


The Valley Diary

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

thevalleydiary.org ~ May 2025 Edition



VE DAY
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8 MAY 2025

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.

**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 10.45am should you wish to partake. All are most welcome to attend.

1945

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
sarance@btinternet.com

2025



Mark Astley, MNAEA
Director

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Singleton Cricket Club 2025 Duck Race Monday 5th May

12:30 Start



To be held at the
Cricket Ground
From 10:30

ENTRY £1 Per DUCK
Many prizes

Food and Drink will be available at The Cricket Ground

**"Ducks" Available on the day
at The Cricket Ground**

THE FOX GOES FREE



SUMMER IS COMING - CAN'T WAIT!

We are excited to announce our new menu which
launched on 25th April. From hearty burgers to
indulgent desserts, we've got something for everyone!

MAY - SAVE THE DATES

Monday 5th & 26th - Bank holidays

Goodwood 17th & 18th May

Take advantage of our lovely garden & enjoy the views
while enjoying a bite to eat or a refreshing drink.

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Saxon LIFE

24 MAY TO 1 JUNE

Discover all about the Saxon period this May half term.

Enjoy story telling, hands on activities and our Saxon trail around our 40 acre site.



Find out more at wealddown.co.uk | 01243 811363



DISCOVER THE SAXON PERIOD AT THE WEALD & DOWNLAND LIVING MUSEUM THIS MAY HALF TERM

Step back in time and immerse yourself in the Saxon period from 24th May - 1st June 2025. Experience how our Saxon ancestors may have lived, through engaging activities, fascinating workshops and hands-on fun that bring history to life.

Step into the world of the Saxons

Villages in Saxon times were typically small and self-sufficient, relying on agriculture, craftsmanship, and trade to thrive. Villagers homes were simple, often timber-framed with thatched roofs, nestled within close-knit communities. Life during this time revolved around farming seasons, with crops such as wheat, barley, and oats playing a crucial role in sustenance. During half term, visitors to the Weald & Downland Living Museum can enjoy an immersive and interactive experience to gain a deeper understanding of how these communities thrived.



**Solve the Saxon Riddle Trail - Saxon Storytelling & Myths - Saxon-inspired creations to take home
Try on authentic Saxon replica clothing - 9 Herb Charm Workshop - Play Saxon-themed games
Try to translate your name into ancient runes - Dig into history with a Saxon Archaeological Dig
Beowulf Puppetry Performance - Explore the Historic Grounds**

Activities may vary daily, but there will always be something exciting to explore. Visitors are encouraged to check the full day's activities upon arrival.



GOODWOOF!

...a dog event like no other at Goodwood
Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th May
goodwood.com

The Valley Diary thanks Goodwood for their support.

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GALLERY...

More super photos from local folk... West Ashling Pond, Terry Timblich, Spring Flowers in West Dean Woods, Sunset Over Singleton and New Arrivals at the Museum, HG



We have made good progress in the arable fields. All spring crops are now established in ideal soil conditions except they could now do with a good soaking from above. March and April have both recorded unusually low rainfall so, like many gardeners, we farmers and growers are desperate for a spell of wet weather now.

All the dairy cows are grazing good quality spring grass which is good for milk production and the cows clearly enjoy being outside in the sunshine. Many of the younger cattle too have been turned out to grass. Some for the first time which can get a bit exciting as they discover their new-found freedom.

Overall, lambing this season has gone well on both farms with not too many losses. Helped to some extent by the drier weather but of course much credit is owed to the lambing teams: Ben and Claire at East Dean and Nick, Amy and Ryan at Goodwood who spend many long hours watching and tending the flocks at this critical time. There have been a good number of triplets and even quads at Goodwood. A ewe will struggle to look after so many lambs, so the shepherds adopt one or two lambs onto ewes that have given birth to a single lamb.

The month of May will see contractors arrive on farm to help us gather in our first harvest of forage crops (grass, clover, lucerne etc) to make silage for the winter months. This first cut gives us the best quality material which will be reserved mainly for the dairy cows and will provide high energy and protein levels and be easily digestible by the cows' rumen stomachs. The better the quality of the forage the less expensive concentrate feed (cake) we need to buy in and feed. This also helps to make us more carbon efficient which is another target for all farmers on our journey to net zero. Dairy cows need quite a rich diet to enable them to produce a decent milk yield and at the same time maintain their weight.

You will remember from a previous article that all the meat produced at Goodwood is either consumed in the restaurants or sold through the farm shop where there is always a good range of organic pork, beef, lamb and wild venison available as well as Goodwood organic dairy products, milk, cream, yoghurt and cheeses.

Here at East Dean, we sell our own organic milk through a vending machine at The Milk Hut and at weekends and holidays we now have The Coffee Hut run by Hannah and Frazer. Worth a visit!

Photo: Shepherds Amy and Nick. Happy with this year's results.

Discover something new on your doorstep.
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comedy and more...

31 MAY - 14 JUNE 2025

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fringe**

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Spitfire Girls

The story of the unsung heroes



The 'Spitfire Girls' were women pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) in WWII, delivering aircraft like Spitfires to RAF bases, playing a crucial yet often overlooked role in the war.

Join Roger Clark, local historian and former schoolteacher, for this wonderfully illustrated informative talk.

Join us at Sage House:

Wednesday 21st May - 6pm - 7.30pm

£10 per person, includes Tea/Coffee and Cake.

Spaces are limited so make sure to book early!

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DON'T BE A TOSSER! TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME!

Tim Week's excellent article in the April edition was very thought-provoking and highlights not only a local, but sadly a national problem.

Ourselves in Charlton together with others in Singleton do regular litter-picking down Knights Hill and other local roads with similar results to Tim and his East Dean colleagues. The biggest culprits are the consumers of Red Bull (not Red Stripe) together with the inevitable McDonalds and fast food containers, beer cans, coffee cups and plastic bottles. When approached McDonalds said they do litter collections around their outlets, but what good is that when most of their containers are discarded after consumption a few miles from purchase, which in our case happens to be Knights Hill or East Dean Hill! Because we often find the same brand of cans in particular spots, one wonders if it is the same litter bugs who work locally or do the same daily commute.

Companies need to be much more proactive in protecting the environment. As Tim says, perhaps there could be monetary incentives to return empty receptacles, but in an increasingly cashless society and the costs of collection and re-cycling this would probably be difficult to implement. Red Bull for example must spend considerable sums on its Formula 1 sponsorship. McDonalds and others spend large amounts on TV advertising, but surely some of this expenditure could be spent on a major campaign, either collectively or individually to educate those who think through ignorance or laziness, it is their right to toss litter from vehicles.

Richard & Jane Pailthorpe

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
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Singleton Fete
Saturday August 16th

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costume jewellery and pretty
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HERE COMES SUMMER!

...is the concert theme on Saturday 3rd May at 7pm in Christ Church, off South Street, Chichester, boosting funds for Save The Children.

It's mix of music, poetry, prose and jokes. There will be refreshments and a retiring collection.

terrytimblick@gmail.com

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WEALD & DOWNLAND LIVING MUSEUM INVITES CHILDREN TO 'TRY A TRADE' AND DISCOVER HERITAGE CRAFTS

On Sunday 4th & Monday 5th May, young visitors are invited to immerse themselves in two exciting days of hands-on activities, especially designed to introduce the younger generation to the heritage trades and crafts that shaped our past.

From learning traditional trades to trying their hand at unique skills, children will get the opportunity to experience a wide range of activities including carpentry, baking, pottery, milling and more.

Everyone who completes their activities will receive a special certificate in heritage crafts and skills as a proud memento of their day of discovery.

Be a Potter: Create your own clay coaster - £1.50; Be a Baker: Prepare and bake a bread roll in our bakehouse - £1.50; Be a Dairymaid or Dairyman: Churn butter and take home a butter pat - £1.50; Be a Miller: Weigh, bag, and take home your own flour as well as try the quern - £1.50; Be a Blacksmith (Ages 8+): Make a hook in our forge - £4 (only 12 spaces per day)

Bookings can only be made on the day at our 'Trades & Crafts Recruitment Stand'. Arrive early to secure your spot. Experience History, Learn Skills and Have Fun!

Petworth House & Park nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth

Half Term Family Trail **Saturday 24th May - Sunday 1st June**

Families can pick up a free 'Ben Plants a Butterfly Garden' trail map to follow the buggy-friendly paths of the Pleasure Garden and discover fun games and activities along the way. The trail is free but normal admission applies. No booking required.

Outdoor Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing

Friday 30th May, 7pm - 9pm
The HandleBards are bringing their bicycle-powered production to the Pleasure Garden. Booking essential. Please visit our website for more information or call 07446 125344.



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75 years on at Singleton Cricket Club

It has been 75 years since the cricket club has been at Sheepwash Meadow thanks to the generous support of the Benson Family and the National Trust.

Our Pavilion so kindly gifted to the club by Geoff Cumberlidge and erected by the players and members of the day back then, has been stood nearly 50 Years in all weathers and is now starting to show its age. Over the past few years we have been slowly restoring the barn and this winter has been busy with the completion of our latest restoration works.

A huge thanks to all who pitched in to help get the club ready for the new season and to Charles and Pippa Lewington (for their generous support to the funding towards the front elevation of the barn with new cladding and windows) and local businesses Bletchley Spas & Pools, Pentagon installations and Charlton sawmill, who made it a good local collaboration.

The kitchen, which has been refurbished too (with support of the ECB county Grant), is only part of the work done. The two end elevations are the next projects once funds have been generated to cover the cost.

Singleton Cricket Club is a grassroots club built by the members, for the members, and as things have changed over the years we have had to change with times. Our club has players aged 5 to 50+ years and with that comes greater safeguarding and controls. Are you able to help us continue to provide this game which educates youngsters with a multitude of lifeskills? If you can, with continued funding (or you have spare time to help with roles or jobs) please let us know...

president@singletoncc.co.uk, Francis Ward, Club President

Village Cricket Match at Arundel Castle Sunday 25th May ...from 10.30am



Enjoy a relaxed day out at the stunning Arundel Castle Cricket Ground, with free entry and parking.

This T10 Villages Cricket Match features teams from Aldwick, Fernhurst, Arundel Grasshoppers, and Madehurst. Sponsored by Monan Gozzett LLP, the event includes live music, pizza, ice cream, vintage games, a raffle, a licensed bar and traditional cream teas.

Bring a picnic and soak up the atmosphere at one of Sussex's most beautiful cricket venues.



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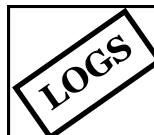


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Singleton and Charlton Parish Council News

Southern Water

We are delighted that Southern Water have secured the funding for the work to continue through Singleton. They envisage the work will take 5/6 months. You can get regular updates on the Parish website. If you have any concerns about this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Charlton - 20mph

Highways have approved the new speed limit of 20mph through Charlton. We are waiting to find out when this will be implemented.

Singleton and Charlton Parish Party!

We will be holding the parish street party on Saturday 28th June at the village hall from 12noon - 5pm. There will be a BBQ, salads, tea and cake! Bring a plate, cutlery and of course a bottle! There will be lots of games for both adults and children! It is free to all who live in the Parish. If you would like to bring guests then it will be £10 per person. We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone.

Next Meeting

The next Parish council meeting is the AGM and will be held at the Singleton Cricket Pavilion on Monday 19th May at 7pm. Our speaker will be Tim Burr, Deputy Chair of The South Downs National Park. There will be wine and nibbles to enjoy and an opportunity to find out more about what is happening in the community.

Do get in touch with us if you have any issues or suggestions for the parish council.

Viv Nuttall (Clerk)

singletonparishcouncil1@gmail.com
01243 811810
singletonparishcouncil.co.uk

Justin Audibert, Artistic Director of Chichester Festival Theatre, 'In Conversation' with Phil Hewitt, Arts Editor of SussexWorld

Justin shares the fascinating story of his journey in the world of theatre, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the upcoming Festival 2025 season.

Tickets £20 (includes glass of wine)

Date June 27 @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Venue Private Garden of Bishop's Palace, Chichester, PO19 1PY

Book: thesussexsnowdroptrust.com



Advertorial

Help to write your life story!

Finding the right person to help you write your life story can feel daunting, says professional biographer Katarina Sherbourne.

I've been helping people write their memoirs for many years. I've written books about childhood, travels abroad, special romances, family relationships, wartime, school life, exciting careers, and absorbing passions and interests.

In my experience, people are looking for four things in their choice of writer. They want someone who is easy to talk to and who they feel relaxed and comfortable with. They are also looking for someone who is well-organised, with a methodical but flexible approach. Equally important is someone they can trust, so that what is shared remains private and confidential.

Whilst rapport and empathy are essential, the real secret to an excellent memoir is the ability of the ghostwriter to capture the authentic voice of a person so that friends and family can instantly recognise the character of the storyteller.

Providing a bespoke, one-to-one service is something that is very much appreciated. As one client told me: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Katarina. She was helpful, patient, thorough and professional and made the whole experience very easy for me."

Please contact Katarina for further information on 07982 465351
www.lifestoryinabook.com (See advert on page 22)



Join 4Sight Vision Support's Challenge of the Year!

4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) is preparing for its biggest fundraising event of the year, its **Annual Walk** on the **Angmering Park Estate** on **Saturday 14th June** at 10am. It's a fantastic day out and all funds raised will help the charity's work providing support and specialist information to West Sussex residents who are blind or partially sighted.

This year there is no registration fee, and the stakes have been raised to a single 10 mile challenge. 4SVS is calling for as many participants as possible: this may be the last year the Walk is held in its current form so it's a great chance to visit some beautiful countryside in an area which is not usually open to the public.

4Sight Vision Support is asking participants to pledge a minimum of £25 through sponsorship or donation. Please call or email to reserve a place, or if you have any other questions, 01243 838001 or fundraising@4sight.org.uk

The Valley Parish

www.facebook.com/ValleyParish

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



Sunday 25th May

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

4 th May	10am	Holy Communion With Choir East Dean
3 rd – 5 th May	10am – 5pm	Local History and Flower Display West Dean
11 th May	10am	Holy Communion Singleton
14 th May	7pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting West Dean
18 th May	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
25 th May	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
	11am	Children's Church West Dean

Local History and Flower Display To Commemorate VE DAY 80

The Church of St Andrew, West Dean Bank Holiday Weekend
Saturday 3rd May - Monday 5th May
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

To raise essential funds for Valley Parish Appeal, Standing the Test
of Time. Please help keep our churches open

Free Entry – Donations Appreciated. Refreshments Available

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

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
Sun 4th & Mon 5th Children's Try A Trade Day: weald & Downland Museum
Mon 5th Singleton Cricket Club Duck Race: 12.30pm
Wed 7th Local History Talk with Richard Pailthorpe: Singleton Village Hall
Thu 8th 80th VE Day Commemoration: West Dean Gardens: 5pm
Sat 10th Murray Downland Trust Garden Event: 11am: Caster's Brook, Cocking
Sat 10th Sussex Yeomanry Association Spring Services: Waymark Memorial, Charlton: 11.30am
Mon 12th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall
Tue 13th Ladies Night: The Star & Garter: East Dean: 7pm
Thu 15th Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Bradley Smith: 7pm
Sat 17th & Sun 18th Goodwood!
Mon 19th Singleton & Charlton Parish Council Annual Meeting: Singleton Cricket Club: 7pm
Fri 23rd & Sat 24th Goodwood Horse Racing
Sat 24th - Sun 1st (June) Saxon Life: Weald & Downland Museum
Mon 26th The Valley Diary Copy Deadline: 12noon
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

Thu 12th VGC Garden Safari: 5pm
Fri 13th Three Friday Nights: Goodwood
Tue 17th Health Event: 10.30am: Chichester Rugby Club Pavilion
Fri 20th Three Friday Nights: Goodwood
Thu 19th Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Rural Trailer Ride: 7pm
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
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
Sat 16th Singleton Fete
Fri 22nd - Sun 24th 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

Deadline for the...

June 2025 Edition

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

Monday 26th May
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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East Dean PC Clerk	07712 647511
East Dean Village Hall	07785 740625
Goodwood Security	07909 876823
Lavant Road Doctors Surgery	01243 527264
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Local Police	101
Singleton Fete	01243 818037
Singleton Parish Clerk	07702 240126
Singleton School	01243 811679
Singleton Tearooms	01243 811899
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Weald & Downland Museum: Office	01243 811363
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Albert says...



Due to a serious typo,
Adrian became A drain.
Which will be very useful,
If Arni then becomes Rain.

Register of Local...

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Harper's Cottage, East Lavant. Ring Caroline 01243 278659
Flint Cottage, 47 Mid Lavant, Lavant Road, PO18 0AA: Sue Kemble 01243 785883 / 07814903541
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LAVANT FETE & FUN DOG SHOW

Saturday 21st June
1pm - 4pm
Lavant Village Green

New classes as well as the **old favourites**. A great success last year, to be repeated in 2025, is the **Dog Agility** and **Lavant Equestrian** will be bringing along two of their sweet ponies. Meanwhile another kind of horsepower is Lavant Fete's new delight for 2025, a collection of **Vintage Cars** with a prize for the smartest.

The theme of **New and Usual** continues with our **BBQ, Bar, Tea and Cakes** as well as a new addition a **Coffee Stall** and **Vegetarian Food** options.

The **Craft Stall** has been revamped and we have a range of fun activities for children, including a **Fairground Chair-O-Plane** and **Winnie the Witch!** The **3rd Annual Tug of War** has provoked new (rumour has it) secret practices by the various teams!

There really is something for all the family to enjoy. **Come and join us!**



THINKING ABOUT SELLING? BUYING AGENTS CAN HELP!

When looking at the portals and estate agency websites, you might wonder: where are all the good-quality country houses for sale across the country? The answer is, a large proportion are purchased off-market.

The older generation typically live in the best houses, having owned them for approximately 20-30 years. However, sellers also need to find another house to buy (the big conundrum) - which most of the time is stressful and hugely disruptive. As such, sellers often become hesitant and don't do it - which creates a bottleneck in the market.

I believe if all those who were thinking about selling contacted a buying agent as well as an estate agent, this could help release an enormous amount of housing stock. The majority of homeowners do not realise the benefits of speaking with a local buying agent, but there are many. Good buying agents not only have a black book of potential buyers looking for country houses, but these purchasers are also cash-ready and flexible.

Many of our buyers are now agreeing to a delayed completion to give sellers time to find something else. Several years ago, this was the standard 28 days, but now a date can be arranged for as long as a few years away. We also bring serious buyers to the table, and quickly. These clients are heavily vetted to ensure they are proceedable, reducing the risk of them pulling out of the deal.

Having the time to find something else, combined with the assurance that their home has already sold, puts a seller in a good position to make a stress-free onward purchase.

Additionally, if a seller wants to move locally, then a buying agent can also find them another great house far more quickly than if they were to rely only on what's for sale on the open market. Most of the best homes are being sold off-market, which means it's our clients who get a heads up on them first.

Of course, should a homeowner decide to contact me, I will always recommend getting the house valued via an estate agent, as we represent the buyer and not a seller. Also, an estate agent would help them negotiate the sale and oversee it through to exchange and completion.

Property Acquisitions have secured many purchases arising from local homeowners asking if we have a buyer for them. For more information about how we can help find you a buyer as well as another house, contact **Jennie Hancock** at jh@propertyacquisitions.co.uk

Peter Roberts CTA ATT

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INSIDE THE WILDLIFE HOSPITAL IN MAY



Our team and volunteers are as busy as ever caring for the many patients we currently have at Brent Lodge. Baby season isn't nearly over yet, meaning our team are working still around the clock to keep up with multiple feeding and cleaning schedules! With the arrival of beautiful weather and the temptation to spruce up our gardens, we must remember to check inside our long grass and overgrowth for wildlife before cutting it back. We receive a staggering number of patients every year who are victims of excruciating and often life-threatening injuries from strimmers and mowers and it is such an avoidable tragedy. Taking a few minutes to check for animals that may be sleeping, nesting or hiding inside your long grass could save countless lives and suffering, and give yourself peace of mind too. Thank you!

If you'd like to learn more, how to support us or how to donate items, please visit www.brentlodge.org or our social media channels. **Alex Foster**

ADVENTURE BEFORE DEMENTIA!

Geoff and I were following a campervan with two interesting slogans on the back. One said "Elderly driver - please be patient." The other said "Adventure before Dementia!"

I liked it so much that I decided to make a note of the numberplate and contact the driver, but before I could do so, (s)he had turned off.

Two excellent pieces of advice which I won't forget in a hurry! **Helen Morris**



INVEST IN YOUR LONG-TERM HEALTH

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Tuesday 17th June

10.30am - 12.30pm

**Chichester Rugby Club
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Organised by Lavant Road Surgery
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Group - Irsppg1@gmail.com

Murray Downland Trust Garden Event

Saturday 10th May

11am - 3.30pm

Caster's Brook, Cocking

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Advertorial

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We are a long-established family run business in manufacturing and supplying upholstered furniture with hardwood frames to the public and trade throughout Southern England.

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With a range of economical to high-end options from one of the largest fabric libraries you will find anywhere, we expect to accommodate virtually any taste and budget.

We are very happy to assist you obtain that personal, special, individual effect for your home, with the flexibility to allow you to specify finishing touches to make your furniture suit your individual taste, often at no additional cost.

Offering suggestions and patient guidance, for which we have received many compliments: "...we visited your showroom recently and spent some considerable time with your wonderful colleague, who was extremely patient and helpful, a great credit to your company..." As far as we are concerned, it is integral to our role!

We have a wealth of knowledge and expertise and are very happy to help you. You are more than welcome to drop in and view our sofas, chairs, fabrics, curtaining, blinds and rugs at the Chilgrove Business Centre.

Open: Thursday & Friday 9am – 3pm and Saturday 9:30am to 3:30pm. Appointments available at other times of the week.

Ring Jan Palmer on 07718 161009 and see our advert on page 22.

GOODWOOD ART FOUNDATION - A BRAND NEW CONCEPT FROM THE LOCAL ESTATE

2025 sees an exciting new development at Goodwood with the opening of Goodwood Art Foundation; a not-for-profit organisation with a focus on art, education and environment and a new café that all opens to the public on **Saturday 31st May.**

Each annual season, from May to October, will feature a headline exhibition by an exceptional artist. In the 2025 opening season it's **Rachel Whiteread**, one of the most highly respected sculptors of her generation and the first female artist to win the Turner Prize. In coming years artists of a similar stature will be selected, again profiling work that is either new or rarely seen by international and local audiences. Complementing the headline exhibition, the art programme also features installations by a roster of leading international artists.

Goodwood Art Foundation will open from **Wednesday to Sunday weekly** and visitors are urged to book in advance as spaces at each session will be limited. **Annual Membership** is available, **day tickets are £15 each** and accompanied under-18s are free. Other concessions are available. For those arriving by bicycle or on foot tickets are £10.

The brand new licensed café, 24, will be serving delicious breakfasts and seasonal dishes from a small-plates menu. Dogs on a lead are welcome to enjoy the gardens and a variety of walking routes. Visit goodwoodartfoundation.org for further information and to plan your visit.



Lavant Village Fete and Fun Dog Show

**Saturday 21st June
1pm - 4.30pm**

Stalls, games, tug-of-war, raffle, tea and cake and much more!



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1st & 3rd Friday of every month**



www.chichester.gov.uk/farmersmarket

Why Pay? Nobody Else Does!

A friend and I were going to Brooklands Museum, so I thought I'd check they were open on the day we wanted to go. Just as well I did; not only were they open but the day we were thinking of was right in the middle of the Easter holiday "Family Fun Days". So naturally we decided to go after that and I followed the link to book tickets, tempted by the chance to save money by booking in advance.

It turns out that Brooklands have subcontracted ticketing to another company and as I finished paying an offer popped up - would I like to save £20.87 on my next booking? If so, [CLICK HERE](#). I don't book a lot of things online, but I thought I'd check to see how long the offer would last for. That was just as well too, in much smaller lettering was the catch: if I'd clicked on the "save £20.87" option I'd have inadvertently signed up to join some spurious ticket buying 'club' for £18 a MONTH! Some saving! And yet this is legal, so I'd better not call it a scam. It's a bit of a racket though, and only adds to the general feeling that everyone is out to screw you over these days, even museums.

Have you tried parking at a station lately? You used to drive in, find a space, put some money in the ticket machine, take the ticket, put it in your window, go and catch the train. Simple, easy to operate, you just needed enough cash. Now you're expected to find the machine, use your mobile phone to call a computer, enter your registration number, then your debit card number, then how long you expect to be there. So you need one hand to hold your phone, another to hold your card (once you've got it out of your wallet, without putting that down) and a third hand to enter all those letters and numbers via the keypad, all whilst standing up, probably with a bag, and with a train to catch! And woe betide you if you make a mistake, or the signal is bad, or you simply haven't got a mobile phone. Soon you'll be receiving threatening letters demanding a "penalty charge" utterly disproportionate to the car parking fee you failed to pay. One can't help but think that this is how the operators make their money - deliberately make it unnecessarily complicated to buy a ticket, then demand an exorbitant sum from anyone who gets it wrong. A similar thing happens if you take someone to an airport; you're supposed to pay the airport for the privilege of dropping their customers off, as though they weren't making enough money out of the car parks and cafes and 'duty free' shops, never mind the actual air fares! And once again, if you get it wrong (or forget to do it within some arbitrarily short time) you'll soon be getting the letters from 'penalty charge enforcement officers' demanding grossly inflated amounts for something that before the pandemic was free.

Here's the thing: I've found out that if you just ignore them all, pretty soon they give up pestering you. This doesn't work with local councils or

Continued on page 18...

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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...continued from page 17

the Police but private companies, however much they huff and puff, do not have the authority to impose fines (that's why they call their demands "penalty charges") and whilst they may threaten court action in practice it won't happen because a) there's such a backlog in the courts at the moment that these sort of cases will never get to the top of the list and b) to do it they'd have to pay lawyers to attend court to prosecute the case and risk losing. No, their business predicates on the knowledge that most people, when they get what appears to be an official demand for money will just pay it to make it go away. A protection racket basically, which worked very well for the Kray twins (until they got locked up) the difference is this isn't illegal. It just ought to be.

Because that's the real danger in all this: there's been a lot of news lately about an "epidemic" of shoplifting, hordes of people jumping ticket barriers at stations, and of course fly tipping as I was moaning about last month. The theme of all these articles comes down to "If everyone else is helping themselves to food/not paying the fare/chucking their rubbish wherever they like, why should I play by the rules? The answer is if nobody plays by the rules we're heading for anarchy, and that won't help poor people who just want something to eat tonight. But I can't help but feel that the incessant and unreasonable demands for money that we all get all the time, the special offers that turn out to be traps for the unwary, not to mention all the scam calls from "bank security"; all of that, coupled with the realisation that you don't have to go along with it, eventually creates a feeling of "Why should I pay for anything? What consequences are there if I don't?" And that's a dangerous genie to let out.

Tim Weeks

PLANNING AHEAD!

East Dean's Christmas Crafts Fair at East Dean Village Hall is set for **Saturday 15th November**, from 10am to 3pm. Always a lovely community event, showcasing local artisans, a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and enjoy some homemade food. We are keen to find new local artisans to take a table so if you are interested, please do email me, Vicky, with details and photos of your work. The Hall can only fit 14 tables - tables are 6' x 2.5' and cost £20 each which includes free teas/coffees for stallholders. The Village Hall Committee will be running the Kitchen selling teas, coffees, homemade cakes and light lunches. vmm@vickymudford.com



West Dean Parish Council Supporting The Valley Diary

The support of the West Dean Parish Council is warmly welcomed as they agreed to give a donation of £100 to The Valley Diary in its 2025/26 budget.

The Council said it would also consider giving another donation in 2026/27.

This kind of support from local organisations is really appreciated, is encouraging, helps with costs and reflects the value of The Valley Diary to local people. Thank you.

Lavant Horticultural Society

Annual Plant Sale

Sunday 11th May

2pm - 4pm

Lavant Memorial Hall

This is a great occasion to buy first class plants from a commercial nursery in the Hall and bargains from members' gardens in the marquee, including Cream teas.

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Top Dog

A Poem by Francis

He is so greatly respected,
Throughout the woodland here.
Such a nice friendly old fox,
And his popularity is clear.

He really is well respected,
His reputation stands tall.
Held in such high regard,
By creatures great and small.

Even the rabbits respect him,
That's what I've heard them say.
Even though some go missing,
Every other day.

But when addressed as mister,
He gives a very loud sigh.
Call me by my first name,
So we all call him Guy.

His wife and many cubs,
Have asked us all to remember,
He has a significant birthday,
Early in November.

A big party will take place,
Within the woodland glade.
Lots of exciting cocktails,
And a buffet will be laid.

Then at a certain time,
Fireworks they will light.
So I for one will be there,
I'll not miss Guy Fox night.

THE VALLEY DIARY

By locals, for locals!

We've been going for well over 20 years now without a break. Every bloomin' month! We print about 1,000 copies and distribute a copy to every home and business in the villages of the Lavant Valley. It's hard to estimate readership because we also maintain an email Mailing List (email us if you want onto that) and everyone on that gets their own PDF copy to read on whatever screen they fancy.

We appreciate your support and interest in keeping this going.

editor@valleydiary.org

Latest News from St Wilfrid's Hospice

Charity Golf Day at Cowdray

St Wilfrid's Hospice are very excited to invite you to join us for our first Golf Day at Cowdray Park Golf Club on Wednesday, 7th May 2025. The day starts with bacon rolls, followed by 18 holes on the fabulous Cowdray course, followed by a two-course lunch and prize giving! Sign up now at www.stwh.co.uk/events

Moonlight Walk

St Wilfrid's Moonlight Walk returns on Saturday 14th June. The event takes walkers on a 5 or 10 mile route around Chichester and asks that they fundraise and collect sponsorship for their walk. The money that you raise will directly help us to provide expert care to people in your community who are living with a terminal illness. twh.co.uk/moonlight

Plant Sale

The wonderful gardeners at St Wilfrid's Hospice are holding a plant sale on Sunday 11th May from 10:30am to 1pm. Held at the Hospice in Bosham, this is a wonderful place to find lots of plants and garden sundries, as well as enjoy some wonderful refreshments. All the money raised will go towards the care, upkeep and development of the beautiful Hospice gardens.

The ladies of Singleton and East Dean WI met on Thursday 17th April in Singleton village hall. Our speaker was Neil Odin, born and raised in the valley, and now the Chief Fire Officer for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service.

Neil came to talk to us about his career and the incredibly varied duties which can be a part of the role of a firefighter; and a significant proportion of the job being rescue, rather than fire fighting (and very, very rarely cats from trees!)

The focus on safety and preventing fires and accidents is key for the Fire Service but Neil also explained about the role that the Fire Service can play in international rescue, for example travelling to areas hit by natural disasters such as earthquakes and flooding. There are certainly moments when we count our blessings for the support that we have in this country from the Emergency Services and Neil's talk reminded us of just how critical the Fire Service is. I am pleased to hear also that the safety for firefighters has also progressed significantly from plastic trousers and 'paint it yourself' cork helmets. We are so grateful that Neil gave up his time to come and see us.

If you would like to come and join the WI, we meet on the **3rd Thursday of each month** in either **Singleton or East Dean village hall at 7pm**. We have brilliant speakers and events lined up for the year and it is a lovely way to spend a couple of hours with the fabulous women of the valley (and further afield). Please do get in touch if you would like some more information. Warmest, **Zoe Mann**



WI Report

Tickets are now on sale for the Festival of Chichester 2025



This summer a huge range of events will come together under the Festival of Chichester banner, embracing another rich and varied five weeks of arts and community fun. The festival comprises over 130 independently organised events across many genres taking place between 14 June and 20 July 2025. You can now access this year's programme from festivalofchichester.co.uk or pick up a brochure from The Novium, Chichester's museum, opposite the library on Tower Street.

DID YOU KNOW THE SOUTH EAST OF ENGLAND IS OFFICIALLY WATER STRESSED?

With a growing population, the demand for water is increasing. By 2030, we'll need an extra 50 million litres a day to keep up. We're encouraging everyone to reduce the amount of water they use from 127 litres per person, per day to 100 by 2045. With our practical water saving tips, you can make simple changes that save both water and

It's All in the Name

A Poem by Francis

I'll never do that again,
Not without good reason.
Driving off all over the place,
Especially out of season.

Although our tour around the UK,
Was planned well in advance.
The hotels were not recommended,
So we were taking a bit of a chance.

First stop, The Railway Hotel,
Where I showed to the housekeeper.
A lump of wood laid on the bed,
She said it's an overnight sleeper.

Then at The Countryside Tavern,
Sat a rabbit type thing next to me.
And I was stung twice in the night,
No more Hare Bee n Bee.

Sat on the bed at The Royal Hotel,
Complaining to reception I said.
"The king's portrait is staring at me!"
"But sir requested a 'kings eyes' bed."

The owner's names were over the door
At The Sussex, so should we tarry?
Well her name was there, Meghan,
Oh, it's ok. His name is Barry.

We froze in The Miner's Arms,
So asked for more coal in the grate.
As I was given a bucket and spade,
I was told, "Dig your own here mate!"

Our last stop, The Trafalgar Hotel,
Comfy room and sumptuous repast.
With all of our problems behind us,
We'd had a Victory at last.

money. We're doing our bit too. From fixing leaks round the clock, every day of the year, to investing £260.4 million to cut leakage in half by 2050. We're also introducing water recycling plants and new pipelines to protect water supply. This is a collective effort, and by working together means we can protect our water resource for generations to come.

When we work together,
small changes make a lot of difference.

[southernwater.co.uk/
save-a-little-water](http://southernwater.co.uk/save-a-little-water)

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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More photos from locals, here's Coral Mather...



100 CLUB

1st... Margaret Ashdown, Singleton
2nd... The Holt Family, East Dean
3rd... Miranda Andrews, East Dean

Many congratulations to our three April winners sharing prize money of £105.
The next draw will take place on Sunday 4th May in East Dean Church. **Wendy**

SINGLETON CRICKET CLUB JUNIORS



5-8 years old



8-11 years old

All Stars & Dynamo Cricket - Starts on Saturday 10th May at Sheepwash Meadow between 9.30am & 10.30am.
Sign up at ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars or email juniors@singletoncc.co.uk

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.



Contact John on 07787 567140 or john@drokefarm.co.uk for more.



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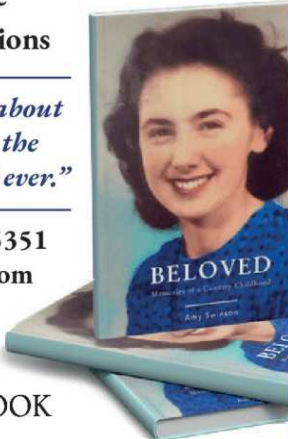
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PARK FRIENDS ACTION GROUP

SATURDAYS 10 AM TO 12 NOON

Join us for engaging weekly activities aimed at enhancing the beauty and vibrancy of Havenstoke Park!

Activities Include: Litter picking, Pruning, Planting, Creating wildlife-friendly areas, Sharing ideas to shape the future of our park

This is a casual, drop-in session - no need to sign up in advance! Simply join us on any Saturday each month to connect with friends, neighbours, and fellow park enthusiasts. Meeting point will be 10am at The Pavilion.

Come along, make a difference, and help us create a more beautiful and welcoming Havenstoke Park for everyone!

CHICHESTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Keep up with our latest activities and updates by joining the Park Friends Action Group on WhatsApp.
chat.whatsapp.com/GdvBYIHBJR9EBXNQwCSP28

www.chichestercdt.org.uk

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River Fest 2025

Sunday 4th May, 12 - 5pm

Lavant Village Green



Fun Family Activities

Discover Riverfly

Explore our wonderful water wrigglers!

Duck Race - 2pm

Get yourself a quacking friend to win the race from Pot Nore Bridge!

What's in the water?

Help us with some water testing.

Refreshments

Provided by Lavant Primary School.

Come and join the
Lavant Duck Race -
2pm starting at Pot
Nore Bridge!



Find out more at www.wsr.org.uk

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LADIES NIGHT

Star and Garter
East Dean
Tuesday 13th May
7pm - All Welcome!

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).



Once activated, the device will talk you through how to use it. A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest.

Valley Gardening Club

Spring lime green is everywhere and the skies are blue. The birds are busy and we have already started watering! If not done so already, its time to sew some of those seeds. My priorities are Sweet Peas for the continuous picking and scent and my favourite herb Dill for not only its taste with fish, but also the tall stems of yellow umbel flowers.

Planting purple and white blooms nearby contrast beautifully. Don't forget also to start feeding to ensure healthy plants. The rule is "nitrogen for shoots, phosphorus for roots and potassium for flowers and fruits."



East Dean Garden Safari

You may wish to get inspired by joining our East Dean Garden Safari on **Thursday 12th June at 5pm**. We will be touring about six different gardens and gleaning what grows well in our Valley. It's always a fascinating nose and culminates with a glass of wine. Information will be emailed out - and if you're not already on the VGC Email List, please email vmm@vickymudford.com to get on it!

Annual Show

Finally, a reminder that the Annual Show is to be held on **Saturday 9th August at East Dean Village Hall** this year, so look out for further information on that.
Miranda Mayne

valleygardeningclub.org.uk



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