

GRAFFHAM

PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 416

FREE

OCTOBER 2025



Getting set
for our church's
big celebration

Seaford head
John Green to
retire in summer



Should Graffham and East Lavington merge?

YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Tuesday 14 October 7pm Empire Hall

Eight pages of reports and analysis in this bumper edition



New team takes the
keys of Empire Hall



Lavington Stud seeks
planning consent



Fête rated great –
picture special



Website that's all
about Graffham



Meet the man
behind St Giles



400 witness Ollie
and Tom's wedding



On the cover: Residents of East Lavington and Graffham are being invited to give their views this month on a proposed merger between the two civil parishes. We look at the background and answer your questions, from page 23. Aerial photo by © Aemeila Shaw

Contributions and contacts The editors are always pleased to hear from you at editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

- Michael Blunt (left) 07711 997487
- Bill Barrett (right) 07443 501091
- Philippa Sanders 07853 921825

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Member editor 2025 Award Winner 2022
Association for Church Editors

Writing from the Rectory: Ready for our 150th


The parish priest, Parochial Church Council and congregation of Graffham's St Giles extend an invitation to their village community to join in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the rededication of our church in 1875 in memory of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, our local Lord of the Manor.

We are getting ready. We have a celebratory logo. Printed banners detailing the history of St Giles and Bishop Wilberforce hang proudly in the church, thanks to graphic designer Karin and publicist extraordinaire Michael. *Graffham Parish News* is featuring aspects of history associated with the church and Wilberforce family, thanks to our eminent historian Pauline and archivist Robin (see page 52).

The content of a village cookbook with 150 plus recipes is awaiting printing, thanks to Fiona and her team, all village cooks, and the kindness of the Emberson family – we hope every home in Graffham would like to buy one! A sponsored walk to the Wilberforce Memorial in the Surrey Hills is planned for Saturday 11 October. We even have a tea towel being printed – a sure sign of a significant event taking place, thanks to artist Sue.

As I write, some final plans still remain to be resolved. Will people come to our special celebration service on 2 November? Will the

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You are cordially invited to join us to celebrate
our village church on this special day

150th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
celebrating the rededication of
St Giles Church Graffham
after its rebuilding in memory of
Bishop Samuel Wilberforce

All Saints' Sunday
2 November 2025 at 10.30am

Followed by drinks and canapés in Graffham Infant School Hall



RSVP
stgileschurchgraffham@gmail.com
by 20 October 2025

St Giles Church The Street Graffham West Sussex GU28 0NJ

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church have empty spaces or be full? Will we need extra chairs? Will there be enough food? Who will preach in the service itself? Who will speak? What shall we sing? What music shall we hear? No doubt all these considerations exercised the minds of those planning the original rededication service 150 years ago too – with the added complexity of laying on a special train service from London Victoria to Selham station for those attending from far and wide and also determining the protocol for seating four bishops and an Archbishop of Canterbury in a village church, all friends and colleagues of the departed Bishop Samuel. Delightful though it may be, I'm rather glad we don't have quite that scale of challenge.

I'm sure all will come together in good Graffham style to create a memorable celebration emphatically expressing what a village church means to its community – which is as much today as it meant 150 years ago and up to a thousand years before that, in a building the medieval core of which still stands, with a structure preceding even that, a treasure house of village history and a sacred place for villagers to draw into for celebration and consolation, to offer their thanks and praise and prayers to God.

It has always been, and still is, a place to be known and welcome – where, in a time of living with much greater complexity and variety of alternative choices, our church bells continue to ring each Sunday to draw the people of our parish and beyond to experience the meaning of God's love in worship here.

In our celebration, for this blessing most of all, praise be to God.

With love,



Reverend Vivien



Priest in charge: Reverend Vivien Turner
hello@stgilesgraffham.org 01798 867199

Churchwardens: Ginny Barrett 01798 867113
Cindy Bradley 07787 516522

Safeguarding Officer: Howard Pescott
01798 867029 safeguardinggraffham@gmail.com



stgilesgraffham.org



@stgilesgraffham

Recipe book and towel to mark St Giles' 150th

The brand new *Graffham Village Cookery Book* will be available from Sunday 2 November – as St Giles celebrates the 150th anniversary of its rededication after its rebuilding in memory of local squire Bishop Samuel Wilberforce in 1875.

The book is being published to mark the church's milestone – with all proceeds going towards keeping its doors open for another century and a half. The A5-sized volume will include nearly 200 recipes contributed by members of the community. Copies will cost £10 each. You can order one or more in advance by signing up at St Giles or Graffham Village Shop or by emailing fionajmackie@hotmail.com

After you've served up dishes from the cookery book, you'll be able to do the drying up with St Giles – using a tea towel produced to mark its 150th anniversary.



Created by village artist Susan Hill, of Graffham House, the cotton cloth features a drawing of the church with its special commemorative logo.

They cost £7.50 each. You will be able to buy them from Graffham Village Shop and directly from Sue, at jonsugraffham@btinternet.com.

Sponsored walk around Wilberforce memorial

Graffham annual parish sponsored walk, to raise funds for St Giles – on Saturday 11 October – links to this year's 150th anniversary of the rededication of the church after its rebuilding in honour of our village Lord of the Manor Bishop Samuel Wilberforce. It will be centred on the memorial stone erected on the exact spot in the Surrey Hills' Abinger Roughts, just west of Dorking, where he died in a fall from his horse, aged 67, on 19 July 1873, while visiting his friend William Gladstone, Prime Minister at the

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time. His body was taken to nearby Wotton House and, it is said, laid on its billiard table, as one of the few items of furniture thought able to bear his weight. He was then carried home to Lavington House and buried next door in the grounds of St Peter's Church, now Seaford College's chapel.

The walk will cover a circuit of around eight miles, through the Surrey Hills' Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Cars will leave Graffham Village Shop at 8am, returning in early afternoon. Walkers should be suitably attired and take a picnic lunch. If you'd like to walk or sponsor the walkers, contact the Rev Vivien.

- [Meet the man behind St Giles, Samuel Wilberforce – page 52.](#)

St Giles to get plastered before its big day

Contractors are expected soon to complete repairs to the interior plasterwork of St Giles before giving it four coats of limewash, just in time for next month's 150th anniversary celebrations (see page 1). There is limited access to the church while the work is carried out. Scaffolding is being erected to provide access. The renovations, due to start late last month (September), are focussed on the chancel and western wall of the nave, the areas of the church's interior most affected by damp and time.

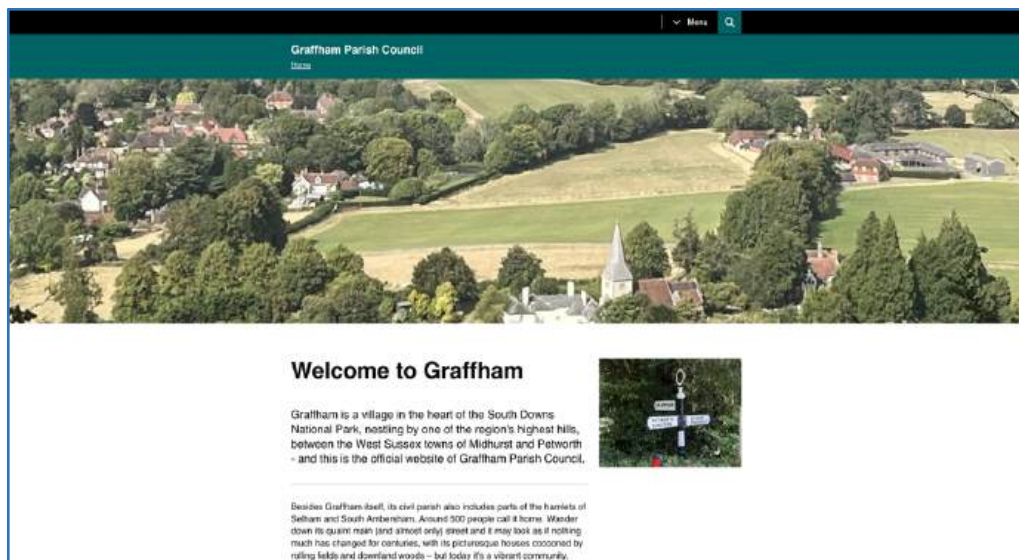
Grants are being sought from a number of charitable foundations towards the expected £15,000 cost – and parishioners are being invited to contribute via stgilesgraffham.org/giving/ News was received as this edition went to press of a donation of £3,000 towards the work from Sussex Historic Churches Trust.

Harvest celebration returns to evening time

Graffham's annual harvest meal returns to its traditional Friday evening timing – on Friday 26 September from 6.30pm in the Empire Hall. All welcome, with no need to book. It follows its usual bring-and-share format, with those attending invited to take along their favourite savoury and/or sweet dishes to share with fellow villagers, plus your own drinks. There'll be a collection in aid of Foodbank.

Coffee morning at Foresters in aid of church

The Foresters Arms is hosting a coffee morning in aid of St Giles on Tuesday 28 October from 11 am. Besides coffee, there'll be tea and other drinks, a selection of delicious cakes and other bakes – and good company. All welcome. No need to book – just turn up with a smile!



The home page of Graffham Parish Council's new website – graffham-pc.gov.uk

Website with all you need to know about Graffham

Finishing touches were being put, as this edition went to press, to a new website for Graffham Parish Council – with a section all about the village itself. It replaces the old site shared with East Lavington Parish Council that had proved difficult

...including a village diary for the year

One element introduced as part of the new Graffham website is a village diary – an expanded version of the 'what's on' pages carried in the back of each edition of *Graffham Parish News* and produced by its editorial team.

It covers a full year ahead, to help anyone in the community planning events to avoid clashing with activities already scheduled. The Village Diary can be found from a link on the home pages of both graffham-pc.gov.uk and our church website stgilesgraffham.org.

If there are activities you would like included, email editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

to update and maintain and did not meet latest nationally recommended standards for parish councils.

The new site, expected to go 'live' early this month (October), has as the final segment of its domain name the gov.uk designator preferred for national and local government bodies. You'll be able to check it out at graffham-pc.gov.uk

Besides a cornucopia of information about Graffham Parish Council, the new website

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includes everything residents and visitors might need to know about the village. Its ‘All about Graffham’ section, compiled for the parish council by *Graffham Parish News* editor Michael Blunt, has chapters covering the community’s key assets, clubs, schools, public transport and more, along with a guide to who to contact about what or where to find more information. Full of web links and hundreds of pictures, it also details where to eat, drink and stay locally and what to visit nearby.

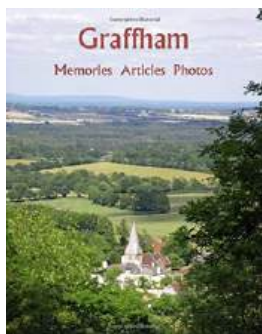
It is built on a platform created by the not-for-profit agency Parish Online, which supports internet domains for hundreds of councils across the country.

Switching over to this new website also means new email addresses for councillors, based on the initial of their first name then their surname in full, the @ symbol and the website domain name, for example acouncillor@graffham-pc.gov.uk

Graffham Parish Council Chairman Gillian Charlesworth said: “Our key aims in building the new website were to create a cost-effective and simple-to-maintain platform that enables residents easily to find anything they need to know about the parish council – and also an attractive shopwindow that reflects what a vibrant and beautiful village Graffham is.”

If you spot anything that needs updating on the website, then please email editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

Village book is now available only online



The book *Graffham Memories, Articles, Photos*, compiled in 2015 by former *Graffham Parish News* editor Mary Butterworth and the late Diana White, is no longer available from Amazon – but you can still read it online, via the Graffham Archive website, at graffhamarchive.co.uk/Files/2015_Graffham_Memories_Articles_Photos.pdf – and you might pick up a second hand copy through eBay or other resellers. The 296-page paperback contains a wealth of information about the village over the years.

Graffham Common Road faces one-day closure

Graffham Common Road is scheduled to be closed between Fitzlea Wood Road and Graffham Road on Wednesday 8 October for contractors working on behalf of West Sussex County Council to clear drains to reduce the risk of flooding. For details, see one.network/uk/westsussex

Seaford headmaster John Green to retire

Seaford College's headmaster John Green is to retire next summer, at the end of the current school year, after almost 14 years leading the school. Announcing his decision in a letter to parents on 1 September, he said: "This has been, without doubt, one of the toughest decisions I have ever had to make – for me and my family, including my wife Sian, who has been such an unfailing source of support.



"Seaford has been far more than just a place of work – it has been our shared community and our home. Indeed, over the course of my headship at Seaford I have never wished to be anywhere else. We have seen the college flourish – embracing substantial growth, making major capital investments, and enjoying remarkable successes both inside and outside the classroom."

Seaford started his final winter term with a record number of pupils, at just shy of a thousand, and its best set of public exam results.

A headhunting agency has been engaged to identify "an exceptional field" of potential successors.

Best yet GCSE results Students at Seaford and Midhurst Rother Colleges have been celebrating bumper sets of GCSE results, after the A level successes notched up at both schools earlier in the summer. East Lavington's private school claimed its best yet 9-7 and 9-5 grades collectively across its curriculum. At the state school covering our area, a significant increase in good passes in both English and Maths was achieved, with 75% of students achieving grade 4 or above in both, with 56% at grade 5 or higher.

Council to look at allotment provision in village

Graffham Parish Council has agreed to look at providing allotments in the village. It had been notified ahead of its meeting in the Empire Hall on 3 September that at least six villagers would like to have allotments here – passing the threshold requiring the council to provide them, under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act of 1908. Councillors agreed to review potential locations within the village to set aside space for allotments and to invite local land owners to offer plots. In days gone by, there were several areas used for allotments here – including behind Hillside, in The Street, and in the field on the northern side of the road opposite Popple Hill Cottage.

Non-native rhodos removed from Common

Several acres of woodland on the border between East Lavington and Duncton civil parishes were last month cleared of invasive non-native rhododendrons that, land owner the Leconfield Estates says, had been completely taking over, swamping all the native flora and making forest management of the area impossible. The area involved was on Duncton Common, to the immediate north of Duncton Common Road, opposite the turnings to Westerlands and Ridlington Farm. The problem species is *Rhododendron ponticum*, which is native to southern Portugal and Spain and around the Black Sea. It was imported to Britain in the 18th Century.



The National Trust undertook a similar operation recently on adjoining land, on the east side of Lavington Common. The Leconfield work is being supported by funding from the government's Countryside Stewardship Rural Payment Agency and the Forestry Commission. Alerting local parish councils, Leconfield's Head Forester Neil Humphris said: "We

appreciate this may be somewhat a surprise and make a sudden change of scenery but it will soon settle down. Some suspicious people may think we are trying to clear the rhododendron for quarrying, but you can rest assured that this is entirely in the interests of good woodland management.

"There are various ways to deal with the rhododendron but we decided to uproot them, shake off the soil and put them in heaps. We are not able to burn the heaps because it would cause too much damage to the trees, so we will leave them to decay slowly and put some carbon back into the soil and provide habitat in the meantime. Any further regrowth will be treated with herbicide. We also have an issue with fly tipping and littering along this stretch of road, so the rhododendron near to the road will be windrowed parallel to the road to discourage access."

Now's the time to trim your hedges and verges

Graffham residents are being reminded that now is the time to trim your hedges and road verges. Graffham Parish Councillor for Highways, Byways and Environment Colin Barker says: "All restrictions on hedge maintenance due to nesting birds are now lifted – so this is the perfect period to swing into action because then our roads will be neat and clear for the whole of the winter." Most hedges and verges alongside roads do not belong to the council but to the adjacent householder or

landowner, who are responsible for keeping roads and pavements safe for vehicles, cyclists and horse riders, by cutting back vegetation on their property to give a minimum clearance of 0.5 metres (1ft 8ins) to the edge of the highway and, if there is overhanging growth, to a minimum height of 5.2 metres (17 ft). If you can't do it yourself then you should contact a reputable local contractor to handle it for you.

Petworth Literary Festival opens this month

Some of the top authors in the English-speaking world – including Graffham's own Lucy Foley – will be taking part in the 2025 Petworth Literary Festival, which opens on Wednesday 19 October with 45 events across 12 days. They include locally based astronaut Tim Peake, along with Sebastian Faulks, Lyse Doucet, Max Hastings, Dame Prue Leith, Ed Davey, Gyles Brandreth, Dan Cruikshank, Jeremy Hunt and Reverend Richard Coles. For full details, see petworthfestival.org.uk/whats-on for full details.



Car written off in Graffham Road collision

Graffham Road was closed briefly on Tuesday 26 August after two vehicles collided close to The Potteries. The driver of one of them, an East Lavington resident, was taken by ambulance to Chichester's St Richard's Hospital for checks but released overnight. Her car was written off in the incident. The other vehicle, a pick-up truck, was also severely damaged. Sussex Police attended at the scene.

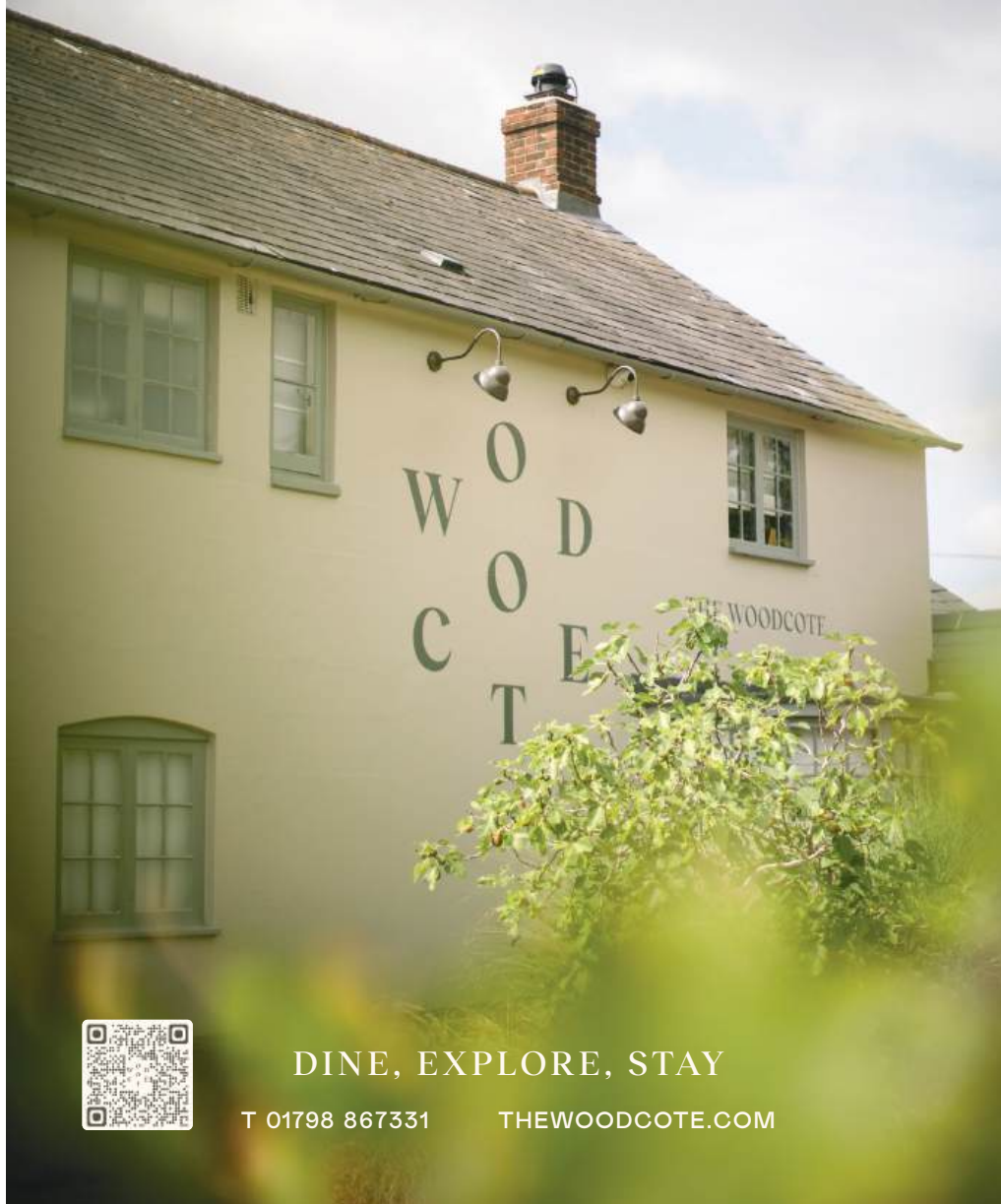
Date awaited for Play Park completion

A date was awaited as this edition went to press for the final bits of kit to be installed at Graffham's Play Park after Chichester District Council this summer made a grant of almost £16,000 to the scheme – taking its fund-raising to its target. The facility will be closed for around a week to enable the work to be completed. Watch for updates on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard.

Wood yard would welcome you at open day

Our local timber yard, W L West Timber, between Selham and Halfway Bridge, is holding a celebratory open day on Friday 3 October from 10 am to 3pm to mark its business partner Pro Fencing joining it under one roof. It promises product displays and demos, special offers, refreshments and free gifts.

THE WOODCOTE



DINE, EXPLORE, STAY

T 01798 867331

THEWOODCOTE.COM

Woodcote serves up new head chef...

The Woodcote has a new head chef – Michelin star winner and veteran of BBC television’s *Great British Menu* Matt Gillan. Brought up in Hampshire, he has been cooking since he left school, cutting his teeth in a country pub before gaining experience with some of the UK’s most highly regarded chefs, at Cambridge’s Midsummer House, Restaurant Gordon Ramsay, and Stockcross, near Newbury. He moved to South Lodge Hotel, near Horsham, in 2006, where, as head chef of its Pass restaurant, he earned a coveted Michelin Star in 2006 and four AA Rosettes. More recently, he has been working on his own projects, including Brighton’s Pike & Pine restaurant, and The Heritage restaurant with rooms at Slaugham, between Horsham and Haywards Heath.

Announcing his appointment, The Woodcote said: “Matt brings both creativity and a deep respect for seasonality to our kitchen. With his vision and passion, The Woodcote continues to build on strong foundations – offering dining that is as refined as it is rooted in the countryside.”



...while decision awaited on its expansion

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 9 October, 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 and speak – or you can watch the meeting live or by ‘catch-up’ via its YouTube channel, www.youtube.com/@SDNPACcommittees

The restaurant with rooms that used to be The White Horse is seeking approval to triple in size, building 16 new guest suites, constructing a new restaurant, and creating a new car park for some 70 vehicles with an overflow parking area.

Meeting discusses Woodcote's June fireworks

Graffham Parish Council Chairman Gillian Charlesworth and Deputy Chairman John Bracey met on 20 August with The Woodcote's General Manager Will Morley along with Jamie Lumsden, Chief Executive of the restaurant's owner Ledmore Capital, after complaints from residents over its fireworks display on 16 June. The following joint statement was issued after their meeting.

Graffham Parish Council felt it would be helpful to have an open discussion with The Woodcote so that concerns could be shared constructively.

The Woodcote team explained that the firework display was carried out by Flashpoint Fireworks, the same professional company that Seaford College uses each year and that other locals in the village have also used, and that everything was of the same F4 firework category that the other displays used, all of which are legally limited to a maximum noise level of 120 decibels. Flashpoint Fireworks director Jason Mayes believed the wind direction from the south west towards the village contributed to an impression of a louder display.

The Woodcote emphasised that firework displays are expected to be very rare, with no further displays planned for the foreseeable future. They also confirmed that if any future displays were considered, they would explore options for lower-volume effects and provide advance notice to the community.

Also, The Woodcote team expressed their disappointment at some of the personal or offensive comments made on social media and elsewhere about the restaurant and those associated with it. They stressed that they welcome constructive feedback and want to build a positive relationship with the village. We all agreed that there is no place for rude and offensive comments, only for legitimately held views from all perspectives. The Graffham Parish Council representatives undertook to play their part in ensuring a constructive atmosphere and dialogue.

In this spirit, we mentioned the recent flyer, distributed locally, for a Woodcote barbecue on the same day as the annual Graffham fête. The Woodcote team explained that the intention was simply to encourage local engagement, not to compete with village events. Nevertheless, The Woodcote team acknowledged that it would be mindful of village dates when planning promotions, while also needing to continue their own operations.

Finally, we discussed initiatives to continue to welcome residents of the village to The Woodcote and they confirmed that they were working on ways to do this.



Westerlands' plan is built on four pillars – Nature, Access, Community and Healing.

Westerlands' plan endorsed by South Downs

Westerlands' new Whole Estate Plan has been formally endorsed by the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), confirming the vision and values for Westerlands itself along with its Tegleaze meadows and woodland, which together stretch across more than 450 acres of East Lavington and Graffham Down.

The 20-year plan, partially shaped by a community engagement exercise last year, is based on four pillars – Nature, Access, Community and Healing – as “the foundations of everything we do, informing each decision and initiative as we strive to leave our land in a better state than we found it”. The overall aim is for Westerlands to be recognised by 2045 as a leading example of a regenerative, pasture-based livestock farming model – “a place where innovative stewardship and thoughtful management lead to thriving habitats, flourishing wildlife and a community bound together by a shared belief in nature’s power to heal”.

The plan states: “Our definition of success is simple yet ambitious – a landscape rich in abundant biodiversity where wildlife, livestock, plants and people all thrive together and a community that is healthier, more connected and inspired by the natural wonders of the land.”

Along with its SDNPA endorsement, Westerlands has also just been approved as an educational centre for delivering the transformational ‘Changing Lives Through Horses’ programme. From September, it has been welcoming disengaged children and young adults to its Trekking Centre, where its team has been helping them develop essential life skills through a range of equestrian-based activities.



You can read Westerlands' 280-page plan in full at bit.ly/westerlands-plan

Lavington Stud applies for planning permission

Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils have both agreed to support in principle a formal application for planning permission by Lavington Stud and Estate for its “restoration and regeneration”. The application followed the community consultation carried out at the turn of the year.

The proposal was lodged with the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) on 1 August and validated by its development team on 26 August, when it and more than 100 supporting documents were posted to the SDNPA planning website – with a deadline of 25 September for the public to comment. You can see full details and leave your comments at bit.ly/lavington-plans

The plan is summarised as “a new environmental farming and management regime supported by development proposals on two sites”. The application’s planning design and access statement describes the scheme as “an exceptional and forward-thinking response to the challenges and opportunities within the South Downs National Park, combining environmental restoration, regenerative farming, sustainable development and community engagement in a manner consistent with



Home Farm: Some of the more unsightly 20th century buildings at the former stud stables, barns and offices, marked with red dots here, would be demolished to make way for a new estate house. The blue dots indicate buildings that would be converted into holiday lets. The purple dot is where estate offices would be housed and the barn marked with the yellow dot would become a multifunctional space for education visits, meetings and ancillary domestic use.

the statutory purposes of the national park and its duty to foster the communities’ social and economic wellbeing.”

At Home Farm, the centre of the former stud operation, in East Lavington civil parish, the aim is to demolish many of the 20th Century stable ranges and barns and replace them with a new eco-friendly principal estate house with a swimming pool and tennis court, as indicated in the consultation exercise earlier this year. What had been the domain’s manor in centuries gone by is now Seaford College’s Mansion House.

Traditional courtyard buildings would be renovated to become seven self-contained holiday lets, offices and a multifunctional space for education, estate meetings, ancillary residential use and an anticipated 18 tourist visitor events a year. Other buildings would be retained as existing stables and storage.



Calloways: Instead of the 11 homes previously approved by the planning authorities, the aim now is to convert the buildings marked with pink dots in this architect's impression into six homes and those highlighted with light blue dots into seven units intended mainly for artisans and not-for-profit organisations.

At Calloways, in Graffham civil parish, the established development approval for converting former agricultural buildings into 11 dwellings would be changed. The plan now is for six homes and seven 'enterprise' units, intended for local artisan craftspeople and not-for-profit organisations, again as indicated in the consultation exercise. The application describes this new approach as "delivering a well-balanced scheme that secures the long-term preservation and enhancement of a historic farmstead, supports the estate's diversification objectives, bringing employment opportunities and economic benefits to the estate and the area generally".

No changes to the access arrangements for Home Farm or Calloways are proposed. A suggestion from some villagers during the consultation earlier this year to create a new road to the site via the field by the War Memorial has been ruled out: "The owners of Lavington Stud and Estate are committed to environmental renaturing and creating new roads unnecessarily would be contrary to that vision. It is not proposed to construct a new access to serve the proposal. The existing arrangement, with minor improvements to allow two vehicles to pass, is suitable. The Highway Authority has reviewed the proposal and has not raised any concerns."

The traffic analysis says the proposal would generate fewer daily movements compared to the plans already approved for Calloways and the stud that operated at Home Farm and would not result in an unacceptable impact on highway safety or adversely affect the existing routes through the village. If approval is granted, a 'construction traffic management plan' would need to be signed off. James and

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The proposed new estate house looking from the north (left) and west (right).



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Bianca Pitt bought the property in 2021. Under their stewardship, nature is being encouraged to return to its 650 acres – which have recently been certified as ‘Organic’ by the Soil Association. Meantime, many of the estate’s rental properties – some of which were near derelict – have been renovated and insulated, while other farm buildings have been saved from collapse.

Graffham Parish Council, at its meeting on 3 September, agreed to support the application in principle, provided that strict and enforceable conditions are imposed, requiring all traffic to access Home Farm, during the construction phase and afterwards, via Seaford College’s grounds, rather than through Graffham, with traffic restricted between Calloways and Home Farm. It also asked that an enforceable transport construction management plan be agreed to limit nuisance during the development and that the business units at Calloways be restricted to artisan or light workshop use only, with enforceable limits on hours and deliveries.

In providing the council’s comments to SDNPA, Chairman of its Planning Committee Fiona Jacob stated: “We cannot emphasise strongly enough that the traffic burden – both during construction and once the developments are occupied – must not fall solely on Graffham.”

East Lavington Parish Council, meeting on Monday 15 September, also gave the scheme its support in principle, asking that a schedule for the overall development should be provided along with a project management plan. In response to Graffham’s request that Home Farm traffic should be routed via Seaford College, it noted that it was not clear whether this access was a public highway or owned by the school and that the safety of its 1,000 pupils needed to be carefully considered.

Open morning to report on restoration progress

The Lavington Stud and Estate team is hosting an open morning on Saturday 27 September from 10am to 12 noon to update the community on its work to bring back nature across its land, restoring its meadows and woodland. Coffee, tea and pastries will be provided. Please register for the event at info@lavingtonstud.co.uk by the day before – and, if attending, wear walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather. All welcome.

Planning applications and decisions

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

Applications

Hoyle Farm, Hoyle Lane, Heyshott GU29 0DY: Relocation of entrance drive retaining existing access to highway. SDNP/25/02729/HOUS. *Received 2 Jul 2025. Validated 18 Aug 2025. Determination deadline 13 Oct 2025.*

Lavington Stud and Estate, The Drive, East Lavington GU28 0NQ: Restoration and regeneration with a new environmental farming and management regime supported by development proposals at Home Farm and Calloways. SDNP/25/03160/FUL. *Received 1 Aug 2025. Validated 26 Aug 2025. Determination deadline 25 Nov 2025.*

Decisions

Glenmore, Norwood Lane, East Lavington GU28 0QG: Replacement of rear conservatory with single storey extension. SDNP/25/02639/LDP. *Refused 21 Aug 2025.*

Property watch

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

5 St Giles Place, The Street, Graffham GU28 0FF: Detached house built in 2022, four bedrooms, three bathrooms plus cloakroom, living room, kitchen/breakfast room, study. 221 sq m (2,376 sq ft) including garage. Garden. Guide price £1,325,000. *RH&RW Clutton, Petworth 01798 303593. Listed 10 Sep.*



Weavers, Graffham Common Road, Graffham GU28 0PU: Detached chalet, five bedrooms, two bathrooms plus cloakroom WC/utility, two living rooms, dining room, kitchen. 188 sq m (2,023 sq ft). Garden. Reduced to 975,000. *King & Chasemore, Midhurst 01730 774838. Listed 9 Sep.*

1 Hillside, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QB: Detached house, four bedrooms, two bathrooms plus cloakroom, sitting room, kitchen/diner. 124 sq m (1,337 sq ft). Garden, garage, workshop. Guide price £740,000. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst 01730 774837. Listed 11 Sep.*



Summer Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0PU: Detached chalet, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, sitting room, kitchen/diner. 169 sq m (1,820 sq ft) inc garage/utility. Garden. Guide price £850,000 million. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst 01730 774837. Listed 18 Sep.*

Latest Tangletrees plans gain conditional support

Both East Lavington and Graffham Parish Council have offered conditional support for the latest proposals to replace Tangletrees with a new eco-friendly house after the owner filed revised plans to reduce the size of the replacement dwelling.

Two previous applications, for larger buildings, have been turned down by Chichester District Council planners, on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority.

The applicant has lodged an appeal to overturn the latest refusal – while also making a third attempt to gain a green light for freshly revised plans.

These are dependent on permission to swap a parcel of land currently classified as agriculture for another plot now designated for residential use.

The property sits within East Lavington parish even though it is directly opposite Graffham Rec. East Lavington Parish Council agreed to support the latest proposal subject to confirmation that the land swap is lawful.

Graffham councillors were “happy” with the revised plan although they too continue to have concerns about the land swap arrangement, while also noting neighbours’ worries about being overlooked by the new house.

Scottish dancing rehearsals Graffham Empire Hall

All welcome!

Join us for four spirited Sunday sessions this October, as we warm up for Burns Night 2026!



Every Sunday in October, 4-6pm



Graffham Empire Hall



£2 per person per session

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For more information, contact crowntreeh@gmail.com



Graffham CE Infant School

Open Morning



Thursday 23rd October 2025
9.30am – 11.30am

Come along and see our beautiful village school – for children joining Reception in September 2026

Contact the office for more information and to book a place
(Drop-ins also welcome)

Email: office@graffhaminfant.org.uk

Phone: 01798 867324

Website: <https://graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk/>

If you are unavailable on this date please contact us to make a separate appointment

School report: Welcome, returners and newbies

With the new school year now underway, Graffham Infant and Duncton Junior Schools Business Manager Jenny Godfrey provides her monthly update.



Welcome back to all of our school families – and specially to our 18 new pupils in Reception at Graffham and the 15 children who have joined Year 3 at Duncton.

We also welcome three new members of staff:

- Tilly Gafford, our new teacher in Kestrel class at Duncton, for Years 3 and 4.
- Rachel Seymour, covering for our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator Callie Reid who is now on maternity leave.
- Jackie Horne, our new play therapist, working with children at both schools.

Graffham roof You may have noticed that the Graffham roof project is not as far along as we had expected it to be. Ecology surveys put a halt to progress at the start of the summer and subsequent delays led to a decision to swap the phases. So work on the roof above the nursery and upstairs is now underway, with the aim of completing it by around the coming half term holiday, while work on the main school hall will be undertaken next summer.

New team takes hold of the Empire Hall's keys



There's a new team looking after Graffham's 'grand old lady' following the Empire Hall AGM on Monday 1 September, with Sally Blunt handing over her Chairman role – and the building's keys – to successor Ollie Robinson-Boulton. Her booking secretary duties are now handled by Anna

Shawcross. Tom Richardson has taken on the Maintenance Officer responsibilities of Gillian Charlesworth, while Jonathan Simons has succeeded K Consalvi as Secretary. Carol Sargent stays on as Treasurer and trustees nominated by hall users are unchanged – Diane Bellis (from Thursday Club), Ann Brown (St Giles Church), Fiona Jacob (Graffham Parish Council), Christina Federowicz (Badminton Club), and Sarah Lydiard-Wilson (Graffham Health Support Association).

Sally has stepped down after three years combining the Chairman and Bookings Secretary roles, after earlier serving for around five years in just the latter position.

On behalf of the committee, Gillian Charlesworth thanked her for her long and dedicated service to making the Empire Hall a success, overcoming some extremely difficult challenges during her tenure as Chair: "Sally has done an amazing and wonderful job. The whole village owes her an enormous debt of gratitude for her extraordinary service over almost ten years."

Sally told the meeting: "It has been a complete pleasure, although stressful at times, to be captain of this amazing ship, in all its quirky unwieldiness. When we drove past the hall in 2013 on our first recce of the village, I wanted to be part of this characterful building straight out of *Dad's Army*, oozing with history and character. Within three weeks of moving in, I was asked if I would become booking secretary. I said yes, as I thought 'in for a penny, in for a pound!' I got to know so many people, mostly very supportive and friendly, in such a short time. It has certainly taken me on many adventures during these years!"

Looking back on her time as Chairman, she added: "We have achieved some big improvements over the past three years, not least renovating the roof – the first time it has been repaired since the 1980s, when it had a complete overhaul. I am proud to say we did it! But in ten years or so a complete re-roof may have to be done."

Among the many other upgrades clocked up were the installation of the new state-of-the-art audio-visual system and high speed broadband and wifi, along with a dishwasher in the kitchen and new fridges in the kitchen and Kennedy bar room, a solid fence put in place around the oil tank in the garden, locks repaired... The



Keys to the door Sally Blunt hands over her set of Chairman's keys for the Empire Hall to her successor Ollie Robinson-Boulton, joined by other outbound and inbound committee members (from left) K Consalvi, Gillian Charlesworth, Carole Sargent, Jonathan Simons, Tom Richardson and Anna Shawcross.

hall has been in big demand in the past year, with something on virtually every day of the year – exercise, yoga and Pilates classes, osteopathy, physiotherapy and podiatry treatments, badminton and pickleball clubs, concerts, movie nights, dances, talks, lunch club and post office. It has also acted as the venue for two wedding receptions, multiple funeral wakes, political party meetings, village polling station and a refreshment stop for long-distance cyclists.

They generated operating income of almost £23,000 in the year – enabling it to cover all its day-to-day running costs.

Sally ended her final annual Chairman's report paying tribute to people who had played a key role in supporting the hall during her tenure:

- Phil Tupper, “who quietly without fanfare or complaint, has repaired and renewed this hall, preserving it for future generations”.
- Peter Charlesworth, who “stood for hours waiting for things to fill up and work”.
- Michael Blunt, for “taking on the completely incomprehensible audio-visual system set-up and training everyone to use it, and so many other things to help”.
- Neil McLean “who made the impossible possible”.
- The all-female committee, particularly Carole and Gillian, “for the work you have done for the hall and the unfaltering support you have given me throughout”.

She concluded: “All that is left for me is to wish the new committee all the very best for the year ahead, and to offer the village's heartfelt thanks for stepping up when the Empire Hall was so in need of fresh ideas and energy to keep this historic community asset in order for generations to come.”



Work parties 2025-26

We are so fortunate to have the beautiful South Downs on our doorstep. Come and help maintain them for future generations to enjoy. Did I mention that delicious cakes, tea and coffee are provided?



Work parties meet at **Graffham's St Giles Church at 9.30am**. You'll need a pair of gloves, strong shoes or boots and warm clothing.

Please email jimkirke@hotmail.com if you plan to come along and say if you would like a ride up so that he can arrange transport.

19 October	Sunday	25 January	Sunday
23 November	Sunday	7 February	Saturday
21 December	Sunday	7 March	Saturday

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SPECIAL REPORT

Should Graffham and East Lavington merge?

YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Tuesday 14 October 7pm Empire Hall



A joint meeting of the parishes of Graffham and East Lavington is to be held this month for residents to give their views on whether the two current separate civil parishes should be combined into one.

In this special report, we look at why we have two parish councils here at present, how they compare with one another – and answer your other questions on the merger proposal.

Have your say on parish merger on 14 October

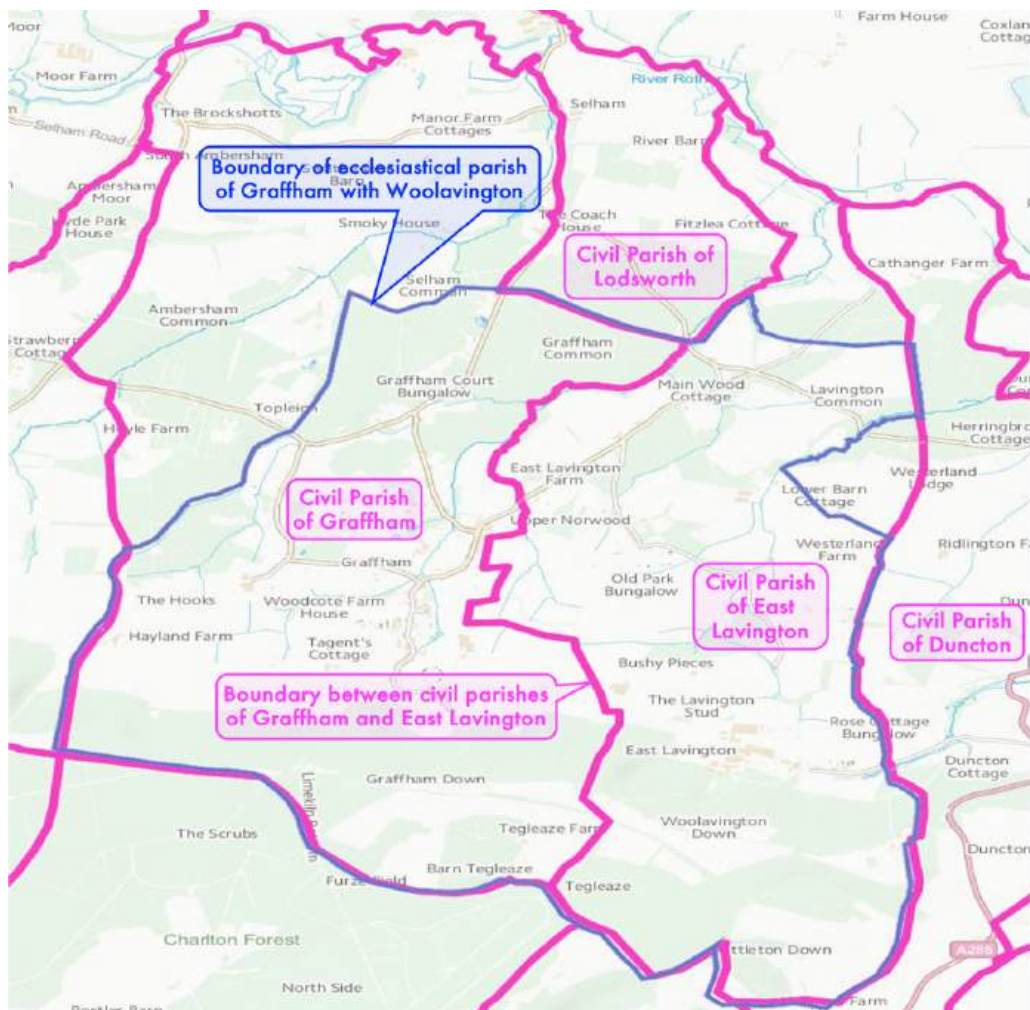
A joint Parish Meeting of East Lavington and Graffham will be held in the Empire Hall on Tuesday 14 October at 7pm for the community to give views on whether or not the two currently separate civil parish councils should merge.

All residents of both civil parishes are welcome to attend and may speak for up to three minutes each. If you would like to do so, please email clerk@graffham-pc.uk ahead of the meeting, stating whether you are for, against or neutral on the issue.

HOW THE TWO CURRENT CIVIL PARISHES COMPARE		
		
Area	4.6 miles ² (2,917 acres)	3.1 miles ² (1,968 acres)
Population	520	360
Households	229	87
Maximum parish councillors	7	5
Precept 2025-6	£19,200	£4,000
Budget for admin 2025-6	£12,225	£3,990
Precept for Band D property	£51.65	£28.59
Community assets	Empire Hall	All three were bequeathed to both parishes' residents but as they are sited in Graffham, East Lavington does not pay to support them.
	Recreation Ground	
	War Memorial	
Shops etc	Graffham Village Shop	
	Picture framer	
Pubs/restaurant	Foresters Arms	
	Three Moles (half in parish)	
	The Woodcote	
Schools	Graffham Infant School	Seaford College
Churches	St Giles Church	
	All Saints Chapel	Former church of St Peter's is now Seaford College's chapel
Clubs, societies etc	Many – from sports to social and community	

The meeting will conclude with an indicative vote on the proposal. If you cannot attend the meeting but have a view on the proposal, you are asked to email your comments to clerk@graffham-pc.uk, including your name and address.

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. It has formally proposed to its East Lavington neighbour that they should merge. East Lavington's councillors are split on the idea but have agreed to consult residents on it after their annual parish meeting showed support for consultation.



The boundaries of Graffham and East Lavington civil parishes are shown in pink in this map, and the church parish of Graffham with Woolavington in blue.

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Why are there two parish councils here now?

The histories of Graffham and East Lavington have been interwoven for hundreds of years – but understanding why each of them still has its own parish council is tricky to unstitch.

Up until the end of the 19th Century, many of the responsibilities of today's civil parish councils across England lay with the church or local lords of the manor, though in some places and in some times the two were the same.

Through a thousand years of their chronicled past, Graffham and Lavington shared one Lord of the Manor – from the Norman Earls of Arundel, through the Garton and Orme families of Tudor and Georgian times, the Victorian Sargents and Wilberforces up to, until just before World War II, James Buchanan.

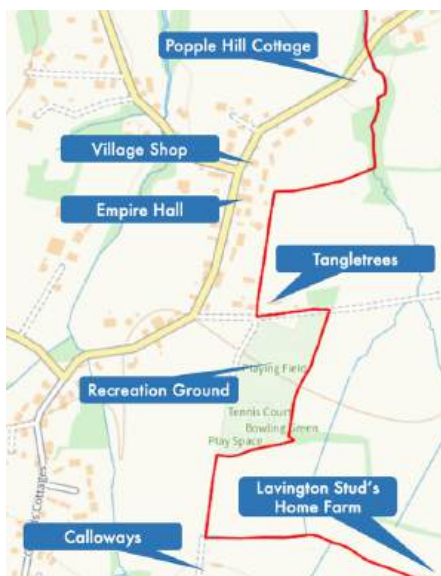
However, Graffham and Lavington, or later Woolavington, as today's East Lavington was once known, each had their own church from before the Domesday Book. That ended half a century ago when St Peter's became Seaford College's chapel, with St Giles becoming the church for both villages.

Parishes emerged around the churches, with their boundaries based on the priest's ability to provide spiritual oversight and collect tithes from local communities, shaped also by land ownership – which was why what is today's West Lavington, near Midhurst, was part of 'our' Lavington parish until 1851.

That was also the year that the church parishes of Graffham and Woolavington were merged, after several decades of sharing the same rector but remaining separate ecclesiastical parishes.

The Local Government Act of 1894 established England's civil parishes to take on responsibility in rural areas for secular local matters such as roads, sanitation and

► *Continued on next page*



The boundary between Graffham and East Lavington civil parishes is shown in red in this map – passing from the north along the stream through Popple Hill, then down the access path to the west of Tangletrees, just to the east of many houses along The Street, and then around the Rec before crossing Lavington Stud and Estate.

► *Continued from previous page*

public health, with their roles revised by further legislation in 1972 and 2011. Back in the 1890s, the boundaries of the new civil parishes were drawn up by the newly formed county councils, mainly based on established church parishes. Yet, despite the church parishes of Graffham and Woolavington having been merged 40 years before, for some reason now unclear Graffham and East Lavington have each had their own civil parish councils to today. Under current legislation, however, East Lavington would not meet the threshold to be a civil parish in its own right.

In the interim, part of the former civil parish of Selham was brought into Graffham parish in 1933 followed by South Ambersham in 1972.

The question now is whether Graffham and East Lavington should combine, too.

What parish councils do for us today

England's 10,500 parish councils – 67 in Chichester District alone – are the nation's first tier of local government. They are run by elected or co-opted volunteer councillors. The populations they cover vary from less than 100 up to 130,000, although 80 per cent have fewer than 2,500 people.

Their activities fall into three main categories – representing the community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and well-being. They have powers to raise local taxes to pay for this, by levying a 'precept' on households and businesses, collected through council tax. They must be consulted on a number of issues, particularly planning applications and surveys of rights of way within their boundaries, although responsibility for decision making on these issues is held by other bodies.

They may provide and maintain community facilities such as village halls, recreation grounds, war memorials, benches, litter bins and common land and have a duty to consider providing allotments if there is demand. They can also give funding for public events, arts and entertainment, local voluntary organisations, crime prevention measures, bus services and community transport, traffic calming schemes, cleaning ponds and ditches and create a neighbourhood plan.

Graffham Parish Council is involved in many of these activities. East Lavington's public service provision is limited largely to maintaining noticeboards and finger post road signs, with its activity in the past year focussed on commenting on seven planning applications. While our war memorial, recreation ground and Empire Hall were bequeathed to villagers from both parishes, East Lavington makes no regular contribution towards their maintenance as they are sited in Graffham.

Your questions on the merger plan answered

We draw from the cases being presented for and against the proposed merger of our civil parish councils to cover key points likely to arise among residents.

Why bother merging the civil parishes of Graffham and East Lavington?

The main reason put forward is to deliver greater efficiency to residents by saving on duplicated administration costs, freeing up thousands of pounds a year which could then be spent on things that benefit the community.

It would also reduce time, effort and cost for our district and county councils and their councillors who would have just one parish council to deal with here rather than the current two.

There would be a bigger population pool from which to draw councillors at a time when identifying volunteers is becoming ever more challenging.

One intangible result would be a greater sense of shared community across the two neighbouring parishes.

East Lavington currently has no community assets of its own. The recreation ground, Empire Hall and war memorial were bequeathed to both villages – but, because they are sited in Graffham, East Lavington



makes no regular contribution towards their maintenance. As it is, many East Lavington residents already believe they live in Graffham anyway.

Combining the two would bring the civil parish boundary more into line with the church parish boundary – and eradicate the current quirky dividing line between the two civil parishes, whereby the Rec is within Graffham but Tangletrees to its immediate north is in East Lavington.

Finally, under the current local government restructuring, district councils are being combined to create bigger units. Should this trend extend next to parish councils, merging now could enable us to take the initiative by combining with well-suited neighbours, rather than potentially having less attractive change forced on us.

Would East Lavington's precept rise to pay for Graffham's community assets?

As it stands today, Band D property owners in Graffham pay just 44p a week more than their East Lavington counterparts in parish council precept – as they support many more community assets, including the Rec and War Memorial which were

▶ *Continued on next page*

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bequeathed to and still serve both sets of villagers but which currently receive no regular financial support from East Lavington.

This year's precept for a Band D property in East Lavington is £28.59 while Graffham's is £51.65. Both are significantly below the average for the 60 plus parish councils in Chichester district that charge a precept, at £73.17.

By merging, thousands of pounds a year could be saved on currently duplicated administration costs – which could be used to keep the precept down or be spent on things that really benefit the community.

There must be some downsides?

East Lavington opponents of the proposal feel their civil parish is different to Graffham – more outward rather than inward looking – and that this perspective may be lost if the merger were to proceed, along with East Lavington's independence and status.

What would be the process for making it happen?

The legal route for merging parish councils in our area is via Chichester District Council, through what is known as a 'community governance review'. The views of local residents are generally sought – such as at the joint parish meeting set for

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NEW HEIGHTS
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14 October. If that results in no clear position for or against the proposal, then a referendum could be held.

While combining parish councils does not happen frequently, it is not unusual. Graffham itself added part of the former Selham Parish Council in 1933 followed by South Ambersham in 1972. There are plenty of other examples locally – Sutton with Barlavington, Elsted and Treyford, and Stedham with Iping to name but a few.

Adjustments to parish boundaries can also happen with mutual consent. For instance, our recreation ground used to be in East Lavington civil parish, but the civil parish boundary was altered to bring it within Graffham civil parish because of its proximity to and access from Graffham.

How much would merging the civil parishes cost?

The advice received indicates it could cost virtually nothing if there is clear support, up to a maximum of less than £7,000 if a full community governance review is needed to gauge the community's views – which would be covered within just two years through the expected savings in duplicated admin costs. So the greater the engagement and support at the joint parish meeting, the clearer the evidence will be thus reducing the potential cost.

Wouldn't merging with Graffham risk East Lavington losing its identity?

The proposed name for the combined civil parish, should it come about, would be Graffham with East Lavington, so the latter's name would live on, and it would be displayed on the historic finger post road signs and other signage in the area.

If a merger must happen, might Graffham and East Lavington be better off combining with other neighbouring civil parishes?

Graffham and East Lavington have so much more in common with one another than with any of their other neighbouring parishes. They already share a common heritage, one single ecclesiastical parish with the church of St Giles serving both villages and great mutual assets like the recreation ground, Empire Hall and war memorial which were bequeathed to both settlements. They also both employ the same parish council clerk.

With Chichester District Council itself facing restructuring as part of the Westminster government's plans for reshaping local authorities, could merging our parish councils happen practically now?

The indications and assurances that have been given by Chichester District Council are that the proposal could be implemented reasonably quickly if it is supported locally – despite all the other local government changes in the pipeline right now.

From Town Hall: Mapping future for local government

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



West Sussex County Council and all the district and borough councils within the county were due to vote at the end of September on the future of local government in our region. This will affect all of us here one way or another – and it is going to happen whether we like it or not.

I have written several times this year in this column about the Local Government Review (LGR) unveiled by the Westminster government in December. It means the biggest change in our lifetime for England's county, district and borough councils. They will become a thing of the past, replaced by strategic authorities covering much larger areas than our current counties with unitary authorities, also much bigger than our current district and borough councils, taking on most of the responsibilities currently split between county and district/borough councils.

West and East Sussex County Councils both asked to be part of the first tranche of councils to undergo the proposed restructuring – and were duly selected as one of the initial participants.

A new strategic authority is to be established covering all of Sussex – West and East combined – headed by an elected mayor.

Both county councils, Chichester District Council and the 12 other district and borough councils across the current two counties will be replaced by a number of unitary authorities, which Westminster says should each have a population of around half million people and be financially viable from day one.

There has been much debate, research and investigation into the costings, savings and feasibility of the different possible scenarios. West Sussex County Council has proposed that there should be one unitary authority for all of the current county. However, none of the district or borough councils here share that view, because the population on this single unitary authority would be nearly a million (twice the total proposed by Westminster), we would only have two representatives on the Strategic Authority instead of potentially six, and the number of ward/division councillors would have to be reduced from 140 to the statutory maximum of 100. This would mean each of its elected representatives would be responsible for more than 20,000 and would have to take on twice as many responsibilities as at present, making the job of a councillor a full-time occupation, which I don't think is a good idea. The



Chichester District Council prefers option B1, which would see it merging with Arun and Worthing to create a new unitary authority, rather than B2, which would add Adur to this group, or option A, which would bring all of West Sussex together.

other two options are as financially viable – Chichester could merge with Arun, Worthing and Adur (option B2) or with Arun and Worthing (B1). Chichester and Arun both prefer B1 (merging with Arun and Worthing) and with option B2 its second preference over a single body covering all of the current West Sussex. All the other district and boroughs across West Sussex and their residents preferred B2.

I think the district and boroughs councillors are united in wanting to keep local government as local as possible. The idea, for example, of planning for all of West Sussex being based in, say, Crawley or Brighton would not be serving those on the opposite side of the county well, and this would be the same for all services.

It is also important to note that the county, district or boroughs do not want to do this. There are no savings to be achieved, it means local government is further removed from residents and, to me, this is an exercise in wealth distribution, that is to say reserves from those councils that are well run and are financially stable (like Chichester) being distributed to those that are not.

Finally, on a completely separate note, I would be very interested to hear from anyone who has information on the suffragist Florence Fonblanque, who lived and died in Duncton.

Hospital trust ranked 117th out of 134 in country

Our local NHS hospital trust has emerged as one of the poorest performers in a new government league table comparing providers across England. University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust, which includes Chichester's St Richard's along with six other hospitals across the county, is listed at 117 out of a total of 134 NHS trusts in England in the first NHS trust performance league table, published on 9 September. The rankings score NHS trusts on seven different areas including waiting times for operations, cancer treatment, time spent in A&E and ambulance response times, using data submitted by the trusts.



Graffham Empire Movies

Bringing cinema to the village – and raising funds for our Empire Hall



A then unknown Bob Dylan arrives in New York on his meteoric rise in the early 1960s, culminating in a ground-breaking performance that reverberates around the world. Rated one of the best films of the past year with nominations for nine Oscars and six BAFTAs.

Timothée Chalamet is stunning as one of the greatest ever singer-songwriters, with Edward Norton as Pete Seeger, Monica Barbaro as Joan Baez and Boyd Holbrook as Johnny Cash.

Certificate 15

141 minutes

Saturday 18 October

Empire Hall

Doors and bar open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Interval ice creams

Tickets – £10 adults – from [ticketsource.co.uk/GEM](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/GEM) or at the door





GEM teams up with Foresters for sunset movie

The weather could not have been kinder as open air movies came to Graffham on Saturday 6 September with Graffham Empire Movies linking up with the Foresters Arms for a screening of *A Good Year* in the pub's garden just after the sun set.

An audience of more than 50 wined and dined on a special menu inspired by the Provence-located romcom before settling in to their outside chairs for the main feature, warmed up with some fun pre-show special attractions and trailers. A collection was taken afterwards in aid of St Giles' Church, raising £235.

Graffham Empire Movies returns to normal on 18 October – in and in aid of the Empire Hall, with the screening of the highly acclaimed Bob Dylan biopic *A Complete Unknown* (see opposite page). Then, on 22 November, it is showing the latest and, according to many critics, best in the *Bridget Jones* series – *Mad About The Boy*.

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 family have raised funds for the cause since their daughter Jade was diagnosed with the condition, and they lost a dear friend to cancer of the brain.





Top bananas Among the stalls encouraging punters to part with money were Graffham Garden Group's, attended by Nicky West, Carol Tompkins, Jo Hail and Carole Kirke, and the pre-loved brocante (aka bric-a-brac) manned by Lou Hancock.

August holiday's fête raises £5,450 for the Rec

The long, sultry summer of 2025 ensured the Graffham Fête on Bank Holiday Monday was lucky again with the weather, *writes Bill Barrett*. Grateful thanks go to John Bracey, who directed operations up to, and on, the day, and David Sparkes who masterminded the pre-event planning and who once again recruited "ambassadors" from local commerce to sponsor the festivities.

Canine guru and judge Bernard Bayley expressed some concerns half-an-hour before the start that he had only received two entries, but he needn't have worried and, as ever, the dog show was a well subscribed centrepiece, with Kym Pegram

► *Continued on page 38*



Top prizes Marie Bracey, master of ceremonies Michael Blunt and raffle ticket sellers Holly and Rich Sabin announce the results of the draw (left), while Rev Vivien, with husband Phillip, was delighted to see St Giles' history display banners making their first appearance in its 150th anniversary year, at the clothing swap gazebo.



Top gear Graffham Village Shop regulars Nicole and Mike Gradwell with their dog Nugget in their A40 Sports, just one of the classic vehicles on display.



Top dogs A new show class this year was 'best sausage catcher' – with all eyes on the flying banger (circled below), won by this hound on the left (anyone know his name and owner?!). In the more traditional classes, best in show for the third time was Frances Bassom's collie Shadow, from Lurgashall.





Top of the class Among the attractions to test skills, patience and amenability were (from left) bowling for the 'cham', splat the rat and the coconut shy, while (below left) some members of the informal village golfing group UGGS (Upper Graffham Golf Society) tried out the putting 'green' without even letting go of their pints – from left, Chris Mackie, Stuart Mathie and Nick White.

► *Continued from page 36*

also adjudicating. Although fiercely competitive, no mutt was able to de-throne Shadow, Frances Bassom's collie, who completed a hat-trick of Best in Show, even if the new class of "Best Sausage Catcher" earned the most laughs. During the



afternoon Anna and Andy Shawcross ensured rats were splatted and Simon Longman that coconuts were shied at.

Having chucked coconuts, there was then an opportunity to imagine a chukka on the wooden training polo horse supervised by Beanie Bradley, and Sandy Macqueen had organised a putting challenge on possibly not the truest of surfaces, but it didn't seem to "putt" many off. At the "Bowling for the Cham(pagne)" all nine skittles were knocked over by a roll of three woods for the first time since about 1624. Probably.

Raffle ticket-flogging duties were supervised by Holly Sabin, with thanks to the many generous donors and especially Jeeva for supplying the £100 shopping voucher first prize. As ever, visitors

► *Continued on page 40*



Top tables The standard of cakes and other bakes available at the tea counter in the Pavilion seemed higher than ever (do we say that every year?!), making it more than tricky for the constant line of customers to choose which one to go for to accompany their thirst quenching cuppa – and all served with a smile by shift after shift of tea ladies... and men.





Top ups Charlie Major and Wendy Longman mixed up and sold around 100 pints of Pimms, while Foresters Arms chefs Angelina T and Sebastian Gorbea were on barbecue duty assisted by their 'front of house' team of Murray West (left) and Anthony Forsyth (right), using the Pavilion's new piece of kit from Duncton's Made by Andy (Beadsley).

► Continued from page 38

marvelled at the display of baking splendour provided by Gillian Charlesworth, her helpers and cake and bake chefs, and, for those who preferred something stronger than tea, Simon Longman and his team kept the ale flowing. The hot temperatures ensured the barrel of Hepworth's was drained by 4 pm. At the other end of the bar, Pimmsters Charlotte Major and Wendy Longman also did a roaring trade.

To soak up the liquid refreshment, Angelina Timofiichuk and Seb Gorbea marshalled the barbecue and Deluca's ice cream van had plenty of business. Jude Sennitt sorted out yet another bric-a-brac and car boot sale, and the St Giles' Clothes Swap ensured plenty of quality pre-loved garments found new wearers, while master-of-ceremonies Michael Blunt kept the throng informed, chivvied and entertained for the entire three hours.

The finale was once again the Egg Toss organised by the Thornley Family, this





Over the top As the shadows lengthened, the lines of participants in the great Graffham egg toss shrank, as, one by one, competitors met their scrambled end (left) from the eggs hurled by Jacob Thornley – until the last man standing, as the catching distance reached 41 metres, was keen cricketer Will Caldwell, mobbed by his family afterwards (right).



year won by perennial top performer Will Caldwell. Expectation that he will triumph again next year is a yolk he will have to bear.

The Recreation Ground Committee are indebted to sponsors Jackson Stops Estate Agents, The Woodcote, MacDonald Oates Solicitors and Padwick Builders as well as our “ambassadors” and would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help with all the fête’s moving parts – too many to name individually. However, particular thanks go to Paul Pieterse for his Trojan efforts towards setting up the event, and taking it all down again afterwards, Sandy Macqueen for marshalling the car park, Stuart Mathie and Karin Skanberg for providing the signs and posters, William Godman-Dorrington for supplying the hay bales, Seaford College for their tents and Hilary Major (who else?) for counting the proceeds. Thanks too to the Double LL Car Club for their annual parade of vintage cars – although a certain green 2025 version of a Bubble Car also attracted a lot of interest.

The net proceeds were £5,450, all of which go towards running, maintaining and improving the recreation ground and pavilion.

Wedding bells: Tom and Ollie



The grooms each arrived for the wedding in a seriously flash motor, driven by friends – with their wedding cake modelled on their Three Moles pub and home.



Nearly 400 people, including guests from as far afield as Cornwall, Scotland, Canada and Zambia, joined The Three Moles' Ollie Robinson-Boulton and Tom Richardson for their wedding on Sunday 24 August in the pub's garden and glorious sunshine.

Proceedings began with the arrival of the grooms, dressed identically, in two seriously flash motors, one in each, driven by friends Justin and Emma MacRae, followed by a grand entrance from the top of the garden accompanied by their best hound Chewie.

The official ceremony was conducted by registrar and former Graffham resident Julie Millington, after which the corks were popped and the celebrations really got underway.

Chef Jamie led a busy kitchen crew producing outstanding canapés – and later the Argentinian barbeque team on the asado slow cooked 80kg of lamb for more than five hours.

Joe Beaumont, on his debut as a master of ceremonies, started early in the morning and did not finish until the final guest departed in the evening – late! However, he remained unfazed and kept the show rolling despite occasionally stressed grooms, a temperamental PA system and wedding rings that disappeared at the crucial moment. He was ably supported by Emma Boulton and conscientious front of house staff.

Maureen Boulton baked a remarkable and memorable cake – there is still some

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Registrar Julie Millington officiated at their outdoor wedding ceremony after Tom and Ollie, in matching outfits, made their grand entrance from the top of The Three Moles' garden with best dog Chewie.



left! – and later there was entertainment from The Straw Dogs and Buddhacious. The drawback to holding the event on home turf is that the pub had to be put back in order, but after the festivities there were three days of relative calm before the boys re-opened for business as usual the following Thursday. They are planning to get away for a honeymoon (destination as yet undecided) in the new year.

Wedding bells: Josh and Chiara

Josh Blackman was so taken with the Empire Hall when he conducted a bat survey there ahead of its roofing works last winter that he and his then fiancée Chiara Bradfield quickly decided it was the ideal venue for their upcoming wedding reception. So they duly hosted 60 family members and friends there on Saturday 30 August after their civil wedding at Ede's House in their home city of Chichester.

They met seven years ago while they were both working in a bookshop there and became engaged five years later. After their wedding breakfast, on tables decorated with chrysanthemums, goldenrod, lisianthus, eucalyptus and lemons, Josh and relatives got up on the stage to perform a medley of covers of Beatles, Duran Duran and Neil Young songs, while the other guests boogied on down.

He and Chiara spent the first night of the married life just a few doors down from the hall – in the Foresters Arms' aptly named Bridle Suite. Chiara is half Italian, which accounts for the choice of their honeymoon destination – Puglia.



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Diamond couple renew their vows in St Giles

A couple who married at St Giles 60 years ago – later putting the village church into millions of living rooms across the country – marked their diamond wedding anniversary on Thursday 11 September by returning there to renew their vows.

Angela Combe's parents were theatrical agent Cary Ellison and actress Olive Milbourne who lived at what is known today as Stobery Cottage, in The Street, in the 1960s and 1970s and are well remembered for fielding teams of thespians to play against Graffham Cricket Club (*Graffham Parish News*, April and September 2024).

Her husband Tim was a drama director with BBC TV. Among 'his' shows was one of the biggest hits of the 1970s, *The Brothers*. When a leading character married in the story, Tim suggested filming it here at St Giles, a decade after his own real marriage there to Angela. The wedding couple were played by Colin Baker (later the sixth Dr Who) and Lisa Goddard – who went on to marry each other for real.

After their own wedding in 1965, conducted by then rector Richard Nash, Tim and Angela hosted a reception in a marquee erected on the church's lawn. They lived



Tim and Angela married
In St Giles in 1965...

at Richmond and now Kingston upon Thames, bringing up five children. "It was so lovely to return to the village," they said. "Graffham has retained its uniqueness."



...and back in the church
to renew their vows.

Parish council to provide funding to Foodbank

Graffham Parish Council is to make a cash donation from the Katherine Maud Guillod Fund to Petworth Foodbank, part of the Chichester Foodbank, after hearing that half a dozen local residents had need to draw on the charity's services in the past year. The size of its gift will be agreed at its next meeting. You can contribute to the foodbank at its collection points in All Saints Chapel, directly opposite Graffham Village Shop, or at St Giles Church. Items currently in most need include:

- Baby food/toiletries.
- Deodorant, shampoo.
- Jam, honey, spreads.
- Kitchen roll.
- Longlife milk, juice.
- Nappies, sizes 5, 6, 7.
- Teabags, instant coffee.
- Tinned fish and veg.
- Tinned meat/veg meals.
- Toilet rolls.
- Treats (snack bars).
- Washing up liquid.



RIP Tagents Farm's Martin Heaton 1942-2025

Martin passed away on 6 August, aged 82 – seven months after his wife Frances. His funeral, on Friday 12 September was held, like hers, at St Giles. Here's an abridged version of the eulogy delivered by his friend Jonathan Harvey.

Martin Christopher Crispin was born in Ealing on 24 October 1942, the eve of St Crispin's Day, the second of four children to Neville and Cecily Heaton. It was an austere family, almost Victorian, leading a pretty Spartan existence – no television, fridge or telephone in the house. His mother, a formidably clever woman, greatly resented having to give up her civil service career upon her marriage, as was then the law. She was not by nature domestic. His father became a permanent under secretary – in the departments of Education and then Transport.

After prep school in Deal, young Martin went off to Westminster School, which he much enjoyed and where he was introduced to one of his passions – rifle shooting. He was an excellent shot and went on to compete regularly at Bisley, reaching the finals in the Queen's Prize, the oldest and most prestigious competition in the sport. He went on to Dublin's Trinity College, where he occasionally read American

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History and, in time-honoured fashion, went to lots of balls and parties. He went into estate agency in Buckinghamshire and qualified as a chartered surveyor, before transferring to London, dealing with commercial property, then set up a small property company, Carillon Investments.

For many years, he served also in the Territorial Army, with the 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The Royal Green Jackets, rising to the rank of Major. This was of immense importance to him for the rest of his life. He went on tour to West Germany, Sharjah and Cyprus at the time that Turkish troops invaded. He also loved salmon fishing, sailing, skiing and hill walking.



Although Frances did not want to be a farmer's wife, they compromised and bought Tagents Farm, with its 80 acres here in Graffham, in 1982, engaging contractors to do the work. That was a pioneering idea then but now a widespread practice. Starting purely arable, before long he acquired a flock of sheep.

Encouraged by his modest successes at Tagents, he added 450 acres at Great Ham farm, south of Chichester, in the 1990s. A decade later, the Environment Agency acquired most of the land there to create wetlands for wild and migrating birds, allowing the sea to flood it, which greatly dispirited Martin.

As a child, he had been ill with TB and, although he recovered, it left him prone to asthma – which does not go well with farming and all its dust. Not long after buying Great Ham Farm, he was running up an escalator at Waterloo station when he suffered a brain haemorrhage. He was lucky to be among the 10% of patients who make a more or less full recovery, although it did cause him to slow down. He also became more religious and regularly attended Chichester Cathedral, where he appreciated the music, the formality and the services.

Frances' great passion was horses – though they exacerbated Martin's breathing problems. When she was appointed to the Court of the Bank of England, he was amused to accompany her to many business social functions as the only "male wife". He remained devoted to her – and to their children, Mark and Andrew.

He was honourable, loyal, straightforward, hard-working and delightfully old-fashioned, determined to do his very best for himself, his family and his friends – a very good man and a very good friend.



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Graffham Parish News' optimal October quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers on page 71 (no cheating!)

- 1 Shown at the Foresters/Graffham Empire Movies film night last month, *Penny Journey* shows how a postcard posted in Manchester reaches Graffham in 1938. Who was the postman: [a] Mr Bond, [b] Mr Money, [c] Mr Penny?
- 2 And who was the postmaster, who also owned the village shop?
- 3 Which of the following is NOT a stop on the Midhurst-Chichester 60 bus route: [a] Cucumber Farm, [b] Hensbush Copse, [c] Dykeditch Dean?
- 4 Jenny Hanley, Mick Robertson and Doug Rae presented the children's TV show *Magpie* in the 1970s, but which one of them went to Midhurst Grammar School?
- 5 Which meteorological institution was first broadcast by the BBC in October 1925?
- 6 To what would you attach an atlatl: [a] a roof, [b] a spear, [c] a ship?
- 7 In 1895 Lilian Lindsay was the first woman in the UK to qualify as what: [a] a doctor, [b] a pharmacist, [c] a dentist?
- 8 How old would John Lennon have been this month: [a] 80, [b] 85, [c] 90?
- 9 Charlie Brooker writes which long running, dystopian Netflix series: [a] *Black Mirror*, [b] *Black Rod*, [c] *Black Beauty*?
- 10 Which cricketing charity celebrated its 75th anniversary this year?



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Bill's bygones: Grizzly, Griffiths, gripped

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 – October 2015: The first guest speaker at the Thursday Club's new season is Sally Blunt, who talks about *Recapturing Malawi*. Andy Toze describes working life at Lavington Stud, in an interview in *Graffham Parish News* with editor Mary Butterworth. Graffham Tennis Club's end of season celebration is a Caribbean-themed party held at Seaford College. Los Pacaminos, featuring iconic 1980s vocalist Paul Young, play at the Empire Hall. Graffham Empire Movies presents *Testament of Youth*. *Grizzly*, the autobiography of former Sussex cricket captain and now Graffham resident Chris Adams, is published. New Zealand defeat Australia at Twickenham to win the 2015 Rugby World Cup. Adele's single *Hello* is released. England becomes the last UK nation to introduce a mandatory 5p charge for plastic carrier bags at supermarkets. Deaths of two former Chancellors of the Exchequer, Denis Healey (aged 98) and Sir Geoffrey Howe (88), and ITN/BBC journalist Sue Lloyd-Roberts (64).

25 years ago – October 2000: Jean and Roy Griffiths, who ran the village garage (where the shop now is) and later the White Horse, leave Graffham after 30 years. Graffham Rustics perform *A Century of Song* concert at the Empire Hall, where a week later there is a dance to the live music of the LCS Big Band. St Giles is the venue for the baptism of George Pettifer and the marriage of Ian Winkworth and Alison King. The UK experiences its wettest autumn since records began in 1766. A fractured rail causes an InterCity express train to derail south of Hatfield, killing four and injuring more than 70. The BBC's *Nine O'Clock News* moves to 10pm. Deaths of Labour MP Donald Dewar, the first First Minister of Scotland (whilst in office, 63) and gangster Reggie Kray (66).

50 years ago – October 1975: Graffham Youth Club's jumble sale raises exactly £100, helped by £15 paid for a "number of antique china pieces and lead toys". Barbara Mullins gives a demonstration of spinning and weaving at Midhurst Intermediate School's "old arts and crafts" evening. At their annual speech day, the first in the recently opened sports hall, pupils at Seaford College are implored by General Sir Charles Harington, ADC (Gen) to the Queen 1969-71 and President of the Combined Cadet Force, not to be gripped by gloom about Britain's future despite statistics which show the country is in a double dip recession. Home Secretary Roy Jenkins' speech on poverty in the Third World at Chichester Cathedral is shouted down by members of the National Front. Vauxhall launches its Cavalier. Queen release *Bohemian Rhapsody*. *Dr No* is the first James Bond film to be shown on British television. Muhammad Ali defeats Joe Frazier in the "Thrilla in Manila".

Graffham Chronicles: The man behind St Giles



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

Samuel Wilberforce, in whose memory our parish church St Giles was rebuilt a century and a half ago this year, was one of the most prominent, influential and, at the time, best known Englishmen of the 19th Century – and Graffham and East Lavington's highly respected and much loved Lord of the Manor.



A drawing of Samuel Wilberforce in his thirties – and a Vanity Fair cartoon of him as 'Soapy Sam'.



He was born in London on 7 September 1805 as the third son of William Wilberforce, the celebrated campaigner against the slave trade. Ordained as a priest in 1828, he became Archdeacon of Surrey at just 34 and then chaplain to Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort.

After briefly serving as Dean of Westminster, he was appointed Bishop of Oxford as he turned 40, on the recommendation of Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel. While there, he founded what is today Ripon College, Cuddesdon, which remains one of the country's top theological institutes. After a quarter of a century in that role, he became Bishop of Winchester in 1869. When he died, it was said that 'the Church of England has lost her greatest bishop for a century and a half'.

Hailed as one of the greatest public speakers of his generation, he gained the unfortunate nickname 'Soapy Sam' because of his habit, particularly during debates, of wringing his hands, which gave the impression that he was washing them. Others suggested the moniker reflected what they saw as a certain slipperiness in his arguments – particularly in the famous 'Oxford evolution debate' of 1860 in which he spoke against Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* theories. He was a prolific writer, too, penning almost 6,500 letters a year, along with books and

articles. He became our village's squire through his marriage in 1828, shortly before he took holy orders, to his second cousin Emily Sargent, the eldest of four sisters who all married clergymen and were reputed to have been great beauties.

Their father was John Sargent, Rector of both Graffham and also the



Bishop Samuel Wilberforce became Graffham and Lavington's Lord of the Manor through his wife, Emily Sargent.



then separate parish of Woolavington, from 1805 until his death in 1833. He in turn was son of another John Sargent, at one time MP for Seaford, who acquired the estate through his marriage to Charlotte Bettesworth. When her father passed away, with both his sons dying young and his younger brother shot dead on Graffham Down by a highwayman, the family estate ended up being passed to Emily – shortly before her death in 1841, aged just 34.

Their Lavington Park House home is now Seaford College's Mansion House, with their estate covering what is today the school's Lavington Park along with Lavington Stud and Estate plus Westerlands, Tagents, Nonnington and Haylands

▶ [Continued on next page](#)



Lavington House (now Seaford College's Mansion House) in 1902, when it was still owned by Samuel Wilberforce's son Reginald.

► *Continued from previous page*

Farms, including most of the villages of Graffham and East Lavington. Although his ecclesiastical commitments took him away from his home for much of the time, he took an active interest in his estate here and was said to have been well regarded by his tenants. One contemporary described him as “a good old-fashioned squire” with “irresistible charm of manner, allied to a real and heartfelt tenderness and affection in his relations with his fellows”. He “had a word for every man, woman and child he met, for he knew them all, and even the cattle were greeted as old acquaintances”. He loved showing visitors his favourite views and trees.

Samuel and Emily had five children, the fourth of whom, Ernest, went on to become Bishop of Chichester while the youngest, Basil, was to serve as Archdeacon of Westminster. Samuel’s young brother Henry, also a priest, married Emily’s younger sister Mary. Their relative through marriage Henry Manning wed another Sargent sister, Caroline, after a three-month courtship, though she died four years later, aged 25, in 1837.

Manning succeeded John Sargent as Rector of both Graffham and Woolavington, serving from 1833 to 1851. On his departure, the then two separate church parishes were combined into one, as they remain today. With his mother-in-law continuing to lord over Lavington House, the Rev Sargent had built what is now Graffham’s Old Rectory and Church Cottage as his family home and lived there until his death



Henry Manning, who married a sister of Wilberforce’s wife – and went on to become Roman Catholic prelate of England.

in 1833. Manning moved in there too after he married Caroline. On standing down as rector here after 18 years in the post, Manning converted to Roman Catholicism – as did all three of Samuel Wilberforce’s brothers, William, Robert and Henry, along with Samuel’s eldest daughter Emily, named after her mother. Despite having been married, Manning went on to become prelate of England as Archbishop of Westminster. Until he died in 1892, aged 83, he secretly wore around his neck a chain with a locket containing Caroline’s picture.

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

This religious schism within the family – brought about by what was known as the Tractarian or Oxford Movement – undoubtedly caused great personal angst to Samuel. Many also believe it may have cost him being appointed Archbishop of York or even Canterbury. As it was, he died, aged 67, in 1873

in a fall from a horse in the Surrey Hills while he was visiting his friend William Gladstone, Prime Minister at the time. His body was taken to Wotton House and, it is said, laid out on the billiard table there, as one of the few items of furniture thought able to bear his weight. He had been offered a tomb in Westminster Abbey, like his father, but preferred to be laid to rest alongside Emily at Lavington's St Peter's Church, now Seaford College's chapel, where his bishop's crozier has remained since.

He was succeeded as the village squire by his eldest surviving son Reginald, who became a barrister after serving as a soldier. When an ensign in the 52nd Light Infantry, he made a name for himself as the third man into the Kashmir Gate during the Siege of Delhi following the Indian Mutiny in 1857. He moved into Lavington House with his wife and their eight children, attended by 12 servants with 33 men and four boys looking after his 1,000 acres of farmland.

He sold the estate 30 years later, in 1903, to whisky baron James Buchanan (later Lord Woolavington), who was to become another generous benefactor to our village. By then, the Wilberforces had shuffled into Beechwood House before moving to Woodmancote, near Henfield, where Reginald was buried in early 1914, aged 75.

The last Wilberforce descendant locally is believed to have been Reginald's daughter Emily Susan, who lived at Keepers in Norwood Lane until her death in 1964, aged 83.

She was buried here in Graffham, in the cemetery across the road from the church that had been rebuilt in honour of her grandfather Samuel who had died eight years before she was born.



St Peter's, Woolavington, now Seaford College's chapel, where Wilberforce and many of his family are buried.



Samuel's son Reginald – the last Wilberforce owner of Lavington.

Next month: The day the Archbishop of Canterbury and four other bishops came to Graffham 150 years ago to rededicate St Giles after its rebuilding in honour of their friend and our Lord of the Manor, Bishop Samuel Wilberforce.

Nature Notes: Living graffiti buzzing with life

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

During October food for insects is in short supply. The beautiful flowers which have filled our countryside and gardens with colour and which have provided our insects with nectar will have shut up shop for another year. But there is one plant that will just be revealing its flowers in October, opening for business long after the others have closed their doors.

Your nearest ivy will now be coming into bloom. Look for its flowers – bobbly explosions of pale green.

In some ways, ivy is the kebab shop of plants – it offers welcome nourishment for those insects that like staying out late in the year. And, like a kebab shop, you're going to find a right old mix of characters queueing up for that one last meal before they go to sleep for the winter – beautiful butterflies dine alongside wasps, bumblebees jostle with hoverflies and our ivy bushes literally buzz with life.

The importance of ivy to the wildlife of our towns cannot be understated. Aside



Question 1 -Who is putting on this amazing Quiz?

Graffham Down Trust

Question 2 -When is this amazing Quiz?

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Question 3 -What is the venue?

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Question 4 -Who will be the quiz host?

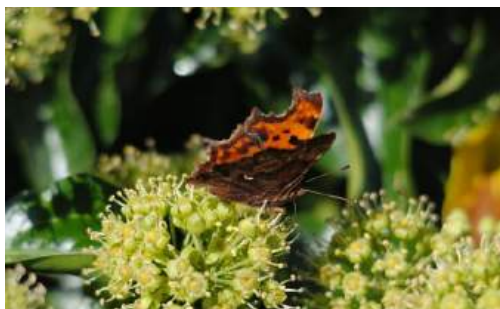
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Ivy provides a vital late season nectar supply to butterflies like the Red Admiral (left) and Comma. Pictures © Bob Foreman and Amy Lewis, Sussex Wildlife Trust.

from this vital late season nectar supply, ivy's evergreen leaves also feed caterpillars – including those of the holly blue butterfly and the delicate swallow-tailed moth. These leathery leaves provide a hibernating site for brimstone and peacock butterflies. On cold winter evenings the ivy sings with the chatter and chirp of an invisible starling and sparrow choir roosting in the waterproof warmth. Its black berries keep our winter thrushes filled and in the spring it is a nesting site for our robins and wrens. Ivy covers a blank brick wall with a piece of living graffiti. It's a nature reserve that has spread itself across our cities, towns and villages.



Ivy also provides a warm and waterproof roosting spot for birds like the sparrow. © Amy Lewis.

But despite all the life it supports ivy has a reputation as a killer, its roots sucking the life from the trees it surrounds. This isn't true; ivy manufactures its own nourishment just like any other honest plant.

And we can't forget the important service that ivy provides for us humans. For centuries, ivy has protected us from house goblins. Bringing ivy into your home as a decoration at Christmas (the time when goblins are at their most pesky) will ensure that your festive season passes without a burnt turkey or a blown fairy light.

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



michaelblencowe.com

Out and about: Fungi on fungi

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

The Parasitic Bolete The Common Earthball is very common on the heathlands of Graffham, and where you find earthballs you may occasionally find another fungus growing on it – the Parasitic Bolete, *Pseudoboletus parasiticus*. The Earthball is like a puffball, emitting clouds of spores when knocked or trodden on. The Parasitic Bolete is more standard with a cap and stalk. The underside of the cap has pores, as befits a ‘boletus’. One Earthball can support a number of these boletes. They can look like a crowd of piglets feeding on the mother pig. I have found them along Selham Road, on Graffham Common and Middleheath Copse AND, I am proud to announce, once in the grounds of Millburgh Hall (where I live) itself. What a surprise!



The Truffle Club A few inches under the ground on Graffham Common Nature Reserve there are Deer Truffles, *Elaphomyces* species. These are not the highly prized edible truffles found on chalk although they may be prized by deer and squirrels. How can you find them if they are underground? Well, you do not need a pig or truffle-hound, you just look for the Drumstick Truffle Club fungus, *Cordyceps capitata*, which is parasitic on it. It might look like a large brown cotton bud but if you have been tipped off as to the location it is not impossible to find.



Excavate the Truffle Club carefully and you will find it attached at the base to a Deer Truffle. This is how I have found them on Graffham Common, although

A truffle club – with the truffle on the left. I did once find one unearthed by some creature on Ambersham Common. This parasite is in the genus *Cordyceps*, which you might recognise as a name for a health supplement. The species used in the supplement is normally one that parasitises insect larvae in China. In the UK we do have another species, the Scarlet Caterpillar Fungus, which grows on buried moth pupae. I have found this on Ebernoe Cricket Pitch, but I think that is a parish too far for this magazine!

The Piggybacks The Blackening Brittlegill starts off pale and uninteresting but it blackens as it matures and rots. Up to 20cm across with widely spaced gills it is

then easy to identify. In my experience it is commoner in deciduous woodland than under conifers.

As it starts to decay little white ‘Piggyback’ fungi can appear. There are two species – The Powdery and Silky Piggybacks, *Asterophora lycoperdoides* and *Asterophora parasitica*. They feed on the dying host but whether they are actually parasitic is unclear.

The only site I’ve spotted them in our area is Hoe Copse although I have seen the Brittlegill dispersed around Graffham Common and in the grounds of our Millburgh Hall.



Blackening Brittlegill above with, below, its Powdery (left) and Silky Piggybacks.



The Rosy Spike One of the most prolific fungi on Graffham Common is the Bovine Bolete, *Suillus bovinus*. It has a spongy, warm brown but sticky cap and large



Bovine Bolete (left) and Rosy Spike (right.)

uneven yellow pores. Somewhere around any population you will see the Rosy Spike which is very much suspected as being a parasite on the bolete. It has a pink cap with gills running from the cap down the stem. My first sight of this was in October 2004, within a week of arriving in Graffham. It definitely seemed to have been a right move!



Join Jonathan on UK Fungus Day for a free

FUNGUS FORAY

Graffham Common

Saturday 4 October

10.30am

Places limited so apply now to JonathanHsimons@outlook.com

The emphasis will be on identification rather than resourcing lunch!

Children welcome but the event is not suitable for dogs.



Graffham Tennis Club



Inclement weather almost cancelled Graffham Tennis Club’s Men’s Singles Tournament but the decision to “crack on” was worthwhile as (for the most part anyway) the sun duly shone on some excellent tennis. The first round matches started with some aggressive tennis between Lawrence Bates and David Sparkes, ending in 6-0 win for Lawrence. Richard Bates and Sam Major played more sedately on a court still a little slippery from the earlier downfall. Sam won 6-1, albeit a lot of those games went to deuce. In the final first round match, Richard Sabin cruised into an initial 2-0 lead, before Sam Stothert found his stride to win 6-3.

After a short suspension of play, the semi-finals took place with perhaps the match of the tournament, between Lawrence and Ross Anderson (who had a bye for the first round), providing a great contrast between Lawrence’s attacking prowess and Ross’s ability to return the ball in difficult areas. After what seemed like a marathon, Lawrence came out the victor 6-4. In the second semi-final, between the two Sams, Sam Stothert took an initial lead 3-1, before Sam Major won 6-4.



Men’s finalists Sam Major (left) and winner Lawrence Bates.

The final was a somewhat predictable affair with Lawrence showing off his all-round game, comfortably beating Sam Major 6-0.

League matches Graffham’s four teams in the East Hants League are almost certain of their final positions in the summer leagues. The Men’s and Ladies A and B teams each finished in a very satisfactory second place while the Mixed Team ended up in first place, securing re-promotion back to Division 1. Thanks must go to the four captains: Richard Bates, Kate Hogan, Denise Clay and Andy Craig.

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
20 Aug	Drew 4-4	Ladies’ Doubles	Div 2	vs Denmead A
21 Aug	Lost 3-5	Ladies ’Doubles	Div 4	vs Newman Collard B
27 Aug	Lost 2-6	Ladies’ Doubles	Div 2	vs The Avenue A
2 Sept	Drew 4-4	Ladies ’Doubles	Div 4	vs Liphook A
8 Sept	Won 7-1	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	vs Haslemere B

There is just one fixture in October, but it's a needle one. At the end of last winter, a relegation for the Mixed A team and a promotion for the Mixed Bs meant that both teams are now in Division 2 – and they play each other on 5 October at 1.15pm.



Champions Graffham Bowls Club president Janet Wakeford presented trophies to its tournament winners (from left) Catriona Godson in the Ladies, Matthew Bond and Kym Pegram in the Jubilee Shield, and Kym Pegram in the Robertson Cup.

Bowls

With only the men's trophy to play for, a season that, thanks to the weather, has been fantastic for Graffham Bowls Club is just about over, even though several matches had to be cancelled for various reasons. Watch for a report on the season finale – the club's traditional candlelit session – in next month's edition.

Cricket

Graffham's ladies cricketers were due to play their annual home fixture against West Wittering on Sunday 21 September. A report will appear in our next issue. Sadly, an impromptu fixture at Petworth fell foul of the weather on 13 September.



TEDDY TIME in the Pavilion TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am

Pavilion, Graffham Rec

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Other denominations locally

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

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

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

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

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- 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

October				
1	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion
2	Thurs	3.30pm	Messy Church	Pavilion
3	Fri	4pm	Quarter peal of bells	St Giles Church
		7.30pm	Petworth Area Churches Together autumn lecture with drinks and nibbles – <i>Beyond Reasonable Doubt</i>	St Peter Ad Vincula, Wisborough Green
5	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 16 <i>Reading: Lamentations 1 v1-6 and 3 v19-26</i>	St Giles Church
7	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
		7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	St Giles Church
8	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion
11	Sat		Sponsored walk to Wilberforce Memorial	
12	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Reading: <i>Isaiah 35 v3-6</i>	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
14	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
		7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	St Giles Church
15	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion
		12.30pm	Food with Friends	The Rectory
		6pm	PCC Finance meeting	Ariel Cottage
16	Thurs	10am	Graffham Infant School assembly in church	St Giles Church
18	Sat	am	Ringers outing	
		10.30am	Churchyard working party	St Giles Church
19	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion 9	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Family Eucharist with animal blessing <i>Reading: Genesis 1 v24-27</i>	St Giles Church
21	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
		7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	St Giles Church
22	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion
		6.30pm	PCC meeting	The Rectory
26	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist <i>Reading: Joel 2.23 - end</i>	St Giles Church
28	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
			Coffee morning	Foresters Arms
		7.30pm	Bell ringing practice	St Giles Church
29	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion

What's on in and around the village

For all church events, see page 63. For weekly events, see page 67.

September				
26	Fri	6.30pm	Village harvest supper (see page 4)	Empire Hall
27	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		10am-12noon	Open morning with coffee, tea, pastries (see page 16)	Lavington Stud and Estate
		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	
2	Thu	10-11am	UKHarvest surplus food market	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petworth
3	Fri		Midhurst Rother College INSET day	
		10am-3pm	W L West Timber open day	Selham
4	Sat	10.30am	UK Fungus Day – a free foray led by Jonathan Simons (see page 59)	Graffham Common
		7.30pm	Graffham Down Trust annual quiz night (see page 56)	Empire Hall
		From 6pm	Music, buffet and raffle to raise funds for Brain Tumour Charity (see page 35)	The Unicorn, Heyshott
5	Sun		Oktoberfest party with Langham Brewery	Foresters
		4-6pm	Scottish dancing practice (see page 18)	Empire Hall
			Chichester half marathon	Chichester
7	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
		10.45am	Arts Society Midhurst lecture – John Singer Sargent: The Private Radical	Midhurst Methodist Church Hall
		2pm	Arts Society West Sussex talk – Rodin and 19th Century Sculpture	Fittleworth Village Hall
9	Thu	2.30pm	Thursday Club AGM with guest speaker Dogs Doing Better trainer Liz Nicholson	Empire Hall
11	Sat	8am	Graffham sponsored walk to Wilberforce memorial leaves village	Graffham, Village Shop
		9am-2pm	Autumn market	Midhurst
		8pm	Ultimate Coldplay tribute band SOLD OUT!	Empire Hall

12	Sun	11am	Racing Season Finale	Goodwood
		4-6pm	Scottish dancing practice (see page 18)	Empire Hall
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
14	Tue	7pm	Joint meeting of parishes of Graffham and East Lavington to discuss merger	Empire Hall
16	Thu	7pm	Talk by The Rev Dr Jonathan Lewis-Jong on The Psychology of Death	Cobden Hall, Heyshott
17	Fri		Seaford College half-term (to 2 Nov)	
18	Sat	10.30am	Churchyard working party	St Giles churchyard
		am	Graffham bellringers outing	
		7pm	Graffham Empire Movies presents A Complete Unknown (see page 34)	Empire Hall
			Academy for Witches and Wizards (till 2 Nov)	Petworth House
19	Sun	9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party (p 22)	Meet at St Giles
		4-6pm	Scottish dancing practice (see page 18)	Empire Hall
21	Tue		Diwali	
20	Mon	10.30am	Deer rut guided walk (till 29 Oct)	Petworth Park
22	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ²	Empire Hall
		6.30pm	PCC meeting	The Rectory
		Evening	Parents' evening (also 23 Oct)	Graffham Infant School
23	Thu	9.30-11.30am	Open morning (see page 19)	Graffham Infant School
25	Sat	10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		7.45pm	Petworth Sessions presents Dan Whitehouse and Gustaf Ljunggren	Leconfield Hall Petworth
26	Sun	2am	Clocks go back one hour	
		4-6pm	Scottish dancing practice (see page 18)	Empire Hall
		7-10pm	Blues Night	Three Moles
27	Mon		WSCC schools half-term (to 31 Oct)	
28	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
		11am	Coffee morning in aid of St Giles	Foresters Arms
29	Wed		Petworth Festival Literary Week (to 9 Nov)	Petworth
31	Fri		Halloween	
2	Sun		Celebration marking 150 th anniversary of rededication and rebuilding	St Giles
3	Mon		Graffham and Duncton Schools INSET day	

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
	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@hoppcoaching.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 49) 1 [b] Mr Money. 2 John Pescod.
 3 [c] Dykeditch Dean. 4 Mick Robertson. 5 *The Shipping Forecast*.
 6 [b] A spear. 7 [c] A dentist. 8 [b] 85. 9 [a] Black Mirror. 10 The Lord's
 Taverners.

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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
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	Non-emergency	101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 101
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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/Emergency	01243 534734/01243 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 Ollie Boulton	empirehall@gmail.com
	Bookings Anna Shawcross	bookings.empirehall@gmail.com
	Treasurer Carole Sargent	01798 344790
	Maintenance Tom Richardson	empirehall@gmail.com
	Secretary Jonathan Simons	01798 867689
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		graffham-pc.gov.uk
	Chairman Gillian Charlesworth	gcharlesworth@graftam-pc.gov.uk
	Clerk Amy Harte	clerk@graftam-pc.gov.uk
Graffham Parish News	Editorial and circulation:	editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com
	Advertising:	ads.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com
	See also inside front cover	
Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council		stgilesgraftam.org
	Priest-in-Charge Rev Vivien Turner	01798 867199
		hallo@stgilesgraftam.org
	Churchwardens Ginny Barrett	01798 867113
	Cindy Bradley	07787 516522
	Treasurer Dinah Lamming	graftampcctreasurer@gmail.com
Graffham Rec Committee	Chairman John Bracey	01798 867760
	Bookings Sec Sonya Gillespie	graftamrecpavilion@gmail.com
Graffham Tennis Club	Chairman Simon Longman	01798 867317
	Secretary David Sparkes	07958 486211
	Coaching Emma Amin	01798 867063
Graffham Village Shop	Jeeva and Vasu	01798 867700
		graftamvillageshop.co.uk
Graffham Village Shop Assoc	Chairman Steve Dover	07770 499223
	Treasurer Andy Jones	andy.jones@graftam.net
	Secretary Ros Britton	rosalind.britton@btinternet.com
Katherine Maud Guilloid Fund	c/o Graffham PC Clerk	graftampc@gmx.co.uk
Lavington Estate	info@lavingtonstud.co.uk	01798 867275
Lavington Park Federation		graftamanddunton.w-sussex.sch.uk
	Graffham CE Infant School	01798 867324
	Dunton CE Junior School	01798 342402
	Friends of Graffham & Dunton Schools	01798 867324
Long Bostle Downland Soc	Gillian Brandt	01798 867276
MP Arundel & South Downs	Andrew Griffith	andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk
Midhurst & Petworth Observer		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 01798 861303
Thursday Club	Secretary Diane Bellis	01798 867444
West Sussex County Council	General enquiries	01243 777100
	County Councillor Tom Richardson	07463 785039
The Woodcote (formerly White Horse)	thewoodcote.com	01798 867331
Yoga at Empire Hall	Deborah Albon	07790 367009



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