

GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 424

FREE

JUNE 2026



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Your summer
show entry
form

Blooming fab garden group plant sale

Tom re-elected as our WSCC councillor

Different route planned for 20mph speed limit



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On the cover: Graffham Garden Group's spring plant sale, in the Empire Hall on Saturday 9 May, proved as popular as ever – see page 3. Entry forms for its summer show, always a village highlight, are being distributed with this issue – see page 29.

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

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Member Editor 2026 Award Winner 2022
Association for Church Editors

Writing from the Rectory: A perfect life

“Would you like lots of water or just a little water?” I asked Alex and Gabriella in turn as they stood at the font, ready for their baptisms at St Giles on Sunday 3 May. “Lots,” said Alex. “Lots,” Gabriella agreed. I happily obliged, pouring water generously over their heads while repeating those precious sacramental words: “I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit AMEN.”

At the beginning of the service, we heard how a person’s life becomes perfect when their trust is placed in Jesus who makes us strong, and we celebrated the beginning of Alex and Gabriella’s faith journey as the cross was signed on their foreheads in holy oil.

As the service ended, Alex and Gabriella very, very carefully carried out of church their baptism candles, lit from the great paschal candle that is itself lit at dawn from Easter fire in the churchyard on Easter Sunday and carried into the darkened church representing Christ overcoming the darkness. They carried



▶ *Continued on next page*



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).

Churchwardens: Cindy Bradley 07787 516522
Liz Jenkins 07836 326100

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



stgilesgraffham.org



@stgilesgraffham

► *Continued from previous page*

their candles out to bring hope to our world, representing the light of Christ within them now.

Congratulations, Alex and Gabriella, and thank you for the hope you represent, which we too felt that day. May God bless you as you discover what it means to be a young person who loves God and trusts God to guide you in your life. May many young people discover this joy in their lives, like you.

Congratulations and thanksgiving too go to all those baptised at St Giles in recent months and years as your own faith journeys continue, and to those looking forward to baptism soon, to Atticus, Paddy, Harrison and Rory and your families and Godparents supporting you. May God bless you all richly and make you strong in lives of faith and trust and hope. AMEN

Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1.9



Reverend Vivien

Early deadlines for our next edition



The deadline for the next edition of *Graffham Parish News* will be slightly earlier than usual because of the editor's holiday plans. If you have a contribution

to make for the July issue, please be sure to submit it no later than 10 June. As ever, the earlier you can send it in, then the more likely it is that space can be made available.

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The queue for Graffham Garden Group's spring plant sale stretched all the way to the village shop – filling the Empire Hall within minutes of the doors opening.



Blooming great garden group plant sale

It's Graffham's equivalent to the opening day of the Harrods' sale, with a long queue forming outside the doors of the Empire Hall in eager anticipation before rushing in as soon as they open to snaffle the bargains on offer inside. Graffham Garden Group's spring plant sale never fails to deliver.

The waiting line up seemed longer than ever in the countdown to this year's 10am start, on Saturday 9 May. Within minutes, the tables inside were surrounded by green-fingered villagers, intent on buying the best young tomato, courgette, cucumber, bean and sweet pea plants and various other perennials. After an hour, the doors were closed. The few remaining plants were removed to the drive of GGG Chairman Carole Kirke to be sold to passers-by. The event raised some £1,800 in takings to finance the club's other activities throughout the year.

Gillian re-appointed Graffham Chairman

Gillian Charlesworth was re-elected Chairman of Graffham Parish Council, with John Bracey as Deputy Chairman, at its annual general meeting on 6 May, in the Rec Pavilion.



Gillian and John

Rachel Gerrett stood down as a councillor after three years' service – and leading the initiative to rebuild the village's Play Park. She was thanked for her contribution.

It was agreed that the full council would in future handle planning matters, rather than delegating them to a planning committee.

Simon Longman, who was co-opted as a councillor a few months ago, has succeeded Rachel as one of Graffham Parish Council's trustees on the Graffham Rec Committee, alongside John Bracey, as the Rec Chairman. Simon separately serves as Chairman of Graffham Tennis Club – and chairs East Lavington Parish Council, which has agreed to merge with Graffham Parish Council.

Hilary Major, who was also co-opted as a councillor a few months ago, will serve as its trustee on the management committee of the Empire Hall, and will also be the council's officer for highways, hedges and verges.

Councillor Colin Barker will continue to serve as the council's officer for rights of way and environmental issues.

- [Read Gillian's annual report – page 14](#)

Parish councils meet with Chichester on merger

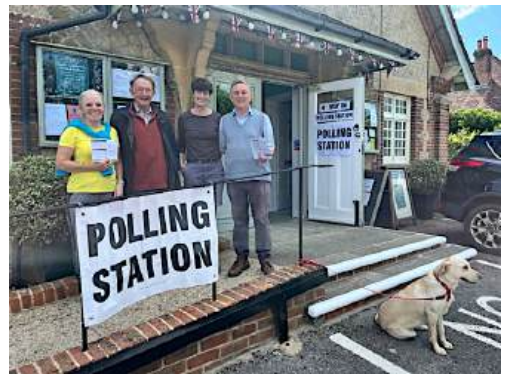
The Chairmen of Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils, Gillian Charlesworth and Simon Longman, were due to meet officials from Chichester District Council (CDC) on Wednesday 20 May to discuss the next steps in the two parish councils' plans to merge. CDC is the authority responsible for agreeing and overseeing any such mergers in this area. Watch for an update in next month's issue of *Graffham Parish News*.

Shocking! Electric fencing kit stolen from farm

A length of electric fencing, a battery and solar panel were stolen from a field with a bridleway crossing it at Upper Norwood Farm, East Lavington, overnight on Monday/Tuesday 11/12 May.



How each ward in West Sussex voted.



Graffham residents ready to vote.

Tom re-elected as our West Sussex councillor

Tom Richardson has been re-elected to represent our Rother Valley ward on West Sussex County Council – although his Conservatives lost control of the authority with no single party emerging with an overall majority in the local government election held on 7 May.



Tom Richardson

Reform UK and the Liberal Democrats tied with the most number of seats – 23 each – although the party led by Nigel Farage took most votes across the county, with a 28 per cent share against the LD's 23 per cent. Eleven Conservatives were elected, seven Greens, five from Labour and one "Local Alliance".

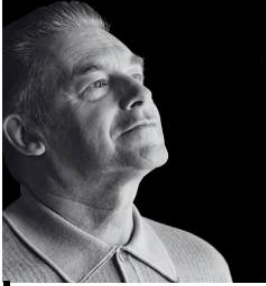
The 70 newly elected councillors were due to meet together for the first time on 22 May to agree who will fill which role.

In our ward, Tom polled 2,007 votes. Liberal Democrat John Cross was second. Reform UK's Daniel Hall was third and Green candidate Ginny Barrett fourth.

Result for our Rother Valley			
Name	Party	Votes	%
Tom Richardson	Conservative	2,007	43
John Cross	Liberal Democrat	1,311	28
Daniel Hall	Reform UK	770	17
Ginny Barrett	Green	437	9
Roger Pask	Labour	101	2

Result for West Sussex as a whole			
Party	Seats	+ or -	%
Reform UK	23	+19	28
Liberal Democrat	23	+13	23
Conservative	11	-29	22
Green	7	+5	14
Labour	5	-3	10
Independents	1	0	<1

People's Emergency Briefing



Public Notice:

You are invited to attend a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing

An eye-opening film featuring nine leading UK scientists and experts updating us on the latest in the climate and nature crisis and its impacts on everyday national life.

Including:

- extreme weather
- food security
- health
- cost of living

Based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster, as covered by ITV, C4, and the Times. Followed by a short open discussion about what we can do and what it means locally.

Featuring Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, surprise guests, and a wide range of Brits.

Empire Hall, Graffham

Saturday 13 June 11am

No reservations needed

Free of charge

For more information email v.j.kingsmill@gmail.com

Liz succeeds Ginny as St Giles' churchwarden

St Giles has a new churchwarden, with Liz Jenkins succeeding Ginny Barrett in the role, alongside Cindy Bradley, who was re-elected. At the annual vestry meeting on Sunday 10 May, the Rev Vivien, on behalf of the church community, presented Ginny with a crab apple tree to “thank her warmly for being an amazing churchwarden for the past five years”.

Liz has for the past year been Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council (PCC) Secretary. That position is now filled by Chris Leaver, who was duly elected at the annual parochial church meeting, immediately after the vestry meeting, where reports on the past year were presented, including the Trustee Annual Report and Financial Statement.

Besides Chris, Stuart Lewis and Beanie Bradley were re-elected as PCC members for a further three years, alongside the continuing six members. Ann Brown and Diane Bellis were re-elected as Deanery Synod members for a further three-year term. Henrietta Aparicio and Jason Coupe were co-opted onto the PCC.

In addition to Chris' new role as secretary, four other PCC officers were confirmed in their positions:

- Marie Bracey as Vice-Chair.
- Dinah Lamming as Treasurer.
- Fiona Mackie as Electoral Roll Officer.
- Howard Pescott as Safeguarding Officer.

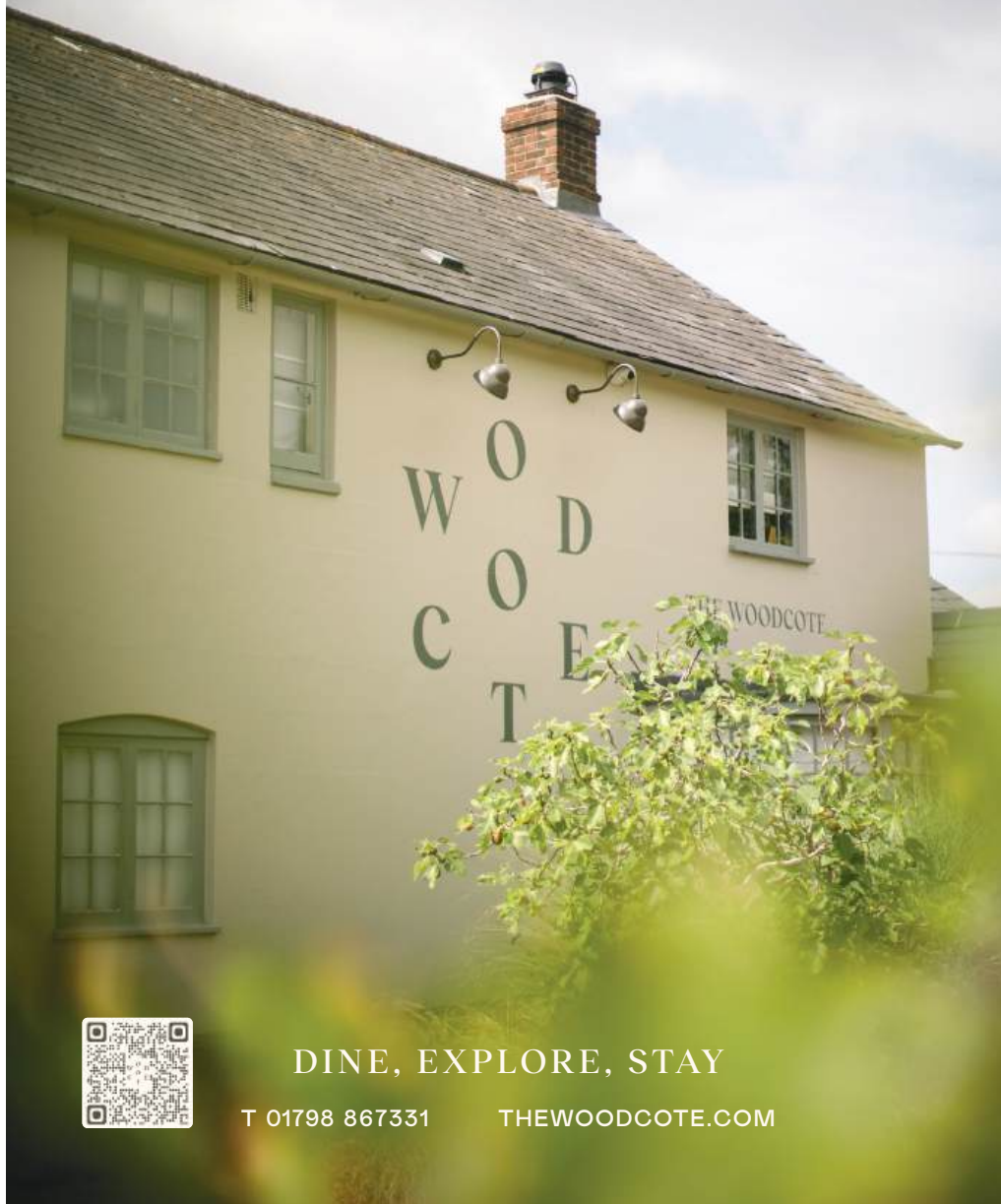
Ros Britton was thanked for continuing to serve as the parish's independent financial examiner for the coming year.

The Rev Vivien said: “Ours is a wonderful little parish with a well-loved church. It is so good to have the great support of everyone who helps to make it so. Thank you to them all!”



Ginny with her crab apple tree, presented by the Rev Vivien.

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Stairway to heaven booked for summer fête

Plans are already well advanced for 2026's Graffham Fête – to be held as ever on August Bank Holiday Monday (31 August). It's the year's biggest fundraiser for the Rec – where all the action takes place. A new attraction already booked for the big day is a giant mobile climbing wall – sponsored by The Woodcote. Look out for more details on the fête in coming issues.



This climbing wall will be at Graffham fête on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Empire Hall defibrillator is back in action

The defibrillator at The Empire Hall is available for use again after having a new battery fitted. The old one expired at the start of the year and a global shortage meant it has taken a couple of months for a replacement to become available. The access code to use the equipment remains the same - C240Z. The access codes for the other two defibrillators in Graffham – on the outside of the Pavilion and in the old telephone box by Pescods on The Street – are both C159X. The defibrillator in the old phone box opposite The Three Moles does not require an access code. The codes and locations are given in the directory in the inside back pages of every issue of *Graffham Parish News* and on the village website at graffham-pc.gov.uk/ defibrillators



Water, cable and tree works to close roads

The gully is to be reset and a new apron with kerbs installed where Graffham Common Road is regularly flooded in wet weather, by Selham House and the Coach House, on 8-9 June. Traffic management will be in place while the work is carried out. A week later, on 15 June, repairs are scheduled to drainage along South Ambersham's New Road.

Then, from 28 June to 2 July, disruption can be expected on Duncton Common Road and along Fitzlea and Selham Roads while they are resurfaced. For full details of all local roadworks scheduled, see one.network



50 YEARS A PHOTOGRAPHER

By Colin Barker

Thursday Club

11 June 2.30pm Empire Hall, Graffham

An illustrated talk by villager Colin Barker narrating work produced throughout his 50-year career as a professional photographer.

'Photography is more than just capturing a single moment. It is a powerful medium for story-telling that translates emotions, events and concepts into visual narratives.'



Different route planned for 20mph speed limit

Graffham Parish Council (GPC) is to try a different approach in its bid to have the current 30mph limit in the village centre cut to 20mph after West Sussex County Council rejected its initial proposal. County Highways officials said the parish's request, which would also have seen "buffer zones" lowering the speed restriction on each of the three approaches to the village, was too complex for the simpler traffic regulation order (TRO) that had been sought. It advised that instead it should seek the changes via a "community highways scheme" – which the parish council will now pursue. GPC had earlier been advised that a TRO would be the best approach as it was quicker and simpler to implement.

In its TRO submission, made after exhaustive consultation in the village and following planning approval to expand The Woodcote, which will increase incoming traffic, besides reducing the limit along The Street to 20mph, GPC also proposed replacing the current national speed restriction on Woodcote Lane with 30mph, from the Pound junction with The Street to Snaky Lane. It also sought 40mph "buffers" approaching the village, from near the Cathanger junction to the east, from around Hoyle Farm to the west and from Selham End to the north. There has been talk separately of Selham also seeking a speed limit through its village so this 40mph cap could be extended further north.

In addition, the current anomaly whereby the national speed limit applies to the final 50 or so metres of The Street at its far southern end would end, with the new 20mph limit applied up to where it meets Seaford College's West Gate and the bridleway up to Graffham Down. As part of its new village plan, GPC also proposes to introduce 'gateways' with signage, designed to be appropriate to our rural setting, at each entrance to the community, to make it apparent to visiting



The speed limits for the centre of the village and approaches to it, proposed by Graffham Parish Council but blocked by West Sussex.

► Continued on page 13



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, meeting the teachers and getting a real feel for the surroundings.

To support you with this important decision, we're delighted to invite families considering Reception entry to come along to our next **Open Morning on Saturday 26th September** and meet our new Headmaster, Matt Williams, and feel the Seaford buzz for yourself. We'd love to have a chat about your child's next steps.

Seaford College Prep School is a small and nurturing environment that gives students a wonderful learning experience both inside and outside the classroom in our beautiful setting. Seaford's number one focus is to make sure students attain the best results they are capable of. We aren't the normal conveyor belt school, and we believe in an all-round, inclusive, and non-elitist education. This is the strength of Seaford, where students are encouraged to be the best they can be.



When our youngest Prep School students first join Seaford, their teachers plan a range of fun and enjoyable activities to help them settle in and build friendships. These include much-loved

traditions such as the Teddy Bears' Picnic and an exciting day trip, such as a visit to nearby Little Street, a charming role-play town with a café, theatre, beauty salon, supermarket, construction area, medical centre and plenty of ride-on vehicles. Children in Owl Class are also presented with their own soft toy owls, and parents are warmly invited to informal gatherings at school, providing opportunities to meet one another and feel part of the Seaford community.

Seaford College has recently been awarded a rare and prestigious '**Significant Strength**' in our ISI inspection. You can read the full report here: www.seaford.org/isi-inspection-report

Our next Open Morning will take place on 26th September 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

► *Continued from page 11*

motorists that they are entering a village. GPC continues to work, too, with neighbouring parish councils to have the limit on roads between them and the A285, A286 and A272 to the east, west and north cut to 40mph, discouraging motorists and sat navs from using these lanes as rat runs and making them safer for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists.

School's outside loo flush with £825 donations

Graffham Parish Council has agreed to give £425 from its community infrastructure levy (CIL) fund to Graffham Infant School to be spent bringing its outside loo back into service. The congregation of St Giles Church has already raised another £400 for the project.

When pupils are not attending school, its outside loo is made available to those visiting the church or churchyard or the Downs, who need to pay a visit.

It has been closed recently by plumbing issues and also needs redecoration – which is estimated to cost the £825 St Giles and now GPC are donating. The renovations – including the installation of a completely new toilet – were planned to be completed during the half-term break in late May.

CIL funds are allocated to councils from fees levied on developers granted approval to build locally.

Graffham Village Shop Association



AGM

Tuesday 14 July 2026 7pm

Recreation Ground Pavilion

Find out how we've been looking after the village shop, picture framing gallery, car park and Chapel View in the past year – and our plans for safeguarding these vital community assets into the future.

All welcome – you don't need to be a shareholder to attend, but you can enrol on the evening if you haven't already done so!

Working to enhance our beautiful village

Graffham Parish Council Chairman Gillian Charlesworth gave her annual update to the village at the annual meeting of the parish in the Empire Hall on Wednesday 13 May. Here's a slightly abridged version of her report.

Graffham Parish Council has been active this year, setting out a village plan. It covers seven themes – traffic volume and speed, coordination with other village bodies, village amenity, local government reorganisation, local environmental issues, crime and community engagement. We have already started to implement it, to enhance and maintain our beautiful village.

First, traffic speeds. We applied for a traffic regulation order to reduce the speed limits to 20mph throughout the main village roads with 30mph on Woodcote Lane. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) deemed this too complex for a Traffic Regulation Order so we will shortly resubmit the proposal as a Community Highways Scheme (see page 11). I am grateful to our WSCC councillor Tom Richardson for his support on this plan, the aim of which is to slow traffic, providing a better balance between the needs and enjoyment of all road users including pedestrians young and old, and horse riders.

Under the heading of village amenity, we have started to request a number of households to trim their hedges back for the safety of horse riders, pedestrians and motorists, and we've asked a number to repair verges, which we increasingly see being damaged by construction traffic. On the same theme, Councillor Colin Barker has been active in ensuring our footpaths are well maintained and achieved the repair of steps at Popple Hill in a matter of weeks after reporting the need to the South Downs National Park.

When it comes to local government reorganisation, we don't yet know the future for West Sussex, but we have been active in working with East Lavington Parish Council (ELPC) in pursuing a merger. Its Chairman Simon Longman has joined Graffham Parish Council to work closely with us on this project and we are extremely grateful to him for giving up further time to parish council matters in addition to his responsibilities at ELPC.

In the coming months we will ensure that all the themes in our plan are being actively pursued. We aim to meet various village bodies to discuss opportunities for better coordination on areas such as applying for grants and maintenance contracts. Under the environment heading, we will draw up our resilience plan. When it comes to crime, we will consult the local police for advice for villagers on



Villagers attending the annual meeting of the parish of Graffham also heard updates from West Sussex Rivers Trust's Louise Barnetson, our Chichester district councillor John Cross, our West Sussex county councillor Tom Richardson, St Giles' the Rev Vivien, Empire Hall committee chairman Ollie Robinson-Boulton, Graffham and Duncton Schools head Charles Beckerson, All Saints Trustees chairman Clive Rowntree, Graffham Village Shop Association chairman Steve Dover, Graffham Health Support Association chairman Fiona Jacob, Recreation Ground committee chairman John Bracey and Graffham Parish News editor Michael Blunt, who also gave a demonstration of the new Graffham website Graffham-pc.gov.uk

crime trends and prevention. We are also working with the Graffham Village Health Association to fund a course on use of defibrillators.

Community engagement is vital if the Parish Council is to pursue the village's priorities, and I would like to thank all those who provided comments on the village plan and our requests for evidence of the need for traffic measures. The plan will evolve over time and we will undoubtedly add to it. The first addition we will look at follows a suggestion that we should consider creating a village design statement which planners could use when appraising development applications in the village. We will of course consult the community as the draft is written.

Finally, I would like to thank a number of people for their dedicated service to the village. Councillors Fiona Jacob and Rachel Gerrett stepped down recently after three years as members of Graffham Parish Council. Fiona brought great wisdom

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and carefully thought through legal expertise to our proceedings, particularly on planning matters which have been significant during the last year. Rachel, as one of the parish council representatives on the Recreation Ground Committee, was dedicated to funding and building the new children's Play Park which I think we can all agree is a marvellous addition to our village. Warmest thanks to Fiona and Rachel for their service.

Thank you to Councillors John Bracey and Colin Barker who have served on the parish council for more than five years and actively worked on many fronts to maintain and enhance the village. Among many other things, John was responsible for ensuring we are well-supplied with defibrillators, and Colin is vigilant on footpaths and environmental issues.

Warm thanks also to Councillor Hilary Major, who has recently returned to being a parish council member after a break. Our clerk Amy Harte is another wonderful new addition to our team. Thanks to her for her extremely hard work, expert support and advice on all matters. We are very fortunate to have her as our clerk.

Last but by no means least, a huge thank you to all the dozens of volunteers who run and give their time to village bodies with tireless commitment to ensuring the maintenance and continuity of our village buildings and sports facilities, our health association, school, church, chapel and shop.

- East Lavington's annual meeting of the parish was held on Monday 18 May - a report is planned for next month's issue.



Pete prepares for his 10th West's Wood Fair

Graffham's Pete West will be staging his 10th wood fair at his East Dean yard on the weekend of 19-21 June – with plans already in hand for 2027's extravaganza.

Many of the regular attractions will feature again this year, including the Dorset Axemen, pole climbing demonstrations, the chainsaw carving competition and Sussex Scrumpy Stakes. For the first time, the chainsaw race will feature a class for women, on the Saturday. As usual, exhibitors will include trade stands selling timber and many other wood-related products, and there'll be demonstrations of sawmilling, pole lathes, hurdle making, heavy horses, vintage steam engines, tractor and trailer rides, archery and axe throwing. The programme will also feature lawn mower racing, gun dog displays and an array of refreshments and live music.



Pete staged the first wood fair in 2009 to mark 200 years of his family working with wood. He didn't plan to repeat it, but it returned after five years in response to popular demand. He's staged it annually since the Covid pandemic.

Next year's event promises to be one of the biggest yet, with the entire showground available and the UK Loggers Championship already scheduled to feature. For full details, see www.westswoodfair.co.uk

Allotments project is now in compost bin

Providing allotments in the village is no longer on Graffham Parish Council's agenda after two of the six residents who asked it to do so advised that they no longer wanted one, as their neighbour had offered them use of part of their garden to tend. A parish council is obliged to look into the provision of allotments if six residents ask it to do so.

Chairman Gillian Charlesworth contacted the half dozen who had lobbied it late last year for allotments to give them an update on its progress and asking for their thoughts on establishing a community orchard and/or garden. Only three responded – including the two who said they were no longer interested in an allotment.

Two Graffham Artists

OPEN STUDIOS

Friday 5th – Sunday 7th June + 11am – 5pm
Or by appointment at other times



Susan Hill

Graffham House, GU28 ONP
jonsugraffham@btinternet.com

Richard Davidson

Brookdene House, GU28 ONL
richard.davidson@btinternet.com

Richard and Sue open their galleries

Graffham artists Richard Davidson and Sue Hill will be opening their galleries for the first weekend of June, offering neighbours and visitors a chance to view their latest work – and buy any that take their fancy with a share of the proceeds going to St Giles Church.

Richard, of Brookdene House, quit his job as a senior City lawyer after 27 years to go to art school and become a painter. He has exhibited widely across the UK and Europe. “Many of these shows have a designated theme – but this Graffham open gallery will just be displaying a variety of paintings that I particularly like, including many new works,” he said. They range from local scenes to still life paintings. Greetings cards of his artwork will also be available.



Richard in his Brookdene House studio.

As reported last month, Sue’s collection will include her new “wall of Graffham” – a collection of 16 paintings of village scenes, including views of the Downs, the common, farms and houses.

Their galleries will open from Friday to Sunday, 5-7 June, from 11am to 5pm daily.

Petworth to reveal its ‘secret gardens’

Petworth’s secret garden trail will take place this year on Sunday 7 June, from 1 to 5.30pm. A dozen normally private gardens in the town – from large country spaces with sweeping vistas to exquisite courtyards – will open their gates to visitors, in aid of local charities. Tickets are £7.50 for adults, with children under 12 free and teenagers and those on universal credit paying £5.





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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

Seaford aims to repair and update St Peter's

Seaford College is proposing to update the interior of its chapel, formerly Woolavington's parish church of St Peter's, while also repairing the exterior of the building. It bought the property a year ago after leasing it for around 50 years.

While stressing it intends to retain the church as a holy space, using it for services, weddings and baptisms, it intends to remove the pews, which were installed in 1937, and replace them with stackable chairs, enabling the building to accommodate other activities also, such as performances, rehearsals and teaching. The pews would be relocated elsewhere throughout the school. The floor under the pews would be covered in stone to match the rest of the building's interior.

The pulpit would be returned to St Mark's Church in Kennington, London, from where it came in 1965. The altar, font and the contents of the chancel would be retained, with those relating to Bishop Wilberforce – the Victorian owner of Lavington House and Park – positioned more prominently.

Heating and lighting would also be improved, while repairs to the outside of the building would be carried out as recommended by its latest five-yearly survey.

St Peters Church, Seaford College, East Lavington GU28 0NB: Internal alterations and external repairs to church. *SDNP/26/01322/LIS. Validated 7 Apr 2026. Determination deadline 2 Jun 2026.*

Other applications

Nearby, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QE: Dormer window to rear elevation, covered porch canopy to side elevation. *SDNP/26/01264/LDP. Validated 30 Mar 2026. Determination deadline 25 May 2026.*

Willow Cottage, Beechwood Lane, East Lavington GU28 0NA: Structural repairs to part of north elevation. *SDNP/26/01611/LIS. Validated 23 Apr 2026.*



St Peter's exterior would be repaired and its interior updated to enable it to accommodate more activities.



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Property watch

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

Homes of Rest, Graffham GU28 0NW: Grade II listed single-storied home in need of modernisation. Two bedrooms, one bathroom. 59 sq m (635 sq ft). Guide £295,000. *Knight Frank, Haslemere 01428 771287. 01730 771322. Listed 27 Apr.*



Beck House, South Ambersham GU29 0BX: Grade II listed detached house. Four bedrooms, three bathrooms plus cloakroom, sitting room, kitchen/diner, utility. 400sq m (4,308sq ft). Gardens with outbuildings including separate cottage. Guide £2.5 million. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst 01730 774837. Listed 1 May.*

Port, Heyshott GU29 0DL: Detached house, five bedrooms, three bathrooms plus cloakroom, sitting, drawing and dining rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast, utility. 277 sq m (2,988 sq ft). One acre garden with triple garage and pool. Guide £1.95 million. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst 01730 774837. 01730 771322. Listed 28 Apr.*



Burton Hill Lodge, Burton Park Road, GU28 0JS: Grade II listed detached period house. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms plus cloakroom, reception and dining rooms, study, kitchen/diner, utility. 208sq m (2,243sq ft). Gardens with garage. Guide £995,000. *Knight Frank, Haslemere 01428 771287. Listed 21 Apr.*

Bramble Tye, Shepherds Lane, Lodsworth, GU28 9BN: Detached chalet bungalow, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, living room, snug, study, kitchen/diner, utility, double attached garage. 241 sq m (2,594 sq ft). Garden. Guide £1.395 million. *Henry Adams, Midhurst 01730 774837. 01730 771345. Listed 1 May.*



Eastview, The Street, Lodsworth GU28 9BZ: Detached bungalow with planning approval. Currently two bedrooms, bathroom plus cloakroom, sitting and dining rooms, study, kitchen. Gardens of a third acre. Guide £725,000. *House Partnership, Cranleigh 01483 967667. Listed 25 Apr.*

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

Calloways Cottages, Graffham GU28 0NJ: Semi-detached, Grade II listed three bedroomed cottage, unfurnished, one bathroom, living and dining rooms., kitchen, utility, bootroom. 125sq m (1,341sq ft). £2,100pcm. *Savills, Petworth. 01798 300577. Listed 13 May.*



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School report: Ofsted, Dragon, pizzas and trips



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

It has been a wonderfully busy and positive term at Graffham Infant School, with lots to celebrate.

Ofsted inspection May began with a visit from Ofsted, which, while intense, proved to be a very positive experience. We are incredibly proud of how the whole school community rose to the occasion. The staff showed great professionalism and teamwork, and the children were a real credit to the school, representing Graffham beautifully throughout. We would also like to thank families for the thoughtful and supportive feedback shared with Ofsted. We are looking forward to the final report being published, hopefully before the summer holidays.

Breathing life back into 'The Dragon' A huge thank you goes to the parents who helped restore "The Dragon" at Graffham, especially Jo and Adam Alderton and Will Kenyon. We are also very grateful to Chandlers for providing the wood at a very generous price. The Dragon is a much-loved feature of the school grounds, steeped in history – originally built with help from the Army and believed to include stone from Chichester Cathedral in its head. It has now been lovingly restored and is once again ready for many daily adventures, much to the delight of the children.



Trip time There are plenty of exciting trips and experiences coming up. Kingfisher Class is very much looking forward to its visit to Marwell Zoo, while Wren Class will be visiting the village's own Slow Grown Farm for a hands-on learning experience. After half term, the whole school will enjoy a visit to Petworth House.

Festival of Flowers artwork We are also extremely proud that artwork created by Graffham pupils, led by Dominique Kenway and Mrs Wethered, will form part of the Chichester Festival of Flowers exhibition in early June. You may already

► *Continued on page 27*

THE THREE MOLES

• *Pulling Pints Since 1872* •



2026 SPECIAL EVENTS

30TH MAY **INFERNO ABBA:
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13TH JUN **IBIZA NIGHT:
IBIZA CLASSICS WITH CELINA SAX**

27TH JUN **THE CAPTAINS BEARD:
ROCK N' ROLL SEA SHANTIES**

28TH JUN **BLUES JAM NIGHT:
HOSTED BY PSYCHEDELIC HEARTS CLUB**

25TH JUL **STRAW DOGS:
TRADITIONAL & MODERN IRISH MUSIC**

26TH JUL **BLUES JAM NIGHT:
HOSTED BY PSYCHEDELIC HEARTS CLUB**

15TH AUG **THE ABSOLUTLEY DRAGULOUS SHOW:
WITH AMANDA & MARILYN FOCKHARD**

23RD AUG **BLUES JAM NIGHT:
HOSTED BY PSYCHEDELIC HEARTS CLUB**



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► *Continued from page 25*

have spotted a few sneak peeks on our social media pages. The children's work is looking beautiful and promises to make for a truly spectacular display.

Who's for pizza? Wren Class also had a fantastic time making pizzas in class, linked to the story pupils had been reading together. The teachers even set up a pizza oven in the playground and sold pizzas after school to raise money for more flour for the children's snack-time sourdough.



Summer performance After half term, preparations will begin for our much-loved annual summer performance, involving children from both Graffham and Duncton Schools. This event is always a highlight of the Friends of Graffham and Duncton (FGD) fundraising calendar. If you are able to donate anything towards the auction, please do let the school office know. As always, support from our community is hugely appreciated.

Follow us on social media Keep in touch through our social media:

- [instagram.com/graffhamanddunton_schools](https://www.instagram.com/graffhamanddunton_schools)
- [facebook.com/graffhamanddunton](https://www.facebook.com/graffhamanddunton)

Have your say on future of Sussex and Downs

Residents are being invited to provide their comments on two proposals that will have a significant influence on the future of our part of the world – Westminster's latest proposals for local government in West Sussex and the South Down National Park's (SDNP) draft plan.

Westminster plans to create two new unitary authorities for our county, combining Chichester district with Horsham, Mid Sussex and Crawley, including Gatwick, in one and Arun, Adur and Worthing in the other, rather than accept either of the recommendations put forward by the current county or district councils. You can see the proposal in full and give your views by 15 June at bit.ly/west-sussex-lgr-2

The consultation on SDNP's proposed local plan runs until 23 June. To see the draft and make a comment, go to www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/new-south-downs-local-plan/

Book now for garden group's summer outings

Graffham Garden Group has a busy programme of outings to some stunning gardens a short drive away planned this summer, with the details of the next three visits detailed below. All are welcome to join in – not just members. To book, contact Nicky West at nicolamwest@btinternet.com or on 07796 144647. Car sharing is encouraged so please always ask if you would like a lift!

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, Madehurst, 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.

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.

*Let's fill the hall with flowers, fruit, veg, photos,
wonderful cookery and handicrafts!*

GRAFFHAM GARDEN GROUP FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

Saturday 11 July

Empire Hall

8-10am Hall open for entries

2.30pm Hall open for viewings and teas

4pm Presentation of prizes

*Classes for flowers, fruit, vegetables,
cookery, handicraft and photographs*

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

*Photo classes: 1 Colourful and Outrageous 2 Local Scene
3 Building/ Architecture 4 Animal Portrait
5 Any subject (under 16s)*

The schedule of classes and full details are circulated with
this edition of *Graffham Parish News* – with more
available from the village shop or call Marie Bracey on
01798 867760

*Silverware and cash prizes up for grabs – but it's
the taking part that counts!*

Graffham Chronicles: Lavington Park's Wallaces

In her column this month, local historian Pauline Goodwin looks back at the last family to call Lavington House their home.

A decade ago, the name of Wallace was given to the square of 12 new private houses built at Seaford College. It was chosen at the suggestion of East Lavington Parish Council in memory of the last family to live at Lavington House and Park before it was sold to the school shortly after World War II – a conflict which cost the lives of four of the family's five sons.



Euan Wallace.

Captain David Euan Wallace, generally known just as Euan Wallace, and his second wife, Barbara, bought the estate in 1936. It was their home until his untimely death in 1941, aged 48, from complications following surgery.

After Euan died, his widow loaned Lavington House to the war effort. It became the HQ of the newly formed Army and Royal Marines Commando Group, with allied leaders like General Eisenhower reputed to have visited for meetings there.



Beechwood House, where Euan's widow Barbara lived out her days after leaving Lavington House.

Barbie, as her friends called her, remarried four years after Euan's death, to American journalist and historian Herbert Sebastian Agar. The family retained Beechwood House, which had been part of their Lavington estate, as their home, restoring it with designs drawn up by her father, the famous architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. They

lived there until her death in 1981, aged 83, five months after Herbert's passing. Throughout, she played an active role in village life.

Her first husband Euan Wallace had been born in Westminster in 1892 and educated at Harrow School before attending the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. He joined the Second Life Guards in 1911 at the age of 19 and served throughout the World War I. He was wounded in battle and mentioned in dispatches four times and awarded the Military Cross.

After the war, he was Britain's Military Attaché in Washington for a couple of years. He then went into politics. He was elected MP for Rugby in 1922 before

representing the constituency of Hornsey from 1924 until his death when he was one of the richest members of the House of Commons, after inheriting a family fortune built on iron and coal. He served in several different ministerial roles – with the Admiralty, Overseas Trade and the Treasury, ending up as Minister of Transport in the early days of World War II, from 1939 to 1940.

He married first in 1913, when he was just 21, to Lady Myra Idina Sackville, known as Idina and a year younger than him. They had two sons – David John, born in 1914, and Gerard Euan, who arrived a year later – but the marriage was unhappy, and, after the disruptions of World War I, they divorced in 1919. She moved to Kenya where she became a central figure in the “Happy Valley” set. She married four more times, all ending in divorce again. She died in Kenya in 1955, aged 62.

A year after the divorce, Euan wed his second wife Barbie in 1920, when he was 28 and she was 22. She was a qualified nurse, after working at London’s Lytton Red Cross Hospital for officers injured in the World War I. Like her husband, public service ran through her veins.

She gave him three more sons – John, who arrived in 1922, Edward Peter, who followed the next year, and finally William Euan “Billy”, who joined them after a five-year gap, in 1927. It was when the baby of the family Billy was nine that they moved into Lavington House and Park, in 1936.

Within a decade, the four oldest Wallace boys were dead – all killed in service in World War II. Their names are inscribed on Graffham’s War Memorial and on the plaque at St Giles Church. The Wallaces lost more men in the conflict than any other family in the village.

▶ *Continued on next page*



Evan Wallace’s first wife Idina went on to be a leading figure in the decadent ‘Happy Valley’ set of mid-war Kenya.



Evan’s second wife Barbara – as a nurse and later in life.



Evan and Barbie with sons John, Edward and, in the arms of a nanny, Billy, pictured in 1927.



Gerard, the first of four Euan Wallace sons to die in service in World War II.

► *Continued from previous page*

Gerard was the first to die. A wing commander in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, he lost his life in a flying accident in Kenya in August 1943, aged 27.

His elder brother David John, was killed in action in Greece during the Battle of Menina in August 1944, aged 29, while serving as a Major in the King’s Royal Rifle Corps. He had already won the Military Cross, like his father.

Edward Peter died in action three months later, in November 1944, aged 21, as a flight lieutenant in, like his half-brother Gerard, the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He had already been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

John survived until just after the war ended, but died in 1946, aged 24, after an operation on a wound received while serving as a lieutenant in the Life Guards.

That left the baby of the family, Billy, as the sole surviving son. For a while, his name was linked with Princess Margaret, sister of Queen Elizabeth II. There was even wide-spread speculation that they became engaged. She was a regular visitor to Lavington Park. I recall often seeing her chauffeured limousine along The Drive, taking her to see Billy. She often attended St Peter’s Church (now Seaford



Mr. William Euan Wallace, only surviving son of the late Captain David Euan Wallace and Mrs. Herbert Agar, and his bride, formerly the Hon. Elizabeth Hoyer Millar, pictured leaving the small village church of St. Peter’s, East Lavington, after their wedding. The bride was rather taken aback by the size of the large crowd waiting outside the church.

A newspaper report of Billy Wallace’s wedding at East Lavington’s St Peter’s Church in 1965.

College’s chapel) and on occasion went to services at St Giles. Five years after she married Anthony Armstrong-Jones (later Lord Snowdon), Billy wed too, to Elizabeth Anne Hoyer Miller, at St Peter’s in 1965. He died 12 years later, in 1977, aged 49, of cancer. They had no children.

His mother Barbie survived him – as she had her two other sons, her two step sons and both her husbands. She would say: “My poor boys only knew school and war.”

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

Bill's bygones: Resignations, Rustics, Revels

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 – June 2016: Ivy Money, resident in Graffham for 92 years, celebrates her 100th birthday. Chair of East Lavington Parish Council Vivien Gosden reports that the last property in Lavington Park has been sold and a Residents Association can now be established. Seaford College invites the village to Community Drinks at the Mansion House. The United Kingdom votes to leave the European Union – David Cameron resigns as Conservative leader (but does not relinquish the premiership until October). England are knocked out of the Euro 2016 tournament by a 2-1 defeat to Iceland in the round of 16 – manager Roy Hodgson resigns. Deaths of iconic boxer and activist Muhammad Ali (aged 74) and Labour MP Jo Cox (41).

25 years ago – June 2001: St Giles holds a special service to celebrate 50 years since the founding of the Graffham Rustics by Eddy Loring. Mike Dimmer reports that he and Chris Major have successfully negotiated Graffham Tennis Club's affiliation to the Lawn Tennis Association, following which plans for a second court are initiated. At Wimbledon, 32 players rather than 16 are seeded in the men's and women's draws for the first time. Tony Blair is re-elected as Prime Minister in a second landslide – William Hague resigns as Tory leader. David Cameron enters the House of Commons as a new MP as Ted Heath retires from it after more than 50 years. Deaths of Liverpool FC manager and coach Joe Fagan (80), actors Jack Lemmon (76) and Joan Sims (71).

50 years ago – June 1976: The Fernhurst Revels are disrupted by bad weather just before the heat wave peaks – from 22 June temperatures exceed 80°F every day for four weeks, peaking at 95°F (35°C) in Southampton, a June record. Rex Harrison (in *Monsieur Perichon's Travels*), Susan Hampshire and Googie Withers (in Maugham's *The Circle*) are revealed as the stars of Chichester Festival Theatre's summer season. The Wurzels reach number one in the UK singles chart with *Combine Harvester*. After skipper Tony Greig announces the West Indies will "grovel", Viv Richards hammers the England attack for 232, but the first two Tests are drawn. The Soweto uprising begins. Deaths of actress Dame Sybil Thorndike (93), US industrialist J. Paul Getty (83), actor Stanley Baker (48) and retired handyman Leslie Herbert Parry of 15 Guillods Cottages, Graffham (64).

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Graffham Parish News' genteel June quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers on page 55 (no cheating!)

- 1 The Memorial Tree behind the pavilion, replanted at the Rec in 2016, commemorates which members of the Challen family?
- 2 Which annual Christian holiday is the “birthday of the Church” and celebrated 49 days after Easter?
- 3 The nativity of which saint almost coincides with the June solstice: [a] Richard, [b] John the Baptist, [c] Giles?
- 4 The cathedral at Old Sarum was closed 800 years ago this month and moved two miles south to New Sarum, now known as which city?
- 5 Whose independence does the Sussex Declaration, a document dating from the 1780s and kept at West Sussex Records Office, record?
- 6 Which artist, whose most famous work was inspired by the River Stour in Suffolk, was born 250 years ago on 11 June?
- 7 Whose dog Ned is regular seen on BBC2 on Friday evenings?
- 8 The “Long Tom”, last used during Botham's Ashes series of 1981, was a type of [a] abdominal guard, [b] camera or [c] flag?
- 9 With whom does French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez share the record of 10 clean sheets in men’s World Cup finals matches: [a] Jordan Pickford, [b] Joe Hart, [c] Peter Shilton?
- 10 Which BBC “mockumentary” series featured boorish sales rep Chris “Finchy” Finch: [a] *The Office*, [b] *Cunk on Britain*, [c] *Come Fly With Me*?

Letters to the editor – the column YOU write

Anything in the village or Graffham Parish News caught your eye? Or something you just want to share? Drop us an email to editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

As many Graffham residents know, I have to close my books for a while and not take on any more new customers for the time being because of childcare demands. I would love to thank all my wonderful clients for past five years of custom, support and friendship – and Sam Thomas for helping me set up the business in this lovely, beautiful village. – **Paula Sails, Paula’s Cleaning Services.**

Graffham Down Trust Annual Picnic

Sunday July 5 2026, 10am to 2pm

A day to enjoy the reserves

Meet outside St Giles Church at 9.45am.

Picnic on the Downs for all ages – two and four legs.

Bring a picnic and join us in Bowley's Reserve at midday.



Westerlands will be providing their delicious burgers



Maybe spot a purple emperor



Come enjoy the beautiful wild flowers

To reserve a ride to the top, contact JimKirke@hotmail.com

For more information, e-mail sennitt2@gmail.com

Out and about: Insect eating plants hereabouts

An occasional column by Jonathan Simons, Graffham-based mathematician manqué and wannabee botanist

Sundews are insectivorous. Their hairy, sticky leaves attract insects which then become stuck and digested. They grow in bogs and marshes on bare ground or on nearby sphagnum moss. The small white flowers are borne on a single stalk rising from a rosette of the leaves.

Inevitably there are two types in our area – the round-leaved sundew, *Drosera rotundifolia*, and the oblong-leaved sundew, *Drosera intermedia*. They each can be found on both East and West Graffham Common Nature Reserves.

The main differences between the species is obviously the leaf-shape, as in the name. The oblong-leaved is generally smaller and the flower-stalk rises from the underneath the centre of the rosette rather directly from the top.

Where they grow together, as on our East Common, you will find the round-leaved tends to be on the periphery of muddy patches on sphagnum while the oblong-leaved goes for the middle. On the West Common, the species are on different sites. Both species also occur on Heyshott Common and the round-leaved can be found too on Lavington Plantation.

Charles Darwin did a lot of research into sundews. His experiments with *Drosera rotundifolia* were the first to confirm carnivory in plants. In an 1860 letter, Darwin wrote: “At the present moment, I care more about *Drosera* than the origin of all the species in the world.” Good man.



Round-leaved (left) and oblong-leaved sundews can be found widely in our area.

Nature Notes: This little light of mine

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

It's not what you look like but what's inside that counts. The glow-worm knows this. First off, we need to get one thing straight – she's not a worm. Glow-worms are beetles – except she doesn't look much like a beetle – more like a squashed woodlouse.

She may not look like much – but she knows that she has a certain something that is more alluring than all the brightly coloured feathers, petals, fur and scales that others use in their desperate cries for attention. When the colours of the day start to fade, she undertakes a dignified climb to the top of a blade of grass. She positions herself carefully, turns on her love-light and shines.

When scientists explain the phenomenon, they use words like “bioluminescence” and discuss the “oxidation of luciferin” – but these boffins and their fancy talk ain't fooling me. I know magic when I see it, and to look upon glow-worms shining on a warm summer's evening is just that –magical. Of course, she's not glowing for

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our benefit – there’s a special someone she’s trying to attract.

I’ve been referring to the glow-worm as “she” because the female is the one who does the glowing. The male looks like a different species altogether and is glow-worm by association.

Much smaller and beetle-like in appearance he has bulging eyes which are protected under a see-through rim on his tough beetle-body – imagine a tiny Marty Feldman in a suit of armour and a sun visor and you’re not too far off.

On warm evenings he flies over the grass looking down for a female’s glow. When her signal registers on his radar he dives, crashing to the ground near her. He then looks up through his visor to locate the female hanging over him before scuttling the short distance to his new partner.

We’re lucky to still have glow-worms around Sussex. Many factors such as habitat loss and habitat fragmentation are behind a decline in numbers. Please let me know of any glow-worms you see this year.

- 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:



Glow-worms lighting up the dusk.
© Derek Middleton, Sussex Wildlife Trust.



Graffham Bowls Club

Graffham Bowls Club will be holding their centenary tournament on Saturday 27 June with friends from other local clubs invited to join for this special event to mark the hundredth season of our club.

Play has started on our green. Historically, it is damp for the first few roll ups but it has been dry so far this year, making bowling easier for everybody.

Anyone interested in trying bowls can come along on any Monday evening at 5.30pm (weather permitting) and have a go for free. Just wear flat shoes. The club will provide bowls – and a warm welcome! Contact numbers are in the directory in the inside back pages of *Graffham Parish News*.



Graffham Bowls Club's newest trophy has been presented for the first time – the Graham Kingsmill Salver, named in honour of the long-time club stalwart, for the winner of the club's annual men's single tournament. Graham himself is pictured after handing over the silverware to inaugural winner Charlie Tyrell.

Graffham Bowls Club June home fixtures

24 Jun

6pm

v Petworth

Graffham Ladies Cricket Club

Graffham Ladies' first match of the season provided a thrilling climax in the sunshine of late April – sneaking a rare away victory against regular opponents West Wittering. The match was played using the double wicket format in which each pair bats for four overs and the loss of a wicket costs five runs with sides starting with 200 runs.

Our girls were put in to bat by the home team, with Angie Thornley and Vasu laying down a solid foundation for the rest of the team. Matilda Shelton-Agar, Denise Clay and Ardra were the other big scorers, finding the gaps to reach the boundary on several occasions. Newcomer Bianca Pitt hit some tremendous shots, including one which took the bails off the stumps at the bowler's end! This taught both teams



All smiles from Graffham, on the right in white and blue, after a rare away victory against West Wittering – who don't seem too downcast themselves!

the rather bizarre rule governing when a batsman is to be given out in this situation! At the end of their innings Graffham scored 251 after losing seven wickets.

Captain Louise Creed marshalled her bowlers and West Wittering were surprised to see the pace of the balls that Matilda and Ardra were sending down. Each of them clean bowled at least one batter. Wickets also fell to the bowling of Vasu with a particularly neat catch taken by rookie keeper Holly Sabin. Debutante Jess Hill bowled some tidy overs as well. Graffham's fielding was outstanding, with many fours being prevented just inside the boundary rope. As the final over was announced by umpire Brett Creed, West Wittering were on 249, needing just three runs to win. Graffham badly needed a wicket and Matilda was sent on with this objective. A couple of singles left the match tied at 251 each. Four balls in, though, Matilda's delivery hurtled down towards the batter, who caught an edge and the ball flew into the gloves of Holly, whose courage had earlier been dented by a Matilda-ball hitting her sunglasses.

This left West Wittering needing six to win. After a quick single they needed a six from the last ball but the pace of the delivery was too fast and they managed two runs before being run out in their attempt.

It was the closest end to any of our matches with our old rivals, who treated us to a magnificent match tea in their pavilion. Somehow the sun always seems to shine on these fixtures and we look forward to the return one at the Rec in September.

Mixed Cricket

A fun day of cricket for players is being planned for Sunday 28 June on the Rec. The exact format is yet to be decided – but it will be softball, and everyone will be welcome, no matter what age or which gender. Watch out for details on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard.



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Graffham Tennis Club



Club nights Graffham Tennis Club's ever popular club nights are continuing throughout the summer – every Friday from 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome, whether you are a club member or not.

Astonishingly, the sun has shone for all so far!

Club tournaments Dates for the club's friendly one-day tournaments have now been finalised. To take part, send an email to the appropriate address in the table below. For doubles, there is no need to arrange a partner but do declare if you have someone in mind.

Tournament	Date	Enter by	Contact to enter
Men's A Singles	6 Sep	6 Aug	admin@graffhamtennis.co.uk
Men's B Singles	19 Jul	19 Jun	
Ladies' Singles	5 Jul	5 Jun	
Men's Doubles	11 Jul	11 Jun	
Ladies' Doubles	12 Sep	12 Aug	andy.craig@peoplepuzzles.co.uk
Mixed Doubles	27 Jun	5 Jun	
Senior Mixed	27 Jul	27 Jun	thonrhills@aol.com

East Hants league

The club has recorded a mixed bag of results in recent league matches:

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
24 Apr	Won 8-0	Ladies' Doubles	Div 2	v Midhurst A
27 Apr	Lost 8-0	Mixed Doubles	Div 1	v Haslemere A
30 Apr	Lost 5-3	Ladies' Doubles	Div 2	v Newman Collard A
1 May	Drew 4-4	Men's Doubles	Div 4	V Medstead C
6 May	Drew 4-4	Ladies' Doubles	Div 4	V Alton A

Home fixtures begin in earnest this month – do come down and watch!

Graffham Tennis Club June home fixtures				
1 Jun	6.30pm	Men's Doubles	Div 4	v Alton C
9 Jun		Ladies' Doubles	Div 2	v The Avenue
11 Jun		Mixed Doubles	Div 1	v Swanmore A
15 Jun		Men's Doubles	Div 4	v Liphook
16 Jun		Ladies' Doubles	Div 2	v Haslemere B
24 Jun		Ladies' Doubles	Div 4	V Fernhurst C

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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Petworth's Father Mark retires next month...

The Rev Canon Mark Gilbert, Rural Dean for our Petworth deanery, Rector of the town's St Mary's and former rector of Graffham is retiring after 38 years as a priest. Father Mark was priest at our St Giles, a role he combined with his post as Chaplain at Seaford College, from 2001 to 2009. His last Sunday as Petworth's Rector will be 5 July – coincidentally he and his wife Margaret's 40th wedding anniversary.

...as Heyshott's Father Jonathan returns to Oxford

Father Jonathan Lewis-Jong of neighbouring Heyshott has left the parish to take up a new appointment as vicar of St Mary Magdalen in central Oxford, where he previously served as a curate and associate priest. He had served as Rector of the benefice of the Churches Under the Downs, which includes Cocking with West Lavington and Bepton besides Heyshott, since 2021.

PACT prepares for its kids' summer club

Petworth Area Churches Together (PACT) will be holding its Kids Club Summer Holiday Bible Club from Monday 27 July to Friday 31 July for all children of primary school age. For more information, contact Annie Sneller on 07790 107377 or The Sylvia Beaufoy Centre at enquiries@sylviabeaufoy.org

Foodbank warns fuel cost rises may spur demand

Petworth Foodbank has reported demand down by 5 per cent on a year ago – but warns that rising fuel prices may lead to an upswing in the coming months. 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:

- Cooking oil.
- Shampoo, conditioner.
- Tinned meat, stews etc.
- Deodorant.
- Shower gel.
- Tomato ketchup.
- Long-life juice and milk.
- Stock cubes.
- Washing powder.
- Nappies size 6.
- Tinned fish and veg.
- Washing up liquid.



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 people in the village hit by the cost of living crisis. Contact Rev Vivien to find out more.



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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.

May

31	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist <i>Reading: Psalm 8 and 2 Cor 13.11-end</i>	St Giles Church
		6.30pm	Taizé Prayer	All Saints Chapel

June

2	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
		11.30am	Graffham Infant School assembly	St Giles Church
3	Wed	12.30pm	Food with Friends	The Rectory
4	Thu	3.30pm	Messy Church	St Giles Church
6	Sat	9.30am	Come and Sing!	St Giles Church
7	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 1 with Baptism of Paddy Godman-Dorington <i>Reading: Genesis 12.1-9</i>	St Giles Church
9	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
		2.30am	PCC Worship Group meeting	Occam Cottage
14	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 2 <i>Reading: Genesis 18.1-15</i>	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
16	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
		11.30am	Graffham Infant School assembly	St Giles Church
		6.30pm	Messy Church planning meeting	Ladywell Cottage
21	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30 am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 3 with Baptism of Harrison and Rory <i>Reading: Romans 6.1b-11</i>	St Giles Church
23	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
25	Thu		Seaford College Community Action day	St Giles Church
26	Fri	3.30om	Wedding rehearsal	St Giles Church
27	Sat	1pm	Wedding of Megan and Robbie	St Giles Church
28	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity 4 <i>Reading: Genesis 22.1-14</i>	
30	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel

What's on in and around the village

- For weekly events, see page 51. For church services and other events, see page 47. For home sports fixtures, see pages 40-43.
- 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

May

28	Thu	2.30pm	Graffham Garden Group outing - see page 28	Meadow Farm Pulborough RH20 1DF
30	Sat	10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		From 8pm	Inferno - Abba tribute band	Three Moles
31	Sun	7-10pm	Booze 'n' Blues Night	Three Moles

June

1	Mon		WSSC schools return from half-term	
2	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
		10.45am	Arts Society of Midhurst talk: Grayson Perry - Pots and Frocks	Methodist Hall, Midhurst
		2pm	Arts Society West Sussex talk on The Genius of René Lalique	Fittleworth Village Hall
3	Wed		World Bicycle Day	
		9am-5pm	Festival of Flowers (till Sat 6 June)	Chichester Cathedral
4	Thu	10.30-11.30am	UKHarvest surplus food market	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petworth
		From 3.30pm	Messy Church	St Giles Church
5	Fri		World Environment Day	
		11am-5pm	Artists Sue Hill and Richard Davidson's open studios - see pages 18-19	Brookdene and Graffham Houses
		4-11pm	Goodwood Friday Night races with music (also on 13 and 19 June)	Goodwood
6	Sat		Love Your Burial Ground Week/Churches Count on Nature starts	
		2-6pm	Lurgashall Village Fete	Lurgashall
		7.30-9.30pm	Comedy night	Langham Brewery
7	Sun	3-5pm	Orchid walk and cream teas	Heyshott
		1-5.30pm	Petworth secret gardens trail	Petworth
		11.30am-7pm	Family race day	Goodwood
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
9	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
10	Wed		Deadline for contributions to Graffham Parish News' July edition	
		7-10pm	Midhurst Jazz and Blues Festival presents Will James Special Solo Show	Fairview Wines, Midhurst
11	Thu	10.30am	Graffham Garden Group outing - see page 28	Dale Park House, Arundel

11	Thu	Afternoon	Thursday Club talk by Colin Barker on 50 years as a photographer – see page 10	Empire Hall
			Men's Football World Cup (till 19July)	North America
13	Sat		Trooping the Colour	London
		11am	Screening of <i>The People's Emergency Briefing</i> film followed by discussion – see page 6	Empire Hall
		2.30pm	East Dean village fete	East Dean Old Vicarage
			Midsummer fayre (also on Sunday 14 June)	Weald & Downland Mus'm
	From 8pm	Ibiza Night with Celena Sax	Three Moles	
14	Sun	12noon-6pm	Open gardens	Amberley
		7-9.30pm	Folk music night	The Three Moles
16	Tue		Sussex Day	
			Petworth Festival (till 1 Aug)	Petworth
18	Thu		Royal Ascot (till 20 June)	Ascot
		Afternoon	Duncton Junior School sports day	Duncton Junior School
		8pm-late	Midhurst Jazz and Blues Festival presents The Half-Note Club 1950s-60s night	Fratellis, Midhurst
19	Fri	Afternoon	Graffham Infant School sports day	Rec
		10am-5pm	West's Wood Fair (till 21 June) – see page 17	East Dean
20	Sat		King Charles III's official birthday	
		3pm	MADhurst presents Sussex Band of the Royal British Legion	South Downs Memorial Hall, Midhurst
21	Sun		Fathers' Day	
			Vintage tractors and machinery	Coultershaw Heritage
24	Wed	10.30am	Duncton Junior School Year 6 Leavers' Service	Chichester Cathedral
		12.30pm	Lunch Club ²	Empire Hall
		7-10.15pm	Midhurst Jazz and Blues Festival Jam Sessions	Wheatsheaf, Midhurst
25	Thu	7.15-10.15pm	Midhurst Jazz and Blues Festival: Big Joe Louis	Lions Den, Midhurst
26	Fri	7.30pm	MADhurst Fashion Show	South Downs Hall, Midhurst
27	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		1pm	Wedding of Megan and Robbie	St Giles Church
			Graffham Bowls Club's centenary tournament	Rec
			Graffham Tennis Club's mixed doubles tournament	Rec
		From 12 noon	Fete in the Park	Petworth Park
		evening	Petworth Chorus summer concert	Herbert Shiner, Petworth
From 8pm	Captain's Beard pirate rock	Three Moles		
28	Sun		Fun softball mixed cricket for all	Rec
		4-6pm	Midhurst Jazz and Blues Festival: Keziah jazz	Kemaellis, Midhurst
		7-10pm	Booze 'n' Blues Night	Three Moles
29	Mon		Wimbledon Tennis fortnight opens	Wimbledon
30	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall


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

²**Graffham Lunch Club** meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm for 12.45pm for a home cooked two-course meal and coffee, at £10 a head. Please book via Harriet on 07415 256432.

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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 ⁷	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

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.

For Graffham's village diary for June, see pages 48 - 49

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Quiz answers (from page 35)

1 Dick and Joan. 2 Pentecost. 3 [b] John the Baptist. 4 Salisbury. 5 The USA's. 6 John Constable. 7 Monty Don's (*Gardeners World*). 8 [b] camera. 9 [c] Peter Shilton. 10 [a] *The Office*.



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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.

Directory: Useful local contact info

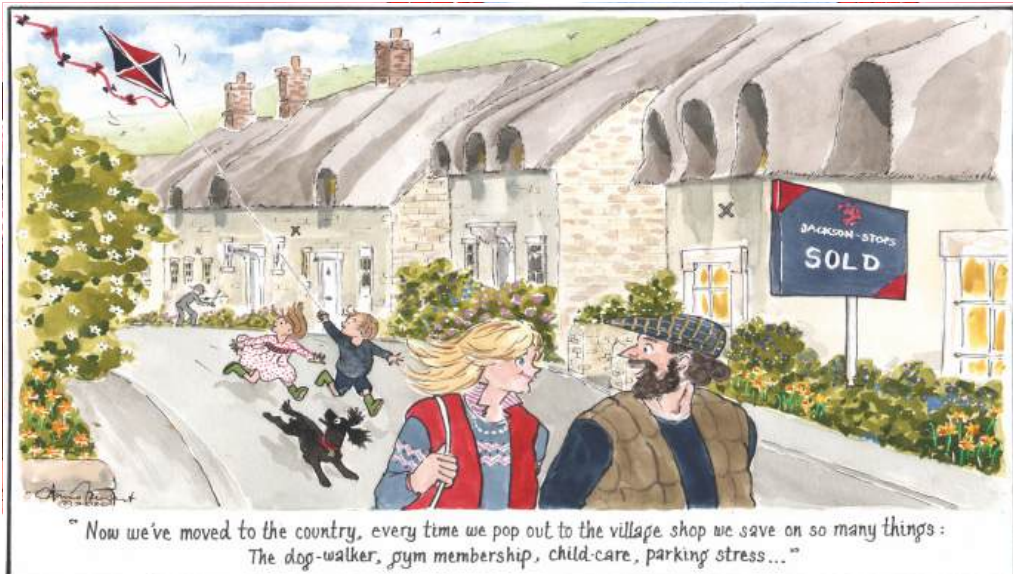
DOCTORS	Petworth Surgery	01798 342248
	Midhurst Riverbank Medical Centre	01730 812121
	Haslemere Minor Injuries Unit	01483 782334
DEFIBRILLATORS	On outside wall of Empire Hall	Code is C240Z
	On outside wall of Pavilion	Code is C159X
	In phone box outside Pescods	Code is also C159X
	In phone box opposite The Three Moles	No code needed
FLOOD ALERT for Lods Bridge	To check river level	bit.ly/lodsbridge
POLICE	In emergency	999
	Non-emergency	101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 101
BURST WATER MAINS	Southern Water	0800 820 999
POWER CUTS	Scottish & Southern Electric	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	forestersarmsgraftam.com	01798 867386
Graffham Archive	Robin Brind	graftamarchive@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	Fiona Jacob fifij@icloud.com
	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
	Churchwardens Cindy Bradley	07787 516522
	Liz Jenkins	07836 326100
	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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