

# GRAFFHAM NEWS

PARISH

ISSUE 418

FREE

DECEMBER 2025

We wish  
you a  
Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy  
New Year!

Ho ho ho!  
Your Christmas Fair  
raffle tickets are  
inside this copy!



**Christmas in Graffham starts here!**

**St Giles' unforgettable 150<sup>th</sup> celebration**

**East Lavington agrees to seek Graffham merger**



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



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**On the cover:** Father Christmas is all set to land again at Graffham Christmas Fair, to be held on Saturday 6 December, in the Empire Hall – and your raffle tickets are being distributed with this edition. For full details, see pages 35-40. We've a full run-down on everything festive hereabouts, too.

**Contributions and contacts** The editors are always pleased to hear from you at [editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com)

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



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Member editor 2025 Award Winner 2022  
Association for Church Editors



## Writing from the Rectory: Illustrating hope

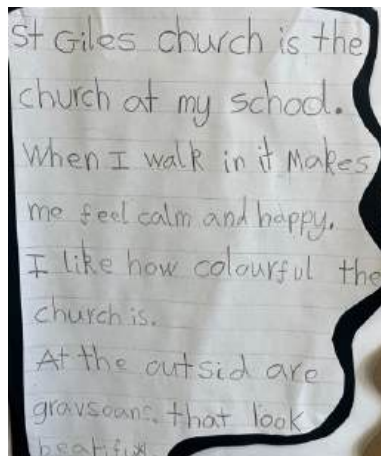
The 150th Rededication Anniversary Service at St Giles Church on Sunday 2 November was a complete joy, praise the Lord! (See from page 10.) It was wonderful to see the whole parish coming together for this celebration. So many people made contributions in different ways, representing the whole spectrum of church and village life. Thanks to everyone who played a part, and for the memory of a day in which the sun shone and the people of this community shone, too.

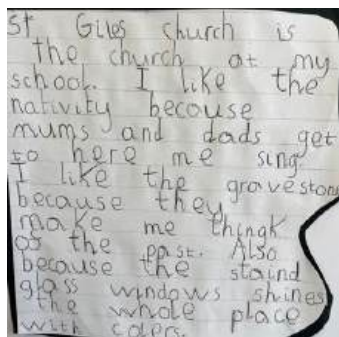


The schoolchildren's illustrations of St Giles on display on the walls of the hall of Graffham Infant School were one highlight among many. I really loved their imaginative interpretations of the building, and that so many included a row of children making their way up the path to the church door. And alongside the pictures were carefully written messages telling us what St Giles means to them:

*"St Giles Church is the church at my school. When I walk in it makes me feel calm and happy. I like how colourful the church is... I like when we do harvest festival and seeing the vegibals. I like the Easter celebrashon... I like the gravestones because they make me think of the past. Also because the stained glass windows shines the whole place with colers... This church is amazing because I like singing there. I also like the patterns on the walls. My favaorite part is having Reverend Vivan with us there... I really like doing the nativity there. Christmas is my favourite time in the church. It's a really special church."*

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I'm delighted that the children love the stained glass and respect the history of the memorials, and that offering their nativity play in church means so much to them. In words and pictures, they show us that St Giles is a living place of worship today – their church, a place of welcome that they know, a place of beauty that they enjoy. As well as offering their nativity and celebrating Christingle in church for school families

and specially invited visitors to enjoy, we're delighted the infant school's children will be singing Christmas songs at our Church Family Eucharist on Sunday morning, 14 December. What a feast of music we shall enjoy that day, with our Festival of Lessons and Carols following at 5pm.

In fact, the whole of December, with so many opportunities for worship and carol singing, culminating in the Christmas Eve Crib Service and Candlelit Eucharist and then Family Eucharist on Christmas Day, is rich spiritual fare to nourish us this Advent and Christmas season. Which means, alongside the parade of children making their way up the church path, we look forward to welcoming YOU!

Our whole world needs to embrace the message of Christmas and the hope it offers, through the miracle of a child's birth, Emmanuel, God with us. So come, be part of this joy.

Christmas blessings to you all,

*Vivian*

**Reverend Vivien**



**Priest in charge**  
hello@stgilesgraffham.org

**Churchwardens:**  
Ginny Barrett 01798 867113  
Cindy Bradley 07787 516522

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

 stgilesgraffham.org  @stgilesgraffham



# CHRISTMAS 2025

At St Giles' Church, Graffham\*

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus –  
in the way only Graffham can!

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## ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 30 November at 5pm

With Seaford College choristers.

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## CHRISTMAS FAIR AT EMPIRE HALL

Saturday 6 December 11am to 2 pm

Join Father Christmas for all the usual seasonal fun and games  
treats, aromas and music, with all proceeds going to St Giles.

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## CHURCH FAMILY EUCHARIST SERVICE

Sunday 14 December at 10.30am

With Graffham Infant School songs.

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## FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 14 December at 5pm

A traditional service of readings and music  
– with mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

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## COMMUNAL CAROLING AT THE FORESTERS

Sunday 21 December at 6pm

Join your neighbours for rousing renditions of your festive favourites,  
with mulled wine and seasonal nibbles promised!

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## CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

Wednesday 24 December at 4pm

Re-telling of the Christmas story, bringing hope to our world. A service for all ages.  
Tinsel, crowns and tea towels welcome! Costumes available for the key players!  
Who knows which animals might fill our bell tower stable?!

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## CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST

Wednesday 24 December at 7pm

A quieter service, with traditional carols, marking the birth of Jesus Christ.

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## CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY EUCHARIST

Thursday 25 December at 10.30am

Carols, communion – and feel free to bring your favourite presents to church!

*\*Except where noted*

# Christmas in Graffham starts here and now

Christmas in Graffham begins as November turns to December with lots of opportunities to quaff mulled wine, chomp on mince pies, sing some favourite carols and festive hits, recall the nativity and pick up some ‘not on the high street’ gifts. It all starts on the evening of Sunday 30 November when choristers from



**Choristers from Seaford Choir will kick off Christmas in Graffham, singing in St Giles Church on Sunday 30 November.**

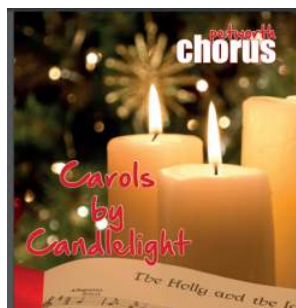
Seaford College return to St Giles with some spine-tingling music for the church's traditional Advent Service.

Then on Saturday 6 December there's the village's traditional Christmas Fair – one of the biggest fund-raisers of the year for our St Giles Church – in the Empire Hall, from 11am to 2pm... with a return visit promised from Father Christmas himself! See from page 35 for full details. After nightfall, The Foresters will be hosting an après ski style evening.

Graffham Infant School will be holding its nativity play in St Giles on Thursday and

Friday 11 and 12 December – a ticketed event for parents and families only. Then singers from the school will return to the church for its Family Eucharist on Sunday 14 December at 10.30am. Early that evening, St Giles will be filled with Christmas music again, as it holds its traditional candlelit festival of lessons and carols at 5pm, with mince pies and mulled wine to follow.

Petworth Chorus will be staging its Christmas Carols by Candlelight concert at St Mary's Church, Petworth, on Wednesday 17 December at 6pm. There'll be a glass of complimentary fizz or soft equivalent and a mince pie. Tickets from [petworthchorus.co.uk](http://petworthchorus.co.uk) – it was a complete sell out last year. Leconfield Singers will follow suit on Saturday 20 December, also at 6pm.



If the landlady of the Foresters Arms was in a pantomime, what role should she play?

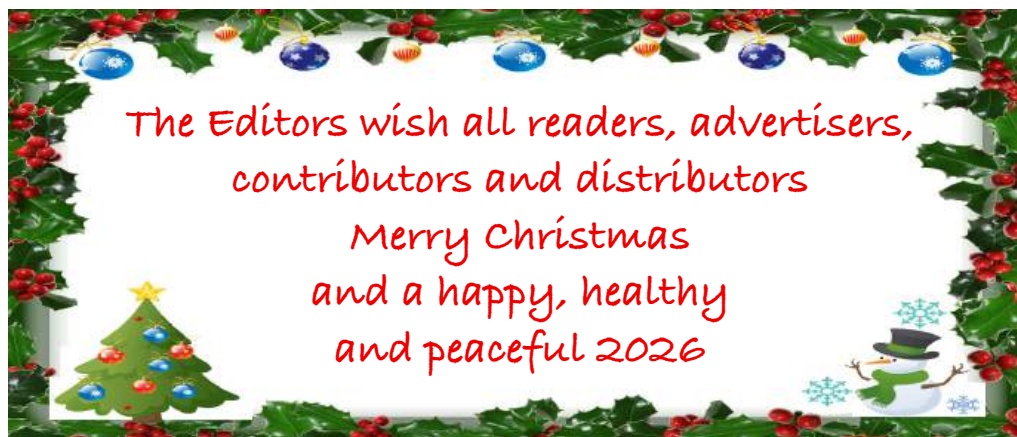
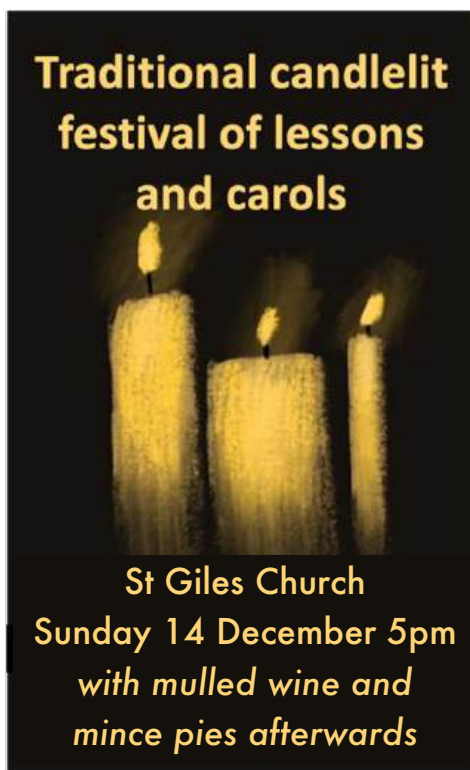
Cindyrella

On the final Sunday before Christmas, 21 December from 6pm, the village will be holding its usual communal singing of carols and other festive favourites, in the Foresters Arms, with a collection in aid of St Giles Church.

The church is expected to be packed out on Christmas Eve for its family crib service, at 4pm. There will be costumes for children taking part in the nativity, on a first-come, first-served basis. Everyone else is encouraged to wear crowns, tea towels, tinsel and/or wings. Last year, the belltower was turned into a recreation of Bethlehem's manger, complete with various livestock. Expect something similar this year. For those who prefer some peace, this will be followed in the evening with a candlelit Eucharist, at 7pm.

Then on Christmas Day itself, family Eucharist at St Giles is at 10.30am.

Rev Vivien said: "We are all set to celebrate Christmas as only Graffham can – with carols, candles, animals, friends and neighbours and a selection of services and events to suit everyone. Whether you are new or old to the village or just passing by, you'll be assured of the warmest of welcomes!"



# Support St Giles while you Christmas shop

With the Christmas shopping rush almost upon us, villagers are being reminded that they can raise funds for our historic St Giles Church whenever they buy almost anything online – at no additional cost to you.

It's made possible through something called easyfundraising. Just register on its website and then you'll be asked if you would like retailers to donate to St Giles whenever you buy from them – with just one extra click.

Since St Giles signed up with easyfundraising two years ago, it has received almost £750 from retailers – at zero cost to the church or to shoppers. In total, the scheme has benefited good causes across the UK by more than £40 million since it took off in 2005.


There are more than 7,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – virtually every retailer or business selling online, including Ocado, Waitrose, Sainsbury, eBay, Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, Argos, booking.com, lastminute.com, MoreThan, Aviva, BT, Sky... – who will give St Giles between 0.5 and 10 per cent of every pound you spend with them.

Graffham and Duncton Schools also raise funds via easyfundraising – you can choose which cause to support each time you shop.

And only use easyfundraising for your online shopping – continue to support Graffham Village Shop for your everyday needs!



**How to raise funds for St Giles  
whenever you shop online  
– at zero cost to you:**

- 1.** Go to easyfundraising via [bit.ly/stgilesfunding123](https://bit.ly/stgilesfunding123) or point your phone camera at this QR code to go there directly, and register for free. 
- 2.** Every time you shop online, go to [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://easyfundraising.co.uk) first and then find the shopping site you want from there – and then start shopping. Or you can download a digital reminder for your computer, tablet or phone to claim your easyfundraising donation if you prefer to go to a retailer's site directly.
- 3.** After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to St Giles at no extra cost to you whatsoever.



# Sending seasonal cheer to Ukrainians

Graffham residents are again filling boxes with Christmas gifts for children, teenagers and adults in Ukraine, in an effort coordinated by Jan Brind, of Occam Cottage, The Street. The deadline was the end of November when the shoeboxes were to be sent to their recipients by local charity Petworth Ukraine Relief. If you are reading this before then and would like to make a late contribution contact Jan at [janbrind@googlemail.com](mailto:janbrind@googlemail.com). All boxes should be labelled saying which gender and age group it is for – and must not be sealed. Graffham folk donated 30 boxes a year ago.



## Bin collections two days later after festivities

Bin collection days in Graffham will be a couple of days later than usual in the weeks after Christmas and New Year. Collection will be as normal up to Christmas, with the final call of the year on Wednesday 24 December. Then you'll need to wait until Saturday 3 January, followed by Friday 9 January and then Thursday 9 January before reverting back to Wednesdays from the following week, 21 January. Chichester District Council has issued a reminder that the following festive items CAN be recycled in your red bin:

- Greetings cards and envelopes, and empty chocolate advent calendars.
- Wrapping paper and empty cardboard tubes but NOT shiny or metallic wrapping paper, ribbons or bows.
- Mince pie cases and other foil, plastic confectionary tubs and meat trays but NOT plastic film and wrapping.
- Cardboard boxes and packaging EXCEPT polystyrene.

You can use the garden recycling service to recycle your Christmas tree – or St Wilfrid's Hospice will do it for you in return for a donation. See [www.stwh.co.uk](http://www.stwh.co.uk)

You can now also send off your empty flexible toothpaste tubes in your fortnightly recycling bin. Just squeeze out all the contents and replace the cap.



# Cards posting festive cheer through your door

*The build-up to Christmas is the busiest time of the year for the nation's postal services – and for the Royal Mail team delivering to Graffham. Between them, Carmine Simac and Gary Hamilton cover all of our village. Carmine's round extends south from Pound Corner, along with Duncton, Beechwood Lane and along the A285 as far as Upwaltham. Gary starts in Petworth, then Graffham north of Pound Corner, continuing to Selham, Halfway Bridge, Heath End and Byworth. Joint editor Philippa Sanders caught up with them to find out what the job entails.*

## When did you become a postman and what did you do before that?

**Carmine:** I became a postman in 2001 after a year as a harvest manager for David Langmead's farms and 16 years working for Webb's Country Foods in Halnaker. My daughter complained that she never saw me, so I looked for a job with more sociable hours. I started in Haslemere but moved to Petworth where I was even able to drop her at school in the mornings. I've been doing the Graffham round since 2007. (You may also have spotted Carmine in some of his other part-time roles - as a pallbearer for local undertakers Bryder and as a fireman).

**Gary:** I've been a postman for 41 years, starting out at the age of 19. Before that I worked in the shop at West's timber yard for a couple of years. Good jobs were hard to come by in those days, and I remember my Dad rushing in and saying "Get yourself up to the Post Office, they're looking for a new postman." I came up against two other applicants but was lucky enough to be given the job. I started this Graffham and Selham round 15 years ago, following on from Steve Boakes, who many here will remember, and who did this round for 25 years before me.

## How does the typical day pan out?

**Carmine:** We start in the office in Petworth at 7.30am and prepare everything there until 9.15am when I set out. The round generally takes me until 2.40pm when I head back to the office for something to eat as I don't stop when I'm on the road. We review the day and, of course, the football – I'm an Arsenal supporter.

**Gary:** I start and finish the same as Carmine. My patch is called the Selham round.

## How has the job changed since you started?

**Carmine:** It's changed loads. Graffham still has old-school postmen luckily but there is more and more financial pressure, and new postmen are generally employed on a part-time basis. It's a constant battle to keep standards from slipping.

**Gary:** For the first few years, most of my round was done by bike or on foot. We couldn't possibly do that now, especially with the shift from letters to parcels.

## What are the best and worst things about the job?

**Carmine:** The best bits are the fresh air, for sure, and being able to make a small difference to people living on their own. We still manage the odd five-minute chat here and there. The worst thing is walking into wet cobwebs, which happens more often than you might expect!

**Gary:** Being outdoors is both the best and worst thing about this job!

## What about the dogs, which must feature heavily on this round?

**Carmine:** Fortunately, there aren't any nasty dogs on my round. We do have a yellow sticker system which warns any cover postmen if dogs are present. Generally, in term time it isn't an issue – dogs are much more excitable in the school holidays when they have playmates.

**Gary:** I've had the odd nip here and there. One bite was more serious, but it wasn't in Graffham, of course! Both Carmine and I keep dog biscuits in our pockets.

## Are there any Graffham residents who are no longer with us that you remember with particular fondness?

**Carmine:** That would have to be the two Dianas – White and Kingsmill. I was honoured to be involved in the funeral of both – the internment of the former and wore my own Diana Kingsmill-knitted hat as one of her bearers.

**Gary:** I was often in for a cup of tea with Bumble Findlay, and she is sadly missed. Den and Brenda Petter and Andy and Jo Morgan have taken over that role!

## What is the origin of Carmine's name?

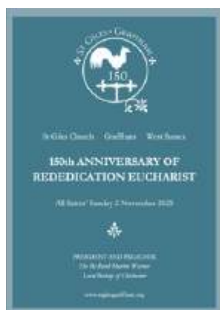
His father was from Yugoslavia. He'd been a partisan sniper in World War II then came to England as a refugee and met and married an Italian. Carmine's the result.



*Delivering our mail with smiles, come rain or shine, posties Gary (left) and Carmine.*



# 150+ join for St Giles' 150th celebrations



The 20-page order of service was printed as its contribution to the celebrations by local undertakers Bryder.

There hadn't been an event like it in Graffham for 150 years – to the very day, *writes editor Michael Blunt*. Two bishops, an archdeacon, an MP, the chairmen of both Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils and Seaford College's chaplain joined the Rev Vivien and, appropriately, 150 (or a few more) parishioners in St Giles on All Saints Sunday 2 November to mark a century and a half precisely since the church was rededicated in memory of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce.

Even more appropriately, discreetly dotted among the congregation were around half a dozen direct descendants of the great man himself, who had been Bishop of Oxford and Winchester, son of the great anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce, one of the leading lights of Victorian England – and Lord of the Manors of Graffham and Lavington.

The rededication service in 1875, two years after his death, had been attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury of the time himself and no less than four bishops – of Chichester, Ely, Rochester and Winchester – along with around 75 other clerics, and with choristers from Chichester Cathedral adding strength to the choir of St Giles. While 2025's replay could not match the number of men in



With the bishops bringing up the rear, the procession progresses slowly through the churchyard towards St Giles' west door before the start of the 150<sup>th</sup> service.



The clergy, churchwardens and choir line-up in the sunshine outside St Giles after the special service to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its rebuilding with, to the right of the Rev Vivien, Bishop Humphrey Southern, Bishop of Chichester Martin Warner, Seaford College Chaplain Father Colin Datchler and the new Archdeacon of Chichester Tom Carpenter. This and most other pictures by © Colin Barker.

resplendent robes, our weather outshone that of 150 years ago. Back then, the heavens opened, bucketing with non-stop rain. This All Saints Day, Graffham was blessed with glorious sunshine, highlighting the delightful golden autumnal hues of our downland trees. So those leading our 10.30am service were able to process in their fine attire from Graffham Infant School to St Giles' ancient west door under a brilliant blue sky.

They were led by villager Beanie Bradley, bearing the crucifix, followed by our choir, then Seaford College chaplain Father Colin Datchler and, making his first visit to Graffham since being appointed Archdeacon of Chichester two months ago, the Ven Dr Tom Carpenter. Next in line was our own Rev Vivien, with Bishop Humphrey Southern, principal of Ripon College Cuddesdon, the leading theological college founded by Bishop Wilberforce. Following on were St Giles' churchwardens, carrying their staffs of office – Ginny Barrett and, representing Cindy Bradley who was unavoidably detained, Chris Leaver.

Completing the procession was the Bishop of Chichester, the Rt Rev Martin Warner, who led the service, as his predecessor had done a century and half before. He carried Bishop Wilberforce's own crozier, or bishop's ceremonial staff, which

► *Continued on next page*

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has remained since his death in Woolavington's St Peter's Church (now Seaford College's chapel). Father Colin had carefully carried it the 1.4 miles from there to St Giles, a journey it would have made frequently until a century and a half ago.

By the time the procession reached the tower, the bells had been well rung and the church packed. So many attended that extra seats had to be laid out in the tower after the bell ringers had finished their chimes.

As the congregation took to their pews, Rich Sabin played his harp. St Giles was looking at its best. Replastering and repainting of the east walls had been completed a week or so before. The flower team had pulled out all the stops with beautifully arranged blooms on every surface. Making its first appearance on the folding lectern was a spectacularly stitched frontal, made by Parochial Church



**St Giles' flower arrangers covered virtually every surface with beautiful displays.**



Council Secretary Liz Jenkins and St Giles regular Jane Pine-Coffin (see page 17).

When the clergy entered the building, the 150 souls inside stood and organist Martin Ridley struck up the rousing *Fanfare in D* by CS Lang. He and Brian Lanaghan swapped places at the keyboard as the service progressed.

As the procession reached the chancel, the opening chords of the first hymn sounded – the All Saints Day classic *For All The Saints*. The music for the service was chosen with particular care, to reflect the day and the occasion. The second hymn was *Let Us Build A House Where Love Can Dwell*, with its chorus *All Are Welcome In This Place*. The congregation further raised the roof with *The Church's One Foundation*, just as they had at the rededication service 150 years before, rounding things off with the Sussex hymn *Jerusalem*.

In four-part harmony, the choir sang Howard Goodall's arrangement of *The Lord is My Shepherd*, better known to some as the theme tune of the TV comedy *The Vicar of Dibley*. (Any similarities between Dibley and Graffham are, of course, purely co-incidental!) St Giles' former organist/choirmaster Richard Bailey stepped in at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to conduct them, with today's



St Giles was packed with more than 150 villagers and other guests – and looking at its best after the completion of the replastering and repainting of its east walls just a week or so before its big day.

choirmaster Brian Lanaghan accompanying at the organ. Completing the musical treats, Seaford College alumni Sam Brown sang Cesar Franck's *Panis Angelicus* during communion and Louisa Young performed *Alleluia* from Mozart's *Exultate Jubilate* before the clergy and choir processed out to Louis Lefebure-Wely's *Sortie in E Flat*, played again by Martin Ridley.

The Rt Hon Andrew Griffith, MP for Arundel and South Downs, our man in Westminster, read from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians, while the intercessions were led by young Jago Pitt. The sermon was preached by

► *Continued on next page*



So many attended the service that extra chairs had to be laid out in the tower.



**Graffham Parish Council Chairman Gillian Charlesworth (left) and Graffham Infant School headteacher Charles Beckerson (centre) spoke at the service while our MP Andrew Griffith read a lesson.**

► *Continued from previous page*

Bishop Martin, while Bishop Humphrey spoke of the life of Bishop Samuel. Graffham Infant School Headteacher Charles Beckerson and Graffham Parish Council Chairman Gillian Charlesworth outlined the links between their organisations and St Giles, with the latter noting that the ecclesiastical parishes of Graffham with Woolavington had been combined 175 years ago, during Bishop Wilberforce's tenure as our Lord of the Manor, while a merger of their civic parishes, currently still separate, remains under discussion today.

Inviting the congregation to donate to the church and its ministry before leaving the building, the Rev Vivien raised a chortle while mentioning that the collection at the dedication service 150 years ago raised £61 – worth almost £9,000 at today's values. Takings at the 2025 service totalled a somewhat more modest nearly £500. Then it was across the road, to Graffham Infant School's hall for a reception, with fizz, thanks to an anonymous parishioner, and canapes courtesy of The Woodcote. On display there were panels outlining St Giles' history, along with a life-size copy of 1597's map of Graffham – all 6ft wide and 3ft tall of it – and drawings by the school's children depicting the church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

It was also a first chance to buy copies of the cookery book produced specifically to mark the occasion – with almost 100 of them snapped up in little more than an hour – and the tea towels created as a memento of the landmark too (see page 18).



**Graffham Infant School's hall was full for the reception after the service.**



Villager Catherine Burn was able to touch the crozier that been her great great grandfather Bishop Samuel Wilberforce's. She attended with half a dozen members of her family, seen here with Bishop Martin of Chichester, who led the service.

The Rev Vivien said: "Thanks to everyone who came to church to celebrate such a special occasion and the so many who contributed to the service in different ways. The service was a wonderful opportunity to bring together our whole community, and I couldn't be more thankful. This is a very special parish which on All Saints Day was plain to see. Thank you, everybody."

As Charles Beckerson told the congregation during his address: "Here's to St Giles' next 150 years!"

The final word goes to Bishop Samuel Wilberforce's great great granddaughter Catherine Burn, who spends as much time as she can at her home near Graffham Village Shop, and who attended the celebration with several members of her family. A highlight for her was being able to touch for the first time her forebear's crozier. She said: "We were so very happy to be there. It was superbly organised and all credit to Rev Vivien and all the others who contributed so much to this wonderful event and to make the church look so lovely, and to Graffham Infant School for hosting the reception. It was a very happy and heartening experience none of us will forget!"

**See the full 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary photo album online**



Sadly, there's just not enough room in *Graffham Parish News* to feature all the amazing pictures taken by Colin Barker and others at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations - but you can view the full photo album at [stgilesgraffham.org/150-photos](http://stgilesgraffham.org/150-photos) or just scan this QR code



## Letters to the editor: The column YOU write

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

### Winchester visit brought home Wilberforce's status

While in Winchester recently, we visited the cathedral there and came across the extraordinary memorial to its former bishop, Samuel Wilberforce, who had also, of course, been Lord of the Manors of Graffham and Lavington in the Victorian era. It really brought home to me the significance of his stature at the time of his passing. This was very much in my mind as I joined the congregation on Sunday 2 November to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the rebuilding of our own St Giles Church – which was also undertaken in memory of this great man. – **Bianca Pitt, Lavington Stud and Estate.**



### Thanks for raising £2,000 for brain tumour research



Thank you to everyone who donated to our charity event on Saturday 4 October at The Unicorn, Heyshott, and to all the pub's staff and to Tim Watson who gave an amazing speech on our behalf. We're so glad everyone had a fantastic evening. We raised £1,920.20 for Brain Tumour Charity's research. – **Heather and Rob Russell and family, Guillods Cottages, Graffham**

### Please cut your speed on our village lanes

A spate of dangerous driving on the lanes through the centre of the village, particularly along the Popple Hill stretch, was reported in mid-November via Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard page. Graffham Parish Council is working to have the current 30mph speed restriction covering these roads lowered to 20mph as part of a series of proposed traffic-calming measures.

# Needlework commemorates church's landmark

A remarkable new item of needlework for St Giles made its first appearance, just in time, at the church's 150<sup>th</sup> rededication anniversary service on 2 November – a frontal for the portable lectern.

Commissioned by the Rev Vivien, it is the handiwork of Jane Pine-Coffin, whose late husband Peter had been a churchwarden, and Liz Jenkins, who is the current Secretary of Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council.

Vivien's brief was to create a piece of artwork in colours matching the cream and gold of the altar cloth, featuring a depiction of the church with the Downs behind it.

Liz explained how it developed from there: "Basically, we drew out the design full size on paper and then onto background calico. We then had fun going through all the fabrics each of us already had and deciding on the colour scheme.

"I did most of the background but then Jane did a fantastic job of making the path with all the beading and adding foliage around the church. Finally, I added a deer, for St Giles."

It took them many painstaking hours to complete – finishing the day before the special anniversary service itself.

Liz has been a keen needlewoman since she was young – she was given her first sewing machine as a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday present and passed her Patchwork GCSE in her 30s but has never attempted anything like this before. Jane has completed the City and Guilds' Embroidery course.



Jane (left) and Liz with their stunning item of needlework marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Giles' rededication.



The Graffham Village Cookery Book's cover and some of its chapter frontispieces.

## Cookery book is instant village best seller

It's out – and no Graffham kitchen will want to be without a copy! The brand new *Graffham Village Cookery Book* was brought out of the oven on Sunday 2 November, as St Giles celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its rededication after its rebuilding in memory of local squire Bishop Samuel Wilberforce in 1875.

*Food for thought – from Graffham village* went immediately to the top of the *Graffham Parish News*' best sellers' chart with almost 100 copies sold in just an hour or so, with some people buying 10 copies each. A few more than 400 had been printed, with pre-orders for around 300 of them.

The book has been published to mark the church's milestone – with 100 per cent of proceeds going towards the building's upkeep – thanks to its editor Fiona Mackie, her editorial 'B' team Barbara Edge and Bridget Lewis and printers Paul and Michele Emberson.

Priced at a bargain £10, it features 132 A5 pages containing 195 individual recipes – all supplied by members of the Graffham community. Laid out clearly to make preparing each dish as simple as possible, it is printed on thick paper that's easily wipeable to clean up the inevitable flying splashes from the food processor.

The recipes are arranged by chapter – soups, starters, fish, meat, vegetarian dishes, vegetables, puddings, cakes/biscuits and preserves. The cover and each section frontispiece feature a painting by Susan Hill, of kitchen items and ingredients.

In total, 94 villagers contributed recipes. You can sample Rev Vivien's Rectory Cheese Pie, Graffham Parish Council Chairman Gillian Charlesworth's Squash and Feta Pasta, Graffham Infant School Headteacher Charles Beckerson's Viennese Fingers or novelist Lucy Foley's Aromatic Sausage Pasta. It has an international

flavour too. Graffham Village Shop's Vasu shares some Sri Lankan secrets while Ipe Jacob takes the lid off, among others, Erachi Ularthiyuathu (or Kerala Beef Fry to you or me). Remi Saget gives his take on a number of French classics, and Karin Skanberg reveals how to make Risalamande (Danish Christmas Pudding). Does Henrietta Aparicio's Gâche Melée, the apple pud from her native Guernsey, count as international? Staying closer to home is Philippa Sanders' Petworth Pudding.

Several contributors share concoctions handed down by family forebears – Georgie Macqueen's Granny's Fine Fishcakes, Sue Addison's Grandma's Sausage Casserole and Adrian Lloyd's Great Aunt's Chocolate Cream among them.

Apart from anything, the book hints from whom you should be angling for a dinner invitation – and who to watch out for at future Graffham Garden Group summer show home produce classes.

If you haven't already got your own copies, you'll be able to buy them at Graffham Christmas Fair in the Empire Hall on Saturday 6 December, or directly from Fiona Mackie on 07983 240381 or [fionajmackie@hotmail.com](mailto:fionajmackie@hotmail.com)



The back cover,  
by Izzy Barrett

## Let St Giles help you dry your dishes

After you've served up dishes from the Graffham cookery book, you'll be able to do the drying up with St Giles – using a tea towel that has also been produced to mark the church's 150th anniversary. Created by village artist Susan Hill, the Yorkshire linen cloth features a drawing of the church with its special commemorative logo. They cost £7.50 each. You can buy them from Graffham Village Shop and directly from Sue, at [jonsugraffham@btinternet.com](mailto:jonsugraffham@btinternet.com).



What does The Three Moles do with all its beers,  
wines and spirits?

Selham.

# East Lavington agrees to seek Graffham merger



East Lavington Parish Council has agreed unanimously to pursue a merger with its Graffham Parish Council neighbour subject to the two developing a framework for the resulting combined body that would suitably represent the interests of both sets of residents. The decision was

was reached at East Lavington Parish Council regular meeting on Monday 17 November at Seaford College, attended by more than 30 of its electors – the biggest turnout in living memory.

It followed a rare joint meeting of the two civic parishes on 14 October when the 40 East Lavington electors who either were present or cast a vote by email – representing more than 25 per cent of the parish's total electors – polled 92 per cent in favour of combining with Graffham.

At November's East Lavington session, councillors were pressed on whether they would follow this mandate. Others asked why none of the councillors who had opposed the proposed merger had explained their rationale at that October session.

In response, Councillor Charles Britton said he was under the impression that the purpose of the joint parish meeting had been to hear the views of residents rather than for councillors to present their own opinions. While he was open-minded on a merger with Graffham and thought that this may come about eventually as part of Westminster's current restructuring of local government, he was not personally in favour of it.

He explained: "I cannot see any benefit in the proposed merger for East Lavington residents – but I can for the residents of Graffham, as East Lavington's precept (parish council tax) would become available to the new combined council. I just can't see what East Lavington would get out of the merger that we don't already have. As I see no benefit, I prefer the status quo."

Councillor Will Yates felt that the electorate had made its position apparent: "Support for the proposed merger is clearly there but it is important to ensure that we get it right – that the interests of East Lavington are protected as much as they are for Graffham. We should be pressing ahead with the merger because that is what our electors want, but we must ensure our residents' interests are addressed."

There were three areas in particular that he wanted clarification:

- The implications for the precept charged to council taxpayers in both current civic parishes.

- Safeguarding East Lavington's identity.
- Ensuring East Lavington's interests are taken into account on issues such as responses to planning applications.

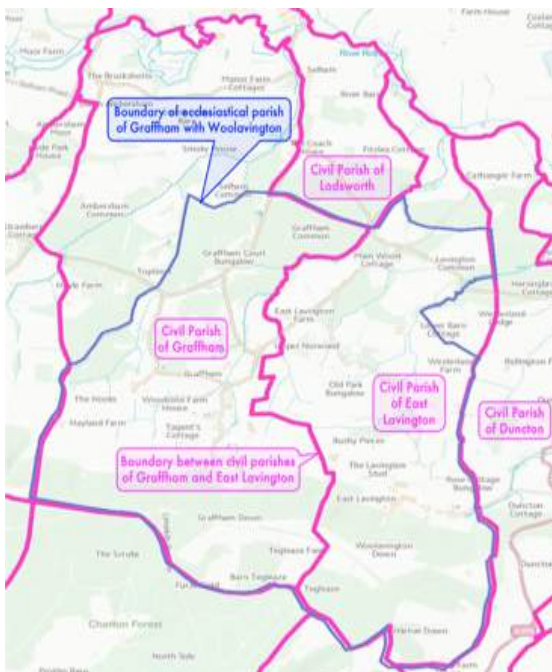
While one member of East Lavington resident attending expressed reservations about the proposed merger, all others who spoke were in favour.

One described the current division of the neighbourhood across two civic parish councils as “nonsense” and “ineffective”, pointing out that the two had been administered jointly under one single Lord of the Manor for hundreds of years. Another suggested that the reason why some found it difficult to identify benefits that a potential merger might generate was because East Lavington was currently “exploiting” Graffham: “We get everything from there without contributing,” which, she said, was wrong.

While some councillors wanted more time before taking a decision on the proposal, Chairman Simon Longman pressed for the vote, pointing out that the issue had already been under discussion for a year and a thorough consultation exercise had been carried out with the electorate. He pointed out that, reflecting the views of parishioners in October's indicative ballot, of East Lavington's three biggest land owners, Westerlands and Lavington Stud and Estate were both in favour of the proposed merger, while Seaford College was neutral on the issue.

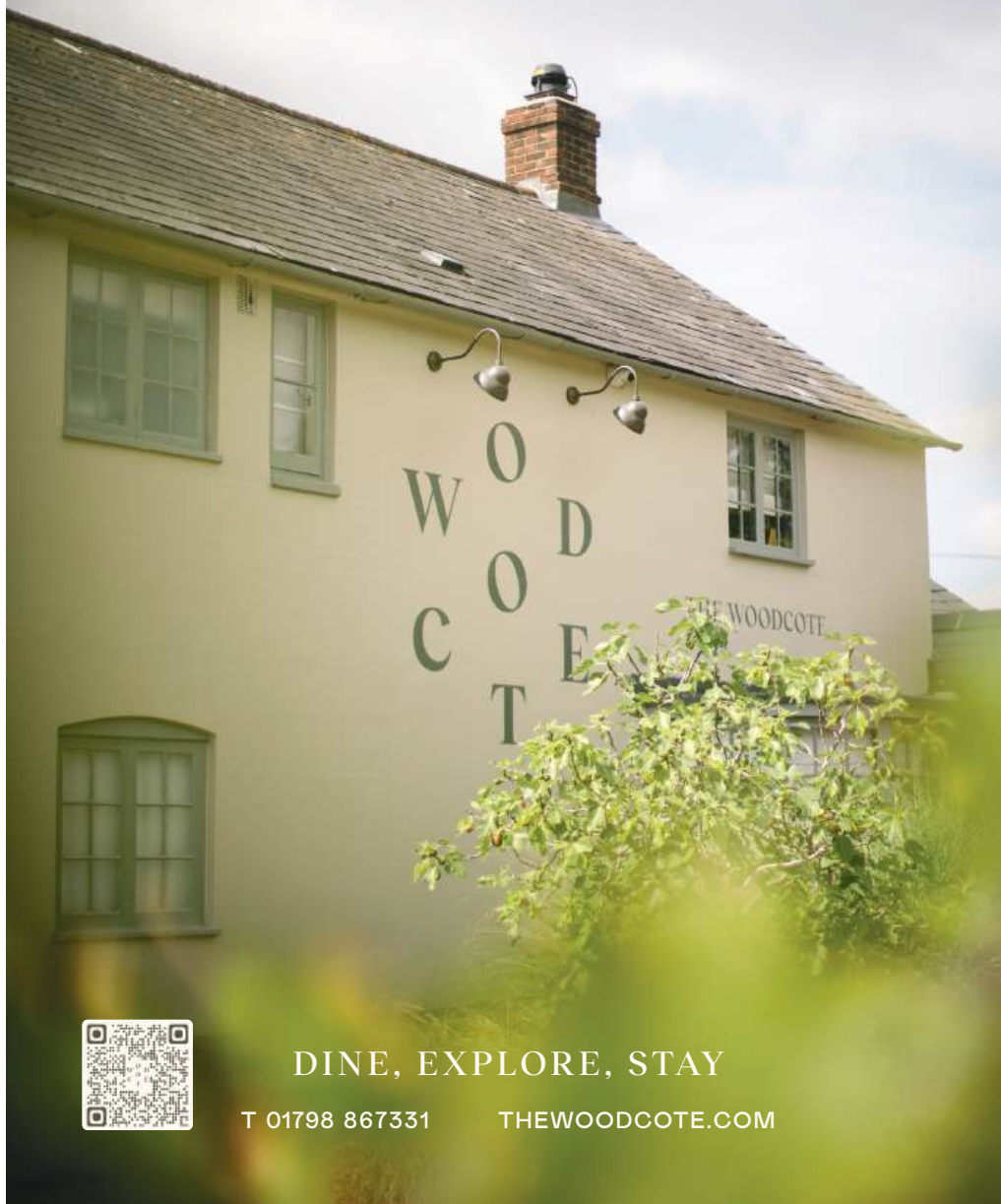
Graffham Parish Council has already unanimously supported merging with East Lavington – just as the two church parishes did 175 years ago.

Talks between the two civic parish councils will now take place to progress combining the two, and with Chichester District Council, which would have a key overseeing role in the merger.



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

# THE WOODCOTE



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[THEWOODCOTE.COM](http://THEWOODCOTE.COM)



Two of the first youngsters to try out the latest additions to our Play Park.

## Final bits of kit fitted at new Play Park

Graffham Play Park reopened just in time for the autumn half term after having its final bits of kit installed – a ‘spinning cup’ and playhouse for toddlers, a seesaw and a giant multi-play ‘scrambler’ with a slide. Like the swings, zipwire, tunnel, slide, roundabout and climbing frame that have been in place since the new playground was opened just before Christmas, they have been built in natural materials and fitted by Playsafe, from nearby Elsted. The verdict of the first youngsters to use the latest fun equipment: “Brilliant!”

The project’s completion follows receipt of a grant of almost £16,000 from Chichester District Council – taking the scheme’s fund-raising to its target.

Graffham Parish Council set the ball rolling with £20,000 from its Community Investment Levy fund. Villagers and friends collectively pledged £15,000, topped up by £3,000 of Gift Aid, with further contributions from Graffham Tennis Club and Graffham Festival 2024. Supporting the project with a ‘donation in kind’ were Glen and Asta Manchester, of Selham House and



The new giant slide and scrambler.

► Continued on page 25

# RICHARD DAVIDSON

ITALIAN PAINTINGS and other recent work



## OPEN STUDIO

Friday 5th - Sunday 7th December 11am - 5pm

Brookdene House, Graffham GU28 0NL

**A pre-Christmas exhibition of paintings and greetings cards**

*A percentage of all sales will go to St Giles Church, Graffham*



By appointment at other times tel: 01798 867 232  
e-mail: [richard.davidson@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.davidson@btinternet.com) [www.richarddavidson.co.uk](http://www.richarddavidson.co.uk) @richarddavidsonartist

► *Continued from page 23*

The Woodcote, with their building team carrying out all the ground works and supplying the woodchip, new fencing and gates. Just before the Play Park's initial phase was opened by our local MP Andrew Griffith in December, the Lottery Fund kicked off phase 2 of fund-raising with a £16,000 gift.

Rachel Gerrett, who has been leading the team behind the project, said: "Thanks to everyone for your understanding and cooperation while these finishing touches were installed. These final elements allow children of different ages and abilities to play at the same time, providing several different types of physical challenges."

## **Graffham Common Road going down the drain**

Graffham Common Road will be closed twice this month for contractors working on behalf of West Sussex County Council to make improvements to its drainage.

In the week starting Monday 8 December, a gully pipe will be replaced under the road by Selham House, where flooding has occurred regularly. The road will be closed between the Fitzlea Wood Road junction and Twin Cottage.

The following week, a new concrete spillway and wall will be constructed outside The Last Post, where there have been temporary barriers for many months.

Last month, new drainage was installed on Selham Road, close to St James' church.

Our West Sussex County Councillor Tom Richardson said: "Hopefully, once these works are complete, we won't experience the flooding that we have for a number of years, making it easier and safer to get around during the wetter months."

For details, see [one.network/uk/westsussex](http://one.network/uk/westsussex)

## **Richard Davidson opens his studio**

Graffham artist Richard Davidson will be opening his studio to visitors for three days this month – over the weekend of 5-7 December, 11am to 5pm daily at Brookdene House, The Street. Besides providing an opportunity to view or buy his paintings, it is also a chance to pick up packs of his greetings cards. He will be donating a portion of the proceeds to St Giles Church. See opposite page.

The event follows a successful summer exhibition in Italy – his first in the country in 20 years, after a show at Florence's Pitti Palace with Damian Hirst.

Richard left his city-based law firm in 1995 to study at Chelsea and then Wimbledon School of Art, moving to Graffham in 2001.

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# Decision on Woodcote expansion still awaited

As this edition went to press, the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) was still giving 1 August 2025 as its “determination deadline” for The Woodcote’s expansion plans – although no decision had been posted. If the officers decide to refer the issue to the body’s planning committee for a ruling, its next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11 December, 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](http://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, construct a new restaurant, and create a new car park for some 70 vehicles with an overflow parking area.

## 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](http://bit.ly/sdnp-planning)*

### Applications

**Old Rectory Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NJ:** Single storey rear extension and associated landscaping. SDNP/25/04224/HOUS. Received 20 Oct 2025. Validated 24 Oct 2025. Determination deadline 19 Dec 2025



For everything you need to know  
about our village  
and Graffham Parish Council,  
see our new website  
**[graffham-pc.gov.uk](http://graffham-pc.gov.uk)**



# CHARITY BRIDGE TEA

*in aid of St Giles Church, Graffham*

**Thursday, 5 February 2026, 2-5pm**      The Empire Hall, Graffham

Donation of £60 per table

*For more information and to reserve a table, please contact  
Nettie Lanaghan on 07798 624466 or at [thornhills@aol.com](mailto:thornhills@aol.com)*

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Tel: 01798 651066

# Prepare now for whatever winter may bring

A Sussex-wide campaign is underway to help older and other more vulnerable people – particularly those who are not online – be better prepared should severe weather this winter disrupt key services.

The drive is being led by the Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) – a partnership of agencies, including the NHS, councils (including Graffham Parish Council), police and emergency services – that work together to keep Sussex safe. It urges older people to take three easy steps to prepare for whatever winter may bring:

**1** Join the Priority Services Register (PSR), which provides free extra support from utility companies if services are disrupted. If you're over 60 – or have health or care needs, young children, or rely on medical equipment – the PSR lets utility companies know you may need extra help, such as priority updates, doorstep checks and bottled water supplies. You do have to register first for it to work, though.

**2** Pack a “just in case” bag – have a few essentials ready, such as a torch, spare batteries, warm layers (blanket, jumper, socks), bottled water, long-life food that doesn't need cooking, medicines, important phone numbers and a mobile phone power bank.

**3** Know who you can call – write down key numbers (such as for your utility companies, council, GP and neighbours) and keep them with your bag of essentials in case internet connections are unavailable during a power cut.

To find out more, get started on joining the PSR or to request a free booklet on staying safe in emergencies, call 0800 998 7103 for free or visit [www.sussex.police.uk/be-ready](http://www.sussex.police.uk/be-ready).

Graffham Parish Council is supporting the campaign by putting up its posters on noticeboards in the village and arranging for this article to feature in *Graffham Parish News* and on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard.

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE WEATHER.**

**YOU CAN BE PREPARED.**

Storms and cold snaps can disrupt power, water and other essential services.

Take three simple steps now and be ready for whatever winter brings.

- 1. Join the Priority Services Register**  
Free extra support if services are disrupted.
- 2. Pack a “just in case” bag**  
Have essentials to hand.
- 3. Know who you can call**  
Write down key numbers and contacts.

CALL **0800 998 7103** FOR FREE TO FIND OUT MORE.  
OR VISIT [WWW.SUSSEX.POLICE.UK/BE-READY](http://WWW.SUSSEX.POLICE.UK/BE-READY)

Sussex Resilience Forum NHS East Sussex Fire & Rescue West Sussex Fire & Rescue



Wishing everyone a very Merry  
CHRISTMAS and a Happy New Year

**SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER - 7.30PM - JOIN US FOR THE  
KIRDFORD PLAYERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MUMMERS PLAY.**

MUMMERING CAN BE TRACED BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS TO THE MIDDLE AGES.  
ITS FREE TO COME ALONG! BE A PART OF KEEPING THIS TRADITION ALIVE AND  
ENJOY THE SHORT PLAY HERE WITH US, IN AID OF THE NSPCC.

**SUNDAY 28TH DECEMBER - VINTAGE TRACTOR RUN**

COME AND JOIN THE CHRISTMAS VINTAGE TRACTOR RUN WHILST THEY STOP  
HERE FOR LUNCH. ENJOY THE TRACTORS AND A BBQ OUTSIDE THE PUB NOW  
THAT YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF TURKEY! OPEN TO ALL AGES.  
IN AID OF MACMILLAN CANCER.

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS:

24TH DECEMBER: 12 NOON TO 11PM

25TH DECEMBER: 11AM TO 1PM

26TH DECEMBER: 12 NOON TO 11PM

NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS:

31ST DECEMBER: 5PM TO LATE

1ST JANUARY: 12 NOON TO 6PM

2ND JANUARY: NORMAL HOURS

01798 861303 | [THETHREEMOLES.CO.UK](http://thethreemoles.co.uk)

## Wedding bells: 恭喜邹先生和邹太太 <sup>\* See foot of page</sup>

Graffham's Will Morris and his girlfriend Zhou Zou, who hails from Wuhan, China, couldn't wait to marry – so, after proposing in late August, on the same spot in Salisbury where they had been on their first date, they sped ahead with a small wedding on Monday 3 November at Guildford Registry Office.

They settled on a simple but elegant affair as there wasn't time for Zhou Zou's family to travel from their home, so there were just his Mum Jo, known to many as the Graffham potter, his Aunt Jennifer and his grandmother in attendance.

Will grew up here at Topleigh Stables and went to Seaford College. He spent many holidays and weekends working in Graffham Village Shop and undertook projects at the Botany Bay conservancy project in East Lavington. He and Zhou Zou met when they were both studying at university in Bath.

At the “short but sweet” ceremony, The bride wore a sleek white dress and Will in a formal dark blue suit, with a silk floral tie that his late father had worn when he had married Will's Mum



Jo, along with a watch that had belonged to a great great uncle. Jo read Neil Gaiman's *All I Know About Love*. Will and Zhou Zou exchanged vows, were declared husband and wife – and shared the customary kiss. The celebrations continued at the Stag on the River, near Godalming, before the newlyweds returned home as a married couple. “It was a wonderful day,” they said.

They intend to have a blessing at St Giles – where Jo is one of the bell ringers – next summer with more friends and family invited to join them.

*\*Congratulations Mr and Mrs Zou in simplified Chinese*



# Life at Seaford College Prep School



## Registration for our Reception Class 2026 is Now Open!

Seaford College Prep School is thrilled to announce that registration for our Reception Class for students aged 4–5, starting September 2026, is now open.

Alastair Brown, Head of Prep School, said: “Our Prep School offers a nurturing environment where children flourish. With after school wrap around care, small class sizes, personalised attention, and a diverse curriculum combining academic excellence with creative and practical learning, every child feels valued and supported.

Our outstanding facilities include a swimming pool, sports pitches, music rooms, dance studios, and creative spaces for Art, DT, and Cookery. Children enjoy outdoor learning opportunities, including our onsite Forest School, all within our beautiful grounds.

We focus on fostering independent thinking, leadership skills, and a love of learning, ensuring a seamless transition into Senior School with a strong foundation for future success.”

Seaford Prep School launched the Reception Class in 2025, and the expansion has been very successful and reflects the continued growth and popularity of the College.

Seaford College has been awarded the highest possible rating of ‘Excellent’ in all areas in the ISI inspection.

To read more: [www.seaford.org/life-at-seaford/isi-inspection-report](https://www.seaford.org/life-at-seaford/isi-inspection-report)

**Our next Open Morning is  
Saturday 7th March 2026**



Contact Hayley, Prep School Admissions: [receptionclass@seaford.org](mailto:receptionclass@seaford.org)

Love to learn

# School report: Newcomers, Nativity, nutritious

*With the end of term looming, Graffham Infant and Duncton Junior Schools Business Manager Jenny Godfrey provides her monthly update.*



**Welcoming prospective parents** We were delighted to host a wonderful open morning at Graffham Infant School on Friday 24 October. It was fantastic to welcome prospective parents and carers into our school, giving them the chance to see the children busy learning and experience the warm, vibrant atmosphere that makes our school so special.

If you or anyone you know missed the open morning and would like to arrange a visit, we would love to show you around! Just contact the school office on 01798 867324 to book an appointment.

**Remembrance** As we move through the autumn term, the children have been reflecting on Remembrance. Our youngest children in Wren class showed incredible creativity by making poppies using natural materials gathered from outside. It has been inspiring to see their thoughtful and imaginative work.

**Nativity** Looking ahead, excitement is building as we prepare for our Nativity play, which this year will be called Prickly Hay. Soon, the Year 2 children will be assigned their speaking parts, and all of the children will begin learning the songs. We can't wait to share this special performance with families in December at St Giles Church.

**Baking bread** We have brilliant snack stations at Graffham in each of the classrooms – full of fresh fruit, vegetables, crackers and even toast! We wanted to make sure that the bread we are eating is nutritious and fresh, so teachers have taken on the task of baking fresh sourdough bread on site every day. We were very excited to receive a delivery of flour from Burton Mill – this will provide us with lots of opportunities to talk to the children about sustainable food production. Thank you, Miss Carter and Mrs Wethered for baking the bread every day!

You can find out more about how we are trying to make our food provision at our Graffham and Duncton schools healthier and more sustainable – just go online and search Food Project GraffhamandDuncton

Thank you for your continued support of Graffham Infant School. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

# DORSET HOUSE SCHOOL

*INDEPENDENT PREP SCHOOL*

*FOR CHILDREN FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 8*

*Just 15 minutes from Graffham*



**OPEN MORNING**  
**FRIDAY 26th SEPTEMBER**  
**9.30 am—11.30 am**

***'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'***

***Morning minibuses and after school clubs***

***Part of the Lancing College Family of schools  
from September 2025***

Please call 01798 831456 or visit  
[www.dorsethouseschool.com](http://www.dorsethouseschool.com) to find out more.



# GRAFFHAM CHRISTMAS FAIR



2025

Saturday  
6th December  
11am to 2pm



**With lots of stalls and activities including:**

- \* Father Christmas \* Home made produce \*
  - \* Christmas decorations \* Silent auction \* Grand raffle \*
  - \* Guess the weight of the cake \* Jewellery \*
  - \* Refreshments and mulled wine \*
- and more



The Empire Hall, Graffham, GU28 0QB



# Santa set to land at Graffham's Christmas Fair

Graffham's Christmas Fair will take place as usual in the Empire Hall on the first Saturday in December – 6 December from 11am to 2pm.

The Christmas tree will be sparkling, festive music playing, mulled wine, mince pies and hot sausage rolls ready to serve up and games prepared for the kids, making it the perfect place to pick up some Christmas presents while catching up with friends and neighbours. And Father Christmas has promised to pop in from around 11.30am for 90 minutes to check for himself how good all the village's boys and girls have been through the past 12 months. While they are waiting to see him, there will be lots of activities to keep the youngsters happily busy.

The fair is one of the main fund-raising events of the year for St Giles, helping our beautiful, historic and peaceful village church meet its near £60,000 a year costs



for maintaining its building, bells and burial ground and everything it does for the community. So please support it generously!

There are some amazing lots up for grabs in its auction – see from page 38 – and an astonishing line-up of goodies to win in its raffle – see next page. Tickets are circulated with this edition of *Graffham Parish News*.

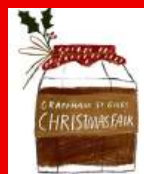
As ever, the home produce stand is expected to do a roaring trade, with its delicious cakes, bakes and preserves prepared by the village's cooks. A number of locals will be manning

**Cracker:** Flashback to last year's Fair. stalls – the village's Knit and Natter group, potter Joanna Morris, Made By Andy ironwork and Slow Grown Farm's Katie and Brett Sacks. Fiona Mackie will be running a stall offering jewellery and accessories – and, of course, selling her new Graffham cookery book (see page 18).

## THE HOME PRODUCE STAND NEEDS YOU!



If you can contribute any goodies,  
please contact Gillian Charlesworth  
on 07973 768924  
or at [dalehousefemail@gmail.com](mailto:dalehousefemail@gmail.com)





# Graffham Christmas Fair's amazing auction

There are some amazing lots up for grabs in Graffham Christmas Fair's 2025 auction, thanks to many generous donors – unique experiences or treats that, normally, money could not buy, delicious food and drinks, many sourced from within our own village, and some fab 'not on the high street' items that would make perfect Christmas gifts.

Some of them are highlighted on these pages –the complete list and full terms and conditions etc, will be available at the Christmas Fair itself, in the Empire Hall on Saturday 6 December 2025, Bidding will start as it opens at 11 am with final bids taken at around 1.30 pm. So you'll need to be there in person, or appoint a proxy to bid for you, for the best chance of snaffling whatever you've your eye on. You'll be able to raise your bid until the hammer comes down to close the auction. Happy bidding and good luck!



## Clay shooting for six

A day's simulated game day on the South Downs for up to six people, with full hospitality included. **Reserve:** £1,350



## A week in Aviemore

A seven-night stay in a one-bedroom/one-bathroom home in the Scottish Highland resort's Scandinavian Village. Ski-ing, hiking, fishing, whisky.... Week of 19 March, changeable under negotiation. **Reserve:** £350

## Seaford's Miss Saigon – two pairs of tickets

The next musical mounted by Seaford College, which has a reputation for staging near-professional productions. Pick a date between 18 and 20 March.

**Value:** Bright lights



## Cricket skills session with Chris Adams

Catch some tips in a 45-minute one-on-one training/tuition session with Chris "Grizzly" Adams, legendary captain of our own Sussex county side and capped by England at Test and one-day international level, now Head of Cricket at Seaford College. **Value:** Boundaries galore!

## Golf tuition with pro Andrew Shakespeare

A one-hour lesson with Seaford College's golf pro, on the school's own links. *Value:* Well over par.



## A pony ride for children

A 45-minute trek for your youngsters around our very own Westerlands with its horse-riding experts. *Value:* Clip clops.

## A case of delicious wine

Six mystery bottles of delicious wine kindly donated by a Graffham connoisseur. *Value:* Cheers.



## Exclusive use of a heated swimming pool

A day's exclusive use of a Graffham pool kept spotlessly clean and comfortably heated by Stuart and Bridget Lewis. Multiple prizes offered. *Value:* In at the deep end.

## Painting of your house, pet or favourite view

Commission renowned Graffham watercolour artist Sue Hill to create a painting of your pet, garden, home, favourite view or whatever. *Value:* Went for £100 and £275 before.



## Swallows and Amazons

A sail for up to two people, on Chichester Harbour, with a beach picnic, depending on tides and weather. Life jackets provided. No experience necessary.

*Value:* £130 when offered before

## Golf for three and lunch at West Sussex

A round of golf for the winning bidder and up to two guests, followed by lunch, at West Sussex Golf Club, Pulborough, hosted by Sandy Macqueen. *Value:* Weekend green fees in the summer cost £175 a person.



## Sri Lankan curry party

A delicious curry for up to six people, cooked by Jeeva and Vasu and delivered for you to serve at your own home. This has attracted chilli hot bidding when offered before. *Value:* £120

## Training with Dogs Doing Better

Dogs Doing Better, which delivers puppy and dog training, agility and gun dog training, is offering a one-hour session one-to-one, by highly qualified former Graffham resident Liz Nicholson.

**Value:** £60



## Canoeing or boarding lesson

A half a day's lesson for up to two canoeing or paddle boarding on the River Arun or Chichester Harbour – under the instruction of Graffham's David Sanders – with picnic.

**Reserve:** £75

## Luncheon for two at The Woodcote

Luncheon for two, with a bottle of wine, at the village's Woodcote restaurant.

**Value:** Delicious



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## Graffham Tennis Club membership

Graffham Tennis Club is one of the friendliest in West Sussex – with great facilities. Bid for family membership for the entire year.

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An hour's lesson with Graffham Tennis Club's professional coach Richard Hopp.

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Our award-winning Three Moles pub has earned itself a reputation for serving some of the best Sunday roasts in West Sussex. A three-course spectacular feast for two, with a bottle of house wine.

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Empire Hall Saturday 6 December 11am-2pm





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Dance practices in the Empire Hall:  
Sunday 28th of December 2025,  
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4-6pm, £2 per session

# Graffham Parish News' dazzling December quiz

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

- 1 According to legend, St Giles saved a red deer from which King: [a] Wenceslas, [b] Wamba, [c] Rambo?
- 2 Recently celebrated Samuel Wilberforce was Bishop of where at the time of his death in 1873: [a] Chichester, [b] Winchester, [c] Oxford?
- 3 The Selsey Tramway, which closed in 1935, ran for how many years?
- 4 *Celebrity Traitors* winner Alan Carr donated his prize money to which charity?
- 5 Which US politician has just published a book called *107 Days*?
- 6 Which restaurant chain, known for its "all you can eat" policy, is about to slice the number of its UK outlets from 132 to 64?
- 7 The last time the England players travelled by ship to Australia for an Ashes cricket tour was for which series: [a] 1946-47, [b] 1954-55, [c] 1962-63?
- 8 Which British singer accompanied Bing Crosby on *Peace On Earth/Little Drummer Boy*: [a] Max Bygraves, [b] David Bowie, [c] Julie Andrews?
- 9 Who plays Queen Victoria in *Blackadder's Christmas Carol*?
- 10 *Turkey Dinner* (1974) and *My Brother and I* (1975) were Christmas episodes of which BBC sitcom?



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# Graffham Empire Movies

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An eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island brings his favourite musicians back together to play a private show just for him – but old tensions surface between the duo.

Critics called it 'a big-hearted, consoling hug of a movie', 'a touching and funny ode to love, loss, and redemption', 'heart-warming, emotionally stirring, and amiably amusing' and 'a quiet gem'.

Certificate 12A

99 minutes

## Saturday 17 January

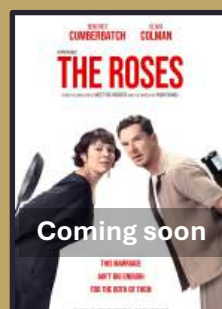
## Empire Hall

Doors and bar open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Interval ice creams

Cocktails and mocktails

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



# From Town Hall: Preserving our Worthy Women

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



In the early 1980s, Chichester District Council, with support from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, bought eight paintings on wood, known as the ‘Amberley Panels’ or more correctly ‘The Worthy Women’, dating from just before Henry VIII’s split from Roman Catholicism. All the women are portrayed as goddesses, and it is thought that one of them was his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. Painted in 1526, they were commissioned by the then Bishop of Chichester for his castle at Amberley. The artist was Lambert Barnard, who also painted the images of Kings and Queens of England in Chichester Cathedral.

These panels are of national, if not international, significance. So they are a great asset for the district. Yet they are badly in need of conservation and display cases to protect them for the future. Chichester District Council’s Cabinet on 4 November agreed to put aside £191,300 for this conservation work – while hoping that external sources of funding can be found to mitigate and reduce this sum.



It is a lot of money, but the council is ‘museum accredited’, which means we are obliged to look after our collection and, if we choose to dispose of anything, we must offer that object first to other similarly accredited collections and museums. We did consider offering these panels for sale, but all potential buyers were only interested in them if they had received conservation treatment first. We will in the coming months be introducing various projects to raise funds for preserving these panels. Watch this space.

**Fly tipping** There has been an increase in fly tipping, particularly along the lanes around Fittleworth, Bignor, Sutton and Barlavington. I seem to be reporting another instance of this happening every week. It costs us all a lot of money to clear up. In some cases, the waste is toxic, and specialist services have to be called out. If you witness or suspect any vehicle of fly tipping, please drop me a line at [jcross@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:jcross@chichester.gov.uk). Clear evidence is great, but sometimes several reports of the same suspected vehicle or person get us to where we need to be.

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# Bill's bygones: Beeb, Burke, Balcombe Street

*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 – December 2015:** *The History of Graffham Tennis Club 1961-2015*, written by Mike Dimmer and Chris Major, is published. It's all change on Graffham Village Shop Association's committee as Ros Britten, Hugh Brown, Jo Crow and Richard French replace Roy Barden, Martin Buckley, Simon Jollands, George Grammer and Jackie Woods. The Foresters Arms' owners Ray Tough and family announce the pub will permanently close for business on Christmas Eve. Local boy Tim Peake becomes the first Briton to join the International Space Station. The UK's last deep coal mine, Kellingley Colliery in North Yorkshire, closes. The COP 21 summit in Paris commits all countries to reduce carbon emissions for the first time. Andy Murray becomes BBC Sports Personality of the Year for the second time. Deaths of Graffham stalwart, St Giles' organist and Rustic regular ("beastly funny") Derek Williams, aged 84, former footballer and Match of the Day presenter Jimmy Hill (87), and Motörhead frontman Lemmy (70).

**25 years ago – December 2000:** The Foresters' three-course menu (plus coffee and mints) for Graffham Garden Group's Christmas lunch costs £15.95. During the inter-regnum at St Giles – after the departure of Keith Hyde-Dunn and before the arrival of Mark Gilbert – services are taken by Canon Peter Cole and Adrian Carlton-Oatley. *Graffham Parish News* editor Paula Burke receives a letter complaining about the cover of the October 2000 issue, which depicted a deer being chased by hunting dogs. Rower Steve Redgrave becomes BBC Sports Personality of the Year after winning his fifth consecutive Olympic gold medal in Sydney. Deaths of Kent and England cricketer Colin Cowdrey (67) and singer-songwriter Kirsty MacColl (41).

**50 years ago – December 1975:** Members of Graffham Junior Youth Club enjoy a "make-something-for-Christmas" evening for their last meeting of the year, after which 12 of them form the largest carolling party yet for the regular outing along Norwood Lane, raising £6 for the Save the Children Fund. The choir of Seaford College, comprising 14 trebles, six altos, five tenors and five basses, releases its fourth LP record, featuring 14 pieces of church music including an organ solo by master and choir director Philip Hill. British audiences finally get to see *Jaws*, six months after the movie's US release. Cricketer David Steele, the "bank clerk who went to war" against the Australians in the previous summer's Ashes cricket series, becomes BBC Sports Personality of the Year. The Balcombe Street Siege in Marylebone, London, grips the nation for six days.

# Graffham Chronicles: Christmas shops and songs

*In her column this month, local historian Pauline Goodwin remembers the festive season in Graffham when she was a young girl here.*

Back in my Graffham childhood, in the 1950s and 1960s, festive celebrations in the village, much as they still do today, centred around the Empire Hall, St Giles Church and the village shops.

I say shops, in the plural, as there were more than one in those times, and neither of them where Jeeva and Vasu look after us all so well today.

In the middle of the previous century, and for long before, Stores attended to the community's needs – and, when I was a girl, there were two of them in the village. Both were hubs of festive goodies – seasonal stock displayed in the windows and piled up inside.

The 'top' shop, in what is now a private home in The Street still today called Pescods, groaned with traditional puddings, cakes, mincemeat, pies, nuts and crackers. The 'bottom' shop, in the south end of The Foresters Arms, was stacked with modest potential presents – chocolate novelties, liquorice sets and boxes of goodies for the bathroom.

Penny Holland, daughter of Pescod Stores' owners John and Hilda Holland, recalls: "The shop was so busy before Christmas, with boxes of orders stacked up for delivery. I remember helping out, down in the cellar, bagging up potatoes and sprouts. They didn't come in handy plastic bags in those days." My own Christmas



*Winters were colder back then – Stowberry and Rose Cottages after a snow storm in the late 1940s.*



Children of the village sit down for their Christmas tea party in the Empire Hall, hosted by the Nawab of Bahawalpur, of Selham House. He arranged for presents for every child to be sent down from London.

memories from those times are centred on music, playing in other village locations. I was in St Giles' choir for many years and loved in particular the sessions of carol singing around the village, led by the Graffham parish vicar Canon Edward Bradbrooke. These followed different routes each evening to cover as many of the village homes as possible. There was a large number of singers, some carrying lanterns on poles, Gandalf-style. Often the entire group was invited into places like Brookdene House to view the amazing floor-to-ceiling white Christmas tree.

I remember too the lavish children's parties held in the Empire Hall every Christmas from the 1940s to 1960s, hosted by the Nawab of Bahawalpur, who lived at Selham House. The hall was also the venue for spectacular carol sing-songs, with dynamic accompaniment on the piano by Mary Pescod.

In many ways, she embodied the spirit of Christmas here – performing a key role in ensuring seasonal greetings and gifts were delivered through her post office duties, tinkling the ivories for those informal village sing-a-longs – and playing the organ for all the services at St Giles, following in the footsteps of her father, Jesse Goodacre, who had been organist and choirmaster before her.

More about this remarkable lady in my next column – the first of 2026!

# Out and about: Cheers to taking things sloe-ly

An occasional column by Jonathan Simons, aspirant dendrologist and font of useless knowledge on so many things obscure and without consequence.

Sloes are the fruit of the blackthorn, *Prunus spinosa*, and are very common in hedgerows and rough places hereabouts. Blackthorn has masses of white flowers in March and April before the leaves appear. Picking sloes in autumn can be hazardous because of the vicious thorns on the twigs. The *Prunus* genus is that of plums, cherries, peaches and so on, but the value of the sloe to the human food chain is rather limited by its small size, large stone and shocking astringency.

However, soaking sloes in gin with sugar and lemon produces sloe gin, which is eminently consumable. In my late teens, having acquired a taste for alcohol but not the financial means to indulge it, I hit on the idea to manufacture this beverage. I enlisted friends and together we filled my mother's shopping basket with the fruit.

Unfortunately, I had failed to read the small print on the recipe which stated that the next step was that you had to go and BUY a bottle of gin. That was beyond our means, so we turned it over to my mother to make into jam. First tasting of this jam suggested that the whole exercise had been a disastrous waste of time as the jam was as astringent as the raw fruit itself. We shared out the jars for burial in our



**Sloes ready for picking (above) – but watch out for the vicious thorns around them! They are eminently consumable as sloe gin.**



larders and drew a line underneath the matter. However, several years later, in chatting to the brother of one of the team, he remarked that he and his mother had recently opened up one of the jars and it had proved to be a tasty topping to bread and butter and had not lived up to its fearsome reputation. We went in search of the other jars and all agreed it had reached a pinnacle of perfection. We were sorry when it was all gone.

In my middle years, I learnt how you can make alcohol at home. After the night of the Great Storm of 1987, I opened the front door to find the lawn covered in sloes that had been torn from the bushes in the hedge. Next day I gathered them up and started on my first batch of sloe wine. I recall that it was delicious. I have made more batches over the years, latterly sourced from a rough field at

Lickfold, but they never seem quite as good. In this later life, I have found that I am now quite able to buy bottles of gin from shops. We set about making sloe gin in the approved manner, thus making good the deficiencies of my youth. The Three Moles then started up its sloe gin competition.



**Jonathan's proud moment, winning The Three Moles' sloe gin competition.**

We entered our 2015 product into the 2017 competition and WON – a very proud moment! We entered the same 2015 product, and one from 2017 to cover the field, into the 2018 competition but got nowhere despite transporting them picturesquely down through the snow on a sledge.

In 2019, we came back in style – WINNERS again! The judges commended our entry as 'outstandingly fruity'. I was pestered for some time to reveal the recipe but as it was basically sloes, gin and sugar I decided to shroud it in mystery and keep it a secret. Various national and personal emergencies have kept us away from the competition but our names are still proudly emblazoned on the trophy above the bar. One more win and I think we can claim it as our own!



## **Graffham Garden Group New Year lunch**

**Wednesday 21 January 2025, 12.30pm for 1pm**

**Empire Hall**

**£19 a head, two courses including wine/beer, coffee and mints**

**Mains: Fish pie, beef lasagne or vegetable lasagne**

**Puds: Chocolate and pear pudding or lemon meringue pie**

**All members and partners warmly welcome**

**New memberships or renewals £2 on the day**

**Please book early to avoid disappointment by signing up in the village shop by 14 January. Payment in cash on the day.**

# Nature Notes: Home for Christmas

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

Sussex is no place for a warbler in winter. As daylight, temperature and insect food dwindle, blackcaps, whitethroats, chiffchaffs, reed, sedge and willow warblers all evacuate England. Each September their fragile, feathered bodies fly to Spain and sub-Saharan Africa on the promise of warmth, food and, ultimately, life. So finding a blackcap swinging on your birdfeeder in December will be as unlikely as seeing Santa at a midsummer barbeque. But at Christmas miracles can happen.

Blackcaps return to England in April along with cuckoos and chiffchaffs, who broadcast their arrival with their monotonous two-note tune. But the blackcap lets loose a rich, full-throated, joyous warble – a defiant announcement that he's cheated death for another winter.

This colourful song comes from a colourless bird, yet there's something stylish and continental about the blackcap's appearance. Their two-tone grey suit and black beret pulled over dark eyes make them look like some Parisian beatnik. You'd



## 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](mailto:jimkirke@hotmail.com) if you plan to come along and say if you would like a ride up so that he can arrange transport.

21 December	Sunday	7 February	Saturday
25 January	Sunday	7 March	Saturday

expect to catch one sat in a willow smoking Gauloises and muttering about Sartre. The female bird's beret is a rich chestnut brown – hardly qualifying her to use the name blackcap at all.



**A blackcap lets loose its rich, full-throated, joyous warble. © Roger Wilmshurst, Sussex Wildlife Trust.**

The laws of nature clearly state that all European blackcaps must migrate south for the winter. But in the 1960s a small gang of nonconformist blackcaps in Germany started a revolution. They headed south-west instead of south, ending up in England. Mother Nature is not kind to those who disobey her rules and this suicide squad was surely sentenced to a frozen death in our frosty winter. But instead they found a new England – a land of mild winters, ornamental berry bushes and kind people who hung fat balls in their gardens. They didn't freeze and starve. They survived.

Not only that, but the following spring's short flight home to Germany meant they arrived ahead of their law-abiding neighbours who were still struggling back from their longhaul holidays. The returning rebels were able to claim the best territories and produce larger families, raising more revolutionaries who returned to England each winter. Now a small population of blackcaps make our gardens their winter home – exotic apparitions of summer amongst the robins and frost. They'll be gone again by the time 'our' British blackcaps return, exhausted and oblivious, in April.

Animal migration is amazing. Each year across Europe millions of perilous journeys are undertaken as birds, bats, butterflies and other wildlife flee hostile conditions. Each year we have watched as members of our own species are added to this list. The paths of fleeing refugees and migrating birds will cross as both are forced on dangerous journeys over the same treacherous mountains and rough seas. Let's hope they all find someplace safe this Christmas.

- 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**



**We are the champions!** Graffham Tennis Club trophy winners included, from left: Sarah Villiers and Sally Pattie, Seniors Doubles; Lawrence Bates, Men's Singles; Angie Thornley, Mixed Doubles with Ollie Edwards; and Emma Amin, Ladies Doubles with Sian Green.

## Graffham Tennis Club



**Awards evening** The long hot summer of 2025 was recalled wistfully by members of Graffham Tennis Club as they celebrated their successes at its annual awards evening in the Pavilion on Saturday 15 November. A bowl of chilli with all of the trimmings was the fare on offer, with the bar doing good business as usual.

Besides those pictured and named above, the trophy winners included Ross Anderson and Andy Craig for Men's Doubles.

Recent results:

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
9 Nov	Won 6-2	Mixed Doubles A team	Div 2	vs Fernhurst A
16 Nov	Lost 0-8	Mixed Doubles B team	Div 2	vs Haslemere B

Upcoming home fixtures:

Graffham Tennis Club November home fixtures				
7 Dec	1.15pm	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	Graffham A vs Headley A
14 Dec	1.15pm	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	Graffham B v Alton A

# Theo completes successful first motorsport season

Graffham resident and Seaford College student Theo Longman has just completed a successful first season in motorsport in his Citroen DS3 Cup race car, winning the final round at Brands Hatch last month. Theo, of Norwood Lane, has raced this year across the UK at circuits including Oulton Park, Donington and even at Silverstone, the home of the British Grand Prix. He won his first race on his 17th birthday and has gone on to win five of the 12 races this year.

The DS3 Cup is a new series based on the 1.6 litre Citroen road cars stripped back bare with racing wheels, tyres, brakes and suspension added, plus the safety equipment including a roll cage, race seat and harness. All cars on the grid are exactly the same so it creates very close racing. The success of the DS3 Cup series with 18 cars already built in this first year means there will be a full championship next year, so plans are to refresh the worn bits on Theo's car during the winter and compete for the national championship in 2026.

Theo's love of cars started aged 11 when he learned to drive at Mercedes Benz World. By the age of 14 he was driving supercars around the *Top Gear* track at Dunsfold, scoring 39 out of a possible 40 in the assessment. Some junior success in the British Indoor Karting Championships and regular sessions in the Goodwood simulator demonstrated a natural talent and sealed his intention to race. For his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, he attended Thruxton circuit for race tuition with a view to gaining experience and eventually taking his Association of Racing Driver Schools test to

► *Continued on next page*



Theo on the winner's podium at Donington Park – after another successful race in his Citroen DS3 Cup race car. Pictures by © James Roberts Photography.

► *Continued from previous page*

obtain a national racing licence – which he passed on his first day of tuition, despite never before having driven a manual car on a circuit and with the distraction of racing driver and TV host Tiff Needell drifting around him while on track.

Theo competed against 48 other juniors for a scholarship, worth £60,000, last November to win a year in the Fiesta Junior series. Although he recorded the fastest time in all sessions despite being pitted against more experienced competitors, he made the final cut but ultimately narrowly lost out on the top spot.

So, with the support of his Dad Simon, he attended test sessions looking for a suitable and affordable first race series which led to building the Citroen DS3 to start Theo's racing career.

As much as he loves Formula 1, Theo's favourite racing and ultimate aim is to race BTCC (British Touring Car Championship) and GT (Gran Turismo) cars.





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## Foresters' coffee raises £450 for St Giles...



Some £350, topped up by another £90 in Gift Aid, was raised at a coffee morning for St Giles Church, held at The Foresters Arms on Tuesday 28 October.

Those attending were spoiled for choice when it came to the cakes on offer – but the general consensus was that the traditional Ukrainian honey cake baked to her mother's recipe by the pub's Angelina Timofichuk (right) took the biscuit.



## ...while poems, prose and pints pack the pub



The Foresters Arms was packed for its Words by the Hearth evening, hosted by author and broadcaster Dayl Ilbury, on the evening of Wednesday 12 November.

Dozens of villagers, like Pete West (left), joined for the event, taking along to share their favourite poem or some prose or make up limericks on the spot, with Rich Sabin playing folk songs on his harp.



# Ringers sally off on a ding dong of a tour

In what is becoming a regular feature of our bell-ringing calendar, Graffham's band of ringers headed off on a tour of four towers on Saturday 18 October, **writes joint editor (and bellringer) Philippa Sanders**. Twelve of the regulars plus our teachers, Colin and Susan Spencer ventured out with the aim of testing themselves on bigger bells, more bells and back-to front bells.

First port of call was Chichester Cathedral, where Colin and Susan ring on Sundays. The eight ancient bells (Graffham has six) were widely spaced making it challenging to see all of the bells at once. Some obliging mats in front of each position helped with identification. When taking up their positions it was



**The bellringers were in action ahead of the special service on 2 November to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Giles' rededication.**

noticeable that our team were steering clear of the bigger bells – as the heaviest, the tenor, weighs in at 18 hundredweight, twice that of our own equivalent. As time went on, everyone became more confident although the only one to step up to the plate on the tenor, and she did so brilliantly, was Angie Thornley.

Next stop was Colin and Susan's home tower, St Mary's at Walberton. The ring of six bells is up on a raised platform at the back of the nave at this charming church, and the team thoroughly enjoyed being put through their paces on the delightful-sounding bells.

Lunch followed at the Fauna Brewery in Arundel, conveniently located along from the next tower, the town's parish church of St Nicholas. Fortified by metre-long pizzas, the



## **TEDDY TIME in the Pavilion TODDLER GROUP**

**Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am**

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**A team photo outside Walberton's St Mary's, one of four towers rung in one day.**

group took on the eight bell tower with gusto, tackling 'Bob Doubles' on the front six as well as 'Plain Hunt' on all eight bells, which was quite stretching mentally.

The final tower was that of St Michael in Amberley, which presented yet another challenge in that the five bells are oriented in an anti-clockwise direction, requiring ringers to look, unusually, to their left when ringing in rounds. Graffham's ringers were well up to the challenge by then and the group managed to 'Plain Hunt' without a cover bell as an anchor.

As well as thanking Colin and Susan for their ongoing support, the members of Ding-Dong (our ringers' WhatsApp group) thanked their Tower Captain Howard Pescott for arranging the perfectly planned and executed itinerary.

Take up this absorbing hobby now and you could be 'on tour' this time next year! Graffham's ringers practise in St Giles every Tuesday from 7.30 to 9pm and generally have a session on the second Saturday of the month from 10am to noon. Complete beginners are always welcome.

## **Foodbank's 'most urgent' shopping list updated**

Chichester Foodbank, which also covers Petworth and its surrounding villages, has updated its list of most needed items.



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 most wanted include:

- Biscuits and treats.
- Household cleaning items.
- Instant coffee, chocolate.
- Jam, honey, spreads.
- Laundry detergent.
- Longlife milk, juice.
- Rice pudding/custard.
- Shampoo, conditioner.
- Tinned fish and veg.
- Tinned meat, stews etc.
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# What's on at our village church and chapel



- All residents and visitors are welcome to all services.
- St Giles Church is at the far south end of Graffham Street, near the Downs.
- All Saints' Chapel is opposite Graffham Village Shop. Both are open daily.
- See [stgilesgraffham.org](http://stgilesgraffham.org) or Facebook's @stgilesgraffham for any changes
- Bellringing practice is every Tuesday at 7.30pm (except on 30 December)

December				
2	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
3	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion
4	Thu	10am	Graffham Infant School assembly	St Giles Church
6	Sat	11am-2pm	Christmas Fair in aid of St Giles	Empire Hall
7	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist with Baptism of William Markwell	St Giles Church
9	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
10	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion
11	Thu	1.30pm	Graffham Infant School Nativity	St Giles Church
13	Sat	10am-12noon	Bellringing practice	St Giles Church
14	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist with Graffham Infant School songs	St Giles Church
		5pm	Festival of Lessons and Carols	St Giles Church
16	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
17	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion
		12.30pm	Food with Friends	The Rectory
18	Thu	2.30pm	Graffham Infant School Christingle	St Giles Church
21	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Advent 4	St Giles Church
		6pm	Communal carolling	Foresters Arms
23	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
For details of all Christmas services, see page 3				
24	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion
		4pm	Crib Service	St Giles Church
		7pm	Christmas Eve Candlelit Eucharist	St Giles Church
25	Thu	10.30am	Christmas Day Eucharist	St Giles Church
28	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist with residents	All Saints Chapel
31	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time	Pavilion



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# Other denominations locally

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

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

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

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

**RINGING and SINGING:** To join Graffham's bellringers or occasional choir, contact Revd Vivien on 01798 867199 or at

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# What's on in and around the village

For all Christmas services, see page 3. For all other church events, see page 61.

For weekly events, see page 67.

To see what's on in the village, locally and further afield for a full year ahead, see [graffham-pc.gov.uk/graffham-village-diary](http://graffham-pc.gov.uk/graffham-village-diary)

November				
28	Fri		Midhurst Rother College INSET day	
		5.30pm	Choir rehearsal	St Giles Church
29	Sat	10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		10am-6.30pm	Christmas Makers' Market (to 30 Nov)	Petworth House
		10.30am-4pm	Christmas Enchantment (to 4 Jan)	Petworth House
30	Sun		St Andrew's Day	
		5pm	Advent Service with Seaford College choir	St Giles
		7-10pm	Blues Night	Three Moles
December				
2	Tue	10.30am	Arts Society Midhurst talk	Methodist Hall Midhurst
		10.30am-1pm	Traditional wreath making workshop	Petworth Houe
		2pm	Arts Society West Sussex talk – New Evidence for the Star of Bethlehem	Fittleworth Village Hall
4	Thu	10am	UKHarvest surplus food market	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petworth
		10.30am-1pm	Festive block printing	Petworth House
5	Fri	9am-10pm	Christmas street party	Midhurst
		5.30pm	Choir rehearsal	St Giles Church
6	Sat	11am-2pm	Graffham Christmas Fair	Empire Hall
		9-2pm	Christmas market	Midhurst
		11am onwards	Petworth Christmas Cracker	Petworth
		All day	Christmas Festive Market (also 7, 13 and 14 Dec)	Chichester
		evening	Christmas Market Après evening celebrating start of ski season	Foresters
7	Sun	5pm	Christmas Craft Fair	Unicorn, Heyshott
9	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
10	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club <sup>2</sup> Christmas lunch	Empire Hall
		12.45pm	Thursday Club Christmas lunch	Unicorn, Heyshott
11	Thu	1.30pm	Graffham Infant School nativity play (ticketed event for parents)	St Giles
		evening	Cardigan Club Christmas Dinner	Foresters Arms

11	Thu	7pm	Talk by Martin West on <i>What Your Mother/Grandmother Did in the War</i>	Cobden Hall, Heyshott
		7.45pm	Petworth Sessions: Suntou Susso and Jess Tuthill	Leconfield Hall
12	Fri		Seaford College term ends	Seaford College
		4pm	Graffham Infant School nativity play (ticketed event for parents)	St Giles
		6pm	Choir rehearsal	St Giles Church
13	Sat	7.30pm	Petworth Town Band Christmas Concert	St Mary's, Petworth
14	Sun	10.30am	Family Eucharist with Graffham Infant School choir	St Giles
		3pm	Choir rehearsal	St Giles
		5pm	Candlelit festival of lessons and carols	St Giles
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
17	Wed	6pm	Petworth Chorus' Carols by Candlelight	St Mary's, Petworth
18	Thu	2.30pm	Graffham Infants School Christingle Service	St Giles
19	Fri		WSCC schools terms end	
20	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		6pm	Leconfield Singers Christmas concert	St Mary's Petworth
		7.30pm	Traditional Christmas Mummers Play	Three Moles
21	Sun		Shortest day of the year	
		9.45am	Graffham Down Trust work party	Meet at St Giles
		6pm	Communal carol singing	Foresters Arms
24	Wed	4pm	Crib service – tinsel, crowns and tea towels welcome!	St Giles
		evening	Christmas Eve fondue	Foresters Arms
		7pm	Candlelit Christmas Eve Eucharist	St Giles
25	Thu		Christmas Day	
		10.30am	Christmas Day Family Service	St Giles
		Lunchtime	Open for drinks	Foresters & Moles
26	Fri		Boxing Day	
28	Sun	Lunchtime	Vintage tractor run with BBQ	Three Moles
		7-10pm	Blues Night	Three Moles
31	Wed		New Year's Eve	
		evening	New Year's Eve Hootananny party	Foresters Arms
		evening	Open till late	Three Moles

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

<sup>2</sup>**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)

<b>Mondays</b>	9-10am	Fitflows Fitness <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
	6pm in summer	Bowls Club practices – all welcome	Rec
<b>Tuesdays</b>	8.30am-12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice – newcomers welcome	St Giles
<b>Wednesdays</b>	9-10am	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.15-11.30am	Teddy Time toddler group <sup>5</sup>	Pavilion
	11.15am-12noon	Pilates <sup>6</sup>	Empire Hall
	1.45-2.45pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching <sup>7</sup>	Rec
	5pm	Nina's Core to Floor <sup>3</sup>	Westerlands
	7-8.30pm	Badminton <sup>8</sup> – all welcome	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
<b>Thursdays</b>	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise <sup>9</sup>	Empire Hall
	6-7.15pm	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
<b>Fridays</b>	9-10.15am	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic <sup>10</sup>	Empire Hall
	Evenings	Tennis Club evenings	Pavilion
<b>Saturdays</b>	8.30am	Boxfit with Nina <sup>3</sup>	Westerlands
	9-10.15am	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
	10am	Nina's Core to Floor <sup>3</sup>	Westerlands
	10.30am	Yoga with Kate <sup>3</sup>	Westerlands
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic <sup>10</sup>	Empire Hall
<b>Sundays</b>	5pm	Pickleball <sup>11</sup>	Empire Hall
	5pm	Casual football <sup>12</sup>	Rec

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

<sup>1</sup>**Fitflows Fitness:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

<sup>2</sup>**Osteopath:** Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 303557 or see [www.annashawcross.co.uk](http://www.annashawcross.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup>**For all Westerlands events:** Book online at [www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit](http://www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit)

<sup>4</sup>**Yoga:** Deborah Albon on 07790 367009.

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

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

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

<sup>8</sup>**Badminton:** Contact Christina Federowicz on 07900 055574. All welcome.

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

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

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


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



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**Quiz answers (from page 43)** 1 [b] Wamba. 2 [b] Winchester – he had been [c] Bishop of Oxford from 1846-69. 3 38 – it opened in 1897. 4 Neuroblastoma UK. 5 Kamala Harris. 6 Pizza Hut. 7 [c] 1962-63. 8 [b] David Bowie. 9 Miriam Margolyes. 10 *Dad's Army*.

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# Directory: Useful local contact info

<b>DOCTORS</b>	Petworth Surgery	01798 342248
	Midhurst Riverbank Medical Centre	01730 812121
	Haslemere Minor Injuries Unit	01483 782334
<b>DEFIBRILLATORS</b>	On outside wall of <b>Empire Hall</b>	Code is <b>C240Z</b>
	On outside wall of <b>Pavilion</b>	Code is <b>C159X</b>
	In phone box outside <b>Pescods</b>	Code is also <b>C159X</b>
	In phone box opposite <b>The Three Moles</b>	No code needed
<b>FLOOD ALERT for Lods Bridge</b>	To check river level	bit.ly/lodsbridge
<b>POLICE</b>	In emergency	999
	Non-emergency	101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 101
<b>BURST WATER MAINS</b>	Southern Water	0800 820 999
<b>POWER CUTS</b>	Scottish & Southern Electric	105 or 0800 0727 282
<b>99 FLEX BUS</b>	Linking Graffham with Chichester, Petworth etc	Book via Ring Pingo app 01243 858854
<b>All Saints Chapel Trust</b>	Chairman Clive Rowntree	01798 867536
<b>Badminton</b>	Christina Federowicz	07900 055574
<b>Bees / Swarms</b>	Wisboro' Green B'keepers Tom Moore	07984 606214/01798 343470
	Local beekeeper Murray West	evenings 01798 867048
<b>Chichester District Council</b>		01243 534734
District Councillor	John Cross jcross@chichester.gov.uk	07592 307027
Dog Warden	Office hours/Emergency	01243 534734/01243 785339
<b>Citizens Advice Bureau</b>		03448 487969
<b>East Lavington Parish Council</b>	Chairman Simon Longman	simon.longman@eastlavington-pc.uk
	Clerk Amy Harte	07889 979820 eastlavingtonpc@gmail.com
<b>Empire Hall</b>	Bookings Anna Shawcross	bookings.empirehall@gmail.com 07971 204287
empirehall.org.uk	Chairman Ollie Boulton	07584 625059
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	Secretary Jonathan Simons	01798 867689
<b>Foodbank</b>	info@chichester.foodbank.org.uk	01243 773687
<b>Foresters Arms</b>	forestersarmsgraffham.com	01798 867386
<b>Graffham Archive</b>	Robin Brind	graffhamarchive@outlook.com 01798 867619
<b>Graffham Bellringers</b>	Tower Captain Howard Pescott	01798 867029
<b>Graffham Bowls Club</b>	Chairman Sheila Allen	01798 342869
	Secretary Liz Pegram	01798 867770
<b>Graffham Down Trust</b>	Chairman Jim Kirke	01798 867026
<b>Graffham Garden Group</b>	Carole Kirke	01798 867026
<b>Graff'm Health Support Assc</b>	Chairman Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
	Membership Tracy Rowe	07881 698993
	Transport	07391 802541
	Prescription collection Mary Taylor	mkt.bythedowns@gmail.com
	Loan of equipment Karin Skanberg	07920 091014
<b>Graffham Lunch Club</b>	Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
<b>Graffham Nursery</b>	School Office	01798 867324

<b>Graffham Parish Council</b>	Chairman	Gillian Charlesworth	gcharlesworth@graftam-pc.gov.uk
	Clerk	Amy Harte	clerk@graftam-pc.gov.uk
<b>Graffham Parish News</b>	Editorial and circulation:	editor.graftamparishnews@gmail.com	
	Advertising:	ads.graftamparishnews@gmail.com	
		See also inside front cover	
<b>Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council</b>		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
<b>Graffham Rec Committee</b>	Chairman	John Bracey	01798 867760
	Bookings Sec	Sonya Gillespie	graftamrecpavilion@gmail.com
<b>Graffham Tennis Club</b>	Chairman	Simon Longman	01798 867317
	Secretary	David Sparkes	07958 486211
	Coaching	Emma Amin	01798 867063
<b>Graffham Village Shop</b>		Jeeva and Vasu	01798 867700
		graftamvillageshop.co.uk	
<b>Graffham Village Shop Assoc</b>	Chairman	Steve Dover	07770 499223
	Treasurer	Andy Jones	andy.jones@graftam.net
	Secretary	Ros Britton	rosalind.britton@btinternet.com
<b>Katherine Maud Guillod Fund</b>	c/o Graffham PC Clerk		graftampc@gmx.co.uk
<b>Lavington Estate</b>	info@lavingtonstud.co.uk		01798 867275
<b>Lavington Park Federation</b>		graftamanddunton.w-sussex.sch.uk	
	Graffham CE Infant School		01798 867324
	Dunton CE Junior School		01798 342402
	Friends of Graffham & Dunton Schools		01798 867324
<b>Long Bostle Downland Soc</b>	Gillian Brandt		01798 867276
<b>MP Arundel &amp; South Downs</b>	Andrew Griffith	andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk	
<b>Midhurst &amp; Petworth Observer</b>			01243 534163
<b>National Trust (Lavington Common)</b>			01730 816638
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	Michael Crickmay		01798 867486
<b>Osteopath</b>	Anna Shawcross		01798 867523
<b>Oil Buying Syndicate</b>	Derek Bradnum	derekbradnum@gmail.com	
<b>Pilates at Empire Hall</b>	Nicky Capes		07990 517858
<b>Potholes</b>	To report a pothole or other road problem online	bit.ly/report-potholes-west-sussex	
<b>Seaford College</b>			01798 867392
<b>Three Moles</b>	Ollie and Tom	thethreemoles.com	01798 861303
<b>Thursday Club</b>	Secretary	Diane Bellis	01798 867444
<b>West Sussex County Council</b>	General enquiries		01243 777100
	County Councillor	Tom Richardson	07463 785039
<b>The Woodcote (formerly White Horse)</b>	thewoodcote.com		01798 867331
<b>Yoga at Empire Hall</b>	Deborah Albon		07790 367009





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