

# GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

Issue 364 June 2021 FREE





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**Parish of St Giles Graffham with St Peter Woolavington**

**St Giles Church Wardens:**

Matthew Pitteway 07557 439695

Ginny Barrett 01798 867113

**Priest in charge:**

Reverend Vivien Turner

**01798 867199**

reverendvivien@gmail.com

**Church website: stgilesgraffham.org**

## Registering happiness

Just recently it has been all about weddings at St Giles, allowed once again and registered in a completely different way. Two weddings happily took place at St Giles in May, with fifteen and thirty attenders, respectively. Small is beautiful however, lending an intimacy to weddings that has been surprisingly welcome. I shall not forget Linda's grandchildren bringing her up the aisle to granddad! We send many congratulations to Bob and Linda and to Stephen and Amy and every blessing for their future happiness.

These two weddings are historic in being the first registered at St Giles according to a new system. From 4th May, all wedding registers so familiar to married couples have been closed. This system, which has operated since 1837, has been replaced with a document for weddings taking place after banns, or a schedule for weddings taking place after civil preliminaries. It provides new fields for both mothers' names and occupations, and space for up to four parents each, allowing for stepparents. The document (or schedule) must be signed by the couple and delivered to the registry office for electronic registration, or the officiating minister may be fined £1000! The marriage certificate is then posted to the couple. St Giles is blessed with a post



box immediately outside the church lych-gate. We find ourselves instigating a new wedding tradition here, the posting of the wedding document by the newly married couple, a wonderful way to prove it has been sent!

Whatever way society decides registration of marriage should take place, it exists from the moment each couple is declared to be husband and wife, having made their vows before God, joined hands and given and received a ring. The happiness of that moment is what we all wish to register here, after a testing time, and are glad to do so again. More weddings are planned for later this year. We hold each couple in our prayers as we await news of future restriction easing, to determine how many friends and family members may be allowed to share their wedding days. We are determined each day will be brilliant, whatever.

I cannot conclude this letter without giving thanks for another recent celebration at St Giles, the baptism of Bob Whittington on 25 April. This took place in the churchyard using the Maundy bowl. Local potter Jo Morris made this last year for Maundy Thursday foot washing ceremonies. Unable to be used for its original purpose thus far, it has found an alternative use as a churchyard baptism bowl. Rather wonderfully, Bob's footprint was imprinted in the clay of the bowl alongside those of children attending our first communion service last year. Now it has held the water of baptism signifying Bob's walk with God. Bless us all as we continue to travel that shared journey together.

Revd Vivien



GRAFFHAM & DUNCTON SCHOOLS



# SUMMER AUCTION



Friends of  
Graffham &  
Duncton are  
hosting an  
online auction!



No matter how big  
or small it may be,  
all donations will  
really help our  
fundraising efforts,  
allowing us to buy  
valuable resources &  
experiences for our  
children.

Help us raise  
funds for your  
village's local  
primary school  
by donating an  
auction prize.



To donate a prize, please email us with the details,  
any time up until the end of the auction  
[friendsofgraffhamandduncton@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgraffhamandduncton@gmail.com)

To view the auction & place a bid, visit  
[jumblebee.co.uk/fgdsummerauction](http://jumblebee.co.uk/fgdsummerauction)

Auction closes 16th July 2021

# Litter Warrior

For those that don't know, Carole Kirke has taken it upon herself to wage a fight against litter on 'all the roads that lead to Graffham'. To keep our local patch free of litter.

She takes the lion's share of the work and occasionally will get others to assist. She walks and bikes the roads, picking up litter. She also calls the council when there is fly tipping and larger items which need special disposal. She begins annually from around February and still doing it now – on her bike and popping litter in her basket. She takes a break when the hedgerows are full and overgrown.



Carole's motto is:  
'Don't get angry – get active'

Carole loves to have company helping with this. It is such a great thing to do and you feel you have made a difference.

Carole shares: "The amount of litter I was seeing really upset me so I just decided to do something about it. Over the winter I found quite a lot of fly tipping too and I'd just like to say how great Chichester District Council were. They have an easy website to report the location of fly tipping and they collect it within two days."



The amount  
Carole picks  
up twice a  
week

# Annual General Meeting

Friday 2nd July at 2.00pm  
in the Empire Hall

*The meeting is open to all residents in Graffham*

**GRAFFHAM & DUNCTON CE SCHOOLS**

# GOVERNOR VACANCIES



Due to retirement, we have the opportunity to add some new members to our Governing Body at Graffham & Duncton CE Schools.

Our Governors add huge value to school life, and to the chances of our children, by offering their skills, expertise and time.

Find out more at:

<https://graffhamandduncton.w-sussex.sch.uk/our-governing-body>

# The Warblers

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It's amazing how a song can transport you someplace else. I can't hear 'Africa' by American soft-rockers Toto without drifting back 38 years to a school disco in Plymouth. Right now I'm sat by the River Arun listening to two other familiar songs simultaneously pouring from deep in the reeds. These songs also take me back to my childhood and Saturday mornings spent birdwatching beside similar reedbeds in South Devon.

The Arun's singers are two small brown birds; the reed warbler and the sedge warbler and their songs make me feel strangely nostalgic for a place I have never been; Ghana, where these warblers will have spent the winter before returning to Sussex each spring.

Reed warblers are rather plain whereas sedge warblers sport a streaky back and stripy head with a heavy 'eyebrow' that fixes them with a permanently intense expression. But these identification features aren't important because you'll rarely see these secretive birds. But, boy, will you hear them, because when they start singing they just can't stop. The reed warbler's song is a loud, repetitive stuttering chatter of jumbled phrases that just-just-doesn't-just-doesn't-seem-to-just-just-doesn't-just-just-



just-doesn't-seem-to-seem-to-go-anywhere. It sounds like one of those warehouse-sized 1950s computers churning out data. The sedge warbler's song is similar but much more energetic and erratic with added harsh 'churrrs' and whistles giving the overall impression that it urgently needs a straightjacket and heavy medication.

These complex songs have a simple message; 'Hey ladies, my territory is so rich in insects that I don't have to spend much time hunting for my food; I can waste my time just singing'. The loudest, longest, craziest song will seduce a feathered female.

Sedge warblers raise their family in a no-thrills nest low in vegetation but the reed warbler weaves an incredible deep hammock lashed together with spider silk between the stiff stems of the tall reeds. The whole cradle will rock as the reeds bow in the breeze. In August, after raising their families, their warbler thoughts drift back to Africa where drums echo and wild dogs cry out in the night. The warblers will gorge themselves with aphids and, with a fat belly full of fuel, take off from Sussex over Iberia, North Africa and the wide Sahara to Ghana; a 3000 mile journey. I always imagine a Ghanaian naturalist pausing momentarily each autumn to observe these returning visitors. Do his thoughts drift to the Sussex riverside where they spent the summer? When the rains return to Africa in the spring they will summon the insect food that will again power their tiny warbler wings back to England to add to my Sussex summer soundtrack.

Michael Blencowe,  
Head of Community Action for Wildlife  
Sussex Wildlife Trust,  
[michaelblencowe@sussexwt.org.uk](mailto:michaelblencowe@sussexwt.org.uk)

Image © Charles J Sharp/Wikimedia

# West Sussex recycles

When recycling at home – please keep it Clean, Dry and Loose!

Recycling is easy. We can recycle lots of items by placing them in our recycling bin at home. They will be collected, sorted, and separated at the Ford Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), then baled up and transported for processing and manufacturing into new goods and products.

Items for your recycling bin include: paper and magazines, card, glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, tubs and trays (including black plastic tubs and trays), metal cans and aerosols, foil (aluminium foil and foil containers) and cartons (including cartons used for juice, soup and milk as well as other cardboard cartons). Just make sure that the items are Clean, Dry and Loose.



**CLEAN** – free from food and drink leftovers, a quick rinse normally does the job.

**DRY** – keep your recycling bin lid shut and don't leave cardboard outside of the bin to get soggy.

**LOOSE** – recycling is not in plastic bags, these get caught in our sorting machine and cause delays.

Items for recycling should be clean, as leftover food or drink can ruin the quality of other items when put in your recycling bin, during transportation and at the materials recycling facility. These items cannot then be recycled.

Other recyclables will stick to the wet paper and cardboard resulting in these items not being recycled. Also, during the process at the MRF, wet

paper and cardboard will stick to the machinery, clogging up the system and resulting in breakdowns and extra expense.

It is a good idea to take a few moments to see what we are throwing away. Can we reduce the amount we waste by making a few small changes to our daily choices about what we buy, how we buy it and what we do with it? Opt for items with the least amount of packaging and/or packaging that can be recycled. Recycling all we can helps to use up less of the earth's natural resources.

Think before you buy and think before you throw away. Small changes make big impacts if we all work together!

For additional information on recycling at home see [www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/) You can also email any questions, tips you have or advice you would like at [Waste.Prevention@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Waste.Prevention@westsussex.gov.uk)

## Flower Festival 'All Nature is a Garden'

Church of the Holy Rood, Empshott, GU33 6HT

Saturday, 26th June 10.00am to 5.00pm

Sunday, 27th June 10.30am to 5.00pm

Entry £5 (children free)

Stalls, including a plant stall. Refreshments served all day.

The festival will celebrate the idyllic rural setting of this charming, ancient church, its natural surroundings and the beauty of an English summer. The theme is 'All Nature is a Garden', and we aim to bring the countryside into the church, with lavish use of native, seasonal flowers and foliage. We will also pay tribute to Gilbert White of Selborne, whose 300th birthday celebrations were postponed last year.

We have designed our festival to use only recyclable materials. Flowers will be arranged in water or moss rather than floral foam.

Parking in nearby field, disabled parking available

email:[empshottfestival@gmail.com](mailto:empshottfestival@gmail.com)

Instagram [@empshottflowerfestival](https://www.instagram.com/empshottflowerfestival)

# Graffham Virtual Art Festival

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Please do get in touch with Rozie (email address inside cover) if you'd like to include your art in these pages.

Below: Painting by Clive McBain





Above © Colin Barker. Caspian horse fair on the beach at Rasht, Northern Iran  
Below: Daffodils and Snowdrops, paintings by Richard Davidson



# Graffham Calendar 2021

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## July

- Mon 19 East Lavington Parish Council Meeting. Zoom call, 6.30pm.  
Sat 24-30 Graffham Tennis Club, Tennis Week

## August

- Fri 20 Graffham Down Trust Quiz Evening, 7.30pm Empire Hall

## September

- Sat 4 Comedy Dinner – Only Fools and Horses, a dinner show (by the same company that did the Allo Allo event last year for the Petworth nursing home).  
Sat 11 Chaps Choir and Anna Tabbush, Empire Hall, time TBC  
Mon 20 East Lavington Parish Council Meeting. Zoom call, 6.30pm.

## October

- Sat 16 The Simon Bates Big Band a 17 piece big band with swing dance demos/teachers in the house. Delayed from this year.

## November

- Fri 12 Fleetwood Bac (a Fleetwood Mac tribute band). Delayed from this year.  
Mon 15 East Lavington Parish Council Meeting. Zoom call, 6.30pm.



### St Giles Church – Parish Priest's Discretionary Fund

This fund provides occasional support to local people as required. If you think we might help you, we'll be glad to do so if we can. Contact Revd Vivien at [reverendvivien@gmail.com](mailto:reverendvivien@gmail.com)  
01798 867199

Could YOU make a REAL difference!

Since I moved from Graffham to Chichester a couple of years ago, some of you will know that I spend a lot of time volunteering for homeless charity, Stonepillow. Not as you might imagine in cooking hot dinners or handing out sleeping bags, but in raising money through working at the Stonepillow Restore shop in Terminus Road.

Stonepillow currently provide hostels and day centres for homeless people in both Chichester and Bognor, as well as a drop-in day centre where rough sleepers can get a meal and a shower in both towns. In Bognor they also have a 12 bed rehab centre, and a resource hub where people can get help with drug and alcohol related problems, so often the root cause of homelessness. Read up about these services and the great impact they have on individual lives on the website.

So, my own role at Stonepillow is part of a small team of enthusiasts who sift through hundreds of items donated to the shop and select some of higher value which we sell online through e-bay. Sounds like Cash in the Attic? In fact, it is, and people are very generous in donating what may turn out to be quite valuable items which they no longer want.

An eclectic mix of recent internet sales includes an oriental rug, some Dior earrings, books about Glasgow trams and carp fishing, a vintage chess set, a wedding dress, a 1970s East German rucksack and a selection of wooden Buddhas.

So how could you help? We need some volunteers to list items such as these on e-bay. A volunteer researching and selling second-hand books for just a few hours a week from home could raise around £500 per month for Stonepillow – that sort of figure really can make a difference on a regular basis. We need someone interested in books to do this NOW ... we also need volunteers to list other goods including bric-a-brac, vintage items and good quality clothing, or a mixture.

This can all be done on a flexible basis and from home – provided you have a computer and basic skills we can train in e-bay selling.

If you are interested in this opportunity to make a significant contribution, please give me a ring on 07974 754 965 or email me on:

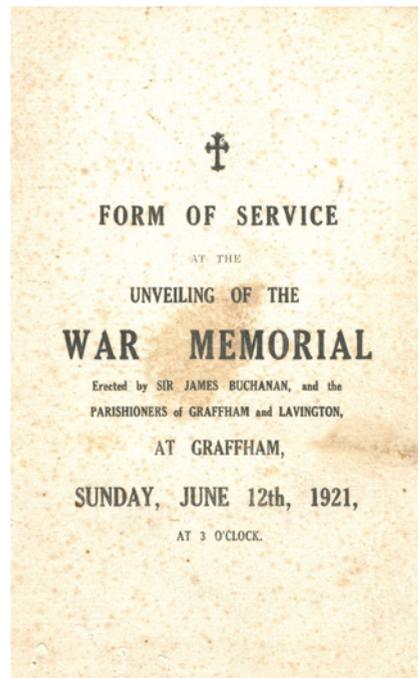
[mgbutterworth@gmail.com](mailto:mgbutterworth@gmail.com)

Mary (Butterworth)

# War Memorial Centenary Service

Saturday 12 June 2021 at 3pm

This date marks the centenary of the unveiling of the village War Memorial in Graffham, erected by Sir James Buchanan and the parishioners of Graffham and Lavington. It would have been a significant event for the people of the parish at that time, some recently bereaved. If you would like to mark this occasion, please come to the War Memorial on 12th June where a short service will take place at 3pm. Prayers will be said and a wreath laid in memory of the families of Graffham who lost loved ones in conflict, for whom its memorial has been a focus of prayer, compassion and solace for a hundred years.



## Outdoor Animal Blessing Service at St Giles

Sunday 27 June at 10.30am



**We extend a special welcome to well behaved pets & their owners who have moved to Graffham during lockdown... and anyone without a pet who did so... and anyone with or without a pet already in Graffham... and visitors to our village... come and enjoy.**

*St Giles Church is at the far end of Graffham Street in a beautiful location at the foot of the Downs.*

**Plans will be reviewed if ongoing restrictions require.**

See [www.stgilesgraffham.org](http://www.stgilesgraffham.org) or St Giles Church Graffham Facebook page to confirm.



# The countryside is our business



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lottie.murphy@savills.com





Well, it's busting out all over isn't it?

Just beginning to imagine normality is so unbelievable but we are maybe escaping the horror of the last year. Our village life is slowly recovering and our cities and work lives are returning to a more normal state. It is important that we resume safely, a life which will restore business and destroyed economies to keep our people working for their families and the success of our Nation.

How much we value our friends and families whom we shall never take for granted again; they have saved us from disappearing round the bend. Our values and priorities have been properly adjusted and our next stage must take all this into account.

Each village event will be savoured and enjoyed after our year of deprivation. We can laugh and cry with relief and hope the rest of the world can join us quickly.

I have worked throughout the year as many artists and writers have done and opening my Gallery on June 26-27th at Graffham

House will show an idea of just how much we have all used our pent up energy. It has been a time to find who and what supported us through and we have to thank Vivien, our priest for her untiring work and thoughtfulness to keep us ploughing on to the finishing line. Also our shop and Jeeva and Vasu for cheerily keeping us together. Thank God for our own community and all who support it. Here's to lots of fun this summer.

Susan Hill

## Petersfield Museum: A progress report on the redevelopment

15th June 2021 at 2.30pm

After 18 months closure, Bill Gosney will talk to u3a members on Zoom about the history and plans to create a cultural centre and visitor attraction. It is a major £2.8m re-development.

The museum itself is set in a unique set of buildings: Magistrates Courthouse, police house and cells with exercise yard.

Bill Gosney is a familiar face in the Petersfield area, well-known for his many guided walks. He is, as a trustee of the Petersfield Museum, directly involved in this ambitious project.

Midhurst u3a is emerging from lockdown with many online and live activities and almost 60 groups covering everything from ipad support to cryptic crosswords and walking. New members are most welcome.

Please visit our website [www.midhurstu3a.co.uk](http://www.midhurstu3a.co.uk)

The first National u3a Day will take place on Wednesday 2nd June and will provide a showcase for Midhurst u3a to show the breadth and interest of what is on offer to existing and new members. It will feature a day of dip in/dip out events both online and with live sessions. The planned programme includes a walking tour on the history of Midhurst, a presentation of 'The best dish I cooked in Lockdown', a Grand Quiz and a talk on 'Furnishing the tin church at the Weald & Downland Museum'. There will also be small coffee mornings and also afternoon tea. The u3a Day is open to all.

Further details about Midhurst u3a including how to join are at [www.midhurstu3a.org.uk](http://www.midhurstu3a.org.uk)

# Riparian Ownership and Responsibilities

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The word 'riparian' is derived from the Latin 'ripa', meaning river bank. A riparian owner is someone who owns property which is next to a watercourse or has a watercourse running through it. Under common law, riparian owners have certain rights and responsibilities relating to the stretch of watercourse that flows through or alongside their land – that does not just mean farmers, that means garden owners too.

Some riparian owners may not realise that the ditch at the bottom of their garden belongs to them, so making them responsible for its maintenance. There may be a culvert under your property; you are legally still responsible for its maintenance and free flow of water. It could also be that water rises in a property from underground springs but then flows through the garden, so it is not simply those owners of streams with banks who are riparians! Riparian owners have certain rights, but are also legally obliged to fulfil certain responsibilities under laws enacted to help manage flood risk and protect the environment.

## **Riparian owner rights**

- Riparian owners have the right to receive a flow of water in its natural state, without undue interference in quantity or quality.
- Riparian owners have the right to protect their property from flooding from the watercourse and to prevent the erosion of the watercourse banks or any nearby structures – For most works within 8 metres of a watercourse you must apply for formal consent from the Environment Agency.

## **Riparian owner responsibilities**

- To maintain the watercourse and to clear any obstructions (natural or otherwise) so that normal flow of water is not impeded.
- To maintain any approved structures on your stretch of the watercourse. These may include culverts, weirs and mill gates.
- To maintain the banks and bed of the watercourse (including any trees and shrubs growing on the banks) and any flood defences that exist on it.
- To accept the natural flow from upstream neighbours and transfer it downstream without obstruction, pollution or diversion.
- If you are considering any work, you need to:
  - \*Check whether permission is required from the local council or Environment Agency
  - \*Find out the best times to undertake maintenance activity. The En-

vironment Agency should be able to advise in which seasons to take action,

\*Safety first, consider the safety of those undertaking work and those around you.

## **Case Study**

Owner of a 400 year old house and garden has a spring fed pool and stream which runs through it. The stream then runs under a boundary wall and into the garden next door through a culvert, under the road and on down the watercourse on the other side of the road. Some years ago, the previous owner of the property next door covered the culvert with paving although it was still possible to hear the water running under the property when in full flow.

The owners of the property next door to the ancient cottage decided to extend their property with a lovely oak framed extension at the rear. When digging for the foundations, they came across the culvert which had collapsed when the footings were being dug out. Apparently at the time (in the summer) there was no water flowing through the culvert. The stream does dry up in times of drought through the summer. The builder apparently then decided to replace the culvert with a pipe without seeking any advice or permissions and the extension was built. Planning permission was granted for the extension, but no permission was sought to alter the culvert from the County Council.

Roll forward three years, there was a huge storm in the area, and what would normally happen is that run-off water would go into the stream, flow through the culvert and out down on into the local river. However, the volume of water was far too much for the replacement pipe under the extension and as a result the water level rose up over four feet behind the wall and poured in to the owners walled garden through the gates and on down to the house. Two feet of water filled the house within 30 minutes and the neighbouring property also had some minor water incursion, but as property was higher and there is a lower side walk way, the majority of water flowed away quickly.

The property had been in the hands of neighbouring estate for over 100 years and had never flooded during that time, so an investigation was carried out for the owner privately. The insurance company paid for all the drains to be checked throughout the property, and there was a clear flow under the property, but they did not look at the culvert next door as it was not known at that time by the owner of the property that

the neighbour had touched it.

The stream and culvert are clearly marked on the deeds of both properties. An investigation discovered that although planning permission for the extension to the property was granted, no permission was sought to alter the water course, which although it ran through a culvert under the property, it was effectively an open watercourse. **RETROSPECTIVE PLANNING PERMISSION IS NOT GRANTED FOR WORK CARRIED OUT WITHOUT THE CORRECT PERMISSIONS.**

The property owner had discussions with the neighbour, who said that they were not aware that the culvert was there until the builder found it and they had no idea they had to seek separate planning permission before touching it. However, the council have taken a dim view, particularly as property was flooded as a result. They have been to see the neighbouring property and confirmed that permission would not have been granted to alter the culvert. The owners have to restore the culvert to its original size, which means digging up the floor in their extension and the rest of the house to connect it all back to its original capacity. A very expensive operation!

Please be aware, when designing or working in a garden that has a ditch, water course, stream or any other sign of a water channel system, you should check with the Local Authority, and ask the client to check their deeds to ensure that they do not fall foul of Riparian Rights.

Before touching a water course (closed or open) you may have to seek several permissions. If water is flowing then there is land drainage permission from the Environment Agency. A separate planning permission may be required from the County or local council before any work is carried out. Rules may vary on who to contact, but the rights and responsibilities remain the same.

How many property owners know of these ancient but very important current Laws?

Alan Sargent FCIHort MPGCA

[www.landscapelibrary.co.uk](http://www.landscapelibrary.co.uk)

# Please help safeguard the future of Graffham's historic St Giles Church

Lockdown has severely reduced income from collections for our beautiful village church and everything it does for our community.

Any donation would be so welcome – but regular giving is particularly appreciated.



**Online** for a one-off or regular donation at [stgilesgraffham.org/giving-online](https://stgilesgraffham.org/giving-online)



**By phone** at 0333 002 1271 (office hours) to give regularly or one-off



**Fill in a form** available online, or from the church or shop to give regularly



**Via your bank** – through a direct transfer or cheque



**Leaving a legacy** in your will

Full details: [stgilesgraffham.org/giving](https://stgilesgraffham.org/giving)

**BLESS YOU!**





Congratulations to Bob and Linda, and Stephen and Amy on their wedding days this May.



# Graffham Nature Watch

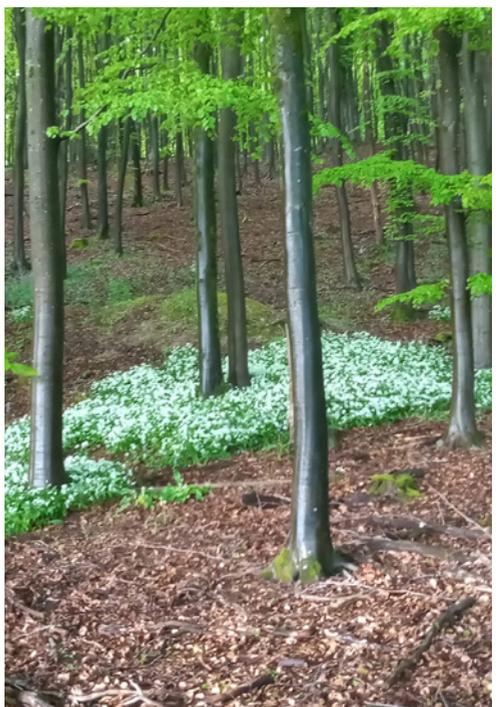
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For those who don't know, we now have a wonderful Facebook page to share photos of beautiful sights around Graffham. Here are a few recent finds from the community.

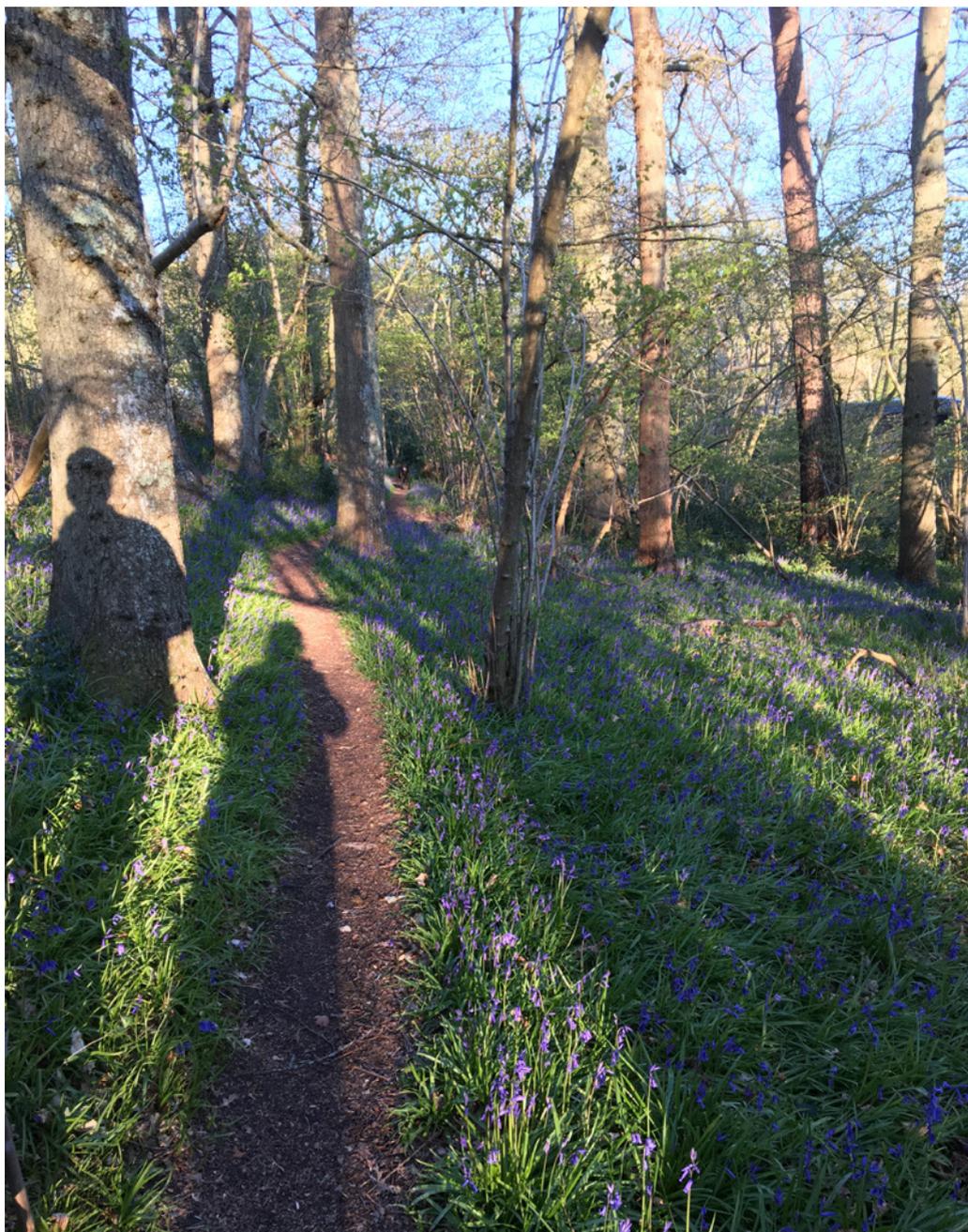




Left: Graffham from up high! ©Andrew Shawcross  
Above left ©Sally Blunt – Above right ©Ginny Barrett  
Below left ©Rozie Apps – Below right ©John Pescott







Above ©Sally Blunt

Left page, top left: ©Sally Blunt – Top right: ©Rozie Apps

Left page, bottom: Star of Bethlehem,

*Ornithogalum umbellatum* (considered invasive) ©Jonathan Simons

# June Church Services in Graffham

*Visitors to Graffham are welcome at all our services*

## **Sunday 6 June at St Giles Church**

BCP Matins 9am - Parish Eucharist 10.230am

## ***Tuesday 8 June at All Saints Chapel***

Morning Prayer 9am

## ***Saturday 12 June at Graffham War Memorial***

*A short service commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War Memorial 3pm*

## **Sunday 13 June at St Giles Church**

BCP Matins 9am - Parish Eucharist 10.30am

## ***Tuesday 15 June at All Saints Chapel***

Morning Prayer 9am

## **Sunday 20 June at St Giles Church**

BCP Matins 9am - Parish Eucharist 10.30am

## ***Tuesday 22 June at All Saints Chapel***

Morning prayer 9am

## **Sunday 27 June at St Giles Church**

No Matins.

Parish Eucharist 10.30am with annual animal blessing.

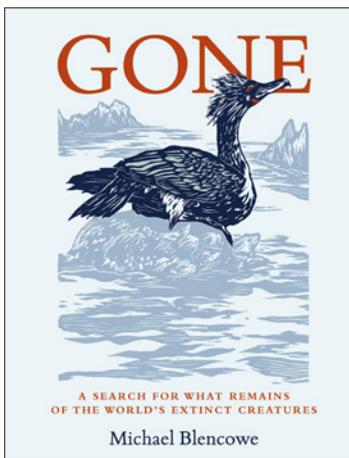
*All well behaved pets welcome!!!*

*St Giles Church is at the far end of Graffham Street near the Downs.*

*All Saints Chapel is opposite Graffham Village Shop.*

See [www.stgilesgraffham.org](http://www.stgilesgraffham.org) or St Giles Church Graffham Facebook page to confirm services. Contact [reverendvivien@gmail.com](mailto:reverendvivien@gmail.com) for link to Zoom Night Prayers on Wednesday evenings at 7pm





# Gone: A search for what remains of the world's extinct creatures

by Michael Blencowe

Reviewed by Matthew Sennitt

As we enter a critical period of human induced mass extinction and climate change, our regular contributor Michael Blencowe has produced a timely reminder of the eradication of countless species in recent centuries.

In *Gone: A search for what remains of the world's extinct creatures*, Michael tells of his decade-long quest to seek out what remains of some of the species lost in the period since Europeans 'discovered' the world. Michael uncovers the senseless loss of these creatures for feed, greed, and vanity. His stories include Giant Tortoises stacked live but upside down in the holds of ships to provide fresh meat, the hunting of rare specimens for sale to museums wishing to enhance their collections, and the slaughter of birds to provide fancy feathers for headwear. But the need to make recently discovered countries more homely by importing animals native to Europe was perhaps the most damaging activity of all. All thought to be reasonable practices in the 18th and 19th centuries, you may question how our current way of life is similarly causing species extinction. The Trump administration's attempt to gut the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species shows that little has been learnt by some since the demise of the species named in Michael's book.

Each chapter in the book is devoted to a single lost species, making eleven in all. The Dodo being the symbol of extinction is included, but so are several less well-known species, from the large, Steller's Sea Cow, to the small, the Xerces Blue butterfly, and from far-and-wide, San Francisco and New Zealand, to here in West Sussex. Michael visits the places these species lived or the museums that hold their remains and tells of his adventures as he goes. Michael's account pulls no punches, and although written with scientific correctness it has his passion and irrepressible style making for a really good enjoyable read, and not just for those with an interest in natural history.

*Gone* by Michael Blencowe is published by Leaping Hare Press (£18.99), but available online (£14.69).

# Graffham Bygones

Walking In The Footsteps

Professor F. N. David 1909-1993

In a quiet spot of Graffham churchyard lies a shared grave, facing the rolling countryside which the pair loved; a love so great that when Professor Florence Nightingale David died she had arranged for her body to be shipped back to Graffham from California where she had worked as a visiting professor from the sixties and permanently from the seventies.

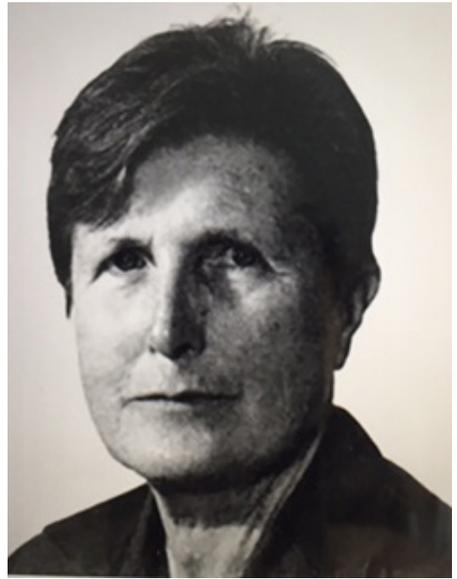
Her colleague D. E. Barton wrote in her obituary that she had “enormous energy”, “prolific output” and was “an exciting colleague to work with”. She was a very remarkable woman, in keeping with her namesake. Indeed in professional life she preferred to be called F. N. David or just FND. Whereas the famed, lady of the lamp, Florence Nightingale, shone her torch on the care and treatment of soldiers, Professor David’s “uncelebrated” light was directed on the world of Mathematics, especially Statistics. She dazzled fellow mathematicians by applying statistical tools she developed to a mind blowing range of situations. Her achievements are described as ceiling breaking for a woman in this field, but for anyone her work was remarkable and resulted, in 1992, in her winning the prestigious US Elizabeth L. Scott Award. Then, in 2000, the biennial Florence Nightingale David Award was set up, following this a library was named after her at the University of California.

Referred to by The American Statistical Society as “The Renaissance Statistician” still today, her nine books, many still in print, and her three books of statistical tables from 1938 are referred to by students. For her first pre-computer book of tables she used three Bransviga hand-cranked mechanical calculators in series, the lever of which she claimed to have pulled two million times to calculate the entries to 20 figure accuracy.

During WW2 in September 1939, in the style of the Bletchley women code breakers, David was drafted, with five other British statisticians, to work for the war effort. Churchill recognised the value of quantitative insights and initiated the very active S-Branch for which David worked for six years in Bombing Census, alongside leading Allied visiting statisticians, including Luther Eisenhart, colleague of Albert Einstein.

FND carried out ground-breaking analysis on offensive and defensive bombing raids, including a statistical model which predicted the consequences of bombs exploding in high density populations. As a result, vital services were retained in heavily bombed cities like London and Coventry.

In 1944-5 David was deeply involved in developing a statistical model to determine the launch sites of V-1 and V02 robot bombs, studying their landfall distribution. David also worked on plans for mass evacuation of citizens and children from London to rural locations. She wrote 20 classified statistical papers between 1942-5 and many claim that no other, apart from maybe Frank Yates, carried out such a wide range of activities for the war effort. FND was offered further prestigious war postings but preferred to follow more peaceful applications for her statistical acuity.



In 1946, David returned to UCL and her research and publication was prolific and wide ranging on diverse subjects from forest fires to genetics, to math theory and to epidemics. All in all, she published over 100 articles. In 1952, she earned a DSc, a higher degree than a PhD, and then was appointed Professor. It was almost unheard of to be awarded a university chair without the responsibilities of Head of Department but it shows how exceptional David was.

At the age of 58, David left UCL to take up a position at the University of California as the founding chair of the Riverside statistics department, one of a very few woman working in university academia at this level. David is remembered for her teaching skills at Riverside and developed a very striking persona, carrying a cane, following a motorcycle accident, but wielding it to clear her pathway. Her classes were packed with as many as 450-500 students until they became unmanageable and had to stop.

After her retirement from Riverside in 1977, she became Professor Emeritus continuing to teach while consulting for the US Forest Service. Her work with the Forest Service centred around the statistical measurement of natural populations.

In 1933, at the age of 84, F. N. David passed away and, as stated in Notices of The American Mathematical Society, "being British to the core... was laid to rest in the lovely English village of Graffham where she kept her vacation home.

Pauline Goodwin

# Graffham Tennis Club

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The warm weather which greeted us on our return to the courts in April has been dampened in May by cold winds and showers but we've still played and enjoyed lots of tennis this month. Judging by the already tanned legs of our coach, Richard Hopp, he's been busy!

We've introduced intermediate player clinics which have been very popular and successful, focussing on aspects of the game which will support our league players. All other coaching is also encouragingly busy.

The first East Hampshire League matches are underway and we'll see several matches per week as we go into June. Our Ladies B doubles team got off to a flying start beating Cheriton 8-0 but just lost to Midhurst 3-5. The Men's doubles also lost their opener to Denmead C, 3-5.

Club night on Thursdays is starting to pick up in popularity. Together with a free Ladies cricket coaching session run by Brett Creed, we're hoping we can make Thursday a sociable evening for sports at the recreation ground, especially as Boris has now said we can open the bar! Current guidelines have again been reviewed based on the further easing of restrictions on 17th May. We are now permitted to have spectators and follow the rule of 30 for gatherings outside, although organised sports events are subject to club risk assessments. With this in mind, we're planning events for our annual Tennis Week, 24th - 30th July, where we'll offer all ages of tennis members a range of different opportunities to play – maybe handicapped or the return of the over-90s (combined age) mixed doubles for some fun, plus a range of safe social events for everyone in Graffham such as the village rounders and other games we organise at the recreation ground. I'm sure the BBQ will also be regularly fired over the week. Keep an eye on notice boards and social media for more updates.

We always welcome anyone who wishes to play tennis at Graffham. Please drop by on a Thursday evening or contact [admin@graffhamtennis.co.uk](mailto:admin@graffhamtennis.co.uk)

Play well,  
Simon Longman (Chairman)

# Regular Activities in The Empire Hall

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<b>Mondays</b>		Osteopath (see below)
<b>Tuesdays</b>	8.45 – 12.00	POST OFFICE
	9.00 – 11.00	GREAT FEET (see below)
<b>Thursdays</b>		Osteopath (see below)
	14.00 – 16.30	POST OFFICE
<b>Fridays</b>		
	10.30 – 11.15	PILATES – Nicky Capes (07990 517858 or 01730 812297)

(IF COVID RESTRICTIONS ALLOW)

- Osteopath: Mondays and Thursdays, daytime and early evening. Booking required, ring Anna Shawcross 01798 867523 for an appointment.
- Great Feet (Chiropodist's Visit): Tues 22nd June 9.00 – 11.00 Treatment Room. GHSA members only. Booking required, Vikki Wood (07825 185880)

Any changes will be posted on the Empire Hall Noticeboard. The Empire Hall will be available to hire for Children's Parties, Wedding Receptions, Private Functions and Classes as restrictions allow.

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# Petworth Area Churches Together

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The Petworth Satellite of the Chichester & District Food Bank have started making regular deliveries to our most needy families – ones who have no children, or whose children do not qualify for Free School Meals and our Kid's School Holiday Lunch Packs (KLP's).

Over the Easter holiday period we delivered 53 KLPs to 34 families. These families represent the bulk of our regular needy clients, so we are now incorporating them into a regular delivery schedule. We will be delivering to 11 or 12 families each week, so that each family gets a monthly delivery of food boxes.

We're also partnering with the Sylvia Beaufoy Centre in receiving a weekly delivery to Petworth of fresh foods from Harvest UK. So we are additionally including a further bag of veg etc as and when it's available.

The new system is in addition to our usual voucher system, and will run until October, when it will be reviewed.

To make this work, our amazing team of volunteers are:

- \* Delivering 15-20 boxes each week until October.
- \* Providing a packing capability to produce approx 20 boxes each week for the regular deliveries - i.e. about 3 hours' work.
- \* Every week collecting trays of sorted food from the Chichester warehouse.

This all means we have an increased need for food donations. So please do consider a regular donation of food into our collection basket in the Coop in Petworth. The non perishable foods required are clearly listed on the poster attached to the basket.

Further Enquiries: 07501 921 617

[Pactpetworth@gmail.com](mailto:Pactpetworth@gmail.com)

[www.petworthareachurchestogether.com](http://www.petworthareachurchestogether.com)

# The 2021 Petworth Festival 14-31 July

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As many readers will know, our friends at Petworth Festival managed to keep their plates spinning throughout the year of the pandemic. Amongst much else they were able to bring a 'festival for the times' to all comers in the Autumn when presenting a series of events filmed live in Petworth with small invited audiences that were additionally streamed far and wide over the internet.

'Things are looking very hopeful for this coming year as we speak' says Artistic Director Stewart Collins, 'and unless things divert from the official roadmap, we are genuinely anticipating 17 days of performance that will look very much like recent festivals – if not even better! Having said that we are taking every possible measure to ensure that audiences will feel comfortable after the-year-like-no-other we are emerging from, but the message is that the doors are open, you are very welcome and the incredible joys of live performance and live music making are just weeks away.'

Building on the success of previous years the Petworth team has put together a wonderfully varied series of events ranging from the classical virtuosity of pianists Isata Kanneh-Mason and Imogen Cooper and musician-of-the-moment, saxophonist Jess Gillam, to the music of Paul Simon, stomping blues in the hands of The Blues Band with its evergreen front man Paul Jones, and top author/comedian Adam Kay, whose show *This is going to hurt* has already been seen in London's West End.

But if there is one particular initiative that is enthusing Stewart Collins in July it is the brand new Petworth Festival Summer Weekend, two days of free events due to be staged in the Petworth House Pleasure Ground thanks to a new collaboration with the National Trust. 'Our aim is always to provide quality music and performance for as wide an audience as possible, but these two days of free events will hopefully make a big impact with young and family audiences. With performance, workshops and a beautiful staging of *The Secret Garden*, both days should really be dates for the diary.'

The full programme will be announced on 18 May and the box office opens on 15 June. Keep up to date at [www.petworthfestival.org.uk](http://www.petworthfestival.org.uk).

[www.chichester.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.chichester.foodbank.org.uk)

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- Breakfast Cereal
- Meat - (Tinned)
- Vegetables - (Tinned)
- Tuna / Fish - (Tinned)
- Pasta Sauce (Jar)
- Noodles (Dried)
- Tea Bags
- Rice Pudding - (Tinned)
- Chocolate
- Biscuits



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**POWER CUTS** (Scottish & Southern Electric) 0800 0727 282

**DEFIBRILLATORS** are located on the wall outside the Empire Hall and inside the small boiler room door on the north side of St Giles Church. The Code is **C240Z**.



# JACKSON-STOPS

PROPERTY EXPERTS SINCE 1910

Please contact us for a confidential market appraisal

## MIDHURST

Market Square, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9NJ

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