

# GRAFFHAM

## PARISH NEWS

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Church Editors  
Award winner 2022

### SPECIAL SOUVENIR EDITION



How our village celebrated  
King Charles III's Coronation



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**On the cover:** Annabel Heaton slices up the crowning glory cake she baked and decorated for Graffham's Coronation Big Picnic on the Rec on a sunny Sunday 7 May. Full reports on all the village's celebrations that weekend and lots more photos by © Colin Barker in our souvenir scrapbook from page 23.

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# Writing from the Rectory: Let bells peal forth

‘The bells are silent’ was the heading for my magazine letter in April. Well, since Easter Day, when the bells rang out joyfully again after the silence of Holy Week, they have hardly been silent at all. As well as continuing regular Sunday mornings, Tuesday practice nights and monthly Saturday ringing, they have rung to celebrate a Deanery Confirmation Service, the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, ‘Bell Sunday’ (a new occasion in the church services calendar), and the beginning of the Graffham weddings season.

We ding-donged merrily on Bell Sunday, introduced to recognise the contribution of bells and bellringers to the life of the Church. This service provided a good opportunity to sing bell-themed hymns like ‘Let bells peal forth...’ ‘Ring out ye bells below...’ to tunes like ‘Belfry praise’. We thanked all our ringers for their contribution to national and local occasions and village life – over the past year especially – and enjoyed the hospitality of the ringers with great cake after the service. Thank you!



It also provided a chance for me to liken becoming a ringer to becoming a Christian, as something which may happen quickly or slowly, something which requires teamwork and needs the assistance of a conductor – until the ringer or Christian gains sufficient confidence to follow the particular patterns of their method or calling, no longer needing to be instructed where to go or what to do.

I can testify that Graffham ringers are working as a great team, not just meeting as a group in their home tower, but also networking to towers beyond to share experience and friendship, and welcoming ringers to Graffham, especially for monthly Saturday morning ringing sessions with coffee... and more great cake.

► *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)



[@stgilesgraffham](https://www.facebook.com/stgilesgraffham)

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Graffham Christians are in good heart too, following the great Confirmation service with Bishop Ruth, working together to help plan Coronation celebrations and social activities in the parish, maintain our building and churchyards, and study and worship together at regular Sunday and festival services throughout the year.

For one small rural parish this is no mean feat. It needs the encouragement of its village community though. A church thrives with support. Can you help us keep ringing and worshipping here? We could not be more welcoming of those who come to share in worship or other activities. So, if you hear the bells ring out on Sunday morning and consider coming along, please don't hesitate.

And if you have ever wondered about learning to ring, Tower Captain Howard and his band of ringers will be more than delighted to welcome you, to have a go, and help them eat cake.



**Reverend Vivien**



## **FATHER'S DAY FAMILY CELEBRATION SERVICE**

**St Giles Church**

**Sunday 18 June 10.30am**

**All Dads – and everyone else – warmly welcome!**





Bishop Ruth snaps a selfie for her Twitter feed outside St Giles with the confirmation candidates and, at the back, Coates' Canon John Green.

## 'Our' Bishop Ruth makes first visit to parish

'Our' Bishop, Ruth Bushyager, made her first visit to the parish of Graffham with Woolavington since being appointed Bishop of Horsham three years ago – to conduct a confirmation service for four candidates at St Giles on Tuesday 2 May. Bathed in spring sunshine, the church, village and their surroundings looked their best – as the bishop noted during the event.

Three members of St Giles' congregation were confirmed by Bishop Ruth – Cindy Bradley, Victoria Caldwell and Julie Clark, along with a candidate from nearby Coates parish, Graham Roberts.

While here, she also blessed the new flagpole in St Giles' churchyard, erected courtesy of parishioner Bumble Findlay, in memory of her late husband former churchwarden and county councillor Brigadier Allan Findlay OBE.

## Vicky completes her bell-ringing marathon

Vicky Chase, who kicked off her fund-raising bell-ringing marathon in St Giles, where she learned the skill and teaches today, successfully reached her target of pulling bells in 50 towers across Sussex in 50 days to mark her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. She started the sprint on 11 March and finished on 29 April, raising more than £1,700 to help restore bells throughout the county. It's not too late to support her, at [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/50towers](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/50towers)

# Liberal Democrats take Graffham and Chichester

Graffham and East Lavington are now represented on Chichester District Council by a Liberal Democrat councillor with the party sweeping into overall control of the local authority in the 4 May election. In our Fittleworth ward, John Cross edged out incumbent Alan Sutton, of the Conservatives, by just 28 votes – 534 against 506 – while the Greens’ David Ross polled 84, with 44.4 per cent of the 2,538 electorate voting. All 36 places on the council were being contested – with the Liberal Democrats taking 25 of them, up from their previous 11 seats. The Conservatives, who led the council before the election with 17 councillors, were reduced to just five. The Greens retained their two seats with Local Alliance representatives doubling to four.



Our new  
district  
councillor  
John Cross

The district council’s responsibilities include planning (with South Downs National Park), building control, waste and recycling collection, housing, parking, public loos, licencing, leisure centres and parks.

## Roger is Graffham Parish Council’s new Chairman

Graffham Parish Council has a new Chairman, with Roger Coakes taking over the role from Simon Mackie who stood down from the body at the 4 May local elections after two years in the position and a further six as a councillor.



Consultant ophthalmic surgeon Roger has lived at Chestnut House, on The Street, with his wife Mary and two golden retrievers for 16 years. They were weekenders at Tinkers for five years before. He’s served on the parish council since 2021.

Besides Roger, Graffham Parish Council’s mix of nominated and co-opted members now comprises:

- Colin Barker, who will stay as environmental safeguarding lead.
- John Bracey, who will continue as Chairman of the Recreation Ground.
- Sandy MacQueen, who has agreed to stay on for a further period after completing two four-year terms and will remain the council’s planning lead.
- Jon Warren.

There is room for a couple of additional councillors, who can be co-opted. Roger said: “We would really welcome some new blood – particularly females to balance

the current all-male membership.” If you are tempted, contact him at [roger.coakes@graffham-pc.uk](mailto:roger.coakes@graffham-pc.uk)

**East Lavington Parish Council:** Four councillors were re-elected uncontested in 4 May’s election, with the fifth co-opted at its Annual Parish Meeting on 15 May, when responsibilities were also allocated. They are Charles Britton, as Chairman, Barry Gosden (Vice-Chairman and lead for Highways, Footpaths and Minerals & Waste), Patrick Limpus (Finance), Simon Longman (Localism) and Will Yates (Police Liaison and Seaford College & Lavington Park). All councillors have responsibility for Planning.

## Post Office in Empire Hall

The Empire Hall Management Committee was working hard with the Post Office to reinstate the Post Office outreach service in the hall, as this edition went to press. The Post Office suspended the service “with much regret” in April after a serious security incident in a nearby village. All parties hope that it will be back in operation soon, potentially even by the time you read this. Meantime, if you are in **urgent** need of a post office and cannot travel to one in Cocking, Midhurst or Petworth, email [sallyblunt@btinternet.com](mailto:sallyblunt@btinternet.com) or phone 01798 867346 to see if a lift can be arranged.

## First homes connected to ultrafast broadband

The first phase of the neighbourhood’s ultrafast broadband was activated as this edition went to press, with 35 homes in and around Guillods linked up to the new fibre optic capability that is being rolled out across Graffham, East Lavington and Hoyle. More than 350 households and businesses signed up to bring this high speed connectivity to the community, exceeding the threshold to ensure it is put in place for free through grants. The rest will be activated soon.

## Top marks for Seaford

Seaford College has been awarded the highest possible rating in all areas in its latest review by the Independent Schools Inspectorate, assessed as achieving full regulatory compliance and “excellent” in both the main inspection heading – for the quality of students’ academic and other achievements, and the quality of students’ personal development. Headmaster John Green said: “I am so proud of all our students and my colleagues – both teaching and support staff – without whose immense efforts such outstanding outcomes would not be possible.”

# Village Shop Association updates its rules

Graffham Village Shop Association (GVSA), which owns and maintains the community's retail facilities, has given its constitution its first major spring clean since the body was established almost 30 years ago. The new set of rules, which govern how the GVSA works and what it can and cannot do, will now go before its AGM on Wednesday 28 June at 7pm, in the Pavilion.

They have been drafted to reflect latest Financial Conduct Authority guidelines and the many changes in the business, voluntary and charity sectors since the GVSA was set up in 1994 to ensure that Graffham continues to have its own village shop, following the closure of the long-established Pescod's store.

Today's GVSA owns and is responsible for maintaining the premises where Jeeva and Vasu run their business, along with the car park, the picture framing unit operated by Stephanie and the residential unit alongside the shop.

Among the key changes proposed:

- The GVSA objectives, which list what the organisation is allowed to do, have been expanded. Originally, they only allowed the GVSA to provide and support village retail enterprises, such as shops, public houses and garages. In the new rules, the objectives have been expanded enabling it also to provide support to social, educational, environmental, faith or sporting organisations in the village.
- Provisions have been added making it clear that GVSA assets can only be used for the benefit of the community and for limited purposes authorised by law.
- Fully authorising the use of the internet for communications and meetings.
- Profits are to be retained or used to advance the organisation's objectives.

All the village's residents are invited to support the association by purchasing a £10 share, making them GVSA members and giving them a sense of ownership towards the valuable village assets it provides. Currently, it has some 200 members, all of whom live or have lived in the village or close by.

Chairman Steve Dover said: "The association is run for and by the village and having a wider pool of members ensures we take into account the thoughts of all the community."

Copies of the new rules, along with a description of the key changes made, have been sent out to all members and are available from the association's secretary, Henrietta Aparicio, at [henrietta.aparicio@outlook.com](mailto:henrietta.aparicio@outlook.com) or on 07714 652856.

- The GVSA is also seeking a new Treasurer. Anyone interested in the role – or just joining the association – please contact Henrietta (above).





The Akasa Quartet will perform at St Giles Church on Saturday 15 July at 5pm.

## Petworth Festival to bring strings to Graffham

Petworth Festival has unveiled details of its 2023 summer programme – including a return visit to Graffham. The overall programme opens on 11 July and runs for 19 days in 12 venues throughout the Petworth area, including our own St Giles.

Festival Director Stewart Collins said: “This year we’ve raise the bar higher than ever. One of our key aims is to bring the very best ‘to your doorstep’ and the option of travelling just a few miles to see artists of this quality is very much part of the Petworth Festival’s appeal.”



It opens with a traditional Songs of Praise service at Petworth’s St Mary’s Church and continues with concerts featuring some of the leading classical and jazz performers in Europe, plus a series of top-class pop, rock and folk tribute acts – Kate Bush, Stevie Wonder, Joni Mitchell, The Carpenters.... There’s comedy, too, and theatre, including an adaption of David Walliams’ *Bad Dad*, at Bignor Park, and *Alice in Wonderland* at Coultershaw Heritage Site. Among the bigger names headlining are broadcaster and comedian Clive Anderson and rock group The Manfreds with the irrepresible Paul Jones.

Coming to St Giles on Saturday 15 July at 5pm – a perfect follow-up to the Graffham Garden Group summer show earlier that afternoon – is the Asaka Quartet, an award-winning strings foursome formed in 2021 at the Royal Academy of Music in London where they are currently Chamber Music Fellows. Hailing from Scot-

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land, Hong Kong and China, they will perform an all-English programme including a brand new composition, *Bignor Hill*, written specially for the 2023 Petworth Festival by composer Ned Bigham. Tickets are £12.50. The group will be performing earlier in the day at Tillington – so make sure you select the right venue when booking!

Graffham features a second time in the fiesta programme – with its festival walk taking place the following day, Sunday 16 July, around the village, starting at the Rec and taking in the Lavington Estate and Lavington and Graffham Commons.

For full details of the festival and to book, see [petworthfestival.org.uk](http://petworthfestival.org.uk)

## Foresters Arms wants to show off your art

The Foresters Arms is looking to promote local artists this summer. In a posting on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard, the pub said: "Be it paintings, photography or even sculptures, if you'd like to have your artwork shown please contact us."



### GRAFFHAM GARDEN GROUP SUMMER SHOW

Saturday 15 July   Empire Hall  
*Classes for flowers, fruit, vegetables,  
cookery and photographs*

*Photo classes: 1 A winter scene 2 Feeding the birds  
3 Bluebells 4 Garden visitors 5 Any subject (under 16s)*

The schedule of classes will be distributed in late June. Early copies available from Peter Hardcastle, on 01798 867446

*Meanwhile, get planting your sweet peas and practising your carrot cake and ginger biscuits!*



**ON YOUR MARKS!** Graffham Garden Group's committee and helpers (above) before the doors to the Empire Hall opened for its annual plant sale, on Saturday 13 May. **GET SET!** The queue from the doors of the hall ran almost to the shop car park as the countdown to opening time neared (below left). **GO!** Eager green-fingered buyers swing into action to snap up plants (below right).



## THURSDAY CLUB



**Strawberry Tea  
at the Pavilion  
Thursday 8 June  
2.30pm  
All welcome**





# Graffham Garden Group visits for 2023

Graffham Garden Group kicked off its summer 2023 programme of outings with a trip to see the magnificent azaleas and rhododendrons at Leonardslee, near Horsham on 1 May. Dates for the rest of the year are given below.



Picture © Carole Kirke

Wednesday 21 June 2.30pm		Sandhill Farmhouse
Nyewood Road, Petersfield GU31 5HU		
Owned by the founder and principal of the English Gardening School, Rosemary Alexander. A great example of good design and planting including roses, red and grass borders, white garden and potager.		
£10 - including tea and cake.	For this visit, please book by email to Marie Bracey at <a href="mailto:mariebracey@me.com">mariebracey@me.com</a> .	

Friday 11 August 10.15am		St Mary's Bramber House and Gardens
The Street, Steyning BN44 3WU		
14th Century historic pilgrim inn. Still lived in today, its fine panelled interior includes the unique Elizabethan trompe l'oeil Painted Room. Five acres outside with rose gardens, 'English Poetry Garden', 'King's Garden', landscaped water garden and rural museum.		
£16.50 for exclusive use of the house and gardens with tour by experienced guide plus refreshments.	To book your place, contact Nicky West at <a href="mailto:nicolamwest@btinternet.com">nicolamwest@btinternet.com</a> or on 07796 144647.	

Wednesday 6 September 2-5pm		Graffham
Marsh Farm, Woodcote Lane, and Boswells Cottage, The Street		
Marie Bracey and Carole Kirke invite you to spend an afternoon in their beautiful gardens with tea and cake available at Boswells Cottage in aid of Dementia UK. No need to book but if you need a lift or further details please contact Nicky West on 07796 144647 or email <a href="mailto:nicolamwest@btinternet.com">nicolamwest@btinternet.com</a>		





Offering a warm welcome to the village, this season's team of site managers at Graffham's Camping and Caravanning Club site, from left: Sharon McKenzie, Leanne Coombes, Keith McKenzie and Angela Elsworth.

## A warm welcome to season's campsite crew

A warm welcome to the village to the resident managers for this season at Graffham's Camping and Caravanning Club site – who are preparing to roll out the red carpet for the organisation's top brass who are visiting the campsite this month.

The quartet arrived in late March to prepare the site for its 1 April opening – Manager Sharon McKenzie with husband Keith, from Coventry, and assistants Angela Elsworth, of Haywards Heath, and Wiltshire lass Leanne Coombes.

None of them had been to Graffham before, but they are all loving their time on-site, where they will be welcoming visitors and keeping everything shipshape until the end of the season, in late October.

Sharon, who worked at the club's Salisbury site last summer and managed its St Neots campsite the year before, said: "It is absolutely stunning here. It is such an unusual site, surrounded by all this woodland and in the heart of the country. And everyone we've met locally has been so friendly."

The club's National Council Committee, with its Chairman and Deputy Director General, will be visiting on Tuesday 13 June. With some 2,500 sites throughout the UK, a visit by its equivalent to a board of directors is a rare honour for Graffham, which is one of the oldest in the Camping and Caravanning Club's network, having joined up in 1944. Its pitches for 90 caravans or tents are often fully booked.

# FAMILY FRIDAYS

are back at

## Graffham Rec

*Dear Graffham and friends,*

**Come and join us every other Friday throughout June and July 4-8pm to connect, chat and relax in good company with some communal childcare.**

Bring a blanket, picnic dinner, stuff for the BBQ (coals will be hot from 5pm), good Dad jokes – and sunshine!

The pavilion bar will be open for refreshments and it's club night for Graffham Tennis Club, so don't forget your rackets.

We would love to hear from you, so do let us know if you are thinking of coming. Any thoughts and ideas are most welcome.

**9 & 23 June, 7 & 21 July**

**All are welcome and we hope to see you there!**

*Love from Sonya and Katie*

sonyag80@hotmail.com  
07918 529983

katie\_donald@icloud.com  
07872 653852



# Diary of a New Farm: Our first new born calf

*Katie Forman and Brett Sacks continue their occasional diary as they establish Slow Grown Farm, at Hoyle, on Graffham's border with Heyshott.*



Our first calf has been born at Slow Grown Farm!

Our Red Poll Fescue gave birth to a little girl who will join her Mum and the others in the milking herd when she's older.

We've named her Fennel.

Once some of the others have also calved we can begin making cheese!

## Letters to the editor

*The column YOU write. Got a comment to make about anything in Graffham Parish News or anything locally? Email [editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com)*

**From the family of the late Barbara Kemp:** We would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes and sympathy at Barbara's passing. We were able to celebrate her life at St Giles on 24 April with such a lovely service facilitated by Rev Vivien and ably supported by members of the church. The Foresters provided a welcoming venue to join together to remember further her long life well lived.

Barbara and Mike had many happy years living in Graffham, making many friends and enjoying supporting village activities. It is a comfort to know they are at rest here, in such a beautiful place, that they both loved. With our thanks and best wishes. *Lindsay, Chris, Sara and Jon.*



## Afternoon tea in the garden

Thursday 29 June 2.30-4.30pm

Jaysfield Lodge, The Street,  
Graffham GU28 0QB

*Courtesy of Nettie Lanaghan*

Please bring bakes and any other  
home or garden produce to share

Donations in aid of St Giles Church, Graffham

## PICNIC

Graffham Down Trust  
Sunday 2 July

Meet outside St Giles Church at 9.45am. Bring a picnic and join us in Bowley's Reserve on Graffham Down at midday.



To reserve a ride to the top, contact: [jimkirke@hotmail.com](mailto:jimkirke@hotmail.com)  
For more information, email: [sennitt2@gmail.com](mailto:sennitt2@gmail.com)





## Wedding bells: Louisa and Mark

Congratulations to Louisa Thomas, of Graffham's Guillods, who married Mark Hooper on 24 April at her "family church", St Mary's, Shackleford, near Godalming, close to Mark's Elstead home and where her parents were wed and her grandparents are buried.

She was walked down the aisle by her younger son James.

The newlyweds, who met via dating site Plenty of Fish, honeymooned in East Sussex's Ashdown Forest – so they could take their dogs with them too!

Louisa, who works as a legal secretary, has lived in the village for more than 20 years. When she's not riding her horses, cycling on the Downs, walking her dogs or working, she is the doyenne of the Graffham Badminton Club. Mark is a design engineer.

# Nature Notes: Kestrel, master of Sussex's skies

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

There's a kestrel nest box at Sussex Wildlife Trust's headquarters at Woods Mill. Back in the summer I took twisted delight in watching the macabre mealtimes of the residents. Two hardworking parents delivered a non-stop buffet of unfortunate mice and voles which were ripped apart by three squawking, squabbling balls of fluffy feathers.

Whether high on the South Downs or alongside a busy A272, a kestrel is instantly recognisable; a thin-winged falcon hovering in mid-air seemingly frozen in time, crucified against the clouds. However, kestrels don't exactly hover like smaller birds, such as hummingbirds. A kestrel is actually flying forward at exactly the same speed as the wind is blowing it back and therefore appears motionless. It is performing an intimate duet. Imagine the oncoming wind as a flamenco guitarist calling the tune. As the intensity increases the kestrel ups the tempo of its wing beats, subtly twisting its wingtips or fanning its tail in response. As the body



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writhes gracefully, the head stays in the exact same position; focused eyes staring down to the earth. These motionless eyes are the whole reason behind this incredible performance. The kestrel can now detect the slightest quiver in the long grass that will betray a mouse's movement.



**A kestrel in the skies above Sussex.**

**© James Duncan, Sussex Wildlife Trust**

Long ago in Sussex the bird's skilled flight was celebrated in colloquial names such as 'wind bivver' or 'vanner hawk'. Across England it was once the 'windhover', the name of the famous 1877 sonnet in which Gerard Manley Hopkins pays tribute to the bird's 'brute beauty and valour and act'. Yet all these names were eclipsed by kestrel, a name derived from the French word 'crecelle', meaning rattle; a reference to its jangly 'ki-ki-ki-ki' call.

I've been obsessed with watching kestrels since the 1970s when I joined the Young Ornithologist's Club and got my mum to sew their hovering kestrel logo patch on my denim jacket. I've watched hundreds of kestrels hover and drop but I've still yet to see one rise triumphantly with a mouse in its talons. I feel cheated. But the kestrel too hasn't received the recognition it deserves for its talents. At one point,



**© Darin Smith, SWT**

the aerial accomplishments of the kestrel were acknowledged by the aviation industry when a new plane capable of vertical take-off was christened the Hawker Siddeley Kestrel. But when this aircraft was modified, it acquired a new name, one which immortalised another bird of prey – the Harrier Jump Jet. Instead, the kestrel, a bird which has such command of movement, has lent its name to a brand of very strong lager. Ironically, after two cans you'll find it hard to walk straight.

So raise your glass, or at least doff your cap, to the kestrel – the unsung master of the Sussex skies.

# Graffham Chronicles: Painter in the woods

*In her regular column, village historian Pauline Goodwin this month looks at renowned local artist Ivon Hitchens (1893-1979).*

Images of a six-acre plot next to Lavington Common appear permanently in galleries across the world, featured in the paintings of Ivon Hitchens. His works are on permanent display at more than 50 galleries across Britain and internationally in Australia, Canada, France, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the USA. He represented Britain in the 1956 Venice Biennale and was made a CBE in 1958. Without doubt, Ivon Hitchens is an artist held in the highest regard.

So who is this painter and why was he painting Lavington Common?

It is said that Ivon Hitchens “could paint before he could walk”. Indeed, he literally made his mark at an early age when he crawled into his father’s studio, took up a brush and daubed on a canvas his Dad Alfred had prepared for display at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition. Ivon’s mother Ethel Margaret Set-Smith was also a gifted artist.

Ivon was schooled at Bedales, near Petersfield. While there, he suffered acute appendicitis. The after-effects of this greatly impacted on his adult life, instilling within him a quieter way of life that led him to his love of the countryside. It also rendered him unfit for military service during World War I. He went on to study at St John’s Wood Art School and the Royal Academy Art School. He then worked from a studio in London’s Hampstead. His close circle of friends included Ben Nicholson, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. In 1921 they exhibited their works in the newly formed Seven and Five Society of which he was a founder member, exhibiting every year with this influential group until 1935.

At their exhibitions Hitchens would include two pots containing young horse chestnut trees, which he named Adam and Eve, grown from conkers from Bedales, an indication of his love of the ‘Sussex Weeds’ and of the Downs.

Ivon had many commissions in this early phase, including works for churches in Dorking, Maidstone and London’s Golders Green and from the Government of Bermuda and Sussex University.

One of pieces created in 1922, called *South Downs near Cocking*, reveals his intoxication with the chalked-hilled landscape which Gilbert White referred to as that “chain of majestic mountains”. The style of this piece is certainly a realistic





Hitchens' *The Plough on the Downs* was sold by Christie's for £40,000 in 2020.

treatment, but Ivon was beginning to follow the likes of Cezanne and cubist Georges Braque as he moved away from a style which he called "aping realism".

From the same period is his *The Old Barn At Bex Mill, Heyshott*. The beautiful, flared roof shape is of interest as it is reminiscent of the roof of the Graffham telephone exchange! Hitchens used this curved shape as a dominant form in this work with "barn, tree and landscape alike carved into a series of undulating and twisting forms while the colours used to support these distortions... help to create an almost theatrical sense of movement." This key painting marks a transition from what Peter Khoroche calls "a rather stiff Arts and Crafts decorative style". Hitchens had developed an interest in Cezanne and had read the writings of Roger Fry and Clive Bell who asked in 1914: "Who has not, at least once in his life, had a sudden vision of a landscape as pure form? For once instead of seeing it as fields and cottages has felt it as lines and colours."

The 1940s was a turning point for Hitchens. He had to move from his home in London on Adelaide Street when it was bombed and his was badly damaged. He bought the six acres near Lavington Common and lived there until the end of his life. At first, home for his family was a gypsy waggon which he bought for £20. The first permanent structure he built there was the workshop to protect his canvases. The family immersed themselves in the heavily wooded land and lived an outdoor existence before the permanent structure of Greenleaves was built. Ivon's studio was the wood and he painted outside in all weathers. Mollie and Ivon

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created a garden around their home. They planted clumps of colourful plants and, with the aid of gardener Ted Floate, dug out ponds which they adorned with boats. Everything was done with Ivon's paintings in mind, especially the water areas which provided a light dynamic. Life was hard at Greenleaves as it was without running water, boiler or hot tank. Bath time was outside, in the blue painted bathtub named Jordan which features in an oil painting with son John and wife Mollie.

There is no doubt that the move to Graffham impacted Ivon's work. Greenleaves was a place of sanctuary, a place of solace and this total immersion in a natural world of such beauty provided him with the drive and impetus to develop a unique way to respond to the landscape. As Peter Khoroché says: "His pictures of the early 1940s, painted with unprecedented assurance and vitality, suggest an uprush of energy – a renewal through contact with nature." Ivon was attempting to paint his



**Ivon at work**

psychological response to the landscape, so it was not merely a record from one viewpoint – but the result of a totally immersive experience: what was in front, behind and beyond the next stand of trees, "past the gap we cannot see". Khoroché continues: "These paintings evoke a paradise regained where the archetypal family can live in primal innocence and happiness, at one with nature – an image heightened by contrast with the menace of war." But he was not also unaware of the outside world. He took newspapers

from the Graffham "bottom shop" when it was run by Ted and Lottie Challen. Their daughter, Linda, recalls that she delivered papers to Greenleaves, posting them into the box left there at the end of the drive, out of sight of the house.

Coupled with this physiological drive was the more practical concern of his technique. From the 1930s he had used elongated horizontal canvases to encourage lateral eye movement to read the rhythms of the surface to echo the passing of time. Ivon called this natural side to side movement "eye music". His expressive brushstrokes were created by a huge variety of brushes from thick domestic house painting brushes to the finest quality flat, round, angled, liner and fan brushes of various bristles. His blending of colours and tone in a harmonious way and the use of patches of white were crucial to his work. My favourite painting from this era

is called *Damp Autumn* – a blaze of rusty tones of henna, orange and russet. In the dreary month of November, Lavington Common is lit up by the fire of the bracken carpet which gleams spectacularly in the feeble autumn sunshine. It is a spectacular vision and Hitchens' painting matches nature's paintbrush in a striking way. It is on display in the Tate Museum alongside works by some of the world's most renowned artists.

Even after his demise in 1979, Ivon Hitchens shares with the world our affinity with the Graffham landscape.



How Hitchens' style evolved: *Curved Barn*, painted in 1922 (left) and *Sussex Woodland (Early Summer)*, from 1945.



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# Bill's bygones: Tales of a parson, Beckham, Zephyr

*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 – June 2013:** A service is held to celebrate the 60th anniversary of All Saints Chapel (right), followed by a 'Bring & Share' lunch at the Rectory. At the White Horse, Stephen Gray tells the 'Tales of a Parson' at his last Men's Breakfast before leaving the parish. Steve Boakes, Graffham postman for 25 years, retires. West Sussex Better Connected Project confirms Graffham is eligible for funding to improve broadband speeds. Ex-CIA employee Edward Snowden leaks classified US data. British & Irish Lions tour Australia and take the series 2-1. Justin Rose wins the US Open and Ryan Moore on Ruler of the World the Derby.



**25 years ago – June 1998:** Graffham School's Annual Summer Fayre is held at the Rec. Claire Page and James Godman-Dorington are married at St Giles. Funerals of Vivienne Broadbridge and Alan Tupper. Graffham Tennis Club singles' champions Val Watson and Ben Major start the campaign to defend their titles. At the FIFA World Cup in France, England lose to Argentina on penalties in the Round of 16 – David Beckham is sent off but Michael Owen's goal is hailed as one of England's best ever. Lee Janzen wins the US Open, Olivier Peslier on High-Rise the Derby. Death of author Catherine Cookson aged 91.

**50 years ago – June 1973:** Heyshott Perambulator Derby raises £200 for 'Plant a Tree in 73'. Teams from Graffham attend the Southern Auto Cross (Hampshire Section) meeting, where Doug Tupper wins a bottle of champagne for the fastest lap in the heats driving a Mark 3 Zephyr – he comes fourth in the final. Cocking Primary School's swimming pool is opened. Graffham (47 all out) lose



at home to Aldingbourne (48-3) by 7 wickets. Jewellery worth £20,000 (£310,000 in 2023) is stolen from the Pulborough sale room of auctioneers King and Chasemore. Architect John Poulson is charged with corruption in connection with the award of building contracts – three MPs are involved. Release of *Live and Let Die*, Roger Moore's first outing as 007. Johnny Miller wins the US Open, Edward Hide on Morston the Derby.



# GRAFFHAM NEWS

PARISH

FRIDAY-SUNDAY

5-7 MAY 2023



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village's Coronation celebrations



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## Another landmark the village can be proud of

We did it again! Graffham can take a bow for the way we marked our nation's first Coronation for 70 years, with the crowning of King Charles III on the first full weekend in May. The bunting went up throughout the village, flags flew for the first time on the new flagpoles at the War Memorial and St Giles, virtually everyone in the community seemed to congregate on the Rec for the Big Picnic, wearing red, white and blue to boot, while our belfry's bells chimed in the nationwide Ring for the King in a church adorned with flowers for a special service featuring a choir, soloist and selected readers. Even the blazing sun joined in the celebrations, emerging for the key Sunday gathering from days of dismal grey rain either side.



For a select few among us, it brought back memories of Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in 1953. For fewer, there were recollections too of the crowning of her father, King George VI. For others, it was their first chance to witness our village come together in the way only Graffham can. For all, this special souvenir edition of *Graffham Parish News* will hopefully serve to help you remember this landmark in the history of our country and community.

Scrapbook front cover photo © by Michael Blunt and back cover photo © by Colin Barker:  
Annabel Heaton and her Big Picnic crowning glory cake.

### CORONATION CORNUCOPIA



**Flying the flag for the first time:** The Coronation provided the first opportunity for a flag to be flown from the new village flagpole – erected by Graffham Parish Council at the village's war memorial (right) just a few days before the King's crowing. It will fly a flag on special days going forward. A new flagpole has also been erected in St Giles' churchyard, in memory of the late Brigadier Allan Findlay OBE.



# TOWN VS GOWN CRICKET



The Town team line up after being anointed with royal blue face paint.

Town vs Gown rivalry was rekindled on Coronation Friday (5 May) when Graffham's finest took on Seaford College's staff on the school's king-sized Oval pitch. A good crowd had gathered, some having been there since Tuesday to ensure they bagged the best spots. Probably.

Refreshments were generously provided by the hosts after

**Words by  
Bill Barrett**

*How many puns  
can you spot?!*

**Pictures © by  
Colin Barker**



Just some of the supporters who flocked to Seaford's 'Oval' to cheer on the teams.





Arya thunders in to open the bowling (left) while Beanie rues a chance.

a visit to Majestic, with Karen Fisher and Emma Boulton, purveyors of excellent comestibles, there by appointment. Indeed, this event had not just been throne together, but impeccably organised by Beanie Bradley and Brett Creed, with both teams having no difficulty attracting players prepared to swear allegiance.

A life-size cardboard cut-out of the new sovereign viewed the game from the pavilion balcony, though positioning on the field at (Charles the) Third man might have been more appropriate.

The format was 18 overs per side with batters retiring when they had scored 25 and as many players as possible getting Hanover or two's bowling.

Town won the toss and captain Tom Creed opened the batting with Beanie, both of whom despatched the orb in princely style to all corners, quickly reaching their run-limits. Chris Adams predicted Tom's six over the distant mid-wicket boundary would be the biggest of the season, though a later blow by one of the teachers, which clanked loudly onto the covers positioned well beyond the long on boundary, was also impressive. When Tom retired Beanie was joined by Will



Howzat! Town celebrates Raffi snatching a Gown wicket.



All rounder Will Caldwell played some impressive strokes in his knock of 21 before joining the Town's bowling attack.

Caldwell, who rapidly reached 21 before being run out after a right royal mix-up. Contributions down the order, particularly from Raffi Chrispin in a promising all-round performance, enabled Town to accrue 105.

Having been anointed with regal blue war paint prior to taking the field, Town were hoping for a speedy Gown batting procession. However, despite hostile opening bowling from Arya, probing medium pace from David Sparkes, Beanie, Bella Pool and Raffi and agile fielding from the Amin contingent, the teachers knocked off the runs as the gloom gathered and the temperature plummeted. At least the weather had been sunny, with no Windsor reign.

Although Gown were crowned the winners, with a 6-5 gender split and an age range from the second to seventh decades Town could claim a (Bal)moral victory. Thus, everyone was victorious, happy and glorious, though some of the older players might Welby physical Rex for a while.

Thanks to Seaford's John Green and Chris Adams for their hospitality and Greg Burt and his team for preparing a top strip.



Joint editor Bill Barrett, batting for the Town, moves way out of his crease to slog a boundary but misses and loses his bails. Every cloud has a silver lining...

## RINGING FOR THE KING



Pictured after Ringing for the King, from left: Tower Captain Howard Pescott, Angie Thornley, John Edge, Alison Davidson, Elsa Barden, George White, Eira Ashby, Phillip Turner, the Rev Vivien, Karin Skanberg and John Pescott.

St Giles' bell ringers joined their counterparts throughout the kingdom to Ring for the King for an hour on the Saturday morning before the Coronation service at Westminster Abbey. Around a dozen of our villagers pulled the sallies that day – and then were back the following morning to ring again before St Giles' Coronation Thanksgiving Service and afterwards when they pulled off a full quarter peal.

## CORONATION CORNUCOPIA



**Rosemary's coronation 'throne':** One villager attending Graffham's Coronation Big Picnic took along an unusual chair to sit on there – a stool that had been used to seat one of the guests in Westminster Abbey at the ceremony to crown Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Rosemary Sutton's father was on duty in the Abbey for the event, in his role as an employee for the Ministry of Works – and bought the stool as a souvenir when they were offered for public sale.



## ST GILES' THANKSGIVING SERVICE

St Giles' was approaching full for its Coronation Thanksgiving Service, led by the Rev Vivien, on the Sunday morning following the King's crowning.

It was opened by the choir, led by organist Brian Lanaghan, giving a rendition of Hubert Parry's *I Was Glad* if not quite as slickly delivered as the Westminster Abbey singers the day before, then with at least as much



**A final dress rehearsal for the choir.**

enthusiasm and dedication. Hymns included *Jerusalem*, *I Vow To Thee My Country* and, of course, *God Save The King*. Ardra was applauded for singing two solos. Readers included Edward Bowden, James Pitt and Stuart Lewis. The church was looking and smelling its best, thanks to the floral arrangements created by a team led by Bridget Lewis.

After the service, the King and Queen were toasted with bubbly – and the congregation was able to admire the flagpole in the churchyard erected just a few days before in memory of former churchwarden Brigadier Allan Findlay, with the Union Flag fluttering proudly at the top for the first time.





## HANGING OUT THE BUNTING



Who's that in Pete and Cindy Bradley's garden (left) while they were parking their cart at the Foresters?

Householders throughout the neighbourhood did themselves proud hanging out the bunting and flags to mark the country's first crowning in 70 years. Not that it was needed to spur them on, a prize was up for grabs for the property judged best dressed – a bottle of gin along with a Coronation tea towel and mug – won by Zoe Scaman and Jon Warren (right) at Rose Cottage, in The Street (below left).



# GRAFFHAM'S CORONATION BIG PICNIC







Every picnic needs a decent sandwich and for Graffham's Coronation Big Picnic, on Sunday 7 May, it came in the form of a generous and warming dollop of sunshine wedged between two slices of dismal rain the day before and after.

The breeze caused a few slight problems to those setting the event up, blowing vases of flowers over on the freshly laid out red, white and blue table coverings - but by the time the crowds started flocking to the Pavilion all had settled down to perfection.

The turn out was as big, if not bigger, than for the Big Lunch held, like this one, back on the rec to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee last year. It seemed as if most of the neighbourhood was there.

And, like a year ago, Annabel Heaton wowed the throng

► *Continued on next page*



*The Gerrett family on the Coronation ponies.*



The hat parade, ladies' division, with centre, winner of the 'best dressed' prize and chair of the organising committee, Marie Bracey.

► *Continued from previous page*  
 with another cake that had jaws dropping before they munched through slice after sumptuous slice. This year's bake came in the form of a wonderfully crafted crown (fashioned around a fruit cake), atop a "cushion" of sponge cake in delicious crimson icing – with the recipe including no less than 56 eggs. As the cake was cut, the crowd joined together in a rousing rendition of the

If you want to relive the fun of the Big Picnic by listening to its music playlist in the comfort of your own home, just point your phone camera to this QR code or go to [bit.ly/Graffham-coronation-picnic](https://bit.ly/Graffham-coronation-picnic) to open the Spotify playlist and select random play - five hours plus of British classics including at least four tracks with Graffham connections. Can you spot them?



Men's hat parade, from left: Michael Pettifer charming ladies, Graffham Parish News editor and MC for the afternoon Michael Blunt, and Brian Lanaghan.





After devouring the picnics and cakes, it was time for a rousing three cheers for Their Majesties and a rendition of the national anthem.

national anthem and three cheers for the new King and Queen. A large proportion of those attending stuck to the dress code of 'red, white and blue or Royal' with chairman of the organising committee, Marie Bracey, judged the best dressed.

The event was scheduled to end at 5pm, but with the sun dappling down long into the evening, the crowd delayed packing everything away as long as politely possible.

Coronation Big Picnic pictures © by  
Colin Barker, Michael Blunt and others.



# GRAFFHAM INFANTS SCHOOL



We had such fun in school celebrating the King's coronation in May! We all dressed up in red, white and blue, made our own jewelled crowns, orbs and sceptres and painted flags. Each child was given a beautiful celebration mug as a memento of this great occasion.

At the end of May, another day of creativity will see parents helping their children paint a giant mural to go along our playground fence.

The summer term is whizzing by and, once the end of key-stage assessments are complete at each of our two schools, our thoughts will turn to next year's classes.

In June we will be welcoming our September school starters for trial mornings in Reception class, and current pupils will all spend time in their new classes with their new teachers for September.

Soon we will be busy rehearsing for our annual summer performance, a joyful occasion held around the amphitheatre on Duncton's playing field which always rounds off our school year in rousing fashion.

We can't believe that summer is upon us and another school year is already drawing to a close!



To find out more about our village school, including 'virtual tours', see [graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk)

Please also take a look at and 'like' us at [facebook.com/pg/friendsofgraffhamandduncton](https://facebook.com/pg/friendsofgraffhamandduncton)



## TEDDY TIME IN THE PAVILION TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am  
Pavilion, Graffham Rec

No charge. All welcome.  
Just come along!

## CORONATION CORNUCOPIA

**Betty's third coronation as a TV viewer:** For Betty Bradley, this was the third Coronation she had watched on television. She saw, as a ten-year-old, the screening of King George VI's crowning on 12 May 1937 – the first outside broadcast for the new BBC Television Service, available only to the few people in London who had TV sets back then, all, of course, in scratchy black and white. When Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in 1953, two million homes across the UK had the combined radio and television licence and Betty, then in her mid 20s, was among those to benefit. King Charles' coronation was the first she could view in full colour.



## THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH

Dozens of people throughout the community played a part in making the village's Coronation weekend such a success. **Thanks to all of them.**

**Planning group:** Sue Dover, Sue Garrard, Karin Skanberg, chaired by Marie Bracey.

**Big Picnic cake maker** Annabel Heaton.

**Recreation Committee, barmen and tea ladies,** headed by John Bracey, Beetle Clay, Bernard Bayly, Sandy MacQueen and Sonya Gillsepie.

**Table and chair luggers, erectors and decorators,** too numerous to mention individually, but special mention to David Sparkes and the Heaton family.

**St Giles bell ringers,** led by Tower Captain Howard Pescott, for sounding out over the village during the national Ring for the King and on the Sunday.

**St Giles flower arrangers,** co-ordinated by Bridget Lewis.

**St Giles Church** choir, organist Brian Lanaghan, soloist Ardra, the Rev Vivien and Phillip Turner for their contributions to the Coronation Thanksgiving service.

**Bunting, flag flyers and dressers up:** Everyone who decorated their homes and gardens and donned red, white and blue on the Sunday – and the judges of the best decorated and dressed competitions, who will remain anonymous for their own safety!

**Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils,** for all their support.

... and of course **the very many others who did their bit** but are not mentioned individually by name for reasons of space. **God Save The King!**







# Graffham Parish News' jolly June quiz

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

- 1 What sort of tree was planted at the recreation ground on 2 June 1953 to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II?
- 2 Lon Chaney (1925), Claude Rains (1943), Michael Crawford (1986-90) and Seaford College's Sam Brown (2023) all played which character?
- 3 Which institution has the postcode SA99 1ZW?
- 4 Herbert Jones, Anmer and Emily Davison encountered each other at what event on 4 June 1913?
- 5 This year's FA Cup final will kick-off on 3 June at what hour for the first time since 2011?
- 6 The Secretary of State for War resigned in June 1963. What was his name?
- 7 Having departed from Kingston, Jamaica, which ship docked at London's Tilbury on 21 June 1948?
- 8 In James Corden's recent, and last, US chat show (*The Late Late Show*), Adele revealed he had inspired which of her hits?
- 9 Which British sporting icon died on 15 June 1993, aged 45?
- 10 Which BBC sitcom first aired on 15 June 1983 with an episode entitled *The Foretelling*, in which the "hero" inadvertently beheads King Richard III (played by Peter Cook)?





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- Quiz answers:**
- 1 Copper beech.
  - 2 The Phantom of the Opera.
  - 3 The DVLA, in Swansea.
  - 4 The Epsom Derby (jockey, King's horse, fatally injured suffragette).
  - 5 3pm.
  - 6 John Profumo.
  - 7 His Majesty's Transport (HMT) Empire Windrush.
  - 8 I Drink Wine.
  - 9 James Hunt.
  - 10 The Black Adder.

## Graffham Cricket

Graffham Ladies put together a strong team for their opening cricket match of the season, their traditional away fixture at West Wittering.

Coaching had started at the end of March with practice sessions on the tennis courts focussed on raising the batting standards. The dreadfully wet months of March and April did not squash morale, though the final session had to be a Premier League-style tactical session in the pavilion with backgammon pieces used to model field placings.

On the day, however, the weather obliged, though the pitch was still slow and both teams would struggle to send the ball to the boundary. With the match having a 24 over 'pairs' format, Graffham batted first.

Maizie Amin and Bella Pool settled the nerves and got off to a solid start. They were followed by Ardra Jeevathasan and Angie Thornley who faced some tricky balls from West Wittering's captain but continued to add to the total. Captain Beanie Bradley and top-scorer Denise Clay went next, managing to beat the field on several occasions and score more than the ubiquitous single. (With minus five being the penalty for a wicket, Graffham did well to avoid dipping below the starting score of 200!)

**Coronation Town vs Gown  
cricket match report and  
pictures – page 26**

The big-hitting duo of Jules Sparkes and Olive Amin came next and despite getting closer than anyone to reaching the elusive boundary, were frustrated by some sharp West Wittering fielding. Vasu Jeevathasan and Jenny Dwyer-Ward kept the score progressing nicely before Emma Amin and Sally Pattie used their range of batting strokes to add comfortably to the final score, leaving the opponents with a target of 243 to beat. Graffham juniors Isla and Holly Sparkes finally batted for two non-contributory overs without losing a wicket, highlighting their case for places in the next starting line-up!

West Wittering's batters were also foiled by the slow pitch and scoring progressed at a similar pace, leaving Graffham supporters hopeful of victory. Some excellent and acrobatic fielding by Angie at backward square leg thwarted their attempts to find the boundary. Wickets fell to the bowling of Beanie, Bella,



Graffham team, coaches and support in front of their West Wittering opponents.

Olive and Vasu as well as a slick run out executed by Jules and the faultless Sally (wicket-keeper). Sadly the team were deprived of two more wickets when the bails failed to dislodge from the spring-back stumps. In the end West Wittering scored 273 runs – a margin which has encouraged Graffham to hope for that elusive victory in the return fixture at the Rec on 17 September.

Graffham would also like to thank their supporters and square-leg umpires Jeeva, Ian Thornley and Pete Dwyer-Ward – and mostly to Brett Creed for his coaching, motivation, musical interludes and for introducing them to this amazing sport. Coaching sessions with Brett will begin again later this summer.

## Graffham Tennis Club

Club nights are taking place on Fridays this year from 6pm. All welcome.

Dates have been fixed for the one-day Mixed Doubles Tournament (17 June) and the one-day Men's Doubles Tournament (23 July). Please contact Andy Craig on [andy.craig@peoplepuzzles.co.uk](mailto:andy.craig@peoplepuzzles.co.uk) for the Mixed and David Sparkes ([davidesparkes@googlemail.com](mailto:davidesparkes@googlemail.com)) for the Men's Doubles or Men's Singles.

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
<b>3 May</b>	<b>Lost 3-5</b>	<b>Ladies Doubles</b>	<b>Div 1</b>	<b>v Headley A</b>
<b>9 May</b>	<b>Lost 0-8</b>	<b>Men's Doubles</b>	<b>Div 3</b>	<b>v Fernhurst A</b>
<b>15 May</b>	<b>Win 7-1</b>	<b>Ladies Doubles</b>	<b>Div 4</b>	<b>v Steep C</b>
<b>17 May</b>	<b>Lost 2-6</b>	<b>Ladies Doubles</b>	<b>Div 1</b>	<b>v Swanmore A</b>

Graffham Ladies were pleased with their first league result, against Headley A's exceptionally strong team in Division 1, losing by just 3-5. Emma Amin, Sam Adams, Kate Hogan and Sarah Jeffries stood up to some punishing hitting from the

► *Continued on page 43*



Art



*by. Susan Hill*

# OPEN GALLERY

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# JUNE

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New Work

► *Continued from page 41*

team most likely to end top of the whole league. The first men's match ended up with an 8-0 defeat against Fernhurst A. With the men's team finding themselves in a division higher than expected, this will have been useful practice for the pairings of Jeeva with Richard Gyles and Richard Bates with David Sparkes.

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants League home fixtures: June					
Do come and spend a spring evening supporting your teams!					
5	Mon	6.30pm	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	v Headley B
7	Wed	6.30pm	Ladies' Doubles	Div 1	v Medstead A
13	Tue	6.30pm	Men's Doubles	Div 3	v Cheriton
14	Wed	6.30pm	Ladies' Doubles	Div 1	v Haslemere A
19	Mon	6.30pm	Mixed Doubles	Div 2	v Alton A
20	Tues	6.30pm	Men's Doubles	Div 3	v Denmead B
28	Wed	6.30pm	Ladies' Doubles	Div 1	v Fernhurst

## Graffham Bowls Club

*By Secretary Liz Pegram*

Charlie Tyrrell, Wendy Folkes and Kym Pegram did us proud in the Rogate Tournament on May Day by getting through to the final for the second year running, although, sadly, they lost out again in a sudden death finish. It was a great result considering they were up against 15 other clubs including county players! Well done all of you!

We lost against Petersfield away in the first game of the season.

The weather running up to our open day wasn't as good as we'd hoped, so only two of the four rinks were playable. Nevertheless we managed to play for a short while before the rain came down.

New members are always welcome at our friendly club. Contact Liz on 01798 867770 for more information.



*Charlie, Wendy and Kym with their runners-up silverware from May's Rogate tournament.*

Graffham Bowls Club East Hants home fixtures: June			
Spectators very welcome			
20 June	Tue	6.30pm	v Pulborough

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# Property watch

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

**Downsview, Duncton GU28 0JY:** Three-bedroomed detached, Grade II cottage, upstairs bathroom, downstairs shower room, sitting, family and dining rooms, kitchen, large garden, outbuildings. 126sq m/1,354sq ft. Guide price £725,000. *Strutt & Parker, Haslemere, 01428 771214. Added 25 Apr.*



**Boderton Mews, Burton Park, Duncton GU28 0LS:** Three-bedroomed semi-detached house in parkland setting, two bathrooms and cloakroom, drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, sun room, private terrace. 142sq m/1,528sq ft. Offers in excess of £775,000. *Jackson-Stops, Midhurst, 01730 774837. Added 22 Apr.*

## 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)

**Down House, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QA:** New garage and drive. SDNP/23/01693/HOUS. *Received 20 Apr*

## Crimestoppers

Sussex Police has not been able to supply its usual weekly lists of crimes reported in the area since mid-March because of staffing issues.

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# Demand doubles on Petworth Foodbank

Demand on Petworth's Foodbank more than doubled year-on-year in the past 12 months, resulting in shortages of both supplies and space to store it, as the cost of living crisis continues to bite. With food prices up 19.1 per cent in the year to March, calls on Petworth Foodbank – which serves our local town as well as surrounding villages, including Graffham – soared by 106 per cent.

Petworth Foodbank's Ines Garcia said: "Even for those of us volunteering here and experiencing the additional workload at first hand, actually seeing this figure in black and white was something of a shock."

While a year ago donations locally more or less matched local needs, Petworth had to call for more help from its 'mother' hub, the district warehouse at Chichester, to enable it to meet calls upon it in the past 12 months. With demand also rising throughout the Chichester region, its warehouse has come under strain. In the first quarter of this year alone, it received 23.5 tonnes of food – yet gave out 33.4 tonnes.

Ines said: "This type of demand varies and can often be very short-term. For example, some people may start a new job but not get paid for a month or lose a job and have to wait for a universal credit payment. Other families that may have been managing may then have had a couple of weeks when they couldn't afford to buy food because of an energy bill."

Food donations can be left in the specially marked containers at Graffham Village Shop, Petworth Co-op or Midhurst Sainsbury's or Tesco. Only items that are in-date, unopened, with a full ingredients list (because of 'Natasha's Law', to protect allergy sufferers) can be accepted. In most urgent need this month are baby food (not milk), tinned tomatoes and soup, toothbrushes and paste and long-life milk.

The latest school holidays also saw a surge in demand for Petworth Foodbank's 'kid's lunch packs' (KLPs), with the number of children needing them this latest Easter holiday up by a third on a year ago – with similar levels anticipated in the coming summer holidays. The KLPs are offered to any child who receives free school meals during term time. The Easter KLPs were compiled for the foodbank by students and staff at Seaford College, drawn from donations from parents supplemented by fresh bread supplied for the local SØDT bakery and Easter eggs from the Rotary Club. Such is the demand for KLPs in the Petworth area that additional space is now needed to store them. If you have room you could offer – for just 10 or so days at the start of each school holiday – please let them know.





# 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 in June			
4	Marie Bracey	Trinity Sunday	Isaiah 40 v 12-17, 27-end
11	Ann Brown	Parish Eucharist	Genesis 12 v1-9
18	TBA	Father's Day Family Worship	TBA
25	Jan Brind	Parish Eucharist	Genesis 21 v8-21
		Flowers	
		4 & 11	Bridget Lewis
		18 & 25	Jill Knight
		Cleaning	
		Ginny Barrett and Diane Bellis	
			

**Did you know...?** You can raise funds for St Giles Church virtually whenever you shop online – and at zero cost to you. To find out how simple it is, just go to [stgilesgraffham.org/shopping-online](http://stgilesgraffham.org/shopping-online)

## 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 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

June				
1	Thu	7pm	Time out	The Rectory
2	Fri	4pm	Wedding rehearsal	St Giles Church
3	Sat	3pm	Wedding of Katie and Guy	St Giles Church
4	Sun	10.30am	Trinity Sunday Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
6	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
11	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
13	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
15	Thu	7pm	Time out	The Rectory
18	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Family Worship for Father's Day	St Giles Church
20	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
25	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity	St Giles Church
27	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
29	Thu	7pm	Time out	The Rectory
July				
2	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity	St Giles Church
4	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
9	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Trinity	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel

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)

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# What's on in and around the village

For home sports fixtures, see page 43

June				
1	Thu	7.45pm	Petworth Fringe presents Naomi Bedford and the Ramshackle Band	Leconfield Hall
2	Fri	7.30pm	Petworth Festival June Event presents pianist Ben Waters and his band	Midhurst Rother College
3	Sat	9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
		11.30am	Petworth Festival June Event presents Giles Brandreth on Queen Elizabeth II	Midhurst Rother College
		3pm	Wedding of Katie and Guy	St Giles
		7.30pm	Petworth Festival June Event presents pianist Bernard d'Ascoli	Midhurst Rother College
		7.30pm	Tesoro tenor and soprano duo (see page 21)	Three Moles
6	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
		2pm	Arts Society West Sussex illustrated talk on <i>Gardens of Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll</i>	Fittleworth Village Hall
8	Thu	2.30pm	Thursday Club strawberry tea	Pavilion
9	Fri		Garden Show (till 11 June)	Stansted Park
		4-8pm	Family Fridays (see page 12)	Rec
		Evening	Goodwood Friday Night races with music	Goodwood
11	Sun		Family race day	Goodwood
		1-6pm	Secret gardens trail ( <a href="http://bit.ly/petworth-gardens-23">bit.ly/petworth-gardens-23</a> )	Petworth
		7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
16	Fri		Sussex Day	
		Evening	Goodwood Friday Night races with music	Goodwood
17	Sat		Tennis Club Mixed Doubles Tournament	Rec
21	Wed	2.30pm	Graffham Garden Group visit (see page 10)	Sandhill Farm'se
23	Fri	Evening	Goodwood Friday Night races with music	Goodwood
		4-8pm	Family Fridays (see page 12)	Rec
24	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		11am-4pm	Susan Hill's open gallery (see page 42)	Graffham House
		8pm	Roots & Wings country music	Three Moles
25	Sun	12noon-4pm	Susan Hill's open gallery (see page 42)	Graffham House
27	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
28	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
		7pm	Graffham Village Shop Assoc AGM (page 6)	Pavilion
Continued on next page				



29	Thu	2.30-4.30pm	Tea in the garden (see page 14)	Jaysfield Lodge
<b>July</b>				
1	Sat	9am-2pm	Midhurst Farmers Market	Midhurst
2	Sun	9.45am-1pm	Graffham Down Trust picnic (see page 14)	Graffham Down
6	Tue	2pm	Arts Society West Sussex talk and recital on <i>Life on a Harp String</i>	Fittleworth Village Hall
7	Fri		Seaford College term ends	
		4-8pm	Family Fridays (see page 12)	Rec
9	Sun	7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
11	Tue		Petworth Festival (till 29 July)	Petworth
13	Thu		Festival of Speed (till 16 Jul)	Goodwood
		Afternoon	Thursday Club	Empire Hall
15	Sat	2.30pm	Graffham Garden Group flower show	Empire Hall
		5pm	Petworth Festival Asaka Quartet	St Giles
		8pm	Drag night with Miss Annette Curtain	Three Moles
17	Mon		East Lavington Parish Council meeting	Seaford Coll
21	Fri		WSCC schools term ends	
		4-8pm	Family Fridays (see page 12)	Rec
			Graffham Tennis Week (to Fri 28 July)	Rec
22	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		8pm	The Straw Dogs Irish folk band	Three Moles
23	Sun		Cowdray Park polo Gold Cup final	Easebourne
			Tennis Club Men's Doubles tournament	Rec
26	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
29	Sat	7pm	Wellington Wailers sea shanty singers (in aid of Shoreham Lifeboat)	Three Moles

**<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>Wednesdays</b>	9-10am	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>Continued on page 53</b>			



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	<b>10.45-11.45am</b>	<b>Ease Into Exercise<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Empire Hall</b>
	<b>6.15-7.30pm</b>	<b>Yoga<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Empire Hall</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>9-10.15am</b>	<b>Yoga<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Empire Hall</b>
	<b>9am-3pm</b>	<b>Physiotherapy clinic<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>Empire Hall</b>
	<b>10.30-11.15am</b>	<b>Pilates<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>Empire Hall</b>
	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Tennis Club night</b>	<b>Pavilion</b>

**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>Physiotherapy:** Contact Serena Cooper on 07884 445983 or at [serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com](mailto:serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com).

**<sup>8</sup>Pilates:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

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	Local beekeeper	Murray West	evenings 01798 867048
<b>Chichester District Council</b>			
	District Councillor	John Crpss	01243 534734 jcross@chichester.gov.uk
			07592 307027
	Dog Warden	Office hours	01243 534734
		Emergency	01243 785339
<b>Citizens Advice Bureau</b>			
			03448 487969
<b>East Lavington Parish Council</b>	Chairman	Charles Britton	charles.britton@eastlavington-pc.uk
	Clerk	Amy Harte	07889 979820
			eastlavingtonpc@gmail.com
<b>Empire Hall</b>			
		empirehall.org.uk	empirehall@gmail.com
	Chairman and Bookings	Sally Blunt	bookings.empirehall@gmail.com
	Treasurer	Carole Sargent	01798 344790
	Secretary and Maintenance	Gillian Charlesworth	empirehall@gmail.com
<b>Empire Lunch Club</b>		Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
<b>Foresters Arms</b>		forestersarms-pub.co.uk	01798 867386
<b>Graffham Archives</b>	Robin Brind	graffhamarchive@outlook.com	01798 867619
<b>Graffham Bellringers</b>	Tower Captain	Howard Pescott	01798 867029
<b>Graffham Bowls Club</b>	Chairman	Sheila Allen	01798 342869
	Secretary	Liz Pegram	01798 867770
<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	Roger Coakes	roger.coakes@graftam-pc.uk
	Clerk	Vacant	clerk@graftam-pc.uk
<b>Graffham Parish News</b>	Editorial and circulation: editor.graftamparishnews@gmail.com		
	Advertising: ads.graftamparishnews@gmail.com		
	See also bottom of inside front cover		
<b>Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council</b>		stgilesgraftam.org	
	Priest-in-Charge	Rev Vivien Turner	01798 867199
		hallo@stgilesgraftam.org	
	Churchwarden	Ginny Barrett	01798 867113
	Treasurer	Yvonne Churchward	07808 781510
		graftampcctreasurer@gmail.com	
<b>Graffham Rec Committee</b>	Chairman	John Bracey	01798 867760
	Treasurer	Bernard Bayly	01798 867042
	Bookings Sec	Sonya Gillespie	graftamrecpavilion@gmail.com
<b>Graffham Tennis Club</b>	Chairman	Simon Longman	01798 867317
	Membership	Richard Gyles	01798 867484
	Coaching	Emma Amin	01798 867063
<b>Graffham Village Shop</b>		Jeeva and Vasu	01798 867700
		graftamvillageshop.co.uk	
<b>Graffham Vill'ge Shop Assoc</b>	Chairman	Steve Dover	07770 499223
	Treasurer	Ipe Jacob	ipe.jacob@icloud.com
	Secretary	Henrietta Aparicio	07714 652856
<b>Katherine Maud Guillod Fund</b>	c/o Graffham PC Clerk		clerk@graftam-pc.uk
<b>Lavington Park Federation</b>		graftamanddunton.w-sussex.sch.uk	
	Graffham CE Infant School		01798 867324
	Dunton CE Junior School		01798 342402
	Friends of Graffham & Dunton Schools		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	01243 777100
	County Councillor	Tom Richardson	07463 785039
<b>White Horse</b>		whitehorsegraftam.com	01798 867331
<b>Yoga at Empire Hall</b>		Deborah Alborne	07790 867009



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