

Petworth Areas Churches Together

In March we welcomed the new Chair of PACT – Bob Sneller who worships at both the Petworth Community Church and at All Hallows in Tillington, perfectly placed for this role. And we were able to give grateful thanks to Hugh Rolfe of the Sacred Heart who has been Chair for the last three years gently guiding and moving forward the initiatives of PACT. Hugh will continue to work with the rest of the very active committee to reinforce the amazing work that our vicars do in helping local communities connect with churches throughout the area.

April has been a very different month than we'd expected. Sadly there was no Palm Sunday procession and no Spring Lecture with Chief Executive of CARE, Nola Leach. And yet in spite of that we know that God is full of love and compassion – and there has been plenty of scope for us to share that across gardens, streets and shopping aisles. Watch this space for details about the Festival Service and Fete in the Park both planned for July.

'So now wrap your heart tightly around the hope that lives within us, knowing that God always keeps his promises! Discover creative ways to encourage others and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love.' Hebrews 10:23-24

Kate Ayling

www.petworthareachurchestogether.com

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Parish of St Giles Graffham with St Peter Woolavington St Giles Church Wardens:

Alan Sargent 01798 867460

Matthew Pitteway07557 439695

Priest in charge:

Reverend Vivien Turner

01798 867199

reverendvivien@gmail.com

Church website: stgilesgraffham.org

Dear friends, continuing to search out ways to gather community together during unprecedented times. When I last wrote in April's mini Graffham Parish News, St Giles church was still open for prayer, if not services. Now it's a 'sleeping beauty' with its weekly Sunday Eucharist transferred to the rectory study. Although I celebrate alone, this prayer still reaches out into our community and beyond, 'to the edge of everything'. Each day, a diary entry is made on the St Giles Graffham Facebook page, seeking to provide a reflective community heartbeat to complement the Graffham Facebook page. I've devised a network of walks through the village to pass by and pray for each home during the week – thank you for phoning or emailing to say how you are. Night Prayer is a short service to pray individually in our own homes each evening with a sense of joining in with others here. It can be found on our website stgilesgraffham. org – as can our Facebook page. Do join in if you can.

Parish life continues. On 21st April we gave thanks for the life of one time Graffham shopkeeper and churchwarden Roger Mozley RIP, now laid to rest in Graffham Churchyard. Many Graffham people offered a mark of respect and esteem at the roadside as his cortege passed. Thank you.

And we look forward, planning a Graffham toast to the heroes of WWII at 3pm on Friday 8th May. See our poster in this magazine to join in a new way of honouring the heroes of our past in our present troubled times. May those who travelled through those days inspire us now.

I'm sure we'll continue to find new ways of connecting until, as Vera Lynn so memorably sang, 'We'll meet again', in the old-fashioned social contact way. Before then, in the words of the Irish blessing, 'Until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand'. With love Revd Vivien

Phone 01798 867199 or email reverendvivien@gmail.com

The Dawn Chorus

Throughout April the Dawn Chorus reaches a crescendo with our local songbirds singing to defend their territories and attract a mate. All over the parish birds will be taking a deep breath and broadcasting from their favourite song posts each morning. During these dark times take a moment to listen and let their performances raise your spirits. Here's a guide to some of the singers:

Robin

These familiar birds are usually the first birds to strike-up in the dawn chorus. They sing in bursts of short, relaxed warbles, about 3-6 seconds long and each different from the last – so they've got quite a back catalogue to choose from. Their song sounds uplifting, inspiring and positive – a bit like a Vera Lynn tune. (By the way Dame Vera's song 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square' was probably about a Robin singing in the evening – they sing in dim light and street lamps can set them off).

Chaffinch

The call is a repetitive 'chink, chink, chink' but their song is a descending series of notes which gets faster as it goes – usually with a little flourish at the end. Despite the fact that they proudly sing with their heads held high their song always makes me think of somebody really drunk, staggering forward, not quite falling over and managing to recover themselves at the last minute.



Chiffchaff

As Destiny's Child once sang "Say my name – say my name" and this little green warbler has taken their advice literally because it sings its name –'chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff' over and over. And over. And over. Like Status Quo its musical repertoire is limited to two repetitive chords and as a result the bird always sounds a bit bored. If it only threw an extra chord in there (maybe a 'choff'?) it could progress to the three chords of Oasis.

Wren

Not so much a song; more of a tantrum. The wren is the little bird with the big voice. A wren opens its tiny beak and a 5 second warbling, rattling, trilling outburst explodes from it. After each outburst the wren will wait a bit to catch its breath and then repeat the performance. Each song sounds similar and there's



always that trademark rattle in the middle somewhere.

Blackbird

Doo-be-doo-be-doo, the Blackbird is the Sinatra of the dawn chorus; a relaxed, self-assured vocalist. Each phrase is a short warble like the robin's but with a deeper pitch and a warmer tone which tapers off in a faster, scratchy outro. Ol' Black Bird's varied repertoire of songs means he's one of our most gifted songsters. His territorial tune informs all other Blackbirds that he's still "king of the hill, top of the heap".

Hi folks, I'm just dropping in to check that everyone is doing OK during these challenging times and you are staying safe / sane. A month ago I packed up my work equipment and moved out of Sussex Wildlife Trust's Woods Mill headquarters and am now sat at my 'home office' in the spare room. The world has certainly changed in the past month. For one thing it's certainly got a lot smaller. I haven't been past the end of my culde-sac in 30 days!

As the world shuts down around us the uplifting role that wildlife plays in our lives becomes more vital than ever. So, for my own sanity as much as anything, I've started to keep a daily diary of what I find around my garden. I'm lucky enough to have a small garden which has been my saving grace in the past few weeks. You can read my daily updates of what I find in the garden on the Sussex Wildlife Trust website at www. sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/coronawildlifediary

Looking back, my exploits at the start of the diary – just 30 days ago

– seem like a lifetime away. On Day Two I panicked that I wouldn't be getting my haircut for a while so shaved my head and offered my hair to the local Long-tailed Tits to 'upcycle' into their cosy nests. It's already grown back! On Day Three I was sneaking into my neighbour's garden with my camera trying to film a woodpecker in my dressing gown (I was in my dressing gown, not the woodpecker). I've made a few short films including a guided tour of the garden and a short film about cutting open Green Woodpecker poo (which is apparently one of the most viewed clips ever on our website!). I've waved goodbye to the last of the winter Redwings as they flew home to Scandinavia for the summer (Day Six) and waved hello to the first emerging Brimstones (Day Eight) and returning Swallows (Day Twenty-five). And on Day Ten we decided to 'dig for victory' and plant tomatoes which meant I had to face my deepest fear in the greenhouse. It's been quite an adventure. It's been good to get some lovely messages from people to say that the diary has been lifting their spirits during this bleak time. One person called me a 'modern day Vera Lynn'. I've been called a few things in my time but I've certainly never been called that before!

On top of that I've also been organising a weekly Back Garden Bird Race – and over a hundred people are taking part each week listing the birds they see in their garden for an hour. Last week things got a bit strange when we were joined by folks watching birds in their gardens in Italy, Thailand and New Zealand. I'm not sure how long these restrictions will go on for – but the diary has been a good focus for me and there's no sign of me running out of inspiration yet. I'm just so glad we are heading into the spring and have been blessed with such good weather. Sending best wishes from my bunker to yours.

Michael Blencowe Senior Learning & Engagement Officer Sussex Wildlife Trust michaelblencowe@sussexwt.org.uk





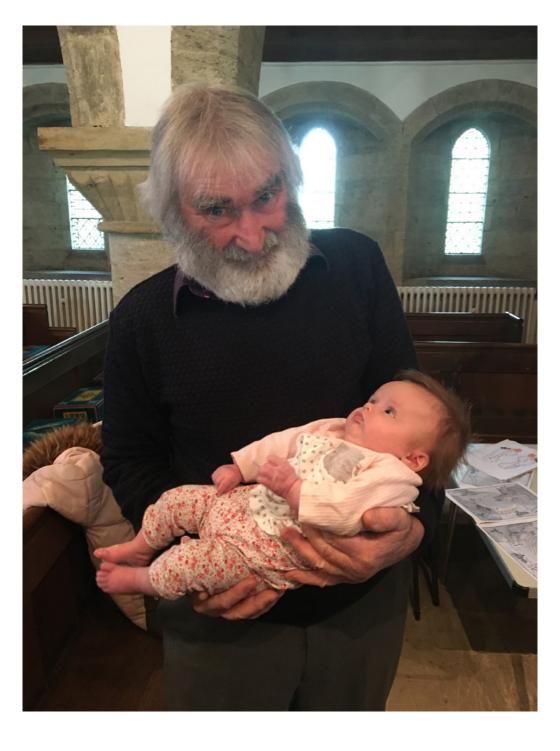
From One Generation to the Next

Above: Jo Morris with some of the children after our Sunday service on 1st March when footprints were impressed into clay. Bob and Phoebe now have their names incised into the bowl beside their prints. A truly happy service, preserved for us always. We look forward to such happiness again.

Below: The church's new Maundy Thursday bowl and pitcher and potter, made by Jo Morris.

Right: Bob Whittington and baby Phoebe Mackie-Sheehan.





Graffham Calendar 2020

May	
Sat 2	Graffham Garden Group spring plant sale. CANCELLED
Mon 11	Annual Meeting of the Parish, 6.30pm for 7pm. Empire
	Hall. CANCELLED
Wed 27	12.30 for 12.45 Empire Hall, lunch club
Fri 15	Annual Meeting of Graffham Parish Council 7pm. Empire
	Hall. CANCELLED
Sat 16	Bowls Club plant sale, Empire Hall, 10am. CANCELLED

June

Wed 24 12.30 for 12.45 Empire Hall lunch club

July

Fri 3	7pm, Recreation Ground Pavilion, Graffham Parish Council
	meeting.

Sat 18	Graffham Garden Group Flower Show

Sat 18-24 Tennis Week

September

Fri 18 Graffham Parish Council meeting. 7pm, Empire Hall.

November

Fri 13	Fleetwood Bo	ac, Graffham	Empire Hall
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Fri 20 Graffham Parish Council meeting. 7pm, Empire Hall.

Medical Info

Prescriptions can be collected from Midhurst or Petworth surgeries any day of the week if they are urgently required by emailing or phoning Ann Rowney.

Email: ann.rowney@icloud.com Phone 01798867229.

Note: Please do not use the HSA number for those requests.

Graffham Bookshelf



Thank you to Jeeva, Vasu and staff and all you Graffham Readers for supporting the Graffham Bookshelf in the Village Shop. Since it started early this year it has raised £52.90 in aid of local homeless charity Stonepillow.

For those who haven't noticed the new bookshelf, it is situated in the corner of the Village Shop Cafe - the idea is that you buy a book (£1 hardback or 50p paperback) and put the money in the collecting tin on top.

The books are supplied from the Stonepillow Shop in Chichester and all proceeds from Graffham sales go back to Stonepillow. From time to time a fresh selection of books will be delivered and unsold books removed.

This system is slightly different from the usual 'book swap' – I

noticed some people had kindly donated some books – PLEASE don't leave books if there is no room for them on the shelves! We depend on the goodwill of Jeeva and his staff for this system to work so no books should be left on the tables or the floor of the shop or cafe.

Thank you everyone.

Mary Butterworth

Trump, Brexit, Mexit and now maybe Exit!

What began as a week in the warmth to recover from a winter operation, overnight became a time of fear and insecurity. The last normal day was spent in a beautiful square full of the scent of orange blossom. I was painting, drawing and quaffing a chilled glass of wine. (See the peaceful last 20 minute watercolour overleaf.)

Our taxi driver translated announcements full blast on his radio and we found we were under immediate lockdown. My generation has not experienced a police state so the shock of guarded exits and patrols to prevent access to streets, beaches and all businesses and shops was frightening and immediate. Our first thought was how do we return if they close borders and airports. There was no information and our hotel closed around us; first outside, then the restaurants, bars and communal areas. As we fell to four remaining guests my heart sank and genuine fear became my sleeping companion. The hotel staff were all leaving and the manager too. A company representative at last told us we were to move although she was not sure where. Many friends sent messages and hope. Our eventual escape through empty airports was miraculous and I am still thanking God to be back in Graffham. One thing we have discovered during our obvious new self isolation period is that human kindness and unselfish help is extraordinary. It reassures that, with all the news of venality and selfishness, we have a village with a heart. Our daughter organised help for her town and many young friends are doing likewise.

I keep reminding myself that the generation above us behaved similarly in the dreadful wars of the last century and that human nature is a conflicted mixture of heroism and selfishness. We all hope the former comes to the fore. Thank you Jeeva and Vasu for your care for us all.

Self isolation may be boring but we have the Internet and phones to speak and cheer each other. My lovely family drove into our drive and waved through the window on Mothers Day... best present I ever had.

Keep safe and well, Susan Hill



Graffham Art Trail and Open Gardens 2020

Clearly the bi-annual Graffham Art Trail and Open Gardens event cannot proceed this year under its usual wonderful guise due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, all is not lost and there is a blossoming movement to bring the event to art and garden fans remotely, possibly even opening gardens to a limited number of pre-booked visitors

within social distancing rules and guidelines, depending on what these are at the time.

It is hoped that by hosting the event despite the current pandemic we may bring some hope and enjoyment to those in need, continue to support our wonderful resident artists, showcase some of Graffham's finest floral displays and raise some money for worthy causes whilst remaining safe and healthy.

Planning is still very much in its infancy with the how and when details yet to be confirmed. Please send all feedback, ideas, suggestions, criticisms and offers of help to info@graffhamfestival.co.uk. Graffham Parish News will be featuring a 'virtual art trail' in its pages over the coming months.

Similarly, if you would like your garden to feature and need help filming it, we have some willing volunteers who will enable this whilst observing all social distancing and hygiene precautions. Please contact Ginny Barrett on 01798 867113 or David Watson on 01798 867065.

Further updates will be printed in due course as planning progresses.

Finally we would like to wish everyone in the area good health and happiness during difficult times.

Graffham Virtual Art Festival

Due to lockdown, the 2020 Graffham Art Festival will not be taking place in its usual capacity. Instead, we'd like to share the art with you through the pages of the magazine.

Please do get in touch with Rozie (email address inside cover) if you'd like to include your art in these pages.

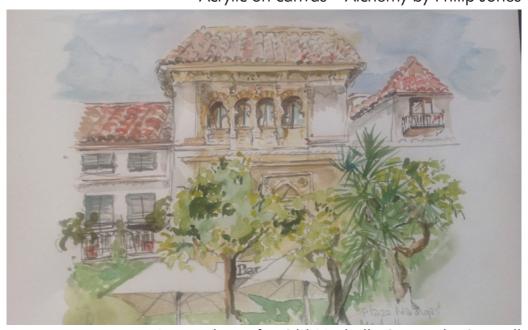




Peacock butterfly by Clive McBain



Acrylic on canvas – Alchemy by Philip Jones



Watercolour of a Old Marbella Square by Sue Hill



As a result of the cancellation of the Easter Market, the Empire Hall's main fundraising event of the year, we will be holding a Summer Raffle this year to be drawn Saturday 18th July 2020.

We have been generously supported by several local businesses for which we are very grateful.

Our prizes include:

Graffham Village Shop hamper

Bottle of Tinwood Brut 2017 Sparkling Wine – Savills

Two passes to Parham House and Gardens

Lantern – The Oak Apple Trading Company

£25 Voucher for Allans Outfitters, Petworth

£30 Voucher - The Unicorn, Heyshott

18 Holes for four people - Cowdray Golf Course

Electric kettle – C J Hampshire, Midhurst

Meal and wine voucher - Pizza Express

Lady's watch - Little Coas, Midhurst

Bottle of Jack Daniels Sour Mash Whiskey

We have many more wonderful prizes including tickets to various events and a range of vouchers.

Tickets will be available from May with a full list of prizes and winners will be published in the August magazine. We hope that you will be able to support The Empire Hall in this difficult time.

For further information please contact:

Jacky Gregory jackygregory@btinternet.com Liz Nicholson liz.empirehall@gmail.com 07543 670586

Chichester at home

Groceries to your door



www.chichesterathome.co.uk



Groceries • Meals • Home & Garden

Look after each other Stay safe. Stay home. Stay positive

This is an independent, free directory compiled by Sara Watkins of Hopscotch, Emily Penny of Becolourful and Gemma Young of Marketing Gem.



www.chichester.foodbank.org.uk

Feeding local people in crisis

Your donations enable us to provide three days of emergency food to local people in crisis. Working with local care professionals to identify those in need, we are able to provide short term relief and support as well as signposting people to organisations able to help solve the longer term problem.



Please donate to this food bank by putting any of the items on the list in the covered box in the back of St Giles Church, Graffham.

Any queries please ring Ann Brown on 01798 867561

Catholic Church

The Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, Angel Street, Petworth, and St Anthony and St George, Duncton and The Divine Motherhood & St. Francis of Assisi Midhurst. Parish Priest: Fr Peter Newsam **01798 342 169 email**: pp.petworth@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday

8.00 Mass at Duncton / 9.30 Mass at Midhurst / 11.00 Mass at Petworth

Weekday Masses:

Monday No Mass

Tuesday 9.30am Mass at Petworth Wednesday 9.30am Mass at Midhurst Thursday 9.30am Mass at Petworth

12.00noon Mass at Midhurst Convent

Friday 6.30pm Petworth Saturday 9.30am Midhurst

Confessions: Petworth: Fridays 6.00pm Midhurst: Saturdays 10.00am

Occasionally there will be changes but when these occur notices are displayed at the

relevant Churches

Midhurst Methodist Church

Minister: Rev David Muskett 01428 642921

Sundays 10.00am Morning Worship

Body and Soul worship and lunch 12:30pm 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the

month (except in August)

Toddler and Carer group 10am Thursdays during term times

Society of Friends (Quakers)

2nd & 4th Sundays 10.30am St Ann's, Midhurst

Anna Luttman-Johnson 01798 343333

Petworth United Reformed Church

Rev. Anne Lewitt, Minister

Secretary: Mrs Maureen Purser 01798 343 102

Morning Service: Sundays 10.30am

Petworth Area Churches Together

Friday Coffee Mornings At Petworth United Reformed between 10am and 11am – you will be made very welcome. Further information on PACT from Maureen Purser on 01798 343 102 or their website:

www.petworthareachurchestogether.com

Lockdown Wildlife

Lockdown is proving good for wildlife and also for us sometimes. This baby bullfinch flew into a window we were staring out of desultorily and stunned himself. What fortune for my husband to pick up this tiny warm bird and set it safely on a tea towel till it recovered and flew off. It's the calmness that has returned to Graffham which has us all noticing how beautiful the world is. On our daily dog walk I hear larks above and birdsong in every hedgerow. There are impressive numbers of bees this year so hopes for honey for tea.

Trawling those hedgerows for wild garlic to use in a spring risotto and swapping garden treats is bringing us together in the spirit of resource-fullness.

The shared silly online games and crossword clues (not to mention the weekly clap for the NHS) is filling us with community spirit and appreciation of small but important things in our contracted lives. More time to paint in peace is an unexpected pleasure.

My dog has been forced back into lockdown after several excursions through the fence. We have refered the escape hole and now he looks as miserable as all the other trapped villagers. How wonderful this strange spring is proving and, though we miss our companions and village activity we can be grateful to Jeeva for his cheery help and to Vivien

for keeping our souls together with a church closed for the first time since the thirteenth century.

So many young people helping is good to see and society is better when we all pull together. Each person seems to have good stories to tell despite this world disaster. We are blessed to be in such a place and soldier on.
Susan Hill



East Lavington Parish Council Broadband Survey

East Lavington Parish Council has started a project to improve broadband speeds. Some of the parish is currently well served by the fibre cabinets located in Graffham and Wallace Square, however there are many residents we know who fail to receive anywhere near the Ofcom accepted minimum speed of 10mbps.

A new Ofcom Universal Service Obligation (USO) came into force in March 2020 which will fund up to £3400 per household to achieve an acceptable connection (>10mbps). This may fully resolve connectivity for outlying residents individually, however we have the opportunity to improve the provision for many in the parish if we could consolidate the funds into an Openreach Community Infrastructure Project, either by funding fibre cabinets for East Lavington or by creating demand for Ultrafast Broadband (300mbps) within the extended Graffham area.

I have started the discussion with OpenReach who support and recommend a joined-up approach to improving our broadband service provision. To achieve this we encourage as many households as possible who are unhappy with their connectivity to complete a short survey and speed test (via your home broadband and preferably when the speed is noticeably slow) at http://tinyurl.com/ELPCBB

The results of this survey will be used to inform OpenReach who will then plan and cost broadband infrastructure options. Survey respondents can opt-in to progress updates and joining the community project.

If you need any help with the survey/speed test, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cllr. Simon Longman 867317

simon.longman@eastlavington-pc.uk

A Big Thank You Thank you to the Village Shop and all the volunteers. You are all doing an amazing job right now delivering to the villagers.

Graffham Parish Council

Cancelled Meetings

Due to the Corona Virus crisis and following guidance from appropriate authorities Graffham Parish Council has cancelled the following meetings:

Annual Meeting of the Parish on 11 May 2020

Annual Meeting of the Council on 15 May 2020

GPC will continue to keep the parish involved of any necessary activity by notices on the website www.graffham-pc.uk, on the parish notice boards and on the Graffham Noticeboard of FaceBook as appropriate.

Dog Fouling

GPC is disappointed to have received complaints from parishioners concerning dog waste having been left on paths and tracks throughout the parish. For example, the track opposite High View, by Glebeland and Grove Cottage, is badly fouled. The following information has been sourced from the CDC website: Stop Mucking About! We are aware that most dog owners are responsible and they make sure that they clean up after their pets whilst they are out and about. But for those who don't, dog fouling is disgusting, poses health risks and blights our community.

Bag it and bin it, or face a fine! Failure to clean up after your dog is an offence. If you are caught allowing your dog to foul and not cleaning up after it, you will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. If this is not paid, the owner may be taken to court and if found guilty of the offence, fined a maximum of $\mathfrak{L}1,000$. We've also seen an increase in people putting dog mess into a bag, but then leaving it wherever they see fit. This is littering and is a danger to wildlife and can also result in a Fixed Penalty Notice. Please remember, once you've bagged up the dog mess you can place it any litter bin.

How can you help? If you spot a dog owner failing to clean up after their pet, you can report them our Dog Wardens who will be able to investigate. Email environmentalhealth@chichester.gov.uk or call 01243 785166.

GPC requests parishioners to please bag and bin your dog poo upon returning home or place in any litter bin. Please be aware that there is also a black bin specifically for this purpose at the corner of the recreation ground near the large parking area by the bridleway. (Please however do not put dog poo in the red Biffa bin at the Recreation Ground.)

Forthcoming Meetings

CANCELLED: Monday 11 May 2020 – Annual Meeting of the Parish, Informal Drinks 6.30pm followed by Meeting 7pm. Empire Hall.

CANCELLED: Friday 15 May 2020 – Annual Meeting of Graffham Parish Council 7pm. Empire Hall.

Friday 3rd July 2020 7pm, Recreation Ground Pavilion

Friday 18 September 2020 7pm, Empire Hall

Friday 20 November 2020 7pm, Empire Hall Friday 15 January 2021 7pm, Empire Hall

7pm, Empire Hall Monday 10 May 2021 Annual Meeting of the Parish, informal drinks

6.30pm, followed by Meeting 7pm. Empire Hall.

Friday 14 May 2021 Annual Meeting of Graffham Parish Council. 7pm.

Agendas, along with draft and approved minutes, are available on www.graffham-pc.uk and on the notice board outside the Empire Hall.

Other information including contact details for all councillors, dates of forthcoming meetings and procedural documents can be found on www.graffham-pc.uk Tracy Rowe, Clerk

graffhampc@gmx.co.uk

Friday 12 March 2021

01798 867020

Entertainment at the Empire Hall

Chin up and think of Capt. Mannering boldly leading his squad in times of adversity or Capt. Tom and the perfect encapsulation of British can do and carry on.... 'all will be well'. Remember the Tea Parties and Abba Sensation, the Allo Allo and GEM movie nights, My Big Fat Cowpat Wedding and Kokomo, Bowjangles and Queen II, Dad's Army and Brother Strut, Black is the Color of my Voice and Kiki Dee. All recent and fond memories of evenings in the hall, with much more not mentioned and much more to come.

As we know, nothing is guaranteed, but I wanted to let you know our current plans after all the cancellations and postponements over the past few weeks. As much for us all to look forward as well as make notes in our diaries.

October

- Saturday 3rd Graffham Down Trust Quiz Night
- Friday 9th The Simon Bates Big Band
- Saturday 17th GEM movie night
- Saturday 24th An evening of dance featuring local dance troops and headlined by the Sonia Sabri Companies touring show Same Same But Different.

November

Friday 13th - Fleetwood Bac.

Many more things will be planned and hopefully most will happen. Take care and please support your local community hall, our very own Empire Hall.

Thanks, Jim Kirke

Petworth Area Churches Together: Petworth Food Bank Report April 2020

The Corona Virus pandemic has dramatically altered demand and operation of our Petworth Food Bank. Foods needed for Food Bank stocks:

UHT milk, Tinned vegetables, Instant mash/tinned potatoes,
Tinned meat, Tinned tomatoes, Tinned rice pudding/custard,
Cleaning products, Toilet roll

Please put items in the basket by the door of the Petworth Co-op or contact Geoff (details below).

Demand has increased due to economic effects of the pandemic, and we have had to sideline over half our regular volunteers due to age/medical risk. We have also adopted a no-contact method of distributing food boxes, which means that all boxes are now delivered – collection from the URC (United Reformed Church, Petworth) adding an increased risk of virus spread between volunteer and client.

Our main advisers, the Trussell Trust, still insist on two volunteers for each delivery, even though there is no contact with the client, it means that two cars have to be used for each delivery where the volunteers are not husband and wife.

Children's Lunch Packs (KLPs) are routinely distributed (to children entitled to free school meals) at the start of the holidays. Normally one KLP is given out per child, for a two-week holiday. This year the schools closed early for Easter, and it was decided to issue two KLPs per child, since it was obvious that the government would not have a system in place by the end of the official school holidays. This resulted in our wonderful group of young(ish) volunteers distributing almost 80 food boxes (KLPs plus normal Red voucher requests) over a period of three days. A truly herculean effort. We have had magnificent support from the Headmaster of Petworth Primary School and his deputy Head as temporary volunteers and we have had three new volunteers over the past week.

The Chichester branch of Trussell Trust has given us wonderful support, meeting all our requests for food boxes, and public food donations from the Petworth Co-op are now above normal levels.

Geoff Pye, Gpye7@icloud.com Petworth Food Bank organiser on behalf of PACT



The Three Moles is still here to serve our community!



Whilst our doors may not be open, we are still here to help serve our community when you need us most (except for a pint for now!).

We can provide weekly food boxes containing a number of essential items such as; milk, bread, eggs, fresh fruit and vegetables and salad.

We are also able to source many other items on request including bottles of wine and beer, various different food items and much more.

We have teamed up with Westerlands Farm in Graffham to be able to provide you with some of their amazing, top quality lamb, beef and pork.

Availability varies each week.

We have also teamed up with River Shire Catering in West Lavington to be able to offer you a range of amazing home cooked delights including pies, tarts and desserts. Got a large household? No problem! How about a Seafood Chowder, Moroccan Lamb or Comfit of duck?

Please visit our Facebook page, our website or give us a call for more information and if there is anything we can help you with.

www.thethreemoles.co.uk 01798 861303 contact@thethreemoles.co.uk

Graffham Garden Group 2020 Programme of Outings

May: Sunday 17th

Chilworth Manor
NGS open day
50 minute drive.
Chilworth Manor is a gem of a garden and the sort one hopes to find on an NGS open day. Highly recommended. Garden and Tree
Walks at 2.30pm and 4pm.
Tasting of Chilworth Manor
Rose Wine throughout the day.
Leaving Graffham at 1pm, £6.



June: Wednesday 3rd

Friend's Private Garden in Chiddingfold A beautiful private garden in Chiddingfold. Leaving Graffham at 10am.

June: Tuesday 9th

Old Erringham Cottage, Shoreham

45 minute drive.

Plantsman's garden set high on the South Downs with panoramic views overlooking the Adur valley. 1 acre with flower meadow, stream bed and ponds, formal and informal planting areas with over 600 varieties of plants. Very productive fruit and vegetable garden with glasshouses.



Many plants grown from seed and coastal climate gives success with tender plants. Leaving Graffham 9.45am, £9 includes tea and biscuits.

June: 12-14th

Graffham Open Gardens

June: Friday 26th

Norney Wood, Shackleford 40 minute drive.

This beautiful private garden has been inspired by Gertrude Jekyll and balances the traditional elements of the English garden with a contemporary ecological approach.

Leaving Graffham 9.20am, £12.50 includes tea and biscuits.



July: Monday 27th

Saffrons, Steyning 45 minute drive.

An artist's garden of textural contrasts and complementary colours. Well-furnished late summer flower beds and a large fruit cage and vegetable beds.

Leaving Graffham 1.45pm, £9 includes tea and cake.



August: Tuesday 18th

Houghton Lodge, Stockbridge 1hr 15min drive.

Houghton Lodge and Gardens has been described as 'the jewel of the Test Valley', and is the ideal place to visit, whether your passion lies with Historic Houses or beautiful gardens – or both.

Entrance to House and Garden with talks, refreshments on arrival, fixed lunch, all included £35.70.

Leaving Graffham 9.15am, returning 3pm.





September: Thursday 24th Gilberts Dahlias, Romsey 1hr 20min drive This specialist dahlia grower has a field with 400 varieties of dahlias, every size, shape and colour. We will have a talk and then afternoon tea. Leaving Graffham at 12.40pm, £8.



October: Monday 19th

Polesden Lacey
1hr 5 mins drive.

National Trust House and Garden

Leaving Graffham at 9am, we will have a tour of the garden at 10.30am and the house at 11.45,am lunch optional in their café.

NT members free, group rate for non-members £13.15 as long as we are a minimum of 15.

Please call Carole Kirke 01798 867026 to book any of these trips.

Trips are subject to change dependent on the Coronavirus advice at the time.

Thank You For Being An Angel

In December, we launched our 'Be An Angel' fundraising campaign to help balance the books and save St. Giles'.

Since then, 20 new Angels have signed up to our Parish Giving Scheme. We now have 40 Angels in the village who are doing this – as well as many others who choose to give their support in different ways.

Thank you all – it makes a huge difference, and we are now much, much closer to balancing the books.



Can We Find Twenty More Angels?

Unfortunately, our regular donations still do not cover our regular expenses. If we can find twenty more Angels, we can meet this target. Could you be one of them?

Graffham Without St. Giles'

Unless we can balance the books, St Giles' future as an independent parish is in doubt. Even if you are not a regular worshipper, it's hard to imagine Graffham without St. Giles':

- Without somewhere to come together at Easter, Christmas or Remembrance Day,
- Without somewhere for important family occasions like Christenings, Weddings and Funerals
- Without our vicar to support the elderly, lonely or vulnerable in our community

Be An Angel Your Way

Set Up A Regular Donation

Pick up a form from the Church or Village Shop and post it in the stamped addressed envelope provided.

Make A One Off Donation

Drop your donation off at the Church or at the Vicarage. Cheques should be made payable to St. Giles' Church PCC (Check)

Give Your Time

There are lots of ways to support the church from flower arranging, to cleaning or running a fundraising event.

Bless You For Being An Angel

Graffham and Duncton Schools go online!

During the partial school closures during the Coronavirus pandemic, the majority of our learning opportunities have been taking place online, using our Class Dojo app. Our focus is on supporting the emotional wellbeing of families, and our storytime videos with Graffham teachers are a highlight of everyone's day!

Our children have also been creating pictures for you and for the NHS and key workers and we thought the community would like to see them here. We send our local communities our thoughts at this time and trust that hope and joy from these pictures comes your way!

Helen Martin, Headteacher

Find out more about our school on our website, at

www.graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk

Please do take a look at and 'like' our Facebook page, set up by the 'Friends of Graffham and Duncton'

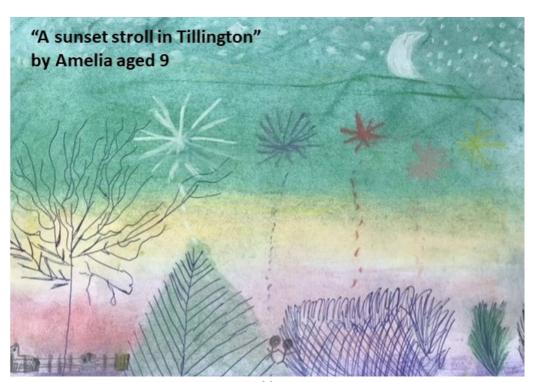






Gabriel aged 2

"A Beacon of Safety in the face of adversity ... thank you NHS" Gene aged 10



Graffham Down Trust and the Hazel Dormouse

The sleepy little ball of fur being stuffed into a teapot at the Mad Hatter's tea party by the Mad Hatter and the Hare is probably the first time a reader of English will have come across the Hazel Dormouse. It is indeed a little ball of gingery-brown fur and its furry tail distinguishes it from wild mice. Sleep is what Dormice do best. To save energy they hibernate in the winter months and during the rest of the year they can go into torpor, a state of semi-hibernation, at the first sign of cold or wet weather



or a shortage of food. They have sometimes been found asleep in old birds' nests, but they weave their own spherical nests (often in brambles or other shrubs) from strips of honeysuckle bark or a similar plant, surrounded by a layer of green leaves. During winter Dormice hibernate in nests beneath the leaf litter on the forest floor or in the base of hedgerows or in nest boxes. Dormice are rarely seen as they are nocturnal and spend almost all their time in the branches of trees and shrubs during the summer, rarely coming down to the ground where they are particularly vulnerable to predators. While they are active, they eat a wide range of foods. In spring they feed on the flowers of many tree and shrub such as Oak, Hawthorn, Ash, Willow, Honeysuckle and Bramble. During the summer they take advantage of caterpillars, aphids and wasp galls and then they fatten up for hibernation on fruits and berries such as blackberries, sloes, crab apples and of particu-

lar importance for hibernation, hazelnuts.

Because of their need for such a variety of food Dormice fare best in species-rich hedgerows and scrub and because of the importance of hazelnuts prior to hibernation old managed Hazel coppice is a prime habitat. However, if coppice has been left unmanaged for many years, as is generally the case in England,



many of the shrub species are lost and the Dormouse population decreases. Across the country Dormice are indeed in decline and in the last 18 years alone the population has fallen by 51%. Graffham Down Reserves are lucky to have a healthy population of Dormice and so we are doing what we can to maintain and improve the population.

During the last three years Graffham Down Trust work party activities have included:

- Installing Dormouse nest boxes.
- Fencing to exclude Deer so that Hazel and other shrub species can grow from the ground.
- Thinning tall trees in existing woodland to encourage growth of understorey and the production of more fruits, nuts and insects for food
- Reinstating traditional woodland management, particularly coppicing (cutting down to a stump and leaving it to regrow).
- Leaving piles of cut logs where Dormice can hibernate.
- Creating glades and rides, the edges of which will become species rich in shrubs.

Dormice are protected by law, so we are very lucky to have Chloe Goddard, South Downs National Park Authority Ranger, licenced to carry out dormouse surveys, check our 50 dormouse nest boxes on a regular basis. The nest boxes are attached to hazel stools in the Paterson Reserve. Chloe shares the records of what she finds in the boxes with the National Dormouse Monitoring Programme run by the People's Trust for Endangered Species.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for helping to improve the Dormouse habitat on Graffham Down. We hope that our success with Dormice continues and our population grows over time.

Dormice may be difficult to see because of their nocturnal and arboreal behaviour, but by inspecting hazelnuts on the woodland floor it is possible to find clues to their presence.

Examination of hazelnuts may show a neat, round hole in the shell. This indicates it has been opened by a small rodent such as a Dormouse, Wood Mouse or Bank Vole. Other animals, such as Squirrels or Jays will either split the shell completely in half or make a jagged hole in it.

Further examination reveals the cut surface of the hole made by a Dormouse has toothmarks which follow the direction of the shell. In addition, there will be toothmarks on the outer surface of the nut, at an angle of about 45 degrees to the cut surface. Wood Mice and Voles bite across the nutshell leaving clear parallel toothmarks from inside to outside. Wood Mice also leave toothmarks on the outer surface of the nut, but Voles do not.



Empire Hall The Street, Graffham West Sussex, GU28 0QE

Bringing film to Graffham Raising funds for the Empire Hall

Graffham Empire Movies is looking forward to raising the curtain on its 2020 autumn programme after an early intermission to its spring season. GEM has two aims – to raise funds for our lovely Empire Hall and to bring great films to the village.

Sadly, the lockdown meant we had to pull our April 2020 feature, Wild Rose, but you can watch it now on Amazon Prime if you are a subscriber.

Remember the other great films we screened in the past year? Official Secrets, Rocketman, Colette, Mary Poppins Returns, Fisherman's Friends and Bohemian Rhapsody. They enabled us to make a healthy contribution to hall funds – thanks to all who made up audiences and GEM's indefatigable committee.

Covid-19 restrictions allowing, we plan to be back in September, bringing some of the latest and greatest blockbusters to the big screen in the Empire Hall.

As usual, we are looking at screenings once a month during the autumn, winter and spring, starting in September and with a break in December.

The committee will convene in the coming months – remotely, if required – to agree the programme.

It will be a difficult decision, with some marvellous movies released recently, including:

Little Women, the latest beautifully shot adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel recounting the lives, loves and losses of the March family in and after the US civil war, with barn-storming performances by Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson and Florence Pugh.

Emma, another remake, this time of Jane Austen's beloved comedy, with Anya Taylor-Joy in the title role, supported by the likes of Bill Nighy and Miranda Hart.

1917, Sam Mendes' multi-award-winning World War I tale of two soldiers assigned to race against time and deliver a message that will stop

hundreds of comrades from walking straight into a deadly trap.

The Personal History of David Copperfield, a modern take on Charles Dickens' classic, directed by comedy genius Armando Iannucci and starring Dev Patel, Hugh Laurie, Tilda Swinton, Peter Capaldi, Paul Whitehouse and Ben Whishaw.

Military Wives, based on the true story of a group of women who form a choir and quickly find themselves at the centre of a media sensation while their partners are away serving in Afghanistan, with Kristin Scott Thomas leading the cast.

Parasite, the first non-English-language film to win the Best Movie Oscar – could Graffham be ready for a film in Korean?!

And coming soon is the new James Bond, No Time To Die.

Which would you most like to see? Or maybe you have other suggestions. Let us know at graffhamempiremovies@gmail.com. Whichever make the final cut, it is going to be a great season! Watch out for the eventual selection and dates in future editions of Graffham Parish News and the Graffham Noticeboard Facebook page.

Meantime, stay safe and sane! Looking forward to see all movie-goers soon!

Michael Blunt Chairman, Graffham Empire Movies







Tennis Club, AGM Report

The Objectives of the Club

- a) To provide tennis, social and other activities for its Members and generally to encourage and facilitate the playing of tennis;
- b) To provide and maintain the all weather facilities at Graffham Recreation Ground;
- c) To promote, improve, develop and support the interests of tennis;
- d) To take and retain a membership of the CLTA (and by doing so become and remain registered as an associate of the LTA), and to comply with and uphold the Rules and Regulations of the CLTA, as amended from time to time, and the LTA Rules and the LTA Disciplinary Code and the rules and regulations of any body to which the LTA is registered or affiliated;
- e) To acquire, establish, own, operate and turn to account in any way the tennis court facilities of the Club together with buildings and easements, fixtures and fittings and accessories as shall be thought advisable;
- f) To make rules and regulations, bye-laws and standing orders concerning the operation of the Club including without limitation regulations concerning disciplinary procedures that may be taken against the Members;
- g) To do all such other things as The Management Committee thinks fit to further the interests of the Club or to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the objects stated in this Rule3 (Objects).

Membership/Finances

I am glad to report that membership of your Club remains healthy and Richard Gyles will update us on the numbers in his report.

A very brief summary is that our membership increased in number last year, we have no debts, cash in the bank and, if we can maintain revenues at current levels by encouraging membership of the Club and control the costs, we should be able to fully resurface the courts including the nets and surrounding netting in circa 5 years without having to ask for loans or further help from members as has happened in the past.

Fees

The overwhelming contribution to the Club's funds continues to be through the Membership Fees. Through this, and various money raising efforts throughout the summer, we can just about maintain the courts and put enough aside to resurface them in a cycle that is circa 10-15 years.

Having raised the fees last year (2019) we intend to leave them alone this year. For general information below is a comparison of the Fee increases since 2008:

	2008	2010	2011	2014	2016	2019
Family	£50.00	£55.00	£65.00	£70.00	£75.00	£90.00
Adult	£30.00	£35.00	£40.00	£40.00	£45.00	£45.00
Junior	£10.00	£10.00	£12.50	£12.50	£12.50	£12.50

As I have mentioned in almost every report, we are keen to keep membership of the club affordable for everyone who wishes to play, and certainly as far as encouraging the youngest members of the village is concerned, and try to make the entertainment and social aspect of the club the place to add further value for the Members. I think that the table above reinforces that.

I reported last year some of this increase was to provide greater support for the upkeep of the Recreation Ground and the pavilion. Our Affiliation Fee to the Recreation Ground is currently £800 per annum and we have forgone the 'rebate' of 50% of the bar profits which last year amounted to some £250. Effectively this has nearly doubled our cash contribution and is a reasonable percentage of the Club's revenue. What it does not include, however, is the time and effort that members put into helping to maintain the entire Ground, not just the tennis courts. Just mowing and strimming the grass can take over four hours every week.

Courts/Infrastructure

The Courts were resurfaced in September 2011 and are still in good condition. We introduced a regular maintenance program in 2018 to extend their working life. The aim is to get at least another four years out of them before having to go through the expense of resurfacing again.

Thanks to the kind permission of Tim Read at Lavington Stud, in 2016 we were able to tidy up the trees to the south of the courts. This allowed more light and air into the south east corner which has definitely helped to keep the playing surface drier.

Having dried one area, we found ourselves with a quagmire at another, on occasion. The entrance to the courts was sometimes impassable so I am glad to report that Simon Longman, together with a small but willing team of volunteers, has built a path from the car park to the courts to address this issue. Thank you Simon and all who helped and in particular

Peter Bradley who 'donated' people, machinery and technical expertise to the project.

Coaching

For the 6th year we welcome Richard Hopp to the club as Coach. Once more he has got off to a flying start and is already well established in the current season with coaching most weeks and during the holidays.

This year he arranged a Taster Session during the February half term break for juniors to come and have a go, which was very successful. There is a full schedule of coaching for the coming year.

Events

- Key Exchange/Membership Renewal
- Tournament. As most will already know, David Sanders and Kate Hogan are already on the case for another year's competition.
 - *We will continue with our Internal Tournament
 - *This year we have 4 teams entered into the East Hampshire League
- We hope to continue with the ever popular Friendly Matches vs. other clubs
- We continue the Seniors Turn Up and Play session for Mondays in response to a request from local players who were finding it hard to find a court to use.
- Our slightly revamped Tennis Week included some new formats which continued the successes of former years. Even your Chairman was 'encouraged' to organise an invitational event!!
- The Dinner was again a smaller affair, but just as fun and entertaining. Again thanks to all for organising and supporting the evening.
- Wimbledon Ballot. 144 members entered the ballot this year and we have been allocated 25 pairs of tickets. Once again many thanks to Richard Gyles for making it as easy as possible for people to 'opt in' to the ballot using their LTA Memberships.

The Management Committe

All members of the Committee are volunteers and I continue to be awed by the current Members who do so much for, and give freely of their time to, the club, whether that be:

- maintaining the courts and the grounds
- maintaining and encouraging the coaching

- organising tournaments, both internal and external
- arranging Tennis Week, the annual dinner and other events
- · initiating new ways to allow members of all ages to play
- · making sure the finances are in great shape
- Welfare/Health and Safety
- communicating with members and potential members, running the website and getting information about the club into the Parish News and Graffham Notice Board.
- attending, contributing to and taking minutes of the 8 or 9 Committee meetings that take place throughout the year.

I would like to thank all Committee Members for their continuing support for, and commitment to, this Club.

Last year we paid tribute to the East Hampshire League Team Captains. During the year Dinah Lamming stepped down as organiser of the EHL events 10 years after encouraging us to join. Thank you Dinah for your tireless contribution to the success of the club's EHL endeavours. We also welcomed Kate Hogan to the Committee. Kate has been a stalwart of Graffham Ladies for many years and she takes responsibility for the East Hampshire League and the Ladies section of the Internal Tournament.

Last year we recruited a Welfare Officer and introduced the Safeguarding and Whistle Blowing Policy. We continue to be enormously grateful to Diana Pettifer for filling this role.

This year we are delighted to have Tim Crow join us on the Committee. Tim has been a regular of the Seniors Turn Up and Play sessions and we look forward to his ideas and sound advice.

As always we continue to look for new people to join the Committee, especially those with younger children, to help shape the future of the club, and to bring new ideas to the running of the club, its facilities and events. The Club is run for the members and the Committee needs to reflect the demographic of the Membership.

Strategy

We continue to look to the longer term with our outlook and would love to encourage the new families in the village to get more involved with the Club.

Overall this was another good year for the club and a lot of hard work went in to it. Thank you all for your support.

Beetle Clay, Chairman, March 2020

Graffham Parish News is always on the look out for exciting news, features, articles and photos. If you have something uplifting for the Graffham residents, through this time of lockdown, we would love to hear from you.

If you would like to contribute to the magazine please email the editor, Rozie Apps on:

editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com
The deadline for the next issue (June) is 15th May 2020.

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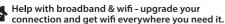
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