

GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 383

FREE

JANUARY 2023



Happy new year to all our readers!

Tributes to Lord Young of Graffham

Our MP chooses his Graffham Down Tracks



On the cover: Graffham Christmas Fair, at the Empire Hall on Saturday 3 December, proved as big a draw as ever, with the home produce stand in particular doing a roaring trade, and around £5,000 in total raised for St Giles. Full story and more pictures on page 28.

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Writing from the Rectory: Musings in the cold

'January brings the snow, makes your feet and fingers glow.' So sang Flanders and Swann back in the day. Behind the desk in the Rectory hangs a delightful Graffham snow scene painted by local artist Richard Davidson. This January, though, I wonder will I ever witness snow here myself?

I'm old enough to remember (just) the winter of 1962 with snow banked high for weeks on end. Now winter is more likely to mean rain and lots of it – pouring down as I write (*Editor adds:* well before December's big freeze). The milder weather of early winter was some consolation as we doggedly determined not to put on heating in the Rectory so long as we could. There seemed to be many reasons for making this chilly choice.

For economy? We don't have to financially, though high energy costs make the money spent seem so much more extravagant. But the Rectory heating system means it's all or nothing, and heating unused rooms seems such a waste.

For solidarity? Through fuel poverty, or the infrastructure being maliciously damaged or destroyed in a not-so-far-away country, some simply can't turn their heating on. Which makes me less inclined to bask in heat just because I can.

To develop resourcefulness? Intentional or otherwise, doing without the heating has impact. Wearing thick, heavy jumpers, layers of clothes, warming hands with drinks, wrapping oneself in blankets and, if all else fails, retiring to bed with the rediscovered joy of a hot water bottle, hitherto unknown for many years, is proving a salutary voyage of (re)discovery. ▶ *Continued on next page*



Richard Davidson's painting of Graffham in snow that hangs on a wall in the now chilly Rectory.



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

Churchwarden: Ginny Barrett 01798 867113



stgilesgraffham.org



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▶ *Continued from previous page*

For the experience? I imagine myself like those experiential archaeologists who find out what life was like in the past by living like it themselves now. Except I did these very things myself when I was growing up, or in spartan student accommodation – with no central heating, steeling myself to leave a warm fireside and run upstairs to bed, and find filigree frost patterns on the windowpanes in the morning. I'm just turning the clock back again.

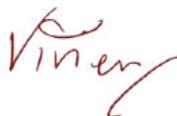
To build endurance? I really think it might. When I do go in centrally heated spaces, they seem rather too hot for me now. And I don't worry about leaving the front door open to save heat – especially as it often feels warmer outside...! A cold home is not for everyone and shouldn't be, but for us, for now, as reasonably fit individuals, it seems ok.

For the environment? Of course. We are reminded so emphatically and informedly of the impact on our Earth of burning fossil fuels.

What possible impact can turning off our home's heating have on the bigger picture of human and planetary wellbeing? It's negligible really, I recognise. We should be driven by an inner integrity of some kind though which resists being compromised, be less happy if we ignore it and just go for it. For a Christian, this integrity is inseparable from love of God and neighbour which includes the desire to draw respectfully on the resources of creation God made to be good. I know this is less than I could and should do – but at least it is something. And I remember that we can be transformed sometimes by the positive challenges we take up, be they great or small.

By the time I read this letter once it has been printed in our parish magazine at least a month will have passed since I wrote it. By then we may be deep in the snow of which Flanders and Swann sang (anything is possible). Or I may have been unable to endure the chilliness without succumbing to turning our heating on (that's possible, too). We can only do as much as we can for as long as we can – and hope the old adage 'cold hands, warm heart' has long-term beneficial impact on those who are, at present, the really cool residents of the Rectory.

Happy New Year!

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Vivien". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Reverend Vivien



GRAFFHAM EMPIRE HALL

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION

Saturday 28 January

**Doors open 7.00pm
Dancing starts 7.30pm**

**DANCING TO
THE SUSSEX PISTOLS
PIPING IN THE HAGGIS
BURNS SUPPER**

**Cost £30 per person
Please bring your own drinks**

**Enquiries and to book please telephone
Harriet Rowntree on 01798 867536**

**Dance practices in the Empire Hall:
Sunday 8th and 15th and 22nd of January 2023
4-6pm, £2 per session**



From the editors: New year, and a bit of a new look

So that's the first year under our belts as editors! Twelve editions since we took over the hot seat, and, we're proud to say, one parish mag 'Oscar' for our efforts.

Thanks to all our regular and less frequent contributors, and to our readers for all your feedback, thankfully mostly positive! And hats off also to our network of distributors who shove it through your letterbox each month. A shout out in particular to Jan and Martin Buckley among them, who have stood down from this task – in their case delivering to 20 or so homes along the middle stretch of The Street – after many years. Cheers to Ann Brown who has taken over this patch, and to Joanna Andersen who has succeeded Ann in covering the Calloways area and is giving Ann Mathie a rest by handling Lavington Estate as well.

The more eagle-eyed among you may have noticed a few changes we've made with this edition – a different typeface for most text with fractionally more white space, all aimed to make things more readable. It's likely to take an edition or two to bed down. We hope you like it. We're sure you'll let us know if not!

To mark our first issue in 2023 and our recent parish mag award, we've someone special choosing his Graffham Down Tracks in this edition – our MP Andrew Griffith. Thanks to him for taking time out of his busy Westminster schedule to oblige with his choices – which may surprise! See page 12.

Also in this edition, we highlight the pressures the cost of living crisis is forcing on our local businesses. Please support them as much as you can, particularly in these tough times – see page 16. *Graffham Parish News* itself is not immune from

soaring prices either. Our printing costs were hiked by 15% in the summer – and a further 10% from this edition. Our advertisers, bless them, have until now covered our production costs and a bit more, but these margins are being squeezed more than ever. We could reduce the quality of what we produce for you or charge for it, but we don't think this would be welcomed, so, to help us avoid going down this path, if you enjoy reading this magazine and would like to help keep us the



right side of breaking even, then please consider helping to keep us afloat financially. You can contribute, on either a regular monthly basis or with a one-off donation, via bit.ly/GPN-donate or point your camera phone at this QR code.



Here's wishing you all the best for 2023. We hope you enjoy this and the remaining 11 editions this year and more long into the future!

Michael *Philippa* *Bill*

...and here's another excuse to show ourselves off with our award (left).



December's frosts proved a photographer's dream. Of the many pictures posted on Facebook's Beautiful Sight's Around Graffham and Graffham Noticeboard, here's one of the best, taken at the foot of Gallows Hill by © Stuart Gerrett.

Christmas at St Giles starts with rosy cheeks

Seaford College's Chapel Chamber Choir set Graffham into the Christmas spirit – and marked the inauguration of St Giles' new heating system – by returning to sing in our village church at its candlelit Advent carol service on Sunday 27 November after a three-year absence because of the pandemic.

They treated a packed congregation – warmed by the building's brand new eco-friendly, state-of-the-art pew heating system – to five anthems and traditional seasonal hymns.

St Giles' new pew heating system was installed just in time in November after a special fund-raising drive, dubbed the Rosy Cheeks appeal, to collect the £12,000 to pay for it – and switched on for the first time on the day of Seaford Choir's visit. St Giles is the first

church in the Chichester diocese to install the system, although it is used in many other buildings elsewhere in the UK. It works a bit like heated seats in



St Giles was beautifully decorated for Advent by the church's team of floral artistes led by Bridget Lewis.

a car, or an electric blanket, warming people when they sit on the cushions.

Seaford College's Director of Performing Arts Sara Reynolds, herself a Graffham resident, said: "It was simply lovely to be back at a packed St Giles, where the villagers of Graffham are always so kind and welcoming. The Advent service has been sorely missed by the students during the past few years and this was an opportunity for some glorious music during a beautiful service."



St Giles' occasional 'little choir' was bigger than for many years this Christmas – at 15 strong (eight women and seven men) – filling the church with choral music at the special services during the festive season, under the direction of organist and choirmaster Brian Lanaghan.

Pictures by © Phillip Turner.



Scores of Christingles were created by ladies of the parish for Graffham Infant School and Nursery's Christingle service at St Giles Church in mid-December.

Welcome, Zara

The Revd Vivien baptised Zara Smithers at the font in St Giles Church during a packed family service on 20 November, as young relatives and friends gathered around and mother Caroline looked on. The plan now is to hold family services at St Giles once a month. See details of all services schedule in the village on page 47.

The Revd Vivien baptises Zara as young friends and relatives gather around the font and mother Caroline looks on



Lord Young of Graffham: 1932-2022

The man who took our village into the House of Lords – Lord Young of Graffham – died on Thursday 8 December, aged 90, after an association with this neighbourhood lasting more than half a century, *writes editor Michael Blunt.*

His local links dated back to April 1971, when he and his wife Lita, who he married in 1956, bought Fairacres, formerly the home of village benefactors



Lord and Lady Young outside their Graffham home in 2021 – joined by their miniature dachshund DaisyBlu.

David and Katherine Guillods. In an interview with *Graffham Parish News* marking the 50th anniversary of that purchase, he explained what brought them here: “I had never been to this area before, but at the time we had two young daughters (Karen and Judith) and we wanted them to spend weekends in the country, not in town.

“We came to Graffham purely by chance. We were due away for the weekend with some friends on the coast when I was sent the estate agent’s particulars for this house and, as it was on the way, we looked at it on the way down. When we arrived there was a mist, no view and we did not particularly like the house and forgot about it. After the weekend, on our way back, we thought we would revisit, really to miss the morning rush hour. The sun was shining out of a clear blue sky, we saw Graffham, the Downs and then the house and it was love at second sight.”

Initially, the demands of his business and political careers limited the amount of time he could spend here: “I am afraid that I have always had a rather overactive life and would come home to Graffham to relax and catch my breath in our favourite spot on Earth!” He made up for that as he eased off the accelerator, enjoying more of his Graffham home and surroundings. Only four months ago, in September, he read a lesson at the special service in St Giles Church to

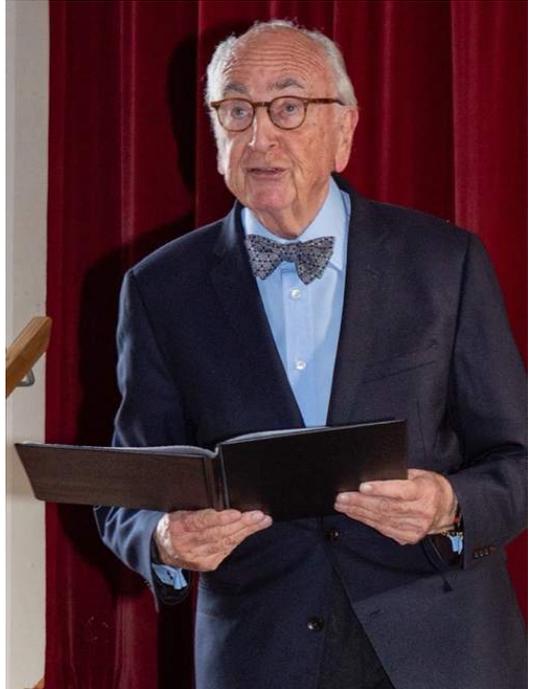
commemorate the life of Queen Elizabeth II, and a year ago he recited the award citation for Jeeva's British Empire Medal, at the presentation ceremony in the Empire Hall.

He also took time to mentor many of his neighbours. Tom Richardson, landlord of the Three Moles and Graffham and East Lavington's representative on West Sussex County Council said: "Not only was Lord Young one of the main reasons that I am a councillor today, but he also helped Ollie and I to start up our business six years ago. However busy he was, he would always make time to help others. He was a truly remarkable person who will be missed by many."

David Ivor Young was born on 27 February 1932 in Finchley, London, where he went to the local Christ's College before taking a Law degree at University College, London, while training to become a solicitor. He then entered business, working initially for Great Universal Stores before starting his own property, construction, shipping and plant hire company. The media dubbed him Margaret Thatcher's favourite businessman.

Following the 1979 general election, he joined her government as a Special Adviser for what was to become known as as Minister without Portfolio, advising the government on employment issues. The next year, he was named Secretary of State for Employment and then, after the 1987 General Election, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

With Mrs Thatcher's resignation, he stood down, returning to business. He served as Executive Chairman of Cable & Wireless and President of the Institute of Directors. In 2010, Prime Minister David Cameron asked him to advise on health



Wearing his signature bow tie, Lord Young recites the citation for Jeeva's British Empire Medal, at the presentation ceremony in the Empire Hall a year ago.

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and safety and on enterprise. A privy councillor, he was made a Companion of Honour in 2015 and served as a Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex and Chairman of Chichester Festival Theatre's Board.

Graffham Parish Council Chairman Simon Mackie said: "By taking the name of our village as his title, Lord Young spread word of our community far and wide. While he was perhaps more widely known for his remarkable political and business careers, he impressed the many he met in the neighbourhood during his 50 plus years here with his kindness, generosity, interest and sense of fun. He will be sadly missed. The thoughts of all of us at this time are with Lady Young and their family."

The final word goes to another politician and businessman, our local MP Andrew Griffith: "I was sad to lose a friend with the passing of Lord Young. He had an illustrious career spanning both business and politics. After I entered Parliament, even though then in his late 80s, he kindly helped me with a number of policy papers that we worked on together. My thoughts are with his wife, Lita, his daughters and their families."



At the Three Moles with landlords Ollie and Tom, whom he mentored.

Graffham artist Susan Hill remembers:

I met Lord Young when he generously bid in St Giles' Christmas Fair auction for me to paint Fairacres, his house in Graffham, to mark his half-century there. I found a charming and fascinating man who, even though well into his 80s, walked me around his carefully planned landscaped garden. He was particularly proud of the 50 trees he had planted - 50 years earlier, when he first arrived in the village. This tour took us a good three quarters of an hour during which I discovered his sharp intellect and abiding interest in the political and social world in which we live in - followed by jolly lunch discussions. He had a marvellous sense of humour and was wonderful company. We have lost a generous, witty and kind man - and the Graffham name in the House of Lords.



Hoyle's Slow Grown Farm holds open day

Katie Forman and Brett Sacks along with their cows and pigs opened the gates of their Slow Grown Farm, at Hoyle, on Graffham's border with Heyshott, one Sunday in late November for their first open day, welcoming some 30 visitors from the neighbourhood for a tour behind the scenes of their new venture.

Although on-going construction of their milking parlour and cheese and charcuterie making facility meant they had to be kept out of bounds, the guests were given VIP access to the fields that are now home to the herd of rare breed cows – five Red Polls and seven Northern Dairy Shorthorns – and the woodland where the six Large Black pigs freely roam.

Along the way, Brett and Katie explained the thinking that drives their approach to animal husbandry and safeguarding their environment, with the whole emphasis on quality over quantity and maintaining the land for generations to come.

They are on track to start selling produce from Slow Grown Farm – their first cheeses and charcuterie – early next year. Watch for updates in their regular diary in Graffham Parish News – and for details of future farm tours.

If you'd like to join their mailing list meantime – guaranteeing that you will be among the first to hear their news – then email hello@slowgrownfarm.co.uk.



Graffham Down Tracks: Andrew Griffith MP

Each edition, we invite a local to pick eight favourite tracks, a book and luxury item, with a brief explanation – like in Radio 4's evergreen Desert Island Discs. This month, our MP Andrew Griffith gets into the groove.

Andrew Griffith was elected as our MP, representing Arundel and South Downs, in the general election of 2019. Since then, he's spoken out strongly to protect West Sussex from overdevelopment, while serving as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Boris Johnson when the latter was Prime Minister, as Director of the No 10 Policy Unit, as Minister for Exports and, since October, as Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

Before entering politics, he worked initially for Rothschild & Co and PwC then joined Sky. By 2008, he had been appointed to the broadcaster's Board as Chief Financial Officer – at the time the youngest financial director in the FTSE100. He later served as Chairman of Just Eat.

Born in Bexleyheath, London, in 1971, he grew up in Sidcup, Kent, and studied Law at Nottingham University, later qualifying as a chartered accountant. He is married to Barbara and they have a son and daughter. They moved to Duncton 15 years ago and are often found walking their labrador and cocker spaniel dogs on Lavington Common.



Listen to Andrew's music choices on Spotify: Go to [bit.ly/GPN-tracks-Andrew](https://bit.ly/GPN-tracks-Andrew-Griffith)

Griffith or point your phone camera at this QR code.



1 Stand and Deliver *Adam and the Ants* This was the first vinyl single I recall saving up to buy in the then Our Price record shop.

2 Oh What a Beautiful Morning *Gordon Macrae, Rodgers and Hammerstein (from the film Oklahoma)* My parents, sadly now both deceased, loved musicals and Dad sang in a number of choirs right up till he died from Covid in April 2020.

3 Baby I Don't Care *Tranvision Vamp* A no-holds-barred hit which was played ubiquitously when I was the first in my family to leave home to go to university in 1989.

4 Wind of Change *Scorpions* This reminds me of the momentous changes that we saw around the fall of the Iron Curtain. Sadly, recent events in Ukraine show

that much of my adult life has been a relatively unique period of peace and freedom.

5 Hungry like the Wolf *Duran Duran* This could have been one of many different tracks – the Eighties was full of fabulous music: Bowie, Queen, Genesis, Pink Floyd, U2... I could go on...

6 Wind Beneath My Wings *Bette Middler* From one of the favourite films of my wife Barbara, *Beaches*. We have been married for 25 years and she is indeed the ‘wind beneath my wings’.

7 Can you Feel the Love Tonight *Elton John, The Lion King Collection*. Family singalong track if we were all in the car driving somewhere on holiday.

8 Human *The Killers* Having admitted being a fan of the Eighties, not all good music ceased then. This is actually currently the most played track on my playlist.

Book: What If? Military Historians Imagine What Might Have Been *Robert Cowley* I would love to have studied History for longer but my school forced the choice between that or Geography at 14. This is a fascinating and accessible read. It also a reminder of the key role of luck!

Luxury item: Good freshly ground coffee. I don’t drink a lot but need a couple of good coffees to kick start my day!

We’re set to stay in Arundel and South Downs

Graffham and East Lavington would become more centrally located in a reshaped Arundel and South Downs rural parliamentary constituency in revised proposals posted by the Boundary Commission – rather than being merged into a new constituency covering Arundel along with the coastal urban area of Littlehampton and Rustington, as the body had originally recommended.

Under its latest plans, posted in November, the restructured Arundel and South Downs constituency would, besides Graffham and East Lavington, retain Petworth and bring in the likes of Heyshott, Selham, Midhurst, Easebourne, Lodsworth, Lurgashall, Bepton, Elsted, South Harting, Trotton and Stedham from their current Chichester constituency, while losing some parishes in the far east of the present constituency, such as Hassocks and Hurstpierpoint, to Mid-Sussex or Horsham constituencies.

The Boundary Commission will submit its final recommendations to Parliament by July. See bcereviews.org.uk for more details.



Graffham Parish Council is seeking a new Clerk

**Around five hours a week, plus about six evenings a year.
Home-based. Training available. £15.67-£16.64 an hour.
Closing date for applications: 15 January 2023.**

To fill this key role for our village, we are looking for someone who is motivated and organised, with excellent admin, book keeping, IT and communication skills. You'll need to be proactive and helpful to support our councillors and our residents and able to work independently from home.

You will be required to organise meetings, draft minutes, prepare documents and follow up on actions. As Responsible Financial Officer you will manage the council's accounts and budget. You will also manage the council's website and liaise with many other organisations and groups.

While an appropriate qualification is preferred, training will be available.

For full details, job description and application form, see bit.ly/gpc-clerk-2022

Applications, further information or queries: Graffham Parish Council Chairman Simon Mackie at simon.mackie@graffham-pc.uk

Two co-opted to Graffham Parish Council

Two new members have been co-opted by Graffham Parish Council taking the body to full strength of nine councillors for the first time for many years.

Their addition comes as the council is searching for a new clerk, to take the place of Mike Simpson who has stepped down after a few years in the role. Full details of what the role involves and how to throw your hat into the ring, including a job description and application form, are posted at bit.ly/gpc-clerk-2022. See also the advert on the opposite page.

The two councillor recruits both moved to the village in the past 18 months or so:

- Jon Warren, who lives at Rose Cottage, The Street, with fiancée Zoe Scaman. He is a Major in the Royal Logistic Corps, currently serving as Deputy Head of Army Recruiting after a recent secondment to the NHS as Chief of Staff for the Covid vaccine roll out.
- Nick White, who, with his wife Sarah, bought Summerfield Cottage, also in The Street, from former Graffham Parish Council chairman John Uphill and his wife Caroline, after recently retiring after a career as an insurance broker in the City of London.

Graffham Parish Council Chairman Simon Mackie said: “We give a warm welcome to Jon and Nick. They both bring skills, experience and fresh thinking which will be of great benefit to the community.



New Graffham Parish Councillors Jon Warren (left) and Nick White.

“Just a few years ago, our parish council was so short of councillor candidates that its very existence was in jeopardy so it is particularly heartening that we are finally at full strength for the first time for so long.”

Formal elections for the council will be held in May. If there are more nominations than posts available, a ballot will be held – which would be the first in decades.

Help our local businesses survive cost pressures

The cost of living crisis has magnified the need for villagers to support our local businesses who are struggling with rocketing bills.

The Three Moles, for example, has just had to renew its electricity contract – with its annual power bill rising almost five fold, from £6,500 to nearly £30,000 a year. At the same time, the big breweries have slapped a minimum of 15% on virtually everything the pub buys from them.

Joint landlord Tom Richardson said: “We’d already done everything we could to reduce our energy bills – converting all light bulbs to LED, for example. Meeting the colossally higher charge we are facing for electricity is going to be a real struggle. That’s why we are diversifying as much as we can, such as offering meals for delivery, supplying fresh vegetables, bottles and other supplies to take home and expanding the special events we offer, like our new regular Thursday evening games sessions and monthly folk music evenings.

“We have also been working hard to expand the range of meals we provide. Although we’ve been offering a full range of hot and cold food for several years

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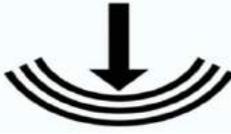
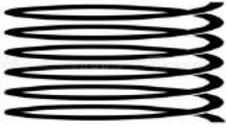
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now, there are still lots of locals who come in and are surprised to see a menu on the bar listing everything from pizzas and burgers to vegan ranges besides our immensely popular Sunday roasts.”

The Foresters Arms changed its electricity supplier a year or so ago, with a contract that caps the price it pays at levels from before the worst of the recent hikes. But, like the Three Moles, its suppliers of virtually everything else have increased costs. A big brewer, for instance, has just slapped another £30 on a barrel of beer.

Landlord David Gordon-Smith said: “We are trying to avoid passing our higher costs on to our customers as much as we can. We have had great support from our locals, but January, February and March are when it is generally a struggle.”

Graffham Village Shop’s electricity contract is in place until March, shielding Jeeva and Vasu from rising power charges until then, but the store’s suppliers too are having to pass on their own higher costs. Looking around his shelves, Jeeva pointed to a pizza as an example: “Last time I ordered them, they cost me £4.95 each to buy in. That’s just gone up to £6.95.”

Like the pubs, the village shop is doing whatever it can to shield customers from the price rises their suppliers are imposing on them, but what they all really need is more custom helping generate more cashflow.

Tom Richardson said: “The best thing the community can do to help all of us at these difficult times is to use us. Let us do the cooking for you! Come and warm up here rather than at home. Join in one of our games or music evenings. You’re sure to have some fun at the same time - and you might just help one of your local businesses survive!”

RINGING and SINGING

To join Graffham’s bellringers or occasional choir, contact
 Revd Vivien on 01798 867199 or at hello@stgilesgraffham.org

THE GRAFFHAM DEFIBRILLATOR

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on the south wall of the
Empire Hall

THE CODE FOR THE
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Dial 999 first

Please:

- Remember this code
- Place it in a conspicuous position in your home
- Keep it in your wallet, purse and mobile phone

A life may depend on it

Time to pay subs to our good neighbour scheme

Graffham Health Support Agency (HSA) volunteers will be knocking on doors throughout the neighbourhood this month and next to encourage current members to renew their subscriptions and to invite village newcomers to join.

Being part of the HSA delivers a number of key benefits:

- Transport to and from medical appointments (authorised by the NHS) from a stay in hospital to a routine check-up when you can't drive yourself for whatever reason.
- Free collection from Petworth Surgery of your prescriptions, which are then dropped off at Graffham Village Shop for you to pick up from there, saving you time, petrol money and exhaust fumes.
- Loan of a wide-range of medical equipment – crutches, walking sticks, wheelchairs, walking frames, bathing aids and so on.
- Subsidised foot health clinics and exercise classes at the Empire Hall.
- Help, for those in need, with paying for spectacles or dental care.

All this for £5 a year for each adult member – while under 21s can join for free.



Some 200 residents are currently on HSA's books – around half the village's adult population.

The association in one format or another has been caring for the community for more than a century, providing services not under the NHS. Each year, the HSA provides numerous trips to medical appointments and on a weekly basis collects many prescriptions for members, while every week a group of "seniors" takes advantage of its subsidised "ease-into-exercise" sessions.

Its key mission of driving members to medical appointments is carried out by volunteers from among its membership ranks, who do so as often or as little as they choose. They are recompensed towards their fuel expenses annually. As one of them said: "I'm always happy to help out – as I know that one day I'll need it myself."

Organising lifts is shared by committee members on a rota basis, with just one number to call to request transport – 07391 802541. More drivers are always needed, so if you would like to help, please call the transport phone number (as above) and an HSA member will call you back.

Village shop's Daryl reunited with his family

Daryl Ilbury, well known locally as the guy who looks after Graffham Village Shop on Sundays and some midweek evenings but more widely recognised as a prolific author, journalist and broadcaster, has finally been reunited with his family after a near two-year separation, *writes editor Michael Blunt*.

Born in Norfolk, Daryl emigrated to South Africa with his mother and brother while a boy and it was there that he later met and married Chantell. They went on to have a daughter, Roxanne, and a son, Mitchell, and both now in their 30s, while Daryl forged his career hosting one of South Africa's most popular radio breakfast shows, writing books on science and articles for publications ranging from the Sunday Times to the Financial Times with Chantell consulting on strategy for businesses internationally and authoring books too.

When Mitchell and Roxanne completed their education, the family started making plans to leave their homeland. Why? Daryl puts it simply: "There are security issues in South Africa."

England seemed the obvious destination. Daryl still held a UK passport, both Roxanne and Mitchell had British citizenship through him, and the family had travelled to the old country often visiting relations and friends. Roxanne was the first to move, in 2020, and is now based in Burton-on-Trent, where she is part of the marketing team for a leading travel agency.

For Chantell, it was more complicated as she only had South African citizenship and was therefore not allowed to stay permanently or work in Britain. She could only apply for the necessary visa from the country where she resided, not while visiting UK temporarily. So they decided that Daryl should lead the way while she stayed at their home near Cape Town with Mitchell and set her UK immigration process in train. Because South Africa was "red-listed" by the UK during the Covid pandemic, she was not even able to apply from there for visas to visit Daryl in England temporarily, although she could do so from Ireland, so she

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

travelled there several times as a staging post for brief flits to Graffham. But once she applied for a permanent spouse's visa, she could not make even the shortest of visits to the UK.

Then came Russia's invasion of Ukraine, shifting the focus of the UK visa authorities onto helping refugees seeking sanctuary from the war – delaying the processing of Chantell's visa. At the end of October, she finally obtained her UK



Smiles all around as Daryl is finally reunited with his wife Chantell and son Mitchell.

permanent spouse's visa – and was on a flight to London within hours. On the day she arrived, Daryl was rostered to work in the shop, and “such is his dedication to the people of Graffham” he did his duty there between picking her up at the airport and joining her at their home in the village for their favourite prawn dinner to celebrate.

How did they end up in Graffham? When deciding where in England to live, they shortlisted the South Downs and the Cotswolds – with the former winning out as they found the landscapes here more attractive and peaceful. And they knew Graffham of old, as Chantell's brother Steven Paxton had worked at Seaford College as a sports and house master. Chantell had spotted Haylands Bungalow a few years ago while in the UK on business and fell in love with it and kept it on her radar. So, when it became available to rent, she and Daryl applied immediately, and Daryl moved there in March 2021.

The final piece of this family jigsaw fitted into place in November, when Mitchell, who is also a best-selling author and strategist, arrived in the UK. He now lives in Buckinghamshire, where he hosted the whole family for Christmas.

So, if you see a broader smile than before on Daryl's face while he's looking after you in the shop, it's not just your choice of groceries or his quirky jazz playlist giving him a sense of contentment these days.

Meet your neighbour: High View's Holly and Rich

A regular feature in which we introduce local residents. This month, editor Michael Blunt meets Holly and Rich Sabin – surely the last newcomers to move to the village in 2022.

Holly and Rich Sabin had three key criteria for a new home when they decided to move. They wanted it to be “rural but not remote”, with “peace on all borders” and “space for others”, enabling them to host family, friends or those in need.

They also wanted to stay reasonably close to Chichester, where Rich had lived for 30 years and Holly for around half that time, and where he runs his business.

After around a year searching potential locations, they narrowed their search area



down to Bosham and Graffham, with the latter winning out because “the landscape is so much more beautiful here and the walking more varied and attractive.”

They knew the village already since Holly started teaching Media Studies at Seaford College 18 months ago: “I was driving away every day from this most amazing and peaceful countryside to what has become an increasingly congested city.” The sale of one of Rich’s business also gave them the freedom to spread their wings a little further.

Holly and Rich with the keys to High View.

They looked at Ariel Cottage when it was put up for sale but lost out to a higher bidder. So they bided their time until High View, two doors north of the village shop, was put on the market. “It’s not the most attractive house from the outside,” said Rich, “but otherwise it ticked all the boxes. It gives us all the space and potential we need in such a lovely setting and with wonderful views.” They completed their purchase on 8 November – a year to the day since Rich was approached by a FTSE250 company to buy out the living walls business he had founded – and moved in three days later, in one of the wettest months on record.

He had started his firm after working initially in construction, including time working on the Channel Tunnel. A garden designer he knew needed help building a vertical green wall and turned to Rich for advice on how to create a structure to support the plants and provide the irrigation and drainage needed. From that, his business Biotope was born. It developed into one of the UK's leading suppliers of living walls, creating vertical gardens in locations ranging from London to the USA, Dubai and Paris, winning four gold medals and a silver gilt at Chelsea Flower Show along the way.

Although he's now sold that company, which focussed on the construction side of living walls, he retains his growing, supply and design business, Growing Revolution, in Chichester. Born in Exeter, he went to university in Portsmouth then married his first wife, who was from Midhurst – which led him to Chichester. They had two daughters there – Lucy, now 29, and reading for a PhD in Air Quality, and Emily, now 27, who combines her role as the UK's Water Vole Officer for the People's Trust for Endangered Species with running her own ecological consultancy. Holly and Rich also have an "honorary daughter" – Becca (22), who is at university in Leeds and hopes to find holiday work in one of Graffham's pubs.



Holly and Rich with daughters Lucy, Becca and Emily.

Holly's life has many similarities with Rich's. While she was born in Carshalton, Surrey, her family moved to Devon when she was a teenager and she frequented the same nightclubs in Exeter that had been Rich's haunts a few years before. After reading English at Leicester University, she "moved about quite a bit", working in web design, marketing and communications roles in London, Switzerland and with Christian Aid in Brighton. Then she fell in love and moved to be with her partner in Chichester.

By the time she and Rich met at a community sustainability event in the city in 2009 they were both single again – and they married by the end of that year (just – on 19 December). By that time, Holly was training to be a teacher. After a couple of other posts, she joined Chichester Free School when it opened in 2014

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to teach Media Studies and Film to A level standard. But after an education review, it closed its Sixth Form, which either meant her staying there and giving up her cherished A level and pre-university support or finding a job elsewhere – “and Media A level teaching jobs are like hen’s teeth”. But within months the role at Seaford College was advertised – and she was selected: “It really was an answer to a prayer!”

While unpacking – in the face of distractions like the World Cup – they are also getting into Graffham life, supporting the village pubs and exploring the paths and bridleways in the neighbourhood.

Sports-mad Rich aims to join the badminton (he played for his county at junior level) and tennis clubs and hopes the men’s cricket side can be resurrected. Holly is a keen gardener and “crafter”.

Both plan to get stuck in to Graffham Down Trust work parties and have started attending St Giles Church, although they will also maintain links with the Revelation Family Church, in the old Laura Ashley furnishing shop in Chichester, where Rich is a trustee and Holly one of the preachers.

How’s Graffham been for them so far? “It’s more than fulfilled all our hopes. It’s so peaceful here, the natural beauty all around is unbelievable and the community has made us feel so warmly welcomed.”

2023’s first Graffham Down Trust work party

Graffham Down Trust’s first work party in 2023 will take place on Sunday 8 January. Everyone’s welcome to take part – just meet near St Giles Church at 9.30am for lifts up by 9.45am. Bring strong shoes and gardening gloves. Always let Jim know in advance via jimkirke@hotmail.com if you plan to attend so that lifts can be arranged – and so you can be advised if the work party is cancelled for any reason. The aim is always to finish each session before anyone gets too tired and certainly by 1pm – by when, after helping safeguard the rare animals, insects and plant life that depend on the nature reserves above the village, a hearty Sunday lunch in one of our great local pubs would certainly have been earned!

The next two work parties will be on Saturdays – 4 February and 11 March.



Work party in action.

Wedding bells: Joe and Harrie, 10 December

A London couple who regard Graffham as “home from home” – Harriet Markwell and Joseph Wootton – were married at St Giles Church by the Revd Vivien on Saturday 10 December.

In keeping with the Advent timing of their wedding, the hymns they chose were mainly carols – *Once in Royal David’s City*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and *O Come All Ye Faithful* – and the congregation kept at a cosy dozen of their closest family and friends, supplemented by St Giles’ small choir and regulars.

The couple met originally in 2010 when they were neighbours while at university in Newcastle, but only started dating three years ago. Lawyer Joe proposed in May and then, after the 12-year slow burn, they decided to move fast. He said: “We wanted to get married this year and loved the idea of a winter wedding.” And Graffham quickly became the obvious place for it to happen.

Harrie, who works in marketing in the hospitality sector, explained: “We’ve been coming here frequently for many years, so we’ve grown very fond of the village. It’s a beautiful escape from London and will always have a special place in our hearts.”

Wearing a white dress – off the shoulder, though the frost was cruel – and carrying, to tie in with the winter theme, Burgundy and Champagne coloured roses, she was walked down the aisle on the arm of her father Adam Markwell. She was attended by her mother Jane Markwell, and by Bell Wilkinson, her best friend as maid of honour, and, as bridesmaids, her brother’s fiancée Vilma and Joe’s sister Beth, while organist Brian Lanaghan played Pachelbel’s Canon.

Joe wore a traditional morning suit and was supported by best man Matt Valenzia. Among the readings was a piece by A A Milne, whose illustrator Ernest Shepherd lived at nearby Lodsworth. At the end of the service, the new Mr and Mrs Wootton left St Giles to the sound of Mendelssohn’s wedding march and the church’s bells and hopped into Harrie’s decorated 18-year-old Ford Fiesta to host their receptions at Tagents Barn, which they rent regularly for their Graffham visits.



Nature Notes: Bow-wow, foxy ladies!

A monthly column by Sussex Wildlife Trust's Head of Community Action for Wildlife Michael Blencowe.

Well, Christmas is over for another year folks! I hope you had an enjoyable festive period. Did that fella in the red coat to come sneaking around your village? Yep, I'm referring to your neighbourhood fox who was no doubt on the prowl. Shortly after Santa has finished pulling presents from his sack, your local fox was probably busy trying to pull half a turkey out of the bin bag you left by the back door.

Foxes have lived among us for centuries and, just like Christmas and New Year, they have been celebrated in folklore and myths all around the world. Whether the story belongs to the Greeks, Japanese, Celts, Native Americans, Disney or Roald Dahl it is always the same – the fox is portrayed as cunning, slippery and devious. I prefer intelligent, adaptable and resourceful – traits that have helped the fox to survive in this modern world which transformed the fox's wild woods into a landscape of endless agricultural fields, towns, cities, tower blocks and cul-de-sacs. Traditionally, in the face of development, Britain's wildlife has



Graffham Garden Group
New Year lunch
Wednesday 1 February 2023, 12.30pm
Empire Hall
£17 a head, two courses including wine
Booking sheet will be in Graffham Village Shop from
1 December to make your meal choices:
Mains: Fish pie, chicken curry or feta and spinach pie
Puds: Sticky toffee pudding or profiteroles
Everyone in Graffham warmly welcome
Please book early to avoid disappointment.

silently been displaced and died. But, where others fled destruction, the fox, like any shrewd opportunist, saw a brave new world of golden opportunities where the dustbins overfloweth and where the city streets are paved with cast away kebabs and finger-lickin' chicken.

For me this is the chapter in the fox's story that does indeed seem mythical – that in urban Britain there are wild dogs living amongst us. I can look out my bedroom window and see a relative of the wolf,

dingo, jackal and coyote casually sauntering across my lawn. It's a touch of the Serengeti in suburban Sussex.

It's now, in the bleak midwinter, that foxes are at their most vocal. And it's one helluva racket! The blood-curdling, human-like scream of the vixen sounds like something from a Hammer Horror film. This foxy lady is only fertile for a few days and her scream advertises her availability and sparks bow-wows, barks and bickering from amorous dog foxes. Her cubs will be born about 52 days after mating and emerge from their underground earths in April.

So, this New Year, after you've finished with the plastic snowmen, the fake tree and the fake sentiments, take a short walk away from everything artificial out into the darkness of your back garden. Listen for the sound of wild dogs howling at the moon, the sound of survival. Let it stir something wild in your heart.



TEDDY TIME IN THE PAVILION TODDLER GROUP

**Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am
Pavilion, Graffham Rec**

No charge. All welcome. Just come along!

Christmas fair nets fab £5,000 for St Giles



Bidding at the auction of promises.



Young volunteers queue up to help the slightly older hands with the raffle draw.

Graffham Christmas Fair, at the Empire Hall on Saturday 3 December, proved as big a draw as ever, with the home produce stand in particular doing a roaring trade, and around £5,000 was raised for St Giles Church and all it does in the community.

Biggest money spinner was the auction of promises. Thanks to dozens of generous donors, it netted

just more than half the grand total, with bidders lured by lots ranging from flights over the village, table tennis tips from former UK champ Matthew Syed or training from former cricket international and Sussex captain, Seaford College's Director of Cricket, Chris Adams, to a collection of yummy chocolate goodies, sailing, kayaking, Ritz-style teas...

The raffle also did a roaring trade, with more than 15 wonderful prizes generously donated – from hampers, luxury candles, umbrellas and plants to enough bottles for a party. The always-



Brisk trade at the home produce stand, offering delicious cakes and preserves.

popular home produce stand was heaving with wonderful bakes, preserves and handiwork, while few walked away empty handed from Sandy Macqueen's bottle stall. Meantime, scores had a crack at guessing the weight of the cake and how many sweeties were in the jar.

Village artists were kept busy selling their produce – cards, pottery, cuddly toys and more – while the Bowden family kept the younger generation amused with games on the stage, and St Giles organist Brian Lanaghan played a medley of festive music.

Marie Bracey, of the fair organising team, said: “An enormous thank you to the very many people who helped in setting up, running and clearing up. It was an amazing success, with so many playing their part in raising such a fantastic amount of money. I hope everyone who came will agree that it was also good fun, a great atmosphere and a wonderful way to kick start the Christmas season.”



Guessing the weight of the cake and trying their luck at the bottle stall.

Graffham Parish News' jaunty January quiz

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



1 Frederick Henry Champion, vicar of Tillington (1930-48) and founder of the Brotherhood of the Good Shepherd in Australia in 1904, (right) retired to Graffham and died in January 1957 aged 84. Where in Graffham is he commemorated?

2 Founded as a monastery by Rahere, Henry I's court jester, which London teaching hospital celebrates its 900th anniversary this year?

3 *Yr Wyddfa* and *Eryri* are now the official names of what?

4 Which Scottish pop group had their biggest UK singles' success with *January*, which reached No 1 in the first week of February 1975?

5 What is the more common name of the flower *Cheiranthus cheiri*?

6 Midhurst MP William Cawley (right), who died in January 1667, was a signatory to which document that led to a precipitous event on 30 January 1649?



7 Ukrainian Christmas Day is on what date?

8 Representing constancy, what is January's birthstone?

9 In Scottish Gaelic it's *tagais* or *taigeise*. What is it in English?

10 Australian actress Elizabeth Debicki plays which character in series five of Netflix nonsense *The Crown*?



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-
- Quiz answers:**
- 1 On a pew in All Saints' Chapel.
 - 2 St Bartholomew's.
 - 3 Snowdon and Snowdonia.
 - 4 Pilot.
 - 5 Wallflower.
 - 6 King Charles I's death warrant.
 - 7 January.
 - 8 Garnet.
 - 9 Haggis.
 - 10 Diana, Princess of Wales.

Third generation of Hills sings in St Paul's

Three generations of Sue Hill's family have now sung at London's St Paul's Cathedral, with 11-year-old granddaughter Mimi the latest. She performed as part of the choir from Haslemere's Royal School (formerly the Royal Naval School), where she is a pupil, at the annual Seafarers' Service, attended by the Princess Royal, in the run-up to Christmas. Mimi's Mum Katy, Sue's daughter, sang in the same service when she was around the same age, in the late 1980s. Sue herself, who lives at Graffham House, The Street, set the trend 30 years or so earlier, just before she reached her teens.



Mimi in St Paul's choir stalls (far left), with her Mum Katy on the steps to the cathedral (centre) and with sister and gran Sue (right)

Artist Sue is guest speaker at Thursday Club

Graffham artist Sue Hill is guest speaker at the village's Thursday Club, on 12 January at 2.30pm in the Empire Hall, on the theme of *Here's One I Made Earlier*, a story in art. As usual, there will be coffees, teas and a raffle. All welcome.

Video walk from Graffham up the Downs

YouTube blogger and former Graffham resident Dave Ford, along with his faithful whippet Logan, feature a walk from the village across the Downs to Heyshott in the latest of their videos of countryside walks. The charming and fascinating 23-minute film features many local views with shedloads of information about the area as they stroll from St Giles Church up to the Graffham Down Trust reserves, along the South Downs Way then down to Heyshott's Unicorn Inn and back to Ladywell Cottage. You can watch it at bit.ly/graffham-heyshott-walk

Gibraltar comes to Heyshott Former Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar Jim Dutton will be speaking about The Rock at the first Cobden Hall Talk of the year, in Heyshott, on Wednesday 11 January at 7pm.

Le Freak

CHIC and Nile Rodgers Tribute

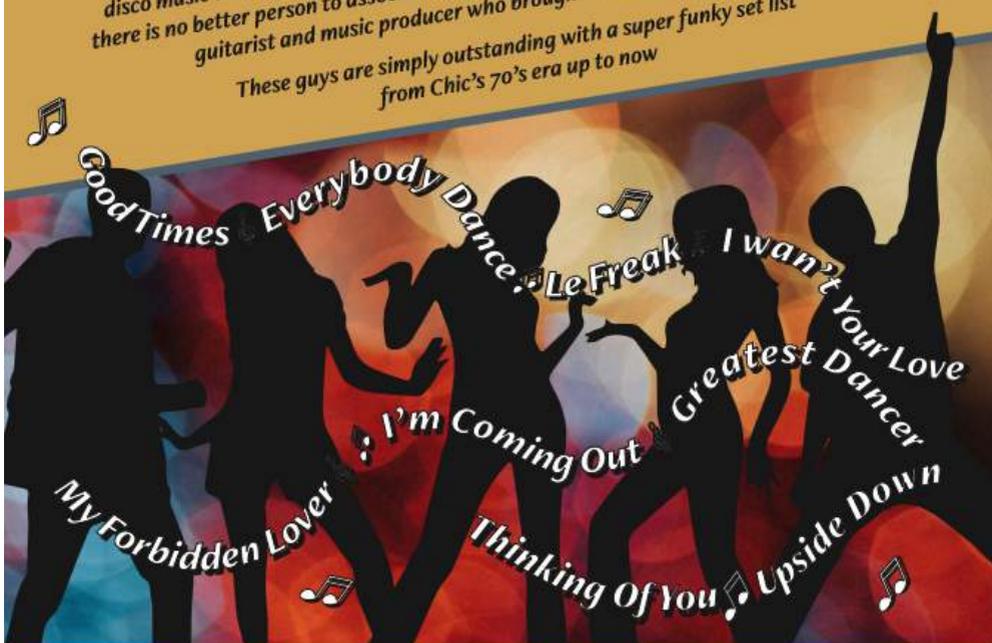
Saturday 11th of February 8.00pm

Empire Hall, Graffham, GU28 0NL

Doors and Bar open 7.30pm

Le Freak are the UK's premier CHIC & Nile Rodgers Tribute band. An 8 piece band, Le Freak was founded by experienced musicians who are passionate about funk and disco music to cover the greatest hits of it's genre. When talking about funk and disco, there is no better person to associate it with other than - Nile Rodgers, the father of disco, guitarist and music producer who brought us all the funkiest of hits.

These guys are simply outstanding with a super funky set list from Chic's 70's era up to now



TICKETS: www.empirehall.org.uk

£20 General Admission with partial seating

£35 Exclusive Balcony with guaranteed seating

Bill's bygones: New GPC clerk, Monica, Babas' best

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 – January 2013: Tracy Rowe takes over from Angie Thornley as clerk to Graffham, Selham and South Ambersham Parish Council. Graffham Garden Group holds its New Year lunch. Helen Martin and colleagues at Graffham Infants gain funding from the British Council to establish a link with a school in Bangalore. Sussex Wildlife Trust begins selective felling of pine trees on Graffham Common to encourage the return to heathland. The passenger cruise ship *Costa Concordia* capsizes off the Italian coast. Death of Blockbusters host Bob Holness (aged 83).



Graffham Garden Group's 2013 New Year lunch, with new parish council clerk Tracy Rowe (left).

25 years ago – January 1998: St Giles Church adopts a three-year cyclic lectionary with the readings heard in Graffham each Sunday the same as throughout Western Christendom. Plans are approved for a new village hall at Lodsworth – while fundraising starts for a new one at Duncton. News breaks of the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky (left) scandal. Deaths of raconteur Frank Muir (77), Hawaii Five-O actor Jack Lord (77), Cher's erstwhile partner Sonny Bono (62) and cricketer David Bairstow (46).



50 years ago – January 1973: Fifteen members of Graffham Youth Club visit the London Palladium to see *The Pop Fanfare for Europe* as the UK joins the European Economic Community. Petworth Cottage Nursing and Convalescent Home is opened following the conversion of the cottage hospital. The Paris Peace Accords end the Vietnam War. "What a score!" exclaims broadcaster Cliff Morgan as Gareth Edwards scores the "greatest try ever" for the Barbarians vs the All Blacks at Cardiff (right). George Foreman batters Joe Frazier to become World Heavyweight Champion. Elton John's album *Don't Shoot Me I'm Only the Piano Player* released. Deaths of Sir Edgar Cohen of Heath Ridge, Graffham, a senior civil servant at the Board of Trade, and Lyndon B Johnson, 36th US President, both aged 64.



Your home could help unlock Graffham's past

A survey of the older houses in Graffham and East Lavington is to be undertaken by village archaeologist Greg Gregory in a bid to discover how the lay out of the settlement developed through the centuries. The project is being undertaken with the involvement of the Wealden Buildings Study Group, of which Greg, who lives at Northwood Farm, East Lavington, is a former President.

They hope to carry out a study of every house in Graffham that might date back to before around 1800. Each would take several hours to examine, by a team of around three experts, studying the carpentry of the roof structure down to the brickwork of any cellars.

Greg said: "This is of course all dependent on householders giving their permission – but hopefully they will be interested to find out about the history of where they live."

There are more than 30 homes in Graffham with some kind of architectural listed status, mainly because of their age, but Greg believes there could be many others with interesting histories to reveal. His own home is one of the oldest in the neighbourhood, dating back to around 1340. The Foresters Arms has been



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identified as having been built in around 1600. Up and down the street, there are a number of other dwellings built at around the same time as these two.

One question Greg hopes the survey may help answer is why St Giles is located so far from today's centre of Graffham. There's the 15th Century farmhouse Thraves close by and 17th Century Ladywell Cottage further down the hill to the north, but few other adjacent contemporary structures.

He said: "Generally, churches were built right in the centre of the community. St Giles dates back to at least the 12th Century – and probably to Saxon times as it is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Since then, England suffered Black Death in 1349 and the Plague in 1665 so perhaps, as was the case in many other villages, houses built then around the church fell vacant as their occupants died and eventually



Greg Gregory, pictured here surveying an old map of Graffham, hopes his study will reveal how the village's settlement pattern has evolved.

Graffham) and previous rectors sought to move their tenants further from their home into more distant parts of the village.

"Our aim, over the next few years, is to look at how the settlement pattern of the village developed during the course of several centuries, from mediaeval times, through Tudor England up to the Victorian era. The architecture of the older houses throughout the village should provide some key pointers in this."

Greg, who moved to the neighbourhood a decade ago, started his working life as the University of London's and Department of Environment's Archaeological Field Officer for West Sussex before moving into the commercial sector.

If you have an old house in Graffham and are prepared for it to be part of the survey, please email Greg at greggregoryv@btinternet.com

became uninhabitable and fell down. Or perhaps there were more dwelling houses at one time around Seaford College and its St Peter's Chapel, which was previously the parish church for East Lavington (before the parish was merged with

Graffham Chronicles: Peoples of the heath

A regular column by village historian Pauline Goodwin

Most of us are surely familiar with the ancient earthworks in this parish. Some locals even have them in their gardens! Archeological work in the past five years has developed our understanding of these land traces.

Between 2014-18 archaeologists Stuart Needham and George Anelay carried out a major study of Bronze Age earthworks in the Rother region, in which Graffham features prominently. From analysis of their findings and the results of other modern technologies, new insights have been revealed.

The Needham/Anelay study divided Graffham into two geographical areas based on altitude – the lower lying Weald and the hills of Downland. Indeed, Graffham was described, in 1946, by George Aitchison in *Sussex County* magazine as being similar in geography to Rome – set upon seven hills. Graffham's seven hills are higher than those of the Imperial City, with giddy contour lines measuring more than 700ft (215 metres) for our vertiginous village.

Aichinson's comparison with Rome is surprisingly very pertinent although in the Italian capital traces of ancient culture such as columns, walls and mosaics are readily identifiable. Graffham's are much less obvious but this tiny parish has at least 21 ancient scheduled monuments, with dozens more just outside its boundaries.

The Roman era also provides a useful marker in understanding the age of Graffham's ancient monuments. The crumbling ruins of early Rome, built around 625 BC, are referred to as 'ancient' – but Graffham's monuments pre-date this by more than 3,000 years, going back to the 'pre-ancient' Neolithic era of 4,000-5,000 BC.

These 'pre-ancient' monuments survive today as land traces, in the form of barrows and other assorted earthworks. The word 'barrow', by the way, comes from the Old English beorg. The classical name for these structures is tumuli.

Those located in Graffham, both on the high ridges of the Downs and below in the valley on the heathland, comprise 6 per cent of the total ancient monuments found in West Sussex. They were built by the primitive early Neolithic Graffham peoples who first dwelt upon the seven hills and were corralled by heavily wooded scarps in which roamed bears and wolves. As time moved on, the Neoliths cut droeways and holloways, pursuing a seasonal transhuman lifestyle as they



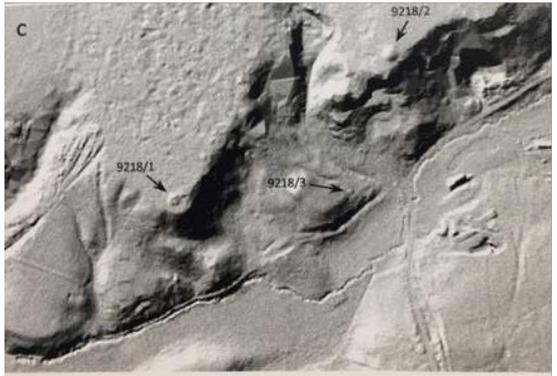
A Neolithic barrow on Graffham Common's Gallows Hill

©Steve Speller

followed their herds, grazing in dens and on woodland pasture. Subsequently, layers of charcoal reveal that, mimicking nature, fire was repeatedly used to clear the lower land. Studies of tree pollen in the heathland confirm that this land was originally forested and it was the clearing that changed the pH of the soil, thereby creating a new habitat, the heathland, providing homes for countless marginalised species, alongside the Neoliths who established a permanent settlement and shaped the land.

The Needham/Anerlay study identified 14 zones in the Rother area. Graffham is in their Zone 4, and is, in turn, divided into nine sub-zones, with 46 assorted earthworks found in them in total. The two sub-divisions with the greatest findings are the Gallows Hill group with 10 and the Lavington Common group, between Graffham and Kilsham streams, with 14. The Gallows Hill group is the best known site with its barrows first depicted on the Mitford Estate map of 1629. In 2010, the Archeological LiDAR Survey, using airborne sensors to see beneath the wooded landscape to penetrate the surface to discover traces of ancient activity has revealed new discoveries, identifying even more barrows, although many of them have been severely damaged – by ploughing, by forestry operations, by military training with slit trench digging practice, by the Canadian Forestry

▶ *Continued on next page*



In a LiDAR survey, like the one carried in 2010 over Graffham, sensors on an aircraft trace beneath the wooded landscape to identify the location of otherwise hidden barrows.

► *Continued from previous page*

Commission who camped out in Lavington Park during World War II, and even by the humble rabbit. In 1957, a rabbit unearthed a burial urn at Hoyle, revealing another barrow that had remained unrecorded until then. Some of the other barrows have clearly been excavated in the past by humans, even though the Neoliths who built these barrows did not place goods and treasure in them.

The use of LiDAR has identified a group of “three mounds previously unknown” near “outbuildings of Wiblings Farm that once stood nearby” as seen labelled in the image, Needham and Anelay record.

These Neolithic “barrows undeniably had more functions than simply containing and marking graves” according to *The Inverted Dead of Britains Bronze Age Barrows*. What is known for sure is that the structures were constructed within the heart of communities. One learned study stated: “It has long been suggested, for example, that barrows in Britain may have claimed grazing land, guarded boundaries and controlled or overlooked routeways.” The Neoliths transcribed their beliefs and culture to the landscape and constructed bowl barrows, round barrows, cross dykes, way markers, field systems, raised track ways and mound boundaries in highly significant positions.

Most barrows, though, were concerned with the dead. The earliest burials were usually placed in a distinctive ‘crouched’ position within in the barrow. From 2100 BC however, cremation burials appeared, becoming the most common form of burial from 1800 to 1500 BC. Urns containing cremated human remains have frequently been found placed upside down in barrows. (Neither Roman nor

Anglo-Saxon urn cremations in Britain were inverted.) A micro-excavation of an inverted collared urn cremation in Essex found that most of the skull bones were placed at the top of the urn while lower limbs were concentrated at the base. When the urn was placed upside down in the ground, the reconstructed body would also have been inverted, so vessels were packed to match the orientation of the upside down world of the dead.

Further studies have established new evidence to support theories about the peoples of the Heath, with their barrows too built upside down – a turf layer at the bottom and a gleaming white chalk ‘foundation’ layer left exposed on the top. Next time we walk around these barrows we should consider what is actually “down under” right below our feet!



Upturned urns containing human remains have been found in barrows like those around Graffham.



Ladywell Cottage, captured here on one of mid-December’s frostiest mornings by © Vivien Turner.

Letters to the editor: Congrats and keep it up!

The column YOU write

From the Revd Steve Gray, Vicar of Graffham 2010-2013, now Chaplain at Eton College: Many congratulations to all the *Graffham Parish News* editorial team on achieving such a prestigious national award (Association of Church Editors' Certificate of Excellence). Well done and keep up the great work!

From Stuart and Ann Mathie, Old Post Office, The Street, Graffham: Thank you and well done to you all at *Graffham Parish News* for supplying us with such a great village magazine. We really look forward to reading it each month.

Local foodbank needs supplies of everything

The Chichester District Foodbank, which runs the outlet in Petworth covering Graffham and other villages in the area, says it is low on virtually all supplies following the Christmas holidays in increased demand for its support.

The nearest donation point is here in Graffham, outside the village shop. Or there are collection points at Petworth Co-op or Midhurst Sainsbury's or Tesco. How about buying a few extra items next time you shop to help out?



All items must be long-life (packed or tinned), 'in-date', unopened and, because of 'Natasha's Law' (to protect allergy sufferers), only items with a full ingredients list can be accepted. Or you can support its work financially, with a cash donation at bit.ly/chi-foodbank-donate

If you know of anyone who might need the foodbank's help, you can see how to go about it at bit.ly/chi-foodbank-get-help. It aims to get food parcels out to those who need them as quickly as possible, though it may take two to three days. To get a food parcel, they'll need a voucher, which can be issued by schools, GPs, housing support officers, vicars or priests, social workers, health visitors or local charities. Alternatively, please contact:

- Citizens Advice on freephone: 0808 278 7969 or
- Chichester District Foodbank on 01243 773687 or e-mail info@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Graffham Tennis Club

By Chairman Simon Longman

Courts to be rebuilt: Graffham Tennis Club’s committee has brought forward plans to rebuild the courts after the hot summer resulted in more cracks on the surface, particularly behind the baselines. The court surface, nets and the fencing will be replaced at the end of the club’s summer league fixtures, in October 2023.

Trophies presented: The end of another tennis year was celebrated, as usual, with a social gathering and presentation of trophies to the club’s 2022 winners, at the Recreation Ground Pavilion on 19 November. Congratulations to all who picked up prizes:

- **Ladies’ singles** Sarah Selman.
- **Senior doubles** Nettie Lanaghan and Peter Adler.
- **Mixed doubles** Sam Adams and James Phimister.
- **Men's doubles** David Sparkes and Lucian Smithers.
- **Ladies’ doubles** Emma Amin and Sian Green.
- **East Hants League men's player of the year** Ollie Edwards.



- **East Hants League ladies’ player of the year** Emma Amin.
- Senior members toast their doubles champs Nettie Lanaghan and Peter Adler.*

Play continues through the winter: Winter league matches are underway with Graffham Tennis Club continuing to perform well against much larger clubs. Recent results below with matches scheduled for January underneath.

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
19 Nov	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	v Midhurst B	Lost 3-5
26 Nov	Ladies Doubles	Div 2	v Newman Collard	Won 7-1
27 Nov	Mixed Doubles	Div 3	v Haslemere B	Lost 3-5
4 Dec	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	V Newman Collard	Won 8-0

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants League home fixtures: January					
Do come and support your teams!					
7	Sat	2pm	Mixed Doubles	Div 3	v The Avenue
15	Sun	10am	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	v Liphook
21	Sat	10am	Ladies Doubles	Div 2	v Midhurst
29	Sun	10am	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	v Midhurst A



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Property watch

Homes for sale locally, posted at [rightmove.com](https://www.rightmove.com) since our previous edition:

2 Hillside, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NP: Four-bedroomed semi-detached house, two bathrooms, sitting room, kitchen/living area, utility room, outbuildings, garden. 146sq m/ 1,571sq ft. *Guide price* £750,000. Jackson-Stops, Midhurst 01730 774837. *Added 3 December.*



Planning applications

A summary of latest applications for planning approval in Graffham and East Lavington civil parishes filed with the South Downs National Park as this edition went to press. For details, see bit.ly/sdnp-planning

1 Wallace Square, East Lavington GU28 0FJ: Single storey side extension. SDNP/22/05417/HOUS *Received 28 Nov.*

Old House, Selham Road, South Ambersham GU29 0BX: Replacement roof tiles to timber structure. SDNP/22/05080/LIS *Received 1 Nov.*

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Sussex Police's log of incidents locally in recent weeks. If you have any information which might help, please report it, quoting the serial number - by phone on 101 or online at bit.ly/crimeupdate

Graffham: Between Friday 18 and Saturday 19 November, a Takeuchi excavator was stolen from a premises. *Serial 1172 19/11.*

Petworth Park: On the afternoon of Saturday 26 November, a vehicle was broken into and a handbag stolen. *Serial 1329 26/11.*

Cocking: Between Thursday 24 and Saturday 26 November, outbuildings on a property were burgled and power tools, fuel cannisters and socket sets stolen. *Serial 0483 26/11.*

Fittleworth, High Trees: In the early hours of Thursday 24 November, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 1246 25/11.*

Bury, Coombe Crescent: On the evening of Tuesday 15 November, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0454 16/11.*

Lurgashall, The Green: Between Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 November, a premises was burgled, cash stolen and criminal damage caused. *Serial 0729 09/11.*

Wisborough Green, Carters Way: Early on Saturday 5 November, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0041 09/11.*

Midhurst, Elmleigh: Overnight between Friday 4 and Saturday 5 November, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0292 09/11.*

Errata

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the community at the three Remembrance Services in Graffham by:

- Graffham Parish Council Chairman Simon Mackie at the war memorial on Friday 11 November.
- Major Jonathan Warren at the Requiem Eucharist in St Giles Church, and by East Lavington Parish Council Chairman Charles Britton, Churchwarden Ginny Barrett and Tyler and Jackson Gillespie at the war memorial, all on Sunday 13 November.

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ads.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

Area churches come together at Tillington



Tillington's landmark All Hallows – the only church in the country painted both by John Constable and JMW Turner and just one of three in England with a Scots Crown on top of its tower – will be the setting for Petworth Area Churches Together (PACT)'s Church Unity Service, on Sunday 22 January at 3pm.

It will be led by the Revd Dr David Crook, priest-in-charge of not just Tillington but also the parishes of Duncton, Fittleworth, Stopham and Upwaltham. Refreshments served afterwards. All welcome.

It comes as Hugh Rolfe, from Petworth's Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, succeeds Bob Sneller, who attends church at both All Hallows and Petworth's United Reformed Church, as PACT's Chairman.

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.

United Reformed Church: Petworth. *Minister:* Revd Anne Lewitt *Tel:* 01798 872535. *Web:* petworthurc.co.uk *Worship:* Sundays 10.30am.

What's on at our village church and chapel

- All residents of and visitors to Graffham are welcome to all services.
- St Giles Church is at the south end of Graffham's Street, near the Downs.
- All Saints' Chapel is opposite Graffham Village Shop.
- Both St Giles Church and All Saints' Chapel are open daily.
- Bell ringing practice night is every Tuesday at 7.30pm.
- See stgilesgraffham.org or Facebook's @stgilesgraffham for any changes.

January

1	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Christmas 2, with Canon John Bundock presiding	St Giles Church
4	Wed	10.30am	Teddy Time (till 11.30am)	Rec Pavilion
8	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist for Epiphany	St Giles Church
		4pm	Evensong - winter timing	All Saints Chapel
10	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer with Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel
11	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time (till 11.30am)	Rec Pavilion
14	Sat	10-12noon	Saturday Ringing Practice	St Giles Church
15	Sun	9am	BCP Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Family Service Epiphany 2	St Giles Church
17	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer with Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel
18	Wed		Christian Unity prayer week starts	
		10.15am	Teddy Time (till 11.30am)	Rec Pavilion
22	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Epiphany 3	St Giles Church
		3pm	Christian Unity Service	Tillington Church
23	Mon	12.30pm	Christian Unity talk	URC Petworth
24	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer	All Saints Chapel
		12.30pm	Pilgrims visit Christian Unity talk	URC Petworth
25	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time (till 11.30am)	Rec Pavilion
		12.30pm	Christian Unity talk	URC Petworth
29	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist for Candlemas	St Giles Church

February

1	Wed	10.15am	Teddy Time (till 11.30am)	Rec Pavilion
5	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist 3 before Lent	St Giles Church
7	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer with Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel

What's on in and around the village

January

3	Tue		WSCC schools term starts	
		9-11 am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
6	Fri		Epiphany	
7	Sat	9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
8	Sun	9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party	Meet at St Giles
		4-6pm	Burn's Night dancing practice (see page 3)	Empire Hall
9	Mon		Seaford College term starts	
12	Thu	2.30pm	Thursday Club hears Graffham artist Susan Hill on <i>Here's One I Made Earlier</i>	Empire Hall
15	Sun	4-6pm	Burn's Night dancing practice (see page 3)	Empire Hall
16	Mon	6.15pm	East Lavington Parish Council meeting	Seaford Coll
22	Sun	4-6pm	Burn's Night dancing practice (see page 3)	Empire Hall
		3pm	Petworth Area Churches Together church unity service	Tillington All Hallows
24	Tue	9-11 am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
25	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ²	Empire Hall
28	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		7pm	Burns Night celebration (see page 3)	Empire Hall

February

1	Wed	12.30pm	Graffham Garden Group New Year lunch (See page 26)	Empire Hall
4	Sat	9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
		9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party	Meet at St Giles
11	Sat	7.30pm	Le Freak - Chic/Nile Rodgers Tribute Band	Empire Hall
10	Fri		Seaford College half-term (to 19 Feb)	
13	Mon		WSCC schools half term (to 17 Feb)	
14	Tue	9-11 am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
22	Wed		Ash Wednesday	

22	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ²	Empire Hall
25	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
March				
4	Sat	9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
7	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional ¹	Empire Hall
11	Sat	9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party	Meet at St Giles
20	Mon	6.15pm	East Lavington Parish C'cil meeting	Seaford Coll
22	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ²	Empire Hall
31	Fri		WSCC schools and Seaford College term ends	

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

²**Lunch Club:** Graffham Empire Hall 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 £8 a head. Please book by calling Sarah on 01798 867567.

Regular weekly activities (for notes, how to book, etc, see below)			
Mondays	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ¹	Empire Hall
Tuesdays	8.30am-12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
Wednesdays	9.15-10.30am	Yoga ²	Empire Hall
	10.15-11.30am	Teddy Time toddler group ³	Pavilion
	7-8.30pm	Badminton ⁴	Empire Hall
Thursdays	Daytime-evening	Osteopath ¹	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise ⁵	Empire Hall
	2-4pm	Post Office	Empire Hall
Fridays	9-10.15am	Yoga ²	Empire Hall
	10.30-11.15am	Pilates ⁶	Empire Hall

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

¹**Osteopath:** Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 867523 or see www.annashawcross.co.uk

²**Yoga:** Deborah Albone on 07790 867009.

³**Teddy Time:** No charge. All welcome. Just come along.

⁴**Badminton:** Contact Louisa Thomas, at louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk. All welcome.

⁵**Ease Into Exercise:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

⁶**Pilates:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

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	Secretary	Henrietta Aparicio	07714 652856
Katherine Maud Guilloid Fund	c/o Graffham PC Clerk		graffhampc@gmx.co.uk
Lavington Park Federation		graffhamanddunton.w-sussex.sch.uk	
	Graffham CE Infant School		01798 867324
	Dunton CE Junior School		01798 342402
	Friends of Graffham & Dunton Schools		01798 867324
Long Bostle Downland Soc		Gillian Brandt	01798 867276
MP Arundel & South Downs		Andrew Griffith	andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk
Midhurst Petworth Observer		Nikki Jeffery	01243 534163
National Trust (Lavington Common)			01730 816638
Neighbourhood Watch		Michael Crickmay	01798 867486
Osteopath		Anna Shawcross	01798 867523
Oil Buying Syndicate		Derek Bradnum	derekbradnum@gmail.com
Petworth Food Bank			07501 921617
Pilates at Empire Hall		Nicky Capes	07990 517858
Seaford College			01798 867392
Three Moles		Ollie and Tom	thethreemoles.com 01798 861303
Thursday Club	Secretary	Diane Bellis	01798 867444
West Sussex County Council		General enquiries	01243 777100
	County Councillor	Tom Richardson	07463 785039
White Horse		whitehorsegraffham.com	01798 867331
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