GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 421 FREE MARCH 2026

Tea ladies serve up £1,000 for church

Woodcote expansion given green light

Your Easter Market raffle tickets inside this edition

On the cover: Graffham's second bridge tea, held in the Empire Hall on Thursday 5 February, came up trumps, netting £1,000 for St Giles Church – with cakes, scones, other bakes and sandwiches aplenty. More pictures and full report on page 29.

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Member Editor 2026 Award Winner 2022
Association for Church Editors

Writing from the Rectory: Church at any time

Ask people when and where church happens in Graffham and most will reply: "At St Giles' on Sunday mornings." Or maybe: "At All Saints' Chapel, opposite the village shop on Sunday evenings." Indeed, it does. Sunday services continue to provide a constant heartbeat of love in this community.

Though they are not the only times and places people come together to define themselves as church in this village. For some families, it happens on Thursdays after school six times a year – so far in a number of locations in the village, though next time, on Thursday 19 March, at St Giles' Church itself. It's a good way for parents and children to discover together what God means and how to follow Jesus, through amazing craft, story and games with generous hospitality and company. This is Messy Church.

Craft, stories, games and a yummy tea at a recent Messy Church.

For another group of people, Tuesday mornings are a welcome time to gather as church, for morning prayers in the chapel by the shop (at 9.30am), followed by an hour of conversation and faith

▸ *Continued on next page*

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
The Parish of Graffham with Woolavington

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

Vivien's rest days are Fridays and Saturdays (apart from for weddings and other special events).

Churchwarden: Cindy Bradley 07787 516522

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

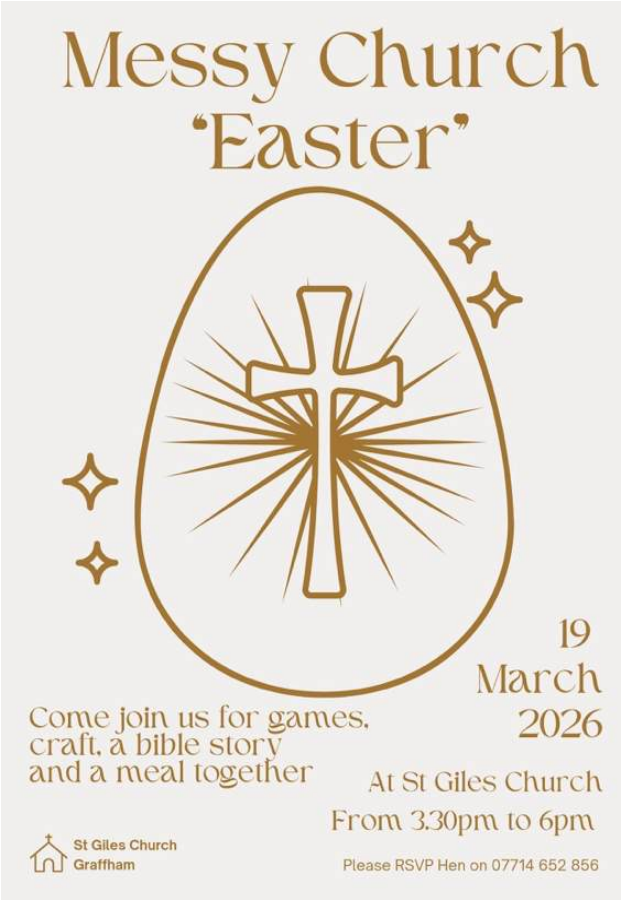
stgilesgraffham.org @stgilesgraffham

Continued from previous page

exploration through the hospitality of Janet Wakeford who happily lives just across the road. This is Pilgrims.

So if church on Sundays doesn't fit so well into your diary (and even if it does), try Tuesday mornings or Thursday afternoons instead, or indeed as well. Those attending Messy Church or Pilgrims consider it time well spent and perhaps you can too. I can't think of a better way to observe Lent and prepare for Easter in good company. I'll be there and look forward to welcoming you. See the 'What's on at our village church' diary on page 55 for when they're on.

When Easter arrives, look out for the Easter Garden which Messy Church is planning outside the door of St Giles. You could see it at our celebratory family Eucharist on Easter Sunday at 10.30am or get up before dawn that day for a special service at 6am, with the lighting of the Easter candle from Easter fire – the conventional day for church, if not the conventional time! To prepare for this special day, St Giles Church is also offering deeply important services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday to immerse us in the passion of Christ. And whatever day or time church is offered, please know:



We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road; We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Have a good Lent.

Reverend Vivien

Welcome! Matilda Whitfield was baptised at St Giles Church on Sunday 18 January. Her parents Katie – whose mother and stepfather are Sarah and Jo Lydiard-Wilson, of Graffham's Summers Farm – and Guy were married there in June 2023.

Don't panic! It almost looks as if St Giles' spire is on fire or the bell ringers are letting off steam after a particularly hefty peal – but this picture by Andy Paterson just captures heavy frost evaporating in strong winter morning sunshine.

Thumbs up from Downs for Woodcote plans

The Woodcote's expansion has been given the green light to proceed, with South Downs National Park Authority's (SDNPA) Planning Committee approving the planning application. But it comes with an extensive and stringent set of conditions (see separate story, page 7) some of which, if not agreed within six months, could still block a development that has divided village opinion for the past year.

After two visits to the site, the committee spent more than an hour considering the proposal at its meeting on Thursday 12 February, before a vote in which only one of its 13 members sided against it and one abstained with all the others backing it.

Approval came almost a year to the day after the details of the proposal were first publicly aired, at an exhibition hosted by The Woodcote in the Empire Hall on Valentine's Day 2025. As previously reported, the owners intend to demolish the current six guest suites where former farm outbuildings once stood and erect 16 replacements in new lodges in the field further to the south. The current main building, the former White Horse pub, would become a bar and bistro with staff accommodation upstairs. A new structure built in the meadow to the south western side would house a restaurant aiming for coveted Michelin Green Star credentials.

These two buildings and new private dining rooms would be linked by a single-storey block, featuring more pitched roofs than originally envisaged, containing a new bar, kitchen and other support facilities, with a footprint of around five times that of the former pub building. The restaurant and bistro would each offer seats for 40 customers, with the private dining space taking up to 16. The Woodcote at present sits a total of 30. The car park, in the current position with an overflow area in the field to the west, would have space for 65 vehicles, up from the current 40. Revised plans had been posted just before Christmas and into the new year,

An architect's drawing of how the enlarged Woodcote will look.

Chairman Gillian Charlesworth (back to camera) outlines Graffham Parish Council's position on The Woodcote to the South Downs National Park Authority Planning Committee, which went on to approve the development.

designed to address objections raised by the SDNPA and the community (*Graffham Parish News* January and February 2026). Although these won over the SDNPA planning and design officers, its landscape officer and West Sussex County Council's rights of way officer continued to oppose the scheme. Almost 200 objections had also been made to the SDNPA, including from scores of villagers,

Continued on next page

Consent could force historic Foresters to close, warns landlord

The Foresters Arms could be forced to close if The Woodcote's expansion proposal goes ahead, the inn's landlord Peter Bradley warned the South Downs National Park Authority Planning Committee.

He said the planners' report was incorrect in claiming that the target market of The Woodcote was different from those of local pubs and that its expansion would therefore not adversely impact them: "The Woodcote is just a few hundred yards away. This development will be a vast upgrade and take our trade. Our advisers have said it could cut ours by 30 per cent. If we lose 10 per cent, we close.

"No-one from the South Downs has spoken to us or reviewed our business. They've secretly taken the word of the applicant. This application, if consented, will result in the final closure of the Foresters."

Pointing out that his pub had served Graffham for 400 years, he asked why it should be compelled to shut because The Woodcote's current business model did not make its owners the money they wanted.

He also reminded the committee that SDNPA's policy was to permit developments like this only when it was demonstrated that they would have no impact on the viability of village centres or assets of community value – and that The Foresters had been registered as an asset of community value eight years ago.

Continued from previous page

from the Council for the Protection of Rural England, Friends of the South Downs and the British Horse Society. A dozen letters of support were received. After reviewing them, the final SDNPA report, covering some 30 pages, recommended that the planning committee should approve the revised application.

It stated: "Overall, the scale and design and layout of the proposed development is now considered acceptable, and the scheme is considered to respect the character and materials of the existing pub building. Notwithstanding the landscape officer's concerns, on balance it is considered that the proposals comply with the policies of the park, offer material benefits in terms of biodiversity net gain and tourism and that a reason for refusal on landscape impact would be difficult to sustain.

"As a whole, the scheme complies with the policies of the local plan and the purposes of the park. It enhances through the removal of the unattractive pub plant and ad-hoc extensions to the rear of the existing building, it conserves by maintaining the appearance of the pub as an isolated building in the countryside when seen from the wider public environs and also provides enhanced biodiversity net gain and ecosystems services improvements.

"The lighting scheme is considered to be an improvement upon the existing situation and complies with the dark night sky (requirements). The highways authority has confirmed that the local rural network is capable of accommodating the anticipated rise in (traffic) without compromising safety."

Committee member Janet Duncton, nominated to the SDNPA by West Sussex County Council, described it as a "jolly good scheme". Paul Bevan, representing East Sussex parish councils, said it would be "a real asset to the national park".

The two committee members representing parish councils across West Sussex were the only delegates to raise objections. Alun Aylesbury, the only one to vote against

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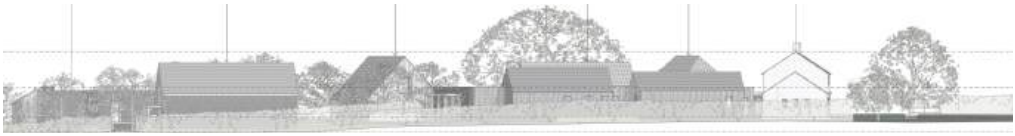

Architects' plans showing how The Woodcote would look from the east under its approved plans (above), compared with its elevations today (below).

Approval comes with conditions that 'don't get harder'

Approval of The Woodcote's expansion came with a total of almost 30 conditions, including a number which South Downs National Park Authority's Director Planning Tim Slaney said "don't get harder than that".

In addition, if agreement is not reached with the owners within six months on a "sustainable travel plan" then permission for them to proceed with the development could be withdrawn.

Among the conditions are that:

- The restaurant, bistro, bars and private dining room can host no more than 80 customers, inside and outside, at a time.
- The premises can only be used as a restaurant/bistro/bar and hotel – and for no other purposes. The owners had already pledged they would not host weddings or other special events.
- Apart from guests staying in the 'lodges' overnight, no other customers can access the bar/bistro, restaurant or private dining areas before 9am or after 11.30pm on Mondays to Saturdays (not including bank holidays and public holidays) and before 9am or after 10pm on Sundays or on bank or public holidays.
- Only guests staying in the 'lodges' can use the 'lodge' bar and lounge area.
- The 16 bedrooms are for holiday accommodation only and no guest can stay for more than 28 consecutive nights.
- All overnight guests must be offered a pick-up and drop-off minibus service from local train stations, bus stops, nearby towns and other points.
- A 'construction environmental management plan', covering 19 points including working hours, traffic routes and parking, must be agreed with SDNPA before any demolition or building starts.
- Sewage and surface water drainage systems must be agreed by the planning authority before any development starts.
- All external lighting shall be restricted to down lighters that do not exceed 1,000 lumens (equivalent to 75 watts) with upwards light spillage minimised.
- The car park and bike storage must be completed before reopening.
- The applicant must guarantee public use of the proposed mown permissive footpath through the field to the east for a minimum of 20 years.

The SDNPA also reminded the owners of the legal requirements to protect wild bird nests from March to August and always to keep all public rights of way open.

Continued from page 6

it, questioned whether it complied with all the SDNPA's planning policies: "I feel uneasy about this. Given that this is an open and rural setting outside the village, it seems excessive." Andrew Shaxson, who abstained, was concerned about the "considerable footprint" and its potential impact on water run off.

Speakers stress sewage system, seating and sustainability Under SDNPA protocols, three opponents and three supporters of any application can speak at its planning meetings. At the February session to consider the Woodcote expansion proposal, Foresters Arms landlord Peter Bradley (see separate story, page 5), Woodcote near neighbour Nick Lobley and Deepak Mahal, a friend of several Graffham residents, spoke in opposition, while Jamie Lumsden, Managing Director of Woodcote's owner Ledbury Capital, Woodcote General Manager Will Morley and Richard Dollamore from planning consultants Whaleback were in support.

Nick Lobley pointed out the strain the development would have on the local sewage system in particular, which had recently seen tankers removing foul waste from its Fitzlea Wood Road pumping station where effluent had been discharged into the River Rother for up to 3,000 hours across 125 days.

Deepak Mahal, speaking on behalf of friends in the village, pointed out that the recommendations had overlooked objections raised by West Sussex County Council's rights of way team and questioned how the proposed limit on the number of customers allowed in The Woodcote at any one time would be enforced.

Jamie Lumsden, speaking on behalf of The Woodcote's owners and "stewards" Glen and Asta Manchester, told the meeting that the proposal was "about care, continuity and responsibility to a place, to a landscape and the wider local community". He continued: "The South Downs is not a museum. It's a place shaped over centuries by farming, woodland management, food production and rural enterprise. Our intention is that The Woodcote draws its identity and meaning directly from that landscape while also contributing positively to its future care and enabling people to enjoy the South Downs."

The business had not been viable as a pub, he stated, noting that more than a thousand inns across the UK had shut in 2025, a score of them in Sussex. In comments echoed by Will Morley and Richard Dollamore, he concluded: "These proposals are designed to create a business that can endure. We've listened carefully to concerns raised by the community and by (SDNPA) officers. What we are seeking is balance between conservation and viability, tradition and change, restraint and the practical needs of running a rural business that can survive."

Architects' drawings comparing The Woodcote's current frontage (left) with how it would look under its approved plans (right).

Graffham Parish Council split on the proposal

Graffham parish councillors were divided on whether to support or object to The Woodcote's revised planning application. Almost 25 residents attended a meeting of its Planning Committee on Wednesday 4 February, with seven of them speaking, all opposing the proposal.

Planning Committee Chairman Fiona Jacob and Council Deputy Chairman John Bracey supported the scheme. They asserted that the village itself was split on it – while 122 people had filed a total of some 200 objections and 12 had registered their support, others in the village backed it but had not voiced their views via the SDNPA planning portal, concerned by the potential reaction of neighbours.

The two councillors thought the revised scheme had been sensitively designed, was more appropriate than earlier iterations and could be a positive asset, supporting The Woodcote's long-term viability and contributing to the local economy.

Council Chairman Gillian Charlesworth and Councillor Colin Barker regarded the scale of development as excessive for a small rural village setting, despite the revisions and proposed mitigation, and felt the anticipated tourism and economic benefits would be outweighed by increased traffic, potential harm to dark skies and adverse effects on the landscape. They were also concerned that biodiversity would be harmed during construction, and that the proposal would result in a material change to the character of the village and its surroundings.

The four councillors were united in stressing the importance of adequate sewage, water supply and electricity provision and the need for robust, precise and enforceable conditions to control its scale, intensity and long-term impacts.

With Councillor Rachel Gerrett unable to attend the meeting because of a family medical emergency, the tally was tied. The meeting chairman, Fiona Jacob, had the right to make the casting vote, but it was agreed that instead the council would present both sides of its argument to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), which it did in writing and with Chairman Gillian Charlesworth duly speaking at the SDNPA meeting to explain this position.

THE WOODCOTE
WOODCOTE
DINE, EXPLORE, STAY
T 01798 867331
THEWOODCOTE.COM

Landlords join arms at Westminster Our village publicans – the Foresters Arms' Pete and Cindy Bradley and The Three Moles' Tom Richardson and Ollie Boulton – visited London on Wednesday 11 February to brief our local MP and Shadow Secretary of State for Business and Trade Andrew Griffith on the challenges facing the hospitality industry. They were joined at the session by Andrew Lennox, Managing Director of the Fired Up Collective of Dorset pubs. Tom said: "A VAT cut would stop communities from losing their pubs, protect jobs and support growth." Andrew Griffith commented: "Our pubs are bleeding out. The government does not understand how tight the margins are of pubs or how much they need our support."

Planning decisions

Details for Graffham, East Lavington and nearby filed by the South Downs National Park since our previous edition. For details, see bit.ly/sdnp-planning

Other planning decisions

Brook Orchard, Graffham Common Road, Graffham GU28 0PY: Erection of a replacement timber garden room. SDNP/25/04319/HOUS. *APPROVED 26 Jan 2026.*

The Old Rectory Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NJ: Single storey rear extension and associated landscaping. SDNP/25/04224/HOUS. *APPROVED 5 Feb 2026.*

Coffee, cake and a chat

Other drinks and bakes also available!

Wednesday 4 March 11am

The Foresters Arms

Absolutely everyone welcome!

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Application made to cut speed limit in the village

Graffham Parish Council was submitting a request to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) as this edition went to press to have the current 30mph speed limit within the village cut to 20mph – with South Downs National Park Authority's approval on 12 February for the expansion of The Woodcote added to its case for the lower restriction. It followed extensive consultation across the community in the past year showing overwhelming support for the move.

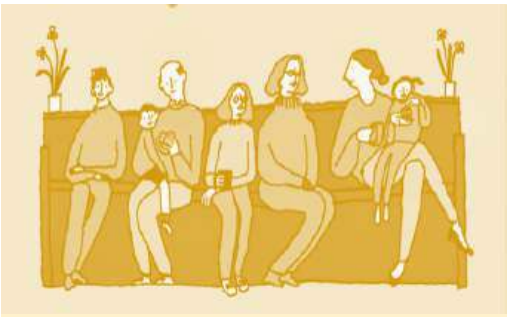
As part of its new village plan, the parish council also proposes to introduce 'gateways' with appropriate signage at the entrance to the village and to work with neighbouring parish councils to have the limit on roads between them and the A285, A286 and A272 to the east, west and north cut to 40mph, discouraging motorists from using these lanes as rat runs and making them safer for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists.

Graffham Parish Council seeks new members

Graffham Parish Council will shortly be considering new co-options to bolster its number of councillors. It can have up to seven of them but currently has just five. If you are interested in joining, email clerk@graffham-pc.gov.uk

Water works to close Selham and Fitzlea Roads

Selham Road and Fitzlea Wood Road will be subject to closure for days on end this month. Selham Road will be shut from 9 March for up to a week between its junctions with Smokyhouse Lane and New Road, so Southern Water can repair a pipe. Fitzlea Wood Road will be subject to closure from 16 March to 30 May to enable contractors working for Southern Water to install new water connections.



Everyone's welcome at our

Mothering Sunday

service

St Giles Church

Sunday 15 March

10.30am

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King Charles Path now runs along our coast

A new 35-mile section of the King Charles III England Coast Path officially opened around Chichester Harbour on Wednesday 4 February, running from East Head to South Hayling, through West Itchenor, Bosham and Emsworth – and connecting to more than 210 miles of continuous coast path along the South Coast. Once fully open, the King Charles Path will become the world's longest managed coastal path with a total length of almost 2,700 miles.

Popple Hill footpath steps restored

The footpath that runs parallel to the road along Popple Hill from near the stream in the dip towards Graffham Village Shop is more accessible after workmen repaired the steps up to it, prompted by Graffham Parish Council.

Trim your hedges before nesting season!

Residents are being reminded that hedges and undergrowth on the sides of the village's roads should be cut back before the imminent start of the nesting season – officially classified as running from 1 March to the end of August. Trees, bushes and other vegetation should be cut back a minimum of half a metre from the edge of the carriageway – and this is the neighbouring landowner's responsibility by law, not the highways authority's.

West Sussex elections back on for 7 May

Elections for West Sussex County Council will take place on 7 May after all. They had been postponed because of the current reorganisation of local authorities but the government reinstated them in the face of a legal challenge.

TAIZÉ PRAYER

song, prayer and silence

Sunday 22 March 6.30pm All Saints Chapel, Graffham (opposite shop)

All welcome to this short ecumenical service based around a pattern of worship from the Taizé Community

Hall has spring clean and new booking system

Spring is bursting into life – and so is the Empire Hall, which is undergoing one of its biggest and deepest spring cleans, rolling out a new booking system, mounting what is described as its most ambitious gig yet, staging its biggest fund-raiser of the year, Graffham's spring market, organised by new hands – and launching an Instagram account.

Can you help with the big clean? The Empire Hall is being given a thorough clean and tidy up by the hall's new committee, with a fresh coat of paint set to be applied to several areas. Anyone willing and able to help over the weekend of 17-19 April – cleaning, painting, tidying, sorting, gardening, whatever – is asked to contact its Maintenance Officer Tom Richardson at tom.richardson@live.co.uk or on 07932 865154. Those happy to climb ladders will be particularly welcome!

Ahead of that, anyone who keeps anything in the hall is being asked to label it clearly. Anything unclaimed or unidentified risks being disposed of. Tom said: "If you have anything at all stored in the hall, please ensure that, in the next couple of weeks, it is clearly marked with your name or the name of your group and what it is used for. Anything left un-labelled may be removed from the hall or put somewhere that you may not find it!"

Committee Room is now neat and tidy.

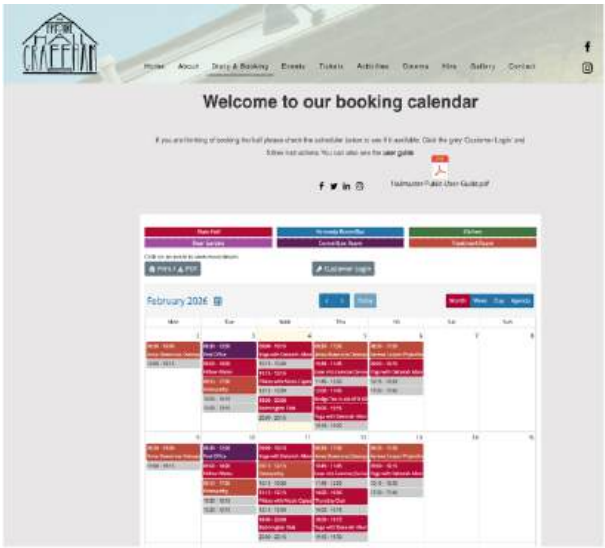
The Committee Room, which the Post Office occupies on Tuesday mornings, has already been given a thorough tidy.

Safer glassware As part of the hall's refreshment, all of its glassware is being replaced with safer alternatives, in a move warmly received when announced on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard. Tom explained the rationale: "All the glassware that was in the hall is the same as you would buy in the shops – not expensive toughened ones like in pubs. This means that when they break, they shatter into small pieces and the hall has had a spate of glass shards getting stuck between floor boards or not being spotted, which creates an obvious hazard for our cleaner and for other users of the hall, particularly those playing badminton or taking part in yoga sessions. The replacements (pictured left) are made of high-grade

toughened polycarbonate. Other than not smashing if you accidently drop them, they are virtually indistinguishable from real glass. This change brings the hall into line with the likes of Chichester Festival Theatre and other concert venues."

New booking system A new system has been introduced to book facilities at the Empire Hall – taking it all online, linking with the invoicing process and the heating controls, making it easier for everyone involved to manage their roles.

Bookings Secretary Anna Shawcross explained: "As a new committee, we were keen to find the best way to look after our wonderful hall to make it easier for us to manage and to make life easier for everyone in the village who books it. There are huge advantages to using software for this. We hope that you find this change positive – once you get used to it of course!"



The Empire Hall's new online booking system, at www.empirehall.org.uk

If you want to book the entire hall or just one of its rooms, all you now need to do is first go to the new Diary & Booking page at its website www.empirehall.org.uk, to see if it is available on the date and time you want.. Then, to ask to reserve it, you just click on the blue + sign by the date in question, which opens up a log-in page. You register your details there or, if you have already registered, sign in and enter all the necessary details to request your booking. Bookings Secretary Anna will review the request and, if all is in order, confirm it.

All regular users of the hall have already been set up on the system and are being briefed on how it works.

If you have any queries or experience any problems with the system, contact Anna at bookings.empirehall@gmail.com or on 07971 204287.

Most ambitious gig yet The Empire Hall is staging its "most ambitious yet" gig this month –as the final stop of a UK tour by one of Britain's most respected R&B

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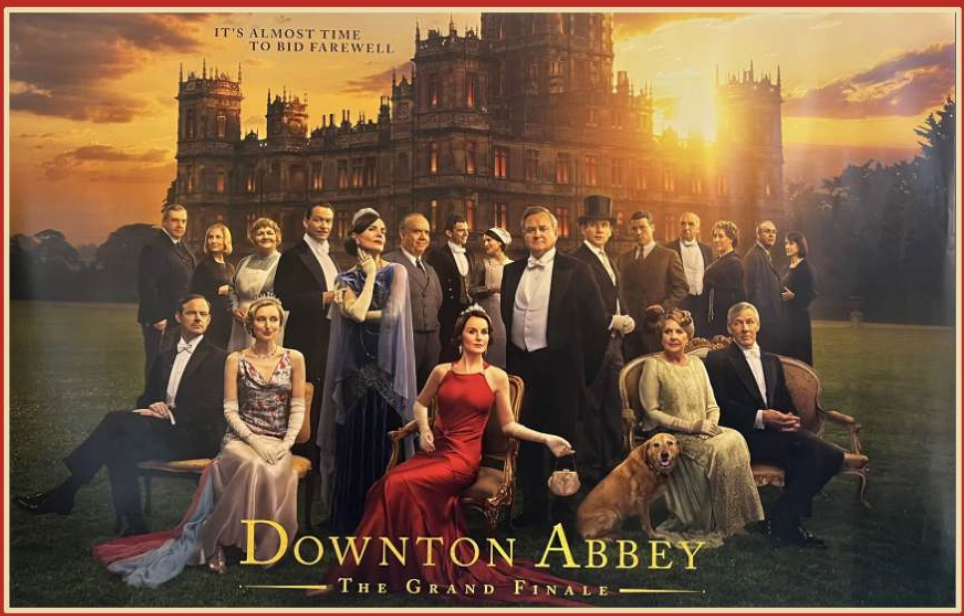
Graffham Empire Movies

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



In the third and last film spin-off from the TV phenomenon, it's time to say goodbye as the Crawleys and their staff enter the 1930s. When the leading lady finds herself at the centre of a scandal and the family faces financial ruin, the entire household must embrace change.

Critics said it was *'as soothing as a cup of tea'* and *'a satisfying and heartfelt farewell truly befitting the Crawleys'*.

Certificate PG ***124 minutes***

Saturday 28 February

Empire Hall

Doors and bar open 7pm for 7.30pm start

Interval ice creams **Wine, beer, mocktails, choccies, popcorn.**

Tickets – £10 adults – from ticketsource.co.uk/GEM or at the door

Continued from previous page

bands, 1980s South London legends Nine Below Zero, who have headlined iconic venues worldwide, on Saturday 14 March (see next page). Other events lined up for the Empire Hall this year include:

- *Behind Enemy Lines*, a play with live music and original songs that recounts the true story of special operations executives in World War II, on 16 May.
- Pink Floyd tribute band Wall of Floyd on 19 September.
- The return, by popular demand, of the eight-piece band Le Freak, featuring the music of Nile Rogers and Chic, on 14 November.

Meantime, Graffham Empire Movies continues to bring some of the latest blockbusters to the village – while raising funds for the hall. Its next screening – of *Downtown Abbey: The Grand Finale* – is on Saturday 28 February.

To buy tickets for any events at the hall, go to empirehall.org.uk

Spring market on 21 March Graffham's Easter Market, the hall's biggest fund-raiser of the year, will take place on Saturday 21 March – under a new team. Sally Blunt, who has run it in recent years, has handed over the baton to Sissy Theobald and Katie Sacks, although Sally will still be overseeing the home produce stand. Tickets for its raffle are being distributed with this magazine. See pages 21-24.

Burns Night raises almost £1,000 Almost 50 people took part in Graffham's 2026 Burn's Night Celebration, in the Empire Hall on Saturday 24 January, reeling to live music by the Sussex Pistols and dining on haggis, neeps and tatties after the pudding was piped in and addressed in the traditional manner by David Garrard. The event, masterminded by Clive and Harriet Rowntree and supported by their team of volunteer helpers, raised more than £1,000 for the hall.

Now on Instagram Graffham's 'grand old lady' now has an Instagram account. The Empire Hall's new social media presence complements its established website and Facebook pages. To find it, go to instagram.com/empirehallgraffham

9 BELOW ZERO

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8.00PM **SATURDAY MARCH 14TH** 2026
DOORS AND BAR OPEN 7.30PM

In 1980, Nine Below Zero set the British blues-rock scene ablaze with their legendary debut LP, *Live at the Marquee*. Now, 45 years later, the band is hitting the road to celebrate this iconic record, bringing their electrifying live show to audiences across the UK and beyond. Following the success of their debut, NBZ kept the energy high with *Don't Point Your Finger* (1981) and *Third Degree* (1982), touring with rock giants The Who and The Kinks. Their raw, high-energy performances earned them TV spots on *The Old Grey Whistle Test* and *The South Bank Show*.

Join Nine Below Zero for an unforgettable night of blues, rock, and rhythm & blues as they revisit the album that started it all. Don't miss this chance to witness one of the UK's most explosive live bands in action!

TICKETS: **BUYTICKETS.AT/EMPIREHALLGRAFFHAM**
STARTING AT £27.50 PLUS £1 SERVICE FEE

Wonderful raffle prizes

Graffham Easter Market

Saturday 21st March

10.30am - 2pm

WITH LOTS OF STALLS AND ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:

LOCAL ARTISTS BABYWEAR
GARDENWARE GIFTS QUILTS
ARTISANAL FOOD
HOMEWARES HANDICRAFTS
EASTER EGG HUNT
HOMEMADE CAKES AND BAKES
GRAND EASTER RAFFLE
POP UP CAFE AND MORE.

Entrance £1 - children under 12 FREE • Empire Hall, Graffham GU28 0QB

Fab prizes to be won in Easter Market raffle

Some wonderful prizes – worth more than £1,000 – are up for grabs in the 2026 Graffham Easter Market raffle – thanks to many generous local donors. Four books, each of five tickets (costing £1 a ticket), have been delivered with this edition of *Graffham Parish News*. Don't feel you have to buy them, but it'd be lovely if you do as this is the year's major fund-raiser to keep our wonderful Empire Hall shipshape!

Your raffle tickets have been distributed with this magazine.

You can get more raffle tickets from Graffham Village Shop – and at the Easter Market in the Empire Hall on Saturday 21 March 2026, from 10.30am until the draw at around 1.30pm.

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

- Hand in your stubs, cash payment and any unused tickets in an envelope at Graffham Village Shop before the close of business on Friday 20 March 2026.
- Or hand in your stubs and payment by cash, card or contactless at Graffham Easter Market in the Empire Hall on Saturday 21 March 2026 in time for the draw at around 1.30pm.

Winners will be notified with the results posted on Facebook's Graffham Noticeboard. Good luck – and thanks again to all the kind donors of prizes!

Some of the great raffle prizes up for grabs

- Goodwood Festival of Speed tickets
- Lunch with fizz plus spa for two at Spread Eagle Hotel
- Family ticket to West Dean Gardens
- Wild sauna & water therapy session at Mill Yard, Petworth
- Cowdray Golf Club four ball round
- Foresters Arms two-course meal for two
- 1-2-1 dog training session
- Bottle of bubbly from Hennings
- Spring planter from Spriggs
- Woodcote three-course lunch + wine for two
- Slow Grown Farm tour and BBQ
- The Three Moles three-course Sunday lunch
- Golf coaching session at Seaford College
- Large Easter Egg
- Tickets for two to Goodwood Races.
- Many more goodies up for grabs.

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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT THE EASTER MARKET BY LENDING A HAND ON THE DAY?

Contact Sissy Theobald at 07974 699875

All contributions welcome!

Grab some goodies at Graffham Easter Market

Spring is here, and Graffham's Easter Market is coming back in all its glory on Saturday 21 March from 10.30am to 2pm – with new organisers at the helm.

The Empire Hall will be full of colourful stalls brimming with lovely things to buy – art from local artists, freshly baked bread, crafts and cards, artisanal olive oil and kefir, babywear, sustainable garden products, Slow Grown Farm cheese and charcuterie, hand-crafted garden decor, local venison from The Deer Project, quilts, handmade bags and more.… There'll be Simnel cakes, hot cross buns and lots of other delicious home bakes and preserves on the usual Graffham produce stall. After all the shopping why not relax in the sunshine, chatting to your friends over a cup of tea and slice of cake, or a quiche lunch? To keep the kids busy, there'll be fun and games including an Easter egg hunt.

Sissy Theobald and Katie Sacks have taken over the running of what is the biggest annual fund-raiser for the Empire Hall from Sally Blunt, who has managed it in recent years. They said: "Lots of villagers have already kindly offered to help set things up, take things down and man stalls in between, but the more the merrier as many hands make light work. Are you new to the village and would like to get involved? Do get in touch, we would love to get to know you."

Please contact Sissy on 07974 699875 if you would like to help in any way.

THE HOME PRODUCE STAND NEEDS YOU!

If you can contribute any cakes, other bakes, preserves or other goodies to the Easter Market, please contact Sally Blunt at sallyblunt@btinternet.com

Flashback to a year ago: The Empire Hall was packed with stands and attractions in glorious spring sunshine for the Easter Market last year – and the organisers are hoping for the same again on 12 March for what is the biggest fund-raiser of the year for the 'grand old lady' that's the centre of village life.

Graffham Garden Group 2026 diary

For the full programme, see the following pages.

Graffham Garden Group is one of the most active clubs in the village, with a busy programme of activities throughout the year – and new members are always assured the warmest of welcome.

After its New Year lunch, in the Empire Hall in January, it moves on to its AGM this month, back in the Empire Hall on Friday 13 March, complete with a brilliant guest speaker and your chance to vote for the best spring flowers grown locally (page 28).

In early May, there's a chance to pick up some Graffham-grown vegetable and flower plants – then you can return in July to show off how well they have done at the flower and produce show.

To give you even more inspiration, there are also five trips scheduled to some stunning gardens a short drive away. These outings are open to all, not just members. To book, contact Nicky West at nicolamwest@btinternet.com or on 07796 144647. Car sharing is encouraged so please always ask if you would like a lift!

Community garden work parties take place on the last Saturday of the month for one hour at 10am to look after the garden around the village's war memorial. No gardening experience necessary – all welcome!

Monday 27 April 11am — Visit to Borde Hill

Borde Hill Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 1XP

A 2,300 acre estate owned by the same family for 130 years, with one of the UK's rarest collections of champion trees. The house is surrounded by 13 'garden rooms' with heritage parkland and ancient woodland beyond. The garden will be filled with magnificent displays of magnolias, camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons.

£13.95 (concessions £12.95, Historic Houses cardholders free). Pay on arrival. Two cafes – one inside the visitor entrance building and the other within the garden.

Saturday 9 May 10-11am — Spring plant sale

Empire Hall, Graffham

A wide range of Graffham-grown vegetable plants – including tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes and beans – and also some flowers, such as sweet peas, ammi and cosmos. No pre-orders or deliveries. First come, first served!

Thursday 28 May 2.30pm — Visit to Meadow Farm

Blackgate Lane, Pulborough RH20 1DF

Private tour of this two acre garden plus wildflower meadows designed by the current owners. Colour themed beds, formal pond, walled garden and orchard with hazelnut walk. Wildlife swimming pond and bog garden.

£12, including tea and cake. Pay on arrival.

Thursday 11 June 10.30am — Visit to Dale Park House

Dale Park House, Madhurst, Arundel BN18 0NP

Private tour of garden set in parkland with magnificent views of the sea. Walled garden features a 200ft herbaceous border. Sunken gravel garden, mixed borders, rose garden, kitchen garden, orchard.

£6 including tea/coffee and cake. Pay on arrival.

Saturday 11 July 2.30pm — Flower and produce show

Empire Hall, Graffham

A chance to show off the results of your hard work in your garden and kitchen this summer, with classes for flowers, vegetables, fruit, baking and preserving – including marmalade, so get bubbling now! – along with five photography classes –

- Colourful and Outrageous
- Local Scene
- Building/ Architecture
- Animal Portrait

New this year: Marmalade, handmade toy and any knitted or crochet item.

Thursday 23 July 2pm — Visit to Thakeham Place Farm & Cumberland House

The Street and Cray's Lane, Thakeham, Pulborough RH20 3EP

Thakeham Place Farm's garden has evolved over the last 35 years with borders full of sun loving plants and grasses, a more formal area surrounding the house and a new pond to encourage wildlife.

Cumberland House is a Georgian village home next to the 12th century church with a beautiful mature English country garden. Walled garden with well stocked flower beds and informal garden with vegetables, fruit and herbs.

£10 to both gardens. Pay on arrival. Teas available at Thakeham Place Farm.

Tuesday 11 August 2pm — Visit to West Dean

West Dean PO18 0RX

92 acres of gardens and parkland surrounding West Dean House. Walled kitchen garden, restored Victorian glasshouses, orchard and 100-metre long Edwardian pergola. Arboretum with magnificent views of the South Downs. Since Tom Browne took over as head gardener, areas of the spring garden have been replanted as a dry garden and the sunken garden replanted.

£13.50 (Historic Houses cardholders free). Pay on arrival. Café at entrance to gardens.

Graffham Garden Group AGM

Friday 13 March 2026, 7pm
Empire Hall

Including the village's spring flower competition

Vase of seven daffodils
Vase of spring flowers
Saucer with three hellebore flowers in water

Bring your entries at 6.45pm

Complimentary wine and beer while voting for your favourite entries

Talk by Beverly Exall

Beverly is a local gardening consultant and former horticultural adviser at RHS Wisley. She will be talking about sustainable and wildlife gardening in our changing climate.

New members welcome – come and meet fellow Graffham gardeners!

Bridge tea turns up trumps The team behind the 'bridge' tea in aid of St Giles Church, held in the Empire Hall on Thursday 5 February, dealt up another winner. A dozen foursomes shuffled their packs of cards while one quarter played Scrabble instead, before being served a tea that would have done the Ritz proud, with plate after plate of sandwiches, cakes, scones with, of course, jam and clotted cream, and an assortment of other bakes. The event, masterminded by Nettie Lanaghan with a team of willing volunteers, netted an estimated £1,000 for our parish church.

RIP Vera O'Hara 1935-2025

Known to so many in the village as the president of the Bowls Club, Vera lived a colourful life throughout her 90 years, a quarter of which were spent here in the village, as her daughter, Karen Fisher, recounts.

Vera was born in Hereford to Lucilla and Harry Colclough in 1935, the middle child between brother Arthur and sister Dorothy. Her Dad was manager of a tile and brickworks factory, a job which brought him to Sussex to work at Horsham. He died when Vera was 17. She determined to pursue a career in nursing and went to train at St George's Hospital (now Tooting, then Hyde Park Corner).

Her first job, held until the late 1950s, was as nurse at Warnham Court School, just north of Horsham. She met and married Noel Fisher, from Billingshurst, in March 1959. Daughter Karen was born the next year, then son Graham in 1964. Married life saw the couple move from Billingshurst to Pulborough. With extended family nearby, gatherings were frequent and full of humour.

In 1972, Vera and Noel bought Bradenham House Hotel in Bognor Regis, a seaside hotel for up to 26 guests, with breakfast and dinner served, as well as lunch on Sundays. Parallels with a certain fictional Torquay establishment were manifold and included an episode when a dead body had to be shielded from the rest of the clientele. Another time, a young man tried to avoid paying his bill by knotting sheets together and climbing down them from an upstairs window, only to be collared by a passing policeman. Regular visitors included a group of East End ladies whose hearing deteriorated each year and who could be heard shrieking "I've lost me knickers!" from the rooms they shared.

As President of Graffham Bowls Club,Vera presented its Presidents' Salver to its winners each year – Kym Pegram and Hazel Tyrrell here in 2022.

The hilarity was tempered though by the sad decline of Graham, who passed away from leukaemia at only ten years of age in September 1974.

The family then moved several times, all within Bognor, between 1977 and 1986, when Vera and Noel parted. Meanwhile, in the late 1970s Grandma Lucilla had met a new partner, Edward, and headed off with him to live for a few years near Alicante in Spain.

While they returned to Sussex in 1980, this must have sown a seed for Vera. She met and married Peter O'Hara in 1987 and they lived together in Littlehampton. The relationship was a very happy one and Peter was enormously supportive when Lucilla was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. They bought a bungalow in Goring so that they could care for Lucilla as Edward had died shortly before this. Vera returned to work at Worthing care homes and nursed her mother at home. After Lucilla died in 1991, Peter and Vera decided to retire to Moraira in Spain and spent several happy years there, enjoying the pool, the sunshine and the many friends they had made. When Peter died after an operation in 2001,Vera decided to return home to be with her daughter. What was intended as a temporary move became permanent, and they were to be housemates for the rest of Vera's life.

With Eddie, her beloved border terrier.

The two of them moved to Graffham in 2002, and Vera did some part time work in the kitchen of the then White Horse and returned to her nursing career at the Bury Nursing Home. She entered village life by taking up bowls. As a talented player she was made President of the club in 2016, standing down in 2024 after her playing days were over. Animals played a key part in Vera's life and, while she preferred cats, it was dogs who were her companions in her later years. Lady, a loyal yellow labrador, and Eddie, a border terrier, were always eager to join her on her lap.

Vera passed away at home on 21 December, with Karen and Lisa, her lovely district nurse, by her side. Her funeral was held at Chichester Crematorium on 20 January, followed by refreshments in Graffham's Pavilion. She will be remembered as a quiet and gentle soul with a keen sense of humour not always obvious to outsiders.

RIP Ruby Allen and Sarah Buckley We were saddened to learn also of the recent deaths of:

- Ruby Allen, who lived at Eastwood Farm with her husband Don from 1982 to 2000, when they moved to Duncton. They were both highly active members of the Graffham community during their time here.
- Sarah Buckley, who lived with her family at Thorney, The Street, Graffham. Her committal was held at St Giles Church on Monday 9 February.

We hope to feature full tributes to both of them in future editions.

FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS COMING SOON
Spring 2026!
Download our FREE Chichester District Council app today to receive live updates during service roll out, including container delivery and collection start dates.
For more information and to download our app, visit chichester.gov.uk/food-waste
CHICHESTER District Council
West Sussex recycles

GET READY TO RECYCLE YOUR FOOD WASTE!

From spring 2026 we will be introducing a new weekly food waste collection service. Two new containers will be delivered to your home together with instructions on how to use them.

What we will deliver

To enable you to recycle your food waste easily we will provide you with:

A kitchen caddy

A roll of liners to get you started

An outside food waste recycling bin which we will empty weekly

What you can recycle

You can recycle all your food waste, including the following:

- All uneaten food and plate scrapings

- Dairy products
- Cheese
- Eggs

- Fish
- Cooked fish
- Bones

- Bread
- Cakes
- Pastries

- Raw meat
- Cooked meat
- Bones

- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds

- Rice
- Pasta
- Beans

- Raw vegetables
- Cooked vegetables
- Whole fruit
- Peelings

When collected separately, food waste can be treated via anaerobic digestion where it will be used to generate natural forms of energy such as biogas and bio fertilisers. This is a much more efficient and environmentally friendly way of processing your food waste.

No matter how little food waste you produce, it is really important that it is recycled.

For more information and to download our app visit:
chichester.gov.uk/food-waste

Life at Seaford College Prep School

How do parents decide which school is right for their child?

With so many choices available, finding the right school can feel like a big decision. From talking to our current families, we know that nothing beats seeing a school in action and getting a real feel for everyday life.

To support you with this important decision, we're delighted to invite families considering Reception entry in September 2026 to join us for a series of fun and engaging taster days here at our bespoke facility on our beautiful campus in the South Downs.

Our much-loved **Little Seaford Saturday morning events** will take place in March and May as well as midweek Seaford **Discovery Sessions**. These relaxed and friendly events give children the chance to explore, play and try new things, while parents can meet our wonderful staff and experience what makes Seaford so special.

Each Seaford Discovery Session will focus on a different part of school life, including sport, dance and music, art and forest school, giving families a real flavour of the breadth of opportunities on offer.

Parents are welcome to stay and play or drop off, and families can book onto one or more sessions (subject to availability).

Advance booking is essential, so please contact Hayley at receptionclass@seaford.org or call 01798 867893 to find out more and reserve your place.

Registration for our Reception Class 2026 is now open.

Seaford College has recently been awarded the highest possible rating of 'Excellent' in all areas in our ISI inspection. You can read the full report here: www.seaford.org/life-at-seaford/isi-inspection-report

Our next Open Morning will take place on Saturday 7th March 2026, and we would love to welcome you to this informal morning where you will have a tour with one of our students.

Contact Hayley, Prep School Admissions: receptionclass@seaford.org

Love to learn

School report: Making lunches more meaningful

Graffham Infant and Duncton Junior headmaster Charles Beckerson and Business Manager Jenny Godfrey have news of a significant change the schools will serve up later this year.

Graffham Infant and Duncton Junior Schools are to transform the lunches served up for our children – with fresh, nutritious meals, cooked on-site every day by our very own chef from September. The switch from catering supplied centrally by West Sussex County Council's education department will be the culmination of months of research, conversations and careful planning. We are incredibly proud of this next chapter for our schools.

We have always cared deeply about providing our children with good, wholesome food. Over the years, we've been inspired to think creatively about how we can enhance our catering offering even further. Ideas began to spark. We listened to podcasts, launched our gardening club and even embarked on the wonderfully bold adventure of baking fresh sourdough bread every single day.

These experiences encouraged us to explore new possibilities for our hot lunches. That's when we came across Chefs in Schools – an incredible charity dedicated to transforming the way children eat and learn about food. Its ethos perfectly matches our commitment to well-being, sustainability and hands-on learning, and we're thrilled to be on this journey with them.

The school garden is used to show children where food comes from.

As a small school, budgets are always carefully balanced, so we've worked hard to ensure this new approach is sustainable and realistic. We are now exploring how best to equip a new kitchen – from equipment to prep tables and everything else needed to bring this vision to life. A key part of our dream is sourcing ingredients locally. We want food that is not only delicious and nutritious but also rooted in our community.

More than anything, we want lunchtime to become a meaningful part of the school day – a moment when children gather around a table, talk about their food and where it comes from, serve one another, enjoy a shared experience and develop a lifelong love of great cuisine.

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From Town Hall: Three initiatives that will help

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

Several policies adopted by Chichester District Council (CDC) in the past few months will greatly benefit the area. The first is its Housing Policy Grant. While this is mainly about incentivising registered housing providers, like Hyde, to update, renovate or refurbish old housing stock instead of selling it off, it also includes and hopes to help smaller community housing trusts. It is sad that social housing providers are more likely to sell rural social housing stock than refurbish it, because of the cost involved. They would rather their stock was in towns and cities than one-off locations in villages. We have asked housing providers to contact the council if they wish to sell off rural housing stock, and, where possible and if there is a local need, the council will intervene. This is one area where CDC can make the difference – sell it and lose it or provide a grant to keep it in the social housing stock.

CDC is also continuing its 'Supporting You' initiative. This has proved invaluable to so many people finding life tough at the moment – whether that is saving on household bills, helping with housing, problems with health and wellbeing or supporting small businesses. It has helped people with mobility issues stay in their homes, provided grants to improve the energy efficiency of properties and supported those facing the threat of homelessness or who are already homeless. Often rural homelessness is overlooked. You may not see people sleeping out on streets at night in rural locations, but you might have seen vans or cars parked up in certain locations for several days, which then move on to another spot and thereby never come to anyone's attention. These people are often in dire need of help. To find out more, go to www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyou or contact me directly on jcross@chichester.gov.uk

Finally, some good news. As the CDC Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Place, one of the things that has been occupying a lot of my time in the past 18 months is the new contract for the district's leisure facilities. This will not only improve sport and leisure provision across the district, but it will also see investment in the physical assets and bring nearly £30 million in revenue to the district over its 15-year life – a yield of more than 12 per cent on our investment. The sad news is that the current local government review means most of that money will not be spread much wider than Chichester district.

Graffham Chronicles: Ghosts and ghastly goings on

In her column this month, local historian Pauline Goodwin writes of old Graffham folklore and the legend of the White Lady.

Folklore regales us with tales of activities re-enacted or remembered as time goes by. Some traditions are positive – but some mark dark historical events. We have just passed through a positive tradition that goes back to pagan times when the spirits of the orchards were encouraged to produce a good harvest of apples for cider making. Since industrial times, this modern season of Wassail has been extended from just the 12 days of Christmas and nowadays the season extends past the end of February.

In the past, folklore existed orally recounted by spoken word or in the old songs sung loudly not just in the apple orchards at Wassail but at every opportunity.

Sussex has always been known for its tales of the supernatural – of pharisees (Sussex fairies), of knuckers (Sussex dragons) and of Old Scratch (the Sussex name for the devil). However, author Peter Brandon states in *The Discovery of Sussex*: "Fairyland… did not survive the Second World War – railways and the motor car…. have seen to that." As modern modes of transport opened up previously isolated communities, residents' attention and interests were channelled in different directions, impacting the telling and retelling of old tales.

But, surprisingly, one such tale did re-emerge during World War II – a tale of unnatural dark events. At the time, Graffham was woken from its sleepy, introverted rural life by an influx of people, mostly young, who had been billeted in the village because of the war.

Lavington Park (today's Seaford College) had been taken over as the headquarters of the Commandos. Canadian lumberjacks camped out in woodland hereabouts, felling trees for wartime use. Glasses Cottage was home to a bomb disposal unit comprising conscientious objectors.

In addition, businesses were persuaded to leave London to avoid the bombing. As a result, the entire operation and personnel of shipping company Stephen Fraser Ltd relocated to Selham House, which has since been renamed Millburgh Hall. As members of its team were conscripted, reducing its headcount, it moved to Brookdene House. Its entire office staff including secretaries plus wives and children, were evacuated here. Anne Larkin, the now 91-year-old daughter of Mary and Jack Pescod who ran the village Post Office, reminds us that three of these girls

Pictured during World War II, Selham House before it was renamed Millburgh Hall (left) and Brookdene House with Pauline's Auntie Lottie in the front. Both photos are from Lottie's album, which is now stored in Graffham Archive.

were housed with her family. The transient population sought all manner of diversions as an escape, especially through dances. Anne Larkin recalled in a recent interview that she would join bomb disposal soldiers to play tennis at her aunt and uncle's house, The Shieling. Afterwards, they would sing around the piano of Anne's mother Mary. Two of the soldiers played instruments – trumpet and violin. In quieter moments, the retelling of folk stories and songs from the village's past was popular, fostering minds receptive to strange and supernatural apparitions!

Set against this background, one event with strong links to Graffham's history involved one of the secretaries evacuated here with Stephen Fraser Ltd and recorded in *The Sussex County* magazine of May 1950 – an event that had historical roots in folklore and the deep past although it actually took place in 1940.

Where exactly it occurred is not known. One of the Stephen Fraser secretaries was walking alone in Graffham one evening when she saw a white apparition – a faint figure of a sad woman all in white standing by a well and willow tree. Villagers reported sightings of such a woman since the 17th Century. Joscelyn Johnston, wife of a former Seaford College headmaster, recorded the historical origins of these legendary sightings of the white lady ghost of Lavington Park.

The White Lady had been seen frequently since 1727, following the death of a woman called Charlotte Hanway. She had married the village squire, Garton Orme, who had inherited a substantial amount of money and a large estate stretching from the manor of Lavington Park to the manor of East Dean, incorporating most of today's Graffham and East Lavington. Led into temptation by his huge fortune, Squire Garton became fixated with gambling and what Joscelyn called "wild ways of life". Indeed, he was forced to sell much of the land towards East Dean to pay

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

The only identified picture of Garton Orme, the wicked Squire of Woolavington in the 1700s, is this painting of him as a boy.

his debts. His marriage to Charlotte lasted ten years but then she died suddenly and was buried hurriedly in the churchyard south of St Peter's Church, which is now Seaford College's chapel.

At the time of her sudden death, there was much rumour and speculation as to its cause, especially when Orme remarried within a fortnight of her passing.

Local folklore has it that when he died in 1758 a curse was put on his estate by the father of a young woman from Graffham who had been "wronged by the squire". The curse was made while standing by a willow tree on the road to the village.

A century later, alterations to St Peter's were being undertaken by Henry Manning, then Rector of Lavington and later of Graffham too before converting to Roman Catholicism, becoming its prelate of England. The church's south side was being extended, which required moving some graves there.

One of the coffins that had been buried appeared to be extremely heavy. Once opened, it was found to be full of stones – but no skeleton. It was the coffin of Charlotte Orme – adding weight to the legend that she had been killed by being thrown down a well and giving credence to the sightings of the White Lady beside a well and willow.

GRAFFHAM
HEALTH SUPPORT
ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Open to all Graffham residents

Tuesday 14 April, 3pm Empire Hall

Bill's bygones: Gertrude, Gilbert, Grand Slam

A regular feature in which joint editor Bill Barrett looks back at what was happening in the village and the wider world this month in the past.

10 years ago – March 2016: Bishop of Horsham Mark Sowerby attends St Giles during Easter. Michael Blencowe hosts Graffham Down Trust's quiz night for the second time. Graffham Parish Council seeks residents' views on cutting the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in parts of the village. Tata Steel announces plans to sell off its British operations. Ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić is sentenced to 40 years in jail for war crimes. England win the Six Nations Grand Slam for the first time since 2003. John Le Carré makes a cameo appearance in episode four of the BBC dramatisation of his novel *The Night Manager*. Deaths of TV presenter and South Harting resident Cliff Michelmore (aged 96), Beatles' producer Sir George Martin (90) and comedian Ronnie Corbett (85).

25 years ago – March 2001: Canon Peter Cole and Seaford College's Adrian Carlton-Oakley, a licenced reader, preside over the last service of the inter-regnum before the Rev Mark Gilbert assumes his duties as Rector of Graffham and Chaplain to Seaford College with a licensing service conducted by Bishop of Horsham Lindsay Unwin, following the departure of rector Keith Hyde-Dunn. At an independent public enquiry into unrestricted traffic access to Long Bostle, Graffham Parish Council chair Diana Kingsmill and spokesman Derek Stewart-Smith press for the byway to be reclassified as a bridleway. The remains of Donald Campbell and his Bluebird K7 are recovered from Lake Coniston 34 years after his attempt on the water speed record. The Eden Project opens in Cornwall. Deaths of physician/author Alex Comfort (*The Joy of Sex*, 80) and iconic New Wave singer/songwriter Ian Dury (57).

50 years ago – March 1976: The staff (including Graffham Rustic John Ellerton, who plays Fagin) and boys of Seaford College win praise for their production of *Oliver!*, their first musical. Proposals to replace GCE O levels and CSEs with a single examination are opposed by West Sussex Education Committee. Harold Wilson announces his resignation as Prime Minister. Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon separate after 16 years of marriage. Production of the Hillman Imp ends after 13 years. The Body Shop is founded by Anita Roddick in Brighton. Wales win the Five Nations with a Grand Slam. Deaths of illustrator and Lodsworth resident EH Shepard (96) and Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery (88).

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Graffham Parish News' marvellous March quiz

Ten quick fire questions from Bill Barrett to test your local, topical and wider general knowledge. Answers on page 63 (no cheating!)

1 Which local cleric and member of the House of Lords recently announced that he will be retiring this May?

2 Seaford College moved to Lavington Park in [a] 1926, [b] 1936, or [c] 1946?

3 Which day of Holy Week celebrates the Last Supper?

4 Which of these actors was briefly a pupil at Windlesham House School, near Worthing, in the 1980s: [a] Olivia Coleman, [b] Hugh Laurie, [c] Tom Hiddleston?

5 According to the DVLA, the Volkswagen Golf was the second most frequently stolen car in 2024, with 1,731 thefts – but which model trumped this with 4,446?

6 Which of fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine, astatine and tennessine are members of the halogen group of elements?

7 In the infamous Twickenham England vs Wales Five Nations "bloodbath" of 1980, how many players were sent off: [a] three, [b] none, [c] one?

8 Elena Rybakina won her second tennis major at the Australian Open in January. Her first was in 2022 – but where?

9 Which late, gravel voiced musician, who would have been 75 on 4 March, was inspired to write one of his most famous songs by the M25 and M4?

10 *The Phantom Raspberry Blower of Old London Town* was a spoof serial in which BBC TV comedy duo's weekly show?

Out and about: And the morel of the story…

A regular column by villager Jonathan Simons who also contributes to the Facebook site Beautiful Sights In And Around Graffham.

Morels are famously sought after for culinary delight, but not all are edible. They usually appear in spring, often in surprising places. The body of the fungus is hollow, and the cap consists of many convoluted folds. There are several varieties.

The Yellow Morel *Morchella esculenta* This is the famous 'true' morel much prized by foragers. The convoluted folds of the cap are very distinctive. *Esculenta* means 'edible'. It appears in spring but it is not common. I have only seen it three times. My first was in April 2010 on the roadside bank up from Perrott Lane in Graffham. I did pick one (I hope in retrospect that there were more) for 'scientific purposes' but I also did eat a small portion just to say I had. I cannot say the taste made much of an impression on me though. I have

The Yellow Morel found at Graffham's Perrott Lane.

looked in this spot every year since with no success. Can I blame global warming rather than the possibility that I had picked the last one?!

A Yellow Morel seen locally at Tagents (left) and a perfect specimen in Italy.

My second sighting was ten years later in the cowslip field above Tagents Farm. There was one giant distorted morel about 13cm high. I let it be, but despite revisiting annually I've not seen it again. The third was quite unexpectedly at the end of a long walk in Italy's Abbruzzo National Park, a perfect specimen under pines at the edge of town.

Black Morels.

The Black Morel *Morchella elata* This is commoner in the UK than the previous species. It is a 'true' morel and edible but not as celebrated. However, I have only ever seen this once in this country and that was in woodchip outside Billingshurst Library in May 2013. There were several substantial specimens but all in rather a poor shape. I did not take any for the pot.

Look for it on rotting woodchip on housing estates or big gardens. I am hoping the new woodchipped drive onto the Rec might prove fruitful. The second photo, from Elba shows it more clearly.

The False Morel *Gyromitra esculenta* The False Morel is sometimes called the Turban Morel on account of the cap's resemblance to oriental headgear although others liken it to a brain. The specific name esculenta for this species is a bit misleading. It used to be eaten a lot on the continent after suitable cooking but now it is generally regarded as highly toxic! Again, in my whole life I have only found it in three places, all of them in Graffham.

False Morels pictured in the village.

The first time I saw it was on the roadside bank just north of Millburgh Hall in 2006. Then in 2015 it appeared in our grounds and has come back several times since. I was also shown it under pines on private land north of Perrott Lane about half a mile away.

If you see any of this sort of thing then do let me know by mail or post on the Facebook site Beautiful Sights In And Around Graffham.

Nature Notes: Love is in the air

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

Sussex is beginning to bloom and, in the absence of pollinating insects, one of our first flowers is depending on a February breeze to deliver its Valentine's message.

You'll all know male Hazel flowers. They're the catkins – those droopy 'lambs tails' which cast their sulphur clouds of dusty love into the countryside. These clouds are made of a multitude of lonely pollen grains, each cruising on the wind hoping to find the female hazel flower. Look closely on the branches and you'll see her desperately trying to grab a grain with her bright pink tentacle tassels.

This windswept romance has occurred ever since the end of the last Ice Age when our defrosting land was a botanical blank canvas. There were rich pickings for any plant that ventured way out west, and hazel was one of the first pioneers. In an empty landscape, under open skies, it established its vast nutty empire, becoming our most abundant tree species.

But therein lies the problem. Hazel's just not very good at being a tree. It doesn't grow very tall. So, when the big boys started muscling into Britain, its claim to

Graffham Down Trust Nature Conservation & Management

Work parties 2025-26

We are so fortunate to have the beautiful South Downs on our doorstep. Come and help maintain them for future generations to enjoy. Did I mention that delicious cakes, tea and coffee are provided?

Work parties 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 if you plan to come along and say if you would like a ride up so that he can arrange transport.

Saturday 7 March

the canopy crown ended. Giant oaks blocked the sun and banished hazel to the shadows – an understory underdog. And there, Gollum-like, hazel waited. Until we showed up.

Mesolithic man, foraging around for food, acquired a taste for hazelnuts. If you've ever witnessed me poking around with a spoon in the bottom of a Nutella jar, it's clear that this love of hazelnuts, and our table manners, have changed little in the last 10,000 years. Hazelnuts were a vital protein source for our ancestors, and each nut is individually packaged in a little container for easy storage.

Hazel catkins (above) and young nuts that will follow. © Mark Monk-Terry and Derek Middleton, SWT.

But hazel took care of us in other ways too. It has a magical power of regeneration. Whatever doesn't kill it just makes it stronger. Hack down a hazel and, like the Hydra, it'll bounce back mob-handed, sending up an army of new shoots. Cutting hazel and allowing it to regrow (the art of coppicing) gave us a crop of strong, strong, flexible poles. Coppiced poles have a multitude of uses – firewood, fences, fishing rods, shepherd's crooks, walking sticks, water diviners and magic wands. Hazel poles were the wattle in the 'wattle and daub' that held together our early homes. Hazel helped us build Britain.

And it built a Britain full of burly men with axes who marched into the wild woods and cut down those big oaks. And as our woodlands were cleared, hazel rose again and regained its place in our developing countryside. Perhaps we were part of its comeback plan all along?

- 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:

Tennis Coaching 2026

GRAFFHAM TENNIS CLUB

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Free
Junior Taster Session

Wednesday 18th February

YrR – Yr6

After School Tennis Club

Wednesdays
3.30 - 6.15pm

YrR – Yr6

Starts 4th March

Easter Tennis Course

Monday 30th March –
Thursday 2nd April

YrR – Yr11

Group times and ages tbc nearer the time

Summer Tennis Course

Wednesday 22nd - Friday 24th July

YrR – Yr11

Group times and ages tbc nearer the time

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Graffham Tennis Club

Free taster session Graffham's tennis players are getting used to playing in the drizzle! Please don't let this put you off! Sunshine is hopefully just around the corner! There will be a free adult taster session on Sunday 12 April from 11am to 1pm. Open to all and run by our friendly coach Richard Hopp, it's a chance to dust off your rackets, pay your club membership and meet others.

If you are tempted to play league tennis, contact this summer's team captains:

- Men's – Richard Bates at ragb24@googlemail.com
- Ladies A – Kate Hogan at kate.hogan@btinternet.com
- Mixed – Andy Craig at andy.craig@people-puzzles.co.uk
- Ladies B – Rebecca Ruff at rebecca.ruff@btinternet.com

AGM Graffham Tennis Club's annual general meeting will be held in the Pavilion on Monday 23 March at 7pm. All members welcome.

Graffham Tennis Club East Hants results				
1 Feb	Won 5-3	Mixed Doubles A team	Div 2	v Haslemere B
4 Feb	Lost 8-0	Mixed Doubles B team	Div 2	v Headley A

Graffham Ladies Cricket Club

Practice will start again, on the tennis courts until the ground dries, on Thursday evenings at 6pm after the clocks go forward. The probable date therefore is Thursday 2 April.

Easter egg toss

Graffham's traditional Easter egg toss is being pencilled in, as usual, for Easter Sunday 5 April at 4pm. Watch for next month's edition for full details.

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.

Bishop of Chichester to retire

Chichester's Bishop Martin has announced his retirement, effective 31 May, after 14 years in the role. A successor will be appointed in due course.

Foodbank's 'most urgent' shopping list lengthens

The list of items in most urgent need by Chichester Foodbank, which also covers Petworth and its surrounding villages, is shorter this month than before – but with quite a few new items featuring. You can contribute to the foodbank at its collection points in All Saints Chapel, directly opposite Graffham Village Shop, or at St Giles Church. Items currently most wanted include:

- Instant coffee.
- Jam, honey, spreads.
- Laundry detergent.
- Ready-made custard.
- Shampoo, conditioner.
- Sugar.
- Tinned fish.
- Tinned fruit.
- Tinned meat, stews etc.
- Tin potatoes/ instant mash.
- Tinned vegetables.
- Tomato ketchup.
- Toothpaste.
- Washing up liquid.

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St Giles Church's Lent Lunch

Please join us for soup, bread, cheese and conversation

Tuesday 10 March 12.45pm Empire Hall, Graffham

Guest speakers:

The Rev Canon John Bundock and Millburgh Hall's Charles Marriott

John and Charles will talk about the retelling of the Christian story in dramatic form in the countryside at Wintershall, near Bramley – with which they have both been heavily involved.

Everyone welcome! *If you would like to attend, please sign up on the form in Graffham Village Shop by 6 March to enable us to cater for you*

All donations to Wintershall Charitable Trust *wintershall.org.uk*

Donkeys and band lead Palm Sunday procession

Petworth Area Churches Together's traditional Palm Sunday procession through the town's streets will be held on Sunday 29 March – led by two donkeys and the Petworth Town Band. It will leave from Sacred Heart Church, Angel Street, at 3pm, winding through the town to arrive at St Mary's Church at around 3.30pm, with rousing hymns sung along the way, a short resume of the Palm Sunday Gospel story at three points around the town and palms supplied for children and adults. There'll be tea and cakes to refresh souls and voices at the end. All are welcome at what PACT describes as a "lovely traditional event", with no bookings necessary.

Other denominations locally

Methodist: Midhurst. *Minister:* David Muskett *Tel:* 01730 233436. *email:* superintendent@esanddcircuit.org.uk. *Web:* midhurstmethodist.com *Worship:* Sundays 10.00am, and Café Church 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 10.30am.

Roman Catholic: The Catholic Churches of Saints Anthony and George, Duncton, The Divine Motherhood and St Francis of Assisi, Midhurst, and The Sacred Heart, Petworth. *email:* petworth.abdiocese.org.uk. *Tel:* 01798 342169. *Web:* www.petworthcatholic.org

Mass					
Sun	8am	Duncton	Thu	9.30am	Petworth
	9.30am	Midhurst		12noon	Midhurst Convent
	11am	Petworth	Fri	6.30pm	Petworth
Tue	10.30am	Petworth	Sat	9.30am	Midhurst
Wed	9.30am	Midhurst		5.30pm	Petworth

Society of Friends (Quakers): St Anne's Community Centre, St Anne's Hill, Midhurst, GU29 9NN. *Web:* sussexwestquakers.org.uk *Meetings:* 2nd and 4th Sundays 10.30am.

RINGING and SINGING: To join Graffham's bellringers or occasional choir, contact Revd Vivien on 01798 867199 or at

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Easter in Graffham with Woolavington

Everyone is welcome to join in any of these Holy Week and Easter services. Do come on in – the water's lovely!

Palm Sunday, 29 March *10.30am St Giles Church* Parish Eucharist with dramatised reading of the Passion

Thursday, 2 April *7pm St Giles Church* Maundy Thursday Eucharist, followed by Watch of Prayer, Recalling the events in the Upper Room, with our Lord's washing of the disciples' feet in humility and the institution of the Lord's Supper, followed at 8pm by a Watch of Prayer.

Good Friday, 3 April *9.30 to 11am from St Giles Church* Reflective Walk A journey with companions around our parish.

Sunday, 5 April *6am St Giles Church* First Eucharist of Easter with Easter fire. From a fire kindled in the churchyard, the Easter candle will be lit and carried into a darkened church, as a sign of Christ's light overcoming darkness in the world. We hear the Exsultet, an ancient song sung in the candlelight, before sharing in thanksgiving in our first Easter Eucharist of 2025.

Sunday, 5 April *10.30am St Giles* Easter Day Family Eucharist A celebration of Easter hope, with our church decorated with flowers and a churchyard baptism – all followed by an Easter egg hunt. There may even be Easter lambs …

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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 are open daily.
- See stgilesgraffham.org or Facebook's @stgilesgraffham for any changes.
- Bellringing practice is every Tuesday at 7.30pm.
- The Rev Vivien's rest days are Fridays and Saturdays.

March				
1	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Lent 2 *Reading:* Genesis 12.1-4a; Romans 4.1-5, 13-17	St Giles Church
3	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
4	Wed	11am	Coffee Morning at Foresters' Arms	Foresters Arms
8	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Lent 3 *Reading:* Exodus 17.1-7	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
10	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	St Giles Church
		12.30pm	Lent Lunch including Food with Friends	Empire Hall
14	Sat	10am	Bell Ringing Practice	St Giles Church
15	Sun	9am	BCP Holy Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Parish Eucharist Lent 4 Mothering Sunday *Reading:* Exodus 2.1-10	
17	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
19	Thu	3.30pm	Messy Church in Church	St Giles Church
22	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Lent 5 with Baptism of Rupert Mason *Reading:* Ezekiel 37.1-14	St Giles Church
		6.30pm	Taize	All Saints Chapel
24	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
		2.30pm	PCC Worship Group meeting	Occam Cottage
26	Thu	2pm	Graffham Infant School Easter Service	St Giles Church
29	Sun	10.30am	Palm Sunday Eucharist *Reading:* Matthew 21.1-11	St Giles Church
31	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer followed by Pilgrims	All Saints Chapel
April				
2	Thu	7pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist with foot washing	St Giles Church
		8 - 9pm	Watch of Prayer	
3	Fri	9.30am	Reflective Walk	St Giles Church
5	Sun	6am	First Eucharist of Easter with Easter Fire	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Parish Eucharist Easter Sunday	St Giles Church

What's on in and around the village

- For weekly events, see page 59. For church services and other events, see page 55. For home sports fixtures, see page 49.
- To see what's on in the village, locally and further afield for a full year ahead, see graffham-pc.gov.uk/graffham-village-diary

February				
27	Fri	7.45pm	Petworth Sessions presents Kathryn Williams	Leconfield Hall, Petworth
28	Sat	9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		10-11am	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		7pm	Graffham Empire Movies presents *Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale*	Empire Hall
March				
1	Sun		*St David's Day*	
3	Tue	10.45am	Arts Society of Midhurst talk on *Jane Austen and the Art of Satire*	Midhurst Methodist Hall
		2pm	Arts Society of West Sussex talk on *The Mosaics of Ravenna*	Fittleworth Village Hall
4	Wed		Coffee morning in aid of St Giles Church	Foresters Arms
		7pm	Graffham Parish Council meeting	Empire Hall
5	Thu	10-11am	UKHarvest surplus food market	Sylvia Beaufoy, Petworth
7	Sat	9.30am	Graffham Down Trust work party	Meet at St Giles
		am	Seaford College Prep school open morning	Seaford College
			Six Nations rugby– Italy vs England	Rome
8	Sun	7pm	Folk music night	Three Moles
10	Tue	12.30pm	Lent lunch	Empire Hall
		7pm	Quiz night	The Three Moles
		7pm	Heyshott Parish Council meeting	Cobden Hall Heyshott
13	Fri	6.45 for 7pm	Graffham Garden Group AGM with guest speaker and spring flower show	Empire Hall
14	Sat		Six Nations rugby final day	
		8pm	Nine Below Zero gig	Empire Hall
15	Sun		*Mothering Sunday*	
		10.30am	Mothering Sunday service	St Giles Church
16	Mon	6.15pm	East Lavington Parish Council meeting	Seaford College

17	Tue		*Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day*	
18	Wed		*Ash Wednesday*	
		7pm	Petworth Society talk on William Blake	Leconfield Hall
		7.30pm	Seaford College presents *Miss Saigon* (to 21 March)	Seaford College
19	Thu	2.30pm	Thursday Club	Empire Hall
		3.30pm	Messy Church	St Giles Church
21	Sat	*9am-1pm*	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
		10.30am-2pm	Graffham Easter market	Empire Hall
23	Mon	*7pm*	Graffham Tennis Club AGM	Pavilion
24	Tue	*2.30pm*	PCC Worship Group meeting	Occam Cottage
25	Wed	*12.30pm*	Lunch Club[1]	Empire Hall
26	Thu	*7.45pm*	Petworth Sessions presents The Haar	Leconfield Hall Petworth
27	Fri		Graffham and Duncton Schools INSET day	
			WSCC and Seaford College terms ends	
28	Sat	*10-11am*	Community garden work party	War Memorial
		All day	Introduction to beekeeping day – see wgbka.org.uk	Rudgwick Village Hall
		9am-1pm	Petworth Farmers Market	Petworth
29	Sun		*Palm Sunday*	
		British Summer Time starts – clocks spring forward one hour		
		3pm	PACT Palm Sunday procession	Petworth
		7-10pm	Blues Night	Three Moles
30	Mon	*Various*	Easter tennis course for Years R-11	Graffham Tennis Club

April

1	Wed		Graffham Camping and Caravan Club site opens for season	
2	Thu		*Maundy Thursday*	
			First day of Jewish passover	

For details of all Easter church services in Graffham, see page 53

3	Fri		*Good Friday*	
4	Sat		Spring festival (till 19 April)	Petworth House and Park
			Grand National	Aintree
5	Sun		*Easter Sunday*	
		4pm	*Easter egg toss*	Rec
6	Mon		*Easter Monday*	

[1]**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 £10 a head. Please book via Sarah on 01798 867567.

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Regular weekly activities *(for notes, how to book, etc, see below)*			
Mondays	9-10am	Fitflows Fitness[1]	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath[2]	Empire Hall
	6pm in summer	Bowls Club practices – all welcome	Rec
Tuesdays	8.30am-12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
	9-11am	Breakfast served	Three Moles
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath[2]	Empire Hall
	7.30pm	Bell ringing practice – newcomers welcome	St Giles
Wednesdays	9–10am	Yoga[4]	Empire Hall
	11.15am-12noon	Pilates[5]	Empire Hall
	1.45-2.45pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching[6]	Rec
	3.30-6.15pm	After school tennis club	Tennis Club
	5pm	Nina's Core to Floor[3]	Westerlands
	7-8.30pm	Badminton[7] – all welcome	Empire Hall
	Daytime-evening	Osteopath[2]	Empire Hall
Thursdays	Daytime-evening	Osteopath[2]	Empire Hall
	10.45-11.45am	Ease Into Exercise[8]	Empire Hall
	6-7.15pm	Yoga[4]	Empire Hall
Fridays	9-10.15am	Yoga[4]	Empire Hall
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic[9]	Empire Hall
	3-4pm	Rusty Racquets adults tennis coaching[7]	Tennis Club
	Evenings	Tennis Club evenings	Pavilion
Saturdays	8.30am	Boxfit with Nina[3]	Westerlands
	9-10.15am	Yoga[4]	Empire Hall
	10am	Nina's Core to Floor[3]	Westerlands
	10.30am	Yoga with Kate[3]	Westerlands
	9am-3pm	Physiotherapy clinic[9]	Empire Hall
Sundays	5pm	Pickleball[10]	Empire Hall
	5pm	Casual football[11]	Rec

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

[1]**Fitflows Fitness:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956.

[2]**Osteopath:** Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 303557 or see www.annashawcross.co.uk

[3]**For all Westerlands events:** Book online at www.westerlands.com/experiences/wild-fit

[4]**Yoga:** Deborah Albon on 07790 367009.

[5]**Pilates:** Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

[6]**Rusty Racquets:** Contact Richard Hopp at richard@hoppcoaching.co.uk, on 07904 069457.

[7]**Badminton:** Contact Christina Federowicz on 07900 055574. All welcome. [8]**Ease Into Exercise:** Contact Susie Bush 07870 219956. [9]**Physiotherapy:** Contact Serena Cooper on 07884 445983 or at serenacooper.physiotherapy@outlook.com. [10]**Pickleball:** Contact Beanie Bradley on 07500 080417.

[11]**Casual Football:** Contact Lucas Thornley on 07767 721997.

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Quiz answers *(from page 43)* **1** Bishop of Chichester Martin Warner. **2** [c] 1946. **3** Maundy Thursday. **4** [c] Tom Hiddleston. **5** Ford Fiesta. **6** All of them. **7** [c] one (Wales' Paul Ringer. England won 10-9 and went on to clinch their first Grand Slam since 1963). **8** Wimbledon. **9** Chris Rea. **10** *The Two Ronnies*.

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Directory: Useful local contact info

DOCTORS	Petworth Surgery		01798 342248
	Midhurst Riverbank Medical Centre		01730 812121
	Haslemere Minor Injuries Unit		01483 782334
DEFIBRILLATORS	Empire Hall temporarily out of use		Temporarily out of use
	On outside wall of **Pavilion**		Code is **C159X**
	In phone box outside **Pescods**		Code is also **C159X**
	In phone box opposite **The Three Moles**		No code needed
FLOOD ALERT for Lods Bridge	To check river level		bit.ly/lodsbridge
POLICE	In emergency		999
	Non-emergency		101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 101
BURST WATER MAINS	Southern Water		0800 820 999
POWER CUTS	Scottish & Southern Electric		0800 0727 282
99 FLEX BUS	Linking Graffham with Chichester, Petworth etc		Book via Ring Pingo app 01243 858854
All Saints Chapel Trust	Chairman	Clive Rowntree	01798 867536
Badminton	Christina Federowicz		07900 055574
Bees / Swarms	Wisboro' Green B'keepers	Tom Moore	07984 606214/01798 343470
	Local beekeeper	Murray West	evenings 01798 867048
Chichester District Council			01243 534734
District Councillor	John Cross	jcross@chichester.gov.uk	07592 307027
Dog Warden	Office hours/Emergency		01243 534734/01243 785339
Citizens Advice Bureau			03448 487969
East Lavington Parish Council	Chairman	Simon Longman	simon.longman@eastlavington-pc.uk
	Clerk	Amy Harte 07889 979820	eastlavingtonpc@gmail.com
Empire Hall			empirehall.org.uk
Bookings	Anna Shawcross	bookings.empirehall@gmail.com	07971 204287
	Chairman	Ollie Boulton	07584 625059
	Maintenance	Tom Richardson	07932 865154
	Treasurer	Carole Sargent	01798 344790
	Secretary	Jonathan Simons	01798 867689
Foodbank	info@chichester.foodbank.org.uk		01243 773687
Foresters Arms	forestersarmsgraffham.com		01798 867386
Graffham Archive	Robin Brind	graffhamarchive@outlook.com	01798 867619
Graffham Bellringers	Tower Captain	Howard Pescott	01798 867029
Graffham Bowls Club	Secretary	Liz Pegram	01798 867770
Graffham Down Trust	Chairman	Jim Kirke	07718 559675
Graffham Empire Movies		Michael Blunt	mblunt@btinternet.com
Graffham Garden Group		Carole Kirke	07855 515739
Graff'm Health Support Assc	Chairman	Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
	Membership	Yvonne Churchward	07808 781510
	Transport		07391 802541
	Prescription collection	Mary Taylor	mkt.bythedowns@gmail.com
	Loan of equipment	Karin Skanberg	07920 091014
Graffham Lunch Club	Sarah Lydiard-Wilson		01798 867567

Graffham Nursery		School Office	01798 867324
Graffham Parish Council			graffham-pc.gov.uk
	Chairman	Gillian Charlesworth	gcharlesworth@graffham-pc.gov.uk
	Clerk	Amy Harte	clerk@graffham-pc.gov.uk
Graffham Parish News		Editorial and circulation:	editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com
		Advertising:	ads.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com
			See also inside front cover
Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council			stgilesgraffham.org
	Priest-in-Charge	Rev Vivien Turner	01798 867199
			hallo@stgilesgraffham.org
	Churchwarden	Cindy Bradley	07787 516522
	Treasurer	Dinah Lamming	graffhampcctreasurer@gmail.com
Graffham Rec Committee	Chairman	John Bracey	01798 867760
	Bookings Sec	Sonya Gillespie	graffhamrecpavilion@gmail.com
Graffham Tennis Club	Chairman	Simon Longman	01798 867317
	Secretary	David Sparkes	07958 486211
	Coaching	Emma Amin	01798 867063
Graffham Village Shop		Jeeva and Vasu	01798 867700
			graffhamvillageshop.co.uk
Graffham Village Shop Assoc	Chairman	Steve Dover	07770 499223
	Treasurer	Andy Jones	andy.jones@graffham.net
	Secretary	Ros Britton	rosalind.britton@btinternet.com
Katherine Maud Guillod Fund		c/o Graffham PC Clerk	graffhampc@gmx.co.uk
Lavington Estate		info@lavingtonstud.co.uk	01798 867275
Lavington Park Federation			graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk
Graffham CE Infant School			01798 867324
Duncton CE Junior School			01798 342402
Friends of Graffham & Duncton Schools			01798 867324
Long Bostle Downland Soc		Gillian Brandt	01798 867276
MP Arundel & South Downs		Andrew Griffith	andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk
Midhurst & Petworth Observer			01243 534163
National Trust (Lavington Common)			01730 816638
Neighbourhood Watch		Michael Crickmay	01798 867486
Osteopath		Anna Shawcross	01798 867523
Oil Buying Syndicate		Derek Bradnum	derekbradnum@gmail.com
Pilates at Empire Hall		Nicky Capes	07990 517858
Potholes To report a pothole or other road problem online			bit.ly/report-potholes-west-sussex
Seaford College			01798 867392
Three Moles		Ollie and Tom	thethreemoles.com 01798 861303
Thursday Club	Secretary	Diane Bellis	01798 867444
West Sussex County Council		General enquiries	01243 777100
County Councillor		Tom Richardson	07463 785039
The Woodcote (formerly White Horse)		thewoodcote.com	01798 867331
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