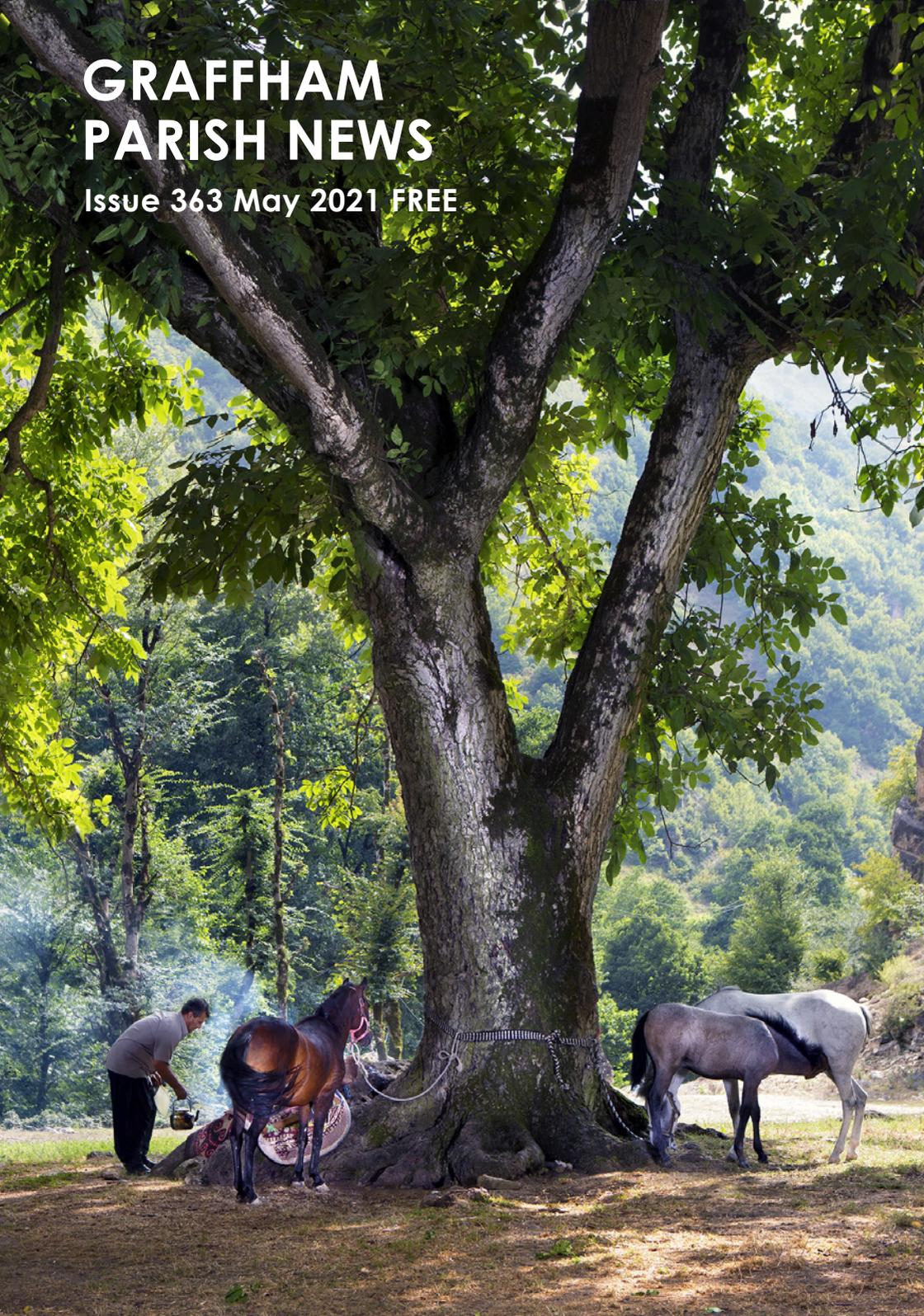


GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

Issue 363 May 2021 FREE





St Giles Church – Parish Priest's Discretionary Fund

This fund provides occasional support to local people as required. If you think we might help you, we'll be glad to do so if we can. Contact Revd Vivien at reverendvivien@gmail.com
01798 867199

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Cover picture: ©Colin Barker. The walnut tree is a lovely natural image, depicting a pastoral scene under a large walnut tree, showing a suckling caspian colt. The temperature was around 44°C, so the shade was welcome, and so was the tea!

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Parish of St Giles Graffham with St Peter Woolavington
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A full spectrum of worship at St Giles

We march on, adjusting what we offer for a time and wondering if we will continue to build on positive progress or retreat into recovery mode again. We've all learned to be thankful for what we have while we have it, and the simplest pleasures taken most for granted have become incredibly precious now. Like watching our grandchildren play on a fallen tree in a National Trust park or enjoying the company of family in a chilly garden, wrapped up warmly in a blanket with hot water bottle and blazing fire pit. We're becoming outdoor people now.

We are also thankful to be at church again. Looking back a little, Matins before Easter was restrained, reverent, reassuring. Easter Day was spectacular. The congregation of St Giles witnessed something this parish may never before have seen, a total immersion baptism in the churchyard. We did indeed make a splash! Every blessing to Beanie for this powerful witness to faith at a time when such encouragement is vitally important and welcome. Unforgettable.

After this joyful excitement, a sombre mood swiftly overtook us with news of the death of His Royal Highness, The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh. St Giles remained open until the funeral day for the lighting of candles and prayers for peace of soul and for his grieving family – most particularly Her Majesty the Queen, for whom our hearts reach out in sadness at her loss. We grieved too for the family of Michael Harting RIP, whose funeral thanksgiving at St Giles took place the same day as that of our Prince and Duke. May both these beloved men rest in peace and rise in glory.

Birthing pool ready for churchyard baptism on Easter Day. Significant for new life in Christ!



Looking forward just a little, we continue offering both Matins at 9am and Eucharist at 10.30am during May, and a weekly Sunday online reflection and prayer, and Wednesday Zoom Prayers at 7pm. We are anticipating two amazing weddings for Graffham families, holding Bob and Linda, and Stephen and Amy in our thoughts and prayers as they look forward to their wedding days. We are HOPING to offer a service for families soon. We shall see! And hoping too, for music inside church and singing outside, and as much warmth and sunshine as possible please to enjoy churchyard Eucharists. And when it is chilly or rainy, we shall worship inside. Perhaps I should speak to the PCC about blankets and hot water bottles and a fire pit... for Pentecost maybe? (only joking...I think.) These days, anything seems possible.

See our website stgilesgraffham.org for online services and up-to-date information about services in May, and other information including a regular pdf copy of this magazine. Do request a link at reverendvivien@gmail.com to join Wednesday evening Zoom prayers at 7pm. If you are comfortable doing so, please join us for any of our services. You will be welcome.

Revd Vivien





The Parish of Graffham with Woolavington sends its deepest condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on 9 April 2021. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Mike Harting

19 November 1930 – 31st March 2021

Mike had lived in Lavington Park since he moved to the area with his late wife, Ann, in 2011. Following Ann's death, in 2012, Mike lived on his own at the cottage, latterly with his beloved cat, Freddie. His three children and seven grandchildren enjoyed many lovely visits to Beech Cottage over the years often meeting there the many friends Mike had made.

Mike enjoyed village life. He became involved in local matters and was a Parish Councillor and volunteered to listen to the children read at Duncton CE Junior School. The children called him 'Mikey'.

Mike had an interesting business life connected with Aston Martin cars. He was inextricably linked to the British sports car manufacturer, both professionally and personally and had amassed over 65 years with the marque, always retaining his love of cars.

HWM Aston Martin in Walton on Thames was his family business. He had arrived at Hersham and Walton Motors (as it was then called) in 1958, having been the global sales manager for Aston Martin at their Feltham facility just 5 miles away from the Walton dealership. He had made a strong impression at Aston Martin, still in his twenties, he was likely the youngest sales manager of any manufacturer during that period. Mike's love of cars and people, combined with his sheer tenacity, meant that he took to it like a duck to water. An ultra-exclusive, low-volume manufacturer, the world of Aston Martin led Mike to meet some very interesting people, both in showrooms and at the race track.

One of those contacts was George Abecassis of Hersham & Walton Motors. George had lost his founding business partner, John Heath, in an accident at the famous Mille Miglia road race (1955) whilst driving an HWM. George and Mike eventually became business partners and when George retired, Mike took ownership of the whole of the HWM business and continued at the helm, later joined by his son Andrew, through the rest of his life.





THE EMPIRE HALL SPRING EVENT

SATURDAY 29th May 2021

10am - 3.30pm

Please join us for an outside local gathering in The Empire Hall Garden for Refreshments, Cakes, Savouries, Produce Stall, Plant Stall, and many more local craft stalls.

The Raffle will be drawn at 3pm also the results of The Silent Auction.

PLEASE SUPPORT
THIS MAJN FUNDRAISING
EVENT FOR OUR HALL
(COVID RESTRICTIONS APPLY)

FOR ALL INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT
Liz 07543670586 or Jacky 07799353357

My search for what remains

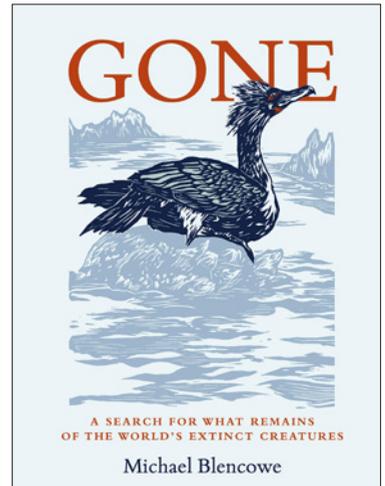
A wonderful museum lurks unassumingly on Brighton's Dyke Road, the tree-lined residential avenue that connects the city to the rolling chalk hills of the South Downs. It was here, in the illuminated cabinets and cases of The Booth Museum of Natural History that my story started. A display of the bones, eggs, fur and feathers of extinct animals reconnected me with my childhood obsession with lost species. It was the starting point for a journey which led me deep into the caves of New Zealand looking for the bones of the mighty extinct moa – birds which stood over 12ft tall. I hike mountain ranges in search of the South Island Kokako, a bird known as the 'Grey Ghost'; which some believe may still exist. In San Francisco I seek the remaining sand dunes where the diminutive Xerces Blue butterfly once flew and in a dimly lit museum storeroom, I am granted an audience with the holiest of extinct relics – the mummified head of the legendary Dodo. Although my quest leads me to Copenhagen, Helsinki, Paris and New York, I was surprised to find that, if I was searching for extinct animals, there was a story right on my doorstep.



Sussex was the last known whereabouts of Ivell's Sea Anemone, declared extinct in 1997. This delicate creature once existed in Widewater Lagoon near Shoreham and is known from nowhere else on the planet. Widewater's faded information panel contains a drawing of this mythical beast. Grey and tubular, the illustration looks more like a section of somebody's small intestine or a really long sock with wiry tentacles poking out of one end.

I headed off in search of the only remaining specimens of this species, stored deep in the basement of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Here I was handed a jar with a domed glass stopper. Inside the jar was a solution of 75% ethanol and floating in that ethanol was ...nothing. I put on my glasses and raised the jar up to the storeroom's light bulb and only then could I make out the anemone, a miniscule, thin squiggle suspended in the solution. After giant moa bones and mummified dodos there was no disguising my disappointment. I had harboured a hope that maybe I could be the man to gallantly re-discover Ivell's sea anemone in Widewater lagoon. The fact that I couldn't re-discover it in a jar two inches from my face didn't inspire me with confidence. Undaunted, I carried on my quest and, armed with a snorkel, a faulty torch and an inflatable lilo in the shape of crocodile, I bravely waded into Widewater. You'll find the rest of this story and many more of my adventures in my new book *Gone: A search for what remains of the world's extinct creatures*, published on 27th April and available everywhere.

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



'Rubbish' That Gives Back to Your Garden – Composting

Composting provides a nutrient packed soil conditioner which your plants will love, and you don't need a big garden to benefit. Many of us put lots of material in our waste bin or take it to the household waste recycling site which could be reused to feed our garden. Here's what to do.

The Container

You don't need anything sophisticated, but using a container keeps the heat in and makes the process of decomposition a lot quicker and tidier! West Sussex residents can purchase a subsidised composter from getcomposting.com, or you can fashion something yourself.

Lots of things can be reused to make a composter, from sheets of corrugated metal to old pallets, using long stakes to secure them in place. Rather than making one large one, two smaller ones can help when mixing the contents. A solid surface can be used for a base, but earth is best to allow the worms in and shade or part shade reduces the possibility of temperature extremes harming the helpful micro-organisms inside the compost.

The Mix

Like a cake you need a good mix, and like a cake you need wet and dry ingredients! Too wet and it becomes slimy and too dry will stop it breaking down properly. Cover your compost, so it doesn't get too wet; an old carpet works well. If it gets dry give it a water.

Wet material

Grass cuttings; soft, leafy plants including annual weeds, old cut flowers, fruit and vegetables scraps and peelings, non-plastic tea bags, coffee grounds, egg shells, pet droppings from any healthy veg-eating pets, including gerbils, rabbits, hamsters and birds, along with any bedding made from natural material or newspaper

Dry material

Prunings and hedge trimmings (ideally shredded), woodchip, leaves, paper and card (torn up or shredded), straw, plant stems.

Do not add

Cooked food, coal and coke ash, meat and fish, bones, cat litter, dog poo, disposable nappies or human poo, glossy paper, weeds, woody stems, or diseased plants.

Currently packaging that states it is compostable does not decompose in home composters as they do not reach the temperatures required to break them down, these need to be put in your normal waste bin as it is not recyclable

If you have a lot of leaves in the autumn, it is wise to create another area for storage – leaves in big quantities can slow down a normal compost heap. Alternatively, contact your District or Borough to enquire about their green waste collection service. It is best not to put in too much of one sort of item, layering between the wet and dry items for a good mix with a little more dry than wet. Shredded paper (not shiny) and cardboard can be added if you are adding a lot of wet matter.

Mixing

Periodically it is advisable to fully turn the compost or mix it with a fork to fully mix the layers. Caution is advised so animals hiding or hibernating inside are not inadvertently harmed.

Garden compost can take between six months and two years to reach maturity. Mature compost will be dark brown, with a crumbly soil-like texture and a smell resembling damp woodland.

We have all heard of the word 'sustainability', and composting is a perfect example of it. By using our resources wisely – here waste – we are not depleting our natural resources, by purchasing products that might be harmful in their creation and delivery. Although the compost we make might not be good enough quality to start off seedlings it is a perfect material to enrich (dig in) our soils or mulch (leave on top of) our garden borders. You know exactly what has gone into it, you have taken pride in creating it, its free and no road miles have been wasted in its making – what's not to like?

Visit @WSRecycles on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to see more on using waste as a resource for good.

Graffham Virtual Art Festival

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

Below: Pastel drawings by Diana Kingsmill





Both © Colin Barker. Above: Winning Caspian stallion of the horse fair, Rasht
Below: Dapple grey Caspian stallion in the mountains of Northern Iran



Graffham Calendar 2021

May

- Wed 5 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.
Mon 17 East Lavington Parish Council Meeting. Zoom call, 6.30pm.

July

- Mon 19 East Lavington Parish Council Meeting. Zoom call, 6.30pm.
Sat 24-30 Graffham Tennis Club, Tennis Week

August

- Fri 20 Graffham Down Trust Quiz Evening, 7.30pm Empire Hall

September

- Sat 4 Comedy Dinner – Only Fools and Horses, a dinner show (by the same company that did the Allo Allo event last year for the Petworth nursing home).
Mon 20 East Lavington Parish Council Meeting. Zoom call, 6.30pm.
Sat 25 6 Feet 3 Shoes Dance show by Slanjayvah Danza from the Edinburgh Fringe with a Scottish and Spanish theme followed by a Ceilidh dance

October

- Sat 16 The Simon Bates Big Band a 17 piece big band with swing dance demos/teachers in the house. Delayed from this year.

November

- Fri 12 Fleetwood Bac (a Fleetwood Mac tribute band). Delayed from this year.
Mon 15 East Lavington Parish Council Meeting. Zoom call, 6.30pm.



Graffham Tennis Club

Summer 2021 East Hampshire League Home Matches

Graffham Recreation Ground Tennis Courts
Spectators/Supporters welcome 6.30pm

WOMEN'S DOUBLES - Div 1

Wed 05/5 v Headley

Wed 16/6 v Haslemere A

Wed 30/6 v Swanmore A

Wed 28/7 v Medstead A

Wed 11/8 v Kingsley

Mon 09/8 v Liphook A

MIXED DOUBLES - Div 2

Tues 25/5 v Fernhurst

Tues 01/6 v Headley B

Tues 13/7 v Liphook

Tues 20/7 v Newman Collard A

Tues 27/7 v Haslemere

WOMEN'S DOUBLES - Div 3

Mon 17/5 v Steep B

Mon 14/6 v Haslemere C

Mon 28/6 v Cheriton A

Mon 12/7 v Midhurst

MEN'S DOUBLES - Div 4

Wed 19/5 v Midhurst B

Wed 26/5 v Headley B

Wed 23/6 v Alton B

BEAR
PETWORTH

Christmas Gift Guide now available for download on our website.
Please phone or email for a printed copy.



- Complimentary gift wrapping on all orders from our gift guide.
- Click-and-Collect from the shop or free local delivery.
- Post and courier options available.

10A New Street, Petworth, GU28 0AS
info@bearpetworth.com, www.bearpetworth.com 01798 651066



News from Sussex Wildlife Trust

We're sad to report that there has been a spate of thefts in the Graffham area. We had our water trough from Graffham Common stolen over the weekend of 27/28th March and we weren't the only ones! If you have any information that could help; suspicious vehicles and/or people do let me know. We have also had a new kissing gate stolen from our reserve at Burton and Chingford Ponds within days of it being installed. Any help you can give would be really appreciated.

We were hoping to put our cattle back onto the Graffham Common reserves in April, but this has been delayed until May when we can get a new trough bought and installed. Fingers crossed it won't go again. We are trying some new breeds of cattle this year instead of the usual British White cattle. We are borrowing some Dexters. You might think they are calves when they arrive, but they are naturally diminutive in size and what they lack in size they should make up for in browsing the rough stuff! We will need a few more though so you will see 10-12 around the reserve.

Jane Willmott, Graffham Common reserve manager
07557 162406

Services at St Giles Graffham in May

Sunday 2 May

Matins 9am

Parish Eucharist 10.230am

Services that day led by Canon John Bundock

Sunday 9 May

Matins 9am

Parish Eucharist 10.30am

Sunday 16 May

Ascension Sunday

BCP Matins or Holy Communion 9am

Parish Eucharist or Family Service 10.30am

Sunday 23 May

Feast of Pentecost

No Matins

Churchyard Eucharist 10.30am



Sunday 30 May

Trinity Sunday

Matins 9am

Parish Eucharist 10.30am

See www.stgilesgraffham.org or St Giles Church Graffham Facebook page for online Reflection and Prayers on Sundays and to confirm services. Contact Revd Vivien for link to Wednesday evening Night Prayers at 7pm

The Empire Hall, Graffham Spring Event 2021 Auction

Due to the outstanding generosity of the villagers of Graffham, we are delighted to offer the following items and experiences for auction.

All bids must be made by 3pm Saturday 29th May 2021. You can enter a bid in the following ways:

Email: springeventauction@gmail.com | Text: 07543 670586 |
In person, at The Empire Hall, Saturday 29th May

Please include the following details with your bid:

The Auction Lot number and description

Amount in whole pounds

Your name, first name and surname

Your telephone number and/or email address

Once you have placed a bid for an item we will endeavour to keep you updated on any subsequent bids so that you may increase your bid at any time before 3pm 29th May using the above process. Successful bidders will be notified after the auction closes. Payment in full must be made within 7 days of 29th May 2021 at which point arrangements will be made to hand over the prize to the successful bidder.

All lots must be taken up by the end of 2021, unless stated otherwise agreed between the donor and the winning bidder. All 'experiences' are to take place on dates/times mutually agreed by the donor and the winning bidder and to be subject to any COVID-19 restrictions and social distance requirements etc. in place at the time.

Images are for full illustrative purposes only and not necessarily a true likeness of the actual item to be offered but items will be on display at the Empire Hall on 29th May. Values given are estimates of fair market values.

By bidding, each bidder agrees to the auction rules, which can be found with the Terms & Conditions on the Empire Hall Facebook page or on application to liz.empirehall@gmail.com

This is The Empire Hall's main fundraiser for the year so please bid generously, thank you.



Lot 1: Chauffeured Scenic Ride

60 minute scenic drive from Graffham, for one passenger in a choice of either a Jaguar XKR or Aston Martin Vanquish Volante V12.

Be driven in luxury and style around the Sussex Countryside.



Lot 2: Take A Look In A Hive

Join local beekeeper Murray West for a fascinating look in a hive and a lesson in beekeeping plus 2 jars of new season honey (available end of May).



Lot 3: Two Hour Nordic Walk

Have you tried this new fitness trend? Come and explore this method of walking using specially designed poles with Nicky West.



Lot 4: Hollyhocks

Watercolour painting of Hollyhock painted by local artist Sue Hill.

VALUE £100



Lot 5: View from the Trundle

Acrylics on canvas in a white 'floating frame' 28" x 36" approximately. Painted by local artist Philip Jones

VALUE £150



Lot 6: Portrait of Your Dog

A chance to have your dog immortalised. Dog portrait in oils on canvas by local artist Jacky Gregory.

VALUE £250

Lot 7: Shotgun Shooting Lesson

A shooting lesson with Andy Jones. Andy has over 40 years experience of shooting and is qualified with BASC and a member of the Association of Professional Shooting Instructors.

Local, beautiful downland valley setting.

- 1 hour lesson.
- Beginner or experienced shooters, driven targets are available for game shots.
- Ladies and Children (over 12) welcome – I have guns and cartridges to suit everybody.
- Up to 75 clays and cartridges included (Note: due the time taken for instruction - a beginner might only take 25-50 shots in an hour, whereas an experienced shot might take 75 shots).
- At date to be agreed in summer 2021, when COVID restrictions allow.





Lot 8: Dog Bed with Corduroy Cover

A Dog Bed Company luxury cluster fibre dog bed mattress.

- Choose from a selection of corduroy colours; cranberry, beige, olive, dark grey, royal blue or chocolate
 - Size: 90cm x 65cm
- The cover is easily removable for washing with a zip fastening
- For more information on this item visit: www.thedogbedcompany.co.uk/purchase-dog-bed-mattress-and-cover.html
 - The lucky winner to contact Zoe on 867364

VALUE £95



Lot 9: Half Day Kayaking

A half day kayaking on the river Arun.

No experience required.
Life jacket provided.



Lot 10: Set of Diptyque Scented Candles

Gift set of 10 luxury scented candles.

VALUE £120



Lot 11: Hotel Collection and Yankee candles

One gift box of three Yankee Candles and a gift box of six Hotel Collection votive candles

VALUE £50



©Colin Barker

Lot 12: Donkey Walk

Join Joanna Morris for a walk around the village with her two delightful donkeys, Bill and Ben.



Lot 13: Half Day of Oil Painting

We are very lucky to be able to offer this again.

Local renowned artist Richard Davidson is offering a half day of oil painting tuition 'en plein air' or in his studio.

VALUE priceless

Lot 14: Membership of Lodsworth Croquet Club for two people

The clocks are going forward, the evenings are lengthening, and there is a definite feeling of Spring in the air. All this coincides with lockdown being eased and outdoor sports being allowed.

Lodsworth Croquet Club will be opening for the season on Saturday 10th April, and we would love to welcome any new members who may be interested in joining. We are justly proud of our pavilion and lawn, which provides a lovely backdrop to friendly competitions, regular social evenings and free coaching.

It's the perfect way to meet people, enjoy taking some gentle exercise and easing ourselves out of lockdown. Great care will be taken to keep club members safe, and we will be following at all times the Covid-19 rules as laid down by The Croquet Association, Membership value for two people: £160.00 to include free tuition

Lot 15: Reach for the skies

You are likely to have seen him loop-the-loop over the village in his two-seater stunt plane. Now you could join your neighbour, 20 year vet pilot Mark Stewart, as he runs through his aerobatic repertoire



or take a more gentle flight over the Downs and coast, with a chance to take the controls yourself.

Value 'an experience of a lifetime'.

Lot 16: Year adult membership to Graffham Tennis Club

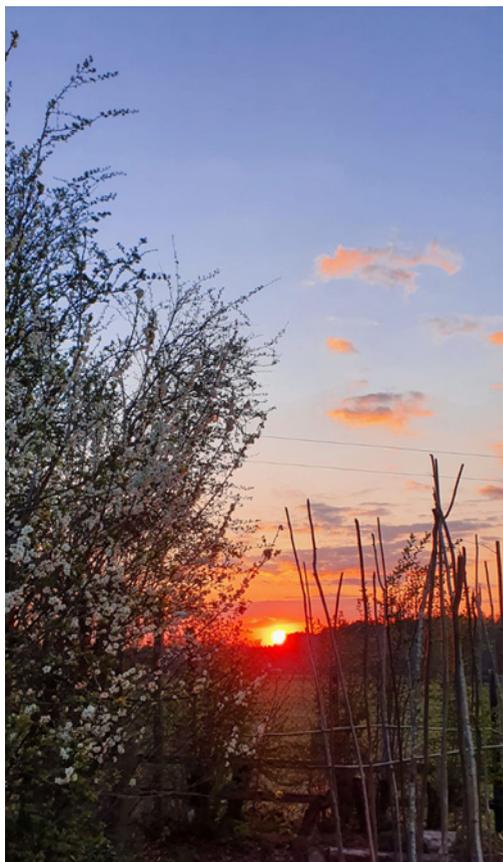
Value £45

Plus 1 hour tennis lesson with Hopp Coaching

Graffham Nature Watch

For those who don't know, we now have a wonderful Facebook page to share photos of beautiful sights around Graffham. Here are a few recent finds from the community.





Left: ©Sally Blunt
Top left ©David Watson Top right: Paul Stickley
Below: Sunset over Lavington Stud ©David Watson







Left: ©Rozie Apps
Above ©Sally Blunt

An audience with HRH Prince Philip – Colin Barker

My meeting with the late His Royal Highness Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh was upon invitation as a result of my voluntary work of several years with the Caspian Horse Society with my aim as a photographer to raise worldwide awareness for the rare breed Caspian horse.

The Caspian Horse is a significant breed, recognised as the ancestor of one of the four main types of horse breeds. A true hot-blood, his descendants include the Arabian, for long thought to be the oldest breed, and therefore the thoroughbred of many of our well-known native horses and ponies.

As long ago as 3000 years before the birth of Christ, the peoples of the Middle East were especially fond of the small type of equid celebrated in the ancient friezes and carvings of that era. Indeed, Darius the Great, ruler of Mesopotamia around 500 BC, so favoured these courageous, swift little horses as his personal choice to draw his hunting chariot that he honoured them by having their likeness used on the Persian royal seal.

HRH Prince Philip became involved in 1971 when he was invited to Iran by the Shah to celebrate the anniversary of the Peacock Throne. Being interested in the preservation of rare breeds, Prince Philip expressed his concern at their low numbers and singular location. Soon after, he was given a mare, Khorshid Kola, and stallion, Rostam. It took another two years for them to reach England after quarantine in Hungary, by which time a foal had been produced.

The three Caspians went on to form the basis of the first Caspian stud in England, the Hopstone Stud, with HRH Prince Philip being responsible for the first exports of further Caspian horses from Iran to UK in 1975, and therefore for the presence of the Caspian breed in the West today.

Fast forward to December 2015, when two members of the Caspian Horse Society and myself were granted an audience with The Duke of Edinburgh for the presentation of our signed limited edition A2 wall calendar within the Duke's private quarters at Buckingham Palace.

Not wishing to be late, my arrival was somewhat early; eventually we were invited in, on time, through those famous gates and led up through the palace to be introduced to HRH Prince Philip.

Following a quick formal photo session of the presentation, before

which the photographer was informed, “You have three frames”, by The Duke, we were then asked to take a seat whilst the photographer and royal aides left the room.

By now I was feeling more relaxed, with tea and biscuits being served, and seated adjacent to The Duke on a settee narrating the stories behind each image within our calendar. I knew that I would have to get my facts correct, as The Duke was always renowned for his attention to detail, and soon someone was being corrected for stating the wrong date for The Dukes original trip to meet the Shah of Iran.

However as we progressed, it became obvious that The Duke was enjoying my stories and my jokes, showing real interest, especially for the image set at the polo grounds in Ambersham, depicting local rider Beanie Bradley on a Caspian. Until there was a knock at the door and the royal aides returned, it was time to leave, but not before real compassion for our cause being shown, handshakes, congratulations, and more horsey jokes upon our departure.

The mental alertness shown by The Duke throughout for a person of his years was truly astonishing, and a wonderful experience that I shall always treasure. Not at all with the formality that had been envisaged.

Colin Barker



Graffham Bygones

The Graffham Transport and Supply: Part 2

During the years of 1899-1900 when the Mid-Sussex line was completed, The Railway Arms opened in Selham. Its name soon changed to The Three Moles. To convey passengers the two miles from station to village, coaches and traps plied back and forth. We learn of Mr P. Boxall meeting trains with a pair of horses from his livery stable and of Mr Carver who had a donkey and trap for hire. Mr P. Boxall also drove Vicar Rowley Lascelles, although the vicar did have a horse for riding from St Giles to Lavington. The doctor always walked from the station, complete with top hat, umbrella and gloves. In 1955 the railway stopped carrying passengers but still carried goods like milk churns. In 1963 the branch closed down completely.

Produce from Graffham, like the milk churns previously transported by train, now had to be transported by lorries. During the fifties and sixties they were taken to the Davigdore Dairy in Hove by a Morley's lorry, driven by three Challen brothers, Edward, Cecil and Richard. Farmers placed these for collection on roadside stollages, adjoining their farms. Stollages, the same height as the flat back of the lorry or cart, could be loaded by one man. One collection point in Graffham was Peter's Farm but there were many other pick up points along the route, including farms at Fittleworth. According to the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society Newsletter 137, the word stollage is a Sussex dialect word and there is firm evidence that the word was in common usage in 1713, in one of its spellings stallage, stollidge, stollage or stollage. These stands or stollages

could be made of stone with steps, or be just a platform made from wood.

The blacksmith, housed on the site of the current village shop, evolved into Graffham Service Station Limited, as the demand for servicing motor vehicles emerged. This does not mean that villagers, or village services, were fully mechanised in the fifties and sixties. Many in Graffham, Selham, Ambersham and Heyshott relied on the Graffham Flyer bus service, driven at this time by Peggy



Weller. It went daily to Midhurst and weekly, on Wednesdays, to Chichester market. Football and Stoolball clubs relied on Weller's coaches to transport them to away fixtures. Coach trips were surprisingly frequent with outings organised to London theatres, Bournemouth, various parks and gardens and Worthing Peter Pan playground.

At this time, the village was reliant on a host of delivery services. Rather unconventional items were sent by post, such as live chicks to enable egg production. George Worsdell who delivered all of Graffham's post, did so on a bicycle. He even delivered on Christmas Day and I remember him being received in our house with a wee festive dram. A range of services was provided by travelling salesmen. Mr Letchworth, insurance salesman from Fittleworth called regularly. The 'Monday Man' collected weekly payments to enable the purchase of all manner of goods from children's shoes to new hearth rugs. A butcher delivered weekly to the Graffham area.

Villagers often swapped a brace of pheasants, or a recently retired hen, or a joint of pork from the pig they kept in the garden, like Mrs Mac of Guillods. Furthermore, villagers shared any gluts in home grown produce, either leaving boxes at the end of their drives or leaving newspaper wrapped bundles on doorsteps. Daphne Howick regularly delivered excess produce around the village and often left a portion of her revered bread pudding for villagers to enjoy. Lady McDonald Buchanan, then owner of Lavington Stud, frequently gave all employees at the stud a joint of Scottish or local venison, a capon at Christmas and sometimes a bottle of Black and White whisky from her distilleries, continuing the tradition of Graffham's philanthropic activities.

So, where the railway had failed to be a permanent factor in opening up Graffham, the traditional occupations of hurdle-making, pottery, lime burning, charcoal burning, brick making and carpentry became less common as mechanical vehicles provided access to a wider range of employment and markets. A denser population could also be sustained in the village.

Pauline Goodwin



Peggy Weller bus driver and Graffham resident

Graffham Tennis Club

We're delighted to have been back on our tennis courts since 29th March and to have resumed junior coaching over the Easter holidays. The first phase of lockdown easing permitted outdoor tennis to resume (in England) with certain restrictions based on guidance published by the LTA. The club committee has been meeting regularly (online) to discuss the adjustments needed and revise our Covid risk assessment in-line with the current rules. We've let our members know we can play doubles with mixed households, group coaching can continue with limited numbers, our club nights can resume subject to eight persons across both courts and social distancing off-court, and our East Hampshire League matches are permitted to go-ahead. We've introduced a court booking system through our website and record attendance at group sessions to comply with the track-and-trace guidance. We cannot make use of the pavilion or socialise with any hospitality under the current restrictions, however we are planning to re-start the social activities in-line with the published road-map. We're planning for and hoping our annual tennis week of activities of tennis, family sports, BBQ's and socials can go ahead from 24th July.

Graffham Tennis Club welcomes all ages and abilities with weekly sessions that cater for everyone:

- Junior coaching on Wednesdays after school (plus courses in school holidays)
- Rusty Racquets (for adults returning to the game)
- Senior's club morning on Mondays
- Club nights on Thursdays (where we mix and rotate adult players for social tennis)
- League player coaching
- Four doubles teams of rotated players competing in the East Hampshire League

If you want to get involved in any of the above activities or simply join to use the courts with your family and guests, we'd love to have you. Contact admin@graffhamtennis.co.uk or come along to any Thursday evening club night where a member of the committee will be present.

Regular Activities in The Empire Hall

Mondays

Osteopath (see below)

Tuesdays

8.45 – 12.00

POST OFFICE

9.00 – 11.00

GREAT FEET (see below)

Thursdays

Osteopath (see below)

(IF COVID RESTRICTIONS ALLOW)

- Osteopath: Mondays and Thursdays, daytime and early evening. Booking required, ring Anna Shawcross 01798 867523 for an appointment.
- Great Feet (Chiropodist's Visit): Tues 11th May 9.00 – 11.00 Treatment Room. GHSA members only. Booking required, Vikki Wood (07825 185880)

Any changes will be posted on the Empire Hall Noticeboard. The Empire Hall will be available to hire for Children's Parties, Wedding Receptions, Private Functions and Classes as restrictions allow.

Website

www.empirehall.org.uk

Email

empirehall@gmail.com

Phone

Booking Secretary Eira Ashby 867297

Parish Meetings

The annual East Lavington parish meeting normally takes place in May each year. This year the Parish Council has decided to postpone it until September. Hopefully by then we will be able to make it the usual informal live event.

Petworth Area Churches Together

Festival Service: 6.30pm Wednesday 14th July in St Mary's, Petworth.

The Petworth Festival remain determined that we will have a Festival this summer and it will kick off with the Festival Service. Details to be confirmed but do pop this date in the diary so you can join in, whatever format it takes!

PACT 200th meeting – in May we're celebrating 200 gatherings of the PACT team which serves to reinforce the great work that all of our clergy do in Petworth and the surrounding area. Our intention is to unite followers of Jesus and to work collectively to make His name known more widely. The ways we do this have been through Kids Club, Foodbank, Unity/Festival services, Spring/Autumn lectures, Palm Sunday Procession, cream tea and prayer tent at Fete in the Park, to name a few. This is nearly one event for each month of the year. An enormous thank you everyone who has contributed to our work over the years.

Autumn Lecture in October – with Nola Leach CEO of CARE (Christian Action Research & Education), details to follow.

The Website for PACT has a link to all of our churches where you can find details of how to get in touch with the clergy and access their online meetings. <https://petworthareachurchestogether.com>

Bob Sneller, our Chairman, shared these two verses from the book of Jude at our last meeting:

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.



Graffham Garden Group

Update on plans for 2021

Spring vegetable plant sale

Saturday 8th May at Empire Hall [outside]

GGG subscriptions will be collected [£1 per person]

Flower Show

Saturday 17th July, Empire Hall unless Covid rules change in the meantime.

Reminder of the photographic classes:

Village Life

A Walk in the Woods

All at Sea

Grow your own

Any Subject (U16)

Outings

When these are confirmed they will be communicated via noticeboards, Graffham online and the parish magazines.

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.

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- Breakfast Cereal
- Meat - (Tinned)
- Vegetables - (Tinned)
- Tuna / Fish - (Tinned)
- Pasta Sauce (Jar)
- Noodles (Dried)
- Tea Bags
- Rice Pudding - (Tinned)
- Chocolate
- Biscuits



Please donate to this food bank by putting any of the listed items in the box at the village shop. All items available From Vasu and Jeeva but all donations welcome! Any queries please ring Ann Brown on 01798 867561

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We are always looking for content for the Parish Magazine. Please email the editor, Rozie, via the email address on the inside front cover. The next deadline is 15th May.

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