

# GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 406

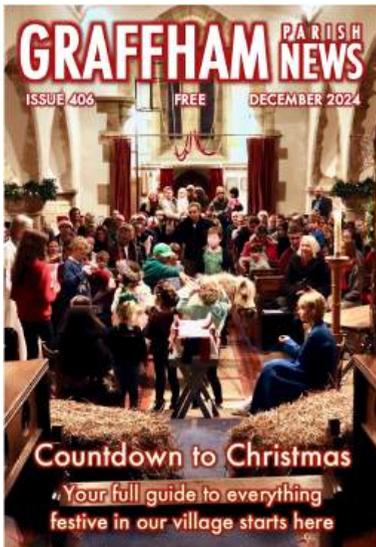
FREE

DECEMBER 2024



## Countdown to Christmas

Your full guide to everything festive in our village starts here



**On the cover:** Children and animals packed out St Giles for its Crib Service a year ago. Expect the same again this Christmas – when, as ever, all villagers and visitors will be warmly welcome – with or without tinsel, crowns and tea towels! For details of all Christmas Services at our church, see page 3.

**Contributions and contacts** The editors are always pleased to hear from you at [editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com](mailto:editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com)

- Michael Blunt (right) 07711 997487
- Bill Barrett (left) 07443 501091
- Philippa Sanders 07853 921825

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8 December.



Member Editor 2024 Award Winner 2022  
Association for Church Editors

# Writing from the Rectory: Taking Christmas seriously

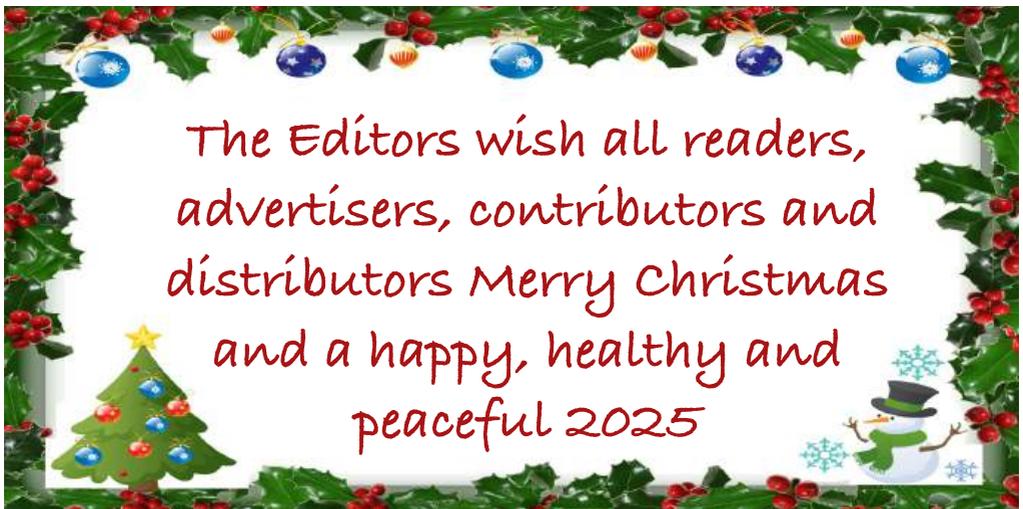
Averting our eyes from the festive paraphernalia appearing in shops as soon as the Halloween season is over, or even before, we have the opportunity this month to travel a serious journey through Advent and Christmas, transporting us from darkness into light. Will we take it?

Maybe not. The temptation to be beguiled by seasonal sentimentality and superficiality is great. So long as we maintain a proper perspective on these things they may not be so bad for us. But for Christmas to be only about Santa and Christmas trees and snowmen, about food indulgence and shopping pressure, is such a shame. The sparkly lights in the garden centres are part of a real problem, making the apparent obligation to make Christmas magical each year quite exhausting. Is it even possible to avoid these distractions and temptations?

It's worth asking ourselves, can it be different? Is there a real value in the seasons of Advent and Christmas that we are in danger of missing? How can Advent, overwhelmed by secular festivities, be a meaningful season at all? How can Christmas time be about family, without sentimentality – a time of celebration, without superficiality? How can it be for adults, not 'just for children'?

By taking these seasons seriously. Advent and Christmas are not about chocolate calendars and overindulgence. They are not a kind of pass-the-parcel game every year with layers of gift wrapping being taken off to reveal nothing in the middle. They are deeply serious opportunities to engage with the nature of God at the very

▶ *Continued on next page*



▶ *Continued from previous page*

heart of who we are. I often say to people (especially those who profess no belief), that ‘god’ is the value we measure ourselves by. Insofar as we all measure ourselves by something, we all identify with some form of ‘god’, even if that means casting ourselves in that image. Those who keep Christmas as it is meant to be mark it as a feast celebrating a God who is so loving of us, who was born and lived among us as one of us before sacrificing himself to the uttermost to give us fullness of life in his name – a God whom we believe is worth taking seriously, worth measuring ourselves by, worth celebrating, worth worshipping at Christmas and all times.

Being serious about Christmas does not mean missing out on all its enjoyments. It means allowing time to follow the journey to the manger in Advent without taking a short cut and allowing the full force of Christmas to impact upon us when the time is right and not before.

We have services throughout the month to help you do just that, catering for all – including our crib service with animals in the belltower manger and tinsel, crowns and tea towels welcome. This year, there’ll be some nativity outfits available on a first-come, first-served basis (thanks to Jill Knight!). For those who prefer something quieter, new this year is our candlelit Christmas Eve Eucharist. Everyone is assured the warmest of welcomes at all services. Details on next page. So, take yourself seriously this year, take God seriously as much as he does you, and find yourself immersed in some serious Christmas joy.

Wishing you every blessing for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

**Reverend Vivien**



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

**Churchwardens:** Ginny Barrett 01798 867113  
Cindy Bradley 07787 516522

**Safeguarding Officer:** Howard Pescott  
01798 867029 safeguardinggraffham@gmail.com

 stgilesgraffham.org  @stgilesgraffham

# CHRISTMAS 2024

AT ST GILES' CHURCH, GRAFFHAM\*

Come and celebrate - in our village - the birth of Christ...

## ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 1 December at 5pm  
With Seaford College Choir.



## CHRISTMAS FAIR AT EMPIRE HALL

Saturday 7 December at 11am - 2pm  
All the usual seasonal fun and games, treats, aromas and music,  
with all profits going to St Giles.

## FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday 15 December at 5pm  
A traditional service of readings and music -  
with mulled wine and mince pies to follow.

## COMMUNAL CAROL SINGING AT THE FORESTERS

Sunday 22 December at 6pm  
Join your neighbours for rousing renditions of your festive favourites,  
with mulled wine and more. Collection in aid of St Giles.

## CHRISTMAS EVE CRIB SERVICE

Tuesday 24 December at 4pm  
Re-telling the Christmas story, for all ages. Tinsel, crowns, wings and  
tea towels welcome! Nativity outfits provided - first-come, first-served!  
Who knows which animals will fill our bell tower stable!

## CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST

Tuesday 24 December at 7pm  
A quieter service, with traditional carols, marking the birth of Jesus Christ.

## CHRISTMAS DAY FAMILY EUCHARIST

Wednesday 25 December at 10.30am  
Feel free to bring your favourite present.

\*Except where noted



# Christmas in Graffham starts here and now

Christmas in Graffham kicks off at the start of December with lots of opportunities to quaff mulled wine, chomp on mince pies, sing some favourite carols and festive hits, recall the nativity and pick up some ‘not on the high street’ gifts. It all starts on the evening of Sunday 1 December when choir members from Seaford College



**Choristers from Seaford Choir will kick off Christmas in Graffham, singing in St Giles Church on Sunday 1 December.**

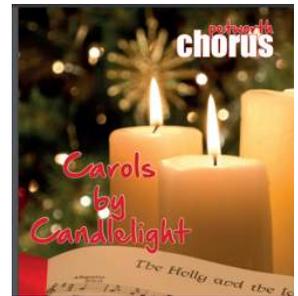
return to St Giles with some spine-tingling music for the church’s traditional Advent Service.

Then on Saturday 7 December there’s the village’s traditional Christmas Fair – one of the biggest fund-raisers of the year for our St Giles Church – in the Empire Hall, from 11am to 2pm... with a visit promised this year from Father Christmas himself! See from page 29 for full details.

The following Saturday, 14 December, Leconfield Singers will be staging its Christmas concert at St Mary’s Church, Petworth, at 6pm.

The next day, Sunday, 15 December, our own village choir will be leading the traditional candlelit Festival of Lessons and Carols, at St Giles at 5pm, with mulled wine and mince pies for everyone afterwards. Again, all welcome.

Later that week, on Wednesday 18 December at 6pm, around a dozen Graffham residents will be singing in Petworth Chorus’ annual Carols by Candlelight concert – moved like last year to a bigger venue, Petworth’s St Mary’s Church, because of demand for tickets in previous years. There’ll be a glass of complimentary fizz or soft equivalent and a mince pie. Tickets from [petworthchorus.co.uk](http://petworthchorus.co.uk).



Why did nobody bid for Donner and Blitzen in the Graffham Christmas Fair auction?

They were two deer

On the final Sunday before Christmas, 22 December, the village will be holding its usual communal singing of carols and other festive favourites, this year in the Foresters Arms. Mulled wine, hot chocolate and nibbles are promised, with a collection in aid of St Giles Church. It starts at 6pm. Please advise the Foresters if you plan to join, on 01798 867386 or at [info@forestersarms-pub.co.uk](mailto:info@forestersarms-pub.co.uk) to help them cater appropriately.

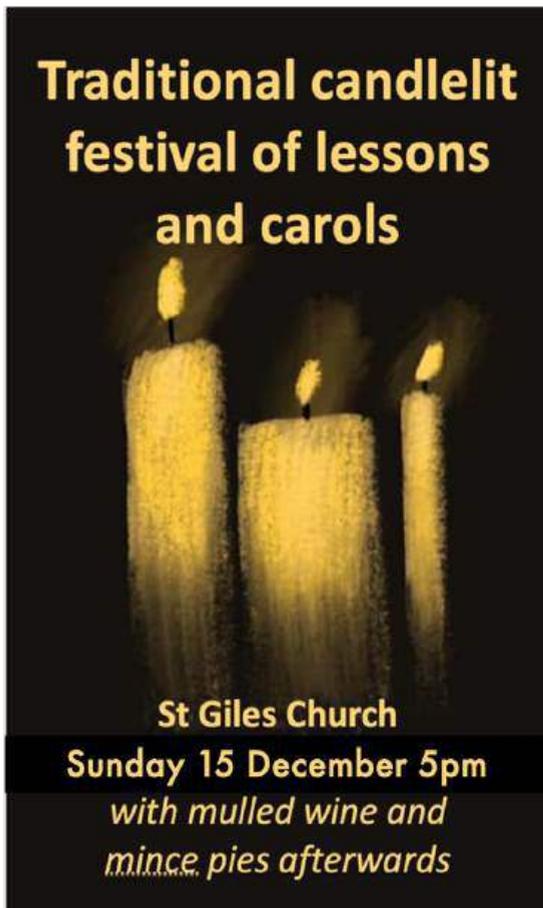
The church is expected to be packed out on Christmas Eve for its family crib service, at 4pm.

New this year, there will be costumes for children taking part in the nativity, on a first-come, first-served basis. Everyone else is encouraged to wear crowns, tea towels, tinsel and/or wings. Last year, the belltower was turned into a recreation of Bethlehem's manger, complete with various livestock (see front cover). Expect something similar this year.

For those who prefer some peace, this will be followed in the evening with a candlelit Eucharist, at 7pm

Then on Christmas Day itself, family Eucharist takes place at St Giles at 10.30am.

Rev Vivien said: "We are all set to celebrate Christmas as only Graffham can – with carols, candles, animals, friends and neighbours and a selection of services and events to suit everyone. Whether you are new or old to the village or just passing by, you'll be assured of the warmest of welcomes!"



**Traditional candlelit  
festival of lessons  
and carols**

**St Giles Church**  
**Sunday 15 December 5pm**  
*with mulled wine and  
mince pies afterwards*



Who beats his chest and swings from Christmas  
cake to Christmas cake?

Tarzipan

# Bin collections two days later after festivities

Bin collection days in Graffham will be a couple of days later than usual in the weeks after Christmas and New Year – on Fridays 27 December and 3 January then on Thursday 9 January before reverting back to Wednesdays from the following week. The garden recycling service will be suspended from Friday 20 December to Monday 6 January.

Chichester District Council has issued a reminder that the following festive items CAN be recycled in your red bin:

- Greetings cards and envelopes, and empty chocolate advent calendars.
- Wrapping paper and empty cardboard tubes but NOT shiny or metallic wrapping paper, ribbons or bows.
- Mince pie cases and other foil, plastic confectionary tubs and meat trays but NOT plastic film and wrapping.
- Cardboard boxes and packaging EXCEPT polystyrene.

You can use the garden recycling service to recycle your Christmas tree – or St Wilfrid's Hospice will do it for you in return for a donation. See [www.stwh.co.uk](http://www.stwh.co.uk)

**Take the stress out of Christmas this year and enjoy a meal at The Three Moles on Christmas Day**

Food will be served at 2.30pm and we have a great menu for you to choose from. 4 courses plus a drink on arrival for only £79.95 per person. Visit our website or pop in to see us to see the full menu and to book.

On Christmas Day, we all sit together on one big table across the pub - a great opportunity to make new friends and have fun!

[thethreemoles.co.uk](http://thethreemoles.co.uk) 01798 861303

# Should Graffham's speed limit be cut to 20 mph?

A 20 mph speed limit proposed for The Street 150 metres either side of Graffham Infant School could be expanded to cover the entire village if residents support the move under plans mooted by Graffham Parish Council.

At its meeting in the Empire Hall on Wednesday 6 November, councillors agreed to support the school's application to lower the speed limit on the road approaching its entrance – and to assess whether there would be support for that to be expanded throughout the village.

County Councillor for our Rother Valley ward, Tom Richardson, who is also WSCC's Advisor on Road Safety to the Cabinet Member for Highways, told them that the simplest way of reducing the speed restriction in the village would be by applying to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) for a traffic regulation order that would lower the existing 30 mph limit to 20 mph.

This would mean no change in the area covered by the restriction – starting close to the parish boundary with East Lavington at Popple Hill on the road to Petworth, near Carpenters Town on the way in from Selham and approaching the Pound junction from the Woodcote (White Horse) and then extending to the far south end of The Street.

It would also be the most cost effective way to make the switch as it would involve simply replacing the current signs without any need for new signage.

It was pointed out at the meeting that lowering the speed limit would make the village's roads safer for all users – motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, horse riders, dog walkers and everyone.

For any application to succeed, it would need the backing of the community – so the parish council is inviting all residents and local businesses and organisations to let it know their views on the idea.



## Do you support slowing down traffic here?

As part of its public consultation over the proposal to reduce the speed limit in the village from the current 30 mph to a new 20 mph restriction, Graffham Parish Council wants to hear your views. Send an email with your views to [clerk@graffham-pc.uk](mailto:clerk@graffham-pc.uk), remembering to include your name and address.



**New role for our man at Westminster**  
Our MP Andrew Griffith has been named Shadow Business Secretary by Kemi Badenoch, following her election as the new leader of the Conservative Party in early November. He had been Shadow Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology since July 2024, after serving as Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation since November 2023 and Economic Secretary to the Treasury for the previous year.



Why did the red-nosed reindeer help the old lady cross the road?

*It would have been Rudolph of him not to.*



GRAFFHAM  
**HEALTH SUPPORT**  
ASSOCIATION

A HUGE THANK YOU TO  
ALL THE VOLUNTEER  
DRIVERS AND COLLECTORS  
- WITHOUT YOU THE HSA  
WOULD NOT EXIST

**WISHING EVERYONE  
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HEALTHY 2025  
FROM THE HSA COMMITTEE**

# Two more defibrillators to keep hearts beating

Graffham is to get two more defibrillators for public use, with one of the established pair to be easier to access. There's also one at Selham – in the old phone box opposite the Three Moles – which means the neighbourhood will soon have five of the life-saving devices, more than most other similarly sized communities. Like the Selham defibrillator, Graffham's newest one is housed in the village's old phone box. The unit has been supplied by Graffham Parish Council, which has also just paid for the old phone box to be renovated – complete with new “defibrillator” signage on the top.

It was fitted there, inside a cabinet maintained at the correct temperature for the device to work perfectly each time, in early November by local electrician Matt Wheatley and is operational now. The code to access it is C159X.

A second new defibrillator will be installed soon outside the Pavilion at the Recreation Ground – and the one kept at Graffham Infants School is to be moved to a temperature-controlled cabinet outside the main building, so it is accessible 24/7, even when the school itself is shut. Both these improvements are being funded by the Katherine Maud Guillod Fund, which has been supporting village good causes like this for more than a century. Graffham's longest established defibrillator is on the south wall at the front of the Empire Hall. The code to access it is C240Z.

Defibrillators are devices that apply an electric charge to the heart to restore a normal heartbeat. If the heart rhythm stops due to cardiac arrest, also known as sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), a defibrillator may help it start beating again. The ones installed in Graffham provide easy-to-follow instructions as they are used. In an emergency, you are also advised to call 999 for medical help too.



**Electrician Matt Wheatley installs the first of the new defibrillators, in the old phone box by Pescods.**



**Trick or treat:** All sorts of strange creatures were to be found stalking the streets of Graffham in the hours of darkness on the evening of Thursday 31 October – Halloween. As one Dad put it: “It’s amazing how many ghouls rise up when free chocolate is being handed out!”



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#### AWARDS



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# Graffham asks for East Lavington merger talks

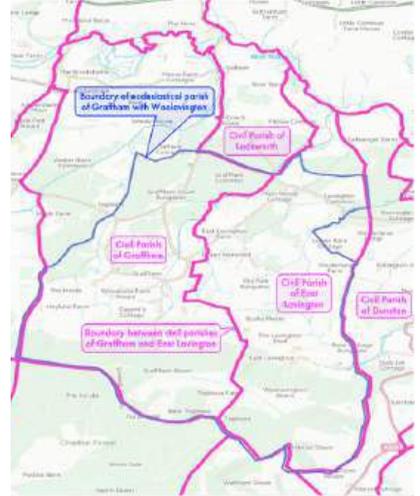
Graffham Parish Council is writing formally to its East Lavington Parish Council (ELPC) neighbour requesting a joint meeting to consider the potential pros and cons of a merger between the two and whether to pursue a combination.

At their meeting in September, East Lavington councillors felt it was inappropriate to undertake any preliminary investigation into the potential for combining the two councils unless a formal proposal was put to them by their Graffham neighbour.

Graffham councillors duly agreed at their session on 6 November to make the formal approach. Reconvening on Monday 18 November, ELPC heard that its Chairman Charles Britton had since been in discussion with his Graffham counterpart Roger Coakes to develop a framework before joint discussions are held. If this ends up with a decision by the councils to seek a combination, it would then go out to public consultation.

Some members of both councils have suggested that merging the two could result in long-term financial savings and other benefits. A draft paper detailing the potential advantages was presented at East Lavington's November meeting by councillor Simon Longman. The matter has been aired several times over the decades and was raised again earlier this year by a speaker from the floor at the annual meeting of the parish of Graffham, prompting initial discussions at meetings of both parish councils.

East Lavington civil parish today covers 7.97 km<sup>2</sup> including Norwood, Westerlands, Lavington Estate and Seaford College. It has a population of around 275 (excluding Seaford College boarders). Graffham covers 11.81 km<sup>2</sup> including the village and, since 1933, Selham and South Ambersham. It is home to some 520 people. The boundary between the two is the stream under Popple Hill, running south a few hundred yards to the east of The Street. The Rec is just inside Graffham, but Tangletrees, overlooking it immediately to the north, is in East Lavington.



The boundaries of Graffham, East Lavington and other bordering civil parishes are in pink on this map and the boundary of the ecclesiastical parish of Graffham with Woolavington in blue.



An aerial shot of the playground taken in mid-November showing how it's taking shape.

## Lottery Fund grants £16,000 to playground

Graffham's new playground has received an early Christmas present from the National Lottery Fund – a grant for £16,000. But wet weather during its early construction phase meant postponing its tentative 23 November opening date.

With £20,000 already donated by Graffham Parish Council from its Community Investment Levy fund, a generous 'donation in kind' by Glen and Asta Manchester

– in the form of the loan of members of the workforce rebuilding their new home Selham House to carry out the ground works – and multiple other financial gifts from other locals, including £1,000 from Graffham Festival, the Lottery Fund grant means the project has passed its initial £50,000 target and is on the way towards raising the total funds needed to complete the play area's redevelopment.

Rachel Gerrett, who is leading the team behind the initiative, pointed out, however, that there is still another £15,000 or so needed to complete the project. While further grant applications have yet to be determined, donations from the community are still

You can contribute towards the new playground via its page by scanning this QR code (right) with your Smartphone camera. Or type [gofund.me/546c06a7](https://gofund.me/546c06a7) in your web browser. As a charity, the project is eligible for Gift Aid, which adds 25 per cent to everything you donate – so please add this if you are a UK taxpayer. Any funds collected beyond the target will go towards more equipment and its on-going maintenance.



needed – and help is being sought from local builders or handymen to construct a playhouse. Suppliers Playsafe were on site from 4 November to start installing the new equipment – a process expected to take around two weeks, depending on the weather conditions. The Manchesters' men had earlier completed all the necessary groundworks – removing the old equipment and fence, digging and preparing the soil for the new layout and constructing the new fence. The bare earth has since been sown with grass seed and the rest covered with woodchip.

Graffham woodman Pete West has donated a bench he made and mounted new signage in wood. Five new elm trees, donated by the South Downs National Park Authority, are due to be planted there in the first week of this month, providing shade in the summer.

Rachel Gerrett said: “The grant from the National Lottery Fund – at the third time of asking – was simply brilliant news. There will still be spaces for a few pieces of equipment yet to be funded, but it all means we should have a wonderful new playground open soon, thanks to the many people who have contributed.”

## Property watch

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



**Calloways, Graffham GU28 0NJ:** Listed cottage on private estate, two bedrooms, one bathroom, sitting room, kitchen/diner. 107 square metres (1,153 sq ft). Large garden, outbuildings. £1,500 pcm unfurnished. *Savills, Petworth 01798 345993. Available 30 Dec.*

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

### **Boderton Mews, Burton Park, Duncton GU28 0LS:**

Three-bedroomed semi-detached house, two bathrooms, drawing and dining rooms, kitchen/breakfast room. 142 sq m (1,527 sq ft). Private courtyard garden and access to estate grounds and tennis courts. OiR £650,000. *Alex Harvey, Billingshurst 01403 907102. Listed 31 Oct.*



**Carters Cottage, Cocking Causeway GU29 9QH:** Detached cottage, four bedrooms, three bathrooms, drawing and dining rooms, snug, study, kitchen. 166 sq m (1,785 sq ft). 2.5 acres garden, outbuildings. £1.25 million. *Seymours, London 020 7046 0447. Listed 15 Nov.*

# Your views wanted on Lavington Estate's future

The views of the local community are to be sought on proposals for Lavington Stud and Estate in a consultation exercise as part of a planning pre-application process being undertaken by its new owners James and Bianca Pitt.

Initial proposals were revealed as this edition of *Graffham Parish News* was going to press, with fuller details to be mailed imminently to every household and business in Graffham and East Lavington.

When James and Bianca bought the property in 2021, development approval had already been granted to convert the redundant agricultural buildings at Calloways into 10 homes and replace a bungalow there with another new house.

However, the new owners, in line with their ecological ethos for the whole estate, feel it would be more suitable to reduce the number of dwellings there and convert the remaining buildings instead into enterprise units, aimed at artisan businesses, arts and crafts workshops and not-for-profit organisations. At Home Farm, where



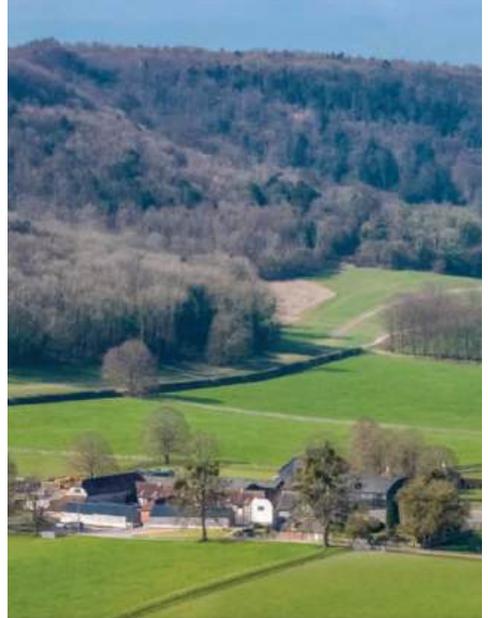
An illustration, looking from the south, of how Calloways could be in the future, with fewer homes than previously approved and some units for small artisan enterprises.



Architects' drawings of how the proposed new main house at Lavington Stud and Estate, would look, with its main front door facing north (left) and windows looking to the south, on the site currently occupied by the stud's stables and offices (below).

the stud's main stables and offices are located, they would like to create a new house in the place of some "less sightly 20<sup>th</sup> Century buildings". When the previous owners' family acquired the stud more than a century ago, what is now Seaford College's Mansion House was then the estate's main house.

Leaflets outlining the full proposals are to be posted soon across the community, inviting you to give your views on the plans. Further details are to be made available on the estate's website [www.lavingtonestate.com](http://www.lavingtonestate.com). There will also be a freephone information line opened up to answer any queries.



Under James and Bianca's stewardship, nature is being encouraged to return to Lavington Stud and Estate's 600 acres. This year alone, almost 150 parkland trees and 500 metres of new hedging have been planted, and 40 acres of wildflower meadows restored by sowing them with native wild flower seeds. As a result, much higher numbers of birds are being spotted there, with the likes of barn owls, little owls and kestrel successfully raising young. Among the visitors has been at least one Peregrine falcon.

Meantime, many of the estate's rental properties – some of which were near derelict – have been renovated and insulated and farm buildings saved from collapse.

James and Bianca said: "We very much look forward to hearing the feedback from our neighbours as we continue on our journey to make Lavington Stud and Estate something the entire community can be proud of."

# Planning applications and decisions

*Details for Graffham and East Lavington filed with the South Downs National Park since our previous edition (for details, see [bit.ly/sdnp-planning](http://bit.ly/sdnp-planning))*

## Planning applications

**Woodfire Campsite seeks approval to stay in place** Woodfire Camping has applied for planning consent to continue its operation at Westerlands. South Downs National Park (SDNP) originally approved the campsite in May 2019 for an initial five-year period, after which the land was required to be returned to grazing and all structures removed. Woodfire is now asking for that previous temporary planning permission to be made permanent for year-round use, with just a few more tent pitches – 30 against the current 24 – including up to five for camper vans, along with structures made mainly of timber including an outdoor kitchen, two toilet blocks, a shower/washing up block with a drainage field, shelter for diners, non-permanent trailer for managers' accommodation and a car park. **Westerlands, East Lavington GU28 0QJ** SDNP/24/04099/FUL. Received 4 Oct. Validated 11 Nov.

**The Pines, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NS:** Demolish existing garage/shed outbuilding and replace with new double garage/workshop outbuilding with installation of roof mounted solar PV panels SDNP/24/04518/HOUS. Received 30 Oct. Validated: 7 Nov.

**High Bank, Beechwood Lane, East Lavington GU28 0NA:** Single-storey wrap around extension, two-storey rear extension, alterations to existing roof including five dormer windows. External and internal refurbishments. SDNP/24/04350/HOUS Received: 21 Oct. Validated 6 Nov.

**East Lodge, Lavington Park, Duncton GU28 0LE:** Replacement extension to south elevation to create new kitchen/dining room and internal reconfiguration. SDNP/24/03680/LIS Received: 5 Sep. Validated: 21 Oct.

## Planning decisions

**Oakfield, The Street, Graffham GU28 0QA:** Loft conversion including dormer windows. *Planning permission granted.* 14 Nov. SDNP/24/03355/HOUS.



What would you call one of Santa's helpers who has just won the lottery?

Welly



## White Horse renamed The Woodcote

The White Horses has been renamed The Woodcote as part of the former pub's new focus as a restaurant with rooms. The rebranding is part of a series of changes to position the inn as a welcoming place for locals and those from further afield to visit for a meal or cocktails, the team there say.

Long-serving front of house face Will Morley has been promoted to General Manager and two new chefs recently recruited. A more keenly priced lunchtime menu is being rolled out and the wine list broadened to offer more entry-level priced choices. The overall emphasis remains on quality.

To ensure the freshest of ingredients, the restaurant is creating its own vegetable and herb garden, in the field to the west of the building and car park, as part of its farm-to-fork spirit, with an emphasis on championing local suppliers.

The old White Horse pub sign was taken down in late November and is being presented to Amanda Godman-Dorington, whose family previously owned the pub. The sign depicted a white horse ridden by a jockey wearing her father's racing colours.

The choice of the restaurant's new name reflects the part of Graffham where it is located, with Woodcote Lane just to the west. As a pub, the White Horse had been welcoming guests for more than a century. Owners Glen and Asta Manchester, of Selham House, and their team say: "Our ambition is to ensure The Woodcote does so for the next 100 years, and, in doing so, we aim to create a Graffham landmark that the community can be proud of."



# Graffham Empire Movies

Bringing cinema to the village – and raising funds for our Empire Hall



Based on a true story, when Edith and fellow Littlehampton residents begin to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. Suspecting that something is amiss, the town's women investigate. Filmed in Arundel and other nearby locations. Certificate R (ripe language!). 102 mins.

Saturday 25 January

Empire Hall

Doors and bar open 7pm for 7.30pm start

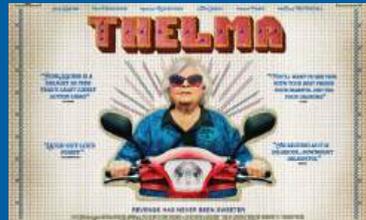
Interval ice creams

Tickets – £10 adults – from [ticketsource.co.uk/GEM](https://ticketsource.co.uk/GEM) or at the door

## FUTURE ATTRACTIONS



Saturday 15 February



Saturday 29 March

# School report: A busy end to the year



*Graffham Infant School secretary Sonya Gillespie reports on a busy end of term for its pupils, parents and staff.*

**New CCTV installed** We have installed new CCTV at the front of the school using funds raised by the village coordinated by Stuart Gerrett. This has been supported by a fantastic security company called SSC Security who have given us an amazing deal to help us as a school.

**Roof to be replaced** We put in a bid with WSCC to have the roof replaced in order to preserve the beautiful listed building. The bid was accepted and we are moving through the initial planning stages. This will be a lengthy project but will maintain the beauty and integrity of our 180 year old school.

**Bid for speed limit by school to be cut to 20 mph** We have applied for the speed limit to be lowered to improve safety around the school using the advice from WSCC that the speed limit around a school can be requested to be 20mph. This is currently being reviewed by the Parish Council but by the time the magazine goes to print we should have been able to make further progress. As we are coming into the darker winter months please take care around the school. We have asked our families to ensure they park and drive respectfully in the local area.

**Wild Wednesdays** The children at Graffham have been enjoying their Wild Wednesdays learning about the local area and exploring the nature around the school. They will shortly be preparing for the Christmas nativity performances taking place at St. Giles Church before the end of term.



**Getting up close to nature on a Wild Wednesday**

**Farewell to headmistress Helen** There will be a leaving party for our head, Helen Martin, at Duncton CE Junior School on Monday 16 December 5-9pm – please contact the office at either Duncton or Graffham for further details – all welcome. See also next page.



# Head Helen waves goodbye to our schools

Helen Martin waves goodbye to Lavington Federation's Graffham Infants and Duncton Junior Schools at the end of this term after almost 18 years as headmistress, overseeing the start in education of some 500 of our community's children, *writes editor Michael Blunt*.

She took the decision to step down almost a year ago now, prompted by a bout of ill health brought on by stress triggered by OFSTED inspections directly following the Covid pandemic – the two biggest challenges she faced in her 32-year career as a teacher. “I reached the time in life when I could start drawing a pension early and I thought I should step back and take better care of myself,” she said.

Helen took up her post here in April 2007. She had been at Broadbridge Heath Primary School, near Horsham, and was ready to take a step up. She knew this area well as her grandparents had lived at Heath End, where she visited them frequently. So the opening here seemed like a natural fit. She applied – and got the job.

At the time, Graffham and Duncton's schools were being brought together under the Lavington Federation umbrella. For her first term, they remained separate. Then from her first September, they operated as one, with five to seven year olds attending Graffham as their infant school before transferring to Duncton, which became a junior school, for the next four years. The challenge was to make the two campuses feel like one school – achieved with immense support from the governors, parents and staff, Helen remembers.

A colour scheme was quickly adopted to give the schools and the federation their identities – red for Graffham, blue for Duncton and purple (which is of course red and blue mixed together) for the Lavington Federation.

Graffham had 36 children on its roll back then. That has risen to 45 now, although it has been up to 59 during her stewardship. The slight fall off since that peak is accounted for by declining birth rates nationally, she points out. Duncton has 58 pupils at present against a capacity of 80.

Duncton was a Church of England school. Graffham, or Downlands as it was sometimes known, was founded as a church school but, after a century, had somehow allowed that affiliation to lapse. Nine years ago, it became a CofE school again, with Bishop of Chichester Martin Warner visiting to mark the occasion.

It is now one of only two schools in the Diocese of Chichester based in a Grade 2 listed building – which presents special challenges when trying to bring it up to

modern standards and keep it warm in winter. The structure dates back to 1832. Its walls are almost a metre thick, but its steeply angled roof has no insulation.

One of Helen's final triumphs has been to lead a campaign to win funding from West Sussex County Council for the roof to be renovated – hopefully with improved insulation. “That has been a real stamp of approval from our local education authority for what we are doing here,” she says.

She pays tribute to the school's governors in gaining this kind of support – and for their backing throughout her time as head, led by chairmen starting with Angie Thornley, then Marie Bracey, Emma Vernon and now Giovanni Soffietto.

For a decade, the school was rated by OFSTED as outstanding until the grading rules were changed so for the past three years it has been rated “good”. The strain of those inspections, across two campuses, took its toll on Helen's health. Then came the immense challenge of providing education during the covid lockdowns.

Among Graffham's many achievements during her tenure, she is particularly proud of its nomination as a ‘forest school’, with its focus on outdoor learning. Helen became one of the region's leading ‘forest’ trainers, training teachers from every school in the Rother Valley, around 200 in total, in this approach.

That is something she will continue after stepping down from Lavington – along with tending her own one acre garden at her Loxwood home.

“I'll be so sad to leave,” she said. “This is an amazing village. I've made so many friends here. I'll miss all the parents, my colleagues and particularly the children. But I won't disappear completely!”



**There will be a leaving party for Helen at Duncton CofE Junior School on Monday 16 December 5-9pm. All welcome.**

# Music, movies and reeling at Empire Hall

The Empire Hall is gearing up for a busy new year with gigs galore and some fantastic films. With the Christmas Fair on Saturday 7 December and its regular busy schedule of exercise, yoga, pickleball and badminton sessions bringing down the curtain on its 2024.

Just days into 2025, it will be welcoming back Ed Blunt, Daisy Chute and Hollie Rogers after their standing ovation, sell-out Songwriters' Circle show a year ago. They are stopping off at our hall on Saturday 11 December as part of their Big Bang Love! tour, which is currently covering venues from Cornwall to Warwickshire taking in London along the way. The musicians feature regularly on the radio and at festivals from Glastonbury to Black Deer, with their latest song Big Bang Love! picked as record of the week by a number of BBC stations. Fans of Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, Joan Armatrading, Paul Simon, Randy Newman and Debbie Harry won't want to miss them. With tickets selling fast, you are advised to book early. See next page.



The following month, on Saturday 8 February, the band True Strays will be bringing their own brand of Americana roots, blues and rock and roll. Based in Bristol, they are fast carving out a niche of their own on the UK Americana scene, drawing influences from classic sounds such as Neil Young, Muddy Waters,



Fleetwood Mac and modern-inspired acts like Alabama Shakes, Gary Clark Jr and the Black Keys. Rounding off the hall's music season, on Saturday 22 March, is what is widely regarded as the best Robbie Williams tribute act on the circuit – Daniel Budd and his band.

## True Strays and Daniel Budd.

On 18 January, the Empire Hall hosts the village's traditional Burns Night Celebration, complete with haggis and reeling. There are practices on Sunday afternoons in the run up to dust off your steps. See page 40.

Graffham Empire Movies meantime has three fantastic features lined up for the new year – *Wicked Little Letters*, "the British comedy of the year" on 25 January, the moving true story *One Life* on February 15, and the tender, laugh-out-loud *Thelma* on March 29. See page 18.

For tickets for Empire Hall events, go to [www.empirehall.org.uk/tickets](http://www.empirehall.org.uk/tickets)

*Unmissable for fans of: JONI MITCHELL, PAUL SIMON,  
JOAN ARMATRADING, RANDY NEWMAN, DEBBIE HARRY*



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completely brilliant"*  
CHRIS DIFFORD



**HOLLIE ROGERS**

*"A magnificent and  
powerful voice"*  
SUZANNE VEGA



**DAISY CHUTE**

*"A voice like the  
first rays of sunlight"*  
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# THE BIG BANG LOVE! TOUR

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# From County Hall: Hedges, ditches and roads

*Our representative on West Sussex County Council, Tom Richardson, provides an update on his key issues of focus right now.*



All residents of Graffham and East Lavington – and, indeed, of all West Sussex – are asked to ensure their roadside ditches and hedges are properly maintained as soon as possible. They are your responsibility, not the council's – but if you don't maintain them properly, the council will instruct contractors to cut them back and send you the invoice, which may well be considerably more than you would like.

Many of our lanes, particularly in and around here, have narrowed and become unsafe because some home landowners have not been maintaining the ditches, hedges, trees and undergrowth between their property and the road, as they should.

If there are ditches, hedges, trees or other vegetation between your land and the highway, you have what are known as 'riparian responsibilities' to maintain them, even if they are not on land that you actually own.

There is a common misconception that the local highways authority owns and is responsible for the land one metre either side of the road – but this is **not** the case. Highways has the right to place signs etc either side of a highway, but it does **not** own the land. In fact, for the vast majority of rural roads, the adjoining property holder owns the land to the centre of the street.

Nearly all the flooding on our local lanes is down to landowners not maintaining drainage ditches. Everyone needs to do their bit – if just one person along the road doesn't do it, then the efforts of everyone else are wasted. Hedges, trees and other vegetation must be cut back a minimum of half a metre (1.6ft) from the edge of the road. Don't forget that over time, verges may have encroached onto the road, so these should be dug back too and the vegetation trimmed appropriately. Any trees etc that overhang the road must have 5.2 metres (17ft) clearance from the road.

Highways has begun enforcing this now that West Sussex County Council has a new riparian team. A number of properties in the Graffham area have been sent initial letters and a couple are on final warnings. If these are not complied with, Highways will have the works carried out and recover the cost from the land/homeowner. Don't wait until you get a letter – you don't want Highways' contractors doing the work as anything they cut will be hacked back much further than the minimum requirement and, in some cases, right to the ground which rarely looks pretty. So please, for the safety of everyone who lives in, visits or travels through our villages, arrange for vegetation to be cut back as soon as possible.



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# From Town Hall: Our rare local treasure saved

*Our representative on Chichester District Council, John Cross, provides his regular update on his key issues of focus right now.*



Over the past couple of months, I have been promoting raising funds, through crowd funding, for the Stopham Mount, a rare Anglo-Saxon gold and garnet pyramidal mount, dating to around AD600, which was found by a metal detectorist near Stopham, just 15 minutes from Graffham and in the same Fittleworth ward. I am pleased to say 106 donations were made – some small,



others large – and we have raised enough money to secure this ancient artefact for our district.

One of the last donations took the total gifted over the sum needed, and the donor kindly asked that the extra money given should be used to make a purpose-made mount for the artifact, so that was an extra bonus. Chichester's Novium Museum is in the process of also acquiring a case to enable items to be put on display outside its own premises, so hopefully the Stopham Mount will be making a visit to our own district – where it was found – soon.

In September, I and several other district councillors slept out for one night to raise awareness and funds for homeless charity Stonepillow. I raised more than £550, thanks to everyone who donated. With all my fellow district councillors, we raised more than £3,500. The total sponsorship committed for everyone who slept out was over £20,000 – an amazing sum that will help those in need rebuild their lives.

Finally, I wanted to bring your attention to a service run by Chichester District Council (CDC) called 'Supporting You'. This service was set up to help those vulnerable in our society. Our team of CDC officers are able to give advice and support on a whole range of issues, such as warm home discounts, money advice, grants and, more recently, for pensioners negatively impacted by losing their winter fuel allowance. Should you or someone you know benefit from their advice, then do call them on 01243 534860 or email them at [supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk).

I wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

## Thursday Club sits down for Christmas lunch

Graffham's Thursday Club holds its Christmas lunch at Heyshott's Unicorn on Thursday 12 December. To book, contact Diane Bellis on 01798 867444.



Jeeva, Vasu and all the team at  
**GRAFFHAM VILLAGE SHOP**  
wish all their customers  
Merry Christmas!

Thanks for your support in 2024 –  
and here's to a healthy and happy 2025!

**Any changes to opening hours on high days  
and holidays will be posted on the shop door.**

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# GRAFFHAM CHRISTMAS



# FAIR

## SATURDAY



## 7 DECEMBER 11AM - 2PM

## EMPIRE HALL



Don't miss it - Father  
Christmas won't! He's  
promised to be there!



# Santa set to land at Graffham's Christmas Fair

Graffham's Christmas Fair will take place as usual in the Empire Hall on the first Saturday in December – 7 December from 11am to 2pm.

The Christmas tree will be sparkling, festive music playing, mulled wine, mince pies and hot sausage rolls ready to serve up and games prepared for the kids, making it the perfect place to pick up some Christmas presents while catching up with friends and neighbours. And this year Father Christmas has promised to pop in from around 11.30am for 90 minutes to check for himself how good all the village's boys and girls have been through the past 12 months.

The fair is also one of the main fund-raising events of the year for St Giles, helping our beautiful, historic and peaceful village church meet its near £60,000 a year costs



for maintaining its building, bells and burial ground and everything it does for the community – wedding venue, support for our schools, the bereaved, needy and homeless, Sunday and special services ... So please support the fair generously!

There are some amazing lots up for grabs in its auction – see from page 32. And also an astonishing line-up of goodies you could win in its raffle – see next page. Tickets are circulated with this edition of *Graffham Parish News* – so there's no excuse not to enter!

As ever, the home produce stand is expected to do a roaring trade, with its

**Cracker:** Flashback to 2023's Fair.

delicious cakes, buns, biscuits, jams, pickles and other treats prepared by the village's cooks. A number of locals will be manning stalls – potter Joanna Morris, artist Sue Hill, Slow Grown Farm's Katie and Brett Sacks, Ben Marks offering his venison... Fiona Mackie will be running a stall offering jewellery, handbags, scarves and trinkets – all donations welcome – and there will be a number of stands offering Christmas decorations! You'll also be able to pick up prints of local artist Clive McBain's amazing Graffham paintings, garden bits and pieces and, as they say, much, much more!

# - perhaps he's after the remarkable raffle prizes!

Some wonderful prizes are up for grabs in the 2024 Graffham Christmas Fair Grand Raffle – thanks to the generosity of the many donors from the village.

Four books, each of five tickets (costing £1 a ticket), are being delivered with this edition of *Graffham Parish News*. Don't feel you have to buy them, but it'd be lovely if you do! More are available from Graffham Village Shop – and at the Christmas Fair in the Empire Hall on Saturday 7 December 2024, from 11am until the raffle is drawn at 1.30 pm. To enter, fill in each ticket stub with your surname, phone number and, ideally, your email address. Then:

- Hand in your stubs and payment (by cash or card) at the Graffham Christmas Fair on Saturday 7 December 2024 before 1.15 pm.
- OR at Graffham Village Shop before Saturday 7 December 2024. Insert your stubs and cash payment in a sealed envelope marked 'Christmas Fair Raffle'.

The draw will be made on Saturday 7 December at about 1.30 pm at the Christmas Fair in the Empire Hall. Winners will be notified.

Good luck – and thanks again to all the prize donors!

## Here are some of the great raffle prizes up for grabs!



- A fab festive hamper from Graffham Village Shop
- A Clive McBain Graffham print
- Plants
- Vouchers for all sorts of wonderful treats
- Chocolates
- Crackers
- Bottles of grog galore
- Lots of other lovely prizes – see the full list at the fair itself



Your raffle tickets are being distributed with this magazine – but more will be available at the Christmas Fair.

# THE HOME PRODUCE STAND NEEDS YOU!



If you can contribute any goodies,  
please contact Gillian Charlesworth  
on 07973 768924  
or at [dalehousefemail@gmail.com](mailto:dalehousefemail@gmail.com)



## Graffham Christmas Fair's amazing auction

Graffham Christmas Fair's 2024 auction features several changes this year, including a festive theme – the 12 Days of Christmas – with thanks to many generous donors for the unique experiences or treats that, normally, money could not buy. Another key change is that bidding will all be online. There will be a host at the auction stand at the Christmas Fair in the Empire Hall on Saturday 7 December with an iPad to help you with any bids if you don't have a mobile phone, tablet or laptop yourself.

Most of the goodies up for grabs are shown on these pages – but a few more will be added ahead of the fair itself. To bid for any of the items ahead of or during the fair, go to [www.jumblebee.co.uk/graffhamchristmasfairthetwelvedaysofchristmas](http://www.jumblebee.co.uk/graffhamchristmasfairthetwelvedaysofchristmas)

You can ask the e-auctioneer to raise your bid to a specific level if you don't want to be outbid before the auction closes, at 1.30pm on Saturday 7 December 2024.

Further details of all lots and the full rules can be viewed at that [www.jumblebee.co.uk/graffhamchristmasfairthetwelvedaysofchristmas](http://www.jumblebee.co.uk/graffhamchristmasfairthetwelvedaysofchristmas) website and at the fair

Happy bidding and good luck!





# Jewellery, accessories, hats, handbags, scarves...

A selection of high-end brand new handbags and scarves, donated by Lady Young, will be on offer at this year's Graffham Christmas Fair. They will be available at the stand selling pre-loved items of jewellery and other fashion accessories, which debuted last year and is now being expanded in response to popular demand. It will be the place to go for necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, and scarves, hats, and more, besides those amazing handbags and scarves.

If you have any items you no longer need that you'd like to donate to the stand, contact Fiona Mackie ahead of the fair, which is on Saturday 7 December at 11am in the Empire Hall.



## Christmas & New Year Opening Hours at The Three Moles

Fri 20th Dec - 7.30pm - Kirdford Players Christmas Mummers Play  
Come along and enjoy this Christmas tradition - its fun and free!

23rd Dec - 12pm to 11pm (kitchen 12-2 & 5.30 to 9)  
24th Dec - 12pm to Midnight (kitchen 12-2)  
Christmas Day - 11am to 1pm for drinks (2pm onwards for food)  
Boxing Day - 12pm to 6pm (kitchen 12-3)  
New Years Eve - 4pm to 1am  
New Years Day - Closed

Our bar and kitchen are open every day except Wednesdays all year round, so you enjoy the warm and welcoming pub, or order food and drink for takeaway or local delivery. 01798 861303

THE FORESTERS ARMS  
GRAFFHAM



# Christmas MENU

Available from 1st to 24th of December

## STARTER

SPICED PARSNIP SOUP  
SERVED WITH CHEESE STRAWS. V/GF/DF/VG ON REQUEST

BRIE, PROSCIUTTO AND FIG TARTINE, SERVED WITH SALAD.

DUCK AND PORK TERRINE WITH CRANBERRIES AND PISTACHIOS SERVED WITH PICKLED  
WALNUT SALAD AND CROUTONS. DF/N/GF ON REQUEST

GRILLED SCALLOPS WITH WASABI PEA PUREE AND PANCETTA CRUMB,  
SERVED WITH SALAD.DF/GF

## MAIN COURSE

TURKEY ROULADE STUFFED WITH PLUM JAM  
SERVED WITH FONDANT POTATO AND BRAISED RED CABBAGE SAUCE. GF/DF

GAME CASSEROLE WITH VENISON , RABBIT , PHEASANT  
SERVED WITH GARLIC DOUGH BALLS . DF/GF ON REQUEST

CLEMENTINE SALMON FILLET WITH CRISPY CHRISTMAS KALE,  
DICED SAUTÉED POTATO AND HONEY GLAZE BABY CARROTS. GF/DF

MARINATED CAULIFLOWER STEAK,  
CREAMY BUTTER BEAN PUREE AND CHIMICHURI SAUCE . V/VG/GF/DF

## DESSERT

MULLED WINTER FRUITS WITH ICE CREAM . GF/V/VG ON REQUEST

CHOCOLATE ORANGE MOUSSE . GF/V

BAILEYS CHEESECAKE WITH WHIPPED CREAM AND AMARETTI. V

CHRISTMAS PUDDING WITH BRANDY BUTTER OR CREAM

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING WITH CLOTTED CREAM .GF/V

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N-CONTAIN NUTS, DF - DAIRY FREE  
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## Graffham Garden Group

### New Year lunch

Thursday 30 January 2025, 12.30pm for 1pm

Empire Hall

£19 a head, two courses including wine/beer, coffee and mints

Booking sheet will be in Graffham Village Shop from  
1 December to 21 January to make your meal choices:

*Mains:* Fish pie, beef lasagne or vegetable lasagne

*Puds:* Apple and cherry crumble or chocolate, pear and almond pudding

**All members and partners warmly welcome**

**New memberships or renewals £2 on the day**

Please book early to avoid disappointment. Payment in cash on the day.



Stall Holders  
Christmas Carols  
Pony Rides  
Crafts & Face Painting  
Horsebox Café

Contact us to to reserve a  
table as a stall holder:  
[bookings@westerlands.com](mailto:bookings@westerlands.com)  
[www.westerlands.com](http://www.westerlands.com)



## Westerlands Christmas Fair

Saturday 14 December  
10am to 3pm

Well behaved dogs are welcome on a lead. We are a farm so  
horses, cattle, sheep & free range chickens will be about!

# Diary of a New Farm: Perfect gifts for foodies

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

Everything we do at Slow Grown Farm is seasonal, including our on-farm events. The end of October saw our last farm tour and barbeque day – a beautiful sunny autumnal Sunday visiting the pigs, piglets, cows and calves. We've been incredibly lucky this year and haven't had to contend with bad weather for any of our events!

Since May we've shown 286 people around the farm, and fed 180 of them from our BBQ. Now the winter months are drawing in, it's time to take a break from hosting until spring next year.

Although farm tours are having a seasonal break, our pop-up shop will continue to be open on specific dates – Saturday 30 November, then Sundays 15 and 22 December, all 9am-1pm. Here, you can taste, and take home, our artisanal cheeses and woodland charcuterie. From our freezer, you can choose our 100 per cent grass-fed beef or organic woodland pork – including our homemade, preservative-free sausages.

If you're looking for a Christmas gift for that foodie in your life, our artisanal cheese and woodland charcuterie make a unique present – that's also easy to put in the post! We can deliver your chosen items straight to the recipient in a hand-stamped gift box, using Royal Mail. Alternatively you can collect the items from the farm.

However you choose to do it, we advise you do so soon, as the amount of cheese we have is limited and we're doing lots of Christmas markets and festivals – including Graffham Christmas Fair on Saturday 7 December!

Our online shop is at [www.slowgrownfarm.co.uk](http://www.slowgrownfarm.co.uk).



© Sam Milton

Getting close to the animals on Slow Grown Farm's open days earlier this year.

# Nature Notes: Home for Christmas

*A regular column by Sussex naturalist and wildlife guide Michael Blencowe, who can regularly be spotted in and around Graffham.*

Sussex is no place for a warbler in winter. As daylight, temperature and their insect food dwindle, blackcaps, whitethroats, chiffchaffs, reed, sedge and willow warblers all evacuate England. Each September their fragile, feathered bodies fly to Spain and sub-Saharan Africa on the promise of warmth, food and, ultimately, life. So, finding a blackcap swinging on your birdfeeder in December will be as unlikely as seeing Santa at a midsummer barbeque. But, at Christmas, miracles can happen.

Blackcaps return to England in April along with cuckoos and chiffchaffs, who broadcast their arrival with their monotonous two-note tune. But the blackcap lets loose a rich, full-throated, joyous warble – a defiant announcement that he’s cheated death for another winter.

This colourful song comes from a colourless bird, yet there’s something stylish and continental about the blackcap’s appearance. Their two-tone grey suit and black beret pulled over dark eyes make them look like some Parisian beatnik. You’d expect to catch one sat in a willow smoking Gauloises and muttering about Sartre.

## Work parties 2024-25

Join us for some outdoor fun and exercise after which you can feel virtuous for having done something positive for your environment! Did we mention that coffee, tea and cakes are provided?

Meet at **Graffham’s St Giles Church at 9.30am**. You’ll need a pair of gloves, strong shoes or boots and warm clothing. Please email [jimkirke@hotmail.com](mailto:jimkirke@hotmail.com) if you plan to come along and say if you would like a ride up so that he can arrange transport.



15 December	Sunday	1 February	Saturday
5 January	Sunday	15 March	Saturday

The female bird's beret is a rich chestnut brown – hardly qualifying her to use the name blackcap at all.

The laws of nature clearly state that all European blackcaps must migrate south for the winter. But in the 1960s a small gang of nonconformist blackcaps in Germany started a revolution. They headed south-west instead of south, ending up in England. Mother Nature is not kind to those who disobey her rules and this suicide squad was surely sentenced to a frozen death in our frosty winter. But, instead, they found a new England – a land of mild winters, ornamental berry bushes and kind people who hung balls of fat in their gardens. They didn't freeze and starve. They survived.



A blackcap on a wintry Sussex branch.

© Roger Wilmshurst, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Not only that – the following spring's short flight home to Germany meant they arrived ahead of their law-abiding neighbours who were still struggling back from their long-haul holiday. The returning rebels were able to claim the best territories and produce larger families. They raised more revolutionaries who returned to England each winter. Now a small population of blackcaps make our gardens their winter home – exotic apparitions of summer among the robins and frost. They'll be gone again by the time 'our' British blackcaps return, exhausted and oblivious, in April.

Animal migration is amazing. Each year across Europe millions of perilous journeys are undertaken as birds, bats, butterflies and other wildlife flee hostile conditions. Each year we have watched as members of our own species are added to this list. The paths of fleeing refugees and migrating birds will cross as both are forced on dangerous journeys over the same treacherous mountains and rough seas. Let's hope they all find someplace safe this Christmas.

- You can find details of Michael's upcoming events, wildlife sightings and adventures or book him for a wildlife survey of your garden or land at:



michaelblencowe.com

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Harriet Rowntree on 01798 867536



Dance practices in the Empire Hall:  
Sunday 29th December, 5th and 12th of January 2025  
4-6pm, £2 per session

# Bill's bygones: Bailey, Boultons, Baker

*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 – December 2014:** Graffham bellringers celebrate the acquisition of new ropes. St Giles's organist Richard Bailey gives a swansong Village Breakfast presentation entitled *Why Things Exist – Art, Religion and Autobiography* in the Pavilion on the 6th, then hosts a quiz night at the White Horse on the 16th, performs at a jazz evening, accompanied by Sara Reynolds, at the newly re-opened Foresters (following renovations by new landlord, Ray Tough) on the 23rd, then departs Graffham for Falmouth at the month's end. Mark Dally hosts a wine tasting at the Pavilion. Graffham Empire Movies screens *Saving Mr Banks*. Libby Lane becomes the first female Church of England bishop (of Stockport). Deaths of former Liberal Party leader Jeremy Thorpe (aged 85), singer Joe Cocker and ex-model Mandy Rice-Davies (both 70).

**25 years ago – December 1999:** Graffham Rustics and the village school combine for a millennium production of the "nativity panto" *Follow the Star*, featuring Ollie and Emma Boulton, Charlotte Jones, Sue Cooper, Veronica Crickmay and Derek Williams. Asked to comment by the *Midhurst and Petworth Observer* after a fault in a transformer at Graffham causes a 48-hour power cut during freezing temperatures, Maureen Boulton is unimpressed with Southern Electricity's failure to rectify the problem promptly. Kirdford Players perform their travelling Mummers play (*In comes I...*) at local pubs, including The Three Moles, for a fifth season. Riverbank Medical Centre in Midhurst's Dodsley Lane is opened, replacing the old Lamberts Lane surgery. The Millenium Dome and the London Eye are opened. Death of actor Desmond Llewelyn ("Q" in 17 Bond films, 85).

**50 years ago – December 1974:** The "Christmas sale" in the Empire Hall includes a "beauty boutique". John Holland's plans to build a retirement bungalow next to Graffham Post Office and Stores, which had been rejected by Midhurst Rural Council, are dealt a final blow when his appeal is refused by Labour's Secretary of the Environment Tony Crosland. Graffham Tennis Club holds a Christmas dance at the Empire Hall (tickets 85p adults, 65p for under 16s). *Follow the Star* has its world premiere at Chichester's Festival Theatre. Tom Baker makes his first appearance as the fourth Doctor Who. Bachman-Turner Overdrive's *You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet* is kept off the UK number 1 spot by Mud's *Lonely This Christmas*. Thomson and Lillie blitz England who go 3-0 down in the Ashes in Australia.

## Graffham Tennis Club



**Club tournaments** The final two club tournaments of the year took place in the overcast days of November – perfect conditions for winter tennis with no low sun and no wind. The Ladies’ singles took on a new format for 2024 with five of our top players competing in a round robin tie-break format – Sara Jeffries, Caroline Perry, Rebecca Ruff, Sarah Selman and Angie Thornley. Sarah Selman gained a clean sweep of victories to take the trophy she last won in 2022. Everyone came away with at least one victory and vowed to use this format in the future.

**Seniors’ trophy winners** Graffham’s thriving Seniors’ section used their regular Monday morning slot to contest their own trophy. Pairs were selected by organiser Nettie Lanaghan to generate a close competition, and, with just three points separating the first four pairs, this was certainly achieved. The winning pair of Lynne Marriner and Sally Pattie edged the victory, with Clive Lightfoot and Sarah Villiers runners-up. Any over 60s wanting to play sociable tennis on Mondays should contact Nettie on 07798 624466.



Sally Pattie and Lynne Marriner (centre) with the Seniors’ trophy – and competitors!

**Awards evening** Trophies were presented to all the club's winners for the season at its awards evening on Saturday 23 November – too late in our production cycle to fit a photo in this edition, but we can name them all:

- Men's singles Matthew Syed.
- Ladies' singles Sarah Selman.
- Men's A doubles Ross Anderson and Andy Craig.
- Men's B doubles Lawrence Bates and Steve Pringle.
- Ladies' doubles Emma Amin and Sian Green.
- Mixed doubles Emma Amin and Andy Craig.
- Seniors' doubles Lynne Marriner and Sally Pattie.
- Men's League Player of 2024 Andy Craig.
- Ladies' League Player of 2024 Emma Craig.

Watch for a photo of them all in next month's *Graffham Parish News*.

**League results** Social and league tennis benefitted from the relentless dunkelflaute weather in early November, with no low sun or wind. In Division 1, the A team fought hard against a strong Medstead team but the result was an 8-0 defeat. There was more success for the B team who came away from their match with Buriton as 6-2 winners. Congratulations on a stellar debut performance from Tamsin Hatcher, who played alongside Richard and Lawrence Bates and Denise Clay.

## Golf

**Cowdray champ** Graffham's Gill Dover won the nearest-the-pin-in-two prize at Cowdray Golf Club's annual Ladies' Pro Am day, as reported in our November edition. On the 332yd par 4 12th hole, she put her second shot within four feet of the hole. We were unable to include a photo of her collecting her prize last month – but we can now!



# Graffham Parish News' dazzling December quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers at the foot of next page (no cheating!)

- 1 The date of St. Nicholas' Day is December [a] 6th, [b] 17th or [c] 25th?
- 2 What is the official name of the route 60 bus stop close to the junction of Bex Lane and the A286?
- 3 What sort of culinary delicacy is Lady Arundel's Manchet?
- 4 Take four 9s and a 1, then arrange them and add a mathematical symbol to make the result 100.
- 5 Which coin was withdrawn from UK circulation in December 1984?
- 6 The UK's four native owl species are the Barn, the Long-eared, the Short-eared and the what?
- 7 From 1929-2018 women were excluded from which Swiss toboggan track?
- 8 Which Christmas was Abba's *Super Trouper* the number one album?
- 9 In which film, released this month in 1984, did Eddie Murphy make his first appearance as Detective Axel Foley?
- 10 *Carry On Again Doctor*, released 55 years ago this month, featured which series-regular playing a character called Gladstone Screwer?

THE FORESTERS ARMS  
GRAFFHAM

## December events and opening time

13/12 LOCAL NIGHT	BAR 12:00-FINISH KITCHEN 12:00-15:00&17:00-21:00
19/12 CHRISTMAS QUIZ WITH LUCAS	BAR 12:00-FINISH KITCHEN 12:00-15:00&17:00-21:00
22/12 CHRISTMAS CAROLS	BAR 12:00-FINISH KITCHEN 12:00-15:00&17:00-21:00
24/12 CHRISTMAS EVE	BAR 12:00-FINISH KITCHEN 12:00-16:00
25/12 CHRISTMAS DAY	BAR 12:00-14:00
26/12 BOXING DAY	BAR 12:00-FINISH KITCHEN 12:00-15:00&17:00-21:00
31/12 NEW YEARS EVE	BAR 12:00-FINISH KITCHEN 12:00-15:00&17:00-21:00



# Crimestoppers

Sussex Police's log of incidents locally in recent weeks. If you have any information which might help, please report it.

Reports came in as this edition of *Graffham Parish News* was going to press of an apparent attempted burglary at Graffham's Tagents Farm. Locks were cut off two farm buildings overnight on Thursday/Friday 21/22 November – the evening after the village saw the first snowfall of winter. Initial indications were that nothing was stolen – so the villains may have been disturbed in the act – but the police were called out to investigate.

There was a spate of burglaries from homes in villages around Chichester in October and early November, Sussex Police have reported. Bikes of various types and tools were stolen from sheds or other outbuildings in Rogate, Fernhurst, Maudlin, Westhampnett and East Lavant. The police urge you to make sure your outbuildings and garages are locked and secure.

Also in October and early November, a vehicle and trailer were stolen at night from Limbourne Lane, Fittleworth, while other vehicles were broken into overnight at Northchapel, Midhurst, Rogate, Iping and Loxwood, and a number plate stolen from a vehicle in Wisborough Green.

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**Quiz answers (from page 44)**  
1 [a] December 6th. 2 Heyshort Turning.  
3 A yeast-leavened bun, the original recipe  
of which is attributed to Aethra Howard,  
Countess of Arundel (1585-1654). 4 199-  
99 = 100. 5 The decimal halfpenny. 6  
Tawny. 7 The Cresta Run. 8 1980. 9  
Beverley Hills Cop. 10 Sid James.

# Remembering those who gave their todays

A hundred plus residents of Graffham and East Lavington joined the parish's Poppy Day services at St Giles Church and the village War Memorial to pay their respects to those who gave their todays for our tomorrows.

The biggest turn out was for the open air service by the monument on Sunday 10 November, when almost 70 watched wreaths being laid by the Chairmen of Graffham and East Lavington Parish Councils, respectively Roger Coakes and Charles Britton, and churchwarden Ginny Barrett.

The memorial garden was looking resplendent, thanks to the care given to it by members of the Graffham Garden Group, with its verge in better condition than ever, thanks to Martin and Mary Taylor for making, painting and installing small demarcation posts around the roadside.

At Seaford College, some 2,000 joined for its own Remembrance Sunday service, with pupils and staff joined by parents and alumni.



The new white demarcation posts designed to protect the village War Memorial's verge (left) and some of those paying their respects on Remembrance Sunday.

**Need a helping hand...?** Graffham with Woolavington's Parish Priest Discretionary Fund is available to help any parishioner in real financial need. Funded by donations to St Giles, it's already come to the rescue of multiple individuals and families in the village hit by the cost of living crisis. It could be the answer to your prayers. Contact Rev Vivien to find out more.



Ann Brown, Jo Morris, Mary Muir and Eira Ashby make up the rogue mahjong table.

## Bridge Tea bids up £1,000 for St Giles

Almost 50 card sharps – and a quartet of mahjong enthusiasts – shuffled into the Empire Hall on 17 October for what is believed to have been (in recent memory at least) Graffham’s first Bridge Tea.

Almost a dozen tables were laid out in the main hall for the players while the tea ladies gathered in the Kennedy and Committee Rooms to assemble cakes, sandwiches, scones and other fancies and brew up pot after pot of Britain’s favourite drink.

Masterminded by Nettie Lanaghan with the support of umpteen bakers, it was estimated to have raised almost £1,000 for St Giles Church. Equally as importantly, a very good time was had by all.



This amazing cake, baked by Sue Hill and iced and decorated by Cindy Bradley, was star raffle prize.

**Tea ladies:** Preparing the tea and plating up all those delicious cakes, sandwiches and scones were (from left) Fiona Mackie, Nettie Lanaghan, Bridget Lewis, Jan Brind, Marie Bracey and Barbara Edge.





A team from Graffham's Cardigan Club – silver-haired males who meet weekly in one of the local watering holes – formed a work party to put St Giles' churchyard to bed for the winter... while apologising to neighbours for the noise generated by their trimmers, trimmers and other devices. They included, from left: (back row) Nick White, Michael Blunt, Sandy Macqueen, Stuart Mathie, Anthony Forsyth, Robin Brind and Chris Mackie, and (front row) Hugh Brown and 'foreman' Stuart Lewis.

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# Graffham now has two Foodbank drop-off points

There are now two drop-off points in Graffham to leave contributions to Chichester District Foodbank – which also supports the needy in Midhurst, Petworth and their surrounding villages, including our own. Baskets for giving items are now housed at All Saints Chapel, directly opposite Graffham Village Shop, and at St Giles Church. These points replace the old unit outside the village stores. The Foodbank made the move so that items donated are now kept in dry, indoor spaces. Chichester Foodbank’s Emily Lovell said: “Christmas is our busiest time, and we deeply appreciate your donations to help us continue supporting those in need in our community.”



If you would like to donate food, you can help provide a balanced, three-day emergency supply of food to those in need. You can give food which is non-perishable and unopened with an ingredients list on the packaging or non-food items like toiletries, washing powder, nappies, baby food and pet food.

The cut off date for donating any festive items such as packet stuffing, pickle, Christmas puddings or treats was the end of November, so the Foodbank has enough time to distribute them in December. Items currently in most need include:

- Long-life fruit juice.
- Long-life milk.
- Tinned meat.
- Tinned vegetables.
- Toilet roll.
- Kitchen roll.
- Tinned or packet soup.
- Shampoo / conditioner.
- Toothpaste.
- Tinned fruit.
- Rice pudding or custard.
- Gluten-free/vegan snacks.
- Squash drinks.
- Ready-made sauces.
- Ready-made sponge puds.

**Thanks for our harvest help** Chichester Foodbank’s Chief Executive Joanna Kondabeka has written to the Rev Vivien to thank Graffham for its donation of £650 from the village’s Harvest Lunch in October. She said the money would provide 22 families, or 88 people, with three-day food parcels and support. Since Chichester Foodbank opened 12 years ago, it has fed 46,000 people in crisis. Of them, more than 2,000 lived in the Petworth district, half of them children.



## TEDDY TIME in the Pavilion TODDLER GROUP

Wednesdays 10.15-11.30am  
Pavilion, Graffham Rec

No charge. All welcome. Just come along!

# Electoral roll of Graffham with Woolavington

Every church parish is obliged to keep a list of people entitled to be included on an Electoral Roll in the parish.

**Purpose** People named on the roll are entitled to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting when Parochial Church Council members and Deanery Synod members are elected and other matters of business of the parish considered. It is also used to provide an informal indication of how many people are active members of the Church of England in the parish.

**Roll management** Each year the roll is updated and every sixth year the existing roll is closed down and a new roll drawn up. As 2025 is a sixth year, we are asking people to consider now if they wish to apply or reapply for enrolment. You can do so if you are a baptised lay person aged 16 or over or will be 16 in the next twelve months and fulfil one of three categories. In the first category a person declares themselves to be a member of the Church of England (or Church in communion with the Church of England) and a resident in the parish. Two other categories allow for people who do not live in the parish, though regularly attend church within it, to also have their names included on the roll (details are on the form).

**Applying for enrolment** Application forms for current roll members have been delivered to their homes. Forms for any other prospective members can be found on the table inside St Giles Church. Please deliver completed forms to Parish Electoral Roll Officer Fiona Mackie at Chelsea Cottage, which is near the Homes of Rest, on The Street, Graffham. The deadline for delivering forms is 9 March 2025 and the new Roll takes effect on 23 March 2025.

## Sending Christmas cheer to Ukrainian children



Some 30 shoeboxes filled with Christmas gifts for youngsters in Ukraine were packed and donated by Graffham residents before being sent off to the war-torn country, in an initiative coordinated by Jan Brind, of Occam Cottage, The Street.

# Support St Giles while you Christmas shop

With the Christmas shopping rush almost upon us, villagers are being reminded that they can raise funds for our historic St Giles Church whenever they buy almost anything online – at no additional cost to you.

It's made possible through something called easyfundraising. Just register on its website and then you'll be asked if you would like retailers to donate to St Giles whenever you buy from them – with just one extra click.

Since St Giles signed up with easyfundraising two years ago, it has received almost £500 from retailers – at zero cost to the church or to shoppers. In total, the scheme has benefited good causes across the UK by more than £40 million since it took off in 2005.

There are more than 7,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation – virtually every retailer or business selling online, including Ocado, Waitrose, Sainsbury, eBay, Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, Argos, booking.com, lastminute.com, MoreThan, Aviva, BT, Sky... – who will give St Giles between 0.5 and 10 per cent of every pound you spend with them.

Graffham and Duncton Schools also raise funds via easyfundraising – you can choose which cause to support each time you shop.

And only use easyfundraising for your online shopping – continue to support Graffham Village Shop for your everyday needs!



## How to raise funds for St Giles whenever you shop online – at zero cost to you:

**1.** Go to easyfundraising via [bit.ly/stgilesfunding123](https://bit.ly/stgilesfunding123) or point your phone camera at this QR code to go there directly, and register for free.



**2.** Every time you shop online, go to [easyfundraising.co.uk](https://easyfundraising.co.uk) first and then find the shopping site you want from there – and then start shopping. Or you can download a digital reminder for your computer, tablet or phone to claim your easyfundraising donation if you prefer to go to a retailer's site directly.

**3.** After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to St Giles at no extra cost to you whatsoever.

It really is as simple as that! There are no catches or hidden charges.



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**Winter sunrise:** While 2024 has been mainly wet, there have been the odd bursts of sunshine, even towards the end of the year – as captured in here one late October early morning by Beverley Weller, looking from Graffham towards East Lavington.

## Who's doing what at St Giles in December

Here's the rota for this month's 10.30am services. 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 Rev Vivien at [reverendvivien@gmail.com](mailto:reverendvivien@gmail.com)

	Reading	Cleaning
1	Jeremiah 33.14-16 and 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end	 <p>Jan Brind and Ann Brown</p>
8	Malachi 3.1-4 and Philippians 1.3-1	
15	Philippians 4.4-7	
22	Micah 5.2-5 and Luke 1.46-55	
29	1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26 and Psalms 148.7-end	

## Other denominations locally

**Methodist:** Midhurst. *Minister:* David Musckett *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.

# What's on at our village church and chapel

- All residents and visitors 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.

December				
1	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Advent Service	St Giles Church
		5pm	Advent Carol Service with Seaford College choir	St Giles Church
3	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
7	Sat	11am-2pm	Christmas Fair in aid of St Giles	Empire Hall
8	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Advent 2	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
10	Tue		No Morning Prayer or Pilgrims	
14	Sat	10am-12noon	Bellringing practice	St Giles Church
15	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Third Sunday Service with Baptism of Bertie Aparicio	St Giles Church
		5pm	Service of Lessons and Carols	St Giles Church
16	Mon	2pm	Christingle making. All welcome	The Rectory
17	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
		2.30pm	Graffham Infant School Christingle	St Giles Church
22	Sun	10.30am	Advent 4	All Saints Chapel
		6pm	Communal carol singing with collection in aid of St Giles	Foresters Arms
24	Tue	4pm	Christmas Eve Crib Service	St Giles Church
		7pm	Candlelit Eucharist of Christmas	St Giles Church
25	Wed	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Eucharist	St Giles Church
29	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Christmas 1	St Giles Church
January				
4	Sat	9.30am	Come and Sing	St Giles Church
5	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist of Epiphany	St Giles Church
7	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel



# What's on in and around the village

For all St Giles and All Saints events, see page 53. For all sports dates, see page 43.

December				
1	Sun	5pm	Advent Service with Seaford College choir	St Giles
3	Tue	10.30am	Arts Society Midhurst talk on <i>Christmas in Bach's Leipzig</i>	Methodist Hall Midhurst
		2pm	Arts Society West Sussex talk on <i>Happy Christmas the Roman Way</i>	Fittleworth Village Hall
5	Thu	10am	UKHarvest surplus food market	Sylvia Beaufoy Centre, Petworth
6	Fri	5-8pm	Midhurst Christmas street party	Midhurst
		7.30pm	Petworth Sessions: Serious Child in concert	Leconfield Hall, Petworth
7	Sat	11am-2pm	Graffham Christmas Fair (see pages 29-34)	Empire Hall
		11am onwards	Petworth Christmas Cracker	Petworth
		All day	Christmas Festive Market (to 15 Dec)	Chichester
8	Sun	7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
11	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club <sup>2</sup> Christmas dinner	Empire Hall
		1.30pm	Graffham Infant School nativity play (ticketed event for parents)	St Giles
12	Thu	12.15pm	Thursday Club Christmas lunch	Unicorn, Heyshott
13	Fri		Seaford College term ends	
		1.30pm	Graffham Infant School nativity play (ticketed event for parents)	St Giles
14	Sat	10am-3pm	Westerlands Christmas Fair (see page 36)	Westerlands
		6pm	Leconfield Singers Christmas concert	St Mary's Petworth
15	Sun	9.45am	Graffham Down Trust work party (p 38)	Meet at St Giles
		5pm	Festival of lessons and carols (pages 3-5)	St Giles
16	Mon	5-9pm	Farewell event for Lavington Federation Schools headteacher Helen Martin	Duncton School
17	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet foot health professional <sup>1</sup>	Empire Hall
		2.30pm	Graffham Infants School Christingle Service	St Giles
18	Wed	6pm	Petworth Chorus' Carols by Candlelight (p 4)	St Mary's Petworth
19	Thu	Evening	Christmas quiz	Foresters Arms
20	Fri		WSCC schools terms end	
		7.30pm	Traditional Christmas Mummings Play	Three Moles
21	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		7.30pm	Petworth Town Band Christmas Concert	St Mary's Petworth
22	Sun	6pm	Communal carol singing (see pages 3-5)	Foresters Arms
24	Tue	4pm	Crib service	St Giles
		7pm	Candlelit Christmas Eve Eucharist	St Giles
25	Wed		Christmas Day	
		10.30am	Christmas Day Family Service	St Giles

26	Thu		Boxing Day	
29	Sun	4-6pm	Burns Night reeling practice	Empire Hall
31	Tue		New Year's Eve	

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

<sup>2</sup>**Graffham 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 £9 a head. Please book via Sarah on 01798 867567.

### Regular weekly activities (for notes, how to book, etc, see below)

<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
	8am	Strength and mobility with Gemma <sup>3</sup>	Westerlands
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
<b>Wednesdays</b>	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice - newcomers welcome	St Giles
	9-10am	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.15-11.30am	Teddy Time toddler group <sup>5</sup>	Pavilion
	11.15am-12noon	Pilates <sup>6</sup>	Empire Hall
	1.45-2.45pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching <sup>7</sup>	Rec
	6pm	Boxercise with Nina <sup>3</sup>	Westerlands
	7-8.30pm	Badminton <sup>8</sup> - all welcome	Empire Hall
<b>Thursdays</b>	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath <sup>2</sup>	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise <sup>9</sup>	Empire Hall
	5.30pm	Bootcamp with Gareth <sup>3</sup>	Westerlands
<b>Fridays</b>	6-7.15pm	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
	9-10.15am	Yoga <sup>4</sup>	Empire Hall
<b>Saturdays</b>	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic <sup>10</sup>	Empire Hall
	8am	Hard core exercise with Nina <sup>3</sup>	Westerlands
	10am	In motion with Gareth <sup>3</sup>	Westerlands
<b>Sundays</b>	5pm	Pickleball <sup>11</sup>	Empire Hall
	5pm	Casual football <sup>12</sup>	Rec

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

<sup>1</sup>**Fitflows 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>**For all Westerlands events:** Book online at [www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit](http://www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit)

<sup>4</sup>**Yoga:** Deborah Albon on 07790 367009.

<sup>5</sup>**Teddy Time:** No charge. All welcome. Just come along.

<sup>6</sup>**Pilates:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

<sup>7</sup>**Rusty Racquets:** Contact Richard Hopp at [richard@hoppecoaching.co.uk](mailto:richard@hoppecoaching.co.uk), on 07904 069457.

<sup>8</sup>**Badminton:** Contact Louisa Thomas, at [louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:louisa9000@hotmail.co.uk). All welcome.

<sup>9</sup>**Ease Into Exercise:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

<sup>10</sup>**Physiotherapy:** Contact Serena Cooper on 07884 445983 or at [serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com](mailto:serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com).

<sup>11</sup>**Pickleball:** Contact Beanie Bradley on 07500 080417.

<sup>12</sup>**Casual Football:** Contact Lucas Thornley on 07767 721997.



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<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>			01243 534734
	District Councillor	John Cross	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
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<b>Midhurst &amp; Petworth Observer</b>		Nikki Jeffery	01243 534163
<b>National Trust (Lavington Common)</b>			01730 816638
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<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
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	County Councillor	Tom Richardson	07463 785039
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