GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 429 FREE NOVEMBER 2026

ACE Association for Church Editors
Triple AWARD WINNER 2026



St Giles • Graffham 150

Graffham will remember them

Green light for Lavington regeneration

Should our village shop go solar?

20mph plan back on the roundabout



On the cover: Graffham and East Lavington residents will gather at our War Memorial this month to honour the 34 men from the village who gave their lives in service of our country – as they have every year since it was unveiled in 1921.
See pages 2 and 32.

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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Archives and online This edition and back copies can be viewed online at bit.ly/GPNonline

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Member Editor 2026 Award Winner 2022
Association for Church Editors

Writing from the Rectory: Vicarbrac

I wrote in *Graffham Parish News* last month of our need to clear the loft of our family home, and indeed our whole house and garden – a marathon task, as anyone knows who has sold a property after many years of family occupation.

With phase one successfully completed, we are now addressing ourselves to phase two – sorting the boxes piled up in the Rectory and other storage facilities that we lacked patience to address when still occupying our old home.

As suggested in my previous letter, doing this is emotional and cathartic in equal measure. Reassessing the value of sentimental possessions or things of beauty or potentially useful items can be challenging, though also surprisingly liberating, valuable to refresh our surroundings and clear our heads as well.

Religious brothers and sisters who follow a monastic life recognise the benefits of simplicity of living. It's a core principle of monasticism to live with a minimum of physical items which distract from a clear

▸ *Continued on next page*



You might just find exactly what you've been looking for on the Rev Vivien's 'Vicarbrac' stall at Graffham Christmas Fair. You'll be able to see for yourself, on Saturday 5 December in the Empire Hall. See also pages 30 and 31.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
The Parish of Graffham with Woolavington

Priest in charge: Reverend Vivien Turner
hello@stgilesgraffham.org 01798 867199
Vivien's rest days are Mondays and Fridays (other than for weddings and other special events).

Churchwardens: Cindy Bradley 07787 516522
Liz Jenkins 07836 326100

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Howard Prescott
07905 002195 safeguardinggraffham@gmail.com

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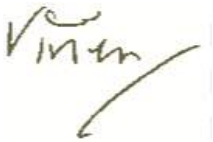
focus on spiritual realities. This is a way of living in direct contrast with contemporary consumer society which is constantly encouraging us to purchase and surround ourselves with more and more 'stuff' that we are unlikely to need, that gets in the way of us seeing what is really valuable to possess. Most of us benefit from a happy medium, surrounding ourselves with a few things that work in reminding us of happy times or people, inspire us with their colour, design or style, or are unquestionably practical.

> 'Better one handful with tranquillity than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind.'
> *– Ecclesiastes 4.6*

And sometimes, the thing lurking in our drawer or on our shelf or in our cupboard that we haven't used for ages, may be just the thing someone else actually needs or would value.

So, I'm taking the opportunity to set out some items from our household on a stall we're calling 'Vicarbrac' at the Christmas fair this December. Maybe something we have had exactly fits that useful or beautiful bill for you. If not, at least come and be amazed at the sheer quantity of things Reverend Vivien and her family have accumulated over the years!

Every blessing.



Reverend Vivien

Drivers asked to show respect on Poppy days

In line with Graffham tradition, motorists are being asked to avoid driving past the War Memorial during the Remembrance Service on Sunday 8 November and Armistice Prayers on Wednesday 11 November, both of which will be held there from just before 11am for around half an hour.



While there will be no formal road closure in force, marshals will be out to encourage vehicles to detour between Graffham Village Shop and the 'Pound' junction.

Villagers are also asked not to use mechanical garden or other noisy equipment while the services are taking place.

- Graffham will remember them – see page 32

Graffham Parish News scoops trio of awards

Graffham Parish News has scooped three honours in the 2026 'Oscars' for parish magazines, the Association for Church Editors awards which are open to publications produced by or for churches of all denominations throughout the UK.

Your monthly village news magazine was one of just nine to receive awards this year – and the only one to receive more than two accolades, with Certificates of Excellence for Best Covers, Best Headlines and Best Use of Graphics.

The panel of expert judges described *Graffham Parish News* as "a lovely magazine for the community, with proper stories and features – excellent and professional. Lucky readers! A worthy winner."

The awards were presented at the association's annual meeting, at Westminster's Central Hall on Saturday 26 September. Editors Michael Blunt and Bill Barrett attended – fellow editor Philippa Sanders had a prior commitment.



Michael Blunt (left) and Bill Barrett receive *Graffham Parish News'* awards from Association of Church Editors Chairman, the appropriately named Sally Churchus, at Central Hall Westminster.

Because of the variety in styles of parish magazines, the association's awards each year focus on a specific type. This year's were for magazines printed in full colour. Four years ago, when the awards were open to A5-sized colour magazines, *Graffham Parish News* received a Certificate of Excellence.

Editors headline at Thursday Club

October's meeting of the village's Thursday Club heard the inside story of how *Graffham Parish News* lands through every one of the 350 letterboxes in the neighbourhood each month. Editors Michael Blunt and Bill Barrett showed how the magazine had evolved since its forerunner was first published almost 50 years ago and how it is created, printed and distributed today. The Thursday Club's meeting this month is on 12 November.

Please join us for our

Messy Church Christmas Party!

Messy Church

Children and young people of all ages welcome, with their Mums and Dads!
(Grannies and Grandads welcome, too!)

Empire Hall, Graffham
Sunday 6 December 3pm



- Party games
- Christmas songs
- Crafts
- Jelly, ice cream and other yummy things to eat and drink
- Fun and laughter

RSVP via the Messy Families WhatsApp or Rev Vivien.

PEACE

Thursday 19 November
3.30–6pm
St Giles Church

Games, craft activities, worship – and a hot meal!
Learning about bible stories and faith in fun ways that everyone can join in.



Supporting St Giles Graffham

20mph limit scheme back on the roundabout

Graffham Parish Council's (GPC) plans to lower the speed limits on the roads in and around the village are back on the roundabout after West Sussex County Council rejected its latest proposal and suggested instead an approach that the parish council had previously put forward.

The Community Highways Scheme submitted by GPC to the county in late July would have seen the current 30mph restriction along The Street in the centre of the village reduced to 20mph along with new "buffer" zones of 40mph on each approach, in place of the current 60mph national speed limit. A petition in support of this proposal was signed by more than 200 residents in just a few weeks.

However, analysis by West Sussex's highways team of actual traffic speeds along the roads involved since then showed that the average in the "buffer" areas was already below 40mph. Its experts suggested that enforcing a 40mph limit on these roads might result in average speeds increasing – which is why the county nixed this Community Highways Scheme.

It noted, however, that average speeds along The Street in the village centre, where the current 30mph restriction applies, were above 20mph and advised that a simpler Traffic Regulation Order covering just this stretch of road might be a more appropriate approach – just as GPC had originally proposed.

Chairman Gillian Charlesworth said: "We only submitted the more complex Community Highways Scheme proposal because we had been advised that there had to be a 'buffer' area between the 20mph zone and roads where the national

▸ *Continued on page 7*



West Sussex County Council has rejected this proposal for a Community Highways Scheme for Graffham which would have seen the restriction on the roads highlighted in amber dashes in this map reduced from the national speed limit to 40mph. The lanes marked here with blue dashes could still have the speed limit cut from the current 30mph to 20mph if the parish council is successful with a simpler Road Traffic Order application


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Continued from page 5

limit applied – but this latest response from West Sussex appears to indicate that this is not necessary. While making no promises, the county suggested we consider re-applying for a simpler scheme along the lines of the one we had originally put forward, covering The Street from its southern end to Carpenters Town on Selham Road and to the top of Popple Hill."

GPC will consider its response at its next scheduled meeting, on Wednesday 4 November. Making the community's roads safer is a key part of its Village Plan, following a recent spate of near misses on local streets at a time when traffic through the neighbourhood is increasing, with more development, including the recently approved Woodcote expansion, along with an increasing trend towards multiple vehicle households and more online shopping deliveries. Meantime, cars, lorries and vans today are much larger and faster than our roads were originally envisaged to handle.

Governance review launched on parish merger

Chichester District Council (CDC) on Tuesday 22 September launched a formal community governance review of whether the proposed merger of Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils should proceed, accepting the recommendation of its Boundary Review Panel. Residents had until Friday 23 October to have their say. Both Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils had requested the review.

A final decision on whether to combine the current two separate parish councils is now expected at CDC's meeting on 19 January 2027. Under current legislation, district councils have the authority to decide on such parish council mergers and boundary reviews. If the proposal is given the go ahead, this would allow for a new single parish council for Graffham and East Lavington to be put in place immediately after the local government elections next May.

This latest step follows several years of discussion within the neighbourhood, by both parish councils and including a special joint meeting of the two parishes a year ago, indicating a strong level of support among residents for the proposed combination.

In an indicative ballot held at the end of that meeting, the 40 residents of East Lavington who

Continued on page 9



Chichester District Council's announcement of its formal review of the proposed merger of East Lavington and Graffham Parish Councils.

Graffham Empire Movies

GRAFHAM EMPIRE MOVIES

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

OLIVIA COLMAN

THE ROSES

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MEET THE PARENTS AND THE WRITER OF POOR THINGS



Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy and Theo, with successful careers, a loving marriage and great kids – but beneath the façade, a storm is brewing. As his career nosedives, her ambitions take off and a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites.

Critics described it as 'affecting and hilarious' and said 'watching Colman and Cumberbatch trade barbs is a treat onto itself'.

Certificate 15 *121 minutes*

Saturday 7 November **Empire Hall**

Doors and bar open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Interval ice creams

Wine, beer, mocktails, chocolates, popcorn.

Tickets – £10 adults – from ticketsource.co.uk/GEM or at the door

Continued from page 7

either attended the meeting or cast a vote by email – representing more than 25 per cent of the parish's total electors – 92 per cent voted in favour of combining with Graffham. In total, 37 backed a merger and just three against. From Graffham, the level of support was even higher. Only one of the 33 who cast a vote was against a merger. The governance review has also gained the support of West Susses County Council.

Would you like our village shop to go solar?

Plans are being considered to make Graffham Village Shop more environmentally friendly, future-proof and cost efficient, by adding solar panels to its south facing roof – so long as the village supports the move and funding can be sourced. Residents are being asked to give their views now in an online survey.

Currently the shop uses around 80,000 kWh a year of electricity, primarily for its chillers and freezers. Adding solar panels on its main and veranda roof could generate 14,000 kWh annually. This would cut the amount of electricity it uses from the National Grid by around 20 per cent. With energy prices as high as they currently are, that represents a considerable financial saving every year.



This AI-generated picture shows how Graffham Village Shop could look with solar panels – if the community backs the plan and funding sourced.

An initial quote indicates the cost of installing them could reach £17,000 – so the Graffham Village Shop Association (which owns the building that Jeeva and Vasu rent to run their business) would only be able to go ahead if it can source funding from grants to cover an appropriate portion of the investment – which it is hopeful of achieving. Planning permission would also be needed.

Have your say Before deciding whether to proceed with solar panels, Graffham Village Shop Association wants to hear the community's views. Have your say by completing a short survey:

- At tinyurl.com/GraffhamVillageShopSolar
- Or point your phone camera at this QR code.



The redundant farm buildings at Calloways can now be converted into nine houses...

Lavington's regeneration gains green light

Plans for the restoration and regeneration of Lavington Stud and Estate, including Calloways, can proceed after gaining unanimous backing from South Downs National Park Authority's Planning Committee at its October meeting.

Approval comes with a string of more than 30 conditions, including agreement of access and construction plans and a contribution of more than £450,000 towards affordable housing in the region.

Prompted by an intervention by Graffham Parish Council, the owners were tasked with pursuing the potential of some construction and on-going traffic accessing the site via Seaford College's driveway onto the A285 in addition to its Graffham entrance. The authority said afterwards that these access arrangements had not yet been confirmed but would eventually be covered by a plan to be agreed with the applicants which would form one of the conditions for approval.

Both Graffham and its East Lavington neighbour had supported the overall proposals for the historic 650 acre estate, which straddles their border. So too now has the park authority. Speaking at its planning meeting, Tracy Pedro, representing



This schematic shows how the old farm buildings at Calloways can now be converted into nine homes (indicated by numbers) and seven 'enterprise' units (shown with letters).



...and seven enterprise units, with the buildings retaining their historic Downland look.

East Sussex County Council on the SDNPA, said: "This is one of the best plans I have ever seen while serving on this committee. I wish there were more like this." Her view was echoed by Antonia Cox, representing Hampshire County Council: "This is an extremely good application, very much in line with what we want to see in the national park."

The South Downs' decision means that Calloways' existing old agricultural buildings can now be converted into nine homes (two fewer than permitted under planning approval granted around a decade ago) and seven "enterprise" units, intended for local artisan craftspeople and not-for-profit organisations. Five of the nine homes would have three bedrooms, and the remaining four just two. Much of the existing buildings and their historic features, including flint and brick walls, will be retained, reducing the scale of demolition previously envisaged, with the approved design "reflecting the agricultural and equestrian character of the buildings".

At Home Farm, the base of the former stud operation, a new estate house has been approved in the place of the 20th Century stables and barns. Courtyard buildings can be renovated to include seven holiday units and offices with a barn turned into a multifunctional space for education, estate meetings, ancillary residential use and a limited number of visitor events a year.

Owners James and Bianca Pitt,

▸ *Continued on page 13*



At Home Farm, the new estate house would replace various 20th Century stables and barns (outlined in light red), while its more historic courtyard buildings would be converted into holiday units, offices and a multifunctional barn.


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Architects' impressions of the new estate house to be built at Home Farm, as seen from the south (left) and east (right).

Continued from page 11

who bought the old stud six years ago with the aim of retaining the estate as a whole rather than splitting it into several individual parcels, have noted that "given the development's scale and nature, the works will inevitably be undertaken in phases".

Bianca said after the planning meeting: "After four years of hard work, we are hugely relieved to have had a positive decision. It is a big burden lifted. Our thanks to all the villagers who have supported us, our parish councillors, the SDNPA planning team, our architects, planning consultants, expert consultants, farmers, farm workers and ecology advisers. It was lovely to hear the committee call this a 'flagship' project – that is what we hoped to achieve when we set out!"

Graffham estates host visit by 'bioregionalists'

A group of ecologists from as far afield as Colombia and the Netherlands visited Lavington Stud and Estate and Westerlands on Sunday 18 October to witness at first hand how they are restoring and regenerating their land. The 20 visitors also included representatives from Gloucestershire, Hereford and across Sussex and Kent.

The trip, which also took in nearby River Farm and Chichester Harbour, was focussed on demonstrating sustainability on a regional basis, or "bioregionalism" as the specialists describe it – looking at how neighbouring land owners here are regenerating land, soil, biodiversity, water flows and local food systems.

The visit was arranged by Midhurst-based Really Regenerative CIC, founded by former Graffham resident Jenny Andersson, and hosted by Lavington owner Bianca Pitt with Westerlands' Ollie Hancock.



Graffham's Ginny Barrett (right) joins the visitors for lunch at Westerlands – soup made from veg grown in Westerlands' community garden.

Council asks for campsite licence to be revoked

East Lavington Parish Council (ELPC) is challenging the granting of a licence enabling a field at the southern end of Norwood Lane to be used as a campsite. Parsons Meadow has recently been authorised by the Freedom Camping Club to offer pitches for up to 10 tents and five camper vans or caravans.

Freedom Camping Club is one of a handful of organisations given rights by Natural England, acting on behalf of the UK Government, to approve the use of land for camping without the need for planning permission or other approvals from the local authority, under legislation dating back to 1960 and 1936.

ELPC has written to the club and to Natural England, as its overseeing government body, setting out its case for having Parsons Meadow's camping license revoked.

The council highlighted that the field is at the end of Norwood Lane – a 2.2 km (1.4 miles) single-track, no-through road, which in parts is only 2.3 metres wide, with no passing places for vehicles other than a few privately owned driveways or soft verges. It is heavily used by horse riders from eight stable yards along its length or nearby, and by cyclists and walkers. With only 15 houses along the lane, the 15 camp pitches licenced at Parsons Meadow could double the vehicles using it.

EPLC also pointed out that the local planning authority rejected a proposal just eight years ago, in which Freedom Camping was involved, for Woodfire Camping to be sited on a field opposite Parsons Meadow – because access via Norwood Lane was deemed to be "wholly unsuitable". Woodfire Camping was sited instead on other land at Westerlands, with access via the estate's main entrance onto Duncton Common Road – and campers there barred from using its Norwood Lane entrance. ELPC wrote: "Nothing has changed in the conditions affecting the lane. If it was considered unsuitable for traffic to access Woodfire campsite, we cannot see how it could now be considered suitable for campsite traffic to access Parsons Meadow."

It also questioned why no consultation with neighbours was carried out before the licence was issued and noted that Freedom Camping Club's website advertised Parsons Meadow as offering toilets and showers, but "these facilities are not existing, nor is any hardstanding or suitable infrastructure for parking or siting caravans or motorhomes" and approval from the local planning authority would be required to instal them. It sought confirmation as well that the mandatory notification to the local planning authority had been completed.

Freedom Camping Club sent a five-page reply countering the council's position. It

considered Norwood Lane suitable for the type and amount of traffic the campsite would generate. It said it had carried out the appropriate checks before authorising Parsons Meadow, with its usual procedures including an initial assessment based on information provided by the applicant, a physical site visit, a thorough desktop assessment and consultations with local planning authorities.

It added that it was not obliged to consult neighbours in cases like this but had a legal duty to licence sites "where we are unable to determine a true and actionable reason to decline an application".



The newly licenced Parsons Meadow camping ground is less than a mile from the established Graffham Camping and Caravanning site, which offers 90 pitches, and Woodfire, with 35 pitches.

ELPC was considering its next steps as this issue went to press.

South Downs National Park planners refused a retrospective application three years ago to site two shipping containers at Parsons Meadow, a decision supported by a government inspector at a planning appeal.

Parsons Meadow's owners – brothers Ben and Will Vince, who live in London's Fulham but have local links – were invited to provide a comment for this article.

Christmas comes early in Heyshott

Heyshott holds its Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 28 November from 2 to 4.30pm in the village's Cobden Hall, promising music, mulled wine and mince pies, a raffle, tombola, a guess-the-weight-of-the-cake stand and stalls selling Christmas puddings, cakes and other home produce plus toys, books and bric a brac. In aid of St James' Church. All welcome.

The Street to be closed for water leak repairs

Graffham's The Street will be closed between the village shop and the Woodcote Lane junction from Monday 30 November for three days for Southern Water to repair leaks under the road close to the War Memorial. For details, see one.network

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Property watch

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



Graffham Hill Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QA: Detached house. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms plus a cloakroom, sitting room, study, kitchen/diner. 147 sq m (1,585sq ft). Double garage. Garden. Guide £975,000. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst 01730 774837. Listed 21 Oct.*



Sutton End, Sutton RH20 1PY: Detached house. Six bedrooms, five bathrooms, living, dining, family rooms, office, kitchen, utility, larder, store. Separate two-bedroomed cottage. Three garages. Outbuildings. 13 acres grounds with swimming pool. Guide price £4.5 million. *Savills, London 020 3835 5740. Listed 7 Oct.*



Point House, Dye House Lane, Duncton GU28 0LF: Detached house. Five bedrooms, four bathrooms, drawing and dining rooms, study, conservatory, kitchen/diner, utility. 387 sq m (4,272 sq ft). Detached cottage. Three-bay garage. 3.6 acre garden. Guide £2.6 million. *RH & RW Clutton, Petworth 01798 303593. Listed 23 Sep.*

Planning applications

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

Applications

Jaysfield Lodge, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QB: Demolition of linked studio and erection of single storey replacement rear extension. *SDNP/26/02770/HOUS. Validated: 16 Sep 2026.*

Decisions

Fairhurst, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QA: Replacement of existing conservatory with new single storey extension. *SDNP/26/01543/HOUS. Approved 15 Oct 2026.*

The Folly, Graffham Common Road, Graffham GU28 0PT: Erection of garage with pitched dormer windows and conservation rooflights. *SDNP/25/04998/HOUS. Refused 6 Oct 2026.*

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Princess of Wales picks up former resident Stella

Former Graffham resident Stella Drewett had the surprise of her life when she was collected from her current home in Pulborough to attend her weekly lunch club – by the Princess of Wales.

Princess Catherine was visiting on Wednesday 30 September to mark the 50th anniversary of West Sussex Minibus, whose volunteers transport the elderly across the area in a fleet of vehicles. She accompanied Stella from her front door onto the bus and joined her for lunch.

Stella had been tipped off that a celebrity would be picking her up – and was chuffed to bits when she discovered who it was, with the media out in full force.

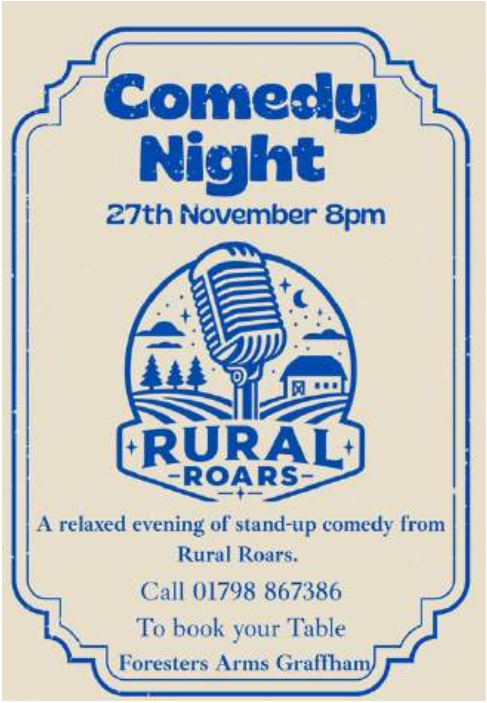
Now 94, she admitted she had only recently started attending the lunch club and joked that it saved her cooking one day a week – which was something she rarely missed in her long service as a dinner lady at Graffham School while living in our village.



The Princess of Wales collects Stella from her home.

She was born in in Graffham as Stella Hilton and when younger was a regular member of the village's stoolball team (see the photo on page 40 *Graffham Parish News'* October 2026).

She remained in the village after she married Bob Drewett. They lived in Guillods Cottages, then Woodcote, with their three children. Bob became a driving instructor who got many Graffham residents through their tests. They moved to Pulborough 30 years ago. He passed away in 2010.



Seaford choristers to sing in Graffham's Advent



Christmas festivities kick off, as ever, with the start of Advent, which falls this year on Sunday 29 November – when, as usual, the choristers from Seaford College will visit St Giles Church to sing a number of anthems, in a service starting at 5pm.

St Giles' own traditional candlelit Festival of Lessons and Carols will be two weeks later, on Sunday 13 December, also at 5pm. Then, on Sunday 20 December, at 6pm, there's a chance for the whole village to dust off its vocal cords at what is becoming another Graffham tradition – communal carolling at The Foresters. Services for Christmas itself will include the popular family Christmas Eve Crib Service, a candlelit Christmas Eve Eucharist and a family service on Christmas Day morning. Full details in next month's *Graffham Parish News*.



Almost 40 Graffhamites joined for the village's traditional bring-and-share harvest supper in the Empire Hall on Friday 25 September – raising £259 for our local food bank. Organiser Marie Bracey said: "A big thank you to all those who helped set up before and clear up after the event, and also to all those who came along. It was a very enjoyable evening with some delicious food and great company."

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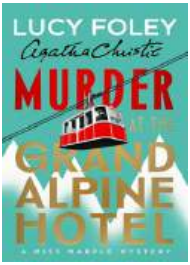
Fill a Christmas shoe box for Ukraine!

Graffham residents are again being invited to spread some Christmas cheer to Ukrainians whose lives have been turned upside down by the Russian invasion and war by sending them decorated shoe boxes filled with suitable presents. They will be despatched in early December – so if you would like to contribute, your box should be with Jan Brind, at Occam Cottage, The Street, Graffham well before the end of this month (November). Contact her at janbrind@googlemail.com for more information or ideas on what to include. Boxes are wanted for children and adults. While they should be wrapped, they must not be sealed.



Miss Marple now comes from Graffham

Graffham author Lucy Foley has received rave reviews for her first novel continuing the stories of Miss Marple from the originator Agatha Christie. *Murder at the Grand Alpine Hotel* was published in September, 50 years after the iconic Queen of Crime wrote her final book featuring the lady detective from St Mary Mead. *The Times* wrote of it: "As continuation novels go, this one is top-notch. More, please!"





Graffham Empire Hall

BURNS NIGHT

Saturday 23rd January

Dancing to the Sussex Pistols
Piping in the haggis
Burns supper

Doors open 7pm • Dancing starts 7.30pm

Cost £35 per person (Under 21s - £20)
Please bring your own drinks

Enquiries and to book please telephone
Harriet Rowntree on 07415 256432
or email crowntreeh@gmail.com

Dance practices in the Empire Hall:
Sunday 3, 10 and 17 January 2027
4-6pm, £2 per session

Dance practices in the Empire Hall:



The Empire Hall was filled to capacity with 12 tables of six contestants for the quiz.

Quiz night raises £600 for our nature reserves

Some £600 was raised for Graffham Down Trust at its annual quiz night in the Empire Hall on Saturday 10 October, hosted by the incomparable Michael Blencowe, naturalist supreme and regular *Graffham Parish News* columnist.

All 12 of the six seater tables were sold, with a team fronted by this magazine's editors emerging top of the pile.

The money generated will go towards caring for the reserves overlooking our village and the rare flora and fauna that live there.



Winners The top team receive their prize bottles of wine from quizmaster Michael Blencowe (in the tartan shirt, centre), from left: Graffham Parish News editors Bill Barrett, Michael Blunt and Philippa Sanders plus Ginny Barrett, David Sanders and ringer Jane Sinclair.

From Town Hall: Big role played by our theatre

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



Chichester Festival Theatre has been putting on some great shows and plays recently – *My Fair Lady*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (great, but completely bonkers!) and plenty of others. We are so lucky to have this theatre in the district. It is one of the few commissioning theatres left and we therefore often get to see performances before they go to the West End or achieve great acclaim elsewhere. Ticket prices are also very modest, as low as £10, which is extraordinary given how much it would cost to jump on a train and see a show in London.

The economic and social value of the theatre is also extraordinary. More than 70 per cent of audiences attending performances there live outside the district. These are people who come to our district, often for the day and night, spend money here, eating in restaurants and pubs, visiting other attractions, and staying overnight in hotels, B&Bs etc. Chichester District Council gives a grant to the theatre to help its outreach programmes and support this economic powerhouse. For every £1 we donate, the district receives back £72 in economic benefit – that's a good investment for the district's culture and businesses and for the wider community.



As I am reflecting on the economic benefits of the theatre, I also wanted to add a comment about parking in Chichester. There are several disabled parking bays in the Northgate car park, closest to the theatre, and of course they are to be used for those with blue badges. On days when the theatre is very busy these spaces are taken up quickly. If you are a blue badge holder, you are entitled to park in a non-disabled space – your blue badge is still valid. I would also say that if you are a blue badge holder and not a wheelchair user, it is often good to park in the non-disabled spaces, which are as close to the theatre as the disabled spaces, so those that need wider spaces for wheelchairs can utilise the designated disabled places. This car park has way more than the number of disabled spaces required for a car park of this size (5 per cent) but still they all get occupied.

Finally, if you are going into Chichester by car, the city's cheapest car park is the multi-storey one in Avenue De Chartres, between the train station and South Street (near Waitrose).

Graffham Parish News' niggling November quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers at the bottom of page 51 (no cheating!)

1 In 1955 a coin from the 50s AD was dug up at Graffham's Pound Cottage, bearing which Roman Emperor's image: [a] Caligula, [b] Claudius, [c] Nero?

2 Where in a church will you find the narthex?

3 How many "Doubly Thankful Villages" (which lost none of their fighting men in either World War I or II) are there in the UK: [a] 14, [b] 28, [c] 56?

4 Towards the end of November 1990, which famous lady moved from an address in London SW1 to 11, Hambledon Place in Dulwich?

5 Which group of workers returned to work in November 1926, having been on strike since May's General Strike?

6 Who or what lives in a drey?

7 Which social media platform was purchased by Google for $1.65 billion on November 13, 2006?

8 Which Sussex and England fast bowler recently celebrated his 85th birthday: [a] John Snow, [b] John White, [c] John Green?

9 The current series of *Strictly Come Dancing* is the [a] 20th, [b] 24th or [c] 30th?

10 The current *Have I Got News For You* series is its [a] 57th, [b] 72nd or [c] 100th?



School report: A lovely start to autumn term

Graffham Infant and Duncton Junior Business Manager Jenny Godfrey provides an update on what's been keeping the children, teachers and parents busy at our village schools.

We've had a lovely start to the autumn term at Graffham Infants and Duncton Juniors, with lots going on both in and out of the classroom.

Harvest time Our Harvest Festivals were a real highlight, with families at both schools donating generously. All donations were delivered to local charity Stonepillow. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Amazing artwork There's been some amazing artwork happening across both schools. At Graffham, Key Stage 1 have been using charcoal to create textures such as fur, scales and feathers for their imaginary creatures, inspired by *Call Me Gorgeous*, a book by Giles and Alexandra Milton celebrating individuality. Reception have been exploring the ancient Lascaux cave paintings and creating their own artwork inspired by these incredible images.

At Duncton, Year 5 and 6 have made fantastic Anderson shelters for their World War II homework, showing brilliant craftsmanship, while Year 3 and 4 have been busy creating Egyptian masks.

Welcoming next year's intake If your child is starting school in September 2027 and you missed our October open days, contact us to arrange a tour – just contact us at office@graffhaminfant.org.uk or on 01798 867324). We also have a few spaces in other year groups, so do get in touch.

New governor needed Finally, we're looking for someone to join our fantastic team of governors. If you're interested in finding out more about how you could support our schools, please get in touch for an informal chat (same contact details as above).





Pupils have been producing some amazing artwork this autumn.

Father Christmas set to land at Graffham Fair



Father Christmas has a visit to Graffham inked firmly in his diary for Saturday 5 December – when he'll be looking in on the village's Christmas Fair, which will be held in the Empire Hall from 11am to 2pm.

As usual, there will also be mulled wine, mince pies, festive music and lots of not-on-the-high-street gifts, all from our neighbourhood, to pick up at what is one of the biggest annual fund-raisers for our St Giles Church. It's also a great way to catch up with neighbours.



Flashback to recent Graffham Christmas Fairs



An amazing selection of goodies is being lined up for the silent auction and raffle. Watch out for full details in December's issue of *Graffham Parish News* – which will come with raffle tickets for you to buy.

Lead of the organising team Marie Bracey said: "This really is the start of Christmas in our wonderful village – thanks to the support and encouragement from so many people across the community."

If you would like to contribute something to the auction or raffle, donate bottles, cakes, mince pies, preserves or home-made decorations or help set things up, take them down afterwards or in any other way, contact Marie on 07836 317630 or at mariebracey@me.com

THE HOME PRODUCE STAND NEEDS YOU!



If you can contribute any cakes or other bakes, mince pies, pickles, jams, decorations or any other goodies, please contact Gillian Charlesworth on 07973 768924 or at dalehousefemail@gmail.com



Graffham Chronicles: We will remember them

Pauline Goodwin is taking a well-earned break from writing her regular local history column – so, instead, editor Michael Blunt is teaming up with Graffham Archivist Robin Brind to bring you some of the wonderful postcards held by the village archive. In this Remembrance Day month, we look back at the history of our war memorial.

The Graffham and Lavington War Memorial was erected shortly after World War I by village squire Sir James Buchanan, later Lord Woolavington, of Lavington Park and the inhabitants of Graffham and East Lavington "in proud and loving memory" of the 25 men from or connected to the parishes who gave their lives in the conflict. It was also a testament to the 117 other men from the neighbourhood who served for their king and country.



The picture on this black and white postcard looks as if it could have been taken soon after the War Memorial was unveiled. It was sent to Mrs B Corbyn of Brockley, London SE, by W and A Brockhurst, to let her know they had arrived safely home from visiting her. Could this have been William and Ada Brockhurst? He was born over the Downs in Charlton before moving with his parents into Graffham's Popple Hill Cottage, where they lived from around 1900 to 1918. William's bother Jim was killed in action at Ypres, on 18 December 1914, at the age of 29, leaving a widow and three sons.

It was unveiled on 12 June 1921 by Lt General Sir Ivor Maxse KCB CB CVO DSO, who was son-in-law of Henry Wyndham, 2nd Baron Leconfield of Petworth House. Maxse was described by one leading military historian as "one of the ablest officers of his generation, a man of originality and drive, and a formidable personality".

The ceremony, with squire Sir James Buchanan present, was led by the Rev Charles Hockey, who had been the village's rector since 1913 and would serve in that role for 20 years. The names of the fallen were read out, two minutes' silence held, prayers were said and three hymns and the national anthem sung.



†

FORM OF SERVICE

UNVEILING OF THE

WAR MEMORIAL

AT GRAFFHAM,

SUNDAY, JUNE 12th, 1921.

Graffham Archive also holds a copy of the order of service for the unveiling of the Graffham and Lavington War Memorial, on 12 June 1921.





Two pre-World War II postcards of the War Memorial. The black and white one is looking north, showing Bishops Hill Cottage on the left and The Laurels behind the monument. The coloured one, looking south, shows The Forge to the right – before it was extended and Graffham Hill House built to its north – with Mulberry Cottage behind it.

Since then, services have been held there on every Remembrance Sunday and virtually every Armistice Day. For many years, the names of the fallen were read out by pupils from Graffham School.

After World War II, a committee was formed, comprising Mr W Carver, Mrs Loader, Mr W F McKenzie and Mr F W Nudd to raise the £200 needed to add the names of the nine local men who fell in the 1939-45 conflict on the base moulding below the plinth and also for a plaque to be placed in St Giles Church to commemorate all those who had given their lives in both world wars.

The retaining wall around the monument's garden was rebuilt, along with the steps and path to the memorial, in June 2005, thanks to a £250 grant from the War Memorials Trust. More recently, the brickwork by the steps was repaired after it was damaged by a lorry.

The War Memorial was granted Grade II listed status on 19 September 2007 as "a simple yet elegant granite memorial, situated in a distinctive position by the main highway in the village" serving as "an eloquent witness to the impact of the First and Second World Wars on this community".

The large oak tree beside it is thought to be some 265 years old.

Most of the men commemorated from World War I had been buried close to where they had died, in

▸ *Continued on next page*



The inscription on the front of the village's War Memorial.

Continued from previous page

France and Belgium, but also in Greece and what is today Israel. Sydney Paull, of Westerlands, survived long enough to return home for burial at St Giles, after turning 19.

The youngest serviceman honoured by the memorial was Gunner Victor Eade, whose parents lived at the Homes of Rest. He was just 18 when he was killed in action on 20 November 1914, little more than three months into the war. The eldest commemorated was John Snooke, who was 42. He had been interred at Isbergues, between Boulogne and Arras in France after falling nearby.

Among the others were Clarence Hogg, whose father was Lord Woolavington's head butler, and Sydney Fryer, whose Dad was his lordship's chauffeur. Clarence was killed in action at Ypres, aged 23, on 28 October 1915, while Sydney perished on the Somme, aged 33, on 15 August 1916. Everyone in the village at the time would have been related to or known most of the 25 who were lost in the conflict.

Of the nine who did not return from World War II were three brothers from the Euan Wallace family who owned Lavington House at the time. David, Edward and Gerald were all serving with the Royal Air Force.

As the engraving on the War Memorial says, "their names shall live forever".



Remembrance services have been held in front of our War Memorial every year since it was unveiled in 1921. The village pays respects to its fallen to this very day.

Bill's bygones: Cowpat, court, Cowdray

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 – November 2016: An Italian wine tasting session, hosted by Petworth's Hennings, is held at the Empire Hall, which also sees The Kali Theatre perform *My Big Cowpat Wedding*. At the Thursday Club, Roger Clarke gives a talk on the steam rail routes that once served the locality. The go-ahead for HS2's second phase is confirmed by the Government. Andy Murray becomes the first Briton to reach number one in the ATP tennis rankings. The number of people globally using mobile devices to access the internet overtakes those using desktop computers. Deaths of Radio 2 stalwart Sir Jimmy Young (aged 95), Cuban leader Fidel Castro (90), actors Andrew Sachs (*Fawlty Towers*, 86) and Robert Vaughn (*The Man from UNCLE*, *Hustle*, 83) and singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen (82).

25 years ago – November 2001: At the High Court, Graffham's Long Bostle Action Group successfully overturns a decision to change the track from a 'Road Used as a Public Path' to a 'Byway Open to All Traffic'. Graffham's Poppy Appeal raises £536, £60 more than the year before. Graffham Rustics perform John van Druten's *Make Way for Lucia*. At their annual dinner, Graffham Tennis Club celebrates the opening of the second court. An exhibition of John Lennon's artwork goes on display at Petworth's Saddlers Row Gallery. The Police Service of Northern Ireland replaces the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Release of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, the first in the film franchise. Deaths of campaigner Mary Whitehouse (91), actress Peggy Mount (86), ex-Beatle George Harrison (58).

50 years ago – November 1976: Mrs Valerie Lonsdale, of Selham Road, Graffham, complains to the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Foxhounds after their dogs race through her garden, flattening her dahlias and scaring her cats. The Red Cross demonstrate mouth-to-mouth resuscitation at Graffham Youth Club. Graffham Rustics' production of *A Man for All Seasons* is postponed because of a leak in the Empire Hall's roof. Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, attends a cheese and wine party at Seaford College at the beginning of Age Action Week, while Lord Scarman addresses the school's speech day. Jimmy Carter defeats Gerald Ford to become the 39th US President. The Microsoft Corporation is registered in New Mexico. Release of the original *Rocky*, which becomes the highest grossing film of the year. Chicago's *If You Leave Me Now* is UK number one single.



Five of the fungi found on Jonathon's October foray on Graffham Common.

Out and about: Fungus Day reaches Graffham

A regular column by villager Jonathan Simons: 'In the land of the blind the one-eyed man is king' (or so he says...)

Graffham played its part in UK Fungus Day on Saturday 10 October with villagers and members of the West Weald Fungus Recording Group joining me on a foray on Graffham Common. Almost 20 of us met up at the Fitzlea Wood Road entrance on a crisp and sunny autumn morning.

As we all know, the summer had been exceptionally dry, and this had set back the peak of the fungus fruiting season. Nevertheless, we had had some last-minute rain

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and thanks to the enthusiasm of the younger foragers we tracked down almost 30 species, all with their own story to tell. The first to be found just 10 metres from the gate, at the foot of a Scots pine, was the spectacular Dyer's Mazegill. Its scientific name (genus then species) is *Phaeolus schweinitzii* – quite a mouthful! The Cow Bolete, *Suillus bovinus*, dominated the rides along with its parasite, Rosy Spike *Gomphideus roseus*. We saw Chanterelles and False Chanterelles, Milkcaps of various shapes, sizes and tastes and good examples of the famous edibles, the Bay Bolete, *Imleria badius*, Cep *Boletus edulis*, and Slippery Jack, *Suillus luteus*. Some boletes were affected by the parasitic Golden Bolete Eater, *Hypomyces chrysospermus*.



First find was Dyer's Masegill.

Earthballs, *Scleroderma citrina*, when cut open were seen to have spore masses ranging from white to black, belying belief that only edible Puffballs are white inside. Piles of dung gave us the graceful Petticoat Mottlegill, *Panaeolus papilionaceus*. The iconic and psychodelic Fly Agaric, *Amanita muscari*, attracted great attention. The Amanita features were also seen on the less showy Grey Spotted Amanita, *Amanita excelsa,* and the Tawny Grisette, *Amanita fulva*.

A full list of species and recommended reference books and websites have been circulated to participants and are available from jonathanHsimons@outlook.com. Do not be downhearted if you missed out this year – there will be another Fungus Day in 2027!



Jonathan shows off the one cep found on the foray – a porcini or penny bun, one of the most sought after edible species.

Nature Notes: ...and I live in a hole!

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

If your lawn is full of nectar rich flowers for butterflies and bees with, maybe, a patch of long grass for grasshoppers and hedgehogs, then Mother Nature will thank you. But if you're one of those strange people who demands that their lawn is a perfectly manicured carpet, poisoned with chemicals, shamelessly shaved each summer Sunday and useless for wildlife, then Mother Nature will not be happy. She'll send in her best hit man. So, while we're remembering, remembering Guy Fawkes in November, I'm here to celebrate Britain's other infamous tunnelling terrorist – the mole.

It's hard to bond with the mole. Like 99.9 per cent of us, I've never seen one and probably never will. They're almost a supernatural entity – the Bigfoot of the back garden. Their invisibility means my mental image of the mole has been painted by *The Wind in the Willows* and cartoons instead of real-life encounters. I'm always surprised when I see an actual photo of one and it's not wearing glasses.

Moles aren't blind. Admittedly, they'll be struggling by the second line of an eye test, but there isn't much call for perfect eyesight when you spend all your life in total darkness. Instead, their pink nose is covered with 5,000 sensory organs which



register touch and vibration allowing the mole to 'see' with its snout – a super-sense that makes them efficient hunters.

Their tunnel network spreads out like an underground web. When a wiggling worm drops into it, the mole's senses tingle, sending them scrambling through their pitch-black passageways. Worms are captured, cleaned, beheaded and stored, still wriggling, in a larder for future consumption.



A mole on his molehill.
© Ray Armstrong, Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Their front paws are like a pair of giant pink snow-shovels and come equipped with an extra thumb – a characteristic they share with the giant panda. These wide shovel-hands can move an incredible 540 times their own weight of soil in a day. That's like me moving 55.46 tonnes of mud (and before you go scrambling for your calculators, yes, I could do with losing a few pounds!)

The molehills that erupt on our lawns are spoil heaps created by the construction work below. OK, they're unsightly, but gardeners should be welcoming moles. If you're blessed with molehills, grab a trowel. When potted, molehill soil makes an excellent growing medium for seeds and seedlings.

Once the tunnels are completed, the molehills will stop appearing and, in the long run, mole burrowing gives untold benefits to soil aeration and quality.

Never mind these benefits – for me it's a pleasure knowing that such an amazing animal is living, unseen, a few inches below my feet. Still, people will complain – but I guess some folk will always make a mountain out of a, well, y'know.

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



michaelblencowe.com



Rohan Grace opens the batting against Ardra's bowling in the first innings of the match...

Reports from the Rec

Edited by Philippa Sanders

Cricket

It wasn't one of the year's many gloriously sunny days, but the final Brett's Big Bash of the (late) summer brought the crowds out for this end-of-season fiesta on the last Sunday in September. With a core of the ladies' team plus other halves and a whole raft of Graffham juniors, two teams were hastily assembled while the limit of 12 a side meant that there were a few long faces but also unusually low scores.

The first team to bat was captained by Jeeva, with Rohan Grace and Angie Thornley opening. The pairs format meant that six pairs enjoyed three overs each at the crease and Rohan's 19 not out ended up as the top score, followed by Jess Hill with 12. With a count of minus 5 for each wicket lost, there was a struggle to keep the score going up and most of the wickets fell to the bowling of Vasu, Ardra and Rich. A clear highlight was Vasu clean bowling her husband! The side's final score was a disappointing 47 but they took to the field again determined to menace the batters.

Rich Sabin captained the rival team and sent in the youngsters Poppy and Isla to open. After a couple of nervous stabs at the ball, they began to hit more confidently and rewarded Rich's confidence in them with some fine shots. Things were looking tight, though, until the skipper notched up an innings of 25, and Adam followed up with a solid 11 having only faced six balls. As the final pair came in to bat, the match was finely balanced with Rich's team needing to avoid losing a wicket and score a few runs. That wicket did fall, however, leaving poor Ardra needing a six off the final ball. It wasn't to be, though, and the final victory



A handshake and smiles from captains Rich Sabin (left) and Jeeva.



… before her Dad Jeeva's side took to the field in this year's Brett's Big Bash on the Rec.

went to her Dad and his team. The absolute highlight of the second innings was a run-out effected by Rohan Grace who threw in from the boundary to send the stumps and bails flying in spectacular fashion, to the shock of one of the ten-year-old players.

All of the juniors performed with enthusiasm and discipline – so the future Big Bashes should become ever more impressive.

Being the final match of the season the afternoon ended with nibbles and drinks from the bar, of course. Do look out for these dates next summer as they are becoming a highlight of the village year.



Both teams line up after a close and fun final cricket fixture of the season.

Graffham Tennis Club

The final final of the club tournaments will be the mixed doubles on 7 November in which Emma Amin and Andy Craig will play Sarah Selman and James Mitford. The winter league kicked off on 17 October for our mixed team, who started their campaign with an impressive 7-1 victory over Fernhurst A.

Recent Graffham Tennis Club league results:

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
19 Sep	Lost 3-5	Mixed Doubles	Div 1	vs Headley A
21 Sep	Lost 0-8	Mixed Doubles	Div 1	vs Steep A
17 Oct	Won 7-1	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	vs Fernhurst A

There is just one home fixture in November.

Graffham Tennis Club November home fixtures				
14 Nov	1.15pm	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	vs Newman Collard A

Polo

Graffham's polo international Beanie Bradley looks back on a season to remember, before jetting off to South Africa, where she'll be playing for much of the winter.

Another polo season comes to an end – and it's been a memorable one for me and my ponies.

It got off to a flying start – winning my first tournament of the year, the Ladies' 16-goal at Hurtwood, playing for Tamodi. From there, I went on to compete in both the 6-goal and 8-goal tournaments at Cowdray Park Polo Club.

One of the highlights was taking part in the prestigious British Ladies' Open 22-goal at Cowdray in July, playing for Lumina. It was an incredible experience, competing at such a high level alongside some fantastic players. Unfortunately, we were knocked out in the subsidiary semi-final, but I couldn't have been prouder of my ponies and the way they performed.

I also had the opportunity to play in the Ladies 16-goal Delilah Cup at Guards' Polo Club, representing Equibiome. We lost in the subsidiary final against a very strong team, but it was another brilliant experience and a tournament I thoroughly enjoyed.

To finish the season on a high, I returned to Cowdray to play for Lumina in the mixed 4-goal Park House Cup. After a fantastic final, we came away with the win, which was a wonderful way to round off the year!

This season also welcomed a new addition to my string of polo ponies, a lovely mare called Odessa, who has settled in beautifully and performed brilliantly. I am incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful team of ponies, who give me their all every time we step onto the polo field. They are the real stars of the show, and I couldn't do any of it without them. Of course, none of this would be possible without the people who support me along the way. A huge thank you to my parents,






Beanie lining up (above second right) with her Lumina team mates after winning the Park House Cup at Cowdray in September and competing for the team in the British Ladies' Open 22-goal in July and (below second left) with her Equibiome colleagues and in action at Guards' Polo Club, Windsor Great Park later in the summer.





Cindy and Peter, my boyfriend Jack, my grandma Anne and Vimto Boy Malcolm, who are always there cheering me on and supporting me wherever polo takes me!

I would also love to say a special thank you to the wonderful people of Graffham. Many of you will have seen me riding around the village, bringing my ponies in and getting them fit in preparation for the season. Thank you for your patience, friendly waves and words of encouragement as I make my way through the village with the horses. Those little gestures never go unnoticed and mean more than you probably realise. I feel incredibly lucky to call Graffham home and to be part of such a kind and supportive community.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Harry Revel, of Selham, who died after an accident while playing polo at Ambersham in September. He was a true gentleman, on and off the field. The polo community simply won't be the same without him. I had the pleasure of playing against him this season and alongside him throughout my career. He was always incredibly supportive, generous with his advice and happy to share his knowledge. Harry represented everything a professional polo player should be, through his talent and his kindness, sportsmanship and respect for others. He will be sorely missed. My thoughts are with his family at this sad time.





Tin anniversary Michael Crawley and Alison née Dixie relived their wedding at St Giles ten years ago by renewing their vows at our village church St Giles on Thursday 15 October. A decade before, they left St Giles by horse and carriage for a 1940s-style reception at the Empire Hall. This time, they enjoyed a meal at the Foresters Arms.



Could you volunteer for Petworth Food Bank?

Petworth Food Bank is looking for volunteers to fill two key roles – providing phone support and as a delivery driver. The phone role can be done from home. The charity describes it like this: "You will be the friendly voice who checks in with people, talks through their food needs, and has caring conversations and helps identify local support services that could make a real difference." The delivery drive will drop off food parcels to clients in Petworth and the surrounding areas. It's a fully flexible role, working in pairs, so a great opportunity to volunteer with a friend or partner. If you are interested, please contact Emily Seex at petworthfoodbank@gmail.com.

Out local Foodbank has also updated its list of items most urgently needed as winter sets in. You can contribute at its collection points in All Saints Chapel, directly opposite Graffham Village Shop or at St Giles Church or local supermarkets. Items currently most wanted include:

- Biscuits
- Bleach
- Cereal
- Cheese biscuits
- Detergents
- Hand soap
- Hot chocolate
- Instant whips
- Jam
- Mayo, tomato ketchup
- Nappies size 7
- Shampoo
- Snacks
- Sponge puddings
- Squash
- Surface cleaners
- Tea bags /instant coffee
- Tinned tomatoes
- Toothbrushes
- Washing detergent
- Washing up liquid

How you can help families in need this winter

Family Support Work is a Sussex-based charity backed by Petworth Area Churches Together (PACT), which includes our own St Giles. It makes this appeal ahead of the festive season.

As the nights draw in, many of the families we support begin to worry about heating, food and the cost of Christmas. Winter is a hard time for family budgets, as most of us know. Heating bills rise just as the weather turns cold. Children need warmer clothes, and everyone needs more food to keep warm. For a parent already stretched to the limit, every one of those costs is a worry. Then comes Christmas.

There is so much pressure to provide the perfect festive meal, the right presents and the traditions that other families seem to enjoy without a thought. Parents want the very best for their children, and it can be heartbreaking when they can't give it.

Many we support are held back by money – but also by lack of time, illness or their mental health. Winter can make all of this feel heavier. Days are shorter and darker, energy is lower, and the to-do list grows.

This is where we step in. Our support means a family doesn't have to choose between keeping the house warm and putting a good meal on the table, and that a child can wake up on Christmas morning feeling that they matter.

As this festive season approaches, we have been providing support to 217 families across our county, including 10 new to us. A year ago, we began helping a family new to the area. Mum and Dad were worried they couldn't afford any gifts for their young daughter. Thanks to our supporters, we provided presents for the whole family. Mum wrapped them, and her daughter woke to a Christmas surprise.

This winter, you can help us do the same for more families. Look out for our Christmas Wishlist on our website familysupportwork.org/news



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.

Details of services at Graffham's St Giles Church are on the opposite page.

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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 Mondays and Fridays.

November				
1	Sun	*10.30am*	All Saints Day Parish Eucharist *Readings: Revelation 7.9-end; 1 John 3.1-3*	St Giles Church
3	Tue	*9.30am*	No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
8	Sun	*9.30am*	Requiem Eucharist *Readings: Amos 5.18-24; 1 Thessalonians 4.13-end*	St Giles Church
		11am	Service of Remembrance	War Memorial
10	Tue	*9.30am*	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
11	Wed	*11am*	Armistice Prayers	War Memorial
		12.30pm	Food with Friends	The Rectory
15	Sun	*9am*	BCP Holy Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Parish Eucharist *Readings: Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end; 1 Thess'l'ians 5.1-11*	St Giles Church
17	Tue	*9.30am*	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
18	Wed	*10.30am*	Coffee morning in aid of St Giles Church	The Pavilion
19	Thu	*3.30pm*	Messy Church	St Giles Church
22	Sun	*10.30am*	Parish Eucharist Christ the King *Readings: Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1.15-end*	St Giles Church
		6.30pm	Taizé Prayer	All Saints Chapel
24	Tue	*9.30am*	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
29	Sun	*10.30am*	Parish Eucharist Advent Sunday *Readings: Isaiah 64.1-9; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9*	St Giles Church
		5pm	Advent Service with Seaford College choristers	St Giles Church

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What's on in and around the village

- For weekly events, see page 51. For church services and other events, see page 47.
- 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

October				
31	Sat	*Evening*	Halloween evening – come dressed up!	Foresters Arms
November				
1	Sun	*4-6pm*	*All Saints Day*	
			Scottish dancing practice	Empire Hall
2	Mon		Graffham Camping and Caravan site closes for winter	Graffham
3	Tue	*10.45am*	Arts Society Midhurst talk on *The Painted Hall at Greenwich*	Midhurst Methodist Hall
		2pm	Arts Society West Sussex AGM and talk: *Sumptuous Veronese*	Fittleworth Village Hall
4	Wed	*10.30am*	Arts Society South Downs talk: *Viking Gods and Valkyries*	Fittleworth Village Hall
		6.30pm	Graffham Parish Council meeting	Empire Hall
5	Thu		Guy Fawkes Day	
		10.30am	UKHarvest surplus food market	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petw'th
		evening	Duncton Junior School parents evening	Duncton School
6	Fri	*From 5.30pm*	Fireworks night	Midhurst Rother Coll
7	Sat	*From 5.30pm*	Petworth Bonfire Night	Hampers Green
			Graffham Empire Movies screens *The Roses*	Empire Hall
8	Sun		*Remembrance Sunday*	
			Diwali	
		9.30am	Service of Remembrance	St Giles Church
		11am	Service of Remembrance	War Memorial
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
9	Mon	*1.30pm*	Friends of Duncton and Graffham AGM	Graffham School
11	Wed	*11am*	Armistice Day Prayers	War Memorial
		12.30pm	Food with Friends	The Rectory
12	Thu	*2.30pm*	Thursday Club	Empire Hall
14	Sat		King Charles III's birthday	
		From 7pm	Heyshott Bonfire Night	Heyshott
		evening	Le Freak Nile Rogers/Chic tribute band	Empire Hall
16	Mon	*1pm*	Petworth WI – making stars from willow	Sylvia Beaufoy Centre

16	Mon	6.15pm	East Lavington Parish Council meeting	Seaford College
17	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional[1]	Empire Hall
18	Wed	10.30am	Coffee morning in aid of St Giles Church	Pavilion
19	Thu	3.30pm	Messy Church	St Giles Church
21	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		10am	Tillington Christmas Market	Tillington Church
			Open morning for prospective parents and pupils	Seaford College Prep
		7.45pm	Petworth Sessions presents Lawi Anywar and his band + Hoverdonkey	Leconfield Hall
25	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club[2]	Empire Hall
26	Thu		*USA's Thanksgiving Day*	
		7pm	Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* – until 28 Nov	Seaford College
27	Fri	8pm	Stand up comedy night	Foresters Arms
28	Sat		Magical Christmas decorations (to 3 Jan)	Petworth House
		9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party	Meet at St Giles
		10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		2-4.30pm	Heyshott Christmas Bazaar	Cobden Hall, Heyshott
		7.30pm	Comedy night	Langham Brewery
		10am-4pm	Christmas Makers' Market	Petworth House
29	Sun	10am-4.30pm	Christmas Market	East Dean Village Hall
		5pm	Advent Service with Seaford College choir	St Giles
		7-10pm	Booze 'n' Blues Night	Three Moles
30	Mon		*St Andrew's Day*	
December				
2	Wed	2pm	Wreath making workshop	Foresters Arms
5	Sat	11am-2pm	Graffham Christmas Fair	Empire Hall
		evening	Alpine apres ski party	Foresters Arms
6	Sun	3pm	Messy Church Christmas Party	Empire Hall
9	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club[2] Christmas lunch	Empire Hall
10	Thu	1.30pm	Graffham Infant School nativity	St Giles Church
		8pm	Christmas stocking filler quiz	Foresters Arms
11	Fri	4pm	Graffham Infant School nativity	St Giles Church
12	Sat	9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party	Meet at St Giles
13	Sun	5pm	Candlelit festival of lessons and carols	St Giles

[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 exercise class[1]	Empire Hall
	Daytime	Osteopath[2]	Empire Hall
	6-7pm	Pilates with Eloise[3]	Empire Hall
	6pm in summer	Bowls Club practices – all welcome	Rec
Tuesdays	8.30am-12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
	9-10am	Fitflow Pilates with Susie Bush[4]	Empire Hall
	Daytime	Osteopath[2]	Empire Hall
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice – newcomers welcome	St Giles
Wednesdays	9–10am	Yoga[5]	Empire Hall
	11.15am-12noon	Pilates with Nicky[6]	Empire Hall
	1.45-2.45pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching[7]	Rec
	3.30-6.15pm	After school tennis club	Tennis Club
	5pm	Nina's Core to Floor[8]	Westerlands
	6-8pm	Badminton[9] – all welcome	Empire Hall
Thursdays	Daytime	Osteopath[2]	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise[4]	Empire Hall
	6-7.15pm	Yoga[5]	Empire Hall
Fridays	9-10.15am	Yoga[5]	Empire Hall
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic[10]	Empire Hall
	3-4pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching[7]	Tennis Club
	Evenings	Tennis Club evenings	Pavilion
Saturdays	8.30am	Boxfit with Nina[8]	Westerlands
	10am	Nina's Core to Floor[8]	Westerlands
	10.30am	Yoga with Kate[8]	Westerlands

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 Julie Brown on 07967 630604 or at julie@feelbetterosteopathy.co.uk [3]**Pilates with Eloise,** contact Eloise Hudson at eloiseahudson@icloud.com or on 07788 947165. [4]**Ease Into Exercise and Fitflow Pilates:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956. [5]**Yoga:** Deborah Albon on 07790 367009. [6]**Pilates with Nicky:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297. [7]**Rusty Racquets:** Contact Richard Hopp at richard@hoppcoaching.co.uk, on 07904 069457. [8]**For all Westerlands events:** Book online at www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit [9]**Badminton:** Contact Christina Federowicz on 07900 055574. All welcome. [10]**Physiotherapy:** Contact Serena Cooper on 07884 445983 or at serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com.

Quiz answers *(for questions see page 29)*

1 [c] Nero **2** It's the lobby or vestibule inside the west door. **3** [a] 14. **4** Margaret Thatcher. **5** Coal miners. **6** Squirrels (and ringtail possums in Australia). **7** YouTube. **8** [a] John Snow. **9** [b] 24th. **10** [b] 72nd.

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	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 old phone box outside **Pescods**		Code is also **C159X**
	In old phone box opposite **The Three Moles**		No code needed
	In old phone box at **Seaford College**		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	powertrack.ssen.co.uk	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	Diana Pettifer	bookings.empirehall@gmail.com	07887 469957
	Chairman	Ollie Robinson- Boulton	07584 625059
	Maintenance	Tom Richardson	07932 865154
	Treasurer	Jude Sennitt	sennitt2@gmail.com
	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	Ian Morrison	07717 622376
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		07859 743446
	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
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	Priest-in-Charge	Rev Vivien Turner	01798 867199
			hallo@stgilesgraffham.org
	Churchwardens	Cindy Bradley	07787 516522
		Liz Jenkins	07836 326100
	Treasurer	Dinah Lamming	graffhampcctreasurer@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 Guillod Fund		c/o Graffham PC Clerk	graffhampc@gmx.co.uk
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Duncton CE Junior School			01798 342402
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Long Bostle Downland Soc		Gillian Brandt	01798 867276
MP Arundel & South Downs		Andrew Griffith	andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk
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National Trust (Lavington Common)			01730 816638
Neighbourhood Watch		Michael Crickmay	01798 867486
Osteopath		Julie Brown	07967 630604
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
Sussex Wildlife Trust			01273 492630
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		thewoodcote.com	01798 867331
Yoga at Empire Hall		Deborah Albon	07790 367009

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Please get in touch with our team in Midhurst to find out more

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