

GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

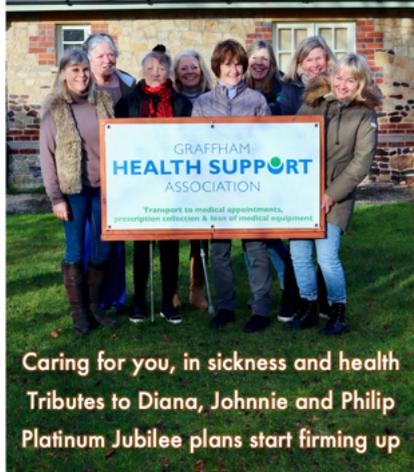
ISSUE 373

FREE

MARCH 2022



Caring for you, in sickness and health
Tributes to Diana, Johnnie and Philip
Platinum Jubilee plans start firming up



On the cover: The Graffham Health Support Association (GHSa) committee has a busy March ahead of it, with membership subscription collections getting underway and a change of Chairman at its AGM late in the month. For the full story, see page 24.

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Writing from the Rectory: Help plant a tree for Jubilee

Last month we offered warm congratulations from our West Sussex Parish of Graffham with Woolavington to Her Majesty the Queen, on the occasion of the anniversary of her Accession to the throne, the Sixth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Two. Three services at St Giles Church are marking this anniversary in different ways.

The first took place last month on that anniversary Sunday. That service followed the Book of Common Prayer, which our Queen values greatly, and included her favourite hymn, *The Lord's My Shepherd*. It was a fittingly respectful service, as it was also commemorating a time of loss of Her Majesty's dear father, King George VI.

When the Queen heard the sad news of his passing, she was at Treetops Hotel, built into the canopy of the trees of Aberdare National Park in Kenya. It seems appropriate that 70 years later, Her Majesty is encouraging us to plant trees ourselves that, in 70 years' time will, perhaps, provide a green canopy over the countryside that we love here. So in honour of Our Queen's Green



Saplings, stakes, pre-dug holes – and chocolate biscuits – will be provided for all who help plant a tree for the jubilee by St Giles Church on Sunday 20 March at 10.30am. Bring a spade!

► *Continued on next page*



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

Churchwarden: Ginny Barrett 01798 867113



stgilesgraffham.org



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

► *Continued from previous page*

Canopy Appeal, we are also planning a tree-planting service on Sunday 20 March. We invite all Graffham families to attend with their own spades, ready to plant 12 trees – walnut, beech and lime – in a neighbouring field, courtesy of John and Barbara Edge. Holes for them will already have been dug, and stakes, trees – and chocolate biscuits – provided on the day. You just need to plant the saplings and fill in the holes around them.

A memorable verse from Isaiah 55 verse 12 reads:

*For ye shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace:
the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing;
and all the trees of the fields shall clap their hands.*

We look forward to translating this delightful poetic expression of joy into reality that day – and continuing that joy into our village’s Jubilee celebrations in June, including our third and final Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving of this historic Royal anniversary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!

Vivien

Reverend Vivien



Almost a dozen ‘holy dusters’ descended on St Giles, complete with mops, vacuum cleaners and polish to give the church an early spring clean on Saturday 5 February.

Picture © Revd Vivien

Storm Eunice leaves trail of devastation in its wake

Storm Eunice blasted its way through the district, after the Met Office put the South East of England in its first ever 'red alert' weather warning, as this edition of Graffham Parish News went to press, The strong winds blew down trees, damaged some properties and left parts of the village with no power for several days. St Giles Church had no electricity for Diana White's memorial service (see page 16) on 18 February – which meant the congregation had to sing the hymns unaccompanied.



Debs Tyrie shows off the size of the root ball of one of the trees blown over at Lavington Plantation, above © Jacky Gregory, while (below) a workman clears boughs ripped off the cedar at the entrance to Lavington Stud by Brookdene House © Colin Barker.



Plans taking shape for marking Jubilee in Graffham

Plans for how Graffham will mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee are starting to take shape. The working group formed after January’s public meeting called to set the ball rolling has been busy developing fun and games for early June’s Jubilee weekend while others are looking at the legacy projects proposed, which will enhance our village for generations to come. The preliminary schedule for the long early June weekend looks like this:

	 Nationally	 Graffham
Thursday 2 June	Trooping of the Colour – special birthday parade for The Queen	Jubilee Parade, involving tractors, animals, bicycles and more, all decorated appropriately, processing from St Giles Church through the village, with Graffham’s legendary tea ladies, hopefully, serving their usual wonderful teas and cakes
		Opening of flower festival at St Giles Church
	Lighting of 1,500+ beacons across UK	We are investigating how Graffham will be able to see the local beacon
Friday 3 June	Thanksgiving service at St Paul’s Cathedral	Vivat Regina ‘Hymns and ‘Pimms’ at St Giles Church – early evening thanksgiving for the Queen’s reign in words, pictures, music and song
Saturday 4 June	Epsom Derby	
	Party in the Park	
Sunday 4 June	The Big Lunch	Graffham will join in with the national Big Jubilee Lunch –a chance for villagers to share friendship, food, fun and games at the rec
	Jubilee pageant	Thanksgiving service

Marie Bracey, who is chairing the working group, said: "This is a truly one-off historic occasion and we want to have a wide variety of events to appeal to the whole village, letting us celebrate in true Graffham style."

Bunting, flags and flowers: Graffham has a great tradition of pulling out all the stops to celebrate landmarks like this and it is hoped the village will do so again, putting up flags and bunting on all street frontages – just as it did to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day in 2020. Do plan in advance to make your own of if you need to get supplies in – as demand is likely to be high as the Jubilee weekend nears. And gardeners, please think of which flowers you could grow to contribute to the flower festival in St Giles.

Can you help in any way? Please let the working group know – if you haven't already done so – if you have any ideas to contribute or are willing and able to help with any of the village Platinum Jubilee events. Many hands make light work.... Send an email to graffhamjubilee@gmail.com



SATURDAY 19 MARCH
EMPIRE HALL, GRAFFHAM
King Richard PG-13

Doors and bar open at 7pm

Film starts 7.30pm

Tickets at the door –
£7.50 adults
£5 under 18s

Pay by cash, card or contactless



Seaford is hosting Petworth Festival's Jubilation...

Seaford College is hosting a special weekend of Platinum Jubilee celebrations mounted by Petworth Festival, on 28-29 May. Called Jubilation and described as 'a happy and glorious celebration', it features:

- A 'Royal Variety Performance', starring all-round entertainer Joe Stilgoe, classical pianist Jeneba Kanneh-Mason, jazz singer Liane Carroll, singing duo The Dunlop Sisters and Judge the Poet.
- An Audience with royal biographer Robert Lacey, author of the Queen's biography Majesty and consultant to the Netflix series The Crown.
- Tea-Dance with Michael Law's 78RPM – featuring the music from the Queen's younger years.
- The Big Picnic – bring your own lavish spread or order your picnic boxes for collection on the day, with a bar selling wines, locally brewed beer, elderflower and soft drinks.



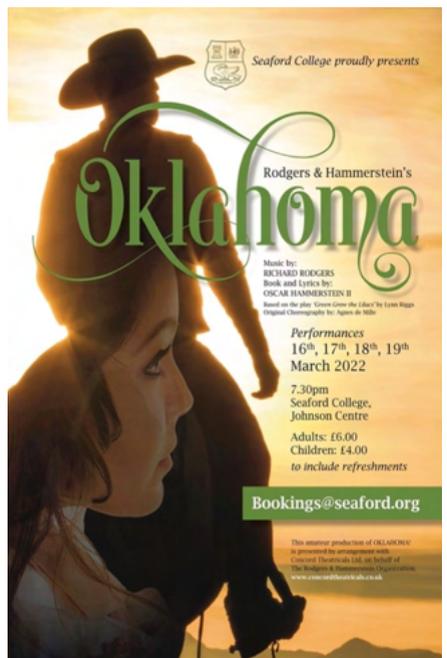
For tickets and more info, see www.petworthfestival.org.uk

...and inviting its neighbours to Oklahoma!

Seaford College is inviting its neighbours in the community to its performances of the musical Oklahoma!, which runs from 16 to 19 March, at 7.30 pm each evening at the school's Johnson Centre.

Tickets are £6 for adults and £4 for children. To reserve seats, email bookings@seaford.org.

Oklahoma is one of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most popular musicals, featuring favourites including Oh What a Beautiful Morning, Surrey with the Fringe on Top, I Can't Say No and People Will Say We're in Love, while Seaford's productions have established a high reputation.



Kelly's one of only 20 Master Bridle Makers worldwide

Kelly Jones was last month granted the rare accreditation of Master Bridle Maker by the Society of Master Saddlers – one of fewer than 20 specialists worldwide with that distinction. For Kelly, who has lived at Stewarts Cottage, Graffham, for more than 25 years, since she was just two, it achieves a long-held ambition.

To gain the title, she had to be recommended by leading exponents in the art, meet strict criteria and undergo a rigorous inspection of her work.

She has worked in the field for seven years, winning multiple national saddlery competition premium awards plus recommendations from fellow Master Saddlers and Bridle Makers.



Early in her career, she set up stalls at Graffham Fairs, selling leather keyrings and belts that she had made. Now, working from her Kelly J Leather studio at Midhurst, there are waiting lists of almost half a year for her beautiful bespoke bridles.



Sadly, there's room in this edition for only one photo from Facebook's Beautiful Sights In Graffham – this early morning shot across the rec by © Stuart Gerrett.

Reelers take to the floor on Burns' Night

Reeling returned to the Empire Hall after a Covid pandemic-enforced break of a year with around 60 joining for the village's 2022 Burns Night dance and dinner on Saturday 29 January.

With Harriet and Clive Rowntree leading the organising committee, David Garrard gave Robbie Burns' Address to A Haggis, supported by Philip Trower and piper Richard. Music for the dancing was provided by the ever-popular Sussex Pistols ceilidh band.

The date for next year's Burns Night has already been fixed – 28 January, so mark it in your calendars now!

Picture ©David Sparkes



Could you help our hall with its annual fund-raiser?

Volunteers are being sought from throughout the community to help run the Empire Hall's main fund-raising event of the year. This normally takes place around Easter in the form of a fair with craft and other stalls, a raffle and various other attractions – but no date or format for the event has been established so far for 2022, so there's flexibility to adapt fresh ideas.

Fancy lending a hand? Then contact Liz Nicholson at liz.empirehall@gmail.com



Dance classes for youngsters come to Empire Hall

New dance classes for children are starting at Graffham's Empire Hall – every Wednesday afternoon, after school, run by Sussex-based CCDANCE, which has for several years been offering lessons at Brighton, Haywards Heath and Steyning.

CCDANCE was founded in 2018 by Carla Mold, who ran classes on a smaller scale for other companies before setting up her own dance school. She started dancing at the age of two, then went on to win a full scholarship at a performing arts school before performing on television and at theatres and music gigs across Europe and representing England in the Dance World Cup Championships.

She says her aim is to allow young dancers to enhance their ability and confidence at classes run in a friendly and professional environment.

Her team will be offering three sessions at Graffham, all suitable for youngsters – both girls and boys:

- Street dance, which Carla says is 'full of funky moves with break dancing for those who want to throw themselves around', from 4.30 to 5.15pm.
- Gymnastic dance, from 5.15 to 6pm.
- Cheerleading, from 6 to 6.45pm.

To find out more or book a space, email info@cc-dance.co.uk



Foresters' meal deal offer to feed those in need

The team at the Foresters Arms is looking to help counter the rise in living costs by offering a specially priced early evening two-course dinner for locals who could benefit from a hot meal – potentially with the main course and pud dropped off to homes.

Landlord David Gordon-Smith is asking villagers to let him know of any young families, older couples or singles in Graffham that this might help. See Directory inside back cover for the Foresters' contact details. He hopes to get this up and running early this month.

Ed's first album is *Over The Moon*

Musician Ed Blunt, who splits his time between Graffham and London, has released his first album of self-penned songs. *Over The Moon* features 11 tracks evoking classic Tin Pan Alley song-writing with a lyricism that reaches from the introspective to the universal. From cinematic stories of men on the moon to the folklore of London, his songs paint a rich tapestry with soul-stirring melodies that linger long after listening.

Ed is a jazz and classically trained pianist who earned his stripes on the London scene. He is a frequent arranger for the likes of Westlife, One Direction's Niall Horan, leading choral groups and top music publishers but only started composing his own songs in earnest during lockdown, encouraged by double Ivor Novello award winner Chris Difford of legendary band Squeeze, who describes Ed's writing as 'brilliant'.



On its release, *Over The Moon* was chosen as Album of the Week by at least one BBC radio show while the first single from the album, *Dome of St Paul's*, gained radio play in the UK and overseas, with one reviewer describing it as 'absolutely spellbinding'.

You can hear Ed Blunt's *Over The Moon* on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube Music or Amazon Music, or download a copy via edblunt.bandcamp.com

- Ed is due to 'guest' with James Taylor tribute band Hourglass in concert at the Empire Hall on Saturday 12 March. See next page.

Ultrafast Broadband – watch for an email update!

The installation of ultrafast broadband to the village is expected to be completed by October 2022, according to the team leading the community bid for the service. OpenReach was expected to have emailed those who have indicated interest in it sometime around the end of February. The



Graffham co-ordinators advise that this is the key email requiring your action, so please keep a look out for it! Hundreds of households have supported the drive to bring this high speed connectivity to the community, exceeding the threshold to ensure it is put in place for free through grants.

“Ben Cox has a sweet and expressive voice and he shows he can handle a classic” – Daily Telegraph



HOURGLASS

Europe’s top James Taylor tribute band
in concert at the Empire Hall, Graffham

Fronted by award-winning vocalist Ben Cox, HOURGLASS band members have played at many of the UK’s top venues, including the Royal Albert Hall, Ronnie Scott’s, Royal Festival Hall and London’s Pizza Express Jazz Club.

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Featuring:
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YOU’VE GOT A FRIEND &
HOW SWEET IT IS

SATURDAY 12TH MARCH 2022 • EMPIRE HALL, GRAFFHAM

DOORS & BAR OPEN 7PM, MUSIC STARTS 7.30PM • TICKETS £15 (+50p online booking fee)

Buy online at www.buytickets.at/hourglass or on the door

Who grows village's best daffs and spring flowers?

The hunt is on for the village's best daffodils, spring flowers and hellebores, for judging at the Graffham Garden Group AGM on Friday 11 March – which is a must too for all dahlia fans. The event, open to all, starts at 7pm in the Empire Hall. You'll be invited to sign up for your annual subscription to the club at the door – just £1 each and guaranteeing you invitations to all its events throughout 2022, including its programme of garden visits.

Its mini flower show will feature three categories: vase of seven daffodils, vase of spring flowers, and saucer with three hellebore flowers in water.

Rounding off the evening will be a presentation by Richard Ramsay, owner of one of the UK's leading dahlia nurseries, Withypitts, near Crawley, who will share tips and sell some of his amazing plants.

Approaching 30 of the village's green-fingered best gathered in the Empire Hall on Thursday 27 January for the group's two-course New Year's lunch.



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Reptiles, mini-beasts and a hedgehog visit school

An update from our village school

Spring term has been rather a roller-coaster ride this year, with illness striking both our schools' families and staff – Duncton more so than Graffham – making life something of a challenge for our leadership team! We look forward hopefully to more normality in the coming weeks, and the eventual return of much-missed absent friends.

We have had some really interesting 'creature encounters' recently. In connection with our 'Australia' topic, we watched an amazing virtual presentation all about its animals, and on another day a company brought some reptiles and minibeasts in to show us.



All of us, including Graffham's Nursery children, also loved meeting Henry the Hedgehog, who came to visit with Mr Bowring from St Francis Animal Care in Storrington. And we have been meeting each others' unusual pets – including Watee and Rexi the geckos, and Scooby the pony!



Please take a look at and 'like' our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pg/friendsofgraffhamanddunton

Ditches, drains, hedges and holes – do your duty!

Graffham Parish Council is giving its annual reminder to all householders in the village that it is their responsibility to ensure that ditches and drains on the roads outside their properties are kept clear, to reduce risks of flooding.

They should also ensure that hedges are suitably cut back from the side of the street, to keep pedestrians and horses safe in the face of traffic – particularly bearing in mind the recent Highway Code changes, requiring motorists to leave more space when passing those on two or four legs.

Everyone in the neighbourhood is also urged to report any potholes or other issues with the roads – including drainage, overgrown vegetation, sign issues, fly-tipping etc – to West Sussex County Council via www.lovecleanstreets.com or the Love Clean Streets phone app.

WSCC councillor for the ward Tom Richardson says: "It's quick and easy, you can add photographs and give the exact location on the map. Please don't assume someone else has reported it – the app will tell you if they have – if it isn't reported then it won't get fixed!"

Graffham travellers offered discount on insurance

Graffham residents are being offered a special discount on a new travel insurance package – plus a donation to village causes for each policy bought. It comes from ClearSkies Travel Insurance, the latest offering from the specialist insurance company run by Michael Pettifer, of Melrose, which has for decades been one of the UK's leading travel and gap year insurers.

ClearSkies
Travel Insurance

A sister brand of MPI Brokers, ClearSkies was launched in the aftermath of the challenges presented to travellers and the travel industry by the Covid pandemic. The policy has three distinct plans to choose from:

- ClearSkies, a general travel insurance with an age limit of 75 for single trips and 65 for multiple trips.
- ClearSkies Plus, which has no age limit and can include medical conditions.
- ClearSkies Cruise, as the name implies, for those taking cruises.

Anyone from Graffham or East Lavington signing up for ClearSkies is being offered a discount on the regular premium. In addition, for each policy sold, ClearSkies will make a small donation to village good causes – to be shared between the Graffham Health Support Association (see page 24), the Empire Hall, and St Giles' fabric fund, which pays for the maintenance of the church building and grounds.

For further details and the code to get your discount, see the advert on the next page and in future editions of *Graffham Parish News*.

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Tinkers' gigantic garden clearance sale – all for charity

Tim and Celia Tinker are leaving Graffham in April after more than 40 years – moving from Tangletrees with its garden of several acres overlooking the rec to, they plan, a seaside abode with just a courtyard, in Worthing. So all their outdoor equipment has to go.

Their solution is what promises to be Graffham's greatest garden sale, with all the proceeds to be split between the Graffham Health Support Association (see page 24) and St Giles' fabric fund, which supports the maintenance of the church building and grounds.

Some of the bigger, more valuable items will be sold via silent auction, including a two-year-old John Deere lawn tractor, a Honda Izy lawn mower, Stihl chain saw, outdoor table tennis set, marquees and gazebos. Dozens of other items will be offered at a fixed price, best offer or donation, including outdoor furniture, toys, ladders and tools.

The main sale day – with teas and cake – will be Saturday, 9 April. Watch for next month's edition for full details.

ClearSkies

Travel Insurance

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ClearSkies Plus

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ClearSkies Cruise

Travel insurance for cruises, includes cabin confinement

**To obtain a discounted quote please visit
clearskiestravelinsurance.com/intro/graffham**

ClearSkies will also make a small donation to village charities for every policy sold

ClearSkies Travel Insurance is a sister brand of MPI Brokers

Meet your neighbour: Down House's Sparkes family

A regular feature, in which we meet one of our village neighbours. This month, editor Michael Blunt catches up with The Sparkes family, who moved into Down House, just south of the war memorial, in late August.

David Sparkes hails originally from Chichester, went to Bishop Luffa School and Chichester Technical College before starting work in trust and estate management at Thomas Eggar Verrall Bowles solicitors in Chichester. After travelling around the world, he returned to the UK in 1997 and worked in several different jobs in London, including money broking and recruitment, before starting his own publishing and media business within the legal sector. He now provides mergers and acquisitions advice to law firms.

Jules was born in Aberdeenshire and went back to school there after spending much of her early childhood in the United Arab Emirates. Following university at Aberdeen and Edinburgh, she entered the oil industry, working mainly in finance. She is currently Director of People and Sustainability at West London-based Tullow Oil.

They have two daughters – Isla (12) and Holly (nine) – who are both now day girls at Seaford College.

What brought you to Graffham?

David: I am pretty familiar with this part of the world after being brought up across the Downs in Chichester, where my mother still lives. When I was at school, we used to play sports against Seaford College – I remember they used to give us fantastic teas after matches there! While we were living in London we used to come down to West Sussex quite a lot and Jules always loved it here, as I did.

Jules: Lockdown, and its frequent requirement to work from home, really gave us the opportunity to change our lifestyle. Nowadays, I only need physically to be in the office at the most two days a week and David runs his business entirely from home. So this has given us the freedom to move to the countryside. In the pandemic's early days, our eldest daughter Isla was coming up to the stage when she needed to move to senior school. When you were allowed to venture from your home in summer 2020, we drove the girls through the grounds of Seaford College and the decision was instantly made – that was where they wanted to go and where we wanted to send them. So we needed to find somewhere nearby to live!



David: In August 2020, we initially rented out and then sold our house in Kew and moved to Midhurst, renting one of those lovely Tudor cottages in Church Hill, so the girls could start at Seaford from the next term. I sold my media business so my mission during that time was to find us a new home in this area. We looked at around 20 houses

before seeing Down House. We'd put in offers on a few other places before and were bitterly disappointed when we missed out on them – but that has turned out to have been a real stroke of luck as we've done so much better in the end.

What were your initial thoughts when you first came here?

Jules: A view is important for me and when we drove onto the drive of Down House and saw the fields behind us and the Downs behind them, it was so lovely. We were so struck by the space, the peace and the calm.

David: It is also super friendly here! When we were looking for new home, we thought at first that something really rural would be good, but being in a village like Graffham has proved to be the perfect place for us, with an amazing shop, great pubs and lovely neighbours, and this house suits us down to the ground.

Are there any elements of the community you've already become involved or particularly want to?

David: Even before we moved in, we saw the ladies' cricket team training at the rec and the girls were invited to join the team for the match against West Wittering. We are now looking for somewhere for them to ride and potentially keep horses. And we are also forever in need of someone to look after their guinea pigs for the occasional night or week!

Jules: Both David and I run a lot, so we have been exploring lots of the footpaths here – there are plenty of them, aren't there?! And we signed up for Burns Night in the Empire Hall! We want to be part of the community here, so we do plan to get involved in quite a few things in the village.

Obituaries: Diana White, John Covington, Philip Hill

Since February's edition went to press, Graffham lost prominent members of the community. Joint editor Philippa Sanders pays tribute to them.

Diana White 1940-2022: Gentle, unassuming, determined

Many readers will have had the pleasure of knowing Diana White, whose presence in Graffham reaches back some 40 years until her passing on 26 January, just into her 80s.

Born in Hammersmith in 1940, she somehow retained her love for and links with London, while adoring Graffham and this part of Sussex. The eldest of three sisters, she won a place at The Green School for Girls, where she excelled at writing in particular. The death of her father when she was 12-years-old meant that university was unaffordable so she went to train as a shorthand secretary. This propelled her to some fascinating positions at a young age, notably being the Managing Director's secretary at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane.

She and George had met in their early teens and particularly enjoyed dancing, something that came full circle when a ballroom dancing class ran for a while here at the Empire Hall in the mid 2010s. They married in Hounslow in 1962 after George had completed his National Service and set up home in Hounslow and then Esher.

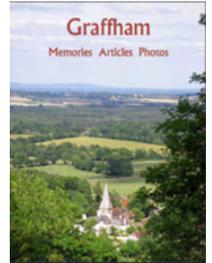
Testing times in the building industry and the need for a good education for son Ben and daughter Jo sent them out to Sussex, in the direction of George's parents, then in West Wittering. Diana fell in love instantly with Graffham's Old Rectory and they set about making it their family home.

To say that Diana 'immersed' herself in village life seems to be something of



Diana was married to George in Hounslow in 1962.

an understatement. She had a huge circle of loyal and devoted friends who all speak of her gentle nature and the way she used this to 'get things done'. She was key in establishing the Thursday Club, was a trustee and secretary of the Graffham Down Trust for many years, was involved in the village archives, the village's Brownies troupe and was integral in setting up the Graffham Village Shop Committee. She was also on the Parochial Church Council and edited this very magazine with Paula Burke. A permanent reminder of her involvement in village life can be seen in her joint editorship with another former editor of Graffham Parish News, Mary Butterworth, of their book, published in 2015, *Graffham – Memories, Articles, Photos*, which is still available via Amazon.



Her children's enjoyment of Graffham School led to Diana becoming a teaching assistant there, working mainly with Pam Gadd and Cynth Laking, where she was described as 'just fitted in – everyone loved working with her'. She still managed to find time to organise a team to make the church kneelers and hosted regular sessions for the ladies, sessions that would have everyone collapsing in laughter at Diana's sense of humour.

By 1996 George and Diana had sold the Old Rectory and moved down the road to Church Hill. The house and garden became the site of many huge family reunions, especially for the London relatives who loved camping in the garden and Diana's relaxed hospitality. Later on the three grandchildren enjoyed the same, bringing great joy to Diana in her final years.

By now you will not be surprised to learn that, as a tennis fan, she was involved in re-starting Graffham Tennis Club in the 1990s, playing regularly. Wimbledon was a firm favourite, as was watching *A Question of Sport* on the television with her grandson.



Diana at home with one of her beloved grandchildren, Eleanor.

Photos ©White family

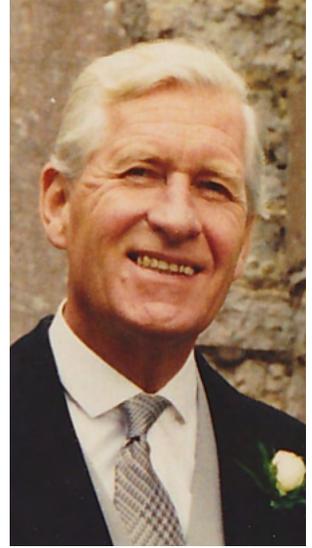
She loved the Royal Family and Ben and Jo recall being taken to wave fleetingly at the Queen as she passed Duncton Hill in Silver Jubilee year. The last words go to George, who in his summing up has identified why Diana has meant so much to the village: "Gentle, unassuming, determined."

John Covington 1927-2022: The perfect gentleman

Johnnie's links to Graffham go back to 1974, when he married his second wife, Miranda, who lived at Ariel Cottage, the house in which he ended his days. In his later years he was inevitably less involved with village life but many residents have nothing but the fondest memories of a man who was undeniably charming.

John (Johnnie) Stenton Covington was born in Richmond in 1927 and taken for walks in his pram in nearby Kew Gardens. He was educated at Sherborne School, in Dorset, where a teacher highlighted his 'incipient talent' for Art and he played first team hockey. Before World War II, his family moved to West Wittering.

After school, National Service in the Royal Sussex Regiment took him to India. On his return, he trained as an architect in London, then headed back to the South Coast and joined the Roth and Partners architectural practice in Chichester as a partner, where he was to remain for the rest of his career.



The spa at Midhurst's Spread Eagle Hotel and work at Arundel Castle were notable projects, as well as, more locally, an extension to Walter's Cottage and, in his retirement, designing St Giles Church's lychgate, erected to mark the millennium.



Johnnie designed St Giles Church's lychgate, to mark the millennium.

His marriage to Miranda gave him an immediate family. She and her two children, who became his stepchildren, had lived at Ariel Cottage since 1966.

This era seems to have allowed him to indulge his love of entertaining as well as sailing in Chichester Harbour. At this time, too, he would have met Den and Brenda Petter, who were to progress, over an astonishing period of nearly 50 years, from gardener and housekeeper at Ariel Cottage to companions and friends, particularly after Miranda died in 1991.

Johnnie also loved travelling and made trips across the continents, sailed in the Mediterranean and spent time at his house in Spain. He particularly

enjoyed the Empire Hall lunches, charming the local ladies with his wit and repartee and, it is thought, being involved on at least one occasion with the Graffham Rustics. He revisited his early interest in art, filling the house with his watercolours. As a member of Graffham Garden Group, his profile was enhanced by his success with sweet peas (planted in the autumn, apparently) and Ariel Cottage's garden, tended by Den.

In his final years, Johnnie was largely housebound with his wife Ann, whom he married in 2003, and he seems to have remained as agreeable as ever. Brenda and Den were in touch right to the end and he would summon his friend and neighbour Miles Amin for chats through the hedge. Miles is not the only villager to have described Johnnie as 'the perfect gentleman'.

Philip Hill 1935–2022: Seaford choir master to royalty

Philip Hill, who played the organ at St Giles Church on occasion while directing Seaford College's Chapel Choir for almost 40 years to 1994, passed away suddenly on 1 February, in his mid-80s, *writes Michael Blunt*.

His connection with the school began in 1947, as a pupil. He returned as a master six years after leaving, having read Music and Geography at the University of London and learning church music at St Paul's Cathedral. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1990.

Under his baton, Seaford choir sang in front of The Queen, The Queen Mother, the Princess Royal and Prime Ministers, at St James' Palace and the Royal Albert Hall.

It performed extensively internationally – including in Berlin, Brussels, Chicago, Helsinki, Moscow, Oslo, St Petersburg, Paris, Toronto and Washington DC – and recorded several albums. It was the first religious choir to be invited to sing in Russia after the revolution. In 1989, Philip took the choir back to Moscow where they were followed by a television crew, recording a BBC2 documentary *Carols in the Kremlin*. A few years later, the choir, under his lead, hit the big screen singing in the hit movie *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Philip was married to Sandra and father to Duncan and Fiona. His memorial service was held in Carlisle Cathedral in Cumbria, where he retired, on 16 February.



Some of Philip Hill's choristers with the Queen after singing for her in 1981.

Graffham Down Discs: Jude Sennitt

Continuing our new regular feature, in which we invite a villager to pick eight favourite tracks, a book and luxury item, with a brief explanation – like in the Radio 4 evergreen. This month's spotlight falls on Jude Sennitt.

Jude moved to the UK from her native USA in 1997. She and husband Matthew were among the original residents of Lavington Park after it was built in 2014 and distributes GPN to neighbours there. She is Graffham Down Trust's Publicity & Membership Secretary and Treasurer of Graffham Festival.



- 1 Norwegian Concerto** *Edvard Grieg* When I learned piano, my long-suffering Dad sat through my recitals when he would rather have played golf. This was the only piece I played that ever really impressed him!
 - 2 Birds** *Neil Young* This was on the first album I ever bought – *After the Gold Rush*. I played it over and over and remain a Neil Young devotee.
 - 3 The Circle Game** *Joni Mitchell* I've always loved the words of this song and Joni's gorgeous voice. I never get through this without a tear or two.
 - 4 One More Night** *Phil Collins* I made a compilation cassette tape of Phil Collins' songs and listened to it endlessly while typing my Master's thesis in Public Health Medicine at Ohio State University (on a mainframe computer no less!) It struck a chord as I neared divorce from my first husband.
 - 5 Love Shack** *B52s* Reminds me of my time working as an epidemiologist in the Sexually Transmitted Diseases unit at the Department of Health in Columbus, Ohio. I'd go downtown for nights out with my friends and we'd scream when this song started – and then dance like maniacs.
 - 6 When I'm 64** *The Beatles* I think of dear Mom when I hear this. I'll never forget her grabbing the microphone and singing it with gusto at my sister's wedding.
 - 7 Talk to Me of Mendocino** *The McGarrigle Sisters* A reminder of my years in California and many wonderful bike rides. I rode 100 miles from Healdsburg in the Napa valley to Mendocino on the coast in one day.
 - 8 Blossom** *James Taylor* Reminder of courting with wonderful Matthew.
- Book:** *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine* I've always been interested in medicine and this would keep me busy for some time.
- Luxury item:** A piano that never goes out of tune and loads of sheet music.

Diary of a New Farm: Welcoming another rare breed

Katie Forman and Brett Sacks continue their new monthly diary recording their journey to establish Slow Grown Farm, at Hoyle, on Graffham's border with Heyshott.

We have had another very exciting month – welcoming five new cows to Slow Grown Farm, adding a second native breed to our herd, the Red Poll, which, while now rare, has a long dairy history in the UK.

There are only a few Red Poll dairy herds left today, although the breed has been popular with beef farmers too, which proves its dual-purpose qualities – good for both milk and beef. Like the Northern Dairy Shorthorns which joined us last year, they are excellent converters of forage to milk, allowing us to stay 100% grass-fed.

When the Red Polls first arrived, from a large estate in Suffolk, they were extremely skittish – they had been raised only ever seeing one human. We are spending time with them on pasture every day to allow them to get used to us and their new home. We have been



One of Slow Grown Farm's five new Red Poll dairy cows.

so impressed to see their incremental progress. They went from not letting us within 100 metres to, in just one week, licking Katie's hand!

As we spend more time with them, we have started to see their individual personalities come through – some braver and more inquisitive and others a little more to themselves. To begin with, the Red Polls are in 'quarantine' on a separate field from our Northern Dairy Shorthorns. Once they've settled in and we can confirm their health status, the two breeds can meet and graze together. It will be very interesting to see how the initial introduction goes!

Red Polls' milk is said to make for fantastic cheese, so we can't wait to try it next spring.

GHSA: Caring for you, in sickness and in health

March is a busy month for Graffham Health Support Association (GHSA), with its volunteers knocking on doors throughout the village to invite members to renew their subscriptions and offer newcomers to the community the chance to join – as long-standing Chairman Alison Davidson prepares to stand down at its AGM. Editor Michael Blunt explains why everyone in the community should join, what it offers and its history.

If you assume that the Graffham Health Support Association (GHSA) is just for the elderly or infirm, then think again. It really is there for everyone in the village – and, as like or not, we all stand to benefit from what it offers at some stage in our lives, sooner or later.

Imagine having to take your child to the dentist or optician when you can't drive there yourself for whatever reason. Or having to ferry your partner for an x-ray just when your elderly parent is relying on you to visit. It's at little times of crisis like this that the GHSA can really be your godsend.

But while trips to any kind of medical appointment are the best known of the services it provides, the GHSA offers so much more:

- Free collection of your prescriptions from Petworth surgery, which are then dropped off at Graffham Village Shop for you to pick up from there, saving you time, petrol money and exhaust fumes.
- Loan of a wide-range of medical equipment – crutches, walking sticks, wheelchairs, walking frames, bathing aids and so on.
- Subsidised foot health clinic and exercise classes at the Empire Hall.
- Help, for those in need, with paying for spectacles or dental care.

All this for just £5 an adult a year, or, for under 21s, completely free.

A good neighbour scheme in need of more volunteers

In 2021 alone, the GHSA provided some 75 trips for villagers to medical appointments and collected around 500 prescriptions for them. Every week, a dozen plus take part in its 'ease-into-exercise' sessions it subsidises.

More than 200 residents are currently on GHSA's books, around half the village's adult population. The association is there to help them – and in turn it largely depends on its members to deliver that help to others. With





GHSA's committee, from left: Jill Dover, Ann Rowney, Nicky West, Alison Davidson, Shirley Behan, Sarah Lydiard-Wilson, Karin Skanberg and Zoe Jones.

some of its longer-standing volunteers now advancing in age, or moving away through the big turnover in property ownership in the area in recent years, this village good neighbour scheme is now in great need of new blood from among the community's newcomers.

Trips are co-ordinated by GHSA's Transport and Prescription Co-ordinator Ann Rowney, on 07391 802541 or at ann.rowney@icloud.com. They are provided by other members, who do so as often or little as they choose, on a purely voluntary basis, although they are offered money to cover some of their petrol costs. To paraphrase one of the current volunteers: "I'm always happy to help out – as I know one day I'll need it myself!"

Supporting the health of villagers for more than a century

GHSA and its predecessors have been supporting the health of Graffham and East Lavington villagers for more than a century. It was originally formed as the Graffham, Lavington, South Ambersham and Selham District Nursing Association, adapting its present name in 2011.

Its original forebear was founded by village benefactor Katherine Guillod (*see Graffham Parish News February 2022*) to support the local district nurse – exactly when is not known, but it was in existence when her husband David died in 1921, long before the beginning of the National Health Service. In his will, he set up the Katherine Maud Guillod Trust – which continues to this day. Half its income goes to the GHSA and the rest divided between other local charitable causes.

With the association's funds supplemented by membership subs and other

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donations, its resources have, since the NHS was created, always been used to provide services not available under the NHS. At one time, it paid for special invalid foods and drinks recommended by the doctor or nurse – which for one lady member once extended, on doctor's orders, to three regular bottles of Guinness a week! Until the early 1980s, it gave logs as Christmas gifts to the more needy and elderly members. For around 20 years to 2004, it arranged coach outings to the seaside in the summer and for Christmas shopping in the winter.

More recently, it helped fund and now maintains two defibrillators (AED) in the village – one at the Empire Hall and the other at St Giles Church.

Former GP Alison Davidson has been GHSA Chairman for 12 years. She plans to stand down at its AGM, on 25 March at the Empire Hall at 2.15pm, handing over to Sarah Lydiard-Wilson.

Alison said: "One of Graffham's great plus points is that we do take care of one another. Over the years many have given their time generously to the GHSA, whether as committee members or volunteers, helping their neighbours in times of need, thereby contributing to the strong sense of community spirit that binds our lovely village together. Long may that last."

Help Heather walk all over cancer

Heather Russell (right), of Guillods Cottages, is walking 10,000 steps every day during March to raise funds for Cancer Research – and inviting her neighbours throughout the community to support her on her 'walk all over cancer' challenge.



It is a particularly personal cause for her, with daughter Jade, who has only recently become a mother to baby Rowan (right), being treated for brain cancer and a close friend losing a battle to the condition not long ago.



Heather said: "One in two of us will get cancer in our lifetime. Our family and many others know the devastating effect and turmoil it brings. We can all play our part to support the research that will beat it."

You can support Heather via her online fund-raising site at bit.ly/heathercancerwalk

Graffham Chronicles: Westerlands' Florence Nagle

A regular column by village historian Pauline Goodwin

Animal trainer, breeder, judge and campaigner Florence Nagle was living at Westerlands throughout my Graffham childhood and her presence was announced twice daily by the distant baying of her wolfhounds. I recall sitting on our garden fence at Hillside, listening to the dogs with their necklingling howls, like something from The Hound of the Baskervilles.

She was born in 1894, the daughter of Sir William George Watson, whose family home was Sulhamstead Abbots in Berkshire. This was used as a hospital during World War I – which was where and when she met her husband, James Nagle, an Irishman with the King's Royal Rifle Corps. They married in July 1916 – against the wishes of her parents, who refused financial assistance and threatened to disinherit her. That she married despite this reflected what was described as her 'formidable' character.

Marriage changed Florence's life and she knuckled down to make cream teas, clean windows and scrub toilets to subsidise her family income. The couple had two children, David and Patricia, but divorced in 1932, after her husband ran off with a kennel maid.

Florence returned to live in Sulhamstead, inheriting the house following her father's death. During World War II, she ran a canteen in Folkestone for the ARP. She also raised funds, amounting to £5,000 (equivalent to almost £300,000 today), to buy a Spitfire, naming it Sulhamstead.

Her work as an animal breeder began with wolfhounds. She won three consecutive certificates at Crufts, in 1925, 1926 and 1927. Her champion



Sulhamstead Connara was noted as 'one of the great sires of all time in the breed'. In total, Florence had 45 certificated wolfhounds with 21 of them crowned champions. From 1923, she exported to them to countries ranging from Italy and Sweden to the USA and Uruguay.

Other breeds she owned and exhibited included Irish Setters, Golden Retrievers and Pointers – and other animals, including a prize Berkshire boar called Pamber Ugly Duckling and a champion Aberdeen Angus named Prince Everett of Auchterader. As for horses, Florence was notching up winners long before she arrived in Sussex, with the likes of Sandsprite, which finished second in the 1937 Derby, and Solarno and Comanche.

When she moved to Westerlands in 1942, Bill Stickley, who had worked for her at Sulhamstead in the 1930s, came with her. After his marriage to Molly seven years later, she became Florence's housekeeper. Their son Paul still lives in Graffham – and was in my class at primary school. At Westerlands, Florence also employed five stable lads, kennel man Mr Pateman and dog trainer George Abbott.



Florence Nagle with Bill Stickley

It was at Westerlands that her success as a trainer peaked. Her key purchase, bought for 3,500 guineas, was Rose of England, which had produced a St Leger winner in 1937. In Florence's ownership, the mare produced a line of winning progeny. Foal Westerlands Rose in turn produced five foals by various sires, notching up many wins between them – Westerlands Chalice, Game Rose, Westerlands Champagne, Westerlands Prince, and Westerlands Rosebud.

As the Jockey Club at that time did not accept women, she did all this as an unofficial trainer, relying on Bill Stickley to hold a training licence. In the mid 1960s, there was a growing band of woman trainers, again all in an unofficial capacity, including Norah Wilmot, who trained for the Queen, and who was told by Newmarket stewards, in 1961, that she could no longer supervise saddling and unsaddling of her horses on the racecourse or even in the stable block. In 1966, Florence, then aged 70, sought an

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injunction against the Jockey Club's consistent refusal to grant her a license in her own right. This was refused. On appeal to the House of Lords, she won her case. Florence explained in a Sunday Times article in 1979 why she had taken her stand: "I'm not campaigning for equality... but I am passionately concerned that all have equality of opportunity." The Jockey Club capitulated and soon several women held licences in their own right. The Kennel Club was next to come into her sights and she was eventually granted leave to become a member.

In the 1980s, in keeping with her beliefs and still dissatisfied with the lack of opportunities for women in racing, she sponsored a race at Kempton Park, The Florence Nagle Girl Apprentices' Handicap. John Oaksey wrote in The Daily Telegraph that she was no doubt looking down from her celestial cloud with approval. She informed him that she was indeed still alive, but when the time came she expected to end up in a hotter place!

When she did pass away a few years later, in 1988, she left a bequest to ensure the race's survival.

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John Smart (1742-1811), A portrait miniature of a lady in an ermine bordered lilac coat with pearls in a diamond set frame. **Sold for £11,000 (plus BP).***

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Springtime, lambs, sheep – and dogs

Graffham resident and dog owner Colin Barker gives a reminder of the special attention fellow canine walkers need to take at this time of year.

The majority of dog owners in the village walk their dogs in a considerate and responsible manner, by allowing their dogs freedom off the lead only in what would be considered 'safe areas' around the village. However there seem to be some exceptions witnessed in Graffham recently which are not following the 'countryside code' of always having your dog under control around livestock or near farm machinery.

Large dogs have recently been seen chasing a herd of deer across fields on Lavington Stud, and, should there have been livestock in the fields, no doubt these would have been herded and harassed in the same manner.

Most of the ewes in the fields at present are particularly vulnerable as they should be in lamb – you can see this by the dye on their rear quarters – but being harassed by over excited dogs can quite often cause a ewe to lose her unborn lamb or even drop dead from a heart attack thereby losing both the ewe and her lamb.

Although owners believe that their family pet or working dog is well behaved and totally under control when off the lead, a dog's natural instinct is always deep set to chase. So please always follow the 'countryside code', with dogs kept in sight, under control and on their leads near livestock.

Picture ©Colin Barker.

Nature Notes: The return of the polecat

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

I received a photo last week taken by a parish magazine reader on the South Downs close to the Hampshire border. Our native mammals are skittish and photographing them can be tricky. For most of us, our only encounters with British mammals are to spot them on the roadside as we hurtle past at 55mph. I'm sure many people these days believe that lying motionless on a verge with feet in the air is natural behaviour for a badger.

Our road trips may be macabre safaris, but roadkill can tell a lot about the state of our island's mammalian fauna. Hedgehogs, a squashed staple on the roadkill menu a few decades ago, are now hard to find flattened on the highway, reflecting their dramatic fall in numbers in the wider countryside.

Recently an unfamiliar corpse has appeared on the tarmac – the polecat. Before being killed by cars, polecats already had a long history of

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persecution in England, probably because they eat poultry and notoriously stink to high heaven. To Shakespeare, and many others since, 'polecat' was an insult. They were exterminated from Sussex in around 1890. Indeed, the entire English population was banished to the wilderness of Wales. Yet curiously we were happy to welcome their watered-down, domesticated form – the ferret – as cuddly pets and ruthless rabbit hunters. After a century in exile, pure-bred polecats are making a comeback. This re-colonisation was the basis for a recent investigation by scientists who requested roadkill polecat corpses so DNA testing could verify their pure polecat lineage (as opposed to polecat/ferret hybrids).

I was soon dodging traffic on the A272 and excitedly discovering a dead polecat. As mustelids, polecats naturally smell – but, take my word for it, they smell a lot worse when they've been dead for a few days, an accusation they could probably level at me too. I discharged a whole can



of Glade but my wife smelt that something was up seconds after I set foot back in the house. I don't know if any readers are interested in a fast-track route to divorce, but, for those that are, I would recommend being caught concealing a dead polecat in your freezer. It will test even the strongest of unions. Through some smooth talking, my marriage is still

intact but there are still some fishfingers which neither of us are brave enough to eat.

Next morning a package arrived containing heavy duty bags, some cool 'biohazard' stickers and printed instructions on 'how to post a polecat'. These days, anyone looking like me carrying a box labelled 'biohazard' into a post office is enough to spark an international incident so my five-year-old nephew, all cherubic smiles, was sent in as my polecat mule.

The scientists soon declared my specimen as '100% polecat' – further evidence that polecats have returned to Sussex. It's great to have them back and many farmers are welcoming them too, as they do a great job of dispatching rats and rabbits. Look out for them in your headlights.

Graffham Parish News' marvellous March quiz

Ten quick fire questions to test your general knowledge as spring beckons.
Answers at the foot of the page (no cheating, now!)

1 John Madden, who died in Pleasanton, California at the end of 2021, was a major figure in which sport?

2 Pancake Day here in the UK is on 1 March. What do Australians call their traditional small pancakes?



3 The Galapagos islands are an administrative province of which country?

4 In 1918, which successful businessman became the Prime Minister to be first elected to Parliament at the oldest age (49)?



5 How many former nations of the USSR are now members of NATO?

6 If you have a hallux valgus what are you suffering from?

7 What do a 1974 film starring David Essex, a 2007 film starring Claire Danes, Alvin and a David Bowie character all have in common?

8 From this month, the British Horseracing Authority has raised the minimum weight for a flat race jockey by 2lbs – to what?

9 Two bells were added to the four already in St Giles Church in which year – 1784, 1884 or 1984?



10 In which 1990s comedy show did the character Rowley Birkin QC (played by Paul Whitehouse) appear?

Answers: 1 American Football. 2 Pilelets. 3 Ecuador. 4 Neville Chamberlain. 5 The three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. 6 A bunion. 7 Stardust. 8 8st 2lbs. 9 1984. 10 The Fast Show.

To advertise in Graffham Parish News, contact
editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

Letters to the editor: The page YOU write

Something in the Graffham Parish News or in the village touched a particular note, or anything about the neighbourhood you'd like to get off your chest? Share your thoughts to editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com The editors reserve the right to edit!

What a delight to receive the first two editions of this year's *Graffham Parish News*! It has such a fresh look and I can't wait to open up the pages. I am loving the interviews with local people, the beautiful photographs taken in Graffham, Bill's bygones, Crimestoppers, the quiz, also Property Watch and Planning Applications as well as Graffham Chronicles so well researched by Pauline Goodwin. Keep up the good work – it's much appreciated! *Linda Smart (nee Challen), Graffham-born but now living in Southampton – and a GPN postal subscriber.*

I wondered how you were going to keep up the standard after the January edition. Hey presto! February's mag must be in the running for the Booker prize! Astonishing! Well done! I particularly like the 'Meet Your Neighbour' slot and the 'Diary of a New Farm' – and look forward to meeting their subjects in due course – along with planning applications, crimestoppers, rain statistics and Pauline Goodwin's Graffham Chronicles. Keep it up! *Martin Buckley, Heydon House, Graffham.*

Sue Tink's four-legged roofing foreman

Most Graffham residents will have noticed that Sue Tink has had the roof of her bungalow, at Stuart's Meadow, opposite the village shop, retiled. What they may not have spotted was who was 'supervising' the work.

Look closely at the ridge and you will see who she referred to throughout the project as 'The Foreman'. The roofers' Westie had no fear of heights and thoroughly enjoyed the views while his 'team' were hard at work, ensuring Sue's home remains water-tight for years to come. During visits by her friends for regular mahjong sessions, he would distract them by peering from a scaffolding platform through the windows to see what they were doing.





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Covid infection rates locally: Down by 25% in a month

Covid data for Graffham and East Lavington's 'GU28 0' postcode area:



Cases in Easebourne & Petworth

MSOA By date of specimen in the seven days to 13 February 2022

Last 7 days **58** Cases per 100,000 people **727.2**
↓20 on 18 Jan 22 ↓250.7 on 18 Jan 22

Comparison to case rates in other England areas



People vaccinated in Easebourne & Petworth

MSOA Reported on 17 February 2022

1st dose **90.6%** 2nd dose **86.4%** 3rd dose or boosters **74.9%**

Deaths
Deaths within 28 days of positive test in Chichester

LOCAL AUTHORITY (LOWER TIER)

Latest data provided on 18 February 2022

Daily

0

Last 7 days

4

↑3 (300%)

Healthcare
Patients admitted in South East

HEALTHCARE REGION

Latest data provided on 18 February 2022

Daily

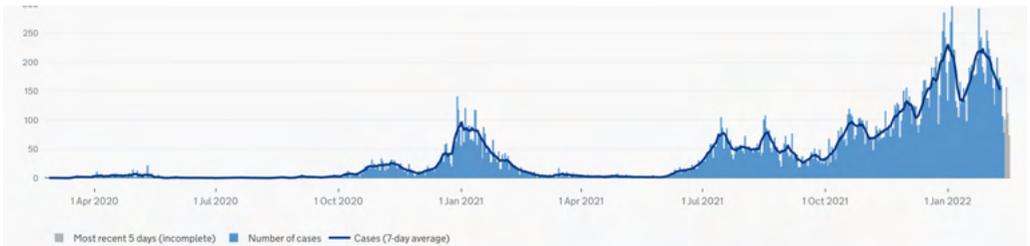
186

Last 7 days

1,287

↓-50 (-3.7%)

Covid positive testing rates for Chichester district:



Source: coronavirus.data.gov.uk as at 19 February

Our man at Westminster named PM's policy head

Hours after four of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's most senior aides quit, our local MP Andrew Griffith was promoted to succeed one of them, from his previous role as the PM's Parliamentary Private Secretary.

On 3 February, he was appointed Minister for Policy and Head of the PM's Policy Unit in the Cabinet Office, succeeding long-serving special advisor Munira Mirza in the role. She resigned in early February in protest at the premier's inaccurate claim, made under the protection of Parliamentary privilege, that Opposition Leader Sir Keir Starmer, when he was Director of Public Prosecutions, failed to prosecute sex offender Jimmy Savile.

The other three senior aides handed in their notice in the wake of the 'update' by civil servant Sue Gray on 'gatherings' in 10 Downing Street during lockdown, which has resulted in a number of other MPs submitting letters of no confidence in the PM.

If you wish to congratulate Andrew on his new role, or make other comments, his email address is andrew.griffith.mp@parliament.uk

Property watch

Homes for sale locally, as posted at [rightmove.com](https://www.rightmove.com) as we went to press.

Burton Park, Duncton GU28 0PD: A choice of three properties, ranging from £475,000 to £640,000.

Planning applications

A summary of latest applications for planning approval in Graffham and East Lavington civil parishes filed with the South Downs National Park as this edition went to press. For details, see bit.ly/sdnp-planning

No applications for planning approval in Graffham or East Lavington have been lodged since Graffham Parish News' February edition went to press.

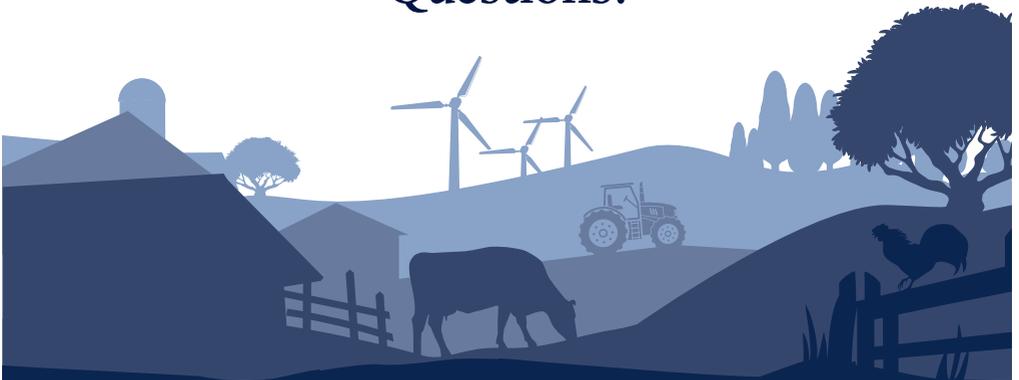


LENT IN GRAFFHAM WITH WOOLAVINGTON

Ash Wednesday: Eucharist with imposition of ashes at St Giles Church, Graffham, Wednesday 2 March, 6pm.

Lent Course: Tuesdays from 8 March at All Saints Chapel 10am (after 9.30am Morning Prayer).

Questions?



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Answers. 

Crimestoppers

Sussex Police's log of incidents locally in recent weeks. If you have any information which might help, please report it, quoting the serial number – by phone on 101 or online at bit.ly/crimeupdate

Cowdray Park Overnight Friday-Saturday 28-29 January, a black Mini One was stolen. *Serial 0746 29/01.*

Bepton Road, Midhurst In the early hours of Sunday 30 January, a vehicle was criminally damaged. *Serial 0598 30/01.*

Petworth Overnight Sunday-Monday 30-31 January, several properties on farmland were burgled. *Serial 0375 31/01.*

North Street, Midhurst Between Sunday 30 January and Tuesday 1 February, a vehicle was criminally damaged. *Serial 0267 01/02.*

Duncton During Wednesday 2 February afternoon, a residential property was burgled. *Serial 0864 02/02.*

Do you get scam text messages, emails and phone calls? Did you know that you can forward scam text messages to 7726 for free and your network provider will investigate the origin and block the sender if they are found to be malicious? You can also send a screen shot of the text message and forward scam emails to the National Cyber Security Centre at report@phishing.gov.uk

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Petworth Area Churches Together: Band aid, please

Petworth Area Churches Together (PACT) is looking for a band or bagpipe player to lead its traditional Palm Sunday procession through the streets of our nearby centre, on 10 April from 3pm. The Petworth Town Band has performed this role for many years but is unavailable this time.



PACT's Gerald Gresham-Cooke said: "Music is such an important ingredient of our parade through the town. To sing unaccompanied is probably beyond most of us. Therefore we need to find a solution. All suggestions gratefully received. We are ideally looking for another local

band or, failing that, may be a bagpipe player! Can anybody help?"

If you can, then contact Gerald at [geraldgreshamcooke@gmail](mailto:geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com)

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.

United Reformed Church: Petworth. *Minister:* Revd Anne Lewitt *Tel:* 01798 872535. *Web:* petworthurc.co.uk *Worship:* Sundays 10.30am.



- All residents of and visitors to Graffham are welcome to all services.
- St Giles Church is at the south end of Graffham's Street, near the Downs.
- All Saints' Chapel is opposite Graffham Village Shop.
- Both St Giles Church and All Saints' Chapel are open daily.
- Bell ringing practice night is every Tuesday at 7.30pm.
- To join Graffham's bellringers or occasional choir, contact Revd Vivien on 01798 867199 or at hello@stgilesgraffham.org
- See stgilesgraffham.org or Facebook's @stgilesgraffham for any changes.

March				
2	Wed	6pm	Ash Wednesday Eucharist	St Giles Church
6	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
8	Tues	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Lent Group	All Saints Chapel
12	Sat	10-12noon	Saturday Ringing Practice	St Giles Church
13	Sun	10.30am	Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints' Chapel
15	Tues	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Lent Group	All Saints Chapel
20	Sun	9am	BCP Matins or Holy Communion	St Giles Church
		10.30am	Tree Planting Service	St Giles Church
22	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Lent group	All Saints' Chapel
27	Sun	10.30am	Mothering Sunday Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
April				
3	Sun	10.30am	Passion Sunday Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
		11.30am	Annual Vestry Meeting and APCM	St Giles Church
		6pm	Taize Prayer	All Saints Chapel
5	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Lent Course	All Saints' Chapel
9	Sat	10 to 12	Saturday Bell Ringing Practice	St Giles Church
10	Sun	10.30am	Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
12	Tues	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Lent Course	All Saints Chapel
14	Thurs	6pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist	St Giles Church
		7-8pm	Watch of Prayer	St Giles Church
15	Fri	1.30-3pm	Good Friday Stations of the Cross	St Giles Church
16	Sat	8pm	First Eucharist of Easter	St Giles Church
17	Sun	10.30am	Easter Day Family Eucharist	St Giles Church

Key dates and what's on in and around the village

March				
1	Tue		Shrove Tuesday pancake day St David's Day	
2	Wed		Ash Wednesday – what will you stop for Lent? International Women's Day	
8	Tue	9–11am	Great Feet Chiropodist ¹	Empire Hall
11	Fri	7pm	Graffham Garden Group AGM	Empire Hall
12	Sat	7pm	Hourglass, James Taylor tribute band (see page 9)	Empire Hall
14	Mon	7pm	Tennis Club AGM	Pavilion
16-19	Wed-Sat	7.30pm	Seaford College presents Oklahoma! (see page 5)	Seaford College
17	Thu		St Patrick's Day	
18	Fri	7pm	Graffham Parish Council meeting	Empire Hall
19	Sat	9.45am	Graffham Down Trust work party ²	rv St Giles
		7pm	Graffham Empire Movies screens King Richard (see page 4)	Empire Hall
20	Sun		First day of spring	
		10.30am	Plant a Tree for the Jubilee service	St Giles
		2-4pm	Graffham Tennis Club Meet the Coach	Tennis Club
23	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ³	Empire Hall
25	Fri		Seaford College term ends	
		2.15pm	Graffham Health Support Assoc AGM	Empire Hall
27	Sun		Daylight saving – clocks go forward	
			Mothering Sunday	
29	Tue	9–11am	Great Feet Chiropodist ¹	Empire Hall
April				
1	Fri		Graffham Camping and Caravanning site reopens for the summer	
8	Fri		WSCC schools term ends	
9	Sat		Tinkers' great garden sale – all for charity	Tangletrees
11	Mon		Graffham Tennis Club Juniors' Easter Course	Tennis Club
15	Fri		Good Friday	
18	Mon		Easter Monday	
19	Tue		Seaford College term starts	
		9–11am	Great Feet Chiropodist ¹	Empire Hall

¹**Great Feet Chiropodist:** Available to Graffham Health Support Assoc members only.

²**Graffham Down Trust work parties:** Rendez-vous by St Giles Church at 9.30am for a 9.45am journey up the hill. Take strong shoes/boots, gardening gloves and warm clothing. Tea, coffee and cake provided. Email jimkirke@hotmail.co.uk if you plan to take part and to advise whether you would like a ride up to the top of the Downs.

³Lunch Club: Graffham Empire Hall Lunch Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 12.30pm for 12.45pm for a home cooked two-course meal and coffee, at £8.00 a head. Please book by calling Sarah on 01798 867567.

Regular weekly activities (for notes, how to book, etc, see below)			
Mondays	<i>Daytime-early evening</i>	Osteopath ¹	Empire Hall
	6.30pm	Boot Camp ²	Empire Hall
Tuesdays	8.30am–12noon	Post Office	Empire Hall
Wednesdays	9.15–10.30am	Yoga ³	Empire Hall
	4.30-6.45pm	CCDANCE ⁷ for children	Empire Hall
Thursdays	<i>Daytime-early evening</i>	Osteopath ¹	Empire Hall
	9-10.15am	Teddy Time ⁴	All Saints Chapel
	10.30-11.30am	Ease Into Exercise ⁵	Empire Hall
	2-4pm	Post Office	Empire Hall
Fridays	9-10.15am	Yoga ³	Empire Hall
	10.30-11.15am	Pilates ⁶	Empire Hall

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

¹Osteopath: Bookings required. To make an appointment, for daytime or early evening, contact Anna Shawcross on 01798 867523.

²Boot Camp: Contact Abigail Martin on 07523 860167.

³Yoga: Deborah Albone on 07790 367009.

⁴Teddy Time: Stories and singalong for 0-3 years. All welcome.

⁵Ease Into Exercise: Contact Abigail Martin on 07523 860167.

⁶Pilates: Contact Nicky Capes on 07990 517858 or 01730 812297.

⁷CCDANCE: Three 45-minute sessions. Contact info@cc-dance.co.uk 07495 191311

Graffham Tennis Club

To book a place on any course, players must be members of Graffham Tennis Club.
For contact details, see Directory inside back cover.

Juniors coaching

After-school courses, Years R to 8, Wednesdays 3.15-6.15pm

9 Mar-6 Apr and 27 Apr-25 May £40 each | **8 Jun-20 Jul and 7 Sep-19 Oct** £56 each

Juniors' Easter course, Years R to 9, 11-14 April

Group times and ages to be confirmed nearer the time

Juniors' summer course, Years R to 9, 25 - 29 July

Group times and ages to be confirmed nearer the time

Adults coaching

Dates tbc	90 mins	Coaching clinics for team players	<i>For improved match play and technique. Costs tbc</i>
Wednesdays, year-round	1.45–2.45 pm	Rusty Racquets	<i>Foundation technique and match play practice</i>
Dates and times tbc	Individual coaching		
Seniors			
Mondays, year-round	10.45am – 12.30pm	Seniors' morning	

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	Haslemere Minor Injuries Unit	01483 782334
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POLICE	In emergency	999
	Non-emergency	101
		101@sussex.pnn.police.uk
BURST WATER MAINS	Southern Water	0800 820 999
POWER CUTS	Scottish & Southern Electric	0800 0727 282
All Saints Chapel Trust	Chairman Clive Rowntree	01798 867536
Badminton Club	David Rowlands	01798 861609
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	Alan Sutton	asutton@chichester.gov.uk
		01798 342452
Dog Warden	Office hours	01243 534734
	Emergency	01243 785339
Citizens Advice Bureau		03448 487969
East Lavington Parish Council	Chairman Charles Britton	charles.britton@eastlavington-pc.uk
	Clerk Amy Harte	07889 979820
		eastlavingtonpc@gmail.com
Empire Hall	empirehall.org.uk	empirehall@gmail.com
	Bookings Eira Ashby	01798 867297
	Promotions Liz Nicholson	liz.empirehall@gmail.com
	Treasurer Carole Sargent	01798 344790
	Secretary Carole Tompkins	01798 867773
Empire Lunch Club	Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
Foresters Arms	forestersarms-pub.co.uk	01798 867386
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Graffham Bellringers	Reverend Vivien	01798 867199
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	Secretary Liz Pegram	01798 867770
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Graffham Garden Group	Martin Buckley	01798 867234

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	Membership	Nicky West	01798 867048
	Transport and prescription collection	Ann Rowney	ann.rowney@icloud.com 07391 802541
	Loan of equipment	Shirley Behan	01798 867265
Graffham Nursery		School Office	01798 867324
Graffham Parish Council	Chairman	Simon Mackie	mackiepc@gmx.co.uk
	Clerk	Mike Simpson	graffhampc@gmx.co.uk
Graffham Parish News		editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com	
		See also bottom of inside front cover	
Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council		stgilesgraffham.org	
	Priest-in-Charge	Rev Vivien Turner	01798 867199
		hallo@stgilesgraffham.org	
	Churchwarden	Ginny Barrett	01798 867113
	Treasurer	Yvonne Butterick	07808 781510
		graffhampcctreasurer@gmail.com	
Graffham Rec Committee	Treasurer	Bernard Bayly	01798 867042
	Bookings Sec	Peter Carr	01798 867148
		graffhamrecpavilion@gmail.com	
Graffham Tennis Club	Chairman	Simon Longman	01798 867317
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