

# The Valley Diary

Binderton ~ Charlton ~ Chilgrove ~ East Dean ~ Singleton ~ West Dean  
www.thevalleydiary.org ~ April 2025 Edition

## DEVOLUTION

**The Government has announced that devolution will bring opportunities, money and growth to our region - boosting people's quality of life for generations to come, and it has confirmed that Sussex and Brighton are on the fast-track to benefit.**

It has now launched a devolution consultation to create a new Strategic Combined Authority and a mayor for the wider region of West Sussex, East Sussex and Brighton. This runs until 11:59pm on 13th April 2025 and can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sussex-and-brighton-devolution](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sussex-and-brighton-devolution)

With the changes set to bring investment and extra powers from Government to Sussex and Brighton, Chichester District Council is encouraging anyone who lives and works in the region to give their views - so please make sure that you have your say. As a district council, we will look at the detail of the proposals and provide feedback to the Government.

The Government has also published more details on its plans and next steps for Local Government Reorganisation. Local Government Reorganisation is separate to devolution, but it links with the government's overall aims. The government wants all areas to have unitary councils across the country, with

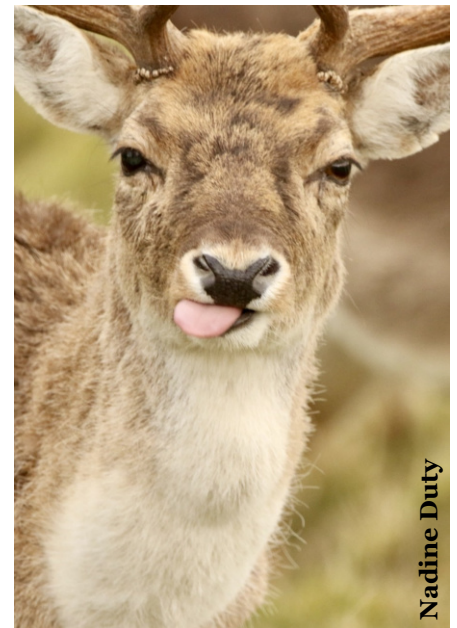
each serving a minimum of 500,000 residents. For the Sussex area, this is likely to mean the creation of three new unitary councils. This would mean all of the existing councils merging into the new unitary councils. We have been asked to submit a detailed business case by 26th September and we are working together with all councils in Sussex to put forward a proposal that best serves our communities. The changes themselves may not be fully in place until 2028.

There is a Q&A on the CDC web pages on devolution and local government reorganisation that you may find useful, which can be found at [www.chichester.gov.uk/devolution](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/devolution)  
**Chichester District Council**

**LADIES NIGHT**  
**Star and Garter**  
**East Dean**  
**Tuesday 8th April**  
**7pm**  
**All Welcome!**

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## VE 80 Day Commemoration Flower Show and Local History Display

West Dean Church, Sat 3rd May - Monday 5th May

A fundraising event for the Valley Parish Churches Buildings Appeal is being planned at West Dean Church over the May Bank Holiday weekend to commemorate the Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, which falls on the 8th May.

As well as beautiful floral arrangements there will be displays depicting daily life locally during the war and VE Day celebrations in the Valley. Entry will be free with donations welcomed towards the Standing The Test of Time Appeal. Refreshments will be available over the weekend.

To honour those we lost from the Valley it is hoped to obtain as many photographs as possible of these people to create a memorial board which would then become a permanent display. If you have any relevant photographs please contact me.

**Sarah John - Churchwarden - [sarance@btinternet.com](mailto:sarance@btinternet.com)**



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**EAST DEAN FOOTBALL CLUB ARE DEVASTATED TO ANNOUNCE THE SUDDEN PASSING OF TIM CALLOWAY**

**Tim passed away with his family by his side on 11th February and the Funeral was held on the 14th March at East Dean Church, followed by a gathering at the Star and Garter .**

Over 240 people attended and a Guard of Honour was presented by volunteers from the football club, past and present.

We have been inundated with messages, emails and phone calls from people in the village, across Sussex and even abroad - from former players and volunteers. Tim gave everything to the club week in, week out, and was the true heartbeat of East Dean since 1965.

He was a central part of the team in many roles - from player, manager, chairman, treasurer to groundsman. His hard work and devotion to the club was incomprehensible. Additionally he officiated for many years in the West Sussex County and West Sussex leagues.

He will be missed more than he could have previously imagine. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

**Peter Kearvell, General Manager**



# 100 CLUB

- 1st... Mrs G Court, West Dean
- 2nd... Donated
- 3rd... Barry Phillips, Chilgrove

On a lovely spring day, the March draw was made in East Dean Church. Congratulations to our three prize winners who share prize money of £105. The next draw will be on Sunday 6th April in East Dean Church. Wendy.

**Singleton Fete**  
**Saturday August 16th**

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## The Sussex Yeomanry Association Spring Service

**Saturday 10th May, Waymark Memorial in Charlton, 11.30am**

Coffee will be available at the Fox Goes Free Pub from 1045am should you wish to partake. All are most welcome to attend.



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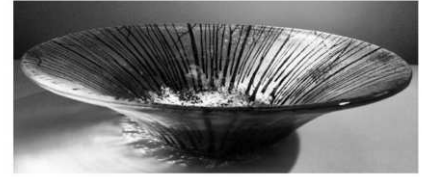
**A jam-packed WI meeting was held on 20th March, our first meeting in East Dean Village Hall for a while. Not only did we have a fabulous talk from Chris Williams on Edward James and his life in West Dean and Mexico, we followed the talk with our AGM.**

Chris, the Headteacher at West Dean Primary School, had the honour of visiting Xilitla, in Mexico, to follow the life and story of Edward James. Forging links between the schools here and there was the focus of the trip, but the beautiful pictures of the area certainly demonstrated that this was so much more than a busman's holiday! The colours, the stories, the videos of the celebrity welcome, bought to life the energy and infectious enthusiasm of every person involved in the visit. A very special story to share with us. Not entirely sure we can arrange a WI trip to Mexico, but we could give it a go!

On to the AGM and we presented our reports for the year. A review of everything we have been up to; we have been spoilt with incredible talks and demonstrations, visits and parties. We said goodbye to three members of our committee and welcomed two new. We also officially welcomed our new treasurer and are delighted to have an amazing group of women to take our WI into the next year. I am proud to say that I will continue as President for the new year and consider this to be a great privilege and role I cherish. As our new year begins in April, please do get in touch if you would like to join. As our WI goes from strength to strength, we would be delighted to welcome you to the gang! **Zoe Mann**

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**Open air theatre programme this summer at the Weald & Downland Living Museum**

**Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream** Wednesday 13th July: 6pm: The Three-Inch Fools present Shakespeare's most iconic comedy.

**The Wind in the Willows** Thursday 31st July: 6pm: Timid Mole, gruff old Badger, and fun-loving Rat enjoy life on the Riverbank until Toad's latest obsession—a gypsy caravan—spirals into chaos.

**The Most Perilous Comedie of Elizabeth I** Friday 22nd August: 6pm: The Three-Inch Fools will return with a largely historical, totally hysterical, brand-new Tudor comedie.

**The Merry Wives of Windsor** Tuesday 26th August: 6pm: Falstaff's got a plan... but the merry wives have a better one!

**Pride and Prejudice** Tuesday 2nd September: 6pm: Illyria returns to celebrate Jane Austen's 250th birthday in style with the glorious social comedy *Pride and Prejudice*. In a whirlwind of balls, dinners and very eligible officers, can Lizzy Bennet see beyond My Darcy's pride – and can he overcome her prejudice?

**Tickets are now available to buy online and must be pre-booked to avoid disappointment. For more information and to book tickets visit [wealddown.co.uk/whats-on/theatre](http://wealddown.co.uk/whats-on/theatre)**

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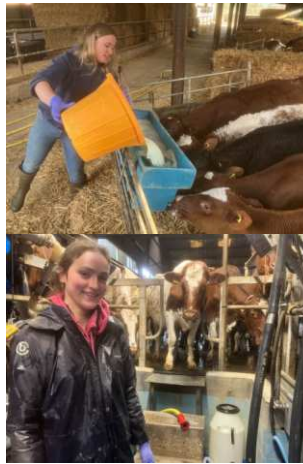
**An old proverb - “a peck of March dust is worth a king’s ransom” has certainly proved true for farmers this year as we have been able to make good progress on both farms ploughing, sowing and applying farmyard manure to the fields without damaging the soils.**

Although March has been a dry month it has been quite cold, so grass growth has been slow but hopefully as the days lengthen and temperatures rise, we will see good growth of all crops by early April to provide plenty of nutritious grazing for our sheep and cattle. Indeed, the dairy cows at East Dean have begun grazing what little grass there is for a few hours each day from the third week in March.

This month will see our two flocks of sheep busy lambing. Most of the ewes are lambing outside while a few requiring closer attention, such as first time lambers and those carrying triplets or more are kept inside. Ben will be looking after the flock at East Dean and father and daughter team Nick and Amy will take care of the Goodwood flock.

The dairy at Goodwood is always a busy place with cows calving almost every day of the year. The pictures here show two of our team working on the weekend shift - Amelia in the parlour milking the Shorthorn cows and Rosie giving the young calves their milk.

It's a joy to see and hear all the wildlife emerging across the farm now Spring is here. You may have noticed a good number of hares running around the open fields and may even be lucky enough to catch some pairs boxing. You can hear the skylarks singing overhead on the downs and a myriad different songbirds warbling away in the trees and hedgerows. Spring is truly a special time of year!



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If you or someone you know would benefit from advice on maximising technology for visually impaired people, contact 4SVS on 01243 828555 or email enquiries@4sight.org.uk. 4SVS also runs several Low Vision Solutions Open Days allowing hands-on experience with products and technology, visit [www.4sight.org.uk](http://www.4sight.org.uk) for details. Please contact 4SVS if you'd also like to find out more about their social and walking groups in your locality.

**Inside the Wildlife Hospital in April...**



It has been a busy start to spring so far, with 'baby season' well and truly here. Typically, we can have anywhere up to 150 babies in at one time of varying species, ages and needs meaning that our miracle team and wonderful volunteers must be prepared for anything.

Baby mammals that have been separated from their mothers must receive specialist-milk formulas around the clock to ensure they obtain the correct nutrients and do not become sick, so it is vital that they are immediately brought into the care of specialised wildlife rehabilitators like Brent Lodge if they are to have any chance of survival. Baby wild birds and reptiles also need specialist care. Did you know that some babies, such as goldfinch chicks, can need feeding every 5-10 minutes?!

**If you would like to learn more about what we do and how to support us, please visit our website [www.brentlodge.org](http://www.brentlodge.org) or social media channels**, where you can find our latest news and details about donating, wish list items, becoming a supporter or legacy donor and how to book an educational talk/workshop to your setting for adults or children.

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## Out with a Bang!

**The last Sunday quiz of the winter season saw the Star and Garter packed out as eight teams competed to win the top prize, a £60 food voucher for the pub.**

The quiz was held to raise funds for the Friends of Chichester Hospital, and the Friends turned out in force to support it. In the end it was one of their teams (The Bluebells) that won with 71 points to We Don't Know's 70 and Korky the Kat tying with Stars of the Garter for third place on 68.5 points each.

Of the £15 entrance fee, landlord Jim McDonald only takes the cost of the ingredients for supper (lasagne) and very generously donates the rest of the money to the nominated charity; on this occasion that amounted to £403, which together with the raffle made £670.

If that wasn't enough the winners then added the value of their prize and with a further anonymous donation of £30 the final total was £760! This is an astonishing amount for a little country pub on a damp Sunday night in March, and it will all go towards buying the very latest laser eye surgery machine for St. Richard's Hospital. Who knows how many people will benefit from that, it could well be any one of us!

However you won't have to wait until October for the next Star & Garter quiz night; Kitty Peirson (who has been working as a barmaid at the pub) is putting on a quiz on **Thursday 24th April** to help raise the money that she and Evelina Rudasa need to finance taking a show they have written to the Edinburgh Festival this year (**see splash on page 20**). To get this far they have already had to jump through a number of hoops just to get a venue to perform in, so please do come along and support them. Edinburgh's a tough gig and it takes courage and determination to do it and talent to make a success of it, but if you've got those three then you're on stage at the biggest showcase in the world!

**Timbo "Scoop" Weeks!**

## The timeless value of property ownership in England

For centuries, land and homeownership have been at the heart of English society, shaping wealth, stability, and status. From rolling countryside estates to the charming townhouses of London, property has always been considered the greatest asset one can own.

As Mark Twain famously put it, "Buy land, they're not making it anymore." In a country like the UK, where land is both finite and highly sought after, this statement rings especially true.

Historically, owning property in England was the privilege of the aristocracy, but over time, it became a goal for the middle class as well. Today, despite the challenges of much higher house prices compared to incomes, the aspiration to own a home is as strong as ever. And in a world of economic uncertainty, bricks and mortar remains one of the safest and most tangible investments.

But homeownership is about much more than financial gain; it is about creating a personal sanctuary. A house filled with books, for instance, is a home that enriches the mind. One quote that particularly resonates with me was shared by a client last year. The American educational reformer and abolitionist Horace Mann, said, "A house without books is like a room without windows".

It is striking to see so few books in homes today, compared to the personal libraries that were once a staple of English houses....

**For the rest of this article and some historic quotes, join Jennie Hancock of [propertyacquisitions.co.uk](http://propertyacquisitions.co.uk) at [tinyurl.com/timelessvalueengland](http://tinyurl.com/timelessvalueengland)**

## It's in the Bag!

**A Poem by Francis**

Lunch was at a dog friendly inn.  
We don't have a dog of our own.  
But we are very fond of them,  
As long as they leave us alone.

Well there isn't anything worse,  
Whilst tucking into your pie,  
Than having a slobbering mastiff,  
Staring you in the eye.

We entered via the garden,  
And I noticed, on the lawn,  
Was what I call a dog's 'calling card',  
But both dog and owner were gone.

I reported it to the staff,  
When ordering our grub.  
They said they'd tell the boss,  
Who is the chef at that pub.

The food was a bit below par,  
Unusual for that place.  
And as I looked up, the boss,  
Was staring me in the face.

He gave me some blue plastic sacks,  
Saying, "Here, have some of these.  
If you see another or anything like it,  
You must use one please."

That arrogant man then walked away,  
But I quickly called him back.  
And handed him my lunch,  
Wrapped in a blue plastic sack.




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# The Valley Parish

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**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

3.30pm – 5.30pm

East Dean Village Hall

Join us for family fun, craft activities, great  
food and worship.

(All children must be accompanied by an adult)

*The images below the dates of Holy Week show us all that Jesus went through on his way to the Cross, and all that we will also go through as we journey with him. Holy Week began with the crowds greeting Jesus with the joyful shout of Hosanna, Son of David, as they waved palm branches and laid their cloaks at his feet. The day before He died Jesus had supper with his friends, the very first 'Last Supper', knowing what was to happen, and knowing that it would be brought about by the betrayal of a friend. On the day He died, Jesus gave the care of his mother into the hands of his friend, promised a repentant thief that he would be with Him in paradise, and then declared 'it is finished' But of course, we know it wasn't, and on Easter Sunday we will all declare, joyfully, that*

**Christ is Risen, Alleluia, Alleluia**



## Services and Events

6th April	10am	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer East Dean
13 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Holy Communion Singleton
17 <sup>th</sup> April	6.30pm	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Said Holy Communion West Dean
18 <sup>th</sup> April	12pm	<b>Good Friday</b> 1 hour of quiet prayer and reflection at Singleton Come and go as you wish.
20 <sup>th</sup> April Easter Sunday	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
27 <sup>th</sup> April	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
	3.30pm	Messy Church East Dean Village Hall

### Contacts -

#### Parish Priest

**Rev Sarah Manouch**

priestvalleyparish@gmail.com / 07468 854864

(Working days Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Not available on Thursday)

#### Churchwarden

**Wendy Goacher** - 07974 689907 / wendygoacher@yahoo.com

**Sarah John** - 07769 887546 / sarance@btinternet.com

#### PCC Secretary

**Susie Holmes** - pccsecretaryvalleyparish@gmail.com

# The Diary

Here's a quick overview of what's actually going on, in and around the villages of the Lavant Valley in the coming months. Do please let us know if we've missed anything and we'll add it next time for the benefit of all.

[www.thevalleydiary.org](http://www.thevalleydiary.org)

## April 2025

**Sat 5th** Table Top & Nearly New Clothing Sale: Singleton Village Hall: 10am - 1pm

**Mon 7th - Mon 21st** Singleton School Holidays

**Mon 7th - Tue 22nd** West Dean School Holidays

**Tue 8th** Ladies Night: The Star & Garter: East Dean: 7pm

**Sat 12th & Sun 13th** Goodwood Members' Meeting: Motor Circuit

**Mon 14th** Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall

**Mon 21st** The Valley Diary Copy Deadline: 12noon

**Wed 23rd** Live Music with Willie Austen: The Fox Goes Free

**Thu 24th** Fundraising Quiz Night: Star & Garter: 6.30pm

**Mon 28th** VGC Bacon Bap Morning: 10.30am: East Dean Village Hall

**Mon 28th** East Dean Parish Council Meeting: 7.30pm: AGM at 7pm: East Dean Village Hall

## May 2025

**Fri 2nd & Sat 3rd** Goodwood Horse Racing

**Sat 3rd - Mon 5th** VE Day 80th Anniversary: Flower Show and Local History Display: West Dean Church: 10am - 5pm

**Wed 7th** Local History Talk with Richard Pailthorpe: Singleton Village Hall

**Thu 8th** 80th VE Day Commemoration: West Dean Gardens: 5pm

**Sat 10th** Sussex Yeomanry Association Spring Services: Waymark Memorial, Charlton: 11.30am

**Mon 12th** Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall

**Sat 17th & Sun 18th** Goodwoof!

**Mon 19th** Singleton & Charlton Parish Council Annual Meeting: Singleton Cricket Club: 7pm

**Fri 23rd & Sat 24th** Goodwood Horse Racing

**Mon 26th - Fri 30th** School Half-Term

## June 2025

**Fri 6th** Three Friday Nights: Goodwood

**Sat 7th** East Dean Fete: 2.30pm

**Sun 8th** Family Race Day: Goodwood

**Mon 9th** Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall

**Fri 13th** Three Friday Nights: Goodwood

**Fri 20th** Three Friday Nights: Goodwood

**Sat 21st** Charity Go-Kart Challenge: Wests Wood Fair: East Dean

**Sat 21st** Willow Crafting: Singleton Village Hall

## July 2025

**Mon 14th** Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall

**Fri 18th** End of School Term

**Mon 21st** Singleton & Charlton Parish Council Meeting: Singleton Village Hall: 7pm

**Tue 29th - Sat 2nd (Aug)** Goodwood Horse Racing

## August 2025

**Tue 29th (Jul) - Sat 2nd** Goodwood Horse Racing

**Got something to add to the Diary?**

*Please let us know...*

*Lots more dates and events can be found in the Diary Online at...*

[thevalleydiary.org/diary](http://thevalleydiary.org/diary)

Deadline for the...

**May 2025 Edition**

All information for to arrive by **12.00hrs (noon)** please on...

**Monday 21st April**  
[editor@valleydiary.org](mailto:editor@valleydiary.org)

*Submissions, news, reviews, event information, photos and anything you have to share with your community should arrive **as soon as possible**.*

## The Team

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# Useful Telephone Numbers

CDC Councillor, Henry Potter	07792 857973
East Dean Football Club	07944 036709
East Dean PC Clerk	07712 647511
East Dean Village Hall	07785 740625
Goodwood Security	07909 876823
Lavant Road Doctors Surgery	01243 527264
Lavant Road Pharmacy	01243 380185
Local Police	101
Singleton Fete	01243 818037
Singleton Parish Clerk	07702 240126
Singleton School	01243 811679
Singleton Tearooms	01243 811899
Singleton Village Hall	TBA
Weald & Downland Museum: Office	01243 811363
Weald & Downland Museum: Shop	01243 811020
West Dean College	01243 818300
West Dean Fete	01243 811247
West Dean Gardens	01243 818318
West Dean PC Clark	07596 884847
West Dean School	01243 811247
West Dean Stores	01243 818222

# Lineage Ads.

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**PLUMBER** Peter 07825 268317  
**DOG GROOMING** Leandra 07944 788727  
**BUILDER** James 07788 532135  
**TAXI** 778499  
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**IRONING SERVICE** 531138 or 07773 009241  
**FETCH DOG WALKING** Canine specialist dog Walker, Helen Ferrell, 07765 577290

## Albert says...



You won't hear owls in the wet,  
 That's something I never knew.  
 Apparently when it's raining,  
 It's far 'too wet to woo'.

## Register of Local...



**Trundlers** Charlton - ask another Helen 01243 811686  
**Hunters Lodge**, Lavant - or indeed another Helen!  
 01243 532415 - 07788 663712  
 B&B - Ring **Sophie** on 01243 811465  
**Harper's Cottage**, East Lavant. Ring Caroline 01243 278659  
**Flint Cottage**, 47 Mid Lavant, Lavant Road, PO18 0AA: Sue Kemble 01243 785883 / 07814903541  
**The Shepherds Barn**, Chilgrove: Lucy 07775 934999  
[www.shepherdsbarnsussex.co.uk](http://www.shepherdsbarnsussex.co.uk)  
**The Blue Bell**, Cocking: 01730 239669  
**The Nest**, Singleton: Self-Contained Accommodation: Julie 07887 943523  
**Barnfield**, Heyshot, Tessa: 07789 888004



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## LITTERING SCUM!

Three weeks ago we had a village tidy day, so to do our bit Tim Watts and I went litter picking up East Dean Hill. In the course of an hour or so we gathered two black bin bags full of drinks cartons, takeaway food containers, bottles and cans – Red Stripe seems to be in fashion at the moment, presumably because it gives the people who drink it the energy to fling the empty out of the car window with zest and gusto!

We also found a van load of broken fragments of corrugated asbestos roofing panels which someone had thoughtfully decided to enhance the National Park with and, wrapped in a blue bag artfully tied in a bow, a nappy. Well, it's never too early to start teaching your children that the rest of the world is put there for them to dump their ordure in!

Coming back down to the village we found out that Helen Bailie and Vicky Mudford had done the same job on the same road two weeks earlier and filled two sacks on that occasion. Knowing them, I don't think they missed a load. Then, three days ago, Stuart Collins and Clive Muller went over it again and came down with four bags, and that wasn't stuff that the rest of us had left for someone else to have the thrill of collecting.

A few years ago our then District Councillor Jane Chevis showed me a map on which someone had worked out, in a series of expanding circles, how far from a McDonald's drive-thru the food would be finished and the containers discarded. Unfortunately if you put the point of the compass on the Portfield branch and draw rings outwards they fall on the top of East Dean Hill and the Triangle car park at the top of Knights Hill.

There are obvious punishments for the offenders, ranging from the mild (put them in pink hi-viz waistcoats with "Littering Scum" written on them and force them to pick it all up) to the appropriate (put them in the stocks so people can chuck their mess back at them – that would work particularly well with the nappy) to the eugenic (sterilise them to weed their slovenly genes out of the population). But I can see the softies having objections to all of them. So how about this:-

When I was a child (back in the good old days, although we didn't know they were the good old days at the time) lemonade came in half-pint bottles that had a 3d deposit on them. So you never saw discarded bottles because if you found one that was as good as finding a 3d bit lying on the ground! (At the time my pocket money was 6d a week, 2.5p in modern money, that's how long ago the good old days were.) Obviously we would need to scale up to current values, but if there was a £1 deposit on all the drinks cartons and burger husks redeemable at any branch of the chain that sold them, how quickly would that change people's behaviour? Nobody goes around chucking pound coins out of their windows, and if they did there would be a clear incentive for enterprising children to pick them up and turn them into ready cash, just as me and my contemporaries did in the 1960s. This would be particularly effective on motorways, where fast food cartons bought in one services could be traded in at another service area further along. Because if you are ever in a hold-up on a motorway and you look at the litter on the verges it is absolutely appalling! **Tim Weeks**

## CHICHESTER NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY Events

### for APRIL 2025

**Wednesday 2nd** Illustrated Talk by Christian Hance on 'We Didn't Expect That! Travels to see Large Animals' to the Chichester Natural History Society at The Pallant Suite, Masonic Hall, South Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1SY at 7.30pm. Entrance: members free/visitors £3: 01243 786079: wheelchair access

### RSPB Events for APRIL 2025

**Thursday 25th** Illustrated Talk by Ian Rumney Dawson on "The Little Owl" to the Chichester Local Group at The Pallant Suite, Masonic Hall, South Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1SY at 7.30pm. Entrance: members £2.50/visitors £5: 07402 375257: wheelchair access

### THE MULBERRIES Events for APRIL 2025

**Saturday 26th** The Mulberries present Lightning Brothers Sole Band at the Pagham Village Hall, Pagham Road, Pagham PO21 4NJ at 7.30pm. Tickets in advance £9 on 01243 262833 or 07833 971620. Bring your own food and drink. Wheelchair access. Proceeds to local charities.

**Maria Wildman**

**01243 262833**

**thewildthings2@outlook.com**

## Peter Roberts CTA ATT

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## GO-KART CHALLENGE UPDATE

Last month I introduced our idea for a charity go-kart challenge to be held at West's Wood Fair on Saturday 21st June.

If you are interested in competing and would like to build your own kart but need some help or inspiration, we will hold a series of **workshops during April on Saturday mornings from 10am to 1pm**.

These will be at **Droke Farm, East Dean** where we can discuss ideas and source some materials you may need (Coffee and Cake provided).

We have also invited Aldingbourne Trust to be involved who have a well-equipped workshop themselves and are looking forward to building their own dream machine.

Please contact John on **07787567140** or email me at [john@drokefarm.co.uk](mailto:john@drokefarm.co.uk) for further information.

**THINK BEFORE YOU  
THROW  
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Are you a parent looking to reduce waste while keeping your baby comfortable? Switching to reusable nappies (even part-time) can make a huge difference!

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**Better for Your Wallet:** Families can save up to £1,000 over 2.5 years by using reusable nappies. Second-hand options can save even more!

**Not sure where to begin?** Learn about different styles, find local nappy libraries, and discover simple washing routines to make reusables work for you.

**Want to learn more?** Visit The West Sussex Recycles website...  
westsussex.gov.uk/recycling



**EAST DEAN CHURCH FETE**  
Saturday 7th June  
2.30pm  
The Old Vicarage, East Dean

This year's Fete is soon approaching so get ready to have a fun day in the sunshine! As always, we welcome donations of gifts, bottles, pre-loved good condition, sellable, household items, books and clothes. All good quality contributions will be very much appreciated.

The tombola is always a great attraction and has some excellent quality bottles and jars to be won. Please donate what you are able and then come and buy a ticket to win something in return!

There will be a plant stall to top up your veg patch and flower beds. The home produce stall sells out quick and always has delicious home made cakes, biscuits, jams and preserves.

Last year's traditional fete games were a real success. Splat the rat, hook a duck and the coconut shy amongst others.

The Pimms stall has been a huge success in the last 2 years. Come and buy a jug, settle down on a bench in the sun and watch the fete in action. If you don't fancy a tippie then tea and homemade cakes from the kitchen is delicious.

Hopefully the sun will shine and the swimming pool will be full of laughing happy children.

**Sam 07887 562473**  
**Susie 07825 336689**

Reminder for East Dean Residents:  
Our house-to-house collection will be 27th May (early evening)

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8 MAY 2025

**SAVE THE DATE**

If you are a Resident of West Dean, Binderton or Chilgrove, please join us in commemorating 80 Years of VE Day on **Thursday 8th May at 5pm** in **West Dean Gardens**. More information to follow.

**FIGHT AGAINST FRAUD**

At the Community Café held on **Monday 10th March in Singleton Village Hall**, we were delighted to have a very instructive and informative talk by **Richard Moorey, Community Warden and former Police Officer, on Fraud and Fraudulent Activity "Fight Against Fraud"**.

There was an excellent turnout from people in the Village to hear what he advised in order to protect themselves from this criminal activity as well as answering any questions they had in order to keep themselves safe.

Very worthwhile and important morning **Judy Fathers**

**Petworth House & Park**  
**Spring Festival**  
Saturday 5th - Sunday 27th April

**Makers Market** 5 & 6 April, 10am-4pm  
**Garden Talks** 22-27 April  
**Family Trail** 5-21 April, 10am-5pm  
**Look What I found in the Woods** 11 April, 11am & 1pm  
**Herbal Foraging Walk** 23 & 25 April, 10.30am  
**Workshops** 24-27 April  
**Evening Cabaret** 25 April, 7.45pm

[nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth)

**Chichester Harbour Rotary Club**  
**Call My Bluff Charity**  
**Wine Tasting**  
**Westhampnett Community Hall**  
**Friday 9th May**  
**6.30pm**

A fun and possibly competitive evening blind-tasting several wines to raise funds to support End Polio Now Rotary Charity. Come and join us for a repeat of last year's great event to taste some interesting wines and show off your wine tasting skills. As well as wine, a Ploughmans Supper is included. £15 per person. Tickets...

[jeanhardstaff2@outlook.com](mailto:jeanhardstaff2@outlook.com)  
**01243 773485**

**DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CHURCH AND THE CHURCH?**

Well, the Church with a capital C refers to the people who worship, while a church with a small c means the bricks and mortar of a building. Why am I asking?

Our valley churches (small 'c') need your help. In order to make the buildings safe and to keep them open to everybody, some major works need to be undertaken. As you may be aware we are fundraising to repair, and make safe, the three church buildings in the valley. We have so far succeeded in raising funds for the restoration of the stained-glass window in Singleton church and have also replaced the lighting. However, the churches at East Dean and West Dean are both in urgent need of attention to their towers.

We are in the process of obtaining permissions to carry out the works and once these are approved, we can start to apply for grants to help with the cost. Many of the grant making bodies require applicants to show that the buildings they are applying for are used, appreciated and needed by the wider local community. That the building is worth saving!

So you see, to qualify for the grants we are asking for your help. Can you tell us why these buildings should be saved? What do they mean to you? What would it mean to the villages if they were lost? If you can help, please send your thoughts to [valleyparishappeal@gmail.com](mailto:valleyparishappeal@gmail.com) or write to Standing the Test of Time, The Rectory, Singleton, PO18 0EZ. Thank you on behalf of Valley Parish Fundraising Committee. **Kathy**



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Last month saw the **National Child Exploitation Awareness Day**. Child sexual exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18, into sexual or criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

Young people are our future so it's vital we protect and nurture them. It's reassuring for residents to learn that Sussex Police have a dedicated strategy outlining how they will tailor their policing response to our children.

Research shows that, by adopting a child-centred approach, the police can build trust and confidence with children which in turn encourages reporting, reduces youth offending and allows for increased engagement opportunities between police and the young people they meet.

Our children are growing up in an ever-increasing digital world which is why Sussex Police's dedicated Young Persons Strategy continues to evolve and develop.

It is only through dedicated programmes and specialist strategies, including tailored education, engagement and early intervention, that we can hope to keep our future generations safe.

More at [tinyurl.com/2yqku8se](http://tinyurl.com/2yqku8se)

**Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner**

# Louie Allen (1925 - 2025)

**We would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral of our dear cousin Louie on Monday 17th March at East Dean. We were overwhelmed by the love and friendship that she had from within the village and beyond. We were amazed by the numbers who turned up. Our sincere apologies if we missed anyone.**

Many go to Reverend Sarah who gave Louie a traditional service and send off; Jim and all his staff from The Star and Garter Pub for catering the event; Jeannie for playing the organ; John Holt for tolling the bell and Kevin Holland, Funeral Directors, for the care and understanding they gave us when planning.

Also Christine Miles, visiting and caring for Louie, keeping us updated on any issues and more. Our thanks also go to all who visited Louie, sent messages and kept her fed leading up to and during her dark times.

We would have wished her to make her 100th birthday, but sadly it was not to be. We will raise a glass to her on her special day, 26th October. Louie spent many hours within the All-Saints community, so we ask that anyone who wishes to commemorate Louie's life donate to the 'Standing The Test of Time' Building Fund via [justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thevalleyparish](http://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/thevalleyparish)

**Ted Croucher and family**



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## PROTECTING THE RIVER LAVANT: A LONG-TERM VISION FOR RESTORATION

The River Lavant is a rare winterbourne chalk stream, beginning its journey at East Dean on the Goodwood Estate and flowing approximately 15 miles through West Dean, Lavant and Chichester before reaching the sea at Chichester Harbour.

Chalk streams are a unique and fragile habitat, fed by underground aquifers that filter the water, making them incredibly clear and nutrient-rich. They support an abundance of wildlife, including trout, eels, kingfishers, and water voles. However, these ecosystems are also highly sensitive to pollution, habitat loss, and changes in water levels and in recent years, we've seen a worrying decline in the health of the Lavant. Water quality has deteriorated, biodiversity has suffered, and seasonal flooding continues to pose a risk to local communities.

To address these challenges, Goodwood has partnered with West Dean and sought expert advice from the Western Sussex Rivers Trust, an independent charity dedicated to restoring local waterways. Their insights, combined with a River Condition Assessment Report commissioned by the South Downs National Park, have provided valuable guidance on how to improve the river's health.

We are now developing a long-term, landscape-scale restoration plan with the Western Sussex Rivers Trust. This will focus on nature-based solutions, such as restoring natural riverbanks, improving vegetation cover, and



reducing pollution sources. These interventions will not only enhance habitats for wildlife but also help reduce flood risks for our local villages.

Currently, we are reviewing proposals from professional river restoration specialists to determine the most effective solutions. Alongside this, we are gathering essential data on past and present flooding patterns. To support this, we are calling on local residents to share any photographs of flooding in East Dean, Charlton, or Singleton, along with the dates they were taken. This information will help us build a clearer picture of the river's behaviour and inform future conservation efforts.

**Please email them to [sustainability@goodwood.com](mailto:sustainability@goodwood.com)**

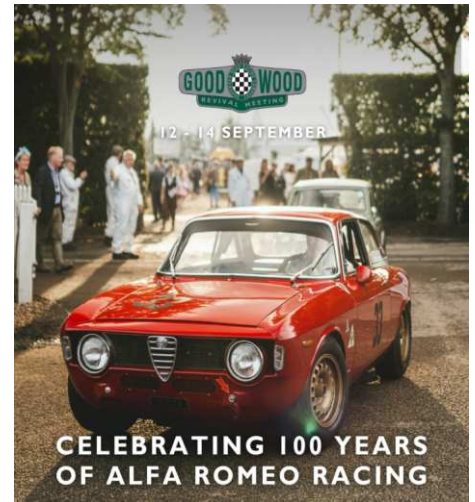
With careful planning and community involvement, we hope to restore the River Lavant to a healthier state—one that supports rich biodiversity and protects our villages for generations to come. **Goodwood Estate**

### New Opening Hours at West Dean Gardens: Open All Year

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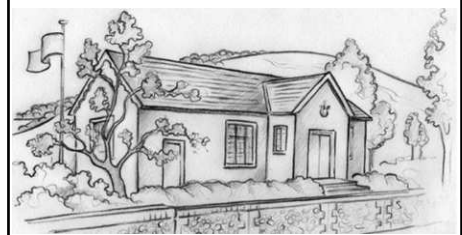
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**Lots of great photos from local people this month. If you've taken any, do send them in so we can continue to share and enjoy our lovely local area.**



*Nadine Duty Photography*

Percheron harrowing the land prior to putting seed in at the Museum **HG**



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**KITTIE PEIRSON**

**EVELINA RUDASA**

*why won't they eat the cake?*  
**quiznight!**

Hi, we're Keturah and Evelina, writers of 'Why Won't They Eat The Cake?', our play that we're taking to London and Edinburgh Fringe later this year! But we need your help- in order to go, we need to raise some money, and what better way to do that than with a pub quiz!

Come along, grab a pint, and learn more about Why Won't They Eat The Cake!



**THE STAR AND GARTER, EAST DEAN**

**24TH APRIL. 18:30. £15PP. SUPPER INCLUDED. TEAMS OF SIX**

On Thursday 24 April, The Star and Garter in East Dean are kindly hosting a fundraising quiz to support East Dean resident Keturah (Kitty) Peirson in her quest to raise funds to take her play to The Edinburgh Fringe in August 2025. Kitty, now aged 17, was born and raised in East Dean and you may have met her waiting on your table at The Star and Garter, singing in church or running children's events at village fetes. Together with her friend, and co-drama student from Bishop Luffa School, Evelina Rudasa, Kitty has written a one act play that has been accepted for this year's Edinburgh Fringe event. Kitty and Evelina will co-star in the play which is entitled 'Why Won't They Eat the Cake?'. Kitty has been fundraising to support the costs of putting on the production and is very grateful to all local residents, friends, family and visitors to The Star and Garter who have already generously donated to her fundraising campaign.

If you would like to support the fundraising effort and find out more about the play itself and the plans for the Fringe come along to the quiz night. The quiz will take place from 6.30pm. The cost is £15 per person which includes a light supper (if you have dietary requirements please let the pub know in advance). Tables of up to 6 or you can join another smaller team to make a team of 6. There will also be a raffle with super prizes including many theatre tickets kindly donated by local venues, including Chichester Festival Theatre as both girls are alumni of the Youth Theatre.

To book, please scan the QR code or call The Star & Garter on 01243 811318

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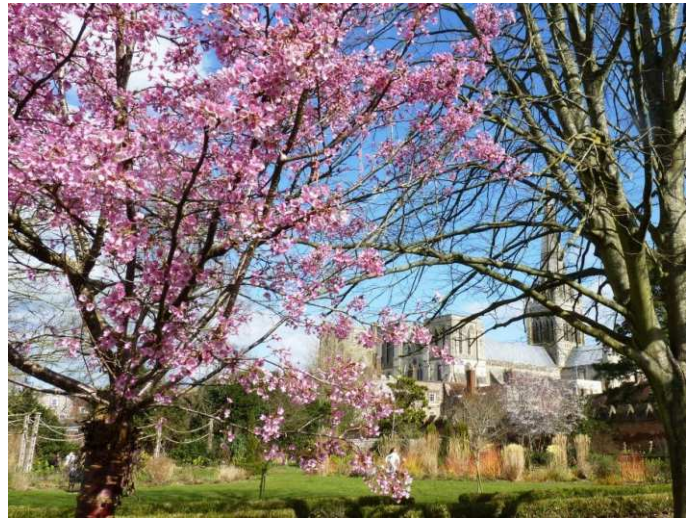
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Email: [contact@lislemedical.com](mailto:contact@lislemedical.com)

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



Open air theatre programme this summer at the Weald & Downland Living Museum: See Page 7



Chichester cathedral in the pink by Terry Timblick



**Easter Trail**  
17 - 21 April 2025  
10am - 4pm

Hop into Easter fun at West Dean Gardens!

Join our Easter trail, create themed crafts, hunt for hidden eggs to win chocolate, and dress up for a prize.

Tickets are £4 for children, and £13.50 for adults (garden entry).

Dogs on leads are welcome and there is free parking in the Gardens car park.



*Nadine Duty Photography*



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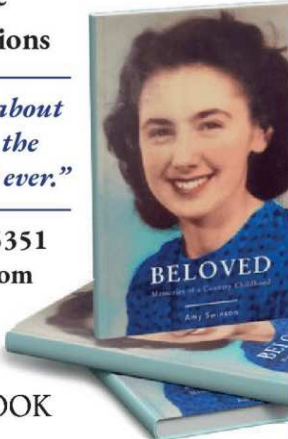
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**The Henry Smith Charity**  
 founded in 1628

**Henry Smith Charity**  
 Singleton and Charlton



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The Henry Smith Charity, founded in 1628 is one of the oldest parish grant schemes in the country. Most of these parishes are in Sussex and Surrey.

The charity seeks to help local people living in difficult circumstances with small gifts which are awarded by local trustees. Help may be given, for example, with the cost of food, fuel, white goods and furnishings. Some grants are given towards transport costs for hospital visits or doctor appointments. As well as giving grants directly to individuals, gifts may be given to small local charities or community groups providing support to people in need within the area.

Any individual or group wishing to be considered for a grant should contact the trustees at [trusteehenrysmithsc@gmail.com](mailto:trusteehenrysmithsc@gmail.com)

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**Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner**

# Valley Gardening Club

It is now officially Spring and hopefully the hard frosts have had their day. The garden begins to brighten with the primary colours: red **Chaenomeles**, (quince), yellow daffodils, primroses and crocuses, and a few bluebells have just started to bloom. All so welcome after the long, brown, wintry months.

It is now time to start pruning evergreen shrubs, ornamental grasses, roses, salvias, lilac, hibiscus, spirea, fig, lavender, fuchsias to name but a few. Mulch, if not done already, weed and tidy. We are revving up for the garden to burst forth.

Our next event is the popular **Bacon Bap Morning** on **Monday 28th April** at **East Dean Village Hall** between

**10.30am - Noon**. Lodge Hill Plants will be there selling their fabulous herbaceous plants. There will be the Hort Bric-a-Brac Stall, Hort Raffle and of course our delicious Bacon Baps, tea, coffee and cakes. Do pop in. Everyone welcome. And, if you have anything hort related that you no longer want, do bring anything along for the Hort Bric-a-Brac stall, or we can collect from you beforehand.

Lastly a heads up that the **Annual Show** is on **Saturday 9th August** this year. Look out for further information. **Miranda Mayne**



## [valleygardeningclub.org.uk](http://valleygardeningclub.org.uk)



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