

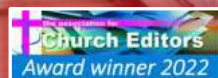
# GRAFFHAM

## PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 384

FREE

MARCH 2023



**The Empire strikes back**

**Special edition on our historic hall**

**Your Easter Market raffle tickets inside**



**On the cover:** The Empire Hall committee has a new chairman after a gap for several years – and other key new members too – as it prepares for its biggest fundraiser of the year with its Easter Market returning in all its glory for the first time since before the pandemic. Your raffle tickets are inside. See page 8

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# Writing from the Rectory: Holding the Church together

In January 2023, ahead of the General Synod meeting in February, the Church of England bishops proposed the Church offer prayers of blessing for same sex couples following civil marriage, though not marriage in church itself.

For some, it's a step which goes in the right direction albeit not far enough, while for others it's the wrong direction. The bishops' hope was to hold the church together in England, and across the worldwide Anglican Communion. It remains to be seen how well this can be achieved.

Following this announcement, conversation at the Rectory over breakfast, prompted by a Daily Telegraph article which declared it was an irony therefore (tongue in cheek



maybe) that the church is held together by its gay clergy. My view was that it's unsurprising, really, for there to be such clergy in the CofE, despite its position on same sex relationships, because the church naturally draws in people who've had some kind of hard time in life. That includes anyone who feels alienated

► *Continued on next page*



**Priest in charge:** Reverend Vivien Turner  
01798 867199 [hello@stgilesgraffham.org](mailto:hello@stgilesgraffham.org)

**Churchwarden:** Ginny Barrett 01798 867113



[stgilesgraffham.org](http://stgilesgraffham.org)



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or isolated by society, or who has been burdened by guilt, or beset by anxieties or sickness or grief, or prejudice, or has travelled through any kind of trouble.

The words of the beatitudes speak most eloquently to those who identify personally with them and are thus most openly aware of their need of Christ's blessing and its availability to us:

*'Blessed are the poor in spirit...blessed are those who mourn...blessed are the meek...blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...blessed are the merciful...blessed are the pure in heart...blessed are the peacemakers...blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'* (See Matthew 5.1-12 for full text.)

All people should find this blessing in church, as a place of unconditional welcome, refuge, solace, forgiveness, liberation and acceptance.

And at best they can, though they may also find a church wrestling with some of the issues which cause them pain in the first place and continue to do so, making offering any ministry deeply sacrificial.

The Church is a work in progress – as are we all – and sometimes painfully slow to adjust to a new appreciation of what love really means. I suggest those who continue in ministry despite this, for the sake of the church as it can be, are redemptive of the Church, are a true measure of its love, and the very best reason for holding the Church together – not ironically, but in sincerity.

**Mothering Sunday** Everyone needs a bit of mothering every now and again – and can offer it too! Do come with all your family to our special Mothering Sunday service at St Giles on Sunday 19 March at 10.30am – complete with Graffham's traditional posies of flowers for Mums and everyone else!

**Easter** Holy Week falls early in April this year, so details of our Easter services are included in this edition of our parish magazine to enable you to plan ahead. The Easter egg hunt around St Giles' churchyard is always a highlight of this time of year for young and old alike – chocoholics of all ages welcome! (See page 40)



**Reverend Vivien**

# Mothering Sunday

Everyone needs a bit of mothering  
now and again - and can offer it too!



Sunday 19 March 10.30am  
St Giles Church



## TEDDY TIME IN THE PAVILION TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am  
Pavilion, Graffham Rec

No charge.  
All welcome.  
Just come along!



## Volunteers needed for war memorial garden

Graffham Garden Group is looking for volunteers to help keep the village's War Memorial Community Garden looking good. This would involve light weeding, raking up leaves and general tidying up. If you're willing to help, please contact Tricia Wilson on 07887 542027.

### **Graffham Garden Group AGM**

Friday 17 March 2023, 7pm

Empire Hall

#### **Including the village's spring flower competition**

- 1 Vase of seven daffodils
- 2 Vase of spring flowers
- 3 Saucer with three hellebore flowers in water

Bring your entries on the night at 6.45pm

Complimentary wine and beer while voting for our favourite entries

Followed by a talk by Anne Dennig and Matthew Sennitt  
about the conservation work at Botany Bay,  
a ten acre site in Duncton adjacent to Lavington Park

New members welcome

— come and meet fellow Graffham gardeners!



# RIP John Bellis, churchwarden for 18 years



Picture © Mary Butterworth.

John Bellis, who lived in Graffham for more than half a century, serving as a Churchwarden at St Giles for 18 of those years, passed away in February in Chichester's St Richard's Hospital, where he was being treated for complications after catching covid.

Funeral arrangements had not been confirmed, as this edition of *Graffham Parish News* went to press.

A full tribute will appear in a future edition.



## St Giles Church's Lent Lunch

*Please join us for soup, bread, cheese and conversation.*

The Pavilion, Graffham Rec, on  
Wednesday 8 March 12noon-2pm.

Everyone welcome.

**All donations to the UK Disaster Emergency Committee's  
Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.**

*If you would like to attend, please sign up  
on the form in the Village Shop by 3 March.*



# New rules for Graffham Village Shop Association

## An update from Graffham Village Shop Association Chairman Steve Dover

One of the areas the Graffham Village Shop Association (GVSA) committee has been looking at recently is the requirement to update the rules under which the GVSA operates. The current rules were drawn up on the GVSA's incorporation in 1994 under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, With only minor amendments since then, they are now out of date with both current law and practice. The Industrial and Provident Societies Acts were replaced by the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act in 2014 and the regulatory framework under which the GVSA operates was changed.

So the GVSA committee intends to use, as a precedent, a set of model rules developed by the Plunkett Foundation (which supports many community shops and other enterprises) for community benefit societies, such as ourselves, and which have been pre-approved by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

This will simplify the whole process, reduce the work associated with this update and make it easier to get FCA approval when we register our new rules with them.

Once we have a draft set of new rules we will communicate further with GVSA members and explain the differences between the current set of rules and the new ones so as to allow any questions to be answered. We would like to finish this process in good time so we can have the new set of rules approved at the association's AGM in June for submission to the FCA for approval and registration.



It seems that daffodils have been blooming earlier than usual hereabouts this year – as evidenced by this picture, taken along Perrot Lane and posted to Facebook's Beautiful Sights In and Around Graffham page by © Jonathan Simons just as this edition was going to press.



# Time for another Graffham festival?

There has been some discussion, in very general terms, about the possibility of organising a Graffham Festival in 2023, *write Phil Jones and Richard Davidson*. As longer term residents may remember, the first Graffham Festival took place in 2014 and there have been several festivals since – the most recent one in 2018. Since then a combination of Covid and lethargy has meant that there has been a pause.

We are hoping that there may be sufficient interest in reviving the concept and putting on a modest event this year to see how it goes. This might, possibly, incorporate some or all of open gardens and/or art studios, a musical event (or events), talks on art/creative topics, painting/drawing sessions in the outdoors...



It may be over-ambitious and impractical, for this year at least, but the purpose of this message is to propose an informal meeting to explore it further and hear the community's thoughts and suggestions on the proposal's merits in general terms and on what could be included. All ideas welcome!

If you would like to contribute, please join on Friday 24 March at 7pm in the Empire Hall. Please let Phil know if you are interested, at [philjgraffham@outlook.com](mailto:philjgraffham@outlook.com)

## THURSDAY CLUB

**Growing up as a teaplanter's daughter in Sri Lanka**



*Graffham's very own Sally Blunt will share memories of her childhood spent in a remote tea estate in the central hills of the country that had been Ceylon.*

**9 March, 2.30pm Empire Hall, Graffham**

**Raffle and refreshments**

**All welcome**

# The Empire strikes back

Like many a venerable lady of a certain age, Graffham's Empire Hall is undergoing something of a gentle metamorphosis with new faces on its management committee – including a new chairman after a gap of several years – and activities back to pre-lockdown levels, including its first full-scale Easter Market in a few weeks' time (see pages 11-13).

Just like in the good old days, there's something or another going on there every weekday, with most weekends featuring a broad range of events, some open to all, some private bookings.

The grand old lady of Graffham, as some people refer to it, has stood at the very centre of village life since it was bequeathed to the community upon its opening by benefactor James Buchanan, later Lord Woolavington, in 1907 (see page 14). There's hardly a national or local landmark that has not been commemorated there – through wars to peacetime, from christening parties through wedding receptions to funeral wakes. Between times, it has been used to host sports sessions, dances, concerts, plays, cinema and flower shows, council meetings, medical treatments, lunches, dinners, fund-raisers, medal presentations, elections, you name it...

Its management committee of trustees, a mix of volunteers and representatives drawn from its most frequent users, is determined it stays at the centre of village life for this and future generations.

It is now led by Sally Blunt, filling the role of Chairperson that has been vacant since Jim Kirke stepped down from the role after several years' service which saw the completion of an extensive upgrade to the hall's facilities, supported by grants from the Lottery Fund and European Union, among others.

This included installing a brand new kitchen, up-grading its toilet facilities, with, for the first time, an accessible loo for the disabled, replacing the dilapidated sheds at the back with a barn-style storage building, tidying up the garden and giving the whole place a much-needed lick of paint.

Sally served as Bookings Secretary under Jim's leadership for three years before handing over to Eira Ashby and took up the reins again in September. Sally is combining the Chairmanship with the Bookings Secretary position until a new person can take over the bookings role.

Also combining roles until additional volunteers step forward is village newcomer Gillian Charlesworth as Secretary and Maintenance Officer – everything from



**The Empire Hall management committee, from left: Secretary and Maintenance Officer Gillian Charlesworth, Sarah Lydiard-Wilson, Chairman and Bookings Secretary Sally Blunt, Jill McLean and Treasurer Carole Sargent. Missing for the photocall were Diane Bellis and Patrick Churchward.**

ensuring the building's safe, sound and secure to keeping its oil and gas topped up. The third officer is long-serving and highly valued Treasurer Carole Sargent.

Making up the management committee are:

- Sarah Lydiard-Wilson, representing Graffham Health Support Association.
- Jill McLean, representing the monthly Lunch Club.
- Diane Bellis, representing the Thursday Club.
- Patrick Churchward, representing Graffham Parish Council.

The hall's busy weekly calendar of events includes osteopathy treatment and fitness activities, yoga and pilates classes, badminton and its popular "ease into exercise" sessions. Plus, of course, the twice-weekly visits from the roving Post Office. (For its full regular schedule, see page 45.) In the past year alone, thanks to the Trojan efforts of Jim Kirke, it has also opened its doors to Chic and Fleetwood Mac tribute

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bands and touring theatre companies, while Sally has organised concerts by a James Taylor celebration group and the Chaps Choir. It has hosted too the village's annual Burns Night Celebration, Graffham Garden Group events, the monthly lunches and Thursday Club gatherings, Graffham Parish Council meetings...

It is proving increasingly popular too for private events – children's birthday parties, special wedding anniversaries and so on. It has bookings for a family 100th birthday party for a much-loved local lady, gardeners' training courses and more.

They are all much needed to keep a roof over the head of this historic building.

Sally said: "It's a pleasure to be back on this friendly, supportive and fun committee. Ever since I first drove past the Empire Hall on our first ever visit to Graffham a decade ago, I have felt a strong affection for this characterful hall. It has such a very special atmosphere, lending itself to such a variety of activities and moods. It's as if the love and laughter through the years of all the people who have ever lived here in this village and beyond has soaked into its walls.

"If you want to join us taking care of the Old Lady, in whichever way you see fit – on the committee or as a helper at events – do please get in touch with me or one of the committee members. Or just come and attend the events which are put on. It's much more fun to be in than out !"



The latest band night at the Empire Hall promoted by village amateur impresario and former Chairman of the hall's management committee Jim Kirke was Nile Rodgers and Chic tribute band Le Freak – a sell-out, on Saturday 11 February. The general consensus on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard was that this was the best gig of its type at the venue yet. Picture © Peter Davies.



**SATURDAY 1ST APRIL  
10.30 - 2.30PM**

*Wonderful  
raffle  
prizes*

# **GRAFFHAM** *Easter Market*

**LOTS OF STALLS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:**

**HATS! ARTS & CRAFTS**

**FOOD BEER GIFTS**

**PLANTS AND GARDENWARE**

**HOUSEWARES**

**PRODUCE INCLUDING CAKES AND PRESERVES**

**THE EASTER EGG HUNT**

**GRAND EASTER RAFFLE**

**REFRESHMENTS INCLUDING LIGHT LUNCHES,  
QUICHES, TEAS AND COFFEE**

**AND MORE**



**ENTRANCE ONLY £1 - CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE**

**Location: Empire Hall, Graffham, GU28 0QB**

**[www.empirehall.org.uk/home/easter-market](http://www.empirehall.org.uk/home/easter-market)**



## Grab some goodies at Graffham Easter Market

Spring is on its way, and Graffham's Easter Market is coming back in all its glory, for the first time since before the pandemic – on Saturday 1 April!

The Empire Hall will be full of colourful stalls brimming with lovely things to buy – French soaps, beautiful linens, artisan hand-made goodies for your home, jolly hats for the summer, locally-brewed craft beers, freshly baked bread...

There'll be Simnel cakes and hot cross buns on the usual Graffham produce stall of home-bakes and much much more! After all the shopping why not relax in the sunshine, chatting to your friends over a cup of tea and slice of cake.

The Easter Market is the main annual fund-raiser to keep our lovely, characterful Empire Hall going for now, tomorrow and for future generations and for us all to meet up and do what Graffham does best – have fun and natter!

Organiser Sally Blunt said: "Lots of villagers have already kindly offered to help set things up, take things down and man stalls in between, but the more the merrier as many hands make light work. Are you new to the village and would like to get involved? Do get in touch, we would love to meet you."

Please contact Sally Blunt at [sallyblunt@btinternet.com](mailto:sallyblunt@btinternet.com) or on 07854 732566.



### THE HOME PRODUCE STAND NEEDS YOU!

If you can contribute any goodies to the Easter Market, please contact Gaye Foord at [cgfoord@icloud.com](mailto:cgfoord@icloud.com)





# Fab prizes to be won in Easter Market raffle

Some wonderful prizes are up for grabs in the 2023 Graffham Easter Market raffle – thanks to many generous local donors. Four books, each of five tickets (costing £1 a ticket), have been delivered with this edition of Graffham Parish News. Don't feel you have to buy them, but it'd be lovely if you do as this is the year's major fund-raiser to keep our wonderful Empire Hall shipshape!

If you want more raffle tickets, they are available from Graffham Village Shop – and at the Easter Market in the Empire Hall on Saturday 1 April 2023, from 10.30am until the raffle is drawn just before it closes at 2pm.

To enter, fill in each ticket stub with your surname, phone number and, ideally, your email address. Then:

- Hand in your stubs, cash payment and any unused tickets in an envelope at Graffham Village Shop before the close of business on Friday 31 March 2023.
- Hand in your stubs and payment by cash, card or contactless at Graffham Easter Market in the Empire Hall on Saturday 1 April in time for the draw shortly before 2pm.

Winners will be notified with the results posted on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard.

Good luck – and thanks again to all the kind donors of prizes!



EMPIRE HALL, GRAFFHAM  
Reg Charity Number 30328

**Easter Raffle**

Lots of amazing prizes, including:  
■ Tickets to Goodwood Festival and Racecourse  
■ Dinner for two at Midhurst's Spread Eagle Hotel  
■ Champagne afternoon tea for two at Bepton's Park House Hotel  
■ Family day out at Singleton's Weald and Downland Museum  
■ Dinner or lunch for two at Midhurst's Spread Eagle Hotel  
■ A spring hamper  
■ Various bottles and other goodies

The draw will take place at Graffham Easter Market at the Empire Hall on Saturday 1 April 2023 at 2pm.  
Prizes will be drawn by the Graffham Village Shop and the draw will be held in the presence of a Justice of the Peace.  
Registered under the Gambling Act 2005 with Chichester District Council (00000000000000000000)

Ticket Price £1

**Your raffle tickets have been distributed with this magazine.**

## Some of the great raffle prizes up for grabs

- Tickets for two to the Goodwood Revival.
- Tickets for two to Goodwood Racecourse's meet.
- A family day out to Singleton's Weald and Downland Museum.
  - Dinner or lunch for two at Midhurst's Spread Eagle Hotel.
- Champagne afternoon tea for two at Bepton's Park House Hotel.
  - A spring hamper.
  - Various bottles and other goodies.

**The full list of prizes and full details will be displayed at the Easter Market**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE EASTER MARKET BY PROVIDING A PRIZE FOR THE RAFFLE?**

Contact Sally Blunt at 07854 732566

*All contributions welcome!*

# Graffham Chronicles: Village's 'grand old lady'

*In her regular column, village historian Pauline Goodwin this month looks back at the life and times of the Empire Hall.*

The Empire Hall, the grand old lady of Graffham, is now in its 116th year – and looking better than it has for years, set in well-groomed surroundings, with the magnificent, juvenile copper beech standing over it. The hall sits comfortably within our village with a design that seems to have many nods to its founder, James Buchanan, owner at the time of the Lavington Stud.

The style of roof is key here and is known by a variety of names – gambrel, mansard, hipped or Dutch. This style of roof originated in North America among the indigenous tribes of the Pacific Northwest and then spread across the northern reaches of the continent. Gambrel, by the way, according to The Dictionary of Americanism, is “so called from the resemblance to the hind leg of a horse



**Mr James Buchanan, who became Lord Woolavington and built the Empire Hall for Graffham.**

which farriers term the gambrel” – so very fitting for a village with a strong relationship with the horse.

Mr Buchanan, who was knighted in 1920 before being elevated two years later to become Lord Woolavington, also began his life in the same continent, in Brockville, Ontario, Canada. His parents were Scottish immigrants who moved to Larne, Northern Ireland, shortly after his birth in 1849. His father was employed as a quarry manager there. So both the building and benefactor had humble origins.

He bought the Lavington Estate – which back then included what are today the buildings and grounds of Seaford College, Lavington and Westerlands Studs, Haylands Farm and much of the villages of East Lavington and Graffham – in 1903 after amassing a fortune in the whisky trade. By the time of the Empire Hall's opening, his Black and White blended Scotch was the best-selling brand in England. At the stud, he bred winners of the Epsom Derby and St Leger's.

He was a generous benefactor to the village – with the Empire Hall just one of his local legacies. Its opening ceremony, in 1907, was a lavish affair. One of the chief speakers, also originating from Canada, was Andrew Bonar Law MP who later



A picture postcard of the Empire Hall, postmarked 1908, the year after the building's opening. Original copies are held in the Graffham Archive.

became Prime Minister. He said of James Buchanan that “the hall was the crown of what he had done for Graffham”. The *West Sussex Gazette* at the time quoted Mr Buchanan as saying that the hall was “strictly a sample of home enterprise... built and fitted entirely by the employees on the estate and the men of the district working under agent Mr Hales”. The ‘men of the district’ would have included Mr Pinker who also built Fairacre, Thereaway and Chart Cottage.

A document in the Graffham Archive records that the hall’s building materials were also literally home grown, as the roof timbers were cut from the wood behind Carpenters Town – although the greenness of these timbers actually caused structural problems in later years.

No record was made of the hall’s architect but the modest and unpretentious design has a strong likeness to two of the barns at the stud. The design followed Buchanan’s requirement that the hall should have a high capacity of 400 villagers. The gambrel roof – with its hipped design providing extra headroom – increased capacity, housing 75 on the balcony.

Of the building’s interior, Mr Buchanan told *The West Sussex Gazette*: “They have

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certainly much to be proud of in the building they have put up, which includes the library and reading room, on either side of the entrance and a capitably arranged kitchen". The kitchen featured a coke stove for heating, a "copper" in the corner

with a chamber underneath for lighting a fire to heat the water and the WI's machine for canning fruit.

The Weller family raised the money to "go on the electric" in this period, marking the end of the copper and lights with their fragile Welsbach mantels. The committee rooms had various functions, as medical consulting facilities.

Graffham has a long history of reading rooms and in 1890 such a provision was marked on a map at The Pines. With the opening of the Empire Hall, the Graffham and East Lavington Free Library was housed in its Kennedy Room. Used now as the

**The West Sussex Gazette's report on the Empire Hall's opening in 1907.**

bar, this room is named after Colonel Sydney Kennedy of South Ambersham, who was a manager of Lavington Stud and second chairman of the Hall Committee, succeeding General Turner, also a manager of the stud, who lived at the Malt House. The library was stocked with a rich variety of books and was still active when I was a teenager although then some books were supplied on a rotational basis by the West Sussex County Council Library Service. The library, in the 1960s, was run by several villagers, including Kate Drawbridge who with her husband Commander "Tat" Drawbridge built and lived at Willows Lee. These volunteers would run the library and order specific books from the county library, a service which I was very fortunate to use in the 1960s to access texts for A Levels.

Previous hall caretakers are remembered. George Howick is noted for his magic lantern shows, a less technical forerunner of the more recent Graffham Empire Movies. He was followed by Mrs Weller, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs Ned Challen, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Olive Challen, Mrs Earle, Mrs Robinson and Mrs Wakeford. According to the Graffham Archive, pay was "4d an hour and 25/6d for closing up after functions ending after 10pm" – equivalent to less than 2p and £1.27 in today's money.

The hall was called into service during the two World Wars. In 1914 recruitment was held there for the Territorial Army. It also served as base for the village's Air Raid Precautions team, the Home Guard and evacuation authorities, culminating

in September 1939 with the arrival of three parties of evacuees, to be homed locally, away from the heaviest bombing.

In peace time, the hall served the village well with events such as boxing tournaments, run by Ben Wareham, and square dancing. One remarkable occasion that comes to mind was in the early 1960s when Lady McDonald Buchanan, successor to Lord Woolavington, held a tea party at the hall. This was for all of the numerous stud staff and their families, including me. Her ladyship circulated through the packed hall and spoke to every single person, including the Tomlinsons, the Claydons, the Strudwicks and Eric Miles.

In the 1950s and 60s Whist and Beetle Drives were popular. Whist Drives, organised by the football, bowls and stoolball clubs, attracted big crowds with “tables spread into all parts of the building”. At one time “40 new packs of cards were ordered”, again according to the archives.

More recent events include Christmas and Easter fairs, flower shows, public meetings, toddler sessions, playgroups, youth clubs and private functions, and sports activities such as badminton, keep fit, yoga, line dancing and ballet. At election times, it is our local polling station, and it is where Graffham

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Virtually every key event in the nation's and village's lives has been marked at the Empire Hall – from its uses as a World War I Territorial Army recruitment station (above), to a dinner to welcome home service men after World War II (below, top), to the popular annual Graffham Football Club gatherings (below, middle), to farewells, such as to the Rev David Grant in 1986 (bottom).



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Parish Council holds its meetings. Janet Wakeford recalls the Monday night table tennis sessions in the 1950s. For decades, the Brownies, Guides, Cubs and Scouts held meetings and their annual gang show there. Theatrical productions, including by the village am dram group the Rustics, were among the most hall's popular events – to be detailed in a future article...

Dances have been in demand during war and peace times. Many Canadians stationed in the area during World War II frequented dances in the hall and more recently there have been well attended events like Bob Crosdill's discos in the 1980s and 1990s, Don Allen's Valentine's Day dances, Sally Blunt's retro tea dances, Burns Night reeling and Jim Kirke's band nights, such as last month's Le Freak. Over the years, it has hosted countless wedding receptions, christening parties and funeral wakes, besides the Ameer of Bahawalpur's legendary Christmas parties for the children of the neighbourhood.

This is the Empire Hall – people of the village sharing experiences and finding joy in coming together! Let us remember the vision of its founder James Buchanan who said at its opening ceremony back in 1907: "This hall is to be the means of giving amusement, pleasure and improvement to the people living in the neighbourhood". Well over a century later, it is still going strong.



**Hear how we look after this local heritage site, our plans for the future and how you could help**

- Tuesday premises/landscaping maintenance group
- Machinery/engineering maintenance
- Stewarding
- Custodial and research team
- Learning (schools) activity days

The site will be open and the waterwheel-driven pump working (river level permitting).

**Free tea, coffee and biscuits**

**[coultershaw.co.uk](http://coultershaw.co.uk)**



The piper leads the haggis party around the hall before the sell-out ensemble tucked in for the traditional Burns Night supper.      Photos © Vikki Burcombe.

## Pipers, haggis, neeps and reels for Burns Night

Graffham's traditional Burns Night celebration in the Empire Hall, on Saturday 28 January, was its usual rip-roaring success – a sell out, with every table taken for the time-honoured supper of haggis and neeps and the floor packed for reeling to the Sussex Pistol pipe band.

Many of those attending had brushed up their dancing skills at the dance practice sessions organised in the hall on Sundays throughout January.

David Garrard returned to perform the traditional address to the haggis after it had been paraded around the hall by its piping party led by a lone bagpiper before everyone tucked in.



One of the table groups is all smiles – before the reeling gets underway.



Organisers-in-chief Harriet and Clive Rowntree.



# Briefing from the Belfry: A ring of 50

An occasional column from Graffham's team of bellringers

Many readers will know Vicky Chase. She lived in Graffham for around 15 years from 1976 – with its hot summer during which her mother fetched water from the standpipe! She learned to ring the church bells at our own St Giles a decade or so after that big heat, alongside many of the present village ringers – and has been instrumental in training, co-ordinating and motivating Graffham's bellringers in recent years with a team of instructors who make the journey to our Tuesday training sessions, even in the depths of winter.

In bell ringing circles, her official title is Training and Recruitment Team Leader for the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers (SCACR) and her commitment to the activity will be even greater as she undertakes an ambitious challenge to celebrate her 50th birthday on the 27 April. Her plan is to ring bells in 50 Sussex bell towers in 50 days. To make it all a bit more complicated, those 50 days coincide with Holy Week, when there is no ringing. So she is having to double up on some towers to compensate. She'll kick off on Saturday 11 March – at St Giles – when she'll join the Graffham ringers for their regular practice session on the second Saturday of the month. That will be followed by her home tower, Kirdford, on the same afternoon.



**Ringer Vicky Chase.**

Thereafter she will tour the many towers of Sussex in a carefully planned journey over the subsequent weeks. In each location, she will slot into the regular practice sessions or Sunday ringing (bellringers are famously welcoming to visitors) and will be undoubtedly challenged by some of the 'methods' she will be expected to ring. St Nicholas is one of her favourite methods and she's hoping that at least one of the venues will have enough ringers to offer this for her.

She is also relishing ringing in some bigger towers. While St Giles has six bells, there are several towers in the county with eight bells, and she is looking forward to one of Brighton's with ten.

Along the way she will be collecting donations for the SCACR Bell Restoration Fund. If you'd like to support her in her unique challenge to preserve and restore bells across Sussex, come and watch her at 10am on Saturday 11 March at St Giles – or go to [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/50towers](https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/50towers).

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## FIRST AID TRAINING

In The Pavilion

Friday 14 April                      10am-12noon or 1-3pm

*Open to all Graffham and East Lavington residents*

Each course will include training in CPR, defibrillator use  
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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In The Pavilion

Friday 14 April                      4.30pm

*Open to all Graffham and East Lavington residents*

# Graffham Down Tracks: Phil Jones

*An regular feature in which 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, Phil Jones.*

Phil grew up in South Croydon in the Sixties and Seventies with, he remembers, its lively music scene: “The Greyhound in the centre of town had a relaxed attitude towards underage patrons and acts I saw included David Bowie and Roxy Music (on the same bill!) and a lot of Status Quo.”

In the mid Eighties, he was running his own pubs – and met Susie, who became his wife. The arrival of twins prompted a new venture and in 1994 they opened the Oakapple Trading Company in Petworth, moving to their Graffham home the following year.

Phil has played an active role in the Graffham social scene, co-writing and producing village pantos and acting as ringmaster for summer and Christmas fairs and festivals.



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



or point your phone camera at this QR code.

**1 Scheherazade Op 35** *Rimsky-Korsakov* Childhood memories of Sir Malcolm Sargent concerts at Fairfield Halls, Croydon.

**2 Surf's Up** *The Beach Boys* The creative genius that is Brian Wilson. Bonkers lyrics though.

**3 Dancefloor** *Tracy Thorn* Apparently the most played track on my Spotify account. It takes me straight back to Scarletts, South Croydon, in the early Eighties.

**4 Ain't No Pleasing You** *Chas & Dave* I was lucky enough to spend time with them while they were touring clubs promoting Courage Best Bitter. Listen carefully and hear the kitchen sink thrown in early on.

**5 Us and Them** from *Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon* Best heard in quadrophonic, lying on the floor in a darkened room between four huge coffin-shaped speakers. It was the Seventies after all.

**6 The In Crowd** *Bryan Ferry* The opening track to the film of the novel I am definitely going to get around to writing. Definitely.

**7 Four Strong Winds** *Neil Young*. It took me a long time to appreciate Neil Young. Then I heard this poignant song about the end of a relationship.

**8 See the Sun** *Dido* A sing-along family favourite on the long holiday drives through France.

**Book:** *A History of the World in 100 Objects* *Neil MacGregor*

**Luxury item:** A vineyard.

## Last Graffham Down work party of early 2023

Graffham Down Trust's final work party for the early part of the year is scheduled for Saturday 11 March. 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](mailto: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 by 1pm.



## Help keep our flying medics in the air

Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) is looking for more volunteers to keep it flying to save lives across our part of the South Downs and further afield. The appeal comes after the service recorded its busiest year yet in 2022, responding to 3,224 incidents, with 947 of them in Sussex. Many of the new volunteers are needed to help it raise the £16.5 million a year it costs to keep its rotors on standby and in operation every hour of every day – marshalling at events, speaking at community gatherings along with helping run its office and more. Just a few hours every now and then is all that's needed and people of all ages and abilities are welcome to apply. KSS's Bridget Pepper said: "Besides providing our charity with critical support, volunteers enjoy many benefits, including meeting new people, attending events and feeling a sense of pride in supporting an incredible charity in their local community."

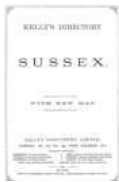


For more details, contact [volunteering@aaakss.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@aaakss.org.uk) or see [aaakss.org.uk](http://aaakss.org.uk)



# Graffham Parish News' marvellous March quiz

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



- 1 According to Kelly's Directory of Sussex for 1899, where was Graffham's nearest telegraph office?
- 2 Which musician co-founded Chic and also wrote hits for Sister Sledge, David Bowie and Madonna among many others?



3 When England won the (then) Five Nations Grand Slam in 1980, which Leeds-born Wales player was sent off in the 9-8 Twickenham "bloodbath"?

4 Which former British Prime Minister will be 80 on 29 March?

5 Which actor, whose breakthrough rôle was as Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead in the 1964 film *Zulu*, is 90 on 14 March ?



- 6 Where is your genioglossus muscle?
- 7 Which is the only British bird that can climb down a tree headfirst?
- 8 In the context of gardening, what are dannocks?
- 9 The musical term *mesto* indicates that a piece should be played in what manner?
- 10 In which BBC sitcom do Toby Jones and Mackenzie Crook play forklift truck driver Lance Stater and archaeology student Andy Stone?



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- 1 Selham railway station.
- 2 Nile Rodgers.
- 3 Paul Ringer.
- 4 John Major.
- 5 Michael Caine.
- 6 It makes up 80% of your tongue.
- 7 Nuthatch.
- 8 Hedging gloves.
- 9 Sadly.
- 10 *Detectors*.



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March 2023

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Book by RICHARD STILGOE & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

Based on the novel 'Le Fantôme de l'Opéra' by GASTON LEROUX

# Nature Notes: Something 'fishy' in your house

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

Last night I awoke from a nightmare with a beating heart and a dry mouth. Dragging on my dressing gown I stumbled into the kitchen and hit the light switch. There, stood in the middle of my kitchen, was a fantastical creature straight out of the dark, primordial corners of my imagination. Dazzled by the light, it recoiled and, like a droplet of quicksilver, flowed across the lino and under the fridge.

We humans allow many animals into our homes – dogs, cats, budgies, iguanas – but other animals live with us too, uninvited. Silverfish are nocturnal creatures of damp crevices. Those dark unacknowledged areas under our baths and sinks provide their perfect 'des res'.

They've netted the name 'fish' because of their shiny scales and wiggling movement but silverfish are actually primitive insects. They're quite unique. Their only close relative in Britain is the wonderfully named firebrat. (Unlike silverfish, firebrats love extreme heat and were once a familiar sight around the

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brickwork of fireplaces. Today firebrats flourish around furnaces and industrial catering ovens.).

For such primitive creatures, silverfish have a courtship ritual far more tender and romantic than some of my clumsy performances. Male and female face off



and tentatively touch their trembling antennae. If this first date goes well they'll progress to the next stage – a joyous chase before snuggling side-by-side.

They feed on anything containing starch or cellulose – spilt food, hair and flakes of human skin. When it comes to eating dandruff, they're head and shoulders above the rest. They've achieved notoriety by eating neglected books, nibbling on paper and the glue in bindings.

You may want to banish them from your home but silverfish are here to stay. The ones we see today are pretty much the same creature that existed in the Devonian period, around 400 million years ago. Their body structure and lifestyle are perfectly adapted for life on Earth and, hell, if it ain't broke don't fix it. Let's just pause a moment to consider that fact – silverfish have been silverfish for 400 million years.

In that time they've seen it all come and go. They were already ancient when T Rex came stomping 68 million years ago. They watched us whippersnappers climb out of the trees 2.8 million years ago, and they were still here when I looked under my fridge last night.

Silverfish were around when our planet was being built and they've hung around long enough to watch us humans dismantle it. And when our failing species make itself extinct, they'll just shrug their little silverfish shoulders and carry on. And all those pretty words we have written will be slowly eaten by the silverfish until the next bunch of chancers evolve and claim that they're the dominant species on this planet.



# Meet your neighbour: St Giles Place's first residents

*A regular feature in which we introduce local residents. This month, editor Michael Blunt catches up with Anthony and Fenella Forsyth, who became the first occupants of the new houses built around Graffham's Homes of Rest last autumn.*

When Anthony and Fenella Forsyth first walked through the front door of 1 St Giles Place on their moving-in-day on 30 September last year – as the first occupants of any of the five new houses built around the Homes of Rest – they both felt they had come home.

Although they have never actually had a Graffham postal address before, the village is very much familiar turf to them. They lived close by for 21 happy years – over the A272 in Lodsworth from 1995 and then, from 2002, in a former barn and cow shed they converted from ruins in the hills above Easebourne.

During this time, their daughters Annie and Sophie attended Graffham Playgroup – Nella was a member of its committee at the time it moved from the Empire Hall to the village school in around 1998 – and on to Graffham Infants School itself before heading to Churcher's College in Petersfield.

Then in 2016, they tore themselves away from the beautiful home they had created at Lower Vining Barn, with its views towards Midhurst and across to Graffham Down, and moved to Loxwood to help Annie establish an equestrian business, living “on the job” in the farmhouse there.

It was in Graffham that Annie had caught the horse bug. Hannah Stickley became her very first friend at the playgroup, on the climbing frame in its Empire Hall days, and quickly invited her back home to Eastwood Stud to see the ponies there. And one thing led to another.... The Forsyth girls and Mum Nella became very involved with horses, Cowdray Pony Club and all things eventing – dressage, show jumping and cross country.

With Annie just turned 30 and due to marry in May this year, and with her horse enterprise trotting along very nicely, Ant and Nella felt, after seven years helping her hold the reins, that they could ease off and retire.

For him, that meant a real retirement, finally, having in 2019 given up his commute to the City after 40 years working in marine insurance underwriting at Lloyds. It can't have been too bad a career – for daughter Sophie, now 27, is following in her Dad's footsteps in the same sector, while living in Clapham, London. Ant and Nella



**Anthony and Fenella Forsyth outside their new home, 1 St Giles Place.**

put their Loxwood house on the market last spring and quickly accepted an offer – on April Fool’s Day! They looked at one or two properties that came onto the market here in Graffham, which didn’t work out – but made them firmly decide “to come home”.

Nella said: “It made me realise very quickly that this was the place I wanted to be. We would have loved to have moved here long ago, but it would have been too long a commute for Ant in those days before ‘working from home’.”

They had a family weekend away for a landmark birthday when the marketing details for the St Giles Place development came through and immediately booked a slot as early as they could on the viewing open day in late May – as one of around 100 potential purchasers to check the houses out that day.

The house they wound up buying was not on their target list originally. Nella explained: “It’s something of a modern ‘take’ on a barn conversion and we had long said we weren’t going to live in another barn. But it was the developer’s show

▶ *Continued on next page*

► *Continued from previous page*

home and we absolutely loved it. Its layout suits us better, and it has such an amazing outlook across the rural landscape that makes this area so special.” Ant took up the theme: “After living in period properties, it’s wonderful to be somewhere with no draughts, that’s well insulated and where there’s nothing requiring the attention of my non-existent DIY skills! The house was immaculate when we moved in – beautifully decorated and clean. There were just a few of the inevitable snagging issues you get with any new house, but nothing major and all put right by the developer.”

As for many retirees who make this kind of move, though, it is quite a down-size for them after living on a 60-acre farm, so they had to dispose of a considerable amount of furniture and clutter built up since they married in 1987 in St Michael’s Church, Betchworth, Surrey – which a few years later was the film set for one of the nuptials in the hit movie *Four Weddings And A Funeral*.

Nella had grown up in Betchworth and met Ant initially when she was 17. He was a few years older and friends with her eldest big brother, who he’d met through Reigate Rugby Club. But it was a few years later before he and Nella got together. He had been born in Formby, Lancashire, but at the age of three his family moved down to Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, and then to Reigate in 1970.

**How have they found Graffham since moving?** Nella said: “It feels like we’ve come full circle, returning home to the place we love. We received a lovely warm welcome from our neighbours and the many old friends who wonderfully are still here. We look forward to getting to know more residents as time goes on.”

With several of their old friends lynchpins of St Giles’ belltower, it didn’t take much to persuade Nella to start learning the ropes, too. Anthony has joined the village gentlemen’s ‘Cardigan Club’ midweek pub sessions, and the pair were to be found reeling at the Burns Night Celebration in the Empire Hall in January.

One of the village’s great assets that they had not previously appreciated is the variety of walks it offers. They have been busy making up for that by exploring the neighbourhood’s footpaths – many of which they find mysteriously end up at Heyshott’s Unicorn pub! The terrain here is ideal too for Ant’s mountain biking.

Soon, they plan to venture further afield. With a Volkswagen campervan on order, they aim to explore more of the UK and mainland Europe, starting with France and Italy.

But they will never be away for long. Graffham will be calling them home.



The amazing panorama overlooking Graffham from the viewpoint on Duncton Hill captured beautifully by © Stuart Gerrett and posted to the Beautiful Sights in and Around Graffham Facebook page.

## Introducing the Goodwood Education Trust

The Goodwood Education Trust is an independent charity operating on the Goodwood Estate. Established in 1976 by the 10th Duke of Richmond and Gordon, it promotes awareness and understanding of the natural environment to young people, particularly the disadvantaged.

Its principal areas of operation are Home Farm, the estate's working organic mixed farm, and Seeley Copse, a 20-acre area of semi-ancient woodland where the trust is based, in a purpose built Education Centre, opened in 2021. It works with children, particularly the disadvantaged who may otherwise not have the opportunity to experience learning outdoors, strengthening their connection with food production and benefitting from the natural environment.

Countryside Stewardship Funding is helping the trust overcome barriers that schools face in getting their children learning outdoors. It is using these funds to invite schools

across West Sussex and East Hampshire/Portsmouth with particularly high numbers of children eligible for free school meals to come and spend a day there – even contributing towards their transport costs.

To find out more, see [www.goodwood.com](http://www.goodwood.com)



**Bluebells will soon be out at Goodwood Education Trust's Seeley Copse.**



# Bill's bygones: MCC, Lurgashall Winery, Red Rum

*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 – March 2013:** Vera Boxall (right) celebrates her 100th birthday. Hilary Major steps down as Tower Captain of St Giles' bellringers after 16 years, with Carole Kirke taking over. MCC Chairman Oliver Stocken speaks at the Men's Breakfast at the Foresters Arms. Roger Bricknell, one of Concorde's flight engineers, addresses the Thursday Club. Jorge Mario Bergoglio (alias Francis) becomes the 266th, but first Jesuit, Pope. David Miliband announces his retirement as a Labour MP. TV drama *Broadchurch* premieres. Deaths of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez (aged 58), jazz musician Kenny Ball (82), and actors Frank Thornton (92) and Richard Griffiths (65).



**25 years ago – March 1998:** Val Wingate (right) takes over as landlady of the Three Moles. Petworth's Leconfield Hall is awarded a £125,000 Lottery Fund grant for internal restorations, including a lift. BBC TV's *Holiday* programme features Jill Dando visiting Lurgashall Winery. James Cameron's *Titanic* wins 11 Oscars. Rapper Eminem is signed by Interscope Records.



**50 years ago – March 1973:** A winter prunus is planted in St Giles' churchyard by the Graffham branch of the Royal British Legion. Patricia Wilkinson of Brookdene organises a Good Companions' visit to Horsham Theatre to see *Twelfth Night*, in which her daughter Anna Carteret (of *Juliet Bravo* fame) plays Olivia. London is targeted by IRA bombs at the same time a referendum is held in Northern Ireland to decide whether it should remain part of the United Kingdom (99% are in favour, but less than 1% of Catholics vote). Red Rum wins the Grand National for the first time. Marlon Brando wins Best Actor for *The Godfather* at the Oscars, but boycotts the ceremony, Liza Minnelli wins Best Actress for *Cabaret*. David Cassidy sells out three Wembley concerts. The top three UK singles are *Cum On Feel The Noize* (Slade), *Part of the Union* (The Strawbs) and *Blockbuster* (Sweet). Pink Floyd's landmark album *Dark Side of the Moon* is released. Death of arts all-rounder Noël Coward (73).

## Graffham Tennis Club

January and February's drier weather has allowed more of our winter league matches to go ahead. Graffham's teams are all sitting comfortably in their respective divisions with the Mixed A team in with a chance of promotion to Division 1. The Mixed B team have had some thrilling matches, including an extremely impressive debut from Theo Longman. The summer league schedule should be out soon. New players are always welcome. We will be running Ladies A and B Doubles teams, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles.











Our recent results:

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
<b>27 Jan</b>	<b>Lost 2-6</b>	<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	<b>Div 3</b>	<b>v Kingsley</b>
<b>29 Jan</b>	<b>Lost 2-6</b>	<b>Ladies Doubles</b>	<b>Div 2</b>	<b>v Midhurst A</b>
<b>5 Feb</b>	<b>Lost 2-6</b>	<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	<b>Div 3</b>	<b>v Fernhurst B</b>

And forthcoming fixtures:

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants League home fixtures: March					
Do come and spend a spring morning supporting your teams!					
<b>5</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	<b>Div 3</b>	<b>v Midhurst B</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>10am</b>	<b>Ladies Doubles</b>	<b>Div 2</b>	<b>v Swanmore</b>

Key dates for 2023 have also been finalised – so all club members are encouraged to make a note of these:

     				  		
<b>13 Mar</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Tennis Club AGM, in the Pavilion</b>			
<b>26 Mar</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>2-4pm</b>	<b>Membership renewals – come and renew your membership and mix in on the courts.</b>			
<b>22 Jul</b>	<b>Sat</b>		<b>Graffham Tennis Week – to Fri 28 July.</b>			
<b>7 Oct</b>	<b>Sat</b>	<b>Evening</b>	<b>Presentation evening and end of season social.</b>			
      						

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# Property watch

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

**6 Wallace Square, Lavington Park GU28 0FJ:** Five-bedroomed terraced house, two bath/shower rooms plus cloakroom, sitting room, kitchen/diner, garage, 0.11 acre garden. 199sq m/2,146sq ft. Guide price £895,000. *Savills, Petworth, 01798 303558. Added 20 Feb.*



# 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](https://bit.ly/sdnp-planning)*

**Woodland South of Graffham:** Felling licence consultation. SDNP/23/00590/FOR. *Received: 3 Feb.*

**Hoyle Depot, Topleigh Road, Graffham GU28 0LR:** Consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to upgrade five existing spans of high voltage overhead line. SDNP/23/00430/SCREEN. *Received: 26 Jan.*

**Pilgrims Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NP:** Notification of intention to fell one silver birch tree. *Received: 19 Jan.*

**Pescods Store, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NP:** Notification of intention to reduce height and width on one tulip tree and one pin oak tree. *Received: 17 Jan.*

**Old House, Selham Road, South Ambersham GU29 0BX:** Repairs to external fabric and internal alterations and proposed replacement single storey rear extension and reconfiguration of the existing kitchen and utility room with alterations to windows. SDNP/23/00131/LIS and SDNP/22/05698/LIS. *Received: 12 Jan and 7 Dec.*

# Royal Academy exhibition at Petworth House

A specially curated exhibition from the Royal Academy of Arts, featuring artworks it has not previously let out and a new work by Rebecca Salter PRA never before exhibited, will be on display at Petworth House this summer - from 6 March to 24 September, from 10.30am to 4pm daily. Once you have accessed the National Trust building, there is no additional charge to view the exhibition.







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# Crimestoppers and police appeals

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](https://bit.ly/crimeupdate)

**Graffham:** Between Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 January, a red and black Yanmar mini excavator was stolen from a site. *Serial 0281 24/01.*

**Heyshott, Bex Lane:** On Saturday 21 January, a vehicle was broken into and shoes and a coat stolen. *Serial 1339 21/01.*

**Easebourne, Cowdray Road:** Overnight between Thursday 9 and Friday 10 February, a white Transit van was stolen. *Serial 0211 10/02.*

**Upperton:** Between Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 February a barn was burgled. Power tools and building materials were stolen. *Serial 1350 07/02.*

**Lodworth, Bexley Hill:** Between Saturday 28 January and Sunday 5 February, a shed was burgled and a Yamaha TTR 125 trials motorbike stolen. *Serial 0349 10/02.*

**Boxgrove, The Street:** On the evening of Friday 3 February, the window of a residence was criminally damaged. *Serial 0624 03/02.*

**Fittleworth, Hesworth Common Lane:** On Thursday 2 February, a quantity of fuel was stolen from a property. *Serial 1087 07/02.*

**Lodsworth, River Lane:** Overnight between Thursday 2 and Friday 3 February, a site was burgled and power tools stolen. *Serial 0330 03/02.*

**Petworth, Market Square:** In the early hours of Monday 30 January, a business premises was burgled and stock stolen. *Serial 0133 30/01.*

**Lurgashall, Dial Green:** On Sunday 29 January, a residence was burgled. *Serial 0902 30/01.*

**Easebourne, Lutener Road:** Between Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 January, a vehicle was broken into and cash, jackets and sunglasses stolen. *Serial 0602 25/01.*

**Petworth, Tillington Road:** Between Thursday 19 and Saturday 21 January, a shed on an allotment was burgled and property stolen. *Serial 0661 21/01.*

**Northchapel:** Between Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 January, both number plates were stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 1235 18/01.*

**West Dean, Old Bakery Gardens:** Overnight Saturday 14-Sunday 15 January, a garage was burgled and a car broken into, with torches, a purse, and cash stolen. *Serial 0649 15/01.*

**Stedham, Mill Lane:** In the early hours of Thursday 12 January, a shed was burgled and tools stolen. *Serial 0782 17/01.*






**Tillington:** In the early hours of Wednesday 11 January, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0612 11/01.*

**Midhurst, Bridgefield Close:** In the early hours of Tuesday 10 January, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0007 11/01.*

**Midhurst, Railway Terrace:** Overnight between Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 January, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0944 10/01.*



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# Foodbank updates its urgent shopping list

Petworth Foodbank, which serves our local town and its surrounding villages, has updated its list of items most urgently needed, including long-life fruit juice, long-life sponge puddings, tomato soup, jam, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Please drop off any of these, or other, items you can spare at the collection points at Graffham Village Shop, Petworth Co-op or Midhurst Sainsbury's or Tesco. Only items that are in-date, unopened and, because of 'Natasha's Law' (to protect allergy sufferers), with a full ingredients list can be accepted.



- If you need help from the foodbank, see [chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/](http://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/)

**Petworth's Race Against Hunger:** Petworth Foodbank team members will be taking part in the Race Against Hunger on Saturday 1 April, running or walking a 5km route around Petworth Park – and everyone is welcome to join or sponsor them. Anyone taking part should meet at outside Petworth's United Reformed Church on the day at 2.30pm – and is asked to donate £10 and wear green. Sponsors can donate via [chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/](http://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/) – and put 'Petworth Race Against Hunger' in the comment box. For more info, contact [info@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk) and mark your e-mail 'Petworth Race Against Hunger'.

## PACT – bringing together 18 local churches

Petworth Area Churches Together (PACT) represents 18 different churches, of various denominations, in the area of Petworth and its surrounding villages. It arranges a number of services and activities for everyone in the area including:



- Petworth Food Bank, instigated and now a thriving enterprise.
- Coffee mornings every Friday in Petworth's United Reformed Church.
- Kids Club Week, normally at the end of the summer term.
- Twice-yearly talks by high profile Christian speakers.
- Christian Unity Week, with a special service and five lunchtime talks a year.
- Palm Sunday Procession through Petworth each year.
- Special service to inaugurate the annual Petworth Festival.

To find out more, see [petworthareachurchestogether.com](http://petworthareachurchestogether.com), call Gerald Gresham Cooke on 01798 342151 or email him at [geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com](mailto:geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com)



# Easter in Graffham and Woolavington



*The Rev Vivien previews the services and events planned for the village for this special season.*



**Holy Week in Graffham** We travel through the events of Holy Week, following our Lord's journey to the Cross to bring hope to our world.

**Sunday, 2 April 10.30am Palm Sunday Eucharist, St Giles Church**  
Blessing of palms and dramatised reading of the Passion Story.

**Thursday, 6 April Maundy Thursday Eucharist 7pm, followed by Watch of Prayer, St Giles Church**

Recalling the events in the Upper room, with our Lord's washing of the disciples' feet in humility and the institution of the Lord's Supper, followed by a Watch of Prayer.

**Good Friday, 7 April All Saints Chapel 1pm and St Giles Church 2-3pm** A reflective journey to keep vigil with readings and hymns until our Lord gives up his spirit on the Cross.



**Sunday, 9 April 6am Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter, St Giles – followed by breakfast** This service is sometimes held in the evening before

Easter Day, sometimes at dawn on Easter Sunday. From a fire kindled in the churchyard, the Easter candle will be lit and carried into a darkened church, as a sign of Christ's light overcoming darkness in the world. We hear the Exsultet, an ancient song sung in the candlelight, before sharing in thanksgiving in our first Easter Eucharist of 2023.



**Sunday, 9 April, 10.30am Easter Day Family Eucharist, St Giles** A celebration of Easter hope, with our church decorated with flowers and followed by St Giles' traditional Easter Egg hunt in and around the churchyard.



# 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 far south end of Graffham Street, near the Downs.
- All Saints' Chapel is opposite Graffham Village Shop.
- Both St Giles Church and All Saints' Chapel are open daily.
- See [stgilesgraffham.org](http://stgilesgraffham.org) or Facebook's @stgilesgraffham for any changes.
- Teddy Time is at the Rec Pavilion every Wednesday 10.15 to 11.30am

## March

5	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Lent 2	St Giles Church
7	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer & Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel
11	Sat	10am-12noon	Saturday Ringing Practice	St Giles Church
12	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Lent 3	St Giles Church
		6pm	BCP Evensong (summer timing)	All Saints Chapel
14	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer & Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel
19	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Worship	St Giles Church
21	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel
26	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Lent 5	St Giles Church
		11.30am	Annual Vestry Meeting and APCM	St Giles Church
28	Tue	9.30am	No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	

## April

### FOR FULL DETAILS OF ALL HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES IN GRAFFHAM

see opposite page





2	Sun	10.30am	Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist	Rec Pavilion
4	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Pilgrims at 10	All Saints Chapel
6	Thu	7pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot-washing ceremonies	St Giles Church
7	Fri	1 to 2pm	Good Friday reflective journey	All Saints Chapel to St Giles
		2 to 3pm	Good Friday before the Cross	
9	Sun	6am	First Eucharist of Easter	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Family Eucharist Easter Day	St Giles Church

We rely on the generosity of villagers and visitors to safeguard the future of Graffham's St Giles Church and the ability of our parish to deliver its mission to the community it serves – including this magazine. Please support them through a donation – preferably a regular one via our Parish Giving Scheme. For full details, see [www.bit.ly/stggive1](http://www.bit.ly/stggive1)

# Who's doing what at St Giles next month

If you cannot do your slot, please arrange a swap and advise Diane Bellis at [diane.bellis@gmail.com](mailto:diane.bellis@gmail.com) and the Rev Vivien at [reverendvivien@gmail.com](mailto:reverendvivien@gmail.com)

## Sidespeople, readers and readings for Sunday 10.30am services

5 March	Marie Bracey	Romans 4 v1-5, 13-17
12 March	Ann Brown	Romans 5 v1-11
19 March	Caldwell family	Colossians 3 v12-17
26 March	Sally Blunt	Romans 8 v6-11
2 April	All congregation	Liturgy of the Passion
6 April	Beanie Bradley	1 Corinthians 11 v 23-26
	<b>Flowers</b>	
	No flowers in March in recognition of Lent	
	<b>Cleaning</b>	
	Diane Bellis and Barbara Edge	
		



## Notices of Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Meeting for Election of Churchwardens

**Sunday 26 March 2023 11.30am St Giles Church, Graffham**

The Churchwarden meeting may be attended by anyone registered on the parish's electoral roll or resident in the parish.

Agenda items for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will include:

- Election of three representatives to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and two to the Deanery Synod.
- Consideration of the PCC's annual report and accounts.
- Reports of the proceedings of the Deanery Synod and other matters of parochial and Church interest.

*For formal agendas for both meetings and associated paperwork, see [stgilesgraffham.org/2023-apcm/](http://stgilesgraffham.org/2023-apcm/) or point your phone camera at this QR code.*





Thank you to © Martina Schneiderova for posting to Facebook's Beautiful Sights In And Around Graffham page this stunning picture of Graffham's Church Hill, taken on a frosty February morning.

## Other denominations locally

**Methodist:** Midhurst. *Minister:* David Muskett *Tel:* 01730 233436. *email:* [superintendent@esanddcircuit.org.uk](mailto:superintendent@esanddcircuit.org.uk). *Web:* [midhurstmethodist.com](http://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](mailto:petworth.abdiocese.org.uk). *Tel:* 01798 342169. *Web:* [www.petworthcatholic.org](http://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](http://sussexwestquakers.org.uk) *Meetings:* 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 10.30am.

**United Reformed Church:** Petworth. *Minister:* Revd Anne Lewitt *Tel:* 01798 872535. *Web:* [petworthurc.co.uk](http://petworthurc.co.uk) *Worship:* Sundays 10.30am.

# What's on in and around the village

March				
2	Thu		World Book Day	
4	Sat	9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
		9.30am	Wisboro' Green beekeepers introduction to beekeeping course	Rudgwick Village Hall
6	Mon	10.30am-4pm	Explorations in Paint art exhibition (to 24 Sep)	Petworth House
7	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
		2pm	Arts Society West Sussex illustrated talk <i>Canal History and Heritage</i>	Fittleworth Village Hall
8	Wed		National No Smoking Day	
			Lent lunch in aid of DEC's Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal (see page 5)	
9	Thu	2.30pm	Thursday Club talk Growing Up As A Teaplanter's Daughter in Sri Lanka (see p 7)	Empire Hall
		7.45pm	Petworth Fringe presents State of the Union	Leconfield Hall
11	Sat	9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party (see p 6)	Meet at St Giles
		am	Vicky Chase launches her 50 belltowers in 50 days challenge (see page 20)	
12	Sun	11am-3pm	Coultershaw volunteer open day (see p 18)	Coultershaw Mill
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
13	Mon	7.30pm	Graffham Tennis Club AGM	Pavilion
17	Fri		St Patrick's Day	
			Red Nose Day	
		7pm	Graffham Garden Group AGM and talk (see page 4)	Empire Hall
19	Sun	10.30 am	Mothering Sunday - with special service including presentation of posies to Mums	St Giles Church
20	Mon		First Day of Spring	
20	Mon	6.15pm	East Lavington Parish Council meeting	Seaford Coll
21	Tue	evening	Quiz night	Cricketers, Duncton
22	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
		7.30pm	Seaford College presents Phantom of the Opera (to 25 March) (see page 23)	Seaford College
24	Fri	7.30pm	Informal meeting to consider holding a 2023 Graffham Festival (see page 7)	Empire Hall
25	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth



26	Sun	1am	British summertime starts – clocks forward by one hour	
		2-4pm	Graffham Tennis Club membership renewal	Pavilion
28	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
31	Fri		WSCC schools and Seaford Coll term ends	
<b>April</b>				
1	Sat		Graffham Camping and Caravanning site reopens for the summer	
		10.30am	Graffham Easter Market	Empire Hall
7	Fri		Good Friday	
9	Sun		Easter Sunday – for details of Easter services at St Giles (including the Easter egg hunt in the churchyard) see page 40.	St Giles Church

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

<sup>2</sup>**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.

<b>Regular weekly activities (for notes, how to book, etc, see below)</b>			
<b>Mondays</b>	9-10am	Fitflows Fitness <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
<b>Tuesdays</b>	8.30am–12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
<b>Wednesdays</b>	9.15–10.15am	Yoga <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.15-11.30am	Teddy Time toddler group <sup>4</sup>	Pavilion
	7-8.30pm	Badminton <sup>5</sup>	Empire Hall
<b>Thursdays</b>	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>6</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise <sup>5</sup>	Empire Hall
	2-4pm	Post Office	Empire Hall
<b>Fridays</b>	9-10.15am	Yoga <sup>3</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.30-11.15am	Pilates <sup>7</sup>	Empire Hall

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

<sup>1</sup>**Fitflow Fitness:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

<sup>2</sup>**Osteopath:** Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 867523 or see [www.annashawcross.co.uk](http://www.annashawcross.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup>**Yoga:** Deborah Albone on 07790 867009.

<sup>4</sup>**Teddy Time:** No charge. All welcome. Just come along.

<sup>5</sup>**Badminton:** Contact Louisa Thomas, at [louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk). All welcome.

<sup>6</sup>**Ease Into Exercise:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

<sup>7</sup>**Pilates:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

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<b>All Saints Chapel Trust</b>	Chairman	Clive Rowntree	01798 867536
<b>Badminton</b>		Louisa Thomas	louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Bees / Swarms</b>			
	Wisboro' Green B'keepers	Tom Moore	07984 606214/01798 343470
	Local beekeeper	Murray West	evenings 01798 867048
<b>Chichester District Council</b>			
	District Councillor	Alan Sutton	01243 534734 asutton@chichester.gov.uk
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		Emergency	01243 785339
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<b>Graffham Cricket Club</b>		Bill Barrett	01798 867113
<b>Graffham Down Trust</b>	Chairman	Jim Kirke	01798 867026
<b>Graffham Garden Group</b>		Carole Kirke	01798 867026
<b>Graff'm Health Support Assc</b>	Chairman	Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
	Membership	Tracy Rowe	01798 867020
	Transport		07391 802541
	Prescription collection	Ann Rowney	ann.rowney@icloud.com
	Loan of equipment	Karin Skanberg	07920 091014

<b>Graffham Nursery</b>	School Office	01798 867324
<b>Graffham Parish Council</b>	Chairman Simon Mackie Clerk Vacant	simon.mackie@graffham-pc.uk clerk@graffham-pc.uk
<b>Graffham Parish News</b>	Editorial and circulation: Advertising:	editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com ads.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com See also bottom of inside front cover
<b>Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council</b>	Priest-in-Charge Rev Vivien Turner	stgilesgraffham.org 01798 867199 hallo@stgilesgraffham.org
	Churchwarden Ginny Barrett Treasurer Yvonne Churchward	01798 867113 07808 781510 graффhampcctreasurer@gmail.com
<b>Graffham Rec Committee</b>	Chairman John Bracey Treasurer Bernard Bayly Bookings Sec Sonya Gillespie	01798 867760 01798 867042 graффhamrecpavilion@gmail.com
<b>Graffham Tennis Club</b>	Chairman Simon Longman Membership Richard Gyles Coaching Emma Amin	01798 867317 01798 867484 01798 867063
<b>Graffham Village Shop</b>	Jeeva and Vasu	01798 867700 graффhamvillageshop.co.uk
<b>Graffham Vill'ge Shop Assoc</b>	Chairman Steve Dover Treasurer Ipe Jacob Secretary Henrietta Aparicio	07770 499223 ipe.jacob@icloud.com 07714 652856
<b>Katherine Maud Guillod Fund</b>	c/o Graffham PC Clerk	graффhampc@gmx.co.uk
<b>Lavington Park Federation</b>		graффhamanddunton.w-sussex.sch.uk
	Graffham CE Infant School Dunton CE Junior School Friends of Graffham & Dunton Schools	01798 867324 01798 342402 01798 867324
<b>Long Bostle Downland Soc</b>	Gillian Brandt	01798 867276
<b>MP Arundel &amp; South Downs</b>	Andrew Griffith	andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk
<b>Midhurst &amp; Petworth Observer</b>	Nikki Jeffery	01243 534163
<b>National Trust (Lavington Common)</b>		01730 816638
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	Michael Crickmay	01798 867486
<b>Osteopath</b>	Anna Shawcross	01798 867523
<b>Oil Buying Syndicate</b>	Derek Bradnum	derekbradnum@gmail.com
<b>Petworth Food Bank</b>		07501 921617
<b>Pilates at Empire Hall</b>	Nicky Capes	07990 517858
<b>Seaford College</b>		01798 867392
<b>Three Moles</b>	Ollie and Tom	thethreemoles.com 01798 861303
<b>Thursday Club</b>	Secretary Diane Bellis	01798 867444
<b>West Sussex County Council</b>	General enquiries County Councillor Tom Richardson	01243 777100 07463 785039
<b>White Horse</b>		whitehorsegraффham.com 01798 867331
<b>Yoga at Empire Hall</b>	Deborah Alborne	07790 867009





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