

# The Valley Diary

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

thevalleydiary.org ~ December 2025 Edition

## WELLY WALK!

Andrew Griffith, MP for Arundel and the South Downs, joined a Muddy Adventures session at Droke Farm to talk to Esther Jewitt about her childrens' activity enterprise, which won a Muddy Stiletto award earlier this year.

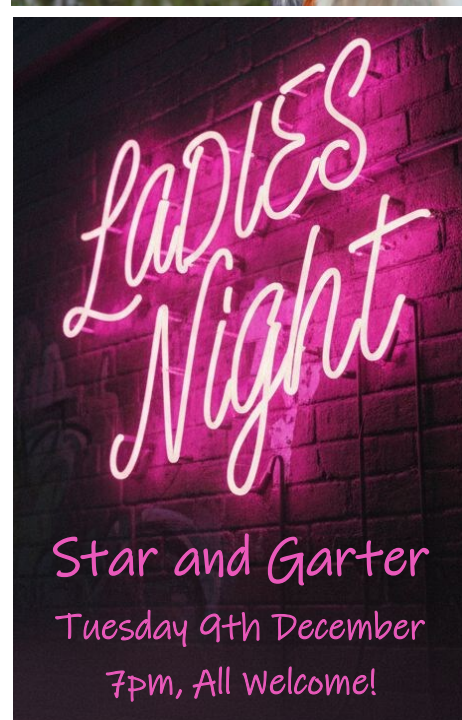
Andrew was very taken with how the children of all ages, engage with various aspects of farming, including milking, feeding cattle and growing crops and the machinery used to do so.

No two sessions are the same, but Andrew went for a welly walk around the farm and learned that a cow has to have a calf to be able to give milk! The children then made butter and learned how the fats in milk separated so that this could happen! Certainly not a normal day in the office for our local MP!



## A BIG THANK YOU TO CHRIS KELLY...

Chris is one of the few of us who, in 2004, decided to take forward with The Valley Diary what John Doff had been doing with The Valley News. 21 years later, Chris has decided to step down and pass the Distribution baton on to another. Here, Chris is pictured with his lovely late wife Elaine, who was also heavily involved with TVD. See page 9 for a few words from Chris, but I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking him for all that he's done over the years come wind, rain and shine. **Ted the Ed.**



Mark Astley, MNAEA  
Director

Curious about the  
**value** of your property?

**JACKSON-STOPS**  
PROPERTY EXPERTS SINCE 1910

To book your free, no obligation  
market appraisal contact Mark Astley  
on **01243 786316**.

chichester@jackson-stops.co.uk  
jackson-stops.co.uk



## The Home Buying Experts for West Sussex and Hampshire



Established in 2003 - and with over 35 years' experience, enviable contacts, and in-depth market knowledge - we offer our clients discerning independent advice when acting as their dedicated property buying agent. When it comes to property acquisitions in West Sussex and Hampshire, our expertise and personalised service set us apart.

**pa** Property Acquisitions

E: [info@propertyacquisitions.co.uk](mailto:info@propertyacquisitions.co.uk)  
T: +44 (0)1243 531133

## AWARD WINNING LETTING AGENTS SOUTH DOWNS & CHICHESTER HARBOUR PROPERTY

rightmove



aria | propertymark  
PROTECTED



BRITISH  
PROPERTY  
AWARDS

2024 - 2025

★★★★★

GOLD WINNER

LETTING AGENT IN  
EMSWORTH &  
HAYLING ISLAND

At Borland & Borland, Every Landlord's an Individual!

- Flexible or Tailor-made Lettings Service
- Fully Managed, Rent Collection, Introduction Only
- Independent, Local, Professional & Knowledgeable



Contact us today for **FREE LETTINGS ADVICE!** Call 01243 379000, email [lettings@borlandandborland.co.uk](mailto:lettings@borlandandborland.co.uk)

**Borland & Borland**

Independent Estate Agent

[www.borlandandborland.co.uk](http://www.borlandandborland.co.uk)

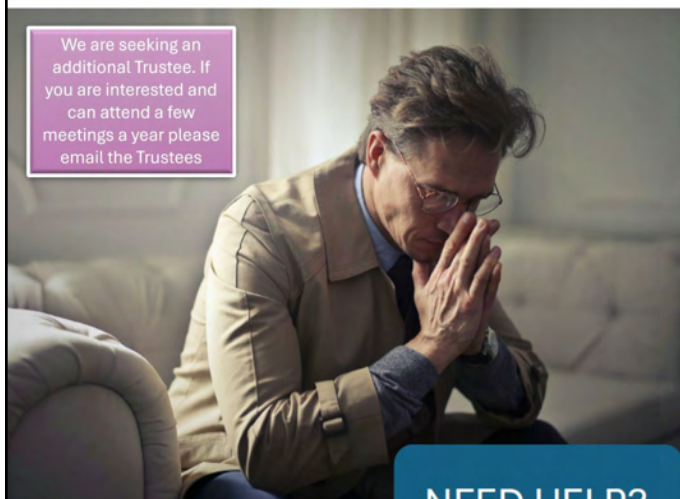
50° 50' 40.2" N 0° 56' 14.7" W

6 High Street, Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 7AW

The  
Henry Smith  
Charity  
founded in 1628

Henry Smith Charity  
Singleton and Charlton

We are seeking an additional Trustee. If you are interested and can attend a few meetings a year please email the Trustees



NEED HELP?

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

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

Please note, applications can only be considered from people and groups from Singleton and Charlton.

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

## CHRISTMAS FAIR



JOIN US FOR GAMES, SNACKS & TREATS, SANTA'S GROTTO AND MORE

DECEMBER 6TH, 12- 2 PM

SINGLETON CE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL





## THE FOX GOES FREE



### Seasonal Celebrations!

Christmas party menu 1st - 24th December  
Party the night away with live music!

### The Fox Festive Sessions & Tinwood wines!

4th Dec – James & The Giant Beat  
11th – Savannah Hack  
18th – Matt Wells

*Join us for New Year's Eve Celebrations too!*

### Clay Shoot 2025/2026

Try something new or treat someone to a great day out  
13th December - filling fast  
24th January & 21st March

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

[www.thefoxgoesfree.com](http://www.thefoxgoesfree.com)  
01243 811461



**20% off in store! \***

Coupon must be shown in store.



- Wet cleaning
- Laundry
- Alterations
- Holiday let cleaning
- Leather cleaning
- Commercial linen hire
- Ironing
- Domestic cleaning
- Repairs
- Oven cleaning
- Carpet cleaning
- One-off cleaning

[www.homeanddry.biz](http://www.homeanddry.biz)  
01243 543877

\*In store only, coupon must be shown, one coupon per household.



## Happiness

is a home designed with  
you in mind

Every McCarthy Stone development is cleverly designed to make life easier – now and in years to come. With sought-after locations, friendly communities and helpful on-site staff, you really can live life your way.

But don't just take our word for it, come and see for yourself at **Twelve Acres Place** in **Chichester**. We'd love to show you what it's really like at our developments. You'll soon see just what a difference a home designed around you can make.

**Call 0800 153 3669**  
to find out more.

[mccarthystone.co.uk/twelve-acres-place](http://mccarthystone.co.uk/twelve-acres-place)  
We're open Tues - Sat, 10.30am - 5pm

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★ Rated Excellent



~Shared Ownership example shown when purchasing a 75% share with no rent to pay. Other shares and outright purchase available. Qualifying criteria apply. See [mccarthystone.co.uk/shared-ownership](http://mccarthystone.co.uk/shared-ownership) for more details. \*Subject to availability. \*Additional charges apply. Imagery is representative. Information correct at time of print. †Ts&Cs apply to find out more visit [mccarthystone.co.uk/part-exchange](http://mccarthystone.co.uk/part-exchange)

SC023368

**Twelve Acres Place,  
Palmers Field Avenue,  
Chichester PO19 6GT**



- ▶ Friendly Manager on-site 24/7 for your peace of mind
- ▶ Social communal lounges and sun terrace looking onto idyllic park location
- ▶ Tailored care and support packages available\*
- ▶ Enjoy freshly prepared meals in the Bistro\*

75% Shared Ownership  
from £240,000\* with no rent to pay  
Purchase outright from £280,000\*  
Rent options available

### We'll be your cash buyer

With our Part Exchange† service, there are no estate agent fees and no chains to fall through. It's just one of the ways we can help make your next move hassle-free.

**McCarthy Stone**  
Retirement living *your way*





# BE PART OF SOMETHING Historic

Experience 1,000 years of rural life in one remarkable site, with 40 acres and over 50 historic buildings to explore.

[wealddown.co.uk](http://wealddown.co.uk) Tel: 01243 811363

**WEALD & DOWNLAND**  
LIVING MUSEUM

## East Dean Village Hall Christmas Crafts Fair

A big thank you to everyone who joined us at the Christmas Crafts Fair on Saturday 15th November. We were very grateful to all our helpers and to everyone who came along to browse and buy from our wonderfully talented stallholders. There was a lovely atmosphere in the Hall throughout the day, and your support made the event a great success.

We were touched by all the kind feedback that was received, including this note from Jill, one of our artisans: "Thank you and all your helpers very much for all the hard work and support on Saturday. It's a fantastic event and the efficiency, kindness and good humour of all those involved makes it a real pleasure to attend."

A huge thank-you to the Village Hall Operations Committee team and to everyone else who helped on the day setting up the hall, baking, running the kitchen and creating such a welcoming experience for stallholders and visitors alike.

Keep up to date, follow us...

**Instagram**

@thevillagehall\_eastdean

**Facebook**

East Dean Village Hall

**East Dean Village Hall**  
[eastdeanhall.co.uk](http://eastdeanhall.co.uk)



## Carols on the Green

*Join us to sing all your favourite carols*



**Wednesday  
17th December  
6pm**

**Meet at the Singleton Village Pond  
(please bring a torch)**

**Refreshments at the Village Hall when we finish**

**A collection will be made to support our two local schools.**

**PESTFORCE**  
PEST & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SERVICES



For a professional, reliable and experienced service please call Lance on 07799695603 or 01243 624525  
Residential, Commercial and Agricultural  
Locally based

## 100 CLUB

1st... Sarah Manouch, Singleton  
2nd... Mary Danahay, Chilgrove  
3rd... Kate Shaw, East Dean

At the moment we have over 240 numbers sold, which is amazing! Therefore, the prize money for this money totalled £120 which was split between three winners. The next draw will be the Christmas one on Sunday 7th December which will give three winners more Christmas spending money!  
**Wendy (811608)**



# And So Winter Begins

**East Dean's annual village bonfire was held on Wednesday 5th November and was a great success, thanks to rather better weather than had been forecast and a good turnout from all the valley villages, despite the unpromising forecast!**

The fire was lit at 6.30 by Max Davies, who also provided the stunning display of fireworks that followed. Theoretically these are funded from year to year by a collection taken on the night, but whenever I have asked Max how well that actually works out he only ever replies "It's not an exact science". I think we all know what that means, so thank you Sir!

The photos show some of the crew building the bonfire the preceding Sunday:- Jon Bailie with the dubious honour of being on top arranging the wood, Simon Lillywhite passing the pallets up to him, Parish Council Chair Chris Tyas passing them to Simon, and some bald old bloke hanging around trying to look helpful! Glenn Ward, Justin Pollard and Adrian Murphy also worked like Trojans on the day, but unfortunately weren't in shot when Helen Bailie took the photo. The other two pictures were taken by Bea Harling and show Max wielding the lighting pole (imagine an enormous cotton bud) and the fire which quickly took hold. The crowd was much bigger than it looks here, it's just that most of them were standing well back because it was, unsurprisingly, very hot! Incidentally the reason for lighting the fire at 6.30 every year is because that was 15 minutes after the last bus of the day to East Dean. Admittedly the last bus left in 1976, but why mess with tradition! For the same reason the East Dean fire is always actually on the 5th, except when that is a Sunday.

It was also the first outing for pub landlord Jim MacDonald's new mobile fish and chip van which was a popular addition to the entertainment on offer - a queue soon formed and stayed steady throughout the evening. But you won't have to wait until next November to try the wares, the van will be at West's Wood Fair in the summer as well as plenty of other events in the local area. **Tim Weeks** (Additional photos from Henry Dallal)



Your best work...  
...starts at the end of the garden.

**Random Hare garden studios**

Charlton, Chichester

t 07974 097753

w [randomhare.co.uk](http://randomhare.co.uk)

Discover  
more:







## It's Raining Reindeer...

### A Poem by Francis

Two reindeer did a tiddle,  
Both at the very same time,  
Flying over a snow clad roof,  
And whose was it?....Mine!  
Santa's decision not to stop,  
For the kids was very unkind.  
But he absolutely refused to park,  
On double yellow lines.



## SUNDAY CARVERY at The Griffin

COWDRAY PARK GOLF CLUB

*Try our fabulous Sunday Lunch menu  
created from seasonal local produce.*



Served between 12 and 3pm  
every Sunday throughout the winter months  
Please call 01730 813599 to book your table.



THE MARTIN SEWELL  
BUILDING COMPANY

Your vision,  
our expertise.  
Building your dream  
home, together

An Award Winning,  
Chartered Building Company



### ABOUT US

Having worked in the Sussex area since 1985, our dedicated & highly skilled team are passionate about delivering outstanding results & creating dream homes for our Clients.

MSBC has built a reputation based on an ethos of openness, strong communication and honesty.

### WHY CHOOSE US?

Experienced in delivering a wide range of high quality building projects, from bespoke new builds to the sensitive renovation of listed buildings or extensions and refurbishments for private & commercial premises.

### CONTACT

01243 542 056

[www.msbc.uk.com](http://www.msbc.uk.com)

[admin@msbc.uk.com](mailto:admin@msbc.uk.com)

### AWARDS



**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®**  
We invest in people Gold



## Weald & Downland Living Museum launches £55,000 appeal to make the Museum 'Accessible to Everyone'

**The Weald & Downland Living Museum is celebrating its 55th anniversary with the launch of an ambitious new fundraising campaign: "Accessible to Everyone – 55 for the 55th", aiming to raise £55,000 to improve accessibility across its 40-acre site and ensure the Museum can be enjoyed by all for the next 55 years and beyond.**

For more than five decades, the Museum has welcomed millions of visitors to explore its historic buildings, unique collections, woodland, and landscapes. However, the rural nature of the site means that some areas remain difficult to access for visitors with mobility needs, families with pushchairs, and those with additional accessibility requirements.

The new campaign will directly support a programme of improvements designed to open the Museum to new and existing audiences. These include new accessible paths, allowing wheelchair users, mobility-aid users, and families with buggies to move more easily across the site, inclusive play areas, offering spaces for children of all ages and abilities to play, explore and rest, improved signage and interpretation, with easy-read formats and accessible design, site-wide accessibility upgrades to enhance navigation, comfort and the visitor experience including sustainable travel measures.

Special Rewards for Supporters Donors can also enjoy a range of special rewards and completely unique experiences as part of the fundraising effort, including the chance to attend a Tudor Banquet in Bayleaf House, the

Repair Shop Experience for two, an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum for two, afternoon tea in the historic Whittaker's Cottage, the chance to brew your own beer in the Winkhurst Kitchen and a Woodland Myth Walk.

There are also high-level opportunities to sponsor a historic building and an inclusive play area. These special rewards celebrate the Museum's heritage and offer supporters one-of-a-kind experiences that cannot be found anywhere else. To donate and learn more about the Accessible to Everyone - 55 for the 55th campaign, visit [crowdfunder.co.uk/p/accessible-to-everyone](http://crowdfunder.co.uk/p/accessible-to-everyone)



### Celebrate Christmas the Goodwood Way

Goodwood Shop's Christmas Collection. A festive blend of classic English charm with a signature Goodwood twist. From cosy gifts to elegant decorations, everything's designed to bring warmth, joy and a touch of timeless style to your celebrations. Stress-Free Shopping, Guaranteed! Worry-free UK returns until 18th January. Wrap It Up with Goodwood Style!  
**[tinyurl.com/23oqx383](http://tinyurl.com/23oqx383)**

**MILESTONE  
GARAGE  
COCKING  
SERVICING - REPAIRS  
MOTs - TYRES  
CAR SALES**  
Courtesy Car Available  
**01730 813148**

### THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS!

**Very good rates for this, our standard box - other sizes available too! Don't dilly-dally, give our David Mather a call to discuss!**

**01243 774385  
07973 820877**

## Francis Ward

Plumbing & Heating Engineer

Qualified, Registered and fully insured in

Oil boiler servicing & maintenance  
Oil tank installation  
Heating system design and install  
Swimming pool oil boilers

Solar heating systems  
Servicing  
Maintenance

Gas boilers  
Cookers  
Swimming pool gas boilers  
New installations servicing and maintenance

All aspects of heating and plumbing covered  
Electrical works undertaken by fully qualified Part P registered engineers  
Commercial & Domestic Spas and Swimming Pools service & repairs



**Bletchley Spas & Pools: Brightside, Singleton, West Sussex, PO18 0EX**

**Phone: 01243 811960**

**Mobile: 07941 039378**





# West Dean Parish Council

## West Dean Parish Council Meeting 12th November 2025

**Cllr Sam Renwick** was co-opted by unanimous decision and welcomed as the new member of the council.

**Reports were given by both the District and County Councillors.** The District Council is considering installing many more ANPR cameras around Chichester to help prevent crimes, recognising cars with no insurance or MOT as well as locating vehicles of interest.

The only **rural crime updates** were regarding **catapults** fired along the Chilgrove Road and some damage to vehicles in West Dean. **Hare Coursing** had also been reported in the Chilgrove area.

There have been reports of **dog fouling** along the riverside in West Dean and signs regarding fines will be erected. Not using the supplied bins makes unpleasant conditions for everyone especially those maintaining the area.

**West Dean Estate** were congratulated for their work **connecting the 2 phases of the Centurion Way** in West Dean. This should be completed in early December meaning that the whole section will be away from the roadway, linking Chichester to Singleton.

The Council are continuing to review options to make the **school crossing** at West Dean safer. This discussion will carry on at the next meeting.

Please feel free to contact the clerk with any matters within the Parish.

**Next Meeting is January 14th 2026.**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful Christmas.



### Live Music!

*Let us come and play for you!!*

*We play 60's and 70's music for parties and celebrations*

Contact : Nicholas L. Taylor

Email: nicholasltaylor@aol.com



## MOLE CATCHING

"NO MOLE, NO FEE"

## WASPS / HORNETS

CONTACT ANGUS ON

**07828 134086**

[WWW.ASCOUNTRYSIDESERVICES.CO.UK](http://WWW.ASCOUNTRYSIDESERVICES.CO.UK)



THE BRITISH MOLE  
CATCHERS REGISTER  
SUPPORTING TRADITIONAL EXPERTISE AND SKILLS

## WEST DEAN STORES & TEA ROOM

Fresh local produce to eat in or takeaway

Order when you arrive, or pre-order by phone

Local deliveries available - please contact us for more details

Bread, cakes and sandwiches • Hot and cold drinks • Fruit and vegetables • Milk and eggs

Honey and jams • Newspapers and magazines • Greetings cards • Household essentials

Logs and kindling • Pet foods • Card payments only



## Opening Times

Mon - Fri 08:00-17:00 Sat & Sun 08:00-16:00 Bank Holidays 08:00-16:00

West Dean Stores Ltd, West Dean, Chichester, PO18 0QY Tel: 01243 818222

[stores@westdean.org.uk](mailto:stores@westdean.org.uk) | [www.westdeanstores.co.uk](http://www.westdeanstores.co.uk)



## SPRAY, SQUIRT SHAKE!

**Did you know that the UK uses around 550 million metal aerosol cans every year? From hairspray and deodorant to furniture polish and oven cleaners, aerosols are everywhere in our homes - and the good news is, empty aerosol cans can be recycled at home!**

Yet, according to a recent survey, 22% of residents in West Sussex didn't know this! That's why **West Sussex Recycles** have partnered with **Alupro** and **Arun District Council** to raise awareness!

### How to check if your aerosol can is empty?

Use the spray, squirt, shake method:  
**Spray** - No hiss and nothing comes out? It's empty.

**Squirt** - Nothing squirts out? It's empty.

**Shake** - No sloshing sound? It's empty.

If it is empty, pop it in your recycling bin. If it's not, take it to your local Recycling Centre and let staff know – they'll ensure safe disposal!

Find out more on aerosol recycling at [westsussex.gov.uk/aerosols](http://westsussex.gov.uk/aerosols)

### Lavant Friendly Club

We meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month. This month it's **Wednesday 3rd December**. No need to book. A lovely meal will only cost you just 50p, then we have some **Xmas Music with Shirley**. No Car? If you catch a bus down the valley we will pick you up at Yarbrough with the Contact 88 minibus. If you're in Lavant, it's house to house! To arrange this, give Tony a ring between 1 and 4pm (see below).

### Chichester Country Music Club

We have now held a Concert of Country Western Music for 50 years! We meet on the 2nd Friday of each month between 7.30pm and 10.30pm. This month, it's **Friday 12th December** and we welcome **Micky Page** - a super singer from Dorset. Good traditional numbers and Western songs too. If you like this kind of music come and see how good it is! First time visit is free and we have a bar too!

### Chichester Country Music Club Dance

The next one is our **New Year's Eve** bash to see in 2026 at **Mundham** and it's only **£10 a head**. **Ken and Shirley** will be playing Country Western, with 60s/70s Pop too, then a popular **60s DJ** takes over as we approach the hour! Bring your own booze and food! Party the night away from 8pm to 12.30am.

[tonybleach@talktalk.net](mailto:tonybleach@talktalk.net), 527439



*Having trouble with your tech?  
Ed can help!*



- Computer Repair, Maintenance & Upgrade
- PC Reinstallation · Equipment Sourcing
- Laptop Screen Replacement · Training
- Virus Removal · Audio / Visual Configuration
- Home network setup & security (wired/wireless)

**01243 216121**

[www.ridea.co.uk](http://www.ridea.co.uk) | [help@ridea.co.uk](mailto:help@ridea.co.uk)

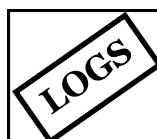


**CHARLES HENRY**  
PROPERTY SERVICES

- ▶ Interior and Exterior Decorating
- ▶ Landscaping - Decking, Patios, Raised Beds
- ▶ Property Maintenance, Renewal and Repairs

Call Charles Henry on **07910 286256**

✉ [charlie@charleshenryproperty.co.uk](mailto:charlie@charleshenryproperty.co.uk)  
🌐 [www.charleshenryproperty.co.uk](http://www.charleshenryproperty.co.uk)



### Seasoned Firewood

Cut and split to your requirements

**LAWN MOWING  
HEDGE CUTTING  
GARDEN CLEARANCE**

*Personal service from a local family business*

**KEITH GOACHER**

**01243 811746**

**07976 740748**

## A SAD GOODBYE AND BIG THANKS

It is with sadness that I find myself having to give up the distribution of the Valley Diary after some twenty plus years. Initially printing/editing it from the shop, then taking on just the distribution. This is not only due to my age but also my failing health and the sad loss of my Elaine. Tim Weeks has kindly offered to get involved with The Valley Diary in my place and we all really appreciate his willingness.

So I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy Christmas, New Year and Good Health for 2026. **Chris Kelly**

**LLOLLOPOP**  
A TREAT TO PRINT  
PRINTING, DESIGN & SIGNAGE

**Business Stationery** - Letterheads and Business Cards

**Promotional Displays** - Banners and Site Signage

**Marketing Products** - Leaflets and Brochures

**Transactional Items** - Books and Pads

5 Phoenix Business Centre, Spur Road, Quarry Lane, Chichester PO19 8PN  
01243 78 22 99 [chichester@lollipopprint.co.uk](mailto:chichester@lollipopprint.co.uk) [www.lollipopprint.co.uk](http://www.lollipopprint.co.uk)



We are a small playschool in a beautiful rural location with access to Levin Down.

Open 8.30am – 3pm

Term Time Only

[www.singleton-playschool.co.uk](http://www.singleton-playschool.co.uk)

[contact@singleton-playschool.co.uk](mailto:contact@singleton-playschool.co.uk)

07519 913406



## Can You Buy a Home Below the Asking Price?

“Can I get it for less?” is still one of the most common questions we hear from buyers, especially in the current buyers’ market where nearly 40% of homes on the open market have been reduced.



During the Covid property boom, paying under the asking price was almost impossible. Demand was fierce, and the best homes were snapped up within days. Fast forward to now, and the picture is quite different. With interest rates remaining high, buyers are taking a more cautious approach. With a high number of fatigued sellers who have been in the market for months and are increasingly open to doing deals, there is more room for negotiation than we have seen in years.

There is still often a gap between what sellers hope to achieve and what buyers are willing to pay, but realistic pricing is key. Well presented, good quality homes continue to attract strong interest, particularly around Chichester, Midhurst, and Petworth. In these sought after locations, we are securing properties at or just below the guide price more often. In other cases, we are achieving discounts of as much as 15%.

When making an offer, it’s worth remembering that the strongest bid isn’t always the highest. Sellers value certainty and flexibility, so if you are a cash buyer or you can be flexible on timings, that can make all the difference.

For those navigating the current market, a clear strategy, good advice, and local insight are invaluable in achieving the right result.

**For more information about finding your next home in West Sussex, contact Jennie Hancock [jh@propertyacquisitions.co.uk](mailto:jh@propertyacquisitions.co.uk)**

In **November 1915**, the inaugural meeting of the Women’s Institute in England was held at the Fox pub in Charlton, West Sussex. A call to arms to revitalise rural communities and support the drive to produce food during the First World War.

## WI Report

As ‘guardians of the household’ the significance of women’s roles had never been more in the spotlight. ***Jam and Jerusalem*** began and I am delighted to say that **110 years later** we celebrated our birthday, back at the Fox Goes Free pub in Charlton, where it all started. We were beautifully looked after by the team at the Fox, and the spirit of community, sisterhood and coming together to share friendship and a lot of laughter, was evident in bundles.

**The Singleton and East Dean Women’s Institute** continues to go from strength to strength and we are delighted to have our latest member join us at the supper. Our WI meets once a month (excluding August), where you can expect some brilliant and entertaining speakers, parties, fellowship and of course tea and cake.

I have written before to say how grateful I am to be a part of such an incredible group of women. A group of women who not only provide support to each other, but who are also part of an institution, who over the last 110 years, have been driving forces behind campaigns such as **Equal Pay for Equal Work**, **Preserving the Countryside** against the desecration of litter, leading to the formation of the **Keep Britain Tidy** movement, founding the **Fairtrade Foundation** for global food security and agricultural self-sufficiency in developing countries, and forcing change and availability of cervical and breast screening within the NHS.

We still vote and drive resolutions every year and lobby parliament for action and change. So whilst we continue to meet in village halls, sing Jerusalem, and absolutely eat cake; we take our place as a force to be reckoned with, campaigning with strength and tenacity. As I say, an incredible group of women.

**Happy Birthday Singleton and East Dean WI.  
Long may we continue.**

## Little Cowdray at Fernleigh

**Little Cowdray at Fernleigh officially opened in mid-November 2025 at 40 North Street, located inside the historic Fernleigh building. This is a significant expansion for the Cowdray Estate, as it brings their farm shop and lifestyle offerings directly into Chichester city centre, saving locals the drive to the main estate in Midhurst.**

Designed as a “micro” version of the main estate’s Farm Shop & Café, it serves as a premium food and lifestyle destination.

**Food Hall & Deli** It features an award-winning deli counter with artisan cheeses, charcuterie and savoury tarts.

**Butchery** You can buy estate-reared meat, including their signature venison, lamb and beef.

**Bakery** The shop offers freshly baked goods, pastries and cakes made by the estate’s chefs.

**Lifestyle Store** There is a curated section for homeware, gifts and Cowdray-branded products (including their new cookbook, Seasons).

While the main estate in Midhurst remains the “mothership” with the full farm shop and ruins, this North Street location is intended for convenient daily shopping for Chichester residents and workers.

**Opening Hours** Monday - Saturday: 9am - 5pm, Sunday: 10am - 3pm

## What an Innings!

### A Poem by Francis

We wandered into a local pub,  
And what a pleasant surprise.  
Lots of lovely women there,  
All part of the WI.

They were such pleasant ladies,  
So we hope to see them again.  
Hard to believe that each of them,  
Had reached one hundred and ten!



# The Valley Parish

Find out more on the 'A church near you' website  
[www.facebook.com/ValleyParish](http://www.facebook.com/ValleyParish)



*Wishing you all a  
Happy Christmas  
and a peaceful New  
Year*



**21<sup>st</sup> December**  
**11am**  
**West Dean**

Stories, games and a surprise gift

## Services and Events

7 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Holy Communion With Choir East Dean
14 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Holy Communion Singleton
17 <sup>th</sup> December	6pm	Carol Singing round Singleton
21 <sup>st</sup> December	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
	11am	Children's Church West Dean
24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols and Crib East Dean
	7pm	First Communion of Christmas West Dean
25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	10am	Holy Communion Singleton
28 <sup>th</sup> December	10am	Holy Communion West Dean

### Contacts –

#### Parish Priest - Rev Sarah Manouch

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

#### Churchwarden

Sarah John - 07769 887546 / sarance@btinternet.com

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

#### PCC Secretary

Susie Holmes - pccsecretaryvalleyparish@gmail.com



# The Diary

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

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

## December 2025

**Thu 4th** Fox Festive Session: James & The Giant Beat, Fox Goes Free, Charlton

**Sat 6th** Singleton School Christmas Fair: 12noon

**Sun 7th** Tree Dressing: Weald & Downland Museum

**Sun 7th** Festive Family Workshop: Weald & Downland Museum

**Mon 8th** Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall

**Tue 9th** Ladies Night, Star & Garter, East Dean, 7pm

**Thu 11th** Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Mulled Wine and Mince Pies: 7pm

**Thu 11th** Fox Festive Session: Savannah Hack, Fox Goes Free, Charlton

**Sats-Tues 13th-23rd** Green Father Christmas: Weald & Downland Museum

**Sat 13th** Clay Shoot: The Fox Goes Free

**Sat 13th** VGC Christmas Coffee & Sherry Morning: 10.30am: East Dean Village Hall

**Wed 17th** Carols on the Green: Singleton Village Pond, 6pm

**Thu 18th** Fox Festive Session: Matt Wells, Fox Goes Free, Charlton

**Sun 21st** The Valley Diary Copy

Deadline: 12noon

**Sun 21st** Christmas Quiz at The Star & Garter

## January 2026

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

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

**Wed 14th** West Dean Parish Council Meeting

**Thu 15th** Singleton & East Dean WI: Singleton Village Hall: Caro Newling: 7pm

**Sat 24th** Clay Shoot: The Fox Goes Free

## February 2026

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

**Thu 19th** Singleton & East Dean WI: Singleton Village Hall: Jason Howard: 7pm

## March 2026

**Thu 19th** Singleton & East Dean WI: Singleton Village Hall: Annual Meeting: 7pm

**Sat 21st** Clay Shoot: The Fox Goes Free

## May 2026

**Fri 1st & Sat 2nd** Goodwood Horseracing

**Sat 16th & Sun 17th** Goodwood!

**Fri 22nd & Sat 23rd** Goodwood Horseracing

## June 2026

**Fri 5th** Goodwood's Three Friday Nights

**Sun 7th** Goodwood Horseracing

**Fri 12th** Goodwood's Three Friday Nights

**Fri 19th** Goodwood's Three Friday Nights

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

*Please let us know...*

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

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

Deadline for the...

## January 2026 Edition

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

## Sunday 21st December

[editor@valleydiary.org](mailto:editor@valleydiary.org)

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

## The Team

**Ted Salmon, Editor & Accounts**  
[editor@valleydiary.org](mailto:editor@valleydiary.org), 07903 017910

**David Mather, Advertising**  
[davidmathero@gmail.com](mailto:davidmathero@gmail.com), 01243 774385,  
07973 820877

**Tim Weeks, Distribution**  
[tim@gramophoneguru.co.uk](mailto:tim@gramophoneguru.co.uk), 07503 282528

## Distribution Team

Jonathan Rogers, Wendy Heather, Wendy Westwood, Penny Buchan, Judy Fathers, Vicky Gillespie, Gay Godfrey, Carol Corbett, Tony Boxall, Sandra Muggeridge, Patricia Payton, Sheila Sims, Barbara Boxall, Valerie Tapley

**The legal bit:** We (The Valley Diary Team) make every effort to ensure the accuracy of entries & adverts in The Valley Diary (TVD). Content is based on the latest info at the time of printing. This may change. Every effort will be made to circulate info as soon as possible in subsequent editions. This edition will not be reprinted and re-circulated if any details change during its period of validity. In no circumstances can TVD accept any liability for loss and damage which may arise or result from any error in or omission of any entry or advert whether relating to wording space, position, artwork, or telephone number. TVD is not an agent for any Business or individual within its pages and is unable to vouch for advertising claims, professional qualifications, trade certifications, membership of trade association or content of web sites whose addresses may be shown in individual entries or adverts published anywhere within its pages. TVD advises readers to satisfy themselves as to the type of goods or services offered or qualifications held by the businesses or individuals appearing in its pages. In short, we're grateful to advertisers for providing funds to keep The Valley Diary going but cannot be held liable in any way by readers if advertisers don't live up to their claims and we won't get involved in any dispute between advertisers in TVD and their customers. Lastly, we don't publish anonymous submissions and contributor articles remain exclusively the views of the author. They are not endorsed by, and don't necessarily reflect the views of, the volunteer editorial team at The Valley Diary.



# 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 Fete	01243 818037
Singleton Parish Clerk	07702 240126
Singleton School	01243 811679
Singleton Tearooms	01243 811899
Singleton Village Hall	TBA
Weald & Downland Museum: Office	01243 811363
Weald & Downland Museum: Shop	01243 811020
West Dean College	01243 818300
West Dean Gardens	01243 818318
West Dean PC Clerk	07596 884847
West Dean School	01243 811247
West Dean Stores	01243 818222

# Lineage Ads.

**FOOTPATH WARDEN** Clive Jackson, 07740 308125  
**HOME FOOT CARE** 01243 811442.  
**DOG GROOMING - SMART DOGS** Lesley Pollard 01243 811805  
**PILATES CLASSES** Jo, 07917 177404  
**FERNS RESTORATIVE YOGA** 01243 818058  
**STANDBY NANNY** Josie, 07747 867652  
**PAINTER AND DECORATOR** Arthur, 07936 082626  
**YOGA WITH CARA** 07787 512283  
**YOGA WITH JACQUI** 01243 535223, 07854 441010  
**YOGA WITH KATIE** Tel. Tel 07918 757758  
**REGISTERED NURSE** Dawn, 07876 796034  
**PAINTER** Shaf 07706 105526  
**PLUMBER** Peter 07825 268317  
**DOG GROOMING** Leandra 07944 788727  
**BUILDER** James 07788 532135  
**TAXI** 01243 778499  
**REGIONAL GARDEN TIDYING** Please call 08000 468137  
**MOBILE CAR WASHING SERVICE** Stuart, 07568 377302, stuarteburn@icloud.com  
**SEAMSTRESS** Sewing and alterations. Casual, bridal, prom, suiting & curtains 07391 184605  
**IRONING SERVICE** 01243 531138 or 07773 009241  
**FETCH DOG WALKING** Canine specialist dog Walker, Helen Ferrell, 07765 577290

## Albert says...



She saw my leaking roof and said,  
 "You better borrow this."  
 I said, "Oh, ta Pauline."  
 She said, "That's exactly what it is."

## Register of Local...

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

# B&B



**THE**  
**STAR & GARTER**  
 COUNTRY INN WITH ROOMS  
 EAST DEAN

The Star & Garter is a gorgeous country inn, which nestles in the South Downs National Park, at the heart of the Goodwood Estate.

**FOR TABLE BOOKINGS AND ROOM RESERVATIONS CONTACT:**

## 01243 811318

[INFO@THESTARANDGARTER.CO.UK](mailto:info@thestarandgarter.co.uk)  
[WWW.THESTARANDGARTER.CO.UK](http://WWW.THESTARANDGARTER.CO.UK)

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) #followthestar



# VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

## A Fond Farewell (For Now)

Sadly, this will be our last Valley Gardening Club article - but we are going out on a high. We will be celebrating together at our **Christmas Coffee & Sherry Morning on Saturday 13th December at East Dean Village Hall, 10.30am-midday** and we would love to see as many familiar VGC faces as possible for a joyful festive send-off.

I joined the VGC Committee in 2011 and have been chairing since 2018, during which time we have put on around 40 wonderfully varied events: Spring Shows, Rose Shows, Garden Safaris, Annual Shows (including the more recent Petals, Produce & Pimm's Show), Hort talks, garden visits, AGM suppers, garden competitions - and of course our legendary Bacon Bap Mornings!

Interest has naturally ebbed and flowed, but we have always tried to keep things lively, friendly and welcoming - easing some of the stricter RHS rules in recent years so more people felt able to take part. During Covid we stayed connected through our newsletter, The Spade, and even launched a website and held a few events outside. And for many years we have shared monthly updates in The Valley Diary, keeping gardening firmly on the Valley map.

We have been incredibly fortunate to enjoy the support of so many of you who joined in, as well as expert judges, speakers and gardeners who brought real sparkle and expertise to our events. They helped make every show and gathering something to look forward to.

At the heart of it all has been the VGC Committee, without whom none of this would have happened. Penny Buchan, who joined in 2008, has been a wonderful Committee Member and former Chair; Penny Spence has contributed hugely over the last nine years; and warm thanks go to Joan Burnett, Sabine Burgert, Lyn Burlin, Miranda Mayne, Larrie Robinson and Julie Rimmington. Your enthusiasm, humour and steady support have kept the VGC thriving. Every event has truly been a team effort. And to all those who served before - thank you. You

helped shape the VGC into the club so many have enjoyed.

As many will know, finding new committee members has become increasingly difficult, and even back in 2019 we noted that people's lives and interests were shifting. Covid certainly didn't make it easier. Yet we finish in good financial health, and we are quietly hopeful that someone, someday, will miss the VGC enough to spark it back into life - perhaps in a new and exciting form. After 85 years, it would be lovely to see it blossom again.

Finally, to everyone who has supported us - came along, opened their gardens, entered exhibits, baked, shared expertise, judged or volunteered - thank you. It has been a joy and a privilege. Nothing has been better than bringing people together through a shared love of plants. **Vicky Mudford**



## The recent frenzied knife attack on a train in Cambridgeshire is a stark and painful reminder of the devastating impact knife crime can have.

We have seen a 10% reduction in recorded knife crimes across Sussex, we cannot be complacent. Sussex Police are taking decisive action to make our communities safer. Their work with schools, colleges, youth services, retailers and community groups is raising awareness about the real dangers of carrying a knife and preventing harm before it happens.

My Safer in Sussex Fund recently awarded a £5K grant to the Sussex Community Development Association whose work delivers targeted engagement in parks and public spaces to address safety concerns among young people, including knife crime.

We know that most young people don't carry knives but, for those who do, we want to make it clear: carrying a weapon doesn't make you safer. In fact, it puts you at greater risk. Please lose the knife, not a life.

**Sussex Police**

Provided by  
 **CHICHESTER DISTRICT Farmers' Markets**  
loving our local food

**Chichester city centre 9am - 2pm**  
**1st & 3rd Friday of every month**

[www.chichester.gov.uk/farmersmarket](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/farmersmarket)

## INSIDE STOREY

*Bespoke Curtains, Blinds*

*Soft Furnishings*

*Poles & Tracks supplied and fitted*

*Practical advice offered*

*Personal, prompt service*

**Sally Rieder**

**07866 216160**

[sally@rieder.co.uk](mailto:sally@rieder.co.uk)

[www.inside-storey.co.uk](http://www.inside-storey.co.uk)

## Peter Roberts CTA ATT

Chartered Tax Adviser

*Formerly a Tax Adviser for a local leading firm of Chartered Accountants for many years, now a sole practitioner providing:*

- Personal self-assessment tax return completion
- Personal tax reviews
- General personal tax compliance
- Quick, efficient and personal service including home visits at no extra cost

Telephone: 01243 773580

Mobile: 07939 819364

Email: [prpersonaltax@btinternet.com](mailto:prpersonaltax@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.prpersonaltax.co.uk](http://www.prpersonaltax.co.uk)

**Reynolds**  
Our family caring for yours

**Funeral Service • Memorial Masons**

For more information please contact  
**James or Stephen Reynolds:**

43 Spitalfield Lane  
Chichester PO19 6SG  
Tel: 01243 773311

27 - 31 High Street  
Bognor Regis PO21 1RR  
Tel: 01243 864745

[www.reynoldsfunerals.co.uk](http://www.reynoldsfunerals.co.uk)



## A New Year's Resolution To Last Throughout the Year!

**4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) runs a recycling scheme, saving many items from landfill, and helping to raise funds for its work supporting those living with sight loss across West Sussex.**

The Festive Season can leave us with additional food packaging that can be recycled to raise money: this includes cracker, biscuit and cake wrappers, Pringles tubes, mini cheese nets, bread or bakery plastic packaging (inc. zipper bags, plastic packs and closure tags). All those stamps from Christmas cards can be accepted, plus stamp collections.

The scheme also extends to jewellery and watches, (all any condition or age), old or foreign coins and notes, mobile phones, games consoles, cameras, video cameras, sat navs, iPods, MP3 players and printer ink cartridges (except laser toner cartridges). 4SVS would even love to have your old car, as it works with Scrap Car Comparison to turn old cars into cash!

If you receive a gift over Christmas that really isn't for you, 4Sight Vision Support would also be grateful for new and unopened Christmas gifts to use as raffle and auction prizes throughout the year.

**4sight.org.uk/recycle**  
**01243 828555**

## EAST DEAN FETE

Summer will soon be upon us(!) and we can all look forward to East Dean Village Fete. Date to be confirmed, but no doubt early June as usual. So we're calling all willing helpers to join the Fete Organising Committee please.

**If you can help please call  
Sam on 07887 562473**

## Lavant

### Horticultural Society

**10th December - Discussion  
Ian Currie, weatherman from  
Radio Sussex**

Gales, Greenhouses and Global  
Warming

**Lavant Memorial Hall**

**7pm**

Refreshments before the talk

**visit [www.lavanthortsoc.org.uk](http://www.lavanthortsoc.org.uk)  
for information and gardening  
tips.**

## Heyshott Christmas Bazaar

**Saturday 6th December  
2pm  
Cobden Hall, Heyshott**



**Berry-Middleton Ltd**

Specialists in Flintwork for over 20 years

Stonework-Brickwork-Roofing-Hard Landscaping

Maintaining the very best tradition in Sussex

[www.berry-middleton.co.uk](http://www.berry-middleton.co.uk) Tel: 07771 512012

Email: [mark@berry-middleton.co.uk](mailto:mark@berry-middleton.co.uk)

## THE BOOK SHED

### Singleton Village Hall

Access is through the  
side gate  
and is the first shed  
on the right.

The books are free for  
you to keep or return.

If you have any books you wish to donate  
please place them on the shelves.



## TRADITIONAL

### TIMBER

### WINDOWS

**Bespoke,  
hand crafted  
windows  
made here in  
the Valley**



**07973 399487  
07881 940057**

[valleytraditionalwindows@gmail.com](mailto:valleytraditionalwindows@gmail.com)

## MOBILE POST OFFICE

### THE SELSEY ARMS at WEST DEAN

**MONDAYS: 12.30pm to 2pm**

**THURSDAYS: 12.30pm to 2pm**

### THE PARTRIDGE INN at SINGLETON

**MONDAYS 2pm to 3.15pm**

Mobile Postmaster, Operating from  
Grayshot, 01428 604401 - 07484 526779



**GOSS MINI SKIPS LTD**  
**skiphire@live.co.uk**



Skips delivered  
and collected on  
small lorries to  
access most  
properties.  
Friendly and  
reliable local  
drivers.



If you require help  
or advice on you  
waste needs or  
requirements call  
Godfrey on the  
number's below  
he will be happy  
to help.

Local family run waste transfer station, based in Duncton.  
Mini & Midi skips available, prices on request.

**Call us – tel 01730 817750 – mob 07979 820932**



## DYSON KING

ARCHITECTURAL  
IRONMONGERS

*25 Years Supplying Fittings  
for Doors, Windows, Gates,  
Locks & Safes.*

*Service to Architects, Builders  
& The General Public*

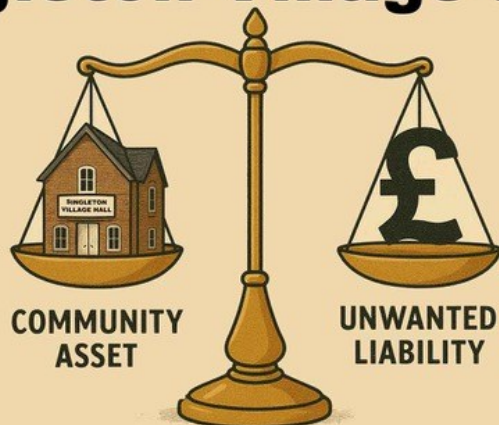
**01243 776739**  
**[www.dysonking.com](http://www.dysonking.com)**



## Singleton Village Hall - The Future...

Our Hall is an asset gifted years ago by Goodwood to the communities of Singleton & Charlton. However, in recent years, income from regular bookings has declined, whilst running costs have increased disproportionately. It costs roughly £3,500 a year to keep running, excluding any repairs and maintenance. Despite efforts to increase usage, the annual income covers barely half of these costs. There is a reserve of funds but these may be required for possible future repairs. Thus making the situation unsustainable in the long term. So it's now up to the community to decide whether the Hall is still needed and, if so, how we create a stable financial future for it. Or do we repurpose the Hall to provide an alternative income stream so that future costs are covered? To this end, every household in Singleton and Charlton will be receiving a questionnaire in January seeking the community's views on all aspects of the Hall's future and, crucially, how the Trustees can ensure that the Hall has a viable future. I would urge you to respond to this questionnaire. The future of the Village Hall is in your hands. **Graham Zacharias, Singleton Village Hall Committee Chairman**

## Singleton Village Hall



**Have your say on the future of your village hall -  
A survey will be coming through your door soon**

[www.southdownsgardens.co.uk](http://www.southdownsgardens.co.uk)

### Local Garden Designers with 20+ years experience Design and Garden Installation

#### Garden Design

Professional Garden Masterplans including full planning applications. Use our drawings to obtain multiple quotes for garden works. We offer plans detailing: Planting, including Schedule of plants, 3D Garden Visualisation Perspectives, Lighting and Irrigation.

#### Garden Construction

Let us quote and build your garden to our highest standards. We utilise the finest materials and plant suppliers which complement our design work. Plant a tree, plant a hedge or multi acre installs including Swimming Pools and associated hard and soft landscaping. Projects of all sizes undertaken & managed.

#### Garden Maintenance

We can tend to your garden, expert knowledge and care included as part of our service.

## South Downs Gardens

Call Us: 01730 642 274 E-mail [chris@southdownsgardens.co.uk](mailto:chris@southdownsgardens.co.uk)

## L. WEST & SON

### CARPENTRY & JOINERY SPECIALISTS



We deal with all aspects of carpentry & joinery, including bespoke windows, doors, staircases, cabinets & more. Please get in touch to discuss your requirements.

*New Barn, Newhouse Lane, East Dean, Nr. Chichester, PO18 0NJ*

Tel: 01243 811354 E-mail: [sales@lwestandson.co.uk](mailto:sales@lwestandson.co.uk)

Website: [www.lwestandson.co.uk](http://www.lwestandson.co.uk)

## Christmas Balls - It's All In The Name

### A Poem by Francis

Walter Wall the carpet fitter,  
Was down at the village hall.  
Helping to smarten things up,  
In time for the Christmas Ball.

Everyone will be there,  
It is after all a tradition.  
With the ballroom brightly lit,  
By good old Alec Trishan.

You see, many thought it was off,  
After terrible flooding last week.  
But good old Ruth Tiler,  
Got up there and fixed the leak.

The hall has now been done up,  
It really does look great.  
With fresh paint and wallpaper,  
Supplied by Dec O'Rate.

His partner was not a good painter,  
And Dec said they should split.  
He does a better job on his own,  
So no more Mister Bit.

Even the toilets look splendid,  
New plumbing sparkling bright.  
But where is the plumber from,  
With a name like Arpya Pipe?

His boss will be down in Looe,  
So will miss the Ball whilst away.  
But his pleasant wife will be there,  
The fragrant Mrs B. Day.

The MC will be Mike Rafone,  
And Rose Beeve will cook the roast.  
Tom Bowler will do the raffle,  
And the Baker brothers the toast.

The lovely barmaid Fay Musgrouse,  
Will pour whatever you need.  
But the bar will be closed at 10pm sharp,  
By the steward, Lars Dawders, a Swede.

More friends from abroad are invited,  
Like the Berlin barber Herr Kutz.  
With his partner Dan Kershern,  
Who always thanks us so much.

Oops, I haven't got my ticket yet,  
I had better quickly nip out.  
And just hope that the ticket seller,  
Is not that old misery, Sol Downt!

## GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION IS LAUNCHED ON THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SUSSEX

You may remember that, back in the summer, we asked for your views on options for local government reorganisation and, along with the other seven councils in West Sussex, we subsequently submitted proposals to the Government for them to consider. This was after the Government invited the West Sussex councils to work together to develop proposals for our area.



Alongside the joint case, which can be found at [shapingwestsussex.org](http://shapingwestsussex.org), each council shared its preferred option with the Government. Our council, together with all other district and borough councils in West Sussex, unanimously supported the two-unitary model - one authority for Chichester, Arun, Worthing and Adur - and another for Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex. West Sussex County Council backed a single-unitary option.

The Government has now launched the formal consultation on the proposals to reorganise local government in Sussex at [gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-east-sussex-and-brighton-and-hove-and-west-sussex](http://gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-east-sussex-and-brighton-and-hove-and-west-sussex).

**The consultation is open until Sunday 11th January 2026 at 23.59** and welcomes feedback from residents, businesses and stakeholders on all proposals put forward by councils across the region. Your input is important and will help shape the Government's final decision on the best way forward for Sussex. It's important that as many people as possible have their say, so please encourage friends, family and colleagues to get involved too. **Sarah J Parker, CDC**



**St Wilfrid's Hospice**  
Making a difference to local lives

## St Wilfrid's Christmas Tree Recycling

From doorstep to hospice care: trees collected, lives supported. Between January 9th - 12th, St Wilfrid's tree-mendous team of volunteers will be collecting real Christmas trees across the local area - to be recycled into mulch and wood chippings to support local farmlands. This is a great way to avoid the hassle and mess of transporting the tree yourself, instead you can sit back and let us do the heavy lifting. If you can, we suggest a donation of £15 (but free if you are unable to donate) to support St Wilfrid's in providing expert palliative care and compassion to people with a life-limiting illness in your local community. Book your collection now: [stwh.co.uk/tree-cycle](http://stwh.co.uk/tree-cycle)

## Christmas Shopping with St Wilfrid's Hospice

St Wilfrid's Hospice charity shops are the perfect place to find some wonderful gifts, while also supporting a great local cause, giving your presents twice the impact. Our shops offer a wide range of clothes, toys, books and more for you to buy as a gift for your loved ones. This will not only bring a smile to their face, but every purchase made at one of our stores go towards the expert care we provide to local lives. Get presents that make a difference this festive season: [stwh.co.uk/shops](http://stwh.co.uk/shops)

### Kingley Vale Lime and Flint

Suppliers of lime, flint and specialist building materials  
[www.kingleyvallimeandflint.co.uk](http://www.kingleyvallimeandflint.co.uk)  
[info@kingleyvallimeandflint.co.uk](mailto:info@kingleyvallimeandflint.co.uk)  
01243 767828/07557 515314



**Dismantling & Felling  
Crown Thinning & Reducing  
Removal of Deadwood  
Pruning  
Hedge Cutting  
Stump Grinding**

*Full public liability - Certified Arborist  
Free Estimates and Advice*



[brushwoodtreeservices@gmail.com](mailto:brushwoodtreeservices@gmail.com)  
**07763 844422**

## A.S.M. Carpentry & Joinery Ltd

Over 35 years of experience in all aspects of carpentry  
Professional, Qualified, Insured

**Local and Reliable  
Carpentry Company**

[andrew@asm-carpentry.com](mailto:andrew@asm-carpentry.com)

**Phone: 01243 278659  
Mobile: 07789 748368**



# East Dean Quiz the Most Successful Ever!

The Star and Garter quiz on Sunday 23rd November was remarkable by anybody's standards – so many people turned up that we couldn't fit them all in the pub, so despite the chilly weather one team had to sit on the patio, albeit with some relief provided by the space heaters that are now available for such eventualities.

This was largely because the objective was to raise the funds for a new bench on Pond Green as a lasting memorial to Tim Calloway, who spent so much of his time keeping the green mown and strimmed, not to mention the care and attention he lavished on the football pitch.

So it was that at the end of the quiz I was able to declare that we had raised the extraordinary sum of £1,145, £280 of that being from the raffle, the rest an act of great generosity by landlord Jim MacDonald who donated all the ticket money effectively giving everyone the lasagne that Head Chef Jake had prepared, with Jake himself adding £20 to the fund.

But it didn't end there: following an administrative error (ok, I added the scores up wrong, mea culpa) I initially declared the "West – East Deaners" the winners with 68 points. In fact (following a steward's enquiry) it was actually Maya's Mates who'd won with 74 points, but that unfortunate error was then resolved by an impromptu auction of the first prize – dinner for six at the pub – which was won by John Prior with a bid of £200. And if even that wasn't enough, Jim later told me that an anonymous donor had pledged to match whatever we raised up to £400. So by the end of the evening we'd got £1,745, which should pay for a pretty impressive bench!

Thanks are also due to Clive Muller for the sports round, Jon Bailie for collective nouns, Sarah Mayhead for Music and Musicians and Finales and Destinations, not forgetting landlady Julie Warren's round identifying company names from just their logos. I doubt that we will ever beat such a record, but that won't stop us trying! **The Christmas Quiz** will be on **Sunday 21st December** in aid of Chichester Foodbank. We all hope you'll be able to join us. **Tim Weeks**

## Inside the Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital

This time of year we see a variety of animals admitted who are struggling for various reasons in these cold and wet conditions, including malnourished hedgehogs and hypothermic babies.

Our team are working around the clock to give specialist care to each animal at Brent Lodge and we are preparing for many more admissions as the winter months continue. **We are open 365 days a year and our emergency phone line is open all throughout the Christmas period should you find any wildlife casualties in need of help.** We are so grateful for all of your support during these very busy times and wish you all the merriest of Christmases, the happiest of holidays and a wonderful new year ahead!

Please visit our social media channels and website for our latest news, updates and Wish Lists of items we are always in desperate need of. At this time of year, we particularly need wet cat/kitten and dog/puppy food, kitchen roll, blue roll and puppy pads and would be very grateful for any possible donations dropped off or sent to our main hospital site in Sidlesham. A big thank you from the team and animals in our care for your support, and our warmest wishes to you all this holiday season.

**brentlodge.org**  
**01243 641672**



## ROGER GUNN

### Garden Machinery

#### Sales & Service Specialist

Showroom & Workshop

Located at Binderton Nr Lavant

**Main dealers for many makes**

**Fast reliable service**

**Advice & Discounted machines**

**Part exchange taken**

**Collection & delivery offered**

See website

**www.rogergunn.co.uk**

**01243 786003**



## East Dean VILLAGE HALL

**www.eastdeanhall.co.uk**

*Ideal for celebrations, fitness classes, meetings, parties and wedding receptions. Can accommodate 80 standing/60 seated. Fully equipped professional kitchen, outside grass area with stunning views, car park for up to 15 cars. Disabled access.*



**FINESSE  
WOODEN  
FLOORS**



**SUPPLY / INSTALL / RESTORE**

**Specialists in installations of new wooden floors and complete renovation, sanding and re-finishing of existing wooden floors.**

M: 07939 254998

T: 01243 681066

E: [info@finessewoodenfloors.co.uk](mailto:info@finessewoodenfloors.co.uk)

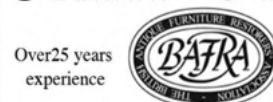
[www.finessewoodenfloors.co.uk](http://www.finessewoodenfloors.co.uk)

Local, reliable and friendly service.

Free estimates

## SIMON PATERSON

*Furniture Restoration*



Over 25 years  
experience

West Dean College  
Distinction

For confident restoration of  
antique furniture, clocks  
boulle and marquetry

Phone Simon on:

**01243 811900**



# Christmas in the Beak District, a Party to Fly For

## A Poem by Francis

"I'm glad it's only once a year, so thank the Lord for that",

Said Mrs Vera Buzzard as she hoovered the front door mat.  
 Betty Kite nodded and said, that she could not agree more,  
 After putting away the crockery, and mopping the kitchen floor.  
 The caretaker of Birdean village hall, a Mr McHoot from Fife,  
 Said all the Owls loved it, even his grumpy wife!  
 Then in his broad Scots accent said, "yea booth shud be very prood,  
 For suggesting such a fine party, and pooting oot wonderful food".  
 It was at the the Birdean WI when these ladies did suggest,  
 That this year's do would be much more fun if it was fancy dress.  
 Madam chair said, "spiffing", but she would have the last word,  
 And insisted that all the birds invited must come dressed up as a..bird!  
 Soon every bird in the neighbourhood drew a bird's name from the hat,  
 And on the night of the Christmas party, would have to come as that.  
 So, a Pheasant dressed up as a Linnet, if you're starting to get my drift,  
 A Finch as a Rook and blimey look! the Great Bustard will come as a Swift!  
 Much excitement in the duck house, the Teal twins were thrilled to bits,  
 Until Mother said "its not what you think, going as a pair of Bluetits."  
 Party night soon arrived, with the village hall sparkling bright,  
 And in the woodland surround, trees were hung with dazzling lights.  
 The place was abuzz with laughter, as birds of all shapes and sizes,  
 Tried to guess who was inside of the clever, amazing disguises.  
 First prize for the best costume? That conclusion was foregone,  
 When a tiny Wren waddled into the hall, dressed as a Whooper Swan!  
 Second place should have gone to Mary the Jay, but she left in a rush,  
 She had found it very irritating, trying cope with the Thrush.  
 One costume of course was banned, it was in fact forbidden,  
 Dressed as a Turkey at Christmas? You really have got to be kiddin'!  
 "But where is the Turkey family"? said Vera to Betty in fear,  
 Nobody knew who they'd come as at this dangerous time of year.  
 A weird band played on the dance floor, as the ladies continued to worry,  
 Frantically searching for Turkeys, hither and thither did scurry.  
 The strange band, 'Lucky Wishbone' were now singing A Cappella,  
 As Betty snatched the Mic from the bronzed lead-singing fella.  
 You could have heard a pin drop, as she silenced the throng to a bird,  
 Then gulped out her fears for the Turkeys, they hung on her every word.  
 Great gasps hit the night air, but then laughter grew from some giggles,  
 For the band stripped off hats and suits, allowing their wattles to wiggle!  
 Yes they were the Turkey family who'd be singing and making merry,  
 Dad and Mum, twins Serg and Owen, and little sister Cranberry.  
 Sipping tea the morning after, the ladies laughed for a while,  
 Then noticed that Mr McHoot had put five little suits in a pile.  
 "Well ruffle my feathers," said Betty, the Turkeys were wearing those,  
 "To keep themselves safe for Christmas I think they need some clothes.  
 "Dunna worry ma bonny were lasses," said McHoot with a smile,  
 "They're all lodging at ma wee hoose , I'll keep them in for a while.  
 But then as an extra disguise, they'll be wearing kilts every day,  
 And big Tam O'Shanter atop their heeds, til after Hogmanay".  
 So come all my merry neighbours, lets leave the poor things be,  
 But if you really must have traditional lunch, come down to Tescos with me!



## Get into the festive spirit at Graylingwell Chapel this December!

Join us for the CCDT Charity Christmas Carol Concert on Wednesday 17th December at 6pm - a joyful evening of music and community cheer.

And don't miss a **Special Visit from Santa**, popping in on **12th, 14th and 17th December** - perfect for families looking to share some Christmas magic! Be sure to book your tickets in advance.

*Find out more and book tickets via the What's On page at [graylingwellchapel.com/whats-on](http://graylingwellchapel.com/whats-on)*

*Southdowns Concert and St Pauls Church Choir Presents*

## A Festive Christmas Concert

**Friday 12th December at 7.30pm**  
 Tickets Adults £10 - Children Under 12 Free  
[southdowns-concertband.co.uk/services-1](http://southdowns-concertband.co.uk/services-1)

**This event supports The Sussex Snowdrop Trust - [thesussexsnowdroptrust.com](http://thesussexsnowdroptrust.com)**





*The soldier by the Charlton War Memorial by Richard Pailthorpe*



Those who gathered at Charlton last month in remembrance.  
Photo: Henry Dallal



## One Donation, Double Impact

**Between the 2nd and 9th of December any donation you make to the Western Sussex Rivers Trust will be doubled!**

We're taking part in the Big Give 2025 - aiming to raise £4000 in just one week. Donations made during this week will be generously matched by Big Give's Champions to make double the difference.

Thanks to match-funding, your gift of £10 becomes £20 for us, or your £50 becomes £100, at no extra cost to you. That means your generosity goes twice as far to helping our rivers thrive!

Right now our rivers are in crisis. It's a bleak picture, but there's so much we can do to turn this around. Our own health and wellbeing is intimately entwined with the health of our rivers. It is vital we act now at speed and scale to safeguard our riverscapes for the future.

Donations made during this time will be used towards: Chalk streams - raising awareness and pushing for better protection for rare chalk streams; Schools and youth groups - connecting young people with our wonderful rivers, ensuring the next generation know how to protect them; River Guardians - these important volunteers monitor water quality, helping to track and stop pollution, while also holding polluters to account. [wsrt.org.uk/news/double-your-donation-for-free](https://wsrt.org.uk/news/double-your-donation-for-free)

**Specialists in family law.  
Helping you find the best way forward.**

We are a team of specialist family lawyers and mediators providing you with support tailored to your needs. We assist clients with:

- Divorce and Separation
- Financial Issues
- Child Arrangements
- Family Mediation
- Collaborative Law
- Court Representation

01243 769001 | [info@ecfamilylaw.co.uk](mailto:info@ecfamilylaw.co.uk)  
[www.ecfamilylaw.co.uk](http://www.ecfamilylaw.co.uk)



Chilgrove | Chichester | Petersfield



**Mobile Private GP**

Membership or pay as you go  
Emphasis on face to face care  
All adult and child general practice services



Appointments usually within 24 hours  
At home or in our clinic  
Full range of investigations, referrals, prescriptions

Tel: 01730 202345

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

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



# Why Won't They Eat The Cake? Update.

Kittie Peirson

As you may know, in the summer, I took a brand new show entitled 'Why Won't They Eat the Cake?' to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival after a successful London preview. The show was in the Space on the Mile, a central venue at the Fringe and we had an absolutely amazing time.

With the average audience in Edinburgh being two, we were thrilled to play to an audience of twenty two on our opening night, followed by thirty six on night two! We were reviewed by five publications, being named 'audaciously experimental' (The Real ChrisSparkle) and 'revealing and utterly riveting... a compelling slice of debut work' (Edinburgh Guide), something we were incredibly proud of.

Aside from the highs, our set also broke one day in (and we had to walk an hour to Screwfix to buy our techie some screws so that she could screw it back together for us), I broke my toe on the set and we managed to forget a cake box for one of our shows... which isn't great for a show NAMED after cake but we figured it out.

As a team of three, we 'flyered' for around eight hours everyday, handing out leaflets, stickers and shots of lemonade: on a normal day we'd be in town marketing from around 9:30am and would normally get home around 11:30pm to start cooking dinner before hitting the hay at about 1 in the morning... I fell asleep at my laptop as soon as I got home trying to write this article and feel like I slept for about four days straight. But, while we were there, we ran on adrenaline and Black Sheep Coffee (think of it like the Pret of Scotland... one round every corner and it costs you your mortgage).

Looking back on it, it was equally the hardest and best week of my life and I have such incredible memories of the journey (especially the National Express overnight all the way home). It is never lost on me how lucky I was to be surrounded by people who were on board with making my little dream happen: the whole team behind the show, the staff at CFT who gave us rehearsal space and chats over coffee, the fellow shows at Edinburgh who quite literally held us as we cried, but most importantly **all of you for helping us fundraise**... we couldn't have done it without you. I know lots of people say that, but we genuinely could not have got to Edinburgh without your generosity: you paid the theatres, the staff and you let us go on the most incredible journey of our lives. Whether you gave us a fiver or fifty or even a 'Break a Leg', thank you so much and maybe we'll see you soon with another show... who knows (I do).

*Context: In April '25 The Star & Garter hosted a fundraising quiz to help support East Dean resident Kittie for all the above.*



**Singleton Village Hall**  
**Christmas COMMUNITY Café**  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10.30 to 12.00**

Drinks + Cakes + Company = COMMUNITY Café

Illustrations include: a cup of coffee, a cake, a group of people, a snowman, holly leaves, a reindeer, Santa Claus, a log, and a gift box.



**Singleton Village Hall**  
Great for all sorts of events  
Holding 50 seated or 70 standing  
Bridge Clubs, Yoga and Fitness  
Social Events, Children's Parties etc.  
Free Parking, WiFi, Chairs & Tables  
Skittle Alley and  
Fully Equipped Kitchen

Singleton Village Hall could be your Perfect Venue!

SingletonVillageHall.com  
bookings@SingletonVillageHall.com

QR code with text: Scan me!



**TIM JASPER**  
KITCHENS, HOME OFFICES,  
BOOKCASES AND MORE

Hand crafted in  
Goodwood since 1981



www.timjasper.co.uk 01243 774411  
info@timjasper.co.uk | The Valdoe,  
Goodwood, Chichester PO18 0PJ



# GOODWOOD

83<sup>RD</sup> GOODWOOD MEMBERS MEETING

18-19 APRIL

9-12 JULY

18-20 SEPTEMBER



2026 TICKETS NOW ON SALE



THE PERFECT FAMILY GIFT


# A BOOK ABOUT YOU


I will turn your unique life story into a beautiful book to share and enjoy with your family and friends.

- Professional biographer
- Friendly, personal service
- Short and long book options

*"Wonderful to have a book about Mum that we can pass on to the grandchildren. The best gift ever."*

Contact Katarina 07982 465351  
katarina@lifestoryinabook.com  
www.lifestoryinabook.com



LIFE STORY  IN A BOOK



## Let's make financial advice *personal*

Adam Smith

### Wealth Management

We recognise that talking about money and finances can be tricky. It's a personal topic. So it's reassuring to know there's someone on hand who can help you address your needs, understand your goals and realise your dreams.

Our friendly and approachable service is backed by the strength and security of a FTSE 100 company, St. James's Place Wealth Management. What's more, being local means we're here to help whenever you need us.



**We can help with all aspects of investment management, retirement planning, inheritance tax planning strategies, and later life care costings.**

**Get in touch for a chat.**

07803 794376  
adam.smith@sjpg.co.uk  
www.adamsmithwm.co.uk

Associate Partner Practice  
**St James's Place**

Adam Smith  
Dip CII  
Principal

Adam Smith Wealth Management is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services. More details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjpg.co.uk/products. The St. James's Place Partnership and the other Partner and Partner Practice are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

SJP Approved 27/06/2025



## GRANDWOOD FURNITURE



**VISIT OUR SHOWROOM**  
Units 2 & 3 Chilgrove Business Centre  
Chilgrove Park Road, Chilgrove PO18 9HU  
T: 07718 161009 E: jan@grandwood.co.uk  
www.grandwood.co.uk

**OPENING TIMES**  
Thursday and Friday 9am to 3pm  
Saturday 9.30am to 4pm  
Or by appointment with Jan Palmer 07718 161009





# hancock

Lettings & Estate Agents

## Make yourself at home

Buy, sell or let with an independent estate agent – established since 1991

Lettings 01243 531111  
Sales 01243 531155

office@hancockpartners.co.uk  
**Hancock and Partners**  
5 Northgate, Chichester PO19 1BA

**NEW FOR CHRISTMAS 2025**

**Now available**  
**100% ethical handmade magical gifts**  
**for children.**

**Made in the Himalayas and sold to**  
**empower the women who create them.**

**The felt is made from NZ wool and**  
**coloured using natural dyes.**

**Fairies, Fairy homes, Fairy bags, Flower**  
**garlands, Dinos and more...**

**Himalayan Felt Company**  
**Viewing and Collection from West Dean**  
**07810 484822**



## MacDonald Oates **LLP** SOLICITORS



Residential Property  
Family Law  
Mediation Services  
Wills, Probate & Trusts  
Litigation & Dispute  
Resolution  
Employment Law  
Company & Commercial  
Commercial Property

### Leading Client Service

#### Petersfield Office

Tel: 01730 268211 | Fax: 01730 261232

#### Midhurst Office

Tel: 01730 816711 | Fax: 01730 816016



[www.macdonaldoates.co.uk](http://www.macdonaldoates.co.uk)

## L. West & Son

### Plumbing & Heating



BATHROOMS,  
KITCHENS,  
CENTRAL HEATING,  
BOILER REPLACEMENT (GAS/OIL),  
UNDERFLOOR HEATING,  
LEADWORK,  
BOILER SERVICES,  
MAINTENANCE



New Barn, Newhouse Lane, East Dean,  
Chichester, W. Sussex PO18 0NJ

Tel: 01243 811354 or

Email: [sales@lwestandson.co.uk](mailto:sales@lwestandson.co.uk)





**Tod  
Anstee**

todanstee.com

CHICHESTER

01243 523723

chichester@todanstee.com

MIDHURST

01730 774700

midhurst@todanstee.com



Residential Sales & Lettings | Country Homes | Land & New Homes | Rural Estates | Commercial

## 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) and on the front of **West Dean Stores**. 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.



## Affordable Family Flicks Weekend at Chichester Cinema: All Tickets £2.50

**Friday 20th December**

10am The Nightmare Before Christmas

12:15pm Wallace & Gromit

**Saturday 21st December**

10am Kensuke's Kingdom

12noon E.T.

**Sunday 22nd December**

10am The Jungle Book

12noon Wicked: For Good

[chichestercinema.org](http://chichestercinema.org)

01243 786650

**In the fields around the village of East Dean you will have noticed crops of tall flowering plants. We call these winter cover crops and, as well as benefitting our soils and storing nutrients for the following crop they also provide food for birds and insects during the winter months.**

These crops are part of environmental stewardship schemes which we have been participating in for 35 years now to encourage biodiversity and good farming practices. As a result, we have noticed an uplift in bird numbers which has been confirmed by surveys conducted by the RSPB in 2010 and again this past summer over a section of the farm. Other environmental options include managing chalk grassland, uncultivated margins around arable fields, growing plots of winter bird feed and herbal leys. These options suit our organic farming system as they encourage diversity and build soil health.

Most of the cattle at Droke are now housed for the winter. However, there is a small group of heifers running with an Angus bull which will be outwintered on pasture. These are surplus to our requirements for the dairy herd so will be sold in-calf to another dairy farm next summer. We still have a few fat lambs to sell over the next couple of months. As we have had such a wet and warm autumn encouraging good grass growth there is still plenty to graze and keep them growing.

At Goodwood the new robots I reported on last month are working extremely well and the cows are just loving their new lifestyle. There is now no twice-daily herding into the parlour as they are free to come and go as they please. Milk yields have also responded positively so happy cows and happy farmers!

Photo of Winter Cover Crop in Bury Field



**John's Farm Diary**



**MAKE YOUR MARK**

**Arts, Design  
and Conservation  
Courses**



[westdean.ac.uk](http://westdean.ac.uk)

**WEST DEAN**

