

The Valley Diary

Binderton ~ Charlton ~ Chilgrove ~ East Dean ~ Singleton ~ West Dean

thevalleydiary.org ~ June 2025 Edition

DEVOLVED AND DRY

Devolution of Local Government

Henry Potter, CDC Councillor for Goodwood Ward

There is too little known about this plan to “empower” local 1st and 2nd tier authorities to devolve from central government. This plan is not new as it was proposed by the previous Conservative administration but due to a distinct lack of enthusiasm for devolvement and amalgamation of LA's it was shelved.

Proposals and policies have only just started to be reviewed and because all we have at the moment is a timeframe, what will happen to the ‘nuts and bolts’ is largely a black hole! The suggested timeframe will be hard to adhere to simply because a lack of detail.

Just as an example, Chichester District Council has for a number of years been a very well managed council, in fact a couple of years ago it was rated the 4th best managed council in England.

Continued on Page 7...

Dry weather threatens 'exceptionally low' rivers in parts of UK

This BBC News article discusses the exceptionally low river levels in parts of the UK due to a dry spring, the driest in England since 1961. Concerns are rising among farmers, water companies, and environmental agencies about potential droughts and water restrictions.



The dry weather has already impacted agriculture, with farmers irrigating crops earlier than usual, potentially leading to food shortages. Wildfires have also affected a larger area of the UK. While the UK is at medium risk of drought, the next few weeks are crucial.

Water companies are considering restrictions, and the government is urged to invest in long-term solutions. Water UK proposes a national water grid, and farmers seek support for reservoirs.

The article touches on a potential link to climate change. While a direct link is unconfirmed, studies suggest the UK may experience more prolonged dry periods and less rainfall, exacerbating droughts. The last drought in 2022 and subsequent measures are mentioned.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crmkn7rjv7zo>



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At Singleton Playschool we pride ourselves in ensuring every child has access to quality Early Years Education and Care. Our cosy setting enables the professional team to provide individual care and attention to every child who steps through our door. When Ofsted visited us in September 2024, they rated Singleton Playschool 'GOOD' across all five areas.

The Inspector commented, "Staff demonstrate their passion for working with children as they cuddle up close and read stories to them. They understand the importance of supporting children's well-being. Children beam with delight as staff praise them for their enthusiasm during tasks. Children foster a sense of belonging and it helps them to feel valued and listened to."

This is what our current parents say about our wonderful setting; "*Singleton Playschool is the most fantastic, warm & nurturing space for young children aged 2-4 yrs old*" and "*Their door is always open, even if it's at the drop of a hat.*" and "*Each morning at drop off I'm able to feel as though we are dropping our children off to see their Aunties.*"

We're now taking bookings for September. Why not book a visit/play session with your child, come and meet the team and see what we offer...

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1st... Liz Boyle, Singleton
2nd... Charlie & Serena Colchester, Lavant
3rd... Margaret Discombe, East Dean

On a very busy weekend - VE celebrations - the May draw was made on quite a chilly overcast day.

Congratulations to our winners sharing prize money of £105. The next draw will be at East Dean Church on Sunday 1st June which very sadly means that we are nearly half way through 2025!

Wendy, 01243 811608

Chichester District Council updates direct to your phone!

Finding out information about local council services - including receiving recycling and waste collection day reminders - has never been easier, thanks to our free Chichester District Council app, which is available from the Apple Store and Google Play Store.

As long as you switch your notifications on, we will be able to let you know if our recycling and waste crews are running late and if we have any planned changes to collections.

You can also find out about other council services and keep up to date with all of the latest council news and information.

You can find out more at www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp

Step by Step Guide to downloading the Chichester District Council app...

1. Head to the Apple Store or Google Play Store on your smartphone device.
2. Type in 'Chichester District Council' into the search bar. Our free app will pop up in the results.
3. Click to download it onto your mobile device. You can now exit the app store. The app should now show up amongst the icons on your home screen.
4. Open the app, type in your postcode and select your address from a drop-down list. You will also be prompted to enter your contact details, so you can receive important updates when reporting incidents to us.
5. Don't forget to click 'allow notifications' in the notifications tab to ensure you don't miss out on important reminders and announcements.



Book your MOT online with Chichester District Council today and save in June!

The council is now offering an online booking system for its trusted and independent MOT testing service, which can be carried out within the hour and is open to the general public and businesses.

Their specialist centre can test cars, vans, minibuses, light commercial vehicles and motorhomes, and is conveniently located just off the A27 in Stane Street, Chichester, PO18 0NS.

Appointments are available Monday through to Friday from 8am to 3pm.

Bookings can be made online at: www.chichester.gov.uk/mot

During the month June, customers can use the discount code 'SAVE5MOT' to save £5, even if their test date is after June. The code must be used when booking online before 30th June 2025.

The app enables you to:



News – read council news stories on important local issues.



Report it – complete 'Report it' forms for issues such as street cleaning, fly-tipping, or to request a new bin.



Councillors – access the details of your local district councillor.



Waste collections – find out when your bin is due to be collected and sign up for notifications on waste collection updates.



Recycling information – sign up to receive weekly bin collection day reminders for recycling and waste collections, including our garden recycling service.



Find my nearest – find your nearest facilities, such as recycling centres, car parks, leisure centres, libraries and public toilets.



Eating out – view local hygiene ratings for restaurants and cafes.



Contact us – access our address details, opening hours and contact information.

Singleton Village Hall

Come along to a demonstration and talk on Willow Weaving, at the Hall on Saturday 21 June at 11.00am

Find out more about this fascinating, ancient craft. Jill Eatherden will demonstrate the principles of making a garden obelisk, using willow, and then weave a small bird feeder, perfect for holding fat balls. Jill explains and shows a variety of different weaves that basketmakers use, and some of the construction methods employed in traditional and contemporary basketmaking. She will also talk about how she grows and harvests her own willow.



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Continued from front page...

It has achieved this by very careful management of its finances, investments in income generating real estate, industrial and retail and an extremely good team of officers. Prudent spending ensuring best value for you, the council tax payers has been paramount.

CDC has assets of £144 million in income generation property, Terminus Road, Quarry Lane, St James industrial site, the Portfield retail parks, many shops and stores in the city, the three leisure centres, The Bourne, Westgate and the Grange in Midhurst, all of which help to keep your council taxes lower than elsewhere. The total rent roll is just above £3 million, the industrial properties bring in £1.17 million per annum, the retail and office £1.44 million. Income from general licences issued by the council is £64,500 per annum. You must agree, this is a very healthy portfolio for a district of circa 128,000 residents.

I am very concerned about what will be the future for our finances once they are absorbed by a new devolved unitary authority serving the proposed 500,000 residents of each new authority, and at the moment nobody has any idea! The diligence and prudence shown by CDC over the past 25 plus years is likely to be lost and I can see continued cuts in government grants to local authorities being met by increased "local taxes" from our pockets.

Finally I must add, how can an elected mayor, and how many officers(?) oversee the management of our police force and our fire and rescue service as well as infrastructure and highways. This must surely be a backward step.

We have been 'promised' a public consultation on the proposals by September this year, so you must make your concerns, like mine, known.



Borland & Borland Letting Agent Wins British Property Award

Borland & Borland Letting's team performed outstandingly throughout the extensive award judging period, which focused on customer service levels.

Judging included mystery shops against a set of criteria to obtain a balanced overview of Borland & Borland's service levels. The British Property Award's judging criteria is comprehensive and detailed, exploring different scenarios and time periods to ensure that agents have been rigorously and fairly judged.

Steven Borland, Senior Partner commented, "We're confident that the service Borland & Borland give is second to none, and we're pleased to see it reflected in our two recent award wins for both the sales and the lettings branches."

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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 tipple 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.



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Singleton Fete
Saturday August 16th

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VE80 in East Dean

WI Report

At 8am on the 8th of May Glenn Ward, Justin Pollard and Adrian Murphy set about building a beacon on Court Hill overlooking East Dean.

They were making it out of branches that were left on the edge of the woods following the ash die-back clearance a few years ago, which had been gathered into a pile by John Holt the previous day.

By the time I joined them they already had a wig-wam taking shape, trimming the longer bits to more manageable lengths with a chainsaw.

Then Josh Collins and Rachel Collins (who aren't actually related, but there's only so many names to go round) came up and together we set about packing the structure with smaller bits of kindling.

Josh took over with the chainsaw and set about cutting slices off a large log that had been too awkward to use earlier, looking oddly like he was making a set of coasters! But in they went, slotting into the gaps until by 9.30 in the morning we'd built what we knew would be an impressive fire. The one person who wasn't there was Tim Calloway, for many years East Dean's chief bonfire builder, but he was in all our thoughts as we cracked on with the job.

Meanwhile, down in the village Les Calloway, Alexia Ward, Jo Stephens, Sam Hook, Susie Holmes and Sarah Peirson were baking Orange and Ginger cakes, to be cut into slices and enjoyed by everyone later in the evening.

I got the lanterns out that Helen Bailie and Kate Shaw made for the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, but finding we only had 42 left set about making another 18, using up all the jam jars that I'd carefully hoarded knowing they would come in one day. Next door Helen Scott, who had printed all the flyers we'd distributed a week earlier, got busy printing 60 song sheets.

In the Star & Garter Jim, Julie, Jake and their team were working out how they were going to accommodate the 60+ people who'd booked for the wartime – inspired pre-beacon supper. The pub regularly handles more than 60 covers for lunch or dinner, but not normally all in one sitting. In the end the only way to do it was three long tables, creating a street party feel which was entirely appropriate!

And so, at 7pm, with the pub packed and everyone tucking into cabbage soup, fish and chips and bread and butter pudding, Alexia, Glenn and Neil Georges took tables from the Village Hall and went up the hill with the cakes and 12 bottles of Prosecco that Neil personally contributed.

At 8.30 the crowd left the pub and joined the children and everyone else at the hall, where Helen Scott lit the tea lights in the lanterns and set off the procession up to the beacon. John Holt hitched up a tractor to an open trailer with bench seating and drove anyone who couldn't manage the climb up there - when we do an event in East Dean we don't leave anyone out!

At 9.15 Neil (as Chairman of the Parish Council) welcomed everyone before handing over to the Vicar (Sarah Manouche) who led prayers of thanks for those who fought in World War Two, and of hopes for peace in our own troubled time. Then, as Glenn lit the beacon, we sang God Save The King accompanied by Jeannie Esdaile (who normally plays the church organ) playing a battery powered keyboard that made a sound similar to a piano (but not so similar that the Bechstein company will be worried). The Vicar's sister Catherine acted as a human music stand for this, because whilst I'd thought of getting a table and a chair for Jeannie I'd forgotten that crucial detail. Undaunted, as the beacon lit up the night and illuminated the song sheets, we sang I Vow to Thee My Country, Land of Hope and Glory and (of course) We'll Meet Again.

Afterwards, as everyone trekked back down to their homes and beds, Rachel took it upon herself to gather up any abandoned lanterns and put them in the collection box at the end of the track. She did a good job: of the 60 we started the evening with we've got 59 back.

And that's the sort of team it takes to put on an event like that. But what a team! And what an event! **Tim Weeks**



The ladies of the Singleton and East Dean WI met on Thursday 15th May, in East Dean village hall.

We were treated to a wonderful talk from Bradley Smith about the Walsingham Shrine. A small village in Norfolk where according to tradition, Lady Richeldis de Faverches had a Marian apparition (in 1061) instructing her to build a replica of the Holy House in Nazareth, in exactly the same dimensions and in a specific location in Walsingham. The shrine became a place of huge pilgrimage and also the site of an Augustine priory (in situ until the reformation). The village is still a destination for huge numbers of worshipers and is referred to as the Nazareth of England. A brilliant and informative talk, we were, as ever, so grateful to the amazing speakers who come to see us each month.

Our next meeting is June 19th where we will be treated to a tour of Droke Farm and possibly have one or two sun downers at one of the best views of the South Downs. Please do let me know if you would like to come and join our merry band of brilliant women. We meet once a month, usually on the 3rd Thursday. Drop me a note at zk.mann@icloud.com if you would like any further information. Much love, **Zoe Mann**

Experience Bloom & Grow at the Weald & Downland Living Museum Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th June

The weekend will feature an array of nature-based activities, celebrating the sensory wonders of the natural world. Meet the Fairy Queen and Holly King under the Aspen Tree, gather around the campfire for woodland survival workshops, join Medical Herbalist Emma Baynes who will be exploring the healing properties of plants, find serenity with sound bath taster sessions to help you relax, create stunning keepsakes with botanical art printing, demonstration of the distillation of essential oils, perfumes and rosewater in Tindalls Cottage, learn about beekeeping and flax processing and much more. Tickets via wealddown.co.uk at £16.90.

The Valley Parish

www.facebook.com/ValleyParish

Find out more about our services and events at the A church near
you website



Sunday 22nd June

11am at West Dean

Join us for bible stories,
songs and games.

(oh and of course cakes and biscuits)

Contacts -

Parish Priest

Rev Sarah Manouch

priestvalleyparish@gmail.com / 07468 854864

(Principal working days are 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

Services and Events

1 st June Ascension	10am	Holy Communion With Choir East Dean
8 th June Pentecost	10am	Holy Communion Singleton
15 th June Trinity Sunday	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
22 nd June	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
	11am	Children's Church West Dean
29 th June	10am	BCP Holy Communion Singleton

June's Sacred Celebrations: Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday

June is rich with spiritual significance, marking three major Christian observances. Ascension Day, 40 days after Easter, celebrates Christ's return to heaven and His promise to send the Holy Spirit. Pentecost follows, 50 days after Easter, commemorating the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples with tongues of fire —often called the "birthday of the Church." Then comes Trinity Sunday, a reflection on the mystery of one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Together, these holy days call us to deeper faith, renewed purpose, and joyful worship. As we journey through June, may we open our hearts to the presence of the Spirit and the unity found in God's eternal love.

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

June 2025

Fri 6th Three Friday Nights: Goodwood
Sat 7th East Dean Fete: 2.30pm: The Old Vicarage
Sun 8th Family Race Day: Goodwood
Mon 9th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall
Tue 10th Ladies Night: The Star & Garter: East Dean: 7pm
Thu 12th VGC Garden Safari: 5pm
Fri 13th Three Friday Nights: Goodwood
Tue 17th Health Event: 10.30am: Chichester Rugby Club Pavilion
Thu 19th Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Rural Trailer Ride: 7pm
Fri 20th, Sat 21st & Sun 22nd West's Wood Fair: New Barn, East Dean: 10am - 5pm
Fri 20th Three Friday Nights: Goodwood
Sat 21st Willow Crafting: Singleton Village Hall: 11am
Mon 23rd The Valley Diary Copy Deadline: 12noon
Sat 28th & Sun 29th Bloom & Grow: Weald and Downland Museum

July 2025

Mon 14th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall
Mon 14th Singleton & Charlton Parish Council Meeting: Singleton Village Hall: 7pm
Thu 17th Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Summer Party: 7pm
Fri 18th End of School Term
Tue 29th - Sat 2nd (Aug) Goodwood Horse Racing

August 2025

Tue 29th (Jul) - Sat 2nd Goodwood Horse Racing
Sat 9th VGC Annual Show: 2.30pm: East Dean Village Hall

Mon 11th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall
Sat 16th Singleton Village Fete: 12noon - 4pm, Singleton Cricket Pitch
Fri 22nd - Sun 24th Goodwood Horse Racing

September 2025

Tue 2nd Goodwood Horse Racing
Fri 12th - Sun 14th Goodwood Revival
Mon 15th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall
Mon 15th Singleton & Charlton Parish Council Meeting: Singleton Village Hall: 7pm
Thu 15th Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Andrew Humphris: 7pm
Tue 24th Goodwood Horse Racing

October 2025

Sun 12th Goodwood Horse Racing
Mon 13th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall
Thu 16th Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Suzanne Bolter: 7pm

November 2025

Mon 10th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall

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

Deadline for the...

July 2025 Edition

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

Monday 23rd June
editor@valleydiary.org

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

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Useful Telephone Numbers

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East Dean Village Hall	07785 740625
Goodwood Security	07909 876823
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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 Clerk	07596 884847
West Dean School	01243 811247
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Albert says...



He said to meet at the auction,
But I was very late.
I waved to him as I went in,
Which bought me Lot 28.

Register of Local...

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Dear reader, I promise to continue to concentrate on cheering you up with humorous poetry, but with so many sad wartime memories currently in the media, I'd like to offer you this. Francis.

The Orphans of Futility

Stand still and look around you,
At the treasures that surround you.
World leaders could astound you,
And blow it all away.

A man once said, "We are at war!"
Her nervous laugh said, "Are you sure?"
The love they had ran to the core.
Don't take that away.

Her man worked hard so they'd survive,
Toiled all day, would never skive.
Always home for tea at five,
Then the army took him away.

In foreign lands he'd never seen,
Is painted a very bloody scene.
Many battles, no rest in between,
Why can't it go away?

In quiet moments he'd always try,
To picture home. That last goodbye.
Seeing her and the kiddies cry,
The tears won't go away.

Now, that home does not exist.
While he was away taking risks,
The war brought on a nasty twist.
The bombs blew it away.

Four children safe on that day.
To the country, sent to stay.
Laughing and rolling in the hay,
Mum at home when it blew away.

With the war over and gone,
The kids still wonder what went on.
They know that they lost their mum,
But why's dad still away?

He dodged many bullets for victory,
Sometimes advance, sometimes flee.
A final advance brought him to his knees.
Then he was gone.

REMINDER OF THE CHARITY GO-KART CHALLENGE AT WEST'S WOOD FAIR ON SATURDAY 21ST JUNE

Basic Rules

1. Home-made karts using recycled materials where possible.
2. Children and Adult Classes for racing on a grassy slope.
3. Winners will be judged on speed, design & style.
4. Small entry fee for charity.

First up - and if successful, we will make it an annual event.

Please do contact John by phone on 07787 567140 or by email at john@drokefarm.co.uk for more information.



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How much do you know about recycling? What information would help you to recycle more?

As part of **West Sussex Recycles** mission to help improve recycling rates, their running another survey to gather information on what you would like to know and they would love you to take part. It just takes a few minutes and your answers will help them to help residents in the future. The survey will close Monday 30th June at 11:59pm. Here's the link... tinyurl.com/2cv4nt57

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Chairman's Report, 19th May

Firstly, a huge thank you to you all for attending our recent meeting. **I was sorry to start the meeting with the sad news that Steve Corbett, the Chairman of West Dean Parish Council and a huge part in the Weald and Downland Museum, has sadly died. I would like to take this opportunity of sending our condolences to his wife and family.**

We have had a busy year with the **CHS project** finally coming to fruition. I would like to thank Councillors and parishioners, old and new, who have worked so hard to deliver this project for the parish. Also, the incredible work by councillors getting **Southern Water** to finally sort the pipework through the valley. It has been an enormous project and they have now finished all the work in Charlton, through the meadow and are now in Singleton. Southern Water have worked tirelessly to do the work and as far as I am aware they have been courteous and have always dealt with any parishioners concerns promptly. I would also like to thank our MP Andrew Griffith for supporting the parish council throughout this project.

There have been no great **planning issues** except for the **oil field** and this is on-going. They have put in an amended planning application and we have agreed to go back with our original response as none of our points have as yet been answered. We will continue to work hard on this and hope that the **South Downs National Park** will be able to support us.

After a great year we need to celebrate and the **Village BBQ will be on Saturday 28th June at the Village Hall and The Leys**. It is free to all parishioners and we look forward to welcoming everyone for a great party.

I would finally like to say a huge thank you to all the councillors for their incredible



hard work. As volunteers they give up their time to support and improve our community. I would also like to thank **Jeremy Hunt and Henry Potter** for all their support. Major - and I mean **major** - thanks goes to **Viv Nuttall our Clerk** without whom I would not be able to do my job. She keeps us all in order and is hugely efficient and a joy to work with. I believe we are in robust form as a council and look forward to the coming year. Please remember that if there is anything that you are concerned about or would like improved in the parish then please do contact us. **Deborah Harwood, singletonparishcouncil.co.uk**

Weald & Downland Living Museum Through The Lens - a Photographic Exhibition Celebrating the Museum's History In Pictures

Running until 31st August, this unique exhibition showcases a stunning collection of photographs that capture the Museum's formative years during the 1970s and 1980s, offering visitors an opportunity to step back in time and see the story of the Museum unfold.

The exhibition can be found in the Museum's Longport Gallery. Find out more and book tickets: wealddown.co.uk

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Petworth House & Park Late Opening: Summer Solstice Saturday 21st June, 7pm - 10pm

Spend the summer solstice enjoying the beauty of nature and watching the sunset in the Pleasure Garden, and along the front terrace of the house, when the grounds are open for the evening. Take a stroll around the garden to see the evening sunlight and absorb the peaceful atmosphere on the woodland walk. The Summer Solstice marks the opening of our new Turner's Vision at Petworth exhibition, which visitors will be able to see at no extra cost. There will be live music performances during the evening. £15 per person. We recommend booking in advance via our website to guarantee entry. Tickets can also be purchased on the night. The exhibition will close at 9pm.

Downsizers Drive Summer Property Surge

As the summer months approach swiftly with the weather improving and gardens in full bloom, it's not an overstatement to say that there are substantial levels of stock available for the first time in over 12 months.



With the increasingly frequent sunshine providing a valuable opportunity for vendors to capture the essential photographs for their spring marketing campaigns, this summer presents a unique chance to seize this moment.

What sets this market apart is the emergence of downsizers who are finally making their move. In fact, several of our vendors are in this position, and it's fascinating to hear their reasons for deciding to find smaller properties.

Five years after the pandemic, when the housing market experienced a surge in activity as buyers sought to relocate to the countryside, enabling remote working and leaving urban life behind, many potential downsizers remained in place due to their advanced age.

This period was followed by an economic downturn characterised by rising inflation and interest rates, which further delayed property transactions. Since then, interest rates have gradually declined, albeit at a slow pace, due to persistent inflationary pressures and broader economic uncertainties. Consequently, those who postponed their moves have grown weary of the waiting period and are now eager to resume their lives.

We are thrilled about the potential properties coming to the market this summer and hope we can assist you with your next move.

Hancock and Partners - www.hancockpartners.co.uk

Progress with West Dean Church Organ

Huge progress has been made with improving the organ at St Andrew's Church West Dean.

The organ is rare, made by the Compton Organ Company. Unaltered since being fitted in 1936 it was showing its age and in need of some tender loving care!

Two fantastic engineers, Mark and Jackie, from South Coast Organs, based on the Isle of Wight, spent a full two days of their time lavishing much needed care and attention on cleaning and repairs. Parts of the organ had been attacked by moths leading to a deterioration in the sound, but the hard work undertaken by Mark and Jackie has remedied the damage and it now sounds wonderful!

All this work was not without cost, (approximately £1,600), but it is hoped that this new improved instrument can now be used for concerts of all types of music, to help the ongoing Standing the Test of Time appeal to raise money for repairs to the West Dean church tower. Plans for the works on the church tower are currently with the architect and will shortly go out to tender.

Please keep an eye out for details of upcoming concerts later in the year.

Sarah John, Churchwarden

The Restless Coast A Journey around the Edge of Britain

You are invited to the launch of Roger Morgan-Grenville's new book on Thursday 5th June at 7.30pm at Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, Midhurst. **West Sussex Rivers Trust**

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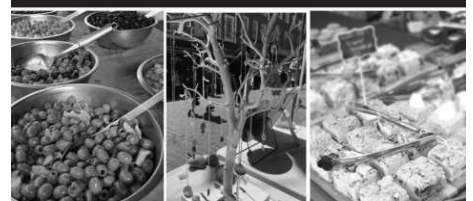
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Tod Anstee is coming to Midhurst!

We are delighted to announce the opening of our new office in Midhurst, bringing our trusted property services to the heart of this vibrant and historic town from summer 2025.

With over 15 years of experience based in Chichester, we have built a strong reputation for delivering expert advice and exceptional customer service. We are proud to now extend our reach to Midhurst, offering the same high standards our clients have come to rely on.

Our new office will provide a comprehensive range of property services, including residential and commercial sales and lettings, rural estate management, country homes, land, and new homes. Whether you're a first-time buyer, investor, landlord, or simply exploring your next move, our experienced team will be here to guide you every step of the way.

We are passionate about property, deeply committed to the communities we serve and this expansion into Midhurst represents an exciting new chapter for Tod Anstee.

Once the doors open, we warmly welcome you to pop in for a chat, whether you're looking for advice, considering a move, or just want to meet the team.

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SUNSHINE, COMMUNITY & CELEBRATION AT GRAYLINGWELL PARK

Summer has arrived in Chichester, and CCDT spaces are buzzing with life.

Havenstoke Park's football pitches are now open for community use, with a local team kicking off regular matches from August 2025. Over at Keepers Green, cricket has returned, thanks to Chichester Priory Park Cricket Club. Live music is back at The Pavilion on Friday evenings - join us June 13, 20, and 27 from 6-8pm for relaxed summer sounds on the decking. Arrive early for the best spot! On 15 June, the CCDT team will be at TrinityFest at Cathedral Green, where we'll be building future community spaces in LEGO - please come along to say hello!

Here's to sunshine, connection, and a summer full of community spirit.

Chichester Community Development Trust
chichestercdt.org.uk

CREAM TEA and ORCHID WALK

Sunday 8th June
Heyshott Escarpment
Nature Reserve, Cobden
Hall, Heyshott
3pm to 5pm
01730 810129

An Invitation to Create Beauty at Chichester Cathedral

Church flower arranging teams are warmly invited to take part in the much-anticipated 2026 Festival of Flowers at Chichester Cathedral - a cherished tradition that celebrates creativity, community, and floral artistry.

This Festival, which attracts over 10,000 visitors, has a long-standing history of welcoming contributions from parish flower teams across the Diocese of Chichester, as well as from talented individuals, flower clubs, and colleges.

Whether you're a seasoned participant or new to the Festival, we would be delighted for you to share your passion and floral flair at this truly special fundraising event.

The theme for 2026 is being kept a closely guarded secret until its official reveal in June - but rest assured, it promises to inspire!

In the meantime, check out our website to discover how you can be part of this stunning celebration of flowers in one of England's most iconic cathedrals.

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Art and Agriculture Talk

Friday 13th June
6.30pm - 9pm

Join an exclusive fundraising evening at South Stoke Barn, hosted by Ryan and Tanya Haydon and enjoy a thought-provoking discussion on 'Productive Land' with Ryan Haydon, James Stewart of Zimmer Stewart Gallery, and artist Nick Bodimeade. Champagne and canapés included. This event supports The Sussex Snowdrop Trust.
Book now for £25

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West's Wood Fair

Two years ago, Peter West decided to open the wood fair on a Friday as well as Saturday & Sunday, and invited several local schools to bring some of their students along for the day, all completely free of charge.



We had a good response and that first year 5 schools attended. During the day they attended forest school, did den building, went on a tractor & trailer ride into the forest, met some owls, did a treasure hunt and watched a gun dog display.

This year will be the third year Peter has offered this to local schools, as he is passionate about sparking an interest in all things timber related with the next generations.

Following on from Friday, the kids' corner becomes open to the public and is full of games and activities, like den building, mud kitchens, paint your own miniature totem pole, wand making, story time and face-painting. Many activities are free of charge with only a couple costing a small amount.

As well as the kids' corner there will, of course, be lots else going on, like our tractor & trailer ride, Dorset Axeman displays, horse logging displays, have a go at archery or axe throwing, and the logroll.

But it's not all about the kids, we have several dog scurries that your furry friends can have a go at, live music (on two stages this year), the chainsaw carving competition, the chainsaw race, the Sussex Scrumpy Stakes, plenty to eat & drink and over 100 exhibitors to see.

Children under 16 years go free, and adults are £12 on the gate or £10.50 in advance through our website ~ www.westswoodfair.co.uk

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This year will be our 9th wood fair and there will be just as much in store for you as previous years, including **Hot Air Balloon Take Offs** (weather permitting), **Crazy Croquet**, **Paint Your Own Totem Pole** and **Lawnmower Racing**, plus many of our annual events will be returning like our **Chainsaw Carving Competition**.



For the first time we also have 'The Valley Go-Kart Challenge' which is for non-motorised, handmade go-karts. This is a fundraising event, please email john@drokefarm.co.uk for more information and details on how to enter.



As always there's lots to see and do, take a stroll around over 100 exhibitors, some of which give you the chance to get involved and have a go yourself. In the arenas we have **Gun Dog Displays**, **The Dorset Axeman**, **Pole Climbing Demonstrations**, our **Chainsaw Race** and **Heavy Horse Logging** demonstrations. Take a tractor and trailer ride into the depths of the forest, have a go at **Axe Throwing**, **Archery**, **Spear Throwing** or the **Log Roll**. Stop by the **Kids Corner** for **Face Painting**, **Den Building**, **Mud Kitchens** and games. If you're feeling lucky there's lots of competitions or races going on over the weekend like our **Sussex Scrumpy Stakes**, **Timber Identification Challenge** or **Guess the Cubic Foot of the Tree**, all of which are free to enter.



The **Woodturners Rest** will open its doors again with a large selection of locally made real ales to choose from, there will be plenty of food on offer and live music throughout the day and evening. Discounted tickets are available on our website and camping can be booked if you wish to make a weekend of it.

Entry on Friday is half price as some activities and exhibitors won't be present, please check our website for more information.

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May has been a very busy, but by and large, successful month on the farms. We have now finished lambing our ewes on both farms and according to Nick, he has never known such a good lambing season in his long shepherding career. The fine weather has certainly been a great help for preventing lamb losses and grazing conditions have been ideal. We have taken the first cuts for silage from our grass, clover and lucerne leys with respectable yields considering the lack of rain this Spring.

The dairy herd at East Dean, which calves in the Summer and early Autumn, are now coming to the end of their lactation which means that this month we will begin drying them off so the cows can have a two-month rest before they calve and start all over again. This works well for us as the grass growth on our thin chalk soils slows down during the summer and is insufficient to feed the whole herd if they are all still milking.

We are very much hoping that this run of fine weather will soon break to give our crops and soils a good soaking which they so desperately need now.

Our grateful thanks are due to Stuart Collins (see photo) who has been working with us at Droke Farm since he left agricultural college over 40 years ago. Although now semi-retired from fulltime work he will continue to help during our busy periods on both Goodwood and Droke farms. Stuart has given many years of loyal service with a special interest in operating and maintaining farm machinery including combine harvesters, numerous tractors of all makes, ploughs, drills, various types of cultivators, mowers, muck spreaders and feeders. A great team member, Stuart has spent the last year working alongside and passing on his extensive farming knowledge to Ben who will be taking over much of Stuart's previous role.



John's Farm Diary

★ SINGLETON ★

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2025

Saturday

16th August

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VE Day Commemoration Event Success!

The VE Day Commemoration Event at St Andrew's Church, West Dean, over the first Bank Holiday weekend was a huge success, attended by several hundred people over three days.

A fabulous total of £2,039 towards the Standing the Test of Time appeal for much needed works to the church buildings was raised from donations and sales of refreshments. There were over a dozen beautiful floral displays throughout the church. These had been skilfully arranged by Kate Shaw and the amazing team of talented ladies who all gave their time and flowers free of charge to help make the event so worthwhile.

The local history display proved very popular with several descendants of the men we sadly lost during WWII attending the event, including Clive and Mary Kennett of Steep. Clive grew up in East Dean and his Father was unfortunately killed. Clive and Mary helped with the display by providing photographs and information.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the event such a success by donating flowers, cakes and their time. Although the beautiful flowers have now faded, the local history, including work by the children of West Dean Primary School, is still on display.

Sarah John
Churchwarden

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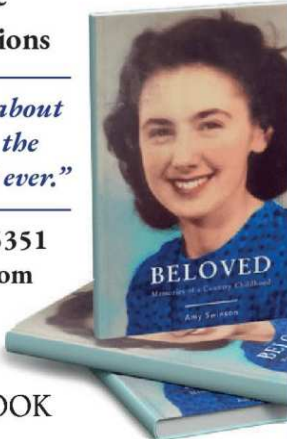
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LADIES NIGHT

Star and Garter
East Dean
Tuesday 10th June
7pm - All Welcome!

Valley Gardening Club

The Swifts have screeched their arrival announcing summer has begun! The pungent fragrance of Lilac and Wisteria is now being followed by the roses. It is time to give those "darling buds" a good feed with potassium heavy plant food such as Tomorite, Rose Tonic or similar. Make sure to dead head them to prolong flowering.

Some timely tips from our Valley Gardener, Jon Rogers

Prune deciduous shrubs after they finish flowering.

Feed annuals, vegetables and bedding plants weekly, again with a potassium heavy plant food. Keep watering preferably using rainwater from butts or tubs and mulch heavily to save on water. When growing plants from seeds, make sure the soil has a good and even tilth and is in a turgid state i.e. damp but not wet.

East Dean Garden Safari

Thursday 12th June starting at 5pm. Open to all. Meet by the Pond Green in East Dean where maps will be given out to visit 5/6 gardens, finishing with Drinks & Nibbles, venue to be confirmed. A small donation would be welcome.

The Annual Show

This is to be held on the 9th of August at East Dean Village Hall this year. Look out for further information. **Miranda Mayne**

valleygardeningclub.org.uk



DEFIBRILLATORS

In an emergency you will find these defibrillators locally at **Singleton Village Hall** (PO18 oHA), the **Phone Box at Charlton** (Foxhall Lane, PO18 oHX) and **behind East Dean Village Hall** (PO18 oJG).



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