent nuts had to be imported – ‘Spanish chestnuts’.

It may be climate change or the magic of heratbouts but in recent years the native chestnut crop seems to have improved. Now I can get a good crop every year. The prickly fruits that fall to the ground or onto passing cars with such a great thump contain four or five nuts of which there is always one king. I gather the king nuts as I spot them and put them aside in a dry place. After a few weeks, the skins become very brittle and it is easy to shell them – no need to roast, boil or both. Then over the following days or weeks I gradually remove the brown papery inner skin. I end up with a jar of shining white nuts in the store-room, ready for the first

mushroom risotto. One flaw in this procedure is the chestnut weevil, *Curculio sayi*. The adult beetles fly up to lay eggs in developing nuts and the larvae, or grubs, hatch out. They feed and grow inside the convoluted folds of the nut, making it unsuitable for human consumption. When developed fully, they chew a small hole in the skin and drop to the ground either from the tree or after the nut itself has fallen. The grubs then burrow into the ground and over the winter change into adult beetles and the cycle repeats. One way that commercial growers abroad reduce this infestation is to gather fallen nuts immediately to interrupt the life-cycle.

Naturally, the first line of defence at home is not to gather any with holes because inevitably they will be nasty inside. However, the grubs may appear while you are drying them and you may discover them crawling across the floor looking for somewhere to hide. I have experimented by surrounding the drying chestnuts with a moat to trap the grubs, but that of course slows down the drying. I have been known to use a dust-buster to Hoover them up.

When it comes to the consumption of these shining jewels I find that an

► [Continued on next page](#)



Sweet chestnuts in Graffham, with wild daffodils growing underneath them in spring before the trees burst into bloom with their countless white spreading flower heads looking like giant exploding fireworks.



Cooking with chestnuts. There are many ways you can use sweet chestnuts, either as whole or crushed nuts or in purée form. To adorn my mushroom risotto and give a contrasting texture and flavour, I cook them in a little oil and then add maple syrup to make them nice and toasty. They serve as a delicious contrast to all the other foraged contents, which otherwise can often turn out to be rather bland. Home-made quince wine is the perfect accompaniment.



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► *Continued on next page*

overnight soak will rehydrate them well. If you forget to do it the day before the meal, then you may rescue the situation by rapid prolonged boiling. The final preparation is to remove as much of what is left of the brown papery skin as will easily come off. If there is a lot, you can get chestnut stained fingers as a result. Then I cut the nuts in half to inspect the inner chambers for weevil damage and throw away anything that is not spotless. In my experience there is a loss of about 10% of the crop at this stage.

I am sure Sir Edward was inspired by such a Sussex dish during his time at Brinkwells, up in Fittleworth Wood.

**Dendrologist: A scientist who specialises in the study of trees and other woody plants, focusing on their identification, classification, and natural history.*



The poster is for the Mount Noddy Animal Centre Fun Dog Show. It features a light blue background with a white border. At the top, there are two red ribbon medals with paw prints. The text 'mount noddy' is in red, 'ANIMAL CENTRE' is in blue, and 'fun dog show' is in large blue letters. Below this is the tagline 'A pawsome day out for the family and your four legged friends.' in red. The main event details are in a blue box: 'Noddy Fest', 'Saturday 6th September', 'Registration from 10.30am', 'event starts at 11am - 4pm', 'Mount Noddy Animal Centre,', and 'Blackmill Lane, Eartham, PO18 0LL'. Below the box, it says 'FOOD, STALLS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL' and 'Entry to show £1, children and car parking free'. There is a QR code with the text 'Scan for full details' to its left. The bottom of the poster shows a green field with trees, a dog jumping over a hurdle, and a dog running. Logos for 'Event sponsors' (including Greenwood) and 'RSPCA Sussex West Branch' (Charity number: 206300) are at the bottom.

mount noddy
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fun dog show

A pawsome day out for the family and your four legged friends.

Noddy Fest
Saturday 6th September
Registration from 10.30am
event starts at 11am - 4pm
Mount Noddy Animal Centre,
Blackmill Lane, Eartham, PO18 0LL

FOOD, STALLS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL
Entry to show £1, children and car parking free

Scan for full details

Event sponsors

GREENWOOD

RSPCA Sussex West Branch
Charity number: 206300



Seeing double Doubles finalists (from left) Jules Sparkes, Lawrence Bates, Sam Major and Olive Amin.



Cowshot king Club President Chris Major attempts to wallop a delivery for six in the pairs' cricket session.

Graffham Tennis Club

Tennis Week It wasn't the best of weeks of this long balmy summer, but Graffham Tennis Club's Tennis Week went ahead from 19 July as usual with just a couple of cancellations. The fun and games really kicked off with the traditional Saturday morning mixed doubles, nourished by bacon butties and coffee. The pairs were carefully chosen to be well matched and played a round robin format with the klaxon sounding the end of each stage. After some intermittent sheltering in the marquee, the finalists were identified as Lawrence Bates and Jules Sparkes versus Sam Major and Olive Amin. Although Sam's height and net play were a close match for that of Lawrence, the youngster prevailed, edging the competition for him and Jules.



Brett's Saturday afternoon cricket session took the form of a pairs batting



Seniors selfie Nettie Lanaghan (right) snaps fellow seniors – with the gloomy weather forecast reducing numbers.



Curry night Club Chairman Simon Longman raises a vote of thanks for the chefs Jeeva and team.



Junior jamboree The slap-up tea was appreciated as much as the tennis itself.

competition against Derrick the bowling machine. Seven pairs were at the crease for four overs each with a penalty of five runs each time Derrick took a wicket. Despite losing two wickets, the winning pair of Jeeva and Richard Bates clocked up a net total of 20 runs. Meanwhile David Sparkes and Simon Longman were victims of a Derrick hat trick and at the end of their four overs their score resembled one of Alan Davies's on TV's QI!

Sunday's men's doubles tournament fell foul of the weather so the next event was Monday's seniors' tennis. This is a regular and very well attended weekly slot run by Nettie Lanagan throughout the year. The Tennis Week session is always accompanied by nibbles and bubbles but the weather forecast limited the numbers rather drastically.

Tuesday featured the traditional junior match – Rogate versus the Rest of the World this year. Entrants were from the various clubs that Richard Hopp coaches and the event ended up with pairs being randomly assigned so a final result was difficult to discern! Match tea, though, was hugely appreciated. The sun shone for the

▶ [Continued from previous page](#)



Give it a go! Croquet and spikeball were just two of the other games that members could try out in a Tennis Week first.



The inaugural Give It A Go session gets a round of applause from picnickers.

► [Continued from previous page](#)

Thursday evening ‘Give It A Go’ games night, a first such event for Tennis Week. Volleyball, spikeball, croquet and table tennis were among the sports available for novices to try out, attracting competitors from all generations looking to try their



Club member and former GB table tennis champion Matthew Syed and son Teddy show off their skills.

hand at something new. Highlights included a demo match between club member and former Great Britain table tennis champ Matthew Syed and son Teddy before the youngster edged the match in a fierce battle with Theo Longman. Coaching from Richard Hopp continued throughout the week and the culmination of festivities was the traditional curry night with delicious Sri Lankan dishes prepared by Jeeva.

League matches There are no home matches in September – the teams will play the summer evening fixtures away from home at venues with floodlights. The winter leagues will begin again in October at weekends.

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results

14 Jul	Drew 4-4	Ladies' Doubles	Div 4	vs Medstead C
21 Jul	Lost 3-5	Ladies 'Doubles	Div 2	vs Swanmore B
23 Jul	Lost 3-5	Ladies' Doubles	Div 4	vs Fernhurst C
24 Jul	Won 6-2	Men's Doubles	Div 4	vs Haslemere C
28 Jul	Won 7-1	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	vs Denmead A
29 Jul	Won 5-3	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	vs Headley B
5 Aug	Drew 4-4	Ladies' Doubles	Div 2	vs Midhurst
7 Aug	Lost 1-7	Men's Doubles	Div 4	vs Steep C
13 Aug	Won 5-3	Ladies' Doubles	Div 4	vs Steep C

Cricket

Graffham's ladies cricket team are looking ahead to the annual home fixture against West Wittering, on Sunday 21 September.

They will be aiming to bounce back after a loss against Petworth in a hastily arranged fixture on 13 August. Graffham posted a very promising 93 runs for four off 14 overs with Beanie Bradley scoring 24 runs off just eight balls before gallantly retiring. Matilda Shelton-Agar was fast and furious with the bat and later also with the ball. However, with some exceptional batting Petworth chased this down with the loss of only one wicket – to an absolute jaffa bowled by Vasu, re-arranging the stumps of the batter. While the entire team ran their hearts out in the field trying to plug the holes, the captain's award went to Holly Sabin, a star behind the stumps.

Bowls

The season is nearly over for Graffham Bowls Club. Several matches were cancelled for various reasons in the past month, but still to come are internal cup finals, the ladies' competition and the season finale, the candlelit bowls night, on Friday 12 September. Next year is the club's centenary!

Darts

The Three Moles is looking for darts players to join its team in the coming season. Matches are played on Thursday evenings from September to March. Let Tom or Ollie at the pub know if you are interested.



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Roman Catholic: The Catholic Churches of Saints Anthony and George, Dunton, 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	Dunton	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.

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Thanks to © Stuart Gerrett for posting to Facebook's Beautiful Sights In And Around Graffham this lovely picture of the bridleway between the Rec and Norwood Lane.

Foodbank updates its 'urgent' shopping list

Petworth Foodbank, part of the Chichester Foodbank, has updated its list of 'most wanted' items. Last month, it warned that donations have been at a five-year low.



You can leave contributions at its collection points in All Saints Chapel, directly opposite Graffham Village Shop, or at St Giles Church – or at Petworth's Co-op or Midhurst's Sainsbury or Tesco stores. The items currently in most need include:

- Biscuits and treats.
- Cooking oil.
- Deodorant.
- Flour.
- Jam, honey, spreads.
- Ketchup, mayo etc.
- Laundry detergent.
- Shampoo, conditioner.
- Sugar.
- Tea, coffee, hot choc.
- Tinned fish.
- Tin meat/veg meals.
- Toilet rolls.
- Washing up liquid.



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song, prayer and silence

Sunday 28 September 6.30pm


All Saints Chapel, Graffham (opposite shop)

All welcome to this short ecumenical service based around a pattern of worship from the Taizé Community

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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

September				
2	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
		7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	St Giles Church
3	Wed	2.30pm	Community Group meeting	TBC
4	Thurs	3pm	Worship Group meeting	Occam Cottage
6	Sat	9.30am	Come and Sing	St Giles Church
		8pm	Sunset Movies in aid of St Giles Church	The Foresters
7	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 12 <i>Reading: Jeremiah 18.1-11</i>	St Giles Church
9	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	St Giles Church
		7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	St Giles Church
11	Thurs	2pm	Diamond Wedding Vows Renewal	St Giles Church
12	Fri	11.30am	Martin Heaton RIP Funeral	St Giles Church
13	Sat	10am	Bell ringing practice	St Giles Church
14	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 13 Education Sunday <i>Reading: Ephesians 4.1-13</i>	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
16	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	St Giles Church
		7.30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	St Giles Church
17	Wed	12pm	Food with Friends	The Rectory
21	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Church Family Harvest Festival <i>Reading: Psalm 100; Philippians 4.4-9</i>	St Giles Church
23	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	St Giles Church
		7.30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	St Giles Church
25	Thurs	12pm	Memorial Service Sonia Williams RIP	St Giles Church
26	Fri	6pm	Bring and Share Harvest Supper	Empire Hall
28	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 15 Michaelmas <i>Reading: Revelation 12.7-12</i>	St Giles Church
		3pm	Evensong with installation of Archdeacon	Chichester Cathedral
		6.30pm	Taizé Prayer	All Saints Chapel
30	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	St Giles Church
		7.30pm	Bell Ringing Practice	St Giles Church

What's on in and around the village

For all church events, see page 55. For sports dates, see pages 52-53. For weekly events, see page 59.

August

23	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
24	Sun	3-11pm	Big Music Bash	Petworth Pk Cricket Club
25	Mon		August bank holiday	
		From 2pm	Graffham Summer Fête (see centre pages)	Rec
26	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
27	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ²	Empire Hall
28	Thu	10-11am	UKHarvest community food hub	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petworth
30	Sat	10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		pm	Wedding reception	Empire Hall
		2-7pm	Summer Street Party	Midhurst Market Sq
		7pm	Abba tribute night	Goodwood Kennels
31	Sun		Farm walk, BBQ and pop-up shop	Slow Grown Farm
		3.30pm	Songs of Praise in the garden, with tea and cake (see pages 1-2)	Occam Cottage
		7-10pm	Blues Night	Three Moles

September

1	Mon	7pm	Empire Hall AGM (see page 17)	Empire Hall
2	Tue	10.45am	Arts Society Midhurst talk	Methodist Hall, Midhurst
		11.30am-6.30pm	Autumn Racing	Goodwood
		1.15 for 2pm	Arts Society West Sussex talk: <i>The Royal Ballet – in 60 minutes</i>	Fittleworth Village Hall
3	Wed		WSCC and Seaford College terms starts – but Graffham and Duncton Schools and MRC INSET days	
		6.30pm	Graffham Parish Council meeting	Empire Hall
4	Thu		Midhurst Rother College INSET day	
		10-11am	UKHarvest community food hub	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petworth
6	Sat	11am-4pm	RSPCA's Noddy Fest fun dog show	Mount Noddy, Eartham
		From 12noon	Racehorse Sanctuary open day with dog show, trade stalls, refreshments etc	Mulsey Farm, Pulborough RH20 1DJ
		8pm	OUTDOOR CINEMA! Graffham Empire Movies with The Foresters Arms presents <i>A Good Year</i> (see page 19)	Foresters Arms
			England vs Australia Rugby World Cup	Brighton
7	Sun	12noon-4pm	Lodsworth Country Fayre	St Peter's, Lodsworth

12	Fri	7am-7pm	Goodwood Revival (till 14 Sep)	Goodwood
		11am	Funeral of Martin Heaton RIP <i>(page 25)</i>	St Giles Church
		Evening	Candlelit bowls evening	Graffham Bowls Club
13	Sat	evening	The Captain's Beard in concert	Three Moles
		7pm	Leconfield Singers Late Summer Concert – Schubert's Mass in G and more	St Mary's Church, Petworth
			Last Night of the Proms	Royal Albert Hall
14	Sun		Goodwood Revival Grill	The Woodcote
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
15	Mon	6.15pm	East Lavington Parish Council meeting	Seaford College
16	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
17	Wed	afternoon	Sip and Paint art afternoon	Foresters
20	Sat		Heritage Open Day – Petworth House, Cottage Museum, Coultershaw, Burton Mill open for free <i>(see page 35)</i>	Various
21	Sun	10.30am	Harvest Festival service	St Giles
		1pm	Graffham Garden Group outing	Meadow Farm RH20 1DF
		Afternoon	Graffham ladies cricket vs West Wittering	Rec
23	Tue		Jewish new year	
24	Wed	11.30am-6.30pm	Autumn Racing	Goodwood
		12.30pm	Lunch Club ²	Empire Hall
25	Thu	12noon	Memorial service for Sonia Williams	St Giles Church
26	Fri		Macmillan coffee morning day	
		6.30pm	Village harvest supper <i>(see page 4)</i>	Empire Hall
27	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
			Women's Rugby World Cup final	Twickenham
28	Sun		Farm walk, BBQ and pop-up shop	Slow Grown Farm
		7-10pm	Blues Night	Three Moles
29	Mon		Michaelmas Day	
October				
1	Wed		Graffham Parish Council Finance Committee meeting	
3	Fri		Midhurst Rother College INSET day	
4	Sat	10.30am	Free fungus foray led by Jonathan Simons	Graffham Common
		7.30pm	Graffham Down Trust annual quiz night	Empire Hall
		From 6pm	Music, buffet and raffle for Brain Tumour Charity	The Unicorn, Heyshott

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.

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Regular weekly activities (for notes, how to book, etc, see below)			
Mondays	8am	Yoga with Kate (fortnightly) ³	Westerlands
	9-10am	Fitflows Fitness ¹	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ²	Empire Hall
	6pm in summer	Bowls Club practices – all welcome	Rec
Tuesdays	8.30am	Strength and mobility with Gemma ³	Westerlands
	8.30am-12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
	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
	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
	6pm	Ladies cricket training – all welcome	Rec
	6-7.15pm	Yoga ⁴	Empire Hall
Fridays	9-10.15am	Yoga ⁴	Empire Hall
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic ¹⁰	Empire Hall
	Evenings	Tennis Club evenings	Pavilion
Saturdays	8.30AM	Boxfit with Nina ³	Westerlands
	9-10.15am	Yoga ⁴	Empire Hall
	9.30am	Yoga with Kate ³	Westerlands
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic ¹⁰	Empire Hall
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@hoppcouching.co.uk, on 07904 069457.

⁸**Badminton:** Contact Christina Federowicz on 07900 055574. 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 31) 1 The Thursday Club. 2 High Sherriff of West Sussex. 3 [a] 158. 4 Polish. 5 Purple Emperor. 6 Bone. 7 Iran. 8 Tadhg Beirne. 9 [b] *Take Your Pick!* (the day after ITV started broadcasting). 10 *M*A*S*H*.

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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 outside wall of Empire Hall	Code is C240Z
	On outside wall of Pavilion	Code is C159X
	In phone box outside Pescods	Code is also C159X
	In phone box opposite The Three Moles	No code needed
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	Book via Ring Pingo app 01243 858854
All Saints Chapel Trust	Chairman Clive Rowntree	01798 867536
Badminton	Christina Federowicz	07900 055574
Bees / Swarms	Wisboro' Green Tom Moore	07984 606214/01798 343470
	B'keepers	
	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 Simon Longman	simon.longman@eastlavington-pc.uk
	Clerk Amy Harte	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	01798 342869
	Secretary Liz Pegram	01798 867770
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 Mary Taylor	mkt.bythedowns@gmail.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@grafttham-pc.uk
	Clerk	Amy Harte	clerk@grafttham-pc.uk
Graffham Parish News	Editorial and circulation: editor.graftthamparishnews@gmail.com		
	Advertising: ads.graftthamparishnews@gmail.com		
	See also inside front cover		
Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council		stgilesgrafttham.org	
	Priest-in-Charge	Rev Vivien Turner	01798 867199
			hallo@stgilesgrafttham.org
	Churchwardens	Ginny Barrett	01798 867113
		Cindy Bradley	07787 516522
	Treasurer	Dinah Lamming	graftthampcctreasurer@gmail.com
Graffham Rec Committee	Chairman	John Bracey	01798 867760
	Bookings Sec	Sonya Gillespie	graftthamrecpavilion@gmail.com
Graffham Tennis Club	Chairman	Simon Longman	01798 867317
	Secretary	David Sparkes	07958 655288
	Coaching	Emma Amin	01798 867063
Graffham Village Shop		Jeeva and Vasu	01798 867700
			graftthamvillageshop.co.uk
Graffham Village Shop Assoc	Chairman	Steve Dover	07770 499223
	Treasurer	Andy Jones	andy.jones@grafttham.net
	Secretary	Ros Britton	rosalind.britton@btinternet.com
Katherine Maud Guillod Fund	c/o Graffham PC Clerk		graftthampc@gmx.co.uk
Lavington Estate	info@lavingtonstud.co.uk		01798 867275
Lavington Park Federation	graftthamanddunton.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			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
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
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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