

The Valley Diary

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

thevalleydiary.org ~ August 2026 Edition



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- | | | |
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SOUTHERN WATER

An update from Nick Mills, Director of Environment and Innovation, Southern Water

Over the last 2 years we have sealed the entire sewer system from East Dean, through Charlton and Singleton and to Singleton Relief pumping station which has an overflow (a total of 14,000m).

We have also continued this work downstream of the overflow point. The wastewater sewer sealing programme has now reached the stage where further work is unlikely to deliver significant additional improvements to the performance of the storm overflow. Chamber and manhole sealing continues.

We're aware that performance over the winter was not what we, or the community, had hoped for given the level of work and disruption in the villages over the last few years. We have commissioned an independent review of the winter period to help us understand what happened, the likely future frequency of similar winters and what further measures could help reduce the risk of spills.

The funding allocated is to reduce spill events at the Singleton Relief storm overflow down to less than 10 spills per annum on average, measured over a rolling 10-year period. Our review will help determine whether the work already completed is sufficient to meet this criteria, or whether we need to find a different solution, such as a wetlands.

Wetlands have shown positive results in both the UK and globally, with environmental benefits in addition

Continued on Page 15...

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Make the most of this glorious summer! We look forward to seeing you for a bite to eat or a refreshing drink

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

3 days of horseracing at Goodwood
Friday 28th - Sun 29th
Mon 30th Bank Holiday

GOODWOOD REVIVAL

Fri 18th - Sun 20th September

Follow us on social media or check out our website for upcoming events

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Singleton & East Dean WI

The women of Singleton and East Dean WI met on Thursday 16th July, in East Dean Village Hall, on a truly glorious evening, for our annual summer party. As is tradition, we celebrated our WI with a full table of delicious food, where everyone brings a plate of something to share. The generosity of the WI members, never ceases to amaze me and we all sat down to wonderful food, wine and the best companionship. We drew our annual bursary; a £200 contribution to a course or learning and development opportunity. All we ask is that the nominee comes back and tells us all about their new found skills. The summer raffle was generously supported with amazing gifts ranging from a hamper full of dairy products to a bottle of whiskey. The birthdays of the month were gifted the beautiful table centres made by the wonderful committee, and we were delighted to share a very specific birthday with one of our members, who was presented with a beautiful rose planter and card.

We now break for August holidays and come back in September. If there are any ladies interested in coming along to see what we are all about, please do get in touch and I will be delighted to share some info. I would also like to take a moment to thank the brilliant committee members who plan and shop, organise and arrange. They really are very dedicated and a huge support in keeping the oldest WI in the country going! Happy Summer. **Zoe Mann**



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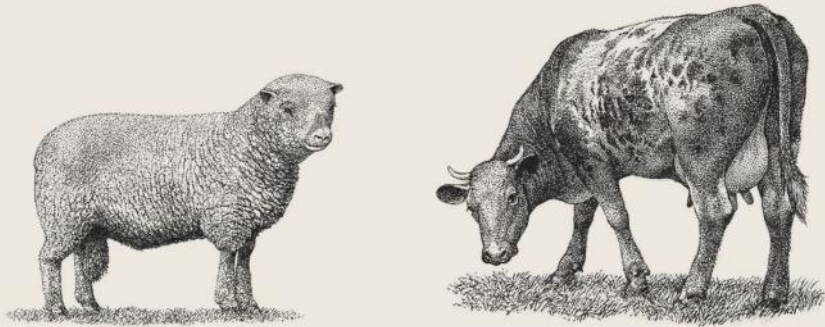


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SUMMER SIZZLER AT WEST DEAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

The 'Friends' held their Summer Sizzler event on Friday 19th June. We were so lucky with the weather, not too hot and not a washout either! Our community came together to enjoy an afternoon of singing with our choir, dancing with our Dancehouse troop and music from DJ James Loy.

We had lots of stalls, including plants donated by Sidlesham Nursery, delicious strawberries donated by The Summer Berry Company, a bar donated by MJO Forestry, a balloon filled tractor from Keith Goacher and Tilly the Pony from West Dean Stables to name just a few. We also had a BBQ run by 2 chefs, one from Farbridge and one from Tinwood, and a raffle with so many prizes generously donated. Our 'Friends' volunteers all came together to make it a wonderful afternoon.

We have yet to finalise our accounts but we have cleared £3,000 which will go towards the replacement of our existing trim trail to give our children adventurous, imaginative and exciting play opportunities. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way and came along to support our event. *Merrill Shears*



THIRSTY WORK, THIS AI!

Many areas in the UK have had a hosepipe ban imposed due to the dry weather conditions we are currently experiencing. However, did you know that a data centre uses millions of litres of water? Many data centres use large amounts of water for their cooling systems which they rely on to prevent the thousands of computer servers from overheating. To explore the precise environmental impact, you can read the UK Government's Report on AI and Data Centre Water and/or review the EESI Data Centres and Water Consumption Overview.

tinyurl.com/24leap3 (PDF) and tinyurl.com/25ujccx9 (EESI)



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2026

Saturday
8th August
1 - 4.30pm



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GOVERNMENT DELAYS DECISION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION FOR WEST SUSSEX

We want to make you aware that the Government has today (16 July 2026) announced a further delay to its decision on local government reorganisation in West Sussex.

A decision had been expected this month, but councils in West Sussex have now been advised that no preferred option has yet been selected. The details of all of the options under consideration and the process to date can be found at: www.chichester.gov.uk/devolution and www.shapingwestsussex.org

We are disappointed that the Government has still not yet made a decision on the future of local government in West Sussex and had hoped for greater clarity by now. Our priority is to secure the best possible outcome for our communities.

We have been working closely with the councils across West Sussex to prepare for local government reorganisation, and that work is continuing at pace. Whatever decision is ultimately made, we want to ensure we are in the strongest possible position to move forward and represent the interests of our residents, businesses, communities and staff.

The Government has confirmed that it remains committed to the current timetable and expects to make a final decision by October. In the meantime, it is very much business as usual. We will continue to keep our communities informed as soon as further information becomes available.

Elections for the new authorities are still expected to take place in 2027. The elected councillors will form what is known as a shadow authority for one year, ahead of the formal launch of the new authority in 2028. During this period, the shadow authority will operate alongside existing councils to prepare for the transition. The Government's statement can be found at questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2026-07-16/hcws286. Further information about local government reorganisation can be found at chichester.gov.uk/devolution and www.shapingwestsussex.org

West Dean Parish Council Meeting

At the meeting on 1st July our remaining vacancy was filled by the co-option of Alisha Renwick from Chilgrove, which was approved by a unanimous vote. We look forward to working with the new members in the future.

We had reports from the **District Councillor and County Councillor** which are available on our website.

The **footpath through West Dean** has been reported to the Highways for inspection and a dropped kerb has been requested where the path crosses the A286 by the bridge.

It was also noted that there have been **fewer housing applications** within the district. This may be because houses are just not being bought in the current financial climate or the new order from the Minister of Housing that infrastructure needs to be in place before building new houses (I think we can all agree with that one)!

A payment was received following the **closure of the Trundlers accounts** and they also made a donation to St Wilfrid's Hospice. A discussion will be held at the next meeting about what to do with the money, which remains in a reserve account until then. We have considered putting **old cinefilm of Trundlers performances** onto video, holding a film night at the pub, and buying a Trundlers bench. If anyone has any ideas, please forward to our clerk.

The **report from our PCO** was of damage to sheds, gates and cars plus fly tipping.

The committee have agreed to buy a **new flag for the school** and investigate buying a **stone marker for the VE Day tree**.

Wishing everyone a lovely Summer. Don't forget the sunscreen! Our next meeting is on 9th September.

LAVANT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

**Saturday 1st August
Lavant Village Hall**

Come at 2pm and see the exhibits of vegetables, fruit, flowers and so much more...

Handicrafts, baking and preserves, photography and works of art including flower arrangements.

There will be Refreshments, a Raffle and warm welcome.

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DON'T BE CAUGHT OUT BY COURIER FRAUD



A concerning trend we are continuing to see across Sussex. In 2025 alone, victims in Sussex lost more than half a million pounds to this cruel and manipulative crime. These scams are not only financially devastating, they also leave people feeling shaken and violated - particularly as criminals often target older and more vulnerable members of our communities.

Courier fraud happens when criminals impersonate trusted figures such as police officers or bank staff. They may contact you by phone, text or even in person and use convincing tactics to pressure you into handing over money, bank cards or valuable items. In some cases, they arrange for a "courier" to collect these from your home, making the situation feel very real.

These fraudsters are highly skilled at creating urgency and fear. They might tell you your bank account has been compromised and instruct you to move your money to a "safe account", or claim they need your help with a police investigation. These are all lies designed to steal from you.

The good news is there are **simple steps** you can take to protect yourself and your loved ones. **Stop and think:** If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts - hang up the phone. **Verify independently:** Don't rely on caller ID. Contact your bank or organisation directly using a trusted number, such as 159 for banks. **Remember:** Police and banks will never ask you to transfer money, reveal your PIN, or send a courier to collect cash, cards or valuables. Never share personal details such as passwords or security codes.

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud, here's what to do. Tell your bank as soon as possible. Victims who are vulnerable or elderly should report to Sussex Police by calling 101. Otherwise, contact Report Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040 or online.

Please do share this advice with friends, neighbours and family members - especially those who may be more vulnerable to these types of scams. Raising awareness is one of the most effective ways we can prevent further harm.

Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

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Richard Cobden - Local Boy Done (Very) Good!

If most of us have heard of Richard Cobden at all it will be in connection with his campaign to repeal the Corn Laws, which in turn is only relevant if one knows what the Corn Laws were and why they mattered. So, in my capacity as The Valley Diary's 19th Century Economics Correspondent, here goes:-

The Corn Laws were restrictive tariffs on the import of cheaper grains and cereals from other countries, which kept the price of crops grown in the United Kingdom higher than they would otherwise have been. The effect of this was to keep the price of bread higher than it needed to be, to the advantage of the landowners who produced the wheat, at the expense of everyone who bought the bread. This was particularly relevant in the 1830s since that was a time of what we would call "recession" following the end of the Napoleonic wars, when there were a lot of poor people and nothing that we would recognise as welfare benefits to help them get by.

Cobden was born in Dunsford near Midhurst in 1804, the son of a tenant farmer. He made his fortune by getting into the calico trade, initially working for his uncle who had a fabric business in London before heading north to Manchester to establish his own factory. This was the time when Manchester was moving rapidly from being a small market town similar to Chichester to becoming the great industrial hub that it was in the later 1800s and Cobden described himself as a "Manchester Manufacturer". But he wasn't content merely to get rich and ape the aristocracy like so many industrialists; in 1838 he successfully campaigned to get the growing city its first independent elected council to support and encourage what became the Industrial Revolution, and is credited with coining the word "Manchesterism" to describe that civic model.

In 1839 he established the Anti-Corn-Law League, was elected as the Liberal MP for Stockport in 1841 on that platform, and saw the repeal he had campaigned for pushed through by Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel in 1846. But he went much further than that: he opposed restrictive tariffs in all markets, toured Europe as the "Apostle of Free Trade", negotiated one of the first free trade agreements with France and whilst he was doing all that pushed for the

abolition of Newspaper Stamp Duty, meaning that everyone could have access to the latest news and thus have informed opinions about what was going on. Oh, and at the end of his life (at 60!) he was instrumental in keeping Britain out of getting involved in the American Civil War, on the Confederate side, which would have meant supporting slavery, something else he was opposed to.

This is only a very brief precis of Cobden's life; **he is currently the subject of an exhibition at the Weald and Downland Living Museum running until September** co-ordinated by Leeds Beckett University and I wholeheartedly recommend you to go and see it. So many of the topics (free trade, restrictive tariffs, freedom of information) are strangely relevant again to our 21st Century economics! **Tim Weeks**

Potty Prize

A Poem by Francis

I opened up the brown envelope,
And could not believe my eyes.
The council ran a competition,
And it said I'd won first prize!

They awarded me some money,
For my positive suggestion.
On how to sort, once and for all,
That annoying pothole question.

They liked my idea so much,
It is going nationwide.
And as you can imagine,
I'm totally filled with pride.

Then it got much better,
Reading the letter from them.
For it will be named after me,
It's called 'The Francis System'.

So, dear fellow drivers,
Decent roads are coming back.
No more ruining your tyres,
In the surface of the tarmac.

Potholes in our roadways,
Had really gone too far.
But to me the answer was obvious,
So now! They're removing all the tar!

A LIVELY CELTIC MUSIC NIGHT
The Shamrock Irregulars!
Last Thursday of Every Month at The
Star & Garter from 8pm
Fun-filled tunes and great vibes!

A BIG THANK YOU TO DAVID MATHER

David has decided that it's time to hang up his arm-twisting gear and step back from his role generating new advertisers for The Valley Diary. He has been plugging away there for many years following the sad passing of Chris Barratt. So many thanks go to David, who has surely earned a rest! If you'd like to get involved and help out in this role, give me a shout. In the mean time, I guess I'll do it :-)

Ted the Ed.

editor@valleydiary.org



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Tuesday 29 September

10am – 4.30pm

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More than a hundred faulty electric blankets were identified and taken out of use during West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service's annual testing sessions last autumn.

Defective electric blankets pose a serious fire risk. Regular testing is recommended for blankets over two years old to ensure they are still safe to use, while blankets over ten years old should be replaced.

Testing is taking place on Tuesday 29th September at Sage House, City Fields Way, Tangmere, Chichester PO20 2FP between 10am and 4pm by appointment only. Residents can book an appointment to have their blanket tested by calling 03458 729719.

The session will also be attended by a range of partner agencies such as the Prevention Assessment Team, the Sussex Fraud Team, Neighbourhood Watch, and the Citizens Advice Energy Team, who will be on hand to offer additional advice and support.

Further advice on keeping safe and warm at home can be found at tinyurl.com/ysrgsqqb

Keep an Eye on Him

A Poem by Francis

The King was in his counting house,
I think he was learning to count.
When up rode a messenger,
Jumping quickly from his mount.

"And who the heck is Norman?"
The King's query was very intense.
"It's not one person," came the reply,
"It is what we call the French."

"And how do we know that their troops,
Are ready to come this way?"
"Well a cross channel swimmer told us,
Who arrived at Hastings yesterday,"

King Harold knew at once,
That he must act in haste.
So hastened off to Hastings,
As there was no time to waste.

Harold gathered his many warriors,
Which he had to do very quick.
For those pesky Normans were coming,
Well it was ten sixty six.

On the eve of that famous battle,
The King thought that he should,
Inspect all of his troops,
To make sure that they were good.

His archers practiced on a target,
Mounted on a huge barn door.
Each of them did well,
Most getting a bullseye score.

But one bowman he watched,
Was indeed extremely poor.
He didn't just miss the target,
He completely missed the door!

Shouting loudly at his Sergeant at Arms,
Harold asked, "What's that all about?
You watch him closely tomorrow,
Or he'll have someone's eye out!"

★ SINGLETON ★
Village Fete
2026
Saturday 8th August
1 - 4:30pm

The fete needs your donations and help

Cakes for our Cake Stall & Cream Teas
Bric a Brac
Good quality clothing
Plants & Garden Produce
Books, Games & Puzzles

We also need your help setting up for the fete, including fencing, gazebo installation. This will be on Friday 7th August afternoon and on the morning of the fete. We will also need helpers straight after the fete to break it down and return to storage

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West Dean Parish Council

A supportive £100 donation was made to The Valley Diary fete last month from the Parish Grant to help things tick along here and the printing paid, for which we're grateful.

If you or your organisation would like to do similar, here's our bank details. Thanks in advance...

Santander
The Valley Diary
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Sussex Yeomanry
Association Remembrance
Sunday Service
Sunday 8th November
10.45am

Sussex Yeomanry Memorial at Charlton
All are most welcome to attend

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The Valley Parish

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**We're all going on a
Summer Holiday – so
Children's Church will
resume in September.**

Services and Events

2 nd August	10am	Holy Communion With Choir East Dean
9 th August	10am	Holy Communion Singleton
16 th August	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
23 rd August	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
30 th August	10am	BCP Holy Communion East Dean

Contacts

Parish Priest

Rev Sarah Manouch

priestvalleyparish@gmail.com / 07468 854864
(Principal working days are Friday, Saturday and
Sunday. Not available on Thursday)

Churchwardens

John Holt - 07787 567140 / john@drokefarm.co.uk

Sarah John - 07769 887546 /
sarance@btinternet.com

PCC Treasurer

Lance John - treasurer.valleyparish@outlook.com

PCC Secretary

Susie Holmes -
pccsecretaryvalleyparish@gmail.com

This month the Church celebrates the Transfiguration of Jesus, a simple but powerful story in Jesus' earthly life and ministry. In the Gospels, Jesus takes three of his closest friends up a mountain, where he is joined by Moses and Elijah. There, his appearance is transformed, his clothes dazzling white, and they catch a glimpse of something extraordinary. It is a moment of wonder, and of revelation, reminding them that there is more to Jesus than they had yet understood.

Whether or not you are a person of faith, the story speaks of those rare moments that change the way we see the world. A beautiful sunrise, an act of unexpected kindness, or a fresh perspective can transform an ordinary day into something memorable.

As summer begins to give way to autumn, the Transfiguration invites us to pause, look more closely, and appreciate the people and places around us. Sometimes, seeing things in a new light is all it takes to discover hope, purpose, and a renewed sense of wonder.

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.

thevalleydiary.org

August 2026

Sun 2nd Cream Teas & Ploughman's
Lunches: Singleton Village Hall: 12noon - 4pm

Sat 8th Singleton Village Fete: Cricket
Pitch: 1pm - 4.30pm

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

Tue 11th Ladies Night at The Star &
Garter at 7pm

Sun 16th Cream Teas & Ploughman's
Lunches: Singleton Village Hall: 12noon - 4pm

Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd War of the
Kingdoms: Weald and Downland
Museum

Sun 23rd Cream Teas & Ploughman's
Lunches: Singleton Village Hall: 12noon - 4pm

Mon 24th The Valley Diary Copy
Deadline: 12noon

Wed 26th River Lavant Restoration
Project Drop-In: East Dean Village Hall:
1pm - 8.30pm

Tue 28th (Jul) - Sat 1st Goodwood
Horseracing

Fri 28th - Sun 30th Goodwood
Horseracing

September 2026

Wed 2nd River Lavant Restoration
Project Drop-In: Singleton Village Hall:
1pm - 8.30pm

Wed 9th West Dean Parish Council
Meeting

Sun 13th Plant Fairs Roadshow: West
Dean Gardens

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

Wed 16th Singleton and Charlton
Parish Council Meeting, 7pm, Singleton
Village Hall

Thu 18th Singleton & East Dean WI:
From Marching to Mulching!: Maggie
Haynes: East Dean Village Hall

Fri 18th - Sun 20th Goodwood's
Revival

Sun 13th Plant Fairs Roadshow: West
Dean Gardens

Wed 23rd Goodwood Horseracing

October

Sun 11th Goodwood Horseracing

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

Thu 15th Singleton & East Dean WI:
Fabulous Floristry: Alison Brown: East
Dean Village Hall

November

Sun 8th Sussex Yeomanry
Remembrance Service: Charlton
Memorial: 10.45am

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

Wed 18th Singleton and Charlton
Parish Council Meeting, 7pm,
Singleton Village Hall

Thu 19th Singleton & East Dean WI:
Agatha Christie: Jane Tally: Singleton
Village Hall

**Have YOU 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...

**September 2026
Edition**

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

Monday 24th August

editor@valleydiary.org

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

The Team

**Ted Salmon, Editor, Advertising and
Accounts**

editor@valleydiary.org, 07903 017910

Tim Weeks, Distribution
tim@gramophoneguru.co.uk, 07503 282528

Distribution Team

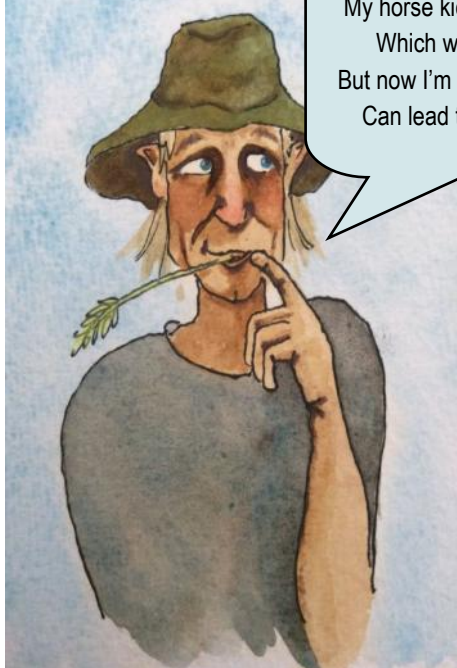
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Useful Telephone Numbers

CDC Councillor, Henry Potter	07792 857973
East Dean Football Club	07944 036709
East Dean PC Clerk	07710 098512
East Dean Village Hall	07785 740625
Goodwood Security	07909 876823
Lavant Road Doctors Surgery	01243 527264
Lavant Road Pharmacy	01243 380185
Local Police	101
Singleton & East Dean WI	07770 822067
Singleton Fete	07711 573276
Singleton Parish Clerk	07702 240126
Singleton School	01243 811679
Singleton Tearooms	01243 811899
Singleton Village Hall	07711 573276
Weald & Downland Museum: Office	01243 811363
Weald & Downland Museum: Shop	01243 811020
West Dean College	01243 818300
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Albert says...



My horse kicked me very hard,
Which was bad enough.
But now I'm told one side effect,
Can lead to hoofing cough.

Register of Local...

Trundlers Charlton - ask another Helen 01243 811686
Hunters Lodge, Lavant - or indeed another Helen!
 01243 532415 - 07788 663712
B&B - Ring **Sophie** on 01243 811465
Harper's Cottage, East Lavant. Ring Caroline 01243 278659
Flint Cottage, 47 Mid Lavant, Lavant Road, PO18 0AA: Sue Kemble 01243 785883 / 07814903541
The Shepherds Barn, Chilgrove: Lucy 07775 934999
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Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital Summer Wildlife Briefings



It has been, and continues to be, a very busy summer here at Brent Lodge. We are currently caring for many baby animals in need of specialist care, particularly orphaned hoglets. Alongside these youngsters, we are also admitting wildlife of all ages suffering from severe dehydration, likely because they have been unable to find enough water during this prolonged hot weather.

If you would like to help your local wildlife, keeping bird baths topped up with fresh water provides birds with a vital place to drink and cool off. Please also consider leaving shallow dishes of fresh water at ground level for hedgehogs and other creatures that cannot reach bird bath heights.

If you see any wild animal showing signs of dehydration or unusual lethargy, please call us on 01243 641672 (ext. 1) for advice on the best course of action. You can also visit our website for more tips and information. Thank you for helping us care for our local wildlife!

brentlodge.org - 01243 641672

CHICHESTER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH ICONIC OPEN AIR SCREENINGS

A packed programme of extraordinary cinema and live events. Running from **7th - 23rd August** featuring exclusive premieres, dynamic film screenings, live music, film talks and much more.

The Festival will open with its immensely popular open air screenings, set against the picturesque backdrop of Chichester's Priory Park. This year's line-up promises something truly special, with five cinematic classics announced: the 1993 blockbuster *Jurassic Park*, the timeless romantic comedy *Pretty Woman*, the heart-warming tale of *Babe*, the 2025 hit film *Song Sung Blue* and *Star Wars: A New Hope* - a rare opportunity to experience the original 1977 *Star Wars* adventure on the big screen.

Open Air Screenings

Star Wars: A New Hope - Friday 7th August at 7.45pm, **Babe** - Saturday 8th August at 5pm, **Pretty Women** - Saturday 8th August at 8pm, **Jurassic Park** - Sunday 9th August at 4.30pm and **Song Sung Blue** - Sunday 9th August at 8pm

The Festival will once again welcome host venues across the region, including the return of The Lumiere pop-up cinema at New Park. **Tickets for the open air screenings are available to purchase at chichesterfilmfestival.co.uk**

LAVANT FRIENDLY CLUB

Special 1st Wednesday in month in August with a **Strawberry Cream Tea** and entertainment from **Sue & Kerry Allen** singing popular songs from over the decades. Lavant Hall 1pm to 4pm, only 50p! Minibus pick up if requested. All Welcome.

CHICHESTER COUNTRY

MUSIC CLUB in Lavant Hall on 2nd Friday every month with Country Western Music acts from all over the UK. 7.30pm to 10.30pm. Bar. **August 14th Martin Jaye Solo** Admission £10.

We also run a **FREESTYLE DANCE** at **North Mundham Village Hall** on the 4th or 5th Saturday in the month. No need to book. 22nd August is the **Ian Hyland Band**. £12. Soft Drinks, Tea, Coffee & Snacks. Bring your own booze! 7.30pm to 10.30pm. Singles welcome. First Timers Free! So come and see what you are missing!

tonybleach@talktalk.net

01243 527439

West Dean Tower

Work on the tower is due to start in September to repair the render and pinnacles and in doing so ensuring the church building is open and available to locals and visitors for years to come.

Thanks to the generosity of local residents, following the recent appeal, we have received a further £2,500 towards the works. However, following the withdrawal of the Listed Places of Worship VAT reclaim scheme, we are still £10,000 short of our target and so if you can help in anyway, please contact me or one of the churchwardens (Contact details are on Page 11 in The Valley Diary). **Sarah Manouch**



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Exciting Discovery of Medieval Wall Paintings in St Mary's Singleton

Damp walls are hardly unusual in ancient churches and there is rarely a silver lining in having to care for and maintain the fabric of such historic buildings, but an exciting discovery has been made in a corner of St Mary's, Singleton recently.

During the 1960s the internal wall and ceiling surfaces were, (unfortunately), whitewashed presumably in an effort to 'smart up' the look of the church. Decades later, ingress of damp has caused the 1960s paint to flake away from the wall surface revealing intriguing decorative patterns beneath, including painted crosses and fragments of writing. It is thought from the style of the crosses revealed that the paintings are either late 15th Century or early 16th Century and could potentially be of national importance.

John Mills (former West Sussex County Council Archaeologist), James Kenny (Archaeology Officer for Chichester District Council) and Dr Caroline Adams (Archivist), have all visited and were excited by the painting which has been revealed so far. A further meeting is planned for early August when a representative from the Church Commissioners will be attending the church to give further advice on the investigation, care and conservation of the paintings. Further updates to follow.
Sarah John



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An Evening of Light Music with the Pearl Trio Saturday 17th October

Venue - Champs Hill, near Pulborough, 6.45pm
Tickets £20 - thebct.org.uk

Formed at the Royal Academy of Music, the acclaimed Pearl Trio presents an engaging programme of light classical music, folk traditions, relaxed jazz and inventive new arrangements, many specially created by pianist Tim Rumsey.

Renowned for their imaginative programming, the trio performs music ranging from Mendelssohn to Gershwin and beyond.

Join us for an uplifting evening of exceptional music by this young trio in support of The Sussex Snowdrop Trust.



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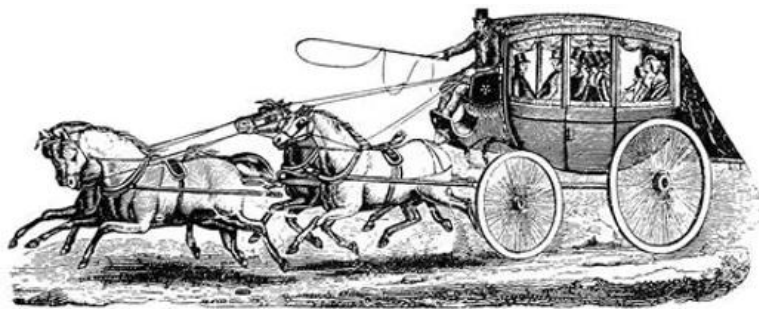
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From Stagecoach to Stagecoach - A Journey Through 300 Years of Local History

On Tuesday 30th June, Singleton Village Hall was filled with local history and transport enthusiasts for an entertaining and informative evening, as local historian Alan Green presented 'From Stagecoach to Stagecoach – 300 Years of Travel in the Lavant Valley'. The event, organised in support of the Church Buildings Appeal, proved to be both fascinating and enjoyable.

After enjoying a complimentary glass of prosecco, or juice, the audience was taken on a journey through the changing face of transport in our local area, explaining how the Lavant Valley has long been an important route between Chichester and London. Beginning with the earliest tracks over the Trundle, Alan described how these ancient routes gradually developed into turnpike roads, allowing stagecoaches to become the lifeblood of travel, trade and communication.

The talk was richly illustrated with maps, photographs and historical images, bringing the people, places and vehicles that shaped the valley over the centuries to life. The audience also learned about the arrival of the railway, its relatively short life in the valley, and how changing technology and travel habits transformed the way local communities connected with one another. Alan concluded by bringing the story right up to the present day, showing how today's Stagecoach buses continue a tradition of public transport that stretches back hundreds of years - a fitting end to a talk that linked the past with the present in such an engaging way.

Our sincere thanks go to Alan Green for sharing his extensive knowledge with such enthusiasm and to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success. Thanks also to the volunteers who organised refreshments, welcomed guests and worked behind the scenes. Through everyone's generosity, the evening raised valuable funds for the Church Buildings Appeal, helping to preserve them for future generations while celebrating the history that has shaped the communities they continue to serve. **Sarah Manouch**

ALL EYES TO THE SKIES

This is a Glorious Twelfth with a difference and we won't be looking for grouse! On **Wednesday 12th August the solar eclipse will be visible from the UK**. The best in almost 27 years. The moon will move to cover the sun in a total solar eclipse. However, here in the UK and Ireland about 90% of the sun will be covered in a partial solar eclipse which is the most coverage since the last total solar eclipse in 1999. According to Royal Museums Greenwich "...a solar eclipse occurs when the Earth, moon and sun align. The moon passes in front of the sun and blocks its light, casting a small shadow on Earth". It will be a 64 year wait until 2090 for the next total solar eclipse which will be visible from the UK. Timings of the solar eclipse on the Twelfth will vary and also it will depend on where you are located in the UK. It seems that you will see more coverage the further south-west you are.





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Firewalk for St Wilfrid's

Join St Wilfrid's on **Friday 16th October** for a night of fiery fun at Bognor Regis Town Football Club, testing your nerve by walking barefoot across a bed of glowing embers! Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to put mind over matter all while supporting local hospice care.

Get your tickets today at stwh.co.uk/firewalk

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nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth

Adventures in Blue family trail - until Sunday 6th September: We're celebrating all things blue this summer! Join Pipkin the Dragon on a colourful adventure through the Pleasure Garden.

Fun Art Fridays - Join us on Fridays throughout the summer holidays for drop-in art activities inspired by our current exhibition, 'Expressions in Blue'.

Always On arty activities - Drop into the Battery House and discover lots of fun activities throughout the summer.

Nocturnal Wildlife and Perseids Meteor Shower Guided Walk -

Wednesday 12th & Thursday 13th August, 8pm-10pm: Bring along your torch and blanket and visit the Deer Park at night discovering some of the nocturnal wildlife and try out a bit of star gazing. £15 per adult, £7.50 per child. Booking essential. 0344 249 1895.

Painting Courses with West Dean College

14th August - 28th September: This summer discover creative short courses hosted across the estates of West Dean and Petworth in this collaboration celebrating our shared artistic heritage. This series of courses will provide an introduction to a variety of mediums, from oil painting to watercolour and chalk pastels. Visit westdean.ac.uk to book and for more information.

The secret world of off-market listings...

It might surprise you to know that in the prime property market in West Sussex and many other parts of the country, at least half of the properties for sale never appear anywhere online. Of the homes we acquire for our clients, between 80-90% are "off-market", meaning they are sold completely privately, behind closed doors.

Sellers are becoming increasingly reluctant to advertise publicly with an estate agent and on the major property portals. Once a property appears online, its entire marketing history becomes visible for everyone to see, including price reductions, time on the market, and repeated relistings.

Many sellers don't want large footfall through the front door and would instead prefer a quieter route relying on personal recommendations, local connections, word of mouth, and access to estate agents' VIP list of top-quality, vetted buyers.

This means some of the best and most interesting homes are never seen by buyers scrolling through the property portals. Online is a brilliant way to start your search and get a sense of the market, but be aware that you could be missing out on the best properties if you rely on technology alone. Alongside that, it's essential to speak to agents directly and ensure you're top of their list for off-market opportunities.

Using a buying agent will also open doors to off-market listings, as they are usually the first to hear about properties that are being sold quietly – often before they are even available to view.

The best properties are out there, waiting to be discovered, but they might be a little harder to find than you think.

Jennie Hancock - propertyacquisitions.co.uk



Plant Fairs Roadshow at West Dean Gardens on Sunday 13th September

Bring the whole family and explore the show nurseries. Take a look at the Gardens Gatehouse for greeting cards, gifts, garden accessories and West Dean grown plants. Finish your day with us at the new Gardens Kitchen, where you can enjoy delicious, home-cooked food prepared using produce grown in our kitchen garden whenever possible.

Standard Gardens entry applies: £13.75 adult, children under 16 go free (tickets available on the day). Free parking. Free admission to Gift Shop and Gardens Kitchen. Dogs on leads welcome. tinyurl.com/wdgpfr

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(Southern Water, continued from front page...)

...to water treatment. Whilst we are trialling this approach at Lavant Wastewater Treatment Works and are very pleased with its performance to date, the regulatory position is unclear. We are working closely with the Parish Councils, MP's and other local stakeholders to improve regulatory support.

If anyone from the community would like to visit the site to see the wetland on **Wednesday 2nd September 2026**, please contact olivia.french@southernwater.co.uk

The Sussex Snowdrop Trust invites you to the...

Saywell International Supercar Day Goodwood Motor Circuit Saturday 10th October 9am - 5pm Free Entry!

Experience the thrill of the Supercars on this iconic track and see this extraordinary collection up-close, on the grid, at 12.30pm.

Live Music, Raffle and Activities!

DEFIBRILLATORS

You will find these defibrillators locally at **Singleton Village Hall** (PO18 0HA), the **Phone Box at Charlton** (Foxhall Lane, PO18 0HX), **behind East Dean Village Hall** (PO18 0JG), on the front of **West Dean Stores** and at **Chilgrove** on the flint wall of Four Walls Wine, opposite the White Horse Pub (PO18 9HX) or W3W: [suspended.lace.marzipan](https://www.suspended.lace.marzipan).



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

FRIENDS AGAINST SCAMS APP

Protecting people from fraud and scams remains one of the biggest challenges facing our communities. Here in Sussex, we know that scams can have a devastating impact, particularly on older and vulnerable residents, affecting not only their finances but also their confidence and wellbeing.

That's why we are pleased to highlight the **Friends Against Scams App**, which is available on both **Apple and Android** devices. The app has been designed to help people spot scams earlier, build their awareness and access practical support wherever they are.

The app includes scams awareness training covering common fraud types such as doorstep crime, telephone fraud and mail scams. It also features an AI-powered tool that can analyse screenshots or images of suspicious messages, emails or letters and provide guidance on whether they may be fraudulent. In addition, users can check websites they are unsure about before sharing personal information or making a purchase online.

We fully support initiatives that help people protect themselves and their loved ones from crime. Fraud continues to evolve and giving residents easy access to trusted information and advice is an important part of our collective response. We would encourage anyone who wants to increase their confidence in recognising scams or who regularly supports family members, friends or neighbours, to download the app and explore its features.

Katy Bourne
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

100 CLUB

1st... Lesley Pollard, East Dean
2nd... Jonathan Mills, West Dean
3rd... Liz Boyle, Singleton

Congratulations to our three prize winners for July sharing winnings of £110 between them.

Reminders have now been sent out for those members of the 100 Club whose subscription expires in August. This will be our tenth year of The Valley Parish 100 Club and it would be good to start September off with the same number of tickets sold (or even more).

Please encourage friends and family to support this good cause. I do believe that over the years everyone has won a prize! Wendy, 811608



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NEED HELP?

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

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

Please note that applications can only be accepted from people living in Singleton and Charlton

Any individual or group wishing to be considered for a grant can contact the trustees by emailing trusteehenrysmithsc@gmail.com

Paper copies of the application form can be found in St Mary's Church Singleton.

River Lavant Restoration Project



Come and have your say about exciting new plans to restore the precious River Lavant

Drop in anytime between 1 and 8:30pm on:

- 26th August at East Dean Village Hall or,
- 2nd September at Singleton Village Hall

- View maps of the area and plans for the project
- Feedback and give us your opinions
- Speak to members of the WSRT and Goodwood Estate team
- Learn about the history of the Lavant
- Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available

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SIP Approved 27/03/2023

SIP Approved 27/03/2023

Shantymen Singalong Summer Success

We put posters up all along the Valley promising an evening of song and laughter, and the Selsey Shantymen did not disappoint us! From their first appearance in front of a full house at East Dean Village Hall when they checked their sound equipment was working as it should by harmonising on a number called “We’re Only Warming Up” to the actual show, they delivered entertainment by the trawlerfull.

You could just sit and watch, as you would a play or an opera, but this is the kind of show which works best when the audience join in, and to help with that the band distributed song sheets. There were well known songs like “What Shall We Do With a Drunken Sailor?”, others that you recognise when you hear them such as “We’re Bound for South Australia”, although you may not have heard them for years, and of course the shanty that bizarrely became a hit during lockdown and can be credited with kicking off the whole renewed interest in this art form, “Wellerman”. They also gave us a re-written version of a more recent composition, originally called “Cornwall My Home”; the Shantymen delivered it as “Sussex My Home”, which gives our county the distinction of having another anthem to go along with “Sussex By The Sea”.

This evening was the first event organised as a joint fundraiser between Singleton and East Dean Village Halls, but given what a success it was it won’t be the last! In purely financial terms the result was a profit of £1,675.94, which, divided 60/40 between the two villages, amounted to £1,005.56 for East Dean with £670.38 going to Singleton. But it was more than that, it was a great evening and proved that when we all get together to work on a project, the result can be quite remarkable!

Of course, like any of these events, it involved a lot of people and a good deal of planning, and it’s worth summarising that now. The idea began with Helen Geddes suggesting she could get the Shantymen to do a show for us at a favourable rate, as they are friends of hers. So we pulled together a team including Gay Godfrey, Julie Shrimpton, Sara Hutton-Potts, Miranda Andrews and Helen Scott. Jim MacDonald of the Star and Garter applied for the licence



(technically a Temporary Event Notice) which enabled us to sell beer, wine and Pimms from a bar we set up on the Village Hall lawn in a gazebo borrowed from Singleton Fete. He also very generously supplied us with the stock at cost price on a sale-or-return basis. On the night, Gay’s daughter Tash was recruited to be one of the bar staff whilst Barry Shrimpton took orders for interval drinks. Between us all we decked the hall out with bunting and fairy lights and the following day we had Sam Hook and Adrian Murphy help us take it all down again and dismantle the gazebo.

That’s the kind of team we can muster in this valley, but we could do with a few more! It takes a bit of time and effort, but it’s good fun putting these events on and you get a sense of camaraderie and fulfilment that being in online chat groups can never deliver.

If you’d like to join us, or if you’d like to know more about what’s involved, please get in touch. **Tim Weeks**

tim@gramophoneguru.co.uk - 07503 282528

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PATRICIA LEGGE

Patricia Legge, born 5th November 1929, passed away peacefully on Tuesday 7th July.

Born in High Hurstwood, she moved to Holly Mount in East Sussex then moved to Welldown Cottages and then to 85 the Warren in West Dean.

She married her teenage 'love of her life', John Stanley Legge, in 1952 at West Dean, then moved to the Leys in Singleton in 1956, where they raised their family and then moved to Lavant Down Rd, Lavant in 1978.

Mum always said she was a bit of a tomboy, stole their first kiss from Dad under the railway bridge above West Dean school!

She will be missed by many friends and all her family. Rest easy Mum.

Celebration of her Life being held at Lavant Memorial Hall, Sunday 16th August, 2pm - 5pm.

All family and friends welcome.

Brian Legge, 07732 976476



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Farm Diary

The last two months have been dominated by one thing: heat. July has continued extremely hot and dry, and the effects are now plain to see across the farm. Pastures are burning up, soils are short of moisture and our cereal harvest has come almost a month earlier than we would normally expect.

Crop yields have been variable, with a few pleasant surprises, but overall they are generally on the low side after such a dry spring and summer. The lack of rain has taken its toll, particularly on lighter ground and shallower-rooting crops. One silver lining, however, is that the grain has come in dry, so we have avoided drying costs this harvest.

Here at Droke, we have taken our third cut of silage. The deep-rooting, sun-loving lucerne has really come up trumps in these conditions, while the red clovers and grasses have struggled with the lack of moisture. It has been a good reminder of the value of having resilient, diverse leys that can cope with weather extremes.

Some fields have already been planted with winter cover crops and we have new leys planned, including lucerne, clover and herbal leys. As soon as we get rain, we will be ready to go, but timing will be important. These new swards need enough moisture to establish well before the soils cool again in the autumn, so we are keeping our fingers crossed for a change in the weather.

On the livestock side, our cows at Droke are about to start calving, so it will soon be all hands on deck feeding newborn calves and milking the freshly calved cows. It is always a busy time, but also one of the most rewarding parts of the farming year.

With the recent high temperatures, we are making sure all stock have access to shade and plenty of water. The milking cows and those close to calving are staying in the cowshed during the day, with cooling fans on their backs, and they seem very happy with the arrangement. For now, the main thing we are waiting for is rain - enough to freshen the pastures, help the new leys establish and carry us into autumn in better shape. (Image: Sam, combine harvesting barley in Home Field, East Dean.)

Farmer John



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