

GRAFFHAM

PARISH
NEWS

ISSUE 422

FREE

APRIL 2026



A million daffs dance on Middleheath
Full round up of all that's Easter in the village
Can you help with our hall's big spring clean?



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: The daffodils of Graffham's Middleheath Common have rarely put on a better display than this spring. *Graffham Parish News* columnist Jonathan Simons calculated that, with 100 blooms every square metre across a hectare, there were more than a million of the yellow trumpet flowers.

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

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Association for Church Editors

Writing from the Rectory: Jesus cares for you

If your *Graffham Parish News* arrives early this month, and you're like me and can't resist opening it right away, then you're likely to be reading this in or near Holy Week. Beginning this year on Palm Sunday 29 March and ending on Holy Saturday 4 April, Holy Week is a most significant time in the church year – a week when Christians come to church on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday as well as on Easter Sundays, a week which our little parish observes fully and reverently and encourages you to join in and experience and deepen your faith thereby.

Within this special week, I'm struck this year by the importance of Maundy Thursday in particular. On this day we hold an evening service recalling the institution of Holy Communion at the Last Supper, in preparation for which Jesus washed the disciples' feet. We re-enact this symbolically by washing of feet of any members of the congregation who wish. It reminds us of Jesus' self-identification as a servant in his willingness to undertake a task considered menial in his day, and the example he sets us to serve likewise.

I believe there is something more to extract from this action however, as Jesus is not just telling us something about his own nature but he is telling us something of our own. In the washing of feet, Jesus is show-

► *Continued on next page*



Do come and join us at St Giles Church's Holy Week and Easter services. Who knows – there may even also be some Easter eggs and real Easter lambs!
See page 49 for details.



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

Vivien's rest days are Fridays and Saturdays (apart from for weddings and other special events).

Churchwarden: Cindy Bradley 07787 516522

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stgilesgraffham.org



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► *Continued from previous page*

ing us he knows people have a need to be cared for. We live in times when this message needs to be heard very much indeed, when many people are going through the most stressful challenges and finding life daunting, having to work out how to



manage or negotiate the difficulties being faced. What is needed of a loving God is not so much someone to ‘magic’ our problems away, as to show us we are cared for as we address our challenges ourselves.

The gentleness of Jesus’ foot-washing speaks eloquently without words of his care for us, like a friend who hugs us to show they are loving us though.

If you are facing a distressing kind of challenge just now, please know this loving-kindness is extended to you. There is much blessing to be received in releasing ourselves into the reality of this love.

I wish you all a spiritually enriching Holy Week and a happy Easter.



Reverend Vivien



God bless our animals!

Bring your pet to be blessed at our annual service for animals!

Dogs, rabbits, chickens, cats, goldfish, budgies, ferrets, sheep and horses welcome – even caged rats or lizards!

St Giles Church, Graffham Sunday 26 April, 10.30am

Lavington's Simon joins Graffham ahead of merger

East Lavington Parish Council Chairman Simon Longman has been co-opted to Graffham Parish Council as the proposed merger between the two bodies moves ahead. He said the move “demonstrates we are committed to working together to this end and will help smooth the transition to the eventual new combined council”.

After more than a year of discussions and extensive consultation with their parishioners, both current parish councils have voted to merge, subject to final details being ironed out.

Chichester District Council, which must rule on any such combination, is proposing to meet with representatives of both parish councils in late May to discuss a potential pathway to the merger – delayed by the late reinstatement of the West Sussex County Council elections early next month, which has diverted the attention of the relevant officers.

Simon was elected Chairman of East Lavington Parish Council at its meeting last May, after serving as one of its councillors for five years. He drafted a business case proposing that the two parish councils should merge, which he presented at a joint meeting of the villages last year.

Current chairman also of Graffham Tennis Club, he recently spearheaded the campaign to bring ultra-fast broadband to East Lavington. He has lived in Norwood Lane for 14 years with his wife and their two teenage children, both at Seaford College. He works as a consultant, leading a project to install a new IT system for Network Rail, covering 1,600 locations across the country.

- Hilary Major is also being co-opted back onto Graffham Parish Council as a councillor. She served in this capacity for several years until recently. A long-term and active member of the village, she has volunteered over the years as the council's footpath warden, Secretary of Graffham Recreation Ground Committee, Tower Captain of St Giles' bellringers and summer fête treasurer.

Meantime, Fiona Jacob is standing down as a Graffham parish councillor. She has served on the council for three years, most recently as Chair of its Planning Committee and as its representative on the Empire Hall committee of trustees. Chairman Gillian Charlesworth thanked Fiona for her contribution in this role.



East Lavington's parish council chair Simon Longman.

Council tax bills rise by 4.9 per cent

Council tax for householders in Graffham – and throughout Chichester District – is being raised by an inflation-busting 4.9 per cent for the new 2026-27 financial year.

The bill comprises four elements:

- West Sussex County Council is hiking its charges by 4.99 per cent to cover its total budget of £2.3 billion. For typical Band D properties, that means £1,890 for the year, an increase of £90.
- Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner is raising charges by 5.6 per cent, to cover its annual spending of £447 million. For Band D homes, that means £282 for the year, up £15.
- Chichester District Council is increasing its tax in line with the latest retail price index, at 3.0 per cent, towards its full year spending of £18.1 million before external support. For band D householders, that equates to £198 for the year, up £5.74.
- Parish council precepts. As previously reported, Graffham is freezing its budget at £19,200, but changes in the way the precept is calculated for each household results in a 4.4 per cent increase for householders, with Band D property contributing £53.93 from this month, up from £51.65. East Lavington is increasing its budget by 6.25 per cent to £4,250, up £250. Changes in the way the precept is calculated for each property means a Band D home will pay 11.5 per cent more at £31.88, a £3.29 increase. Heyshott's budget is unchanged at £10,500, which means £56.99 for Band D home owners.

In total then, Graffham Band D householders will pay council tax of £2,402 for 2026-27, a rise of around £110, while for those in East Lavington it will be £2,380.

New way to keep hedges and verges neat and safe

Graffham Parish Council is adopting a new approach to ensuring that hedges throughout the village do not block sight lines for and endanger the safety of drivers, horse riders or pedestrians and ensure that verges are repaired when they have been damaged by building work.

Now, the parish clerk will write to home owners when action is needed to cut back overgrown hedges or make good verges that have been damaged, asking them to address problems.

All property owners have what is known as “riparian” responsibility for the land between their property and the road, meaning that hedges, verges and trees on such land must be tended appropriately by them. While it is against the law to trim

hedges between 1 March and 31 August to protect nesting wild birds, this requirement is overridden when overgrown shrubs, hedges and low tree branches cause safety risks by blocking sight lines or signage.

Graffham Parish Council Chairman Gillian Charlesworth said: “The parish council would welcome all residents who receive such a letter helping in these ways to keep Graffham safe and attractive for all.”

Can you help give our hall a big spring clean?

The Empire Hall is being given a thorough clean and tidy up over the weekend of 17-19 April – and your help is needed! Anyone willing and able to help– cleaning, painting, tidying, sorting, gardening, whatever – is asked to contact its Maintenance Officer Tom Richardson at tom.richardson@live.co.uk or on 07932 865154. Those happy to climb ladders will be particularly welcome!

Ahead of that, anyone who keeps anything in the hall is being asked to label it clearly. Anything unclaimed or unidentified risks being disposed of. Tom said: “If you have anything at all stored in the hall, please ensure that, in the next couple of weeks, it is clearly marked with your name or the name of your group and what it is used for. Anything left un-labelled may be removed from the hall or put somewhere you may not find it!”

Oil, wet wipes and sanitary items block sewers

Southern Water has been called to clear several blockages in sewers serving Graffham and East Lavington recently – caused by solidified cooking oil, wet wipes and other sanitary products. Residents are reminded NOT to put these kinds of items down their loos or sinks for everyone’s sake.

GRAFFHAM
HEALTH SUPPORT
ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Open to all Graffham residents

Tuesday 14 April, 3pm

Empire Hall

Residents praised for response to emergency

Graffham residents have been praised for the way they rallied round when a walker hiking the South Downs Way suffered a suspected cardiac arrest on top of Graffham Down on the morning of Saturday 14 March.

One of the victim's friends accompanying him, a former police officer, and his other companions immediately responded by giving him cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and called the emergency services. About 20 minutes later, when villager Mary Coakes, who was walking her dog in the area at the time, saw what was going on, she immediately phoned her husband Roger, a retired surgeon. He at once asked near neighbour Graffham Down Trust chairman Jim Kirke to give him a ride to the accident scene in his four-by-four, taking a defibrillator with them.

Roger said later: "Although it was a good half hour after the man first collapsed, he responded to the first defibrillator shock and soon showed some signs of recovery."

Ten to 15 minutes later, the Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance helicopter, which had been scrambled from its Redhill base, found a spot to land on Bowleys Reserve, a few hundred metres from where the patient was, and took over in what Roger described as "a highly professional manner".

At least five road ambulances and incident response vehicles also rushed to provide assistance. Deer stalker Ben Marks, Foresters Arms landlord Peter Bradley and fellow villager Annabel Heaton, who by then had joined the effort, and Jim shuttled





At least five ambulances and incident response vehicles, along with several police cars, sped to the St Giles end of The Street on 14 March – while the Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance airlifted the patient from Bowleys Reserve on Graffham Down.

the paramedics up to the top from St Giles and Ladywell Cottage in their 4x4s, with Dave Consalvi, who lives next to the church, also lending a hand.

The man, in his early fifties, was airlifted by the helicopter to Brighton. Two days later, he was making sufficient a recovery to be moved from Royal Sussex County Hospital's intensive care unit to the cardiac critical care ward.

Roger added: "I have not been involved in a cardiac arrest since I was a hospital houseman and it is very gratifying to know that there appears to have been a good outcome – due in very large part to his colleagues and the air ambulance."

In a message to the Graffham helpers afterwards, one of the patient's friends said: "Thank you so much for your assistance and that of the village. It was very reassuring to be surrounded by such supportive strangers."

Training in first aid and how to use defibrillators is to be made available to villagers shortly through Graffham Health Support Association and funded by Graffham Parish Council. The course will be suitable for those who would like to refresh their skills or as a first-time learner. Watch this space.

Five defibrillators are available for public use within the parish – at the Empire Hall, Recreation Ground Pavilion, converted phone boxes at Pescods and The Three Moles and in Graffham Infant School. Details are carried in the directory in the inside back pages of each edition of *Graffham Parish News*, including their codes and whether any of them are currently out of order. The defibrillator at the Empire Hall has been awaiting a new battery, which is expected to be installed this month. Codes for accessing the devices at the Pavilion and Pescods are now displayed on them.



Applause Rural Touring &
Empire Hall, Graffham present

Behind Enemy Lines

by

Louise Jordan

SONGWRITER, MUSICIAN, AND STORYTELLER

Saturday, May 16th 8.00pm

A powerful true story of courage, secrecy and sacrifice - with deep local connections.

Behind Enemy Lines brings to life the extraordinary women of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) who operated undercover in Nazi-occupied France during the Second World War. Through original song, live music and immersive storytelling, Louise Jordan reveals lives lived in the shadows - brave, resourceful and determined.

These secret histories are closely connected to our own area:

- SOE training took place around Midhurst and Petworth
- French resistance fighters parachuted in for joint exercises
- Missions were dispatched from nearby Tangmere air base

*"A great mix
of song, dance
and words."*

*"An amazing,
moving and poignant
performance."*

*"Not just theatre - it was
remembrance. Insightful,
meticulously researched and
profoundly moving."*

Salisbury Journal

*"Hugely, hugely
impressive."*

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Sell out success for hall's most ambitious gig yet

The most ambitious gig yet staged in the Empire Hall proved a resounding success, with the appearance of 1980s R&B legends Nine Below Zero a complete sell-out on Saturday 14 March – and raising more than £2,000 for the hall.

Every one of the 200 tickets available was sold, with fans from as far away as Liverpool joining more locally based concert goers.

Graffham was the final stop on the cult band's tour to mark 45 years since the release of its breakthrough album *Live at the Marquee* – after gigs at Newcastle, Derby and London's Walthamstow.

The village's volunteer impresario Jim Kirke says: "I've been organising events at

the hall for nearly 10 years, with the goal to deliver fun and entertainment while raising funds for the hall.

The Nine Below Zero event was the most ambitious yet, with the band having headlined iconic



venues worldwide. We were honoured to host the final night of their national tour with another unforgettable show."

Next event at the hall is a play with live music and original songs, *Behind Enemy Lines*, recounting the true story of special operations executives in World War II, on 16 May (see opposite page). Three more gigs are scheduled for later this year:

- Pink Floyd tribute band Wall of Floyd will headline on 19 September.
- London-based singer songwriter with Graffham connections Ed Blunt will be returning on Saturday 24 October after two sell-out appearances at the Empire Hall in the past couple of years.
- Eight-piece band Le Freak, featuring the music of Nile Rogers and Chic, will also be returning by popular demand on 14 November.

To book tickets for all Empire Hall events, follow links from empirehall.org.uk/tickets

Planning applications and decisions

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

Tweaks for Tangletrees in bid for third time lucky

Revised proposals for Tangletrees, overlooking Graffham Recreation Ground, have been filed in a third bid for planning approval to replace the current building with a new, eco-friendly house after Chichester District Council (CDC) planners blocked the two previous proposals.

The latest set of papers filed in support of the application include a draft “Section 106” agreement between CDC and the applicants altering the area designated as “residential curtilage” within the property’s overall boundaries, enabling the building to be sited on a north to south axis instead of the present west to east.

Meantime, Chichester district councillor John Cross has “red-carded” the case, which means it must be decided by the council’s planning committee rather than being left to its officers. Explaining why he had made this move, he said: “A decision needs to be made on this application as it has had many iterations over a




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Tangletrees' latest revised plans (left) show more regular tiling with a dormer window replacing an area of glazing set behind timbered louvres on the roof between the two main buildings in the previous design (right).

long period of time and needs to be brought to a conclusion one way or another.” The committee meets next on 15 April, and then on 13 May, both Wednesdays.

The first proposal for rebuilding Tangletrees was put forward in January 2023 and turned down by CDC in December that year. A revised scheme was posted the following month, and refused by the council again four months later, in May 2024, with a government planning inspector supporting that decision when it was taken to appeal. The third application was initiated in March last year, with the latest revisions posted between 26 February and 2 March this year.

In their refusing the second application, the planning authorities said “by reason of its siting, design, scale and appearance, it would result in a dominant and incongruous form of development which would be out of character with the pattern of development and local vernacular of the area failing to conserve and enhance the landscape character of the South Downs National Park”.

The latest proposal aims to overcome those objections, with the size of the new structure reduced and, as with the previous plan, the building moved slightly to the north and re-orientated by 90°, reducing its visual impact from the main public viewpoint, from the south. Like before, the new house would comprise two barn-style units connected by a central entrance way, with that connection now to be given a pitched roof in red tiles. Other changes include making the south-facing gables half-hipped. The amount of glazing on the north, south and east elevations has also been reduced and the boundary of the residential planning unit adjusted.

Tangletrees, Graffham GU28 0QA: Replacement dwelling, ancillary building and associated landscaping including ha-ha and pond. *SDNP/25/01181/FUL. Validated 10 Apr 2026. Consultation ended 18 Mar 2026.*

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Fresh proposals posted for The Folly

Fresh plans for The Folly, Graffham Common Road, Graffham, have been submitted after the original proposals were refused by Chichester District Council planners on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority, with those rulings upheld by a government planning inspector.

Under two separate planning applications, permission is being sought to convert the current garage, adjoining the house, into more living area with the ground floor further extended to provide additional space and the first floor extended to create an additional bedroom. Outside, a new two-bay garage would be erected, with a workshop and loo on the ground floor and a playroom above, across the first floor. The overall plans have been adapted from the original scheme in a bid to overcome issues raised first time around.

The Folly, Graffham Common Road, Graffham GU28 0PT: Replacement of existing garage and erection of two storey extensions to dwelling. Erection of garage with pitched dormer windows and conservation rooflights. *SDNP/26/00022/HOUS/SDNP/25/04998/HOUS. Validated 13/19 Feb 2026. Consultation ends 23/30 Mar 2026.*

Decisions

Marsh Cottage, Woodcote, Graffham GU28 0NY: Removal of existing conservatory and four outbuildings. Single storey rear extension and side extension and erection of a workshop outbuilding with PV panels with associated works. *SDNP/25/05074/HOUS. APPROVED 27 Feb 2026.*

Water and cable works to close roads

Fitzlea Wood Road remains subject to closure until 30 May to enable contractors working for Southern Water to install new water connections. Selham Road will be shut on 29 April for up to a day to allow OpenReach to carry out network repairs.

Easter market – full report in next edition

Graffham's Easter Market, the biggest fund-raiser of the year for the village's Empire Hall, took place on Saturday 21 March – just after this edition went to press. Watch for a full report and pictures in next month's issue.





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Best daffs in Graffham: Marie Bracey won the Harmer Cup for the best daffodils displayed at the Graffham Garden Group spring show and AGM, at the Empire Hall on Friday 13 March. She's pictured (left) receiving it from club chairman Carole Kirke. Marie also won the award for best hellebores (below right), while Gay Foord's entry was judged the best vase of spring flowers (below left). The AGM talk



was given by Beverly Exall, a local gardening consultant and former horticultural adviser at RHS Wisley. She spoke about sustainable and wildlife gardening in our changing climate. The committee was re-elected in its entirety – Carole as Chairman, Carole Sargent as Treasurer, Marie Bracey as Show Organiser, Alison Davidson as Membership Secretary, Nicky West as Outings Organiser, Gail Paterson as Secretary and Village Enhancements Co-ordinator, Carol Tompkins as Catering Co-ordinator and Peter Hardcastle and Matt Bond as committee members.



Garden group gears up for first outing of year

Monday 27 April 11am

Visit to Borde Hill

Borde Hill Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1XP

A 2,300 acre estate owned by the same family for 130 years, with one of the UK's rarest collections of champion trees. The house is surrounded by 13 'garden rooms' with heritage parkland and ancient woodland beyond. Magnificent displays of magnolias, camellias, azaleas and rhodos.



£13.95 (concessions £12.95, Historic Houses cardholders free). Pay on arrival. Two cafes – one inside the visitor entrance building and the other within the garden.

Saturday 9 May 10-11am

Spring plant sale

Empire Hall, Graffham



A wide range of Graffham-grown vegetable plants – including tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes and beans – and also some flowers, such as sweet peas, ammi and cosmos. First come, first served!

Thursday 28 May 2.30pm

Visit to Meadow Farm

Blackgate Lane, Pulborough RH20 1DF

Private tour of this two acre garden plus wildflower meadows designed by the current owners. Colour themed beds, formal pond, walled garden and orchard with hazelnut walk.



£12, including tea and cake. Pay on arrival.

Thursday 11 June 10.30am

Visit to Dale Park House

Dale Park House, Madhurst, Arundel BN18 0NP



Private tour of garden set in parkland with magnificent views of the sea. Walled garden features a 200ft herbaceous border. Sunken gravel garden, mixed borders, rose garden, kitchen garden, orchard.

£6 including tea/coffee and cake. Pay on arrival.





Saturday 11 July 2.30pm

Flower and produce show

Empire Hall, Graffham



A chance to show off the results of your hard work in your garden and kitchen this summer, with classes for flowers, vegetables, fruit, baking and preserving – including marmalade, so get bubbling now! – along with five photography classes –

-  Colourful and Outrageous
-  Local Scene
-  Building/ Architecture
-  Animal Portrait

New this year: Marmalade, handmade toy and any knitted or crochet item.

Thursday 23 July 2pm

Visit to Thakeham Place Farm & Cumberland House

The Street and Cray's Lane, Thakeham, Pulborough RH20 3EP

Thakeham Place Farm's garden has evolved over the last 35 years with borders full of sun loving plants and grasses, a more formal area surrounding the house and a new pond to encourage wildlife.

Cumberland House is a Georgian village home next to the 12th century church with a beautiful mature English country garden. Walled garden with well stocked flower beds and informal garden with vegetables, fruit and herbs.



£10 to both gardens. Pay on arrival. Teas available at Thakeham Place Farm.

Tuesday 11 August 2pm

Visit to West Dean

West Dean PO18 0RX



92 acres of gardens and parkland surrounding West Dean House. Walled kitchen garden, restored Victorian glasshouses, orchard and 100-metre long Edwardian pergola. Arboretum with magnificent views of the South Downs. Since Tom Browne took over as head gardener, areas of the spring garden have been replanted as a dry garden and the sunken garden replanted.

£13.50 (Historic Houses cardholders free). Pay on arrival. Café at entrance to gardens.

School report: Fund raising for kitchens and playground

Graffham Infant and Duncton Junior Business Manager Jenny Godfrey provides her monthly update on what is going on at our village schools.



Playground revamp With current fundraising for the playground progressing, we are now in a position to start re-vamping the playground at Graffham Infant School starting with a new climbing frame which will be installed this summer. We are really excited to be getting this project off the ground. Friends of Graffham and Duncton, our parent-teacher association, is continuing to raise funds so that we can complete the rest of the project in the year ahead.

This month we will be rebuilding the dragon in the Wren play area at Graffham. I found out recently it was built many years ago with the help of an artist and even includes pieces of Chichester Cathedral! Parents are volunteering their time to restore this wonderful part of the playground and Chandlers, our local building supplies retailer, at Heath End, has kindly provided the materials at a discount.

Help us cook up our new kitchens We have started raising funds too for the new kitchens at both Graffham and Duncton so that we can cook our own fresh hot lunches starting in September, as detailed in our March update. If you feel able to support this incredibly important initiative, you can do so via gofund.me/c164115eb. Thank you to everyone who has already donated.

Quiz night The next big fund raiser being staged by the Friends of Graffham and Duncton is a general knowledge quiz at Duncton Village Hall on Friday 14 April at 8pm. All proceeds go towards fundraising for the schools, and if the last quiz was anything to go by, it's going to be a great night out. See poster opposite for details.

Join our governing board We have a vacancy on our governing board and would be delighted if there is someone in the local community who would be willing to volunteer for the role - contact me for more details, at jgodfrey@dunctonjunior.org.uk or on 01798 867324.

Follow us on social media We have been trying to share more updates via social media. You can keep in touch with us via:

- www.instagram.com/graffhamandduntonschools
- www.facebook.com/graffhamanddunton

QUIZ NIGHT



is back!



Duncton Village Hall

Friday 24th April

8pm onwards



£5 per person • Teams 2-8 players

Hosted by FGD:

Raising funds for our schools

Tickets available in advance from the school offices - 01798 867324

Refreshments available on the night!



Life at Seaford College Prep School



How do parents decide which school is right for their child?

With so many choices available, finding the right school can feel like a big decision. From talking to our current families, we know that nothing beats seeing a school in action and getting a real feel for everyday life.

To support you with this important decision, we're delighted to invite families considering Reception entry in September 2026 to join us for a series of fun and engaging taster days here at our bespoke facility on our beautiful campus in the South Downs.

Our much-loved **Little Seaford Saturday morning events** will take place in March and May as well as midweek Seaford **Discovery Sessions**. These relaxed and friendly events give children the chance to explore, play and try new things, while parents can meet our wonderful staff and experience what makes Seaford so special.

Each Seaford Discovery Session will focus on a different part of school life, including sport, dance and music, art and forest school, giving families a real flavour of the breadth of opportunities on offer.



Parents are welcome to stay and play or drop off, and families can book onto one or more sessions (subject to availability).

Advance booking is essential, so please contact Hayley at receptionclass@seaford.org or call 01798 867893 to find out more and reserve your place.

Registration for our Reception Class 2026 is now open.

Seaford College has recently been awarded the highest possible rating of 'Excellent' in all areas in our ISI inspection. You can read the full report here: www.seaford.org/life-at-seaford/isi-inspection-report

Our next Open Morning will take place on 9th May 2026 and we would love to welcome you to this informal morning where you will have a tour with one of our students.

Contact Hayley, Prep School Admissions: receptionclass@seaford.org

Love to learn

From Town Hall: The planning process

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



One of the issues that I get contacted about the most, apart from potholes, is planning. It's a complex, difficult and emotive subject, whether you are applying for approval or are affected by an application or enforcement matter.

There simply isn't enough space here to go through the whole subject but let me give a simple insight. Firstly, when an application is received by the planning authority, it has to be validated. This can take time. Until all the relevant documents are gathered, the authority can't start deciding on whether to approve it. Sometimes it's something quite easy to resolve, like a block plan. Or it can be complicated – for instance, a survey needing specialist help.

If a planning application isn't validated, then it doesn't move forward. If it has been validated, then the planning authority approaches all statutory consultees. There can be many of them – but they will always include the relevant parish council, whose input is seriously considered by planning officers. Parish councils comprise the elected representative of the local area and carry weight. So it is important that anyone making a planning application should consult with the local parish council. This can save a lot of time and money and provide good advice.

Once the opinions of all relevant consultees have been provided, an application can then be considered by the planning officers, taking account of planning law and policies, and a decision is made.

As a district councillor, I get involved in applications handled by Chichester District Council when the planning officers disagree with the recommendations of the parish council. I will rarely contradict the parish council, as it knows the locality and issues better than me. My role is usually in helping individual applicants and prodding planning officers to move the process forward. At that stage, I can have no influence over their decisions – I can only lobby them to make a decision. In rare cases, where there is a public interest beyond planning policy or law, I can ask for the application to be brought to the Chichester District Council planning committee. That does not apply to cases that have been “called in” by the South Downs National Park Authority, where no such system exists.

If an application is brought to Chichester District Council's planning committee for a decision, the officers give a presentation on the case, then those for and against

► *Continued on page 23*



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► Continued from page 21

the application are allowed to speak – a maximum of three from each side, for a maximum of three minutes each – and then the committee, which is made up of elected members from all political parties, will debate and come to a decision.

It is important to note that the committee is non-political and acts in a semi-judicial way –its decision is binding law, unless overturned on appeal.

There's a misconception that the planning committee has a lot of power. In fact, it is heavily constrained by government planning policy and law. It often has to approve applications it does not like or support because to refuse them would mean a costly appeal which, unless there is valid legal reason for rejection, it would lose.

Do contact me or your parish council if you do need help with a planning application.

10 April deadline for WSCC election candidates

Nominations of candidates standing in the West Sussex County Council election, back on for 7 May, will be published on Friday 10 April – with those standing to represent our area planned to feature in next month's *Graffham Parish News*. The poll had originally been postponed because of the current reorganisation of local authorities but the government reinstated them in the face of a legal challenge.

FITTLEWORTH GARDEN TRAIL

Sunday 3 and Monday 4 May 2026

all in aid of St. Mary's Church, Fittleworth

This year's trail will feature several new gardens, some returning after a few years away and several much-loved favourites.

We'll be offering Teas, Sandwiches and Cake along with Plants and other attractions including the ever popular Miscellaneous stall as usual in The Village Hall

Village Hall opens from 12.30pm.

Gardens open 1-5pm.

Tickets £7.50. Under 16s free.

Ruby Allen (1935-2026)

Ruby Alway was born on 9 May 1935 in Hanwell, Middlesex, where her father ran a barber's shop, which her only brother Godfrey took over while Ruby trained as a secretary on leaving school. She worked for the police, often at Heathrow Airport, and for firms of solicitors, where she would report from the courts.

In her early twenties, Ruby met and married Alan Gordon, who was involved in producing film sets for Pinewood Studios. They lived in Ealing and before long son Lawrence and twins Simon and Liz joined the family. The marriage did not last, though. After the split, Ruby moved to Thames Ditton with the children.

It was not long before she met Don Allen and they sold their separate properties, jointly buying Eastwood Farm in Graffham. They threw themselves into village life, and Ruby's love of animals (generally four dogs and two cats!) fitted perfectly.



Don was a leading light in various village social activities, organising the fête for many years as well as dinner/dances in the Empire Hall for Christmas and Valentines.

Ruby was enlisted to cook and generally support all of these events and invariably did so without complaint. She is remembered as a kind and enthusiastic contributor to Graffham life. In 1990, Don and Ruby took on a lodger in the cottage at Eastwood – Roger Burgess, who would go on to become firm friends with the couple and threw himself into village life as well, golfing and playing tennis with Don.

Ruby and Don downsized to a house in Burton Park in 2000. Roger, who had by then moved to Devon, came for a weekend visit and, in his own words, “stayed for 20 years!” Roger was to be a great help as Don became ill, assisting Ruby in getting him to and from hospital appointments. After Don died, Ruby threw herself even more into local life. She walked everywhere from her Burton Park house, joined the Sutton Women's Institute and went on all available garden tours. She and Roger made frequent trips to London and were regular cinemagoers. Her three children and five grandchildren would visit for high days and holidays but it was the companionship of Roger which would help her through her final two years.

Ruby died on 16 January, aged 90, with her funeral held on 19 February at St Giles.

Sarah Buckley (1952-2026)

Sarah was born on 16 September 1952 in Guildford to Bill and Peggy Sale. An only child, she had a happy childhood, attending Tormead School, riding and playing tennis. She had hoped to attend Farnham Art School, but her parents were not quite so keen on that idea – it was the heyday of rock n’roll and drugs. Instead, Sarah took jobs in the radiotherapy department at the town’s St Luke’s Hospital and in marketing.

She met her future husband Ian at Woking Tennis Club. He says he was struck by her vivacious personality and dazzling good looks. They married at St John’s Church, Woking, on 20 July 1974, when Sarah was 21. It was not long before their first daughter Anna, arrived. Cami, their second, followed soon afterwards, and Sarah and Ian threw themselves into parenthood, with family holidays in Devon, Cornwall or the South of France.

Sarah continued to ride in her free time – until a serious riding accident while in her thirties, when she almost lost a leg. While doctors were keen to amputate, the family convinced them to save it, and Sarah was eventually able to walk again.

Her physical limitations prompted her to take up other activities. Her earlier artistic inclinations came to fruition as she took up sculpture. Her love of people and nature became her inspiration and, mainly working in clay, she succeeded to such an extent that her work has been displayed at RHS Wisley, among other locations.

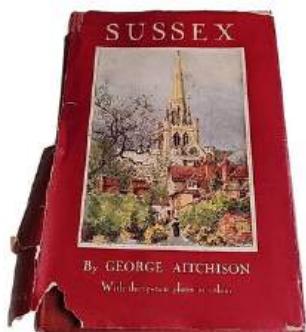


Sarah and Ian had lived in Stoughton in West Sussex for more than 15 years when, with her health failing, they would move in with Cami, her husband Mike and their family at Graffham. Cami and Mike sold The Retreat and the family bought Oakfield, just down The Street, with plenty of room for Sarah’s sculptures – and dogs! She was able to enjoy the wonderful summer of 2025 here in the village before moving to Petworth Cottage Nursing Home in September.

She died on 17 January 2026, aged 73, and her funeral was held on 9 February in the Lady Chapel of Chichester Cathedral, where she and Ian had worshipped every Sunday, with the Dean officiating, before she was buried in St Giles’ churchyard here in Graffham, at a private service conducted by the Rev Vivien.

Graffham Chronicles: A true man of Sussex

In her column this month, local historian Pauline Goodwin tells of a former Graffham resident who wrote a one-time definitive guide to our county.



I first came across George Aitchison when leafing through a copy of *Sussex County* magazine from May 1950. An article written by him captured my attention, as it defines the very character of Graffham, settled on its escarpment, beneath the “great wall of chalk”.

Even the title of the piece *Graffham – Village of Seven Hills* shows the extent of his regard for our village, as the comparison of Graffham to the ancient city of Rome is astonishing. He also reminds us that “the Sussex village

can boast that its seven hills are bigger and better than those of the Imperial city”. The power of this extended comparison is striking and shows the writer’s skill in creating an article rich in both content and description. I’ve often found inspiration within its five pages in which he describes “the subtle secrets of the Downs”.

I was keen to find out more about this author who seemed to understand the character of our village. Recently, I was delighted to discover an article about him in *The Petworth Society Magazine* of June 2015, written by local historian Shaun Cooper who is very concerned with Sussex, its past and folklore. (He is the Moderator of The Sussex Dialect and Folklore Group on Facebook.)

Reading his article, I found out that George was a true man of Sussex, hailing from East Sussex but with a strong preference for West Sussex. Shaun Cooper has also discovered that George actually moved to Graffham in 1948 – which explains his understanding of our village! His family lived at Brackwood on Graffham Common Road. He stayed there before moving back to East Sussex for the final few years of his life. Furthermore, it was while living in Graffham that he wrote the *Seven Hills* article.

George’s Graffham article minutely examines the natural history, people, history and beautiful landscape of the seven hills, with its floor of “varying types of clay and loam” and fragile chalk environs “bewilderingly bounded by the various brooklets, narrow and deep, that flow on their way to the Rother” – home to rare chalk streams. Worldwide, only 200 exist with 160 of them in the UK, mostly in Southern England with Graffham playing host to many babbling brooks. His



Graffham and its hills – from the YouTube video *A Misty September Morning Walk* by John & Diana.

comparison of the Imperial city with Graffham is developed throughout George’s article as he reminds us that both places are where great religious leaders have lived and worked. The Graffham greats he mentions are the Rev John Sargent, Bishop Wilberforce and Cardinal Manning who oversaw the restoration of St Giles.

Moreover, George selects a variety of aspects of Graffham’s history to highlight key events which have precipitated changes and made our village what it is today. He reaches back to the ancients and their barrows and “intrenchments” and discusses a couple of squires – Lord Woolavington and Garton Orme. He details the impact on our village of the former, when still Sir James Buchanan, of Black and White whisky fame, and his benevolence to the village in providing the Empire Hall and Homes of Rest. He reminds us that on Lord Woolavington’s death, in 1937, David Euan Wallace, then Minister of Transport, became “master of Lavington”. He ends noting that the house and park are now a school.



Among the Graffham characters George Aitchison wrote about were Lord Woolavington (left) and David Euan Wallace, pictured right with his family.

So who was George

▶ *Continued on next page*

► *Continued from previous page*

Aitchison? As stated earlier, he was a true man of Sussex who certainly earned the title Downsman. He was born in 1877 in the Preston area of Brighton and attended Brighton and Hove Grammar School. On leaving school, he worked at the *Brighton and Hove Herald* for 50 years, eventually becoming editor and a director of the newspaper. During his working life, he gained prominence in several Sussex-based societies, reflecting his linguistic talent and his preoccupation for all things Sussex. For example, for 55 years he was a member of the Institute of Journalists and was made a Fellow in 1925. He was President of both the Sussex Poetry Society and the Brighton and Hove Archaeological Society.

George was also a published author of poetry, articles, novels and factual books. He wrote novels and poetry under the pen name of A C Thyson. For example, the poem *The Warrior Pine Wood* can be found in *Another Book of Sussex Verse*, published in 1928. It is about a pine wood found between Graffham and Duncton. Under his own name he wrote a couple of books about Sussex. The first is about Brighton and the second is simply called *Sussex* and has 32 illustrations in colour by Wilfrid Ball who exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Royal Society of Painters, Etchers and Engravers and the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours.

George died on 30 April 1954 and his obituary in *The Sussex County Magazine* described him as “a man who deserves an honoured place among the most knowledgeable and able of contemporary journalists.” His ashes were scattered at Graffham, and as Shaun Cooper writes, “his spirit may yet be singing there.” For as George himself wrote at the end of his book *Sussex*, “in East as in West, in Downland and in Weald, Sussex is still ‘selig’ – blest home of ancient peace.”



George Aitchison was fascinated by the barrows and tumuli that litter our landscape, notably at the top of Graffham Down.

Did you know...? You can recycle the tops from your plastic milk bottles and used printer cartridges – and raise funds for charities at the same time? Just drop them (as clean as you can make them!) into the appropriate boxes at St Giles Church. The milk bottle tops are recycled to make plastic toys for children, with proceeds given to Chestnut Tree Children’s Hospital. Old printer cartridges are also sold for recycling, in aid of other good causes.

Bill's bygones: Tea party, typist, ticket

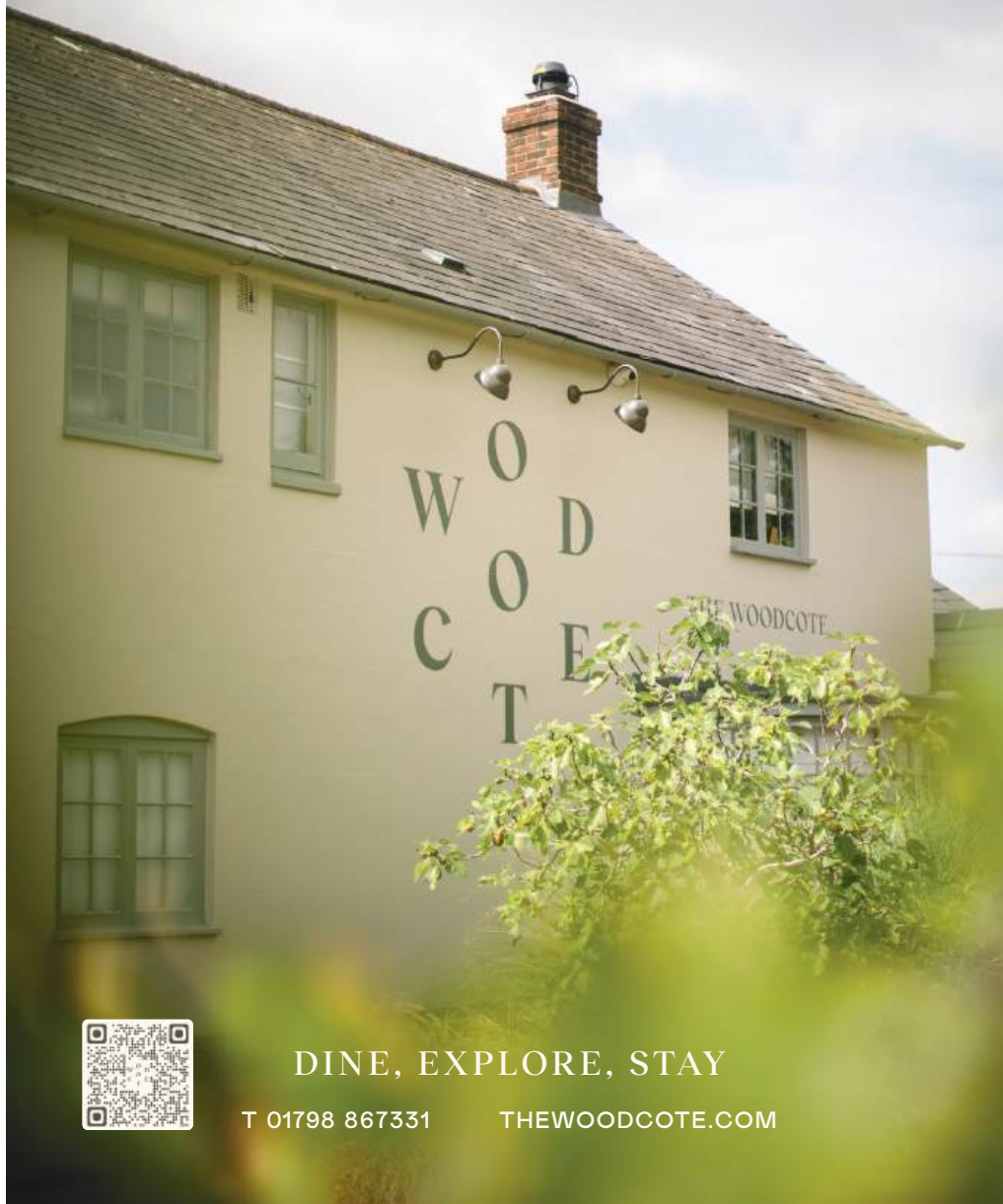
A regular feature in which joint editor Bill Barrett looks back at what was happening in the village and the wider world this month in the past.

10 years ago – April 2016: Graffham Empire Movies screens *The Lady in the Van* and *Suffragette*. Graffham Infant School invites the village to join it for a tea party to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. Graffham Village Shop Association's Management Committee (Ros Britton, Hugh Brown, Jo Crow and Richard French) appeals for at least one more member to join the team. The Bowls Club's season begins with an open day hosted by club captain Den Petter, vice-Captain Wendy Folkes and treasurer Kym Pegram. A minimum wage of £7.20 an hour for all workers aged over 25 comes into effect, as does the law requiring all dogs in the UK to be microchipped. Yorkshireman Danny Willett wins the US Masters. Rule The World wins the Grand National. Deaths of comedian and actor Victoria Wood (aged 62) and musician Prince (*Purple Rain*, 57).

25 years ago – April 2001: Churchwardens Allan Findlay and Roger Mozley encourage all on the electoral roll to attend the annual Parochial Church Council meeting to welcome new Rector Mark Gilbert at the beginning of his ministry. At the Thursday Club, Canon Peter Cole gives a talk on his memories of Zimbabwe. *Graffham Parish News* editor Paula Burke appeals for a new typist to cover the four hours needed per issue. Manchester United win the Premier League for the third season running and sign Ruud van Nistelroy for a record £19 million. Red Marauder wins the Grand National. Deaths of village stalwart Daphne Howick (73), entertainer Harry Secombe (79) and Ramones singer Joey Ramone (49).

50 years ago – April 1976: Graffham Junior Youth Club's winter season culminates with a disco to music provided by Flash in the Pan, a group from Petworth, with Judy Challen winning a "supply of refreshments" with her lucky number ticket. An 18-year-old motorcyclist is fatally injured in a collision on the lanes between Graffham and Heyshott. A new £200,000 X-ray department is unveiled at King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst. James Callaghan becomes Prime Minister after Harold Wilson's resignation. Brotherhood of Man win the Eurovision Song Contest with *Save Your Kisses For Me*. Rag Trade wins the Grand National. The Apple Computer Company is founded by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. Deaths of US recluse Howard Hughes (70), film maker Sir Carol Reed (*The Third Man*, *Oliver!*) and *Carry On* icon Sid James (62).

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Graffham Parish News' aptly April quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers on page 59 (no cheating!)

- 1 True or false: Graffham had a rugby league club between 1948 and 1962?
- 2 Which veteran cult UK rhythm and blues band ended its national "45 Years Of Live At The Marquee" tour at the Empire Hall last month?
- 3 Which local bishop was awarded a PhD by the University of Durham in 2003 for a thesis entitled *Virginity matters: power and ambiguity in the attraction of the Virgin Mary*: [a] Horsham, [b] Lewes, [c] Chichester?
- 4 Who is the patron saint of Bulgaria, Palestine, Ethiopia, Greece and Lithuania?
- 5 Who was born at Mayfair's 17 Bruton Street on 21 April 1926?
- 6 The cost of a TV licence has increased this month by £5.50 to what?
- 7 Which horse came second in the Grand National in 1975 and 1976?
- 8 Which royal consort coxed for Cambridge in the 1950 Boat Race: [a] Mark Phillips, [b] Prince Phillip, [c] Anthony Armstrong-Jones?
- 9 Who released an album in 1976 entitled *The Royal Scam*: [a] Millican & Nesbitt, [b] Peters & Lee, [c] Steely Dan?
- 10 In which BBC sitcom did veteran actress Liz Smith play mother-in-law Norma Speakman: [a] *The Royle Family*, [b] *Terry and June*, [c] *My Family*?



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Waking up from winter – our sleepest residents

Two years ago, Graffham Parish News reported on the project to monitor and report on the hazel dormouse, a species that we are fortunate enough to have living, if not among us, very close by. 2025 was an exciting year for the project as this update on its progress shows.

There are two species of dormice in Britain – the native hazel dormouse and the fat or edible dormouse. The much larger edible dormouse was introduced from Europe by Walter Rothschild in 1908 and lives in woods around Tring in Hertfordshire. This variety can cause extensive damage in lofts. The native hazel dormouse used to be widespread across Britain, but their range has shrunk considerably, and they are now confined predominantly to Southern England and Wales – including West Sussex.

Climate change, loss of hedges and reduced woodland management have taken a heavy toll on numbers with a 2003 report showing that between 2000 and 2022 numbers fell by 70 per cent.

The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) along with Natural England collate records from more than 400 dormouse monitoring sites across the UK – including our own here in the village. This National Dormouse Monitoring Programme (NDMP) has now been running for more than 25 years and the data collected helps to inform dormouse conservation nationally. The Graffham Down Trust is part of this monitoring programme.



Handling dormice is illegal – unless you have the correct certification.

Our handlers check the dormouse boxes we look after here monthly from April to November, collecting data from any dormice they find. Hazel dormice are protected in law. Handling them or interfering with their nests is strictly forbidden without the correct certification. In the past four years our South Downs National Park ranger Chloe Goddard has been training four Graffham volunteers – and in 2025 three of them achieved accreditation. Dormice spend the



Watch where you tread! Dormice hibernate on the ground in a tightly woven nest (left). After they wake up, they can go into a state of torpor (right).

winter in hibernation. Contrary to expectation, the dormouse boxes are not positioned where the dormice hibernate. They hibernate on the ground where it is damp, and the temperature is more stable, making a tightly woven nest, then sealing themselves in, perhaps at the base of a tree or under a log pile. They may wake up periodically during hibernation, but this comes at a high metabolic cost. Dormice lose about 30 per cent of their body weight during hibernation and up to seven in ten of them perish. Milder, wetter winters could mean that they wake up too early, before there is enough food around for them.

While the dormice are hibernating, our volunteers clean out and repair their boxes, ready for them to be used during the summer for daytime nests for the dormice to sleep in – they are nocturnal and forage in trees and shrubs at night.

As the weather warms in spring, dormice begin to wake up, but can go into a state of torpor if the weather deteriorates again or food is in short supply. They need to find food as quickly as possible when they emerge, to replace the weight lost during hibernation and be ready to breed. Their diet changes through the year, beginning with catkins and flowers and progressing through invertebrates to the berries and nuts that they will need to consume in large quantities to reach the weight needed

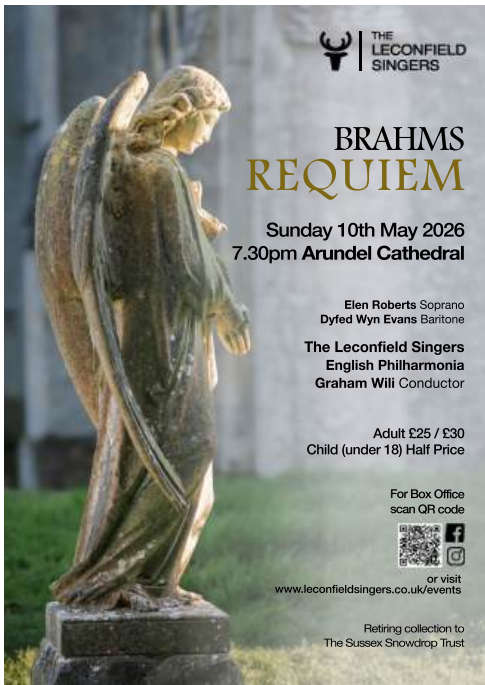
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to get them through hibernation. 2025 yielded some interesting developments for the Graffham team. The warm spring seemed to have suited the species with a juvenile dormouse discovered in a box much earlier than expected. Dormice are not prolific breeders and generally have one litter a year of around four babies. It is possible that summer 2025 may have allowed for a second litter which, if they were able to reach sufficient weight before hibernation, may result in a population increase this year.

Searching for the presence of dormice in an area can be done by several methods, all of which have been used by our team in 2025. They had a theory that the animals were using the east side of the track to East Dean. Picking up discarded hazelnut shells in the area revealed the tell-tale markings of the dormouse – a very neat round hole with toothmarks winding around in a circular fashion. This site was registered with the NDMP and 50 boxes were installed along the track in early summer. Dormice were found in them almost immediately!

The second way of checking if dormice are present in an area is to install nest tubes. These are left up all season and checked intermittently. Our team installed tubes



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 West Sussex recycles

in the most western of Graffham Down Trust's reserves and, at the end of 2025, found a dormouse population there too! This site has also been registered with the NDMP.

The third way of checking for the presence of dormice is to undertake a footprint tunnel survey. For this, tubes are installed with an ink pad at either end with card in the middle. They are checked and re-inked fortnightly.

The team has been working with Lavington Estate for several years using these footprint tunnels to check in different areas to see if there are dormice there.

Like to help or find out more?

The habitat in the Graffham Down Trust reserves needs on-going management to preserve and maintain the woodland and wildflower meadows, not just for dormice but for all the other species that call this special place home.

To care for it, the trust relies on help from volunteers. If you would be interested in getting involved with this crucial work, then do sign up for one of the work parties, which run through the winter, or, to find out more about the trust, contact Jim Kirke 07718 559675. If you would like to find out more about monitoring dormice, contact Carole Kirke 07855 515739.



A dormouse enjoys a nesting box positioned on the Graffham Down Trust reserves (left), while another one is bagged for weighing to check it has put on enough bulk to survive the winter (right).

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Come join Graffham Down Trust for a morning at Botany Bay



Saturday 16 May, 10.30am

Tour this lovely chalk stream site and look for butterflies in the wildflower meadow and wildlife in the stream – and learn more about this remarkable, rare and diverse spot on our doorstep.

Tea and cake provided!

Botany Bay is a privately owned site, close to Seaford College's Duncton entrance, managed by the Botany Bay Conservancy Community Interest Group.

🦋 Please wear boots or appropriate footwear for uneven paths.

🦋 Children must be accompanied by an adult.

🦋 To safeguard its wildlife, dogs are not allowed on the site – sorry!

🦋 Limited parking, so ride-sharing is encouraged.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Jude Sennitt at sennitt2@gmail.com



FUTURE 2026 GRAFFHAM DOWN TRUST DATES

5 July Annual picnic in our reserves on Graffham Down

15 August Tea in the reserves – a new GDT event!

10 October GDT's annual amazing quiz night in the Empire Hall

To find out more about what we do, see graffhamdowntrust.co.uk

Out and about: The Slimy Moulds did gyre and gimble

A regular column by villager Jonathan Simons who also posts regularly on the Facebook site *Beautiful Sights In And Around Graffham*.

Slime Moulds are different from fungi. Their cell walls are made of cellulose not chitin. They do not grow from mycelial cords in the substrate but generally move freely around the place finding things to eat until the time is right to change into spore producing bodies, after which they die and disappear.

They are all quite bizarrely different and part of their attraction is the earthy common names given to them. They usually appear after a spell of wet weather in spring or summer as it makes it easier for them to move around. Perhaps the most



Squeeze Wolf's Milk - and its orange 'blood' oozes out.

likely you will come across in Graffham is **Wolf's Milk**, *Lycogala terrestris* or *Lycogala epidendrum*, which is apparently called Toothpaste Slime in the USA. I find it on Graffham Common on coniferous stumps – a collection of tightly packed pink-orange spheres each each about half a centimetre across. Squeeze one, and bright orange juice spurts out – just like a wolf, I suppose. After a few days, the spheres change to a darker grey-brown and rupture to release spores.

The next most likely to be found is the **Scrambled Egg Slime**, *Fuligo septica*, sometimes more poetically known as Flowers of Tan. It starts off as masses of yellow bobbles which grow into a white spore-bearing body then disintegrates to

Need a helping hand...? Graffham with Woolavington's Parish Priest Discretionary Fund is available to help any parishioner in real financial need. Funded by donations to St Giles, it's already come to the rescue of multiple individuals and families in the village hit by the cost of living crisis.

Stretched to pay for something essential? Struggling to pay for your child's school extras? No cash for urgently needed groceries? It could be the answer to your prayers. Contact Rev Vivien to find out more.



Scrambled Egg Slime begins as yellow bobbles which become a white body.

release the spores. Another exciting find is **Dog's Vomit Fungus**, *Mucilago crustacea*, which does imply that something has been sick in the grass overnight.

The first Slime Mould I encountered was the False Puffball, *Reticularia lycoperdon*, which I dubbed the Marshmallow Biscuit Slime. I later discovered



that it is called Caca de Luna in South America, where people collect, fry and eat it, despite the 'caca' epithet (which you can Google). Around Graffham, I usually see some every year in April.



Dog's Vomit.

False Puffball, or Caca de Luna.

I was excited to identify the **Red Raspberry Slime**, *Tubifera ferruginosa*, at Hoyle. However, the resemblance to a raspberry is rather fanciful, and none of the ones I found were actually red – so I may have been mistaken.

Tapioca Slime, *Brefeldia maxima*, which I have recorded on Selham Common, seems more descriptive, but my snaps make it look rather like the False Puffball, so I will not give you the incriminating evidence.



Tapioca Slime, on Selham Common.



The **Chocolate Tube Slime**, *Stemonitis axifera*, which I have found once locally, has astonishingly different spore-bearing bodies – exquisite.

I am happy to you leave you with this photograph (left) hoping it excites your interest.



Our feathered friends singing their hearts out each morning as day breaks, building...

Nature Notes: The soundtrack to our lives

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

Imagine if we had to do it. Imagine that first thing every morning, we had to stake a claim to our property by pulling on our dressing gowns, marching out onto our front lawns, taking a deep breath and singing a song. Sussex would awaken to an cappella cacophony of show tunes, power ballads and rock anthems pouring from porches and patios, backyards and balconies. And if you weren't out there, patrolling your property with a raspy rendition of *Hey Jude*, your neighbours would assume you'd gone and they'd muscle in. If you overslept, you'd wake to find

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... boundaries around the little bits of Sussex that are their homes. © Wildlife Trusts.

Jeanette from two doors down screeching *I Dreamed a Dream* on your doorstep and you'd have to see her off with your version of *River Deep, Mountain High*.

Throughout March, male birds are aggressively establishing their breeding territories. In the absence of bricks and barbed wire, their songs build the boundaries around their little bits of Sussex. It's vital they sing every morning. After a day dodging cats, cars, windowpanes and sparrowhawks, their defiant songs (think *I Will Survive* meets *My Way*) inform their neighbours that they're still alive and still king of the hill. Top of the heap.

To our ears, this warzone of warbles and whistles is a stirring celebration of the passing of winter and the arrival of spring, filling our hearts with the promise of the summer to come. Bernstein, Britten, Beethoven and Brian Wilson rolled into one.

At the first hint of dawn, in the still, silent air, this free music festival begins. And what a line-up! Local duo Robin and Blackbird open the show with their laid-back, soulful crooning. Then that little bird with the big attitude, the Wren, cranks it up with his rockin', rollin' rattle. The symphony builds as the sun rises. We're joined by a supergroup – CSD&G (Chaffinch, Song Thrush, Dunnock & Great Tit). For our headliners, international singing sensations The Warblers (featuring Blackcap & Chiff-chaff) fly in from Spain and Africa to add their voices to this avian opera.

There's another reason for this performance. Because, if you've got enough spare time to stand around and sing, then you must be good at finding food. So females flock to the lead singer – a familiar phenomenon (let's face it, Mick Jagger wouldn't have got all those women if he'd been a dentist).

- 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:



Graffham Tennis Club



Club nights Graffham Tennis Club's ever popular club nights resume from 10 April at 5.30pm and then every Friday through the rest of the spring and summer. Do remember the free coaching session on Sunday 12 April between 11 and 1pm. All welcome to both events.

AGM Graffham Tennis Club's annual general meeting was to be held in the Pavilion on Monday 23 March – after this edition went to press. Full report in next month's issue.

Leagues Some frantic rearrangement of fixtures has meant that our winter captains have been trying to squeeze in matches before the league deadline of the end of March. As we went to press, our Mixed A team sat comfortably in third place while the B team were in danger of relegation in sixth place. Home fixtures for the summer start in May.

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results

16 Feb	Drew 4-4	Mixed Doubles B team	Div 2	v Haslemere B
8 Mar	Won 5-3	Mixed Doubles A team	Div 2	v Alton A

Graffham Bowls Club

Graffham Bowls Club's season opens on Sunday 26 April – in its centenary year. Watch out for a full report on its history in a future edition.

New members are always welcome. Roll ups are on Monday evenings at 5.30pm. The first three roll ups are free for new players. The club can provide you with the bowls – all you need are flat shoes. So why not come and have a go?!

Graffham Ladies Cricket Club

The first fixture of the season has been confirmed – away to West Wittering on Sunday 26 April. Practice will start again on Thursday 2 April at 6pm on the Rec tennis courts. All are welcome as the team has a real range of ages, abilities and experience.

The coaching from chief coach Brett and assistant coach Jeeva is exceptionally entertaining!



All set to scramble for Easter Monday egg toss

Graffham's traditional Easter egg toss will take place on Easter Sunday at 4pm at the Rec. All welcome to take part – just bring an egg... and some egg-proof clothing! The winner – who catches the egg thrown from the greatest distance without it breaking – will receive the venerable village Easter bonnet.

Sponsor Georgia in the London Marathon

Georgia Barden, who was raised in Graffham and whose parents Roy and Elsa still live in the village, is running in this year's London Marathon – on Sunday 26 April – to raise funds, in memory of her brother James, for the Lullaby Trust, whose purpose is to reduce the number of babies who die from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

She said: "Around three babies a week die from SIDS, and The Lullaby Trust is committed to bringing that number down to zero. I will be raising money to help

families like mine receive specialist help as well as to fund future research."

You can support her by donating via her giving page at 2026tcs.londonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/georgia-barden or by scanning the QR code left.

Some 50,000 people are expected to take part in the run – with more than a million applying for places.



Visiting band to attempt a quarter peal at St Giles

The bells of our St Giles Church are highly regarded by bell ringers across Sussex, for their construction and their sound – with bands from neighbouring parishes and from further afield often visiting to check its tower out for themselves.

A band of ringers from the Petersfield area will be visiting on Saturday 25 April to attempt a quarter peal, from 4pm. Their leader is Francesco (Fran) Greenslade, one of the most accomplished ringers in the South Downs, a regular at St Peter's Petersfield and Tower Captain at St Bartholomew Rogate.

A quarter peal is a bell ringing performance in which a band rings around 1,260 changes continuously in a particular method, following a specific composition. It requires considerable skill, concentration and teamwork, and typically takes around 45 minutes to complete. It is roughly a quarter of the length of a full peal (around 5,040 changes), which can take up to three hours to ring.

Quarter peals are an important part of the English tradition of “change ringing”. They are rung for many different reasons – to mark special church services, celebrate national and local events, honour the memory of those who have died, for ringers to consolidate newly learned skills and simply to maintain the tradition and practice of this historic art.

St Giles has a lovely ring of six bells. The four existing bells were restored in 1982 and two more were added in 1984. The tenor bell weighs almost half a tonne and is tuned to the key of A flat.



St Giles' band who rang on Mothering Sunday, from left: John Edge, Angie Thornley, Philippa Sanders, John Pescott, Alison Davidson and Howard Pescott.

St Giles's ringers practise every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm and the on the morning of the second Saturday of the month in the church. They always welcome enquiries into this absorbing hobby, so do pop in and find out what it's all about.

Foodbank's Easter 'most urgent' shopping list

Chichester Foodbank, which also covers Petworth and its surrounding villages, has updated its list of items most urgently needed ahead of Easter. You can contribute at its collection points in All Saints Chapel, directly opposite Graffham Village Shop, or at St Giles Church. Items currently most wanted include:



- Fruit squash.
- Instant coffee.
- Jam, honey, spreads.
- Nappies size 7.
- Ready-made custard.
- Shampoo, conditioner.
- Sugar.
- Tinned fish.
- Tinned fruit.
- Tinned meat, stews etc.
- Tin potato/instant mash.
- Tinned vegetables.
- Tomato ketchup.
- Toothbrushes.
- Toothpaste.
- Washing up liquid.



Posie makers: Ladies from the village gathered in the studio at Graffham House just ahead of Mothering Sunday to make bunches of flowers to be distributed at St Giles' 10.30am service to mothers and anyone who takes on a "mothering role" – Dads, aunts, uncles, grannies, grandfathers, brothers, sisters, neighbours and friends, and to those without their own Mums. Pictured (left) making them are Marie Bracie, Bridget Lewis, Jill Knight and Sue Hill. Before being distributed at church, the basket of posies was blessed by the Rev Vivien (right).

Joseph of Arimathea lunches at Empire Hall

The dramatic presentations of the Gospels at Wintershall, between Dunsfold and Bramley, just across the county border in Surrey, were the focus for Graffham's Lent lunch on Tuesday 10 March in the Empire Hall – with one Graffham resident who regularly takes part in the re-enactments attending in costume. Charles



Marriott, of Millburgh Hall, was dressed as Joseph of Arimathea, the character he will be representing in this year's performances at the former farm. Along with the Rev John Bundock, Canon Emeritus of Guildford Cathedral and formerly vicar of Bramley, who also occasionally leads services at our St Giles Church (and who is pictured with Charles, right), he spoke about how Wintershall's re-enactments have developed since they first began 50 years ago.

An outing from Graffham to the Wintershall nativity play is planned for December. Contact Rev Vivien if you are interested in joining for the trip. For further details, see wintershall.org.uk.

A collection at the lunch raised £204 to be donated to Wintershall Education. Vivien said: "Our thanks go to everyone who prepared delicious soups and bread and cheese."

Lecture to ask whether we should pray for politics



Petworth Area Churches Together's traditional spring lecture this year – on Friday 24 April at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Petworth – will be delivered by the Rt Hon Gillian Keegan, who was MP for Chichester and Secretary of State for Education until the 2024 general election



when she lost her seat. Her theme will be "should we pray for politics". Coming from a tough Liverpool council estate, Mrs Keegan left school at 16 to work in a factory then worked in business for 30 years before becoming an MP. Entry to the talk is free, with wine and canapés.



Messy Church took place on Friday 19 March in, for the first time... church! After holding sessions in the Pavilion, the Empire Hall and the great outdoors, the latest on took place inside St Giles and, with the sun shining, outside in the churchyard. Messy Church take place every other month – a chance for youngsters to come together for some fun and games, craft, a `Bible story and a meal. March's session had an Easter theme, including making s lovely Easter garden in the churchyard with path of decorated pebbles and flowers (below right). Picnic lunches were prepared by Bridget Lewis, Nettie Lanaghan and Barbara Edge (above left).



Other denominations locally

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

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

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

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

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

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Easter in Graffham with Woolavington



Everyone is welcome to join in any of these Holy Week and Easter services. Do come on in – the water's lovely!



Palm Sunday, 29 March 10.30am St Giles Church
Parish Eucharist with dramatised reading of the Passion

Thursday, 2 April 7pm St Giles Church Maundy Thursday Eucharist, followed by Watch of Prayer, Recalling the events in the Upper Room, with our Lord's washing of the disciples' feet in humility and the institution of the Lord's Supper, followed at 8pm by a Watch of Prayer.

Good Friday, 3 April 9.30 to 11am from St Giles Church Reflective Walk A journey with companions around our parish.



Sunday, 5 April 6am St Giles Church First Eucharist of Easter with Easter fire. From a fire kindled in the churchyard, the Easter candle will be lit and carried into a darkened church, as a sign of Christ's light overcoming darkness in the world. We hear the Exsultet, an ancient song sung in the candlelight, before sharing in thanksgiving in our first Easter Eucharist of 2026.



Sunday, 5 April 10.30am St Giles Easter Day Family Eucharist A celebration of Easter hope, with our church decorated with flowers and a churchyard baptism – all followed by an Easter egg hunt. There may even be Easter lambs ...





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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 or Facebook's @stgilesgraffham for any changes.
- Bellringing practice is every Tuesday at 7.30pm.
- The Rev Vivien's rest days are Fridays and Saturdays.

March

29	Sun	10.30am	Palm Sunday Eucharist <i>Read: Matthew 21.1-11</i>	St Giles Church
31	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel

April

2	Thu	7pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot washing	St Giles Church
		8 - 9pm	Watch of Prayer	St Giles Church
3	Fri	2pm	Good Friday service	St Giles Church
5	Sun	6am	First Eucharist of Easter with Easter Fire <i>Reading: Romans 6.3-11</i>	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Parish Eucharist Easter Sunday <i>Reading: Acts 10.34-43</i>	St Giles Church
7	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
9	Thu	8am/ 5.30pm	Prayers for our parish being said	Chichester Cathedral
12	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist <i>Reading: Acts 2.14a, 22-32</i>	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
14	Tues	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
15	Wed	12.30pm	Food with Friends	The Rectory
		2.30pm	Community Meeting	Marsh Farm
16	Thurs	10am	School Assembly in Church	St Giles Church
19	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Parish Eucharist <i>Reading: Acts 2.14a, 36-41</i>	St Giles Church
21	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
25	Sat	4pm	Petersfield and Rogate bellringers quarter peal	St Giles Church
26	Sun	10.30am	Family Eucharist with Animal Blessing <i>Reading: Genesis 7</i>	St Giles Church
28	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
29	Wed	6pm	PCC Meeting	The Rectory
30	Thurs	10am	School Assembly	All Saints Church

What's on in and around the village

- For weekly events, see page 55. For church services and other events, see pages 49 and 51. For home sports fixtures, see page 42.
- 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

March

27	Fri		Graffham and Duncton Schools INSET day		
			WSCC and Seaford College terms ends		
28	Sat	10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial	
		All day	Introduction to beekeeping day – see wgbka.org.uk	Rudgwick Village Hall	
		9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth	
29	Sun		<i>Palm Sunday</i>		
		<i>British Summer Time starts – clocks spring forward one hour</i>			
		3pm	PACT Palm Sunday procession	Petworth	
		7-10pm	Blues Night	Three Moles	
30	Mon	Various	Easter tennis course for Years R-11	Graffham Tennis Club	

April

1	Wed		Graffham Camping and Caravan Club site opens for season	
2	Thu		<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	
			<i>First day of Jewish passover</i>	
		10-11am	UKHarvest surplus food market	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petworth
		7pm	Talk by Heyshott Veterinary Practice on <i>Understanding Ageing in Cats and Dogs</i>	Cobden Hall, Heyshott
For details of all Easter church services in Graffham, see page 49				
3	Fri		<i>Good Friday</i>	
3	Fri	8pm	Easter quiz	Unicorn, Heyshott
4	Sat		Spring festival (till 19 April)	Petworth House and Park
			Grand National	Aintree
5	Sun		<i>Easter Sunday</i>	
		4pm	Graffham Easter egg toss	Rec
			Special exhibition	Coultershaw Heritage Site
6	Mon		<i>Easter Monday</i>	
7	Tue	10.45am	Arts Society of Midhurst talk on Opera Game Changers Verdi, Wagner and Puccini	Midhurst Meth Hl
		2pm	Arts Society of West Sussex talk on Battersea Power Station	Fittleworth Village Hall


9	Thu	2.30pm	Thursday Club	Empire Hall
10	Fri	evening	First Graffham Tennis Club night of season	Pavilion
12	Sun	11am-1pm	Free taster session	Tennis Club
			The Boat Race	Putney to Mortlake
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
13	Mon		WSSC school term starts – but Midhurst Rother College INSET day	
14	Tue	3pm	Graffham Health Support Association AGM	Empire Hall
		7pm	Quiz night	The Three Moles
15	Wed	2.30pm	PCC Community Group meeting	Marsh Farm
		7pm	Heyshott annual meeting of the parish	Cobden Hall Heyshott
17	Fri	All day	Empire Hall spring clean and re-decoration – till 19 April	Empire Hall
19	Sun		Messing about by the river	Coultershaw Heritage Site
20	Mon		Seaford College terms start	Seaford College
22	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ¹	Empire Hall
23	Thu		St George's Day	
24	Fri	7.30pm	Petworth Area Churches Together spring lecture by Rt Hon Gillian Keegan	St Mary's Church, Petworth
		7.45pm	Petworth Sessions presents Taff Rapids	Leconfield Hall
		8pm	Friends of Graffham and Duncton Schools quiz night	Duncton Village Hall
25	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		4pm	Visitors attempt quarter peal of bells	St Giles belltower
26	Sun	10.30am	Animals blessing service	St Giles
			London Marathon	London
			Graffham Bowls Club season opening	Rec
		7-10pm	Booze 'n' Blues Night	Three Moles
27	Mon	11am	Graffham Garden Group outing	Borde Hill RH16 1XP
29	Wed	6.30pm	PCC meeting	The Rectory
30	Thu	10-11am	UKHarvest surplus food market	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petworth
May				
1	Fri	11.30am-6pm	Racecourse season opener (also on 2 May)	Goodwood
2	Sat		Woodfire Camping reopens for summer	Westerlands
3	Sun	12noon-4.30pm	Lodsworth fete	Lodsworth Rec
		2-6pm	Fittleworth Open Gardens (also 4 May)	Fittleworth

¹**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 Harriet on 07415 256432.

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

Mondays	9-10am	Fitflows Fitness ¹	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ²	Empire Hall
	6pm in summer	Bowls Club practices – all welcome	Rec
Tuesdays	8.30am-12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
	9-11am	Breakfast served	Three Moles
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ²	Empire Hall
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice – newcomers welcome	St Giles
Wednesdays	9–10am	Yoga ⁴	Empire Hall
	11.15am-12noon	Pilates ⁵	Empire Hall
	1.45-2.45pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching ⁶	Rec
	3.30-6.15pm	After school tennis club	Tennis Club
	5pm	Nina’s Core to Floor ³	Westerlands
	7-8.30pm	Badminton ⁷ – all welcome	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ²	Empire Hall
Thursdays	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ²	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise ⁸	Empire Hall
	6-7.15pm	Yoga ⁴	Empire Hall
Fridays	9-10.15am	Yoga ⁴	Empire Hall
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic ⁹	Empire Hall
	3-4pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching ⁶	Tennis Club
	Evenings	Tennis Club evenings	Pavilion
Saturdays	8.30am	Boxfit with Nina ³	Westerlands
	9-10.15am	Yoga ⁴	Empire Hall
	10am	Nina’s Core to Floor ³	Westerlands
	10.30am	Yoga with Kate ³	Westerlands
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic ⁹	Empire Hall
Sundays	5pm	Pickleball ¹⁰	Empire Hall
	5pm	Casual football ¹¹	Rec

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

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

²**Osteopath:** Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 303557 or see www.annashawcross.co.uk

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

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

⁵**Pilates:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

⁶**Rusty Racquets:** Contact Richard Hopp at richard@hoppcoaching.co.uk, on 07904 069457.

⁷**Badminton:** Contact Christina Federowicz on 07900 055574. All welcome. ⁸**Ease Into Exercise:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956. ⁹**Physiotherapy:** Contact Serena Cooper on 07884 445983 or at serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com. ¹⁰**Pickleball:** Contact Beanie Bradley on 07500 080417.

¹¹**Casual Football:** Contact Lucas Thornley on 07767 721997.

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Quiz answers (from page 31)

1 False. 2 Nine Below Zero. 3 [c] Chichester. 4 St George. 5 Queen Elizabeth II. 6 £180. 7 Red Rum. 8 [c] Anthony Armstrong-Jones. 9 [c] Steely Dan. 10 [a] *The Royle Family*.



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Need a helping hand...? Graffham with Woolavington's Parish Priest Discretionary Fund is available to help any parishioner in real financial need. Funded by donations to St Giles, it's already come to the rescue of multiple individuals and families in the village hit by the cost of living crisis. It could be the answer to your prayers. Contact Rev Vivien to find out more.

Directory: Useful local contact info

DOCTORS	Petworth Surgery	01798 342248
	Midhurst Riverbank Medical Centre	01730 812121
	Haslemere Minor Injuries Unit	01483 782334
DEFIBRILLATORS	Empire Hall temporarily out of use	Temporarily out of use
	On outside wall of Pavilion	Code is C159X
	In phone box outside Pescods	Code is also C159X
	In phone box opposite The Three Moles	No code needed
FLOOD ALERT for Lods Bridge	To check river level	bit.ly/lodsbridge
POLICE	In emergency	999
	Non-emergency	101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 101
BURST WATER MAINS	Southern Water	0800 820 999
POWER CUTS	Scottish & Southern Electric	0800 0727 282
99 FLEX BUS	Linking Graffham with Chichester, Petworth etc	Book via Ring Pingo app 01243 858854
All Saints Chapel Trust	Chairman Clive Rowntree	01798 867536
Badminton	Christina Federowicz	07900 055574
Bees / Swarms	Wisboro' Green B'keepers	Tom Moore 07984 606214/01798 343470
	Local beekeeper	Murray West evenings 01798 867048
Chichester District Council		01243 534734
District Councillor	John Cross jcross@chichester.gov.uk	07592 307027
Dog Warden	Office hours/Emergency	01243 534734/01243 785339
Citizens Advice Bureau		03448 487969
East Lavington Parish Council	Chairman Simon Longman	simon.longman@eastlavington-pc.uk
	Clerk Amy Harte	07889 979820 eastlavingtonpc@gmail.com
Empire Hall		empirehall.org.uk
Bookings	Anna Shawcross	bookings.empirehall@gmail.com 07971 204287
	Chairman	Ollie Boulton 07584 625059
	Maintenance	Tom Richardson 07932 865154
	Treasurer	Carole Sargent 01798 344790
	Secretary	Jonathan Simons 01798 867689
Foodbank	info@chichester.foodbank.org.uk	01243 773687
Foresters Arms	forestersarmsgraffham.com	01798 867386
Graffham Archive	Robin Brind	graffhamarchive@outlook.com 01798 867619
Graffham Bellringers	Tower Captain	Howard Pescott 01798 867029
Graffham Bowls Club	Secretary	Liz Pegram 01798 867770
Graffham Down Trust	Chairman	Jim Kirke 07718 559675
Graffham Empire Movies	Michael Blunt	mblunt@btinternet.com
Graffham Garden Group	Carole Kirke	07855 515739
Graff'm Health Support Assc	Chairman Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
	Membership	Yvonne Churchward 07808 781510
	Transport	07391 802541
	Prescription collection	Mary Taylor mkt.bythedowns@gmail.com
	Loan of equipment	Karin Skanberg 07920 091014
Graffham Lunch Club	Harriet Rowntree	07415 256432

Graffham Nursery	School Office	01798 867324
Graffham Parish Council		graffham-pc.gov.uk
	Chairman Gillian Charlesworth	gcharlesworth@graffham-pc.gov.uk
	Clerk Amy Harte	clerk@graffham-pc.gov.uk
Graffham Parish News	Editorial and circulation:	editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com
	Advertising:	ads.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com
		See also inside front cover
Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council		stgilesgraffham.org
	Priest-in-Charge Rev Vivien Turner	01798 867199
		hallo@stgilesgraffham.org
	Churchwarden Cindy Bradley	07787 516522
	Treasurer Dinah Lamming	graffhampctreasurer@gmail.com
Graffham Rec Committee	Chairman John Bracey	01798 867760
	Bookings Sec Sonya Gillespie	graffhamrecpavilion@gmail.com
Graffham Tennis Club	Chairman Simon Longman	01798 867317
	Secretary David Sparkes	07958 486211
	Coaching Emma Amin	01798 867063
Graffham Village Shop	Jeeva and Vasu	01798 867700
		graffhamvillageshop.co.uk
Graffham Village Shop Assoc	Chairman Steve Dover	07770 499223
	Treasurer Andy Jones	andy.jones@graffham.net
	Secretary Ros Britton	rosalind.britton@btinternet.com
Katherine Maud Guilloid Fund	c/o Graffham PC Clerk	graffhampc@gmx.co.uk
Lavington Estate	info@lavingtonstud.co.uk	01798 867275
Lavington Park Federation		graffhamanddunton.w-sussex.sch.uk
	Graffham CE Infant School	01798 867324
	Dunton CE Junior School	01798 342402
	Friends of Graffham & Dunton Schools	01798 867324
Long Bostle Downland Soc	Gillian Brandt	01798 867276
MP Arundel & South Downs	Andrew Griffith	andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk
Midhurst & Petworth Observer		01243 534163
National Trust (Lavington Common)		01730 816638
Neighbourhood Watch	Michael Crickmay	01798 867486
Osteopath	Anna Shawcross	01798 867523
Oil Buying Syndicate	Derek Bradnum	derekbradnum@gmail.com
Pilates at Empire Hall	Nicky Capes	07990 517858
Potholes To report a pothole or other road problem online		bit.ly/report-potholes-west-sussex
Seaford College		01798 867392
Three Moles	Ollie and Tom	thethreemoles.com 01798 861303
Thursday Club	Secretary Diane Bellis	01798 867444
West Sussex County Council	General enquiries	01243 777100
	County Councillor Tom Richardson	07463 785039
The Woodcote (formerly White Horse)	thewoodcote.com	01798 867331
Yoga at Empire Hall	Deborah Albon	07790 367009



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