

GRAFFHAM PARISH NEWS

ISSUE 374

FREE

APRIL 2022



Planting trees for Platinum Jubilee
New playground set to swing in
Rallying around Ukraine 



On the cover: Six-year-old Philippa Bowden was one of many Graffham children to help plant an avenue of trees by St Giles Church as a village contribution to the Platinum Jubilee 'Green Canopy' initiative. Full story and more pictures – page 7.
Photo © Sally Blunt.

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Writing from the Rectory: Ukraine and churchyard hope



The people of Graffham with Woolavington offer their compassion to the people of Ukraine, suffering as a result of the recent invasion by Russia and consequent war. As each news report is broadcast, our hearts go out to each person and family whom we hold in our hearts and prayers. We pray for an end to the fighting, and the restoration of peace and hope for the Ukrainian nation. We pray too for the people of Russia who regret the war and who wish for peace. *Lord, have mercy. Amen*

Lent is meant to try us in some way, though to a good purpose.

Sometimes, though, it feels like Lent has lasted two years, from March 2019 up to today. At times it has required even abstinence from companionship, and serious reflection from us all. Important lessons have been learned and at last we look forward to Easter joy.

One of the better experiences along the way has been the discovery of our churchyard as a place of worship. We are blessed to have open space in which to enjoy our beautiful surroundings and will continue to worship outdoors on occasions into the future. If the weather is kind, we will do so on Palm Sunday.

An additional feature this year is the setting aside of some of the churchyard grounds for the development of wildflower meadow

▶ *Continued on next page*

EASTER IN GRAFFHAM



For details of Easter services and events at St Giles Church and in the village, see page 45



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*

areas. There are so many varieties of wild plants listed here, making it an important site ecologically. So going forward there may be even more butterflies and birds sharing in worship with us now.

However, in making our decisions as to how to use this space, we continue to be respectful of our churchyard's purpose as a resting place for those who have lived and worshipped here before us. The memorial stones continue to remind us of those with whom we share it. As does the lychgate, through which we travel into this sacred open space. Although our own lychgate was erected in celebration of the millennium, 'lych' is an ancient word for corpse. In times gone by, a lychgate was the place where bodies rested before entering for a funeral service. There are fascinating



John Covington's coffin bearers pause under the lychgate, which he designed for the millennium, before continuing into church for his funeral.

funeral we remember those we have loved and commend them to God, carrying hope in our hearts as well as grief. A hope that is symbolised at Easter, where the churchyard becomes the location for Easter fire.

The Church in rural places has an important part to play in maintaining community life and stimulating a way of being that is serious and openhearted. Although times past have tried us, and times present try us sorely still, we continue to live in hope, working to be a church that is sensitive to the past and mindful of the future, in all we do today. Do help us to continue by affirming or becoming part of this, as the living expression of that hope.

Vivien

Reverend Vivien



Birds-eye view of Seaford and Lavington Stud

This fantastic aerial shot of Seaford College and Lavington Stud, looking towards Graffham, was taken by Aemilia Shaw, who works at the school as a Hospitality Supervisor, having taken her A levels there in 2018. She was a passenger in a Robin DR 400-140 flown from Goodwood by her boyfriend Harry Stanley Jones, who is training to become an airline pilot.

For those who fancy getting aerial views of West Sussex without actually leaving the ground, Harry offers flight simulation experiences, based on a Cessna 172 light aircraft, from his family home at Billingshurst. Check it out at sjsimflights.vpweb.co.uk

I wandered lonely..: Thanks to © Jonathan Simons for posting this photo of a lovely display of March wild Graffham daffodils on Facebook's Beautiful Sights In and Around Graffham page.
April 2022



Offering support and sanctuary to Ukraine



Russia's invasion of Ukraine prompted a well-documented humanitarian response worldwide – and Graffham can be proud of playing its part, writes joint editor Philippa Sanders

Within days, if not hours, of Russia's invasion of Ukraine getting underway on 24 February, a number of initiatives had sprung up in the Graffham community to provide relief for and support to the refugees fleeing the war – an estimated 10 million plus of them as we went to press.

Emergency supplies have been donated and despatched, funds raised, opportunities to host and support evacuees explored and prayers said.

Collection points for donated supplies were set up and appeals went out on TV, radio and social media, with the Graffham Noticeboard Facebook pages used to direct them to a number of local coordinators.

The Three Moles worked through the Petworth branch of the Royal British Legion where a member has Ukrainian connections. Kasia Austin, of



Kasia Austin, centre, behind the big Ukraine heart, with other helpers before Midhurst's vans of aid set off.

something for the people of Ukraine. At Selham House we have an empty barn garage and the new owners, Glen and Asta, were totally supportive. So at very short notice we turned it into a hub for sorting and storing donations." At the other end of the village, a collection was starting under the auspices of Graffham and Duncton schools and Seaford College.

With the three schools co-operating already on a holiday meals programme inspired by Marcus Rashford, it was straightforward to set up a storage and collection point at Seaford for the donations from the three schools.

Colleen Hayes, Graffham and Duncton parent and Seaford Charity and Community Coordinator, explained: "Seaford College became the central

hub to receive donations of clothing, bedding, toiletries, toys and other aid from the wider community. The results were overwhelmingly generous – so much so that we needed a second articulated lorry to take the donations.”

In total, around 1,600 boxes were made up and filled, with both lorries unloading them at transit shipping centres in eastern Poland, from where they were carried on into Ukraine. Colleen added: “It was wonderful to see so many volunteers from Graffham and Duncton joining forces with the staff, parents and pupils of Seaford College to pull this humungous job off. The commitment, effort, and sheer determination from the volunteers was outstanding. It was truly an act of one community helping another.”



The first of two lorries, kindly supplied by Cranleigh Freight Services to carry aid from schools in the village, arrives in Lodz, Poland.



At St Giles Church, children from Graffham Infants School, parents, teachers and regular worshippers lit candles and pegged up origami birds of peace on Ash Wednesday.

A special candle for Ukraine – in a

display with a painting of sunflowers, its national flower, by Graffham artist Sue Hill – is lit as prayers for the country are said at every service.

The church has registered with the charity Global Sanctuary Foundation to provide support and sanctuary to evacuees from Ukraine, with a number of villagers known to be exploring options for hosting refugees, rekindling the spirit of World War II when evacuees from London were hosted here. St

Giles' second Lent lunch, hosted by Stuart and Bridget Lewis at Maple House, Norwood Lane, on 24 March, was turned into a fund-raiser for Ukraine.



COFFEE MORNING AND CAKE SALE
in aid of Disaster Emergency Committee's
Ukraine Appeal

EMPIRE HALL, GRAFFHAM
Saturday 23 April, 10.30am-12noon

Ordered your Graffham Platinum Jubilee tea towel?

Orders are being taken now for the perfect thing to wave during Graffham's Platinum Jubilee celebration parades in early June – the village's own tea towel designed specially to mark the occasion. All yours for just £10 each, and a wonderful memento of this historic landmark.

Designed by artist Sue Hill, of Graffham House, it features her watercolours of Her Majesty wearing her coronation crown 70 years ago and as she looks today, along with two of her favourites – a horse and corgi.

Sue needs orders for at least 50 – with 35 listed as we went to press. To order one or more, call Sue on 01798 867271 by 10 April.

All proceeds will go to Graffham Infants School to pay for its monthly 'Splash Assemblies', which tell the Christian story in a fun, dramatised way, costing £300 for a whole year.



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Planting trees for Queen's jubilee 'green canopy'

An avenue of young trees – nine beeches, nine walnuts and a native wild service – was planted by the village's young and not-so-young in a field next to St Giles Church on Sunday 20 March as a Graffham community contribution to the Platinum Jubilee 'Green Canopy' initiative.

The congregation wore wellies and carried spades to church for the service before walking down the hill in brilliant sunshine to a field between St Giles and Ladywell Cottage, where owners John and Barbara Edge (see page 18) had pre-dug holes for the saplings, to which the children tied ribbons in the blue and yellow colours of Ukraine. After the hard work had been done, a plaque to commemorate the occasion was unveiled, to rousing cheers, by Revd Vivien removing a Union flag that had been ceremonially draped over it. Then al fresco coffee and biscuits... Photos © Sally Blunt



Graffham Garden Group: New Chair, outings and more

Graffham Garden Group has a new chairman – or chairwoman, to be more precise – with Martin Buckley standing down after 15 years in the role, to be succeeded at its AGM on 11 March by Carole Kirke.

In front of 30 plus members, she presented him with a gift card on behalf of the club, to thank him for everything he had done. Carole in turn has been succeeded as the club's Outings Organiser by Nicky West, with thanks also paid to Mary Taylor, Nicola Tyrrell and Jan Buckley who stood down from the committee since the previous 'live' AGM, pre-pandemic. Other

committee members confirmed in their positions included: Treasurer Carole Sargent, Show Organiser Peter Hardcastle, Membership Secretary Alison Davidson, along with Carole Tompkins, Tricia Wilson and newcomer Marie Bracey. Over a glass of wine or beer, members had a chance to vote for



Outgoing Chairman Martin Buckley with his successor Carole Kirke.



Ann Brown receives the Harmer Cup for best daffs from new Chairman Carole Kirke. Photos © Nicky West.

their favourite displays in the three spring competition categories, with Ann Brown winning the Harmer Cup for the village's best daffodils, Tricia Wilson judged to have displayed the best vase of spring flowers, and Simon and Gay Foord the best hellebores. The evening was rounded off with an illustrated talk by Richard Ramsay, from one of the UK's leading dahlia nurseries, Withypitts, near Crawley.

Plan ahead for summer show photography classes: The five categories for the club's main event of the year, the summer flower show, on 16 July, in the Empire Hall, have been revealed – so get snapping now! They are:

1. Village Life.
2. A Walk in the Woods.
3. All at Sea.
4. Grow Your Own.
5. Any Subject (for children under 16).

Spring plant sale: Saturday 7 May – see advert bottom right page 11.

Visit to snowdrop and crocus garden: A score of the club’s members enjoyed their first outing of the year in late February – to see the stupendous snowdrops and crocuses of Mitchmere Farm, at Stoughton, to the north west of Chichester (below).



Outing programme for early summer revealed: Graffham Garden Group has posted details of its first three outings for its summer season (below) – with more dates for later months to be added in due course.

To book your place on any of these trips, or for more information, please contact Nicky West on 867048 or at nicolamwest@btinternet.com

25 May	Wed	Crypt Farm, Cocking Private garden in a wonderful setting with views to the South Downs. Cost is £6, including tea and cake.	
9 June	Thu	Beckhams, Chiddingfold. Private garden developed over the past 11 years with herbaceous borders, tropical garden, wild flower meadow, fruit trees.	
8 July	Fri	Denmans, Fontwell. Former home and garden of the late John Brookes MBE, one of Britain’s most influential landscape and garden designers.	

School report: Update from Graffham and Duncton

Time for dressing up and Easter egg rolling: We write in the midst of a mini 'outbreak' at Graffham School, with several children absent having tested positive for Covid. Thankfully it appears nobody is super-poorly so we hope to be back at full strength again soon.

March is the month for dressing up. We had a great time on World Book Day, dressing up as our favourite book characters and getting together with Nursery for a Grand Costume Parade. We enjoyed getting to know some new books written by one author who was our theme for the day. Then Red Nose Day provided another opportunity to wear home clothes for the day (with a red theme) whilst raising money for a great cause.



We can't believe that we are already nearing the end of our second term of the year, looking forward to our Easter Service led by Reverend Vivien, and the traditional Graffham School egg-rolling competition afterwards!

Vacancy for a governor – ideally with finance skills: Graffham Infant and Duncton Junior CoE Schools have an opportunity to add a new member to their Governing Body, due to a retirement – and are looking for someone with experience ideally in finance and accounting to join the Finance and Premises Committee. No formal qualifications are required, and an extensive programme of training is available. You just need to be at least 18.

Vice-Chair of Governors Jane Landstrom said: "While we are particularly keen for someone with finance skills, we'd welcome hearing from anyone locally, including those with marketing and HR skills, who has a passion for improving the life chances of children here and can offer some time and enthusiasm. This is a critical time for small, rural schools as education funding poses increasing challenges. Our schools are facing these challenges head on, and we are proud of our forward-looking, strategic approach to ensuring the best education to the children in our care."

- To find out more, see graffhamanddunton.w-sussex.sch.uk or email office@duntonjunior.org.uk



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



Tea in the Garden

Plant sale, tea and homemade cake
in Carole and Jim's garden

Raising money in aid of



Sunday 15 May, 2pm – 5pm
Boswells Cottage, Graffham, GU28 0NL
All welcome



Springtime coffee morning

in aid of St Giles Church,
Graffham



Wednesday, 18 May,
10.30am – 12noon
Occam Cottage,
Graffham

*courtesy of
Robin and Jan Brind*
Everyone warmly welcome

Making a full return after being
sorely missed by so many

FITTLEWORTH GARDEN TRAIL

Bank Holiday Sunday/Monday 1/2 May
2-6pm 13 gardens open

* Unique Woodland Trail –over 600 trees & shrubs collected from around the world*

Fulling Mills Restoration of Medieval Cottage & Garden

Plants sale

Quiz

Book Stall

Local Artists' Work

Historical summary of participating homes

Refreshments/Teas/Sandwiches/Cakes

Funds to St Mary's Church Fittleworth

Tickets on the day at Fittleworth Village Hall

All enquiries: Charles Clark, 01798 865202, charles.pymble@gmail.com



Graffham Garden Group Spring Plant Sale

Empire Hall, Graffham
Saturday 7 May 2022
10-11am

A wide range of vegetable
plants only will be on sale
including tomatoes,
cucumbers, courgettes, beans
No pre-orders or deliveries

Enquiries:
Carole Kirke 01798 867026

Plans swing in for complete overhaul of playground

Planning is well underway to give Graffham's playground a complete overhaul as a Platinum Jubilee legacy project for the village, with fund-raising kicking off in earnest this month, *writes joint editor Michael Blunt*.

A team has been formed to lead the scheme, comprising:

- Graffham parish councillor John Bracey, who has just taken on the chairmanship of the Graffham Rec Committee after the role had been vacant for two years.
- New Graffham Rec Committee member Giovanni Soffietto, who has been appointed its officer with responsibility for the playground – a fitting choice, as a father of two toddlers and a baby.
- Sonya Gillespie, adding to the project the perspective of a Mum with school-age children.

The aim is to create a new fenced-off area for toddlers with an area also for older children. Timing for the development, along with its scope, will depend on how much money they are able to raise – and how fast the cash comes in. The work is likely to be carried out in at least two phases, with everything as ecologic as possible, created from timber and other natural resources, in harmony with its national park setting.

Proposals and tenders have been sought and received from a number of companies specialising in making playgrounds. The team will be submitting applications this month for grants from organisations that fund this kind of initiative – Sport England, South Downs National Park, the National Lottery Fund, West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council. Graffham Parish Council is supportive of the project – and individuals in the community are also being invited to get behind it with donations.



Getting into the swing of it: John Bracey (left) and Giovanni Soffietto

As part of their planning, the team has visited playgrounds in other villages and towns nearby, including Fittleworth and Easebourne which have both recently had their facilities completely rebuilt, each costing £100,000 plus, with the lion's share coming via grants and local authorities. Giovanni, who



How the new playground could look – an artist’s impression from one of the companies tendering for the project.

has lived at Chapel View, next to the village shop, for two years, said: “That may seem like a lot of money – and it is – but this is a once-in-a-generation project, creating a legacy that will last many decades.”

The current playground equipment, which is believed to be almost 40 years old, was given a touch up a dozen or so years ago but is now deemed to be largely unfit for purpose.

John Bracey said: “We are incredibly lucky in so many ways here in Graffham. We have this fabulous recreation field with its superb pavilion, home to our vibrant tennis club and brilliant bowls club with its own clubhouse. The recent refurbishment of the Empire Hall has given us a village hall the envy of many other communities. We have a first-rate shop, some marvellous pubs, a wonderful church and village school. The playground is now rather letting the side down.

“We want to turn it into something all of us can be proud of, that matches the best around – a long-lasting asset for the entire village, making Graffham an even more attractive place for all of us to live.”

Giovanni, added: “Other villages who have recently upgraded their

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playgrounds have seen lots of other benefits as a result. At Fittleworth, for instance, takings in the shop increased markedly after the playground there was rebuilt. It's been great not just for local families, but also for older residents being visited by grandchildren."

Graffham's playground sits in the south west corner of the village's 6.9 acre recreation ground, which was gifted to the village in 1948 by the Macdonald-Buchanan family, who lived then at Lavington Stud. It is held by Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) and leased and maintained by Graffham Parish Council under the management of the Graffham Rec Committee.

With a broad smile on his face, new Chairman John said: "Anyone who knows me will say I'm one of the least sporty people around, but my role here is to look after the rec's infrastructure for current users and so we can hopefully attract more people to enjoy this amazing asset."

While the village stopped fielding its own football team some time ago, the soccer pitch is used for training by another local side, and while the men's cricket team has been dormant for a couple of seasons, there are occasional ladies' cricket and stoolball fixtures. Giovanni is hoping to get touch rugby sessions up and running for other local young Dads - "an hour or so on a Saturday morning to work up a sweat and get the blood pumping without getting hammered".

- If you would like to support the playground initiative - or play touch rugby - contact Giovanni at graffhamplayground@gmx.co.uk

Beautiful spring sunset over

Graffham: Thanks to © Paul Stickley for posting this spectacular March sunset photo on Facebook's Beautiful Sights In and Around Graffham page.



Flat shoes Any one over 12 BOWLS club JUNIORS must be accompanied by adult
Open Day

Sun 24 April 2.30pm

NEW members Welcome

Any queries phone

01798 867770



Graffham Bowls Club invites you to roll up

Graffham Bowls Club is inviting all local residents and friends to give the game a go at its annual Opening Day Sunday on 24 April from 2.30pm.

The club is what secretary Liz Pegram describes as 'a hidden gem', with its own perfectly manicured greens and pavilion, discretely tucked away behind the hedges in the south east corner of the recreation ground.

Everyone is welcome to join in or watch at any time on its Open Sunday - or any of its regular practice nights, on Mondays at 6pm from April to September, weather permitting.

Liz says: "Bowls is a relaxing competitive sport for all ages. All you need are flat shoes and a sense of humour! We look forward to seeing you!"

Membership is open to anyone aged over 12 - juniors must be accompanied by an adult.

- For any queries or more information, call Liz on 01798 867770.

Please support us: Graffham Parish News is delivered to every home in Graffham and East Lavington each month - for free. If you like reading the magazine, then please contribute towards its costs through a monthly online donation to its publisher, our village parish - and help safeguard the future of the village's beautiful and historic St Giles Church. It only takes a minute, at bit.ly/stggive1

Graffham Tennis Club: What it did for us, it can for you!

Joint editor and leading Graffham Tennis Club member Philippa Sanders encourages young families new to the village to take full advantage of what the rec and tennis club have to offer.

It is about 20 years since a group of families moved to Graffham, with, incredibly, many children in the same age bracket. Despite going to several different schools, one thing that kept them all together was a friendship based largely around the rec – and the tennis club.

Apart from some other rural pastimes such as ‘river running’ or ‘extreme butt sliding’ (details on request!), we were also lucky enough to have three years running when there was sufficient snow to make the slopes above Tagents Farm the setting for the Graffham Snow Club – so memorably celebrated in the 2012 Jubilee parade.

Central to their idyllic childhood, though, was undoubtedly the rec, where there were frequent ‘Dads and lads’ (and ‘Mums and daughters’) kickabouts, picnics and so on.

As the children grew into teenagers and were less inclined to spend time with their parents, the typical Sunday afternoon gathering would involve meeting for tennis, maybe some football, rounded off with a trip to the shop for ice creams.

In due course this became the mainstay of revision for exams, where the gang would revise until early afternoon before taking their frustrations out on the tennis court. (And a very fine set of academic results can be claimed by them all!)

This might all seem unrealistic and nostalgic, but it must be pointed out that it did take place in the era of electronic distractions such as Playstations and youngsters themselves do recognise what an exceptional childhood they were fortunate enough to have.

The current Tennis Club committee (which comprises today mainly that generation’s parents) and key members would love the next cohort of Graffham youngsters to benefit from this sort of childhood. It isn’t going to happen without you, their parents, becoming involved in some way.

If the idea of being on a committee fills you with dread (we only meet around nine times a year) there are plenty of opportunities to help out in



Some of the children who 'grew up' at Graffham Tennis Club and on the rec, in the mid-2000s – and who still turn out on the courts now they are in their early 20s.. Can you work out who they are?! No clues – and no prizes!



tennis week – this year running from 23 July. There are many of us oldies who will be there to help out. Even just organising for a couple of families to meet with children on a summer weekend afternoon sets the scene for the wholesome sort of upbringing we are talking about. If you feel that you would like to become more directly involved, we'd be delighted to have a chat. We have ideas along the lines of turn-up-and-play sessions, mini fun tournaments, ball-machine sessions etc. Practice makes perfect, and certainly complements the excellent Hopp Coaching.

You can call Denise Clay on 07771 948343 or 01798 867035 or email admin@graffhamtennis.co.uk. Even better, come and sound us out at club evenings on Thursdays at 6pm, starting on 7 April. There is always at least one committee member present and it doesn't matter if you can't play.

Do help Graffham to produce the next Emma Raducanu!

COFFEE MORNING AND CAKE SALE
in aid of Disaster Emergency Committee's
Ukraine Appeal

EMPIRE HALL, GRAFFHAM
Saturday 23 April,
10.30am-12noon

Meet your neighbour: Ladywell Cottage's Edges

A regular feature, in which we meet one of our village neighbours. This month, editor Michael Blunt catches up with John and Barbara Edge, who moved into one of Graffham's most photographed buildings, Ladywell Cottage, in November 2020, with their two Golden Retriever dogs, two geese and a brood of chickens.

John Edge was born in 'a one-horse town' in Alberta, Canada, where his father was stationed as an RAF flying instructor late in World War II. His parents, with their new arrival and his elder brother, returned to the UK in an Atlantic convoy as hostilities in Europe were nearing an end.

As an RAF officer, his Dad was stationed to different parts of the world every two years, with the family following him – to Egypt during the Suez crisis, where the only thing John remembers learning at school was sewing, which was to prove very useful in his training as a surgeon, to Paris, where Edge senior was attached to NATO headquarters during the Cuban crisis, and all over Britain.

Despite changing schools regularly as the family relocated – ending up as head boy at Nelson's alma mater, The Paston School in Norfolk – he won a place at St Andrew's University to read Medicine and gained a private pilot's licence in his spare time.

Which is where he met Barbara, at a freshers' dance on her second day there after enrolling two years after him to read French and Spanish.

She had been born in Cheshire, where she lived until 18. She went to a



The Edge's Ladywell Cottage has long been one of Graffham's most photographed houses.

boarding school in Hertfordshire, then won an English Speaking Union scholarship to spend a 'gap year' at a school near Boston, in the USA, travelling throughout the States and Canada by Greyhound bus before returning home with an American twang to her voice. As John's medical degree was six years long,

she graduated a year before him and took a teaching job in Devon, so courting took on a long distance approach with all the challenges that those pre-mobile phone and internet days involved. They married soon afterwards. On leaving university, he worked as a junior doctor in Dundee teaching hospital, then at



Exeter, London's Royal Marsden, Hammersmith, Guildford and Southampton Neuro and Orthopaedia departments, before being appointed Orthopaedic Consultant Surgeon to St Richard's Chichester, Worthing and Shoreham Hospitals in 1980, where he stayed until retiring in 2015. He served additionally as the Royal College of Surgeons Regional Advisor and then Chairman of its Orthopaedic training board for South East England. He was also a trustee of the Orthopaedic Research UK charity.

They lived in an old farmhouse at Climping for 40 years, with fields behind that backed onto the sea. With occasional breaks to raise a family and support John's private practice, Barbara continued to teach, including for long stints at Rosemead School, Littlehampton, and Lavant School, near Chichester. She was a parish councillor for 20 years and served as a school governor, and on West Sussex County Council's Joint Downland Committee and on the Conservation Board for Arun.

They have two married sons with three grandsons and a granddaughter. Barbara's mother lives nearby and will be 99 this month.

What brought you to Graffham? We loved our time at Climping. It was quite a remote place when we first lived there, but in the end there was just too much building and traffic around us, and we wanted to downsize.

We knew Graffham reasonably well before moving here, through Lynn and Ian Taverner, who lived at Boswells Cottage (now Jim and Carol Kirke's home) who we met on holiday in France. Matthew and Jude Sennitt (Graffham Down Discs, March edition) were close neighbours and friends in Climping and told us how much they loved the village after moving here.

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So we started looking for a house close to Petworth when Lawrence and Diana (Bun) Payne put Ladywell on the market. When we first came to see it, potential purchasers were lined up in cars leading through the village, and each of us was given just a 10-minute viewing slot. It was the prettiest house we had seen, in such a beautiful position, with a lovely garden and walks up on to the Downs on the track next to us. We put in an offer the very next day – not quite realising how low some of the beams are inside!

After buying it, we had to rent it out for a while as the sale of our house in Climping fell through twice. We eventually moved in on the first day of the second lockdown – and not even our family could come and visit us for months. We'd spend hours in our front garden, just so we could meet friendly new neighbours as they passed by walking their dogs.

We love it here. Everyone is so friendly. We've entered village life quite fully, attending St Giles Church, where John is learning to ring the bells. He's also taking part in Graffham Down Trust work parties (when not sailing his 26ft boat, moored in Chichester Harbour), and Barbara's enjoying the keep fit sessions at the Empire Hall, and Graffham Empire Movies.

Filled in your form for ultrafast broadband yet?

OpenReach contacted at the end of February all 215 people throughout the village who had expressed interest in receiving ultrafast broadband – with more than 150 of them completing the forms to confirm they want to proceed with the scheme, as this edition went to press.



That means the project has enough support for it to go ahead, says one of its coordinators, Mark Stewart.

Which means that up to 365 homes and businesses in Graffham, East Lavington and Hoyle will be able to benefit from the fastest possible ultrafast broadband

when it is completed within 12 months – with the infrastructure, costing more than half a million pounds, paid for in full by grants from the government and West Sussex County Council.

If you have not yet returned your paperwork, then you are asked to do so as soon as possible.

- Any queries, please email Mark at mark.stewart@aldingtoncapital.com

First Lent lunch supports Sussex families in need



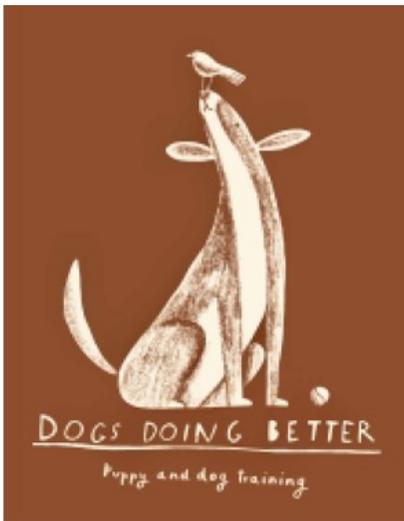
More than £200 was raised for Sussex Christian charity Family Support Work, which helps families in need, at the parish's first Lent lunch on 15 March hosted by Sue Hill at Graffham House, with guest speaker Kirsty, the charity's social work practitioner for the Midhurst and Petworth areas, helping families in need. St Giles Church also makes an annual donation to the charity, which needs to raise some £900,000 a year to fund its work.

Liz's lead will have your dog learn to do better

Graffham resident Liz Nicholson has just launched her own dog training venture. Her Dogs Doing Better offers reward-based training, based on the Institute of Modern Dog Trainers (IMDT) non-aversive techniques. She will be offering a block of eight weekly lessons, starting at the beginning of May, covering all the basics – recall, sit, loose lead walking and general dog handling. Agility classes for older dogs will also be available.

Liz's services are fully insured and are being launched after she has undergone thorough training herself.

- To find out more, email her at dogsdoingbetter@gmail.com



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

Letters to the editor: The column 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!

I was particularly interested to read your obituary of long-serving Seaford College choir master Philip Hill (March edition). I remember 'Tweet', as we called him, very well. As a former Seaford chorister, I actually sang under his baton in most of those places mentioned in the article – though not in Russia or in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (LOL). Sad to see he passed away. *David Gordon-Smith, Foresters Arms.*

Compensation due if Storm Eunice cut your power

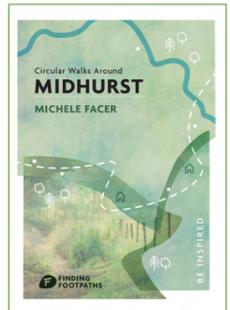
Householders in the village and nationwide who lost their electricity for more than 48 hours in late February's big storms can claim compensation from their power provider. Under the rules, they are obliged to give £70 to each billpayer if the electricity was off for 48 hours after a severe storm and then another £70 for each extra hours, up to a maximum of £700. To find out more and details on how to claim if you have not already done so, see this Citizens' Advice Bureau website: bit.ly/powercutcomp

New book of walks around Midhurst area published

A new walking guide featuring eight strolls starting and finishing in Midhurst is to be published this month by local author and ramblor Michele Facer.

Beautifully illustrated with her own photographs and with maps and artwork by Graffham Parish News advertiser HOOLI, Michele describes her *Circular Walks Around Midhurst* as 'a brand new take on the traditional walking guides most of us are used to'.

All the routes start and end at Midhurst's Market Square. Intended for walkers of all abilities, they vary in length from 5 to 18km but each has longer and shorter versions. They all also come with a theme, featuring snippets of local history and notes on wildlife and culture as you discover some of the lesser known local footpaths.



The book will be available from 9 April, on sale in local shops, at £16.



What did you do in Lockdown, Jo, Sarah and Zoe?

Many of us took on new challenges or started new hobbies during those many months of the past couple of years when we were hardly allowed to leave our homes. What about you, we asked earlier this year?

Three Graffham seamstresses supported the NHS when personal protection equipment (PPE) was in such short supply early in the pandemic by sewing hundreds of sets of 'scrubs'. Sarah Walker, of Eastwood Stud, and Zoe Jones, of Stewarts Cottage, answered a call from Jo Martin, of Josephine Ellen Interiors, at Coultershaw Bridge, (see advert, page 6) to provide our health professionals with the much-needed clothing.

For Jo and Zoe, in particular, it was something of a change from what they normally stitch with their sewing machines – Jo usually specialises in curtains, upholstery and other interior furnishings, while Zoe produces beds for dogs and other pets.

The fabric for the PPE they sewed up came from wherever they could source it. Zoe even made one top and trouser set, by request, in one of her dog bed fabrics (left) for a customer who works in a hospital in



Jo (above) and Zoe (below) stitch their scrubs.



Cheshire. Others benefitting from the hundreds of scrubs they made included teams at Petworth Surgery (top), Midhurst's Macmillan nurses, St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, and Haslemere Health Centre.

Graffham Down Discs: Alison Davidson

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 Radio 4's evergreen. This month's spotlight falls on Alison Davidson.

Born in Durham, Alison spent her childhood in Oxford. After qualifying as a doctor in London, she opted for general practice and worked in Oxford until she married Richard and they moved to Twickenham. They settled in Graffham's Brookdene House in 2001 with sons Tom and Peter. With a large garden, she enjoys being on the committee of the Graffham Garden Group. She has also rung the bells at St Giles Church for many years. Ever since coming to the village, she has been involved in the Graffham Health Support Association (GHSA), serving as its chairman since 2010 until stepping down at its AGM late last month.



- 1 **Swan Lake** *Tchaikovsky* Makes me think of my mother, who was a ballet dancer. I'm seeing it at the Royal Opera House soon, lucky me!
 - 2 **Skye Boat Song** *Solo bagpiper, Band of the Scot's Guards* Reminds me of family camping holidays on Skye while my father geologised.
 - 3 **Dancing Queen** *ABBA* Impossible to resist dancing to this.
 - 4 **On this Night of a Thousand Stars, from Evita** *Jimmy Nail* Sexy voice, or what?!
 - 5 **Grand March from Aida** *Verdi* A 'must' sing along – but only when alone sadly as my singing days are over.
 - 6 **Me and Bobby McGee** *Janice Joplin* I listened to this all the time in my twenties.
 - 7 **Hey Jude** *The Beatles* I can't ignore this band. So much part of my life.
 - 8 **Theme music from Succession** *Nicholas Britell* An entertaining TV series, but the music is the highlight.
- Book:** **North and South** by **Elizabeth Gaskell** A book I love. So beautifully written. A copy was given to my grandfather by his friend Charles Gaskell Higginson, a member of Elizabeth Gaskell's family.
- Luxury item:** A constant flow of free heating to keep me snug forever!

Tim and Celia Tinker are leaving Graffham after more than 40 years – moving from Tangletrees with its garden of several acres to a house in Worthing with just a courtyard. So none of their outdoor equipment can go with them. Their solution is what promises to be

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Tangletrees
overlooking the recreation ground
Saturday 9 April
10am–12.30pm and 2–4pm

ADVANCE VIEWING BY ARRANGEMENT
SEE BELOW



HOW IT WORKS

SALE DAY:

Saturday 9 April, from 10am until 12.30pm and then again from 2pm to 4pm.

AUCTION ITEMS:

Place your highest bids:

- ♣ In advance by email to graffhamchristmasfair@gmail.com
 - ♣ Or on sale day at Tangletrees, overlooking the rec, where they will all be in display.
- All items to be paid for on sale day.
Collection of larger items by agreement.

ITEMS TO BAG ON THE DAY:

Just make an acceptable offer, pay and take them away there and then. Payment by cash, credit card or contactless.

ADVANCE VIEWING:

All items will be available to view by appointment on Saturday or Sunday 2 or 3 April or on Friday 8 April. Call 01798 867287 to make a viewing appointment. Photos and details of auction items are available at stgilesgraffham.org/gardensale

For full details and T&Cs: See stgilesgraffham.org/gardensale

Auction items

Bid in person on sale day – or in advance by email to graffhamchristmasfair@gmail.com

For full details, photos of each lot, and T&Cs, see stgilesgraffham.org/gardensale

1. John Deere X126 ride-on mower (new 2020, serviced Feb 2022) and older
2. Honda Izy Mower, serviced annually. Easy starter.
3. Viking electric shredder with 30m+ cable.
4. Stihl chain saw MS181, newish, serviced summer 2021, plus log horse.
5. Bosch electric hedge cutter AHS50-26, with goggles and gloves.
6. Husqvarna petrol trimmer 225R with harness.
7. Kettler outdoor table tennis table, with net and bats.
8. Pool table, 95cm x 135cm, support frame, balls, cues, etc.
9. Giant ladies 3 speed bicycle, little used, front tyre needs attention.
10. Extending aluminium ladder, two-piece, each 4m, with gutter space-off and roof ridge grip.
11. Four 1930 croquet mallets, plus vintage hoops and 1990 wood balls.
12. Eight Matthew Hilton dark grey plastic stacking chairs.
13. Britannia vintage cast-iron table with modern top.
14. Lion head bench.
15. Lego – a massive treasure trove.
16. Two remote-controlled aero buggies, need batteries - money back if not working!
17. 3m x 6m telescopic frame white marquee, works as gazebo if sides omitted.
18. 3m x 3m telescopic frame dark green gazebo.
19. 3m x 3m DIY frame assembly white marquee, works as gazebo if sides omitted.
20. 3m x 4m DIY frame assembly white gazebo.

Tangletrees overlooking the recreation ground
Saturday 9 April, 10am–12.30pm and 2–4pm

Items to bag on the day

Make an acceptable offer to bag a bargain on sale day.

Fun, games and children's things

- Child's designer balance bike.
- Childs' wigwam with built-in ground sheet.
- Fold-up baby feeding chair.
- Two child's car seats.
- Unused ice skates with boots.
- Swing ball kits.
- Badminton net and rackets, etc.
- Hammock.
- Football practice net.
- Inflatable dingy with paddles.
- Inflatable paddling pool

DIY kit

- Black+Decker Workmate bench.
- Bosch electric jig saw
- Black+Decker electric paint stripper.
- Black+Decker Tough Truck
- Set of drain rods with attachments.
- Electric extension leads.
- Big timber trestle ladder.
- Small aluminium trestle ladder.
- Tools, incl. hand saws, crowbar, bolt cutter.

Garden goodies

- Teak picnic tables.
- Bentwood chairs.
- White painted IKEA chairs.
- Director chairs.
- Sun parasols with metal bases.
- Electric fence gear, wire, posts & charger
- Small wheelbarrow, plastic, solid wheel.
- Thermostatic electric fan heaters.
- Roofing felt.
- Garden books
- Assorted garden tools
- Shoulder strap sprayer and hand sprayer.



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Horticulture 

Empire Hall hosts Abba and James Taylor gigs



Music fans have been flocking to the Empire Hall since our March edition went to press, for two sell-out gigs.

Almost 200 fans of Sweden's most famous musical export packed onto the floor on 19 February to dance the night away to a performance by the ABBA Sensation tribute band, on its return by popular demand.

Four weeks later, an all seated near capacity audience of almost 120 were treated to a celebration of the songs of multi-award winner James Taylor by London-based band Hourglass.



Diary of a New Farm: Bedding in our Reds

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.

This month has been all about settling in our five new Red Poll girls. Just recently, we've started grazing our latest quintet of native breed cows together with our more established Northern Dairy Shorthorns. This has been a gradual process to avoid spooking any of them. It was important that their initial meeting went well as they will be at Slow Grown Farm together for hopefully the next 20 years or so.

When the Red Polls first arrived, we unloaded them two fields away from the Northern Dairy Shorthorns (NDSs). They definitely spotted each other and there was some mooing across the farm to one another. The next step was to move the Red Polls into the field next door to the NDSs, where they could meet through the farm gate. I was there for the first meeting, heart in mouth as the Red Polls waited on the other side of the gate while the NDSs

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plodded along behind me. Interestingly it was one of the loner NDS girls, Hazel, who stepped forward first towards her (in comparison) giant new friends. A bit of nose touching and the biggest and boldest NDS, Juniper, stepped forward to investigate, too. Soon they were all gathered at the gate, and the most confident Red Poll, Rye, was enthusiastically trying to lick the NDSs through the gate!

Next step was to divide a field in half with just an electric fence wire between them. Each herd had access to its own separate trough, so it was the perfect set up for getting them closer. Another successful meeting ensued, and that morning we noticed from the patches of flattened grass that the girls had slept close to each other, either side of the electric fence.

Things were going so well that we only needed one more day before taking that dividing line down – so the girls could graze all together as one herd. We've noticed that Red Polls Rye and Fescue are happy to mingle with the NDSs, but fellow Red Polls Trefoil, Sainfoin and Bugle prefer to stick together when grazing, away from everyone else. Now that the two herds are merged, there is opportunity within the girls to change rank, and for a new matriarch to be established. It's bound to be one of the Red Polls as they are much bigger, and twice the age of the NDSs, but as the NDSs grow that may change again. It's fascinating to watch the herd dynamics unfold and see different personalities revealed.

Overall, the two herds are getting on harmoniously, with the odd warning head swing from an older Red Poll when a boisterous NDS tries to come too close, but nothing to cause concern.

We're so pleased with how everyone is progressing, in particular the Red Polls who are joining the NDSs in heading towards us when we enter the field, and then follow us calmly towards the electric fence to wait patiently as we open a new section of grass for the day. All the cows have accepted the grazing system, the field layouts and most importantly, Brett and me!



North Dairy Shorthorn Maple (left) meets Red Poll Rye through the farm gate for the first time. © Katie Foreman

Graffham Parish News' ab-fab April quiz

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

1 The Queen will be 96 on 21 April, but which royal will be four on St George's Day (23 April)?



2 At the end of this National Hunt season all guard rails and take-off boards on fences and hurdles at British horse racing tracks will be changed from orange to white. Why?

3 Which actor, a long-standing member of the cast of *Casualty*, starred with Bob Hoskins and Helen Mirren in the 1980 film *The Long Good Friday*?



4 What is the latest date Easter Sunday has fallen?

5 Mr and Mrs Hinton were running which Graffham village pub in 1949?

6 What was the significance of map reference 41° 46' North, 50° 14' West, in the Atlantic Ocean on 15 April 1912?

7 What did Jim Gilstrap suggest you do with one of your parents in his hit single which reached number 4 in the UK in April 1975?

8 Which leader of the USSR was born in the Ukraine?

9 One of Henry VIII's queens and an actress who played a James Bond leading lady share which name?

10 What record did James Cracknell set when he participated in the main 2019 Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race?



Answers: 1 Prince Louis of Cambridge. 2 Recent research has shown that horses see white better than orange. 3 Derek Thompson (Charlie Fairhead in *Casualty*). 4 25 April, in 1943 (2038 will be the same). 5 The Woodman, which closed in 1959. 6 Last reported position of RMS *Titanic*. 7 *Swing your Daddy*. 8 Leonid Brezhnev. 9 Jane Seymour. 10 He became the oldest competitor, aged 46.

Bill's bygones: Boat Race, Martin Bell, Falklands

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

10 years ago – April 2012: The White Horse holds its first quiz, but Graffham Empire Movies cancels its April presentation because of recent poor attendances. The Midhurst Players perform *Much Ado About Shakespeare*, a review produced by Graffham resident Julie Tickner. Trenton Oldfield, protesting against elitism, swims in front of the crews and disrupts the 158th Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race. *The Avengers*, the highest grossing film of the year (and third highest of all time), is released. Carly Rae Jepsen is number one in the UK charts with *Call Me Maybe*.

25 years ago – April 1997: Graffham members of the Lodsworth Oil Consortium are informed the current price is 12.65p per litre plus VAT. A 'race night' is held in Graffham school hall to raise money for a new computer and CD Rom. A Pegasus rocket carries the remains of 24 people into Earth orbit in the first space burial. BBC journalist Martin Bell announces he is standing against Neil Hamilton in the Tatton constituency on an anti-corruption ticket. The last MORI poll before the General Election tips Labour for a landslide victory. Death of Brylcream Boy and England cricketer Denis Compton, aged 78.

40 years ago – April 1982: The four bells of St Giles Church, having been removed from the church's tower, are refurbished at a foundry in Loughborough. Future Lord Young of Graffham becomes Chairman of the Manpower Services Commission. Argentine forces land on the Falkland Islands and take South Georgia, but they are recaptured by the British before the end of the month. Nicole wins the Eurovision Song Contest for Germany with *Ein Bisschen Frieden*. Death of Arthur Lowe, alias *Dad's Army's* Captain Mainwaring, aged 66.



Among the Graffham folk pictured with St Giles' old fourth bell after its removal from the bell tower are current residents George White (second left) and Harriet Rowntree née Mozley (second right).

Graffham Chronicles: Where cider apples grew

A regular column by village historian Pauline Goodwin



January's Apple Howling light festival at Michelham Priory, East Sussex.

In dark midwinter, it was cheering to witness the Sussex Archeological Society traditional light festival at Michelham Priory on 2 January 2022. Such events already occur annually in Singleton and Bolney but 500 years ago they took place right across Sussex. They could start on Christmas Eve but were usually between Twelfth Night (5 January) and Old Twelvey Night (17 January).

According to Alice Millard, of the West Sussex record office, it 'was as an important tradition as making a New Year resolution'. This event was akin to wassailing, involving flaming torches, a lot of noise and merry making. 'Wassail' is believed to be derived from the Old English 'was hál', meaning 'be hale' or 'good health'. In Sussex, this particular form of the wassail is called 'apple howling'.

What is apple howling? After night has fallen, a shotgun is fired to start the general hullabaloo. Villagers process to the orchard singing, shouting, playing instruments and beating drums. At the orchard, the trees are thrashed by all, including children. Cider is poured onto the trees' roots and cider-soaked toast is hung from the branches. Tradition has it that the thrashing removed dead wood, stimulated shoot formation, and awakened the trees from their slumber. Another shotgun blast ends the hullabaloo at the end of the proceedings, when the trees are blessed by the local vicar – for this was a serious business!

You may ask where are the apple orchards of Graffham? Many no longer exist. In my memory, most of the older houses with large gardens in the heart of the village also had orchards. For example, in the mid-70s

Thereaway and Pescod's Stores had large orchards. Apple Trees was built on Ariel Cottage's orchard. On the road to the rec stands The Old Orchard Cottage, and at Woodcote there were extensive orchards at Haylands.

The orchard at Thereaway was adjacent to the house, across the lane. When I was a brownie, my Brown Owl, Katie Callan lived there. She held Brownie Halloween parties with bobbing for apples, surely a precursor to water boarding, as you inhaled vast quantities of water while snaffling an apple! John and Hilda Holland kept a couple of donkeys on the extensive orchard behind Pescod Stores. Penny, their daughter, and I invented our own form of apple howling when we attempted to ride the donkeys and they bolted under the tree, seemingly trying to decapitate us!

Across Graffham, Lavington Park and into Duncton, orchards produced apples. In Jacqueline Simpson's *Folklore of Sussex* she mentions a 1906 *West Sussex Gazette* article about Duncton: "The chief wassailer there is Mr Richard Knight, who has discharged his duties for 54 years. Dressed in a grotesque costume... he heads a procession of villagers carrying horns etc..... Surrounding the largest apple tree, they chant:

Here stands a jolly good old apple tree.

Stand fast, root; bear well top.

Every little bough, bear an apple now:

Every little twig, bear an apple big

Hats fill, caps full, threequarter sacks full!

Whoop, whoop, holloa! Blow, blow, blow the horns!

Richard's son, 'Spratty' Knight, took over in the 1920s when Miss L N Candlin recalls that the howlers went from farm to farm, including Lavington House, ending up at The Cricketers Inn. In 1933, Petworth photographer George Garland captured cider makers Dick Bicknell and Jesse Dalmon. Dick had been pressing cider apples for 40 years and took the cider press to orchards across West Sussex.



Graffham cider makers Dick Bicknell and Jesse Dalman photographed by George Garland in 1933

▶ *Continued on next page*

► *Continued from previous page*

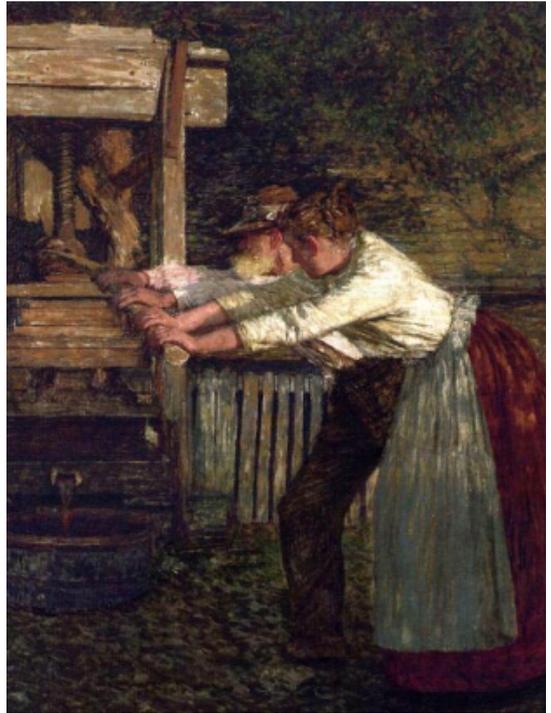
It demonstrates how integral cider making was to Sussex people. Certainly, up until the late 19th century workers received part of their payment as cider. In 1878 payment for labour with cider was declared illegal and so the Sussex workers went on strike!

Cider was vital to the Sussex economy and provided a safe drink. In *The Beginning of Orchards*, Rebecca Roseff mentions a sales receipt cataloguing the sale of Sussex cider from 1275.

More surprisingly, there is a reference from 1349 to Roger Daber to take 52 barrels and one pip of cider to Shoreham Harbour to be exported to Calais. Why is this surprising? Firstly, exporting cider to France, which is nowadays a mega-producer of the beverage, seems like taking coals to Newcastle – but cider was not produced there at this time. The second surprise is the delightful use of ‘pip’ for a quantity of cider. Spelling of the English language at this time was fluid and the usual spelling was ‘pipe’ which equalled two barrels.

The most famous Graffham orchards were at Haylands – which were captured by the artist Henry La Thangue, who lived there. His paintings contained characters he referred to as ‘real country models’, or real Graffham people.

His monumental *A Sussex Cider Press* was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1898 – just one in the series of his Haylands’ apple orchard paintings. E.V Lucas wrote in 1904: “La Thangue’s....scenes of peasants at work.... and studies of sunlight spattering through the trees are among the triumphs of modern English art.” I’ll drink to that!



Henry La Thangue’s painting *A Sussex Cider Press* could have been called *A Graffham Cider Press*



Ratty, Mole, Toad and Badger to visit Coultershaw

Coultershaw Heritage Site, on the River Rother halfway between Graffham and Petworth, is introducing a new Wind in the Willows Trail this summer, inspired by the characters in the classic book by Kenneth Grahame, illustrated originally by Ernest Shepherd, who lived at Lodsworth.

Families will be able to pick up a trail booklet to guide them around the site to spot where Ratty, Mole, Toad and Badger might be spending their time. Children will be invited to complete a variety of challenges along the way and collect animal stamps to stick in their reward chart to claim a prize, encouraging them to learn about the area's wildlife and environment.

The trail will be available on each of the heritage site's open days this year – with the next one on 20 April. On Saturday and Sunday, 23 and 24 July, a professional theatrical company will present a special Wind In The Willows production at Coultershaw, as part of Petworth Festival – a blend of theatre, story-telling and audience interaction for the entire family.



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Nature Notes: Surest tip that spring has sprung

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

This time of the year I often get asked: "What's that butterfly with the orange tips on the end of its wings called?"

"Well," I reply, "its scientific name is *Anthocharis* meaning 'flower grace', probably because this beautiful butterfly lends a certain grace to the flowers it frequents. In the 18th century it was 'The Lady of the Woods' – a seductive title well deserved by the best-looking butterfly of the spring. The Germans celebrate its beauty in the name *Aurotafalter*, the sunrise butterfly. The French honour it with the poetic title *L'Auroré*, the rising sun."

"So, what do we call it?"

"Well, we call it the Orange-Tip – because it has orange tips on the end of its wings."

Who gave this exquisite insect such an unimaginative name? It's more than just a pair of orange tips. Forget your bluebells and skylarks. The emergence of the orange-tip is nature's confirmation that spring has

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officially sprung. Only the male orange-tip has those road cone orange wing-tips that visually scream 'look at me, look at me!' as he cruises the hedges and edges. You'd think this flamboyant display would land him on the menu for any passing bird – but he has an unsavoury secret.

He tastes absolutely disgusting. His orange tips make birds recoil when they recall last eating something that colour. To predators he is a flying pot of lime pickle – if you've eaten it once, you'll never eat it again!

The grey-tipped females are more secretive. Once mated, they search the hedgerows for their food plants – cuckooflower and garlic mustard. They tap-dance on the plants and identify them with taste buds in their feet. Once their six soles are satisfied, they lay a single, tiny orange egg (imagine a rugby ball for ants). The egg's shell emits a pheromone which deters other females from laying here because the cute little caterpillar, which hatches out a week or so later, is a cannibal.



Photo © Bob Eade

This caterpillar gets to work eating so much of the flower's seed pods that it starts to look like one (my Mum once warned me a similar phenomenon would happen with me and Monster Munch). Disguised as its diet, it munches through May – the plant toxins it ingests will help to flavour the bitter butterfly. In July, it constructs a curious chrysalis – a bizarre bit of angular architecture attached to a stem by a single string. Inside this post-modern pupa, the caterpillar melts into a cellular soup.

And then the natural world's greatest regeneration takes place. This biological broth builds a butterfly. April sunshine encourages the orange-tip to emerge – that simple flash of orange signalling that an even greater regeneration has finally taken place. Winter has turned to spring.

Did you know...? You can raise funds to help safeguard the future of Graffham's St Giles Church virtually whenever you shop online – at zero additional cost to you. More than 5,000 retailers participate, through easyfundraising, the UK's biggest charity fund-raising site. See stgilesgraffham.org/shopping-online/

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

Balls Cross, Petworth Between Thursday 3 and Friday 4 March, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 1020 05/03.*

Burton Park Road, Petworth Between Sunday 27 and Monday 28 February, mower stolen from a business premises. *Serial 0219 02/03.*

Goodwood, Chichester On Friday 25 February, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 1409 25/02.*

Church Lane, Boxgrove In the early hours of Thursday 24 February, an outbuilding was burgled and a Marlin mountain bike and a power tool stolen. *Serial 0345 24/02.*

London Road, Petworth On Wednesday 23 February, a catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 1295 23/02.*

Heathfield Green, Midhurst Between Thursday 17 and Sunday 20 Feb, a catalytic convertor was stolen from a vehicle. *Serial 0690 20/02.*



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Property watch

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



Squirrels, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NL: Detached bungalow with three/four-bedrooms, two bathrooms, two/three reception rooms, garage and front and rear gardens. Offers in the region of £750,000. **Sold STC** King & Chasemore, Midhurst, 01730 621140.

6 Wallace Square, Lavington Park GU28 0FJ:

Terraced house, built in 2015, with five bedrooms, kitchen/diner sitting room, and two bathrooms, with detached garage and front and rear gardens. £895,000 guide price. Savills, Petworth, 01798 678003.



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

Woodcote Farm House and Woodcote Farm Cottage, Woodcote, Graffham GU28 0NX: Use of two semi-detached dwelling houses as one detached single family dwelling house. SDNP/22/00807/LDP Received: 16 Feb

Barnetts Farm, Fitzlea Wood Road, East Lavington GU28 0QN: Erection of pole for distributing electricity. SDNP/22/00878/OHL Received: 16 Feb

Eastwood Farm, Graffham Road, East Lavington GU28 0QF: Installation of dormer window. SDNP/22/00640/CND Received: 9 Feb

Elm Cottage, The Street, Graffham GU28 0NS: Structural repair works following subsidence damage. SDNP/22/00506/LIS Received: 2 Feb

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contact editor.graffhamparishnews@gmail.com

Covid infection rates locally: Cases climb up

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

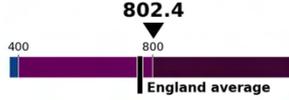


Cases in Easebourne & Petworth

MSOA By date of specimen in the seven days to 16 March 2022

Last 7 days: **64** (↑ 6 on 13 Feb 22)
 Cases per 100,000 people: **802.4** (↑ 75.2 on 13 Feb 22)

Comparison to case rates in other England areas



People vaccinated in Easebourne & Petworth

MSOA Reported on 20 March 2022

1st dose: **90.7%**
 2nd dose: **87.3%**
 3rd dose or boosters: **75.9%**

Cases

People tested positive in Chichester

LOCAL AUTHORITY (LOWER TIER)
 Latest data provided on 21 March 2022

Last 7 days: **1,299** (↑ 239 (22.5%))

Deaths

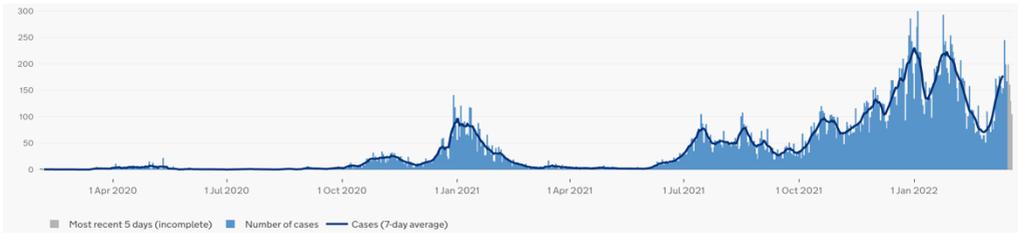
Deaths within 28 days of positive test in Chichester

LOCAL AUTHORITY (LOWER TIER)
 Latest data provided on 21 March 2022

Last 7 days: **7** (↑ 3 (75%))

Rate per 100,000 people: 3.3

Covid positive testing rates for Chichester district:



Source: coronavirus.data.gov.uk as at 22 March

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Anthony Frederick Augustus Sandys (British, 1829-1904), Portrait of Clara Flower (detail), 1872, signed, 63.5 x 51.5cm. Sold £21,000 (plus BP).*

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Petworth Area Churches Together: Easter parade

Congregations from all denominations across the area are being invited to Petworth Area Churches Together's annual Palm Sunday Procession on 10 April at 3pm, through the town's streets – led by donkeys Buster and Ringo.

The procession will start from the Sacred Heart Church then wind its way, singing traditional Easter hymns along the way, via Angel Street, Middle Street and High Street to the United Reformed Church, pausing for readings in Golden and Market Squares, where traffic will be halted, before progressing up Lombard Street to St Mary's Church where it should arrive at around 3.45pm for tea and refreshments.



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.

What's on at our village church and chapel

- All residents of and visitors to Graffham are welcome to all services.
- St Giles Church is at the 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.

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	10am-12nn	Saturday Bell Ringing Practice	St Giles Church
10	Sun	10.30am	Palm Sunday Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
12	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Lent Course	All Saints Chapel
14	Thu	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 with Easter egg hunt	St Giles Church
24	Sun	10.30am	Easter 2 Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
May				
1	Sun	10.30am	Easter 3 Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
3	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Pilgrim Group	All Saints' Chapel
8	Sun	10.30am	Easter 4 Parish Eucharist	St Giles Church
		6pm	Evensong	All Saints Chapel
10	Tue	9.30am	Morning Prayer and Pilgrim Group	All Saints' Chapel
14	Sat	10am-12nn	Saturday Bell Ringing Practice	St Giles Church
		2.30pm	Holly and Lewis's Wedding Blessing	St Giles Church

We rely on the generosity of villagers and visitors to safeguard the future of Graffham's St Giles Church and the ability of our parish to deliver its mission to the community it serves – including this magazine. Please support them through a donation – preferably a regular one via our Parish Giving Scheme. For full details, see www.bit.ly/stggive1

Easter in Graffham and Woolavington



The Rev Vivien previews the services and events planned for the village for this special season.



Sunday, 3 April 6pm: Taizé song, prayer and silence, All Saints Chapel. Everyone welcome at this short ecumenical service using a pattern of worship from the Taizé Community.

Sunday, 10 April 10.30am: Palm Sunday Eucharist, St Giles Church. Blessing of palms and dramatised reading of the Passion Story. Outside donkeys if the weather's fair (in which case do bring a garden chair!).

Thursday, 14 April 6pm: Maundy Thursday Eucharist followed by Watch of Prayer 7-8pm, St Giles Church. Recalling our Lord's washing of the disciples' feet in humility and the institution of the Lord's Supper, followed by a Watch of Prayer, remembering the time our Lord spent in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane before his betrayal.

Friday, 15 April 1.30pm: Good Friday Service, St Giles. Following the Stations of the Cross displayed in the church and keeping vigil with readings and hymns until 3pm, when our Lord gives up his spirit on the Cross.



Saturday, 16 April 8pm: Easter Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter, St Giles. This service is sometimes held in the evening before Easter Day, sometimes at dawn on Easter Sunday. From a fire kindled in the churchyard, the Easter candle will be lit and carried into a darkened

Christ is Risen!

church, as a sign of Christ's light overcoming darkness in the world. We hear the Exsultet, an ancient song sung in the candlelight, before sharing in thanksgiving in our first Easter Eucharist of 2022.

Sunday, 17 April, 10.30am: Easter Day Family Eucharist, St Giles. A celebration of Easter hope, with flowers and followed by St Giles' traditional Easter Egg hunt in and around the churchyard.



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

April				
1	Fri		All Fools' Day	
			Graffham Camping and Caravanning site reopens for the summer (to 31 October)	
7	Thu	7 for 7.30pm	Never Get Complacent talk by former Commando and adventurer Dave Pearce	Cobden Hall Heyshott
8	Fri		WSSC schools term ends	
9	Sat	10am-4pm (with lunch break)	Tinkers' great garden sale - all for charity (see pages 25)	Tangletrees
11	Mon		Graffham Tennis Club Juniors' Easter Course	Tennis Club
14	Thu		Maundy Thursday	For Easter church services in the village, see page 44
15	Fri		Good Friday	
17	Sun		Easter Day	
18	Mon		Easter Monday	
19	Tue		Seaford College term starts	
		9-11am	Great Feet Chiropodist ¹	Empire Hall
20	Wed	11am-4.30pm	Wind In The Willows family fun day	Coultershaw Heritage Site
		7.30pm	Midhurst Camera Club guest speaker on Underwater Photography midhurstcameraclub.co.uk	Cowdray Golf Club
21	Thu	8pm	Petfringe presents Ajay Srivastav's band plus The Lost Trades	Leconfield Hall, Petworth
22	Fri		World Earth Day	
23	Sat		St George's Day	
		10.30am-12noon	Coffee morning and cake sale in aid of DEC Ukraine Appeal	Empire Hall
24	Sun	2.30pm	Graffham Bowls Club open afternoon	Graffham rec
25	Mon		WSSC schools term starts	
27	Wed	12.30pm	Lunch Club ³	Empire Hall
May				
1	Sun	2-6pm	Fittleworth Garden Trail (also Mon 2 May)	Fittleworth
2	Mon		Early May bank holiday	
4	Wed	7.30pm	Midhurst Camera Club 'Along The Inca Trail' with Stafford Steed LRPS midhurstcameraclub.co.uk	Cowdray Golf Club
5	Thu	8pm	Petfringe presents comedy with Mike Gunn, Mark Maier, David Eagle, Dinesh Nathan	Leconfield Hall, Petworth
7	Sat	10-11am	Graffham Garden Group plant sale	Empire Hall
9	Mon	6.30pm	Graffham Parish Council annual meeting of the parish - informal drinks, then open meeting	Empire Hall
10	Tue	9-11am	Great Feet Chiropodist ¹	Empire Hall
13	Fri	7pm	Graffham Parish Council annual meeting	

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

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

Regular weekly activities (for notes, how to book, etc, see below)			
Mondays	Daytime-early evening	Osteopath ¹	Empire Hall
	6pm	Practice Night - all welcome	Graffham Bowls Club
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	Daytime-early evening	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.

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

³**Yoga:** Deborah Albone on 07790 367009.

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

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

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

⁷**CCDANCE:** Three 45-minute sessions. Contact info@cc-dance.co.uk on 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
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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	For improved match play and technique. Costs tbc
Wednesdays, year-round	1.45-2.45 pm	Rusty Racquets	Foundation technique and match play practice

Dates and times tbc

Individual coaching

Seniors

Mondays, year-round	10.45am - 12.30pm	Seniors' morning
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	Non-emergency	101@sussex.pnn.police.uk 101
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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
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Graffham Festival	Richard Davidson	01798 867232
Graffham Garden Group	Carole Kirke	01798 867026
Graff'm Health Support Assc	Chairman Sarah Lydiard-Wilson	01798 867567
	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	graффhampc@gmx.co.uk
Graffham Parish News		editor.graффhamparishnews@gmail.com	
		See also bottom of inside front cover	
Graffham with Woolavington Parochial Church Council		stgilesgraффham.org	
	Priest-in-Charge	Rev Vivien Turner	01798 867199
		hallo@stgilesgraффham.org	
	Churchwarden	Ginny Barrett	01798 867113
	Treasurer	Yvonne Butterick	07808 781510
		graффhampcctreasurer@gmail.com	
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	Membership	Richard Gyles	01798 867484
	Coaching	Emma Amin	01798 867063
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