

The Valley Diary

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

thevalleydiary.org ~ July 2025 Edition

WATER CRISIS LOOMS

England's Looming Water Crisis: A Call for Urgent Action: England faces a critical water shortage by 2055, with a projected daily deficit of six billion litres if drastic measures aren't taken. The Environment Agency (EA) warns that without "continued and sustained effort" to reduce demand, future economic growth could be compromised.

According to the EA's five-yearly National Framework for Water Resources report, actions are needed across the board. This includes more frequent hosepipe bans during droughts to highlight water scarcity, the wider implementation of 'smart' water meters and a reduction in average daily individual water use from 140 litres to 110 litres per person.

Key drivers of the deficit are a growing population, expected to increase by eight million by 2055, and climate change, leading to hotter, drier summers and impacting river ecosystems through over-abstraction.

Solutions also involve water companies drastically cutting leaks from pipes by half by 2050 and investing in new infrastructure like reservoirs, desalination plants, and a "water grid" to transfer supplies. However, these large-scale projects won't be fully operational for decades, meaning initial efforts must heavily rely on reduced customer demand. The EA also advocates for stricter building regulations on water use and minimum efficiency standards for products. *Based on an article originally published by BBC News at [tinyurl.com/283tbmt9](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-68314444)*



PRISONERS TO BUILD NEW HOMES IN SUSSEX

A cross-government programme that will see prisoners in Sussex build new homes within the county. The affordable homes are high-quality, low-carbon, eco-friendly and sustainable and will be offered to people on the local authority housing register, key workers or vulnerable people such as women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse.



Ford Prison inmates are being given the opportunity to apply for jobs building the homes, employed and supported by established housing providers in the county. Through supervision and training, prisoners will be given the chance to learn new skills, increase their chances of long-term work and turn their lives around, thus reducing the cycle of re-offending.

Sussex Police

Mark Astley, MNAEA
Director

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Saturday
16th August
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Selection of photos from Goodwood's Open Farm Sunday on 8th June offering a chance to explore the farm, learn about sustainable organic farming practices and see heritage breeds of animals. Sheep shearing demonstrations, sheepdog trials, tractor rides, and woodland walks. Don't miss it next year! *HG*

LADIES NIGHT

Star and Garter
East Dean
Tuesday 8th July
7pm - All Welcome!

100 CLUB

1st... Mrs J Hull, Midhurst
2nd... Mrs J Stevens, East Dean
3rd... Ollie Peirson, East Dean

Congratulations to our June winners, drawn on an unseasonably chilly day. Hopefully by the time of the next draw, summer will be in full swing.

Just an aide-memoire please - that renewal reminders will be sent out in July/August inviting those who joined in September to renew their membership. It is extremely important that we keep the **100 Club** initiative active, as it raises much-needed money for the fabric funds of our three historic churches. Even more important now considering how much work needs to be done to East Dean and West Dean churches. Please spread the word that numbers are available - just £1 per ticket per month, payable annually. I strongly believe that **everyone** who has joined has won something over the years. **Wendy (01243 811608)**

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In an emergency 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**.

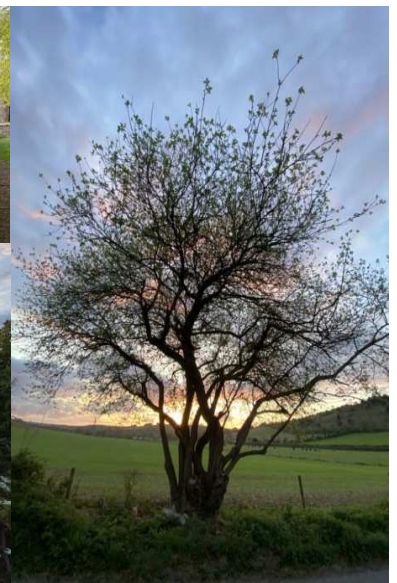


Once activated, the device will talk you through how to use it. A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest.



More local images shot by local people. Here's Manor Farm Pond from the churchyard, West Stoke Woods, sunsets around the valley and even a pair of lovebirds on a car roof!

HG



As I write this article, we are mowing our crop of lucerne or alfalfa in East Dean for the second time this season (see photo). This will be left to wilt for 24 hours and then picked up by forage harvester and clamped for winter silage.

Lucerne loves the sunshine and because of its deep roots can extract moisture from deep down even in drought conditions. As I explained last month our cows are now coming to the end of their lactation and our daily milk production is shrinking but still more than sufficient to keep the vending machine supplied. I notice that as the milk yield drops the butterfat and protein in the milk rises, so is even more healthy and good to taste. Our other crops of wheat, barley, peas and beans are all full of promise as we look forward to harvest which I think will begin a little earlier this year.

At Goodwood we welcomed nearly 2000 visitors to Home Farm on 'Open Farm Sunday'. This was a fantastic opportunity to demonstrate to the public how some of our food is produced. We were blessed with amazing weather, and we are grateful to all who came and especially our dedicated farm and educational team, including our vet and nutritionist who ferried, guided and answered their many questions. Here at East Dean, it was our pleasure to invite the local WI for a tractor/trailer ride round the farm finishing up with a sundowner on top of Oxen Down on a splendid summer evening looking out across the valley.

John's Farm Diary



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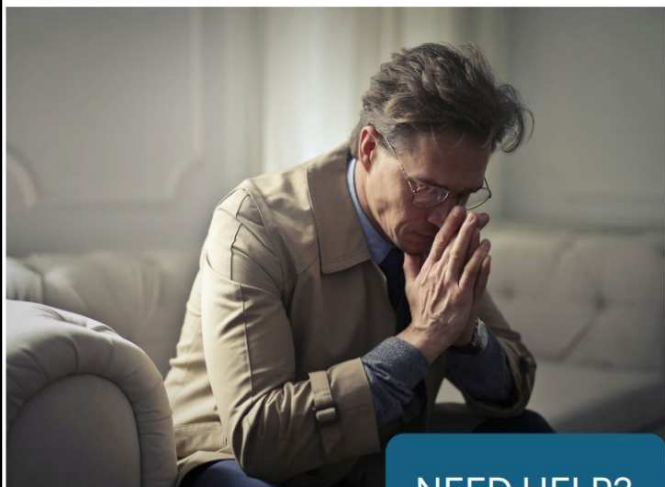
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The Henry Smith Charity, founded in 1628 is one of the oldest parish grant schemes in the country. Most of these parishes are in Sussex and Surrey.

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

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

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Willow Weaving Workshop

The recent Willow Weaving demonstration at Singleton Village Hall was a huge success. The event was well supported and all who attended were treated to a very entertaining and interesting demonstration by Jill Eatherden. Jill explained in detail all the different weaves used, construction methods employed and growing/harvesting her own willow.

On a lovely sunny Saturday morning, the participants enjoyed spending a few hours appreciating how this traditional craft has been mastered by Jill, whilst learning along the way. Great to see our village hall in use!

There will of course be more events at the Village Hall including our traditional Ploughman's Lunches & Cream Teas. Watch this space for more details.

Do get in touch if you'd like to know more and let us know your event ideas (see advert on Page 21)! **Pete Williams**



A Tall Story

A Poem by Francis

I am used to being called shortie,
Sometimes it's ruder than that.
And that's the reason why,
I wear a very tall hat.

I blame my Mum for my shortness,
My upbringing she got so wrong.
When I went out, she'd pat my head,
And say, "Don't be too long."

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Tackling Organised Waste Crime

'Waste crime' is a broad term covering anything from fly-tipping to large-scale commercial waste disposal. These activities are illegal, hazardous to our environment, extremely costly to clear up and by no means victimless.



In 2023/24, over 100,000 cases of fly-tipping occurred in the South East with 49,000 of these on highways, 28,000 on public land and 3,000 on private land. Many of these crimes are carried out by organised crime gangs who use tipper lorries and large vans. Whilst it is the responsibility of local authorities and the Environment Agency to investigate, clear and enforce the law on these matters, it is vital that police forces are sighted and give full support to operations that involve catching these brazen criminals. Using technology to take down these gangs can be an option. We know that many people use video doorbells so if people catch illegal waste crime on their cameras.

Discussions with partners including the National Farmers Union, The Country Land and Business Association and the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit are ongoing and relate to prevention, disruption, data-sharing, enforcement and reporting. Watch this space.

Sussex Police

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West Dean Parish Council Meeting on 11th June 2025

Due to the sad and sudden loss of our Chairman Steve Corbett, it was decided to cancel the May meeting and rescheduled for June 11th. Steve was a charming, intellectual, quiet man who cared a great deal about the environment and especially any matters to do with West Dean. He will be missed by us all.

Keith Goacher has been voted in as the new Chairman with **Helen Court** as Vice Chairman. I am sure this dynamic duo will do well in supporting our community.

Thank you to all those who supported our **VE Day celebrations**. I think we can all agree that it was a lovely evening and even the weather was kind to us. The food was very nice and the children did West Dean School proud. Planning events like this is a positive side of being a Parish Councillor and we hope to plan more in the future.

We are always looking for local individuals to join the Parish Council. Any members of the public who are interested are welcome to come along and observe a meeting before committing themselves to anything! Please contact our clerk if you would like further details.

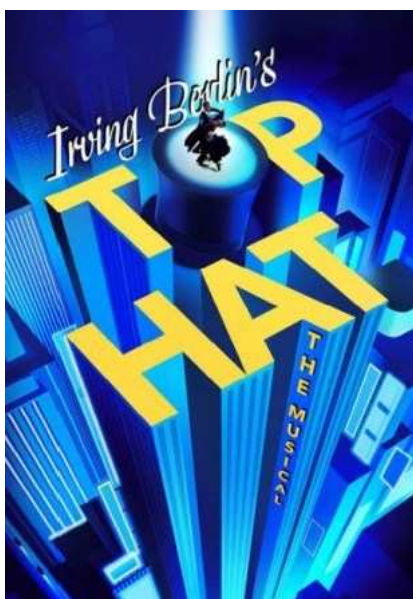
Our **speedwatch committee** are also always looking for volunteers to do the odd hour or two monitoring speeds on our roads. Actual speed figures that we gather during this monitoring make it possible to progress with making our roads safer.

There are reports from both **District and County Councillors, Western Rivers Trust and Sussex Rural Crime**. We also have working groups for **Traffic, Planning, Highways, Village Maintenance, Winter Management**

and Footpaths.

Our next meeting is now in September. Please contact our clerk with any enquiries. We also have a new updated website westdeanpc.co.uk which is full of information and some lovely local photographs.

Enjoy your Summer. Let's hope the beautiful weather remains for the school holidays.



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Elaine Kelly

1946 – 2025

When we think of Elaine Kelly the first thing most of us remember is what a great job her and Chris made of running West Dean Stores. But the story of how they got there could easily take up a whole magazine, so this can only be a summary of the life of a remarkable woman.

Elaine was born in Winchester on the 23rd December 1946 to Robert and Dorothy Oswald. Her father was an officer in the RAF, so her early years were spent moving between various overseas postings including Singapore and Greece, which the family drove home from right across Europe in an elderly Vauxhall. It wasn't to be the last time that Elaine took a road trip around Europe.

By 1953 Robert had risen to the rank of Wing Commander and was stationed in East Anglia when he was awarded the O.B.E. for his actions in response to the catastrophic flooding that hit much of the East Coast on the night of 1st February that year. After her father finished his military service the family moved to a village near Coventry, and it was while working in the linens department of Owen & Owen's she met Chris Kelly, who was in soft furnishings. For their first date they went ten-pin bowling!

They moved on to work at Coventry Theatre, Chris backstage with Elaine in the booking office, and were married on the 5th November 1966 with all the theatre crew making for a very lively reception! They were living in a mobile home in Twigworth (Gloucestershire) when their son Stephen was born, but since this was not the ideal environment to raise a baby in, Elaine went to her parents who by this time were running a Post Office in Brighton. Chris had to stay in Gloucestershire to finish a contract, but as soon as he was able to join her they bought a house in the next street and their daughter Annette was born.

Chris then got a job working for Airworks Services which entailed a two year contract in Saudi Arabia for the Royal Saudi Airforce. Elaine, Stephen and Annette flew out for the last six months, but they both felt they wanted

the children to grow up in Britain so moved back to Brighton, with Elaine taking an increasing role in running the Post Office whilst Chris took a job working for a business transfer agents. Business transfer involves calculating the worth of all the stock in a shop, to deduce the exact value of the business. In those pre-barcode days stock taking meant literally counting every item in a shop, but the experience he gained, combined with Elaine's work in the Post Office, set them up for what they did next.

When Chris and Elaine took over Nutbourne Post Office Stores it could not be described as thriving; the total value of the stock was £38! By the time they left it they'd added newspapers and an off-licence section and released the potential that they knew it had in it. The Great Storm of 1987 was a bit of a setback; they lost their conservatory and half the roof, but of course they didn't close and once the insurance was settled the place was back up together and better than ever. So having created a community hub in Nutbourne, the following year they decided to take on a fresh challenge, and that was West Dean Stores.

At West Dean they repeated the approach that had worked so well in Nutbourne, adding beer wine and spirits to the shelves as well as greatly increasing the range of everyday items that people find themselves needing. Most importantly they instigated a newspaper delivery service, which gradually expanded to cover East Dean and Singleton as the shops there closed down. Paper deliveries are hard work; you have to be up at 5.00 am to take them in and sort them into order ready to go out so people get the right one before they go to work then, when you've already been at work for four hours, the customers who've only just got up start coming in for loaves and milk and apples and baked beans and shoelaces and 13 amp fuse wire and pork pies and first class stamps and West Dean Stores had all of that and a whole lot more when the Kelly's ran it!

Elaine suffered a health crisis in 2000 when she developed thyroid cancer. It was treated successfully, and they carried on at West Dean until 2007, when they decided to retire while they still had their health.

Of course Elaine didn't retire, in the sense of just quietly pottering around the garden. She was Treasurer of the



Valley Gardening Club, an active member of the W.I., on the Singleton Village Hall committee as well as being a qualified dog trainer, working part time for Oving Dog Training. Both her and Chris were heavily involved as volunteers at the Weald and Downland Living Museum, and when they weren't doing that, in an echo of that childhood drive across Europe (and their early life in a mobile home) she and Chris took to spending three months every winter caravanning around on The Continent. The last such trip came to a sudden end in 2020: they were in Spain when Covid 19 struck and were forced to come home, not helped by the Spanish authorities ordering all foreign travellers to leave, but then shutting the borders to make it hard for them to do so! The French weren't particularly helpful either.

Last September Elaine and Chris took what was to be their last trip together, to Bourton on the Water in the Cotswolds. It was whilst there she first noticed difficulty walking which turned out to be caused by a brain tumour. Although she initially responded well to treatment she unfortunately contracted pneumonia in hospital, which set her back significantly. Eventually discharged she was glad to get home, although frustrated by her inability to get up and get on with things as she had done all her life. A further bout of pneumonia took her back into hospital, where she died on Friday 6th of June. Chris was holding her hand as she passed. As well as her children she leaves three grandchildren, Tasmin, Meghan and Lauren.

There will be a celebration of her life at Singleton Village Hall at 2pm on Friday 25th July and everyone who knew and loved Elaine is welcome to come along. We may need a bigger hall! Tim Weeks

The Valley Parish

www.facebook.com/ValleyParish

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



Sunday 27th July

11am at West Dean

Join us for bible stories,
songs and games.

(oh and of course cakes and biscuits)

Services and Events

6 th July	10am	Holy Communion With Choir East Dean
13 th July	10am	Holy Communion Singleton
20 th July	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
27 th July	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
	11am	Children's Church 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

'Ordinary Time'

Having now said goodbye to the Seasons of Easter and Pentecost, the Church now moves into Ordinary Time, and you might wonder what it means. Unlike the more dramatic seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter, Ordinary Time is a quieter, more reflective period focused on spiritual growth and the teachings of Jesus in everyday life.

The term "ordinary" comes from "ordinal," meaning numbered weeks, usually the number of weeks after Trinity.

Ordinary time is a time to grow in faith, deepen our discipleship, and live out the message of Christ in the routine of daily life.

This season is marked by green vestments and altar cloths, symbolising life, hope, and renewal.

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

July 2025

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

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

Mon 14th Singleton & Charlton Parish Council Meeting: Singleton Village Hall: 7pm

Thu 17th Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Summer Party: 7pm

Fri 18th End of School Term

Mon 21st The Valley Diary Copy Deadline: 12noon

Mon 21st East Dean Parish Council Meeting: East Dean Village Hall: 7.30pm

Tue 29th - Sat 2nd (Aug)

Goodwood Horse Racing

Thu 31st The Wind in the Willows: Weald & Downland Museum: 6pm

August 2025

Tue 29th (Jul) - Sat 2nd

Goodwood Horse Racing

Sat 9th VGC Annual Show: Petals, Produce & Pimms! 2.30pm: East Dean Village Hall

Mon 11th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall

Sat 16th Vintage Market: The Kennels, Goodwood: 10am - 5pm

Sat 16th Singleton Village Fete: 12noon - 4pm, Singleton Cricket Pitch

Fri 22nd - Sun 24th Goodwood Horse Racing

September 2025

Tue 2nd Goodwood Horse Racing

Fri 12th - Sun 14th Goodwood Revival

Mon 15th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall

Mon 15th Singleton & Charlton Parish Council Meeting: Singleton Village Hall: 7pm

Thu 15th Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Andrew Humphris: 7pm

Tue 24th Goodwood Horse Racing

October 2025

Sun 12th Goodwood Horse Racing

Mon 13th Singleton Community Cafe: 10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall

Thu 16th Singleton & East Dean WI: East Dean Village Hall: Suzanne Bolter: 7pm

Mon 28th East Dean Parish Council Meeting: East Dean Village Hall: 7.30pm

November 2025

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

Sat 15th East Dean Christmas Crafts Fair: 10am - 3pm

Mon 17th Singleton & Charlton Parish Council Meeting: Singleton Village Hall: 7pm

Thu 20th Singleton & East Dean WI: Fox Goes Free, Charlton: 110th WI Birthday Dinner: 7pm

Deadline for the...

August 2025 Edition

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

Monday 21st July
editor@valleydiary.org

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

The Team

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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

Useful Telephone Numbers

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

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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
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Albert says...



Crows have always loved a fight,
Both now and in the past.
I can follow their every battle,
By watching the 'Feather Warcast'.

Register of Local...

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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
The Blue Bell, Cocking: 01730 239669
The Nest, Singleton: Self-Contained Accommodation: Julie 07887 943523
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f t i #followthestar



Life at Brent Lodge is still incredibly busy this month, with multiple babies of all species still being fed around the clock (some every 10 minutes!) and new ones being admitted every day.



Sadly at this time of year too, we always receive dozens of critically or fatally injured animals due to lawnmowers, strimmers and other garden-related activities. Please always check inside long grass before cutting it back, as this simple action can save multiple lives and much suffering. Please also bear in mind that it is actually against the law to cut back hedges and shrubs which contain nesting birds during the Spring-Summer months, as so many of our wild bird species are already in decline and no lives are worth being lost for slightly neater gardens. These simple considerations will help our already struggling wildlife so much in the coming weeks and months, and we thank you for bearing them in mind.

Donations of puppy/kitten food, any brand of Weetabix and cleaning supplies are very welcome!

brentlodge.org
01243 641672

LAVANT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

9th July 'From Cutting to Garden Centre' is the subject of Graham Spencer's talk. The Hall opens at 7pm for refreshments, guests £3.

2nd August The Annual Flower Show opens at 2pm. Come and see the variety of flowers, vegetables and fruit on display together with home produce, flower arrangements, handicrafts and photographs. Relax over tea/coffee and cake. Full details of this and all our events at lavanthortsoc.org.uk

Summary of the meeting of East Dean Parish Council held on 28th April 2025 at 7.30pm at East Dean Village Hall, around the verges and pond.

Present Neil Georges - Chair, Peter West, Josh Collins, Jim McDonald, Chris Tyas and Beanie Allison.

Apologies Sam Hook

In attendance Jeremy Hunt WSCC, Vicky Mudford (standing in for Alexia Ward), Parish Clerk, 10 Parishioners.

Minutes The minutes of the last meeting on 20th January 2025 were reviewed and approved.

Update from Local Councillors

The full report from Jeremy Hunt-WSCC and Henry Potter-CDC can be seen on our web page address at the end.

AOB

A talk was given by **Kate Whitton from the Western Sussex Rivers Trust**. Her work involves making our river and pond more diverse using buffer strips to encourage more wildlife.

Financial update The balance of the Lloyds Current Account on 25th April 2025 was £2,128.80 and the Helen West Legacy Account, £20,350.41 including interest of £16.71

Date of Next Meetings 21st July 2025 and 28th October 2025 at East Dean Village Hall

A full account of the minutes for this meeting and the AGM can be obtained from Alexia Ward, Parish Clerk at eastdeanparishcouncil@gmail.com or at www.eastdeanhall.co.uk/minutes

Singleton Fete Needs Your Help!

In order to raise funds for local worthy causes we rely on donations we can sell.

In particular, used but good quality Clothing. Jewellery, Bric a Brac, Plants & Books. Our Cake Stall is very popular. Could you bake a cake or maybe some scones for the Cream Teas?

Our website has full details of how you can help...

[singletonfete.co.uk/](http://singletonfete.co.uk/contributions)
contributions

Peter Roberts CTA ATT

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Singleton Fete

Saturday August 16th

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PETWORTH HOUSE

Turner's Vision at Petworth exhibition Until 16th November: A specially curated selection of J.M.W Turner's artistic studies of the Petworth landscape, exhibited in the very place that inspired him. These rarely seen works give a fascinating insight into Turner's methods, to mark the 250th anniversary of his birth. £10 per adult, £5 per child, under 5s go free. No pre-booking required. Normal admission to Petworth House also applies.

Changing Landscape free exhibition 7th July – 17th August: This free exhibition in the Marble Hall tells the 900-year story of the landscape at Petworth through reproductions of paintings and drawings, photographs, finds from our recent archaeological digs and a large model of Petworth Park. Normal admission applies.

Ship Ahoy! Family Trail 19th July – 7th September: Set sail on an artistic adventure through Petworth House and Garden, inspired by J.M.W. Turner's seascapes. Follow the clues and get ready for some nautical fun. Climb aboard our large wooden ships, imagine braving wild waves, and take part in seafaring games along the way. The trail is free but normal admission applies. No booking required.

nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth

Weald & Downland Living Museum TOYS THROUGH TIME

**Summer Holiday Activities
22nd July to 1st September**

A six-week celebration exploring how toys and games have evolved from the Medieval era to the Victorian.

tinyurl.com/2xu8ov4e



Treasures from your Home: An evening with renowned auctioneer Rupert Toovey on Friday 3rd October. Bring along your interesting items for lively discussion and valuation to Champs Hill, near Pulborough, RH20 1LY.

Tickets available from August at www.thebct.org.uk.

In aid of The Sussex Snowdrop Trust
01243 572433

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

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

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

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Bottoms Up

A Poem by Francis

The mallards who live next door,
Have a crazy son called Flynn.
But he has got a new name now,
After what just happened to him.

He has become a real pest of late,
Ever since he learned how to fly.
With aerobatics over our house,
And looping the loop on high.

It wouldn't be quite so bad,
For all of us folk on the ground.
But every time he does it,
He makes a loud Spitfire sound.

I told his father to clip his wings,
So Flynn stole the scissors away.
Then dropped them into the pond,
Shouting loudly, "Bombs Away!"

He was so very full of himself,
But his antics got out of hand.
Making some awful mistakes,
When returning and trying to land.

His misjudgment of his landing,
Did look ever so funny.
Ending up with his head stuck,
In a hole belonging to bunnies.

So now we call him Duke,
Which causes him much sorrow.
But I think it sounds rather posh,
The 'Duke of HeadinBurrow'!

Goodwood Track Day Friday 18th July

Morning & Afternoon slots at Goodwood Motor Circuit. SageHouse Tangmere has hired Goodwood Motor Circuit to give people an unforgettable driving experience in their car.

Booking and more information on availability and pricing at
tinyurl.com/2ys4vv3d

Nourishing Hearts, Homes, and Health Health & Independent Living Support hils-uk.org



Meals-on-Wheels - HILS helps people to stay happy, healthy and independent at home. As a not-for-profit charitable social enterprise, we brave all weather conditions to deliver West Sussex County Council's meals on wheels service 365 days a year.

Every meal is nutritionally balanced with options spanning Vegetarian, Kosher, Asian, Halal, and West Indian cuisines. Those with specific health needs enjoy gluten-free and reduced-sugar options. For residents with swallowing difficulties, our specially textured meals (levels 4-6) ensure nobody misses out on proper nutrition. Whether supporting someone through recovery or providing ongoing assistance, you can order just once or as regularly as needed.

Hydration: Don't wait 'til you feel thirsty

As we age, our sense of thirst decreases, but our body still needs the same amount of fluid!

Aim for 6-8 drinks a day That's about 3 pints of fluid daily to keep your body functioning well

Keep a water bottle or jug handy A visible reminder helps you drink regularly.

Mix it up with different drinks Juice, tea, milk and cordials all count!

Tea and coffee are not dehydrating, but caffeine may increase bathroom visits. Hydration isn't just about drinking. Eat fluid-rich foods like soups, stews, fruit in juice and meals with sauces to boost hydration.

Drinking more doesn't mean more toilet trips! In fact, not drinking enough can irritate your bladder and increase urgency. If you notice more trips at first, your body should adjust quickly.

For more information about our services or to arrange meal delivery for yourself or a loved one, please contact our team by email at westsussex@hils-uk.org, or by telephone: 0330 2000 103.

Winner Takes All

A Poem by Francis

Today I received a silver cup.
To describe it I can't begin.
For I was far more interested,
In the custard tart within.

**East Dean's Christmas Crafts Fair
East Dean Village Hall
Saturday 15th November
10am - 3pm**

Always a lovely community event showcasing local artisans and a great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and enjoy some homemade food.

We are keen to find new local artisans to take a table so if you are interested, please do email vmm@vickymudford.com with details and photos of your work. The Hall can only fit 14 tables - tables are 6' x 2.5' and cost £20 each which includes free teas/coffees for stallholders. The Village Hall Committee will be running the Kitchen selling teas, coffees, homemade cakes and light lunches.

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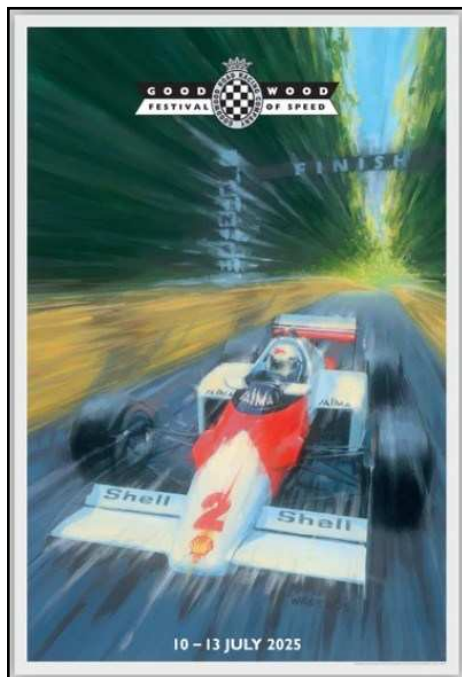
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1st & 3rd Friday of every month**



www.chichester.gov.uk/farmersmarket



FESTIVAL OF SPEED 2025 POSTER

The 2025 poster is a brilliant image of Alain Prost in the McLaren-TAG/Porsche MP4/2B in which the legendary Frenchman won five grands prix and the first of his four World Championships in 1985.

It was painted by automotive artist Klaus Waggoner, who has been responsible for every poster since 2015.

Measuring 51cm x 76cm it's now available from the Goodwood shop for £25.

tinyurl.com/28ktnemr

Trek Snowdon at Night...

Looking for your next challenge? St Wilfrid's Hospice is inviting you to take on an incredible trek at the beginning of August in support of local hospice care. From 2nd - 3rd August, you can join a guided trek up the highest mountain in Wales during the night and then witness the amazing sun rise from the summit, which lights up the entire national park. You can read all the information and sign-up here: stwh.co.uk/snowdon-at-night



St Wilfrid's Hospice
Making a difference to local lives



London to Brighton Cycle Ride...

Would you like to take part in the epic challenge of the iconic London to Brighton Cycle Ride on Sunday 14th September?

Each year, thousands of cyclists take part in this incredible challenge, embarking on a 55-mile bike ride raising funds for extraordinary charities across the country. You'll be taken through the wonderful city of London and then along country lanes taking you to the South Downs where there are some beautiful views. This fantastic event is perfect for solo cyclists, groups and all levels of riders. There are plenty of water stops, roaming mechanical and medical support, plus an incredible atmosphere of positivity and challenge. stwh.co.uk/london-to-brighton-cycle-ride



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Name That Author

A Poem by Francis

She sent me to the library,
To get her a book or two.
That is what they do there,
I didn't know if you knew.

It's hard to find a book,
To please another person.
Judging by the bruises,
Of that I'm very certain.

The only way to please,
I eventually discovered,
Is to choose any book,
Then read it, cover to cover.

But this time I was lucky,
An author's name was given.
But I could not find one book,
To madness I was driven.

The head librarian saw me,
Working up into a sweat.
She said to name the author,
And their books she would get.

I had a name in my head,
Although it did not please her.
But I was sure my beloved said,
She was 'Anne Avid' reader.

Taking Things Litterally

A Poem by Francis

Her kittens were being very naughty,
So Mummy cat stopped the car.
"Behave or you'll walk home,
And that is pretty far!"

"You can't leave us here Mum,
All on our own, alone.
Look at that sign over there,
It says; Take Your Litter Home!"

Jeni Hemsley, previously of Post Office Row, East Dean, has now moved to Rustington, please contact Jan for further details on 01843 843802.

How can you maximise your chances of having a lower offer accepted on your house purchase in the current market?

As times change and prices fluctuate, there's always an opportunity. Nothing remains constant for long, so it's crucial to remember that a house's value is determined by what someone is willing to pay for it. Just because a property is listed at a specific asking price doesn't mean it's its true worth. Several factors should be considered when making an offer, such as the seller's circumstances, location, and any major repairs needed. With this knowledge, buyers can make an offer, whether at the guide price or below. However, going too low increases the risk of losing out entirely, which is where a buying agent's expertise becomes invaluable.

Our tips include presenting the offer in its best light and explaining the circumstances. For instance, if you are a cash buyer, you're in a strong position in the current market. Vendors, especially those needing to sell quickly, often choose buyers who can purchase over those offering the highest price. This is because cash buyers can move forward swiftly, reducing the risk of the sale falling through.

Another beneficial factor to include is your flexibility regarding the completion date. While exchange can happen as soon as possible, a longer completion date can give a seller more time to find a replacement property. This makes them a more viable buyer, increasing their chances of making a successful onward purchase.

For more information about how Property Acquisitions can help you find your next home x, contact Jennie Hancock at jh@propertyacquisitions.co.uk



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CHOIR

By Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti
Directed by Hannah Joss
2nd - 30th August
Minerva Theatre

Heartwarming, funny and packed with glorious arrangements of contemporary songs, Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti's new comedy with music, Choir, promises a thoroughly entertaining night out.

Laura Checkley plays Morgan with Alison Fitzjohn as Joy. Morgan runs a community choir who meet weekly in a room above the local pub to sing great pop songs, chat and drink. There's Paul, a former West End performer who now does local radio voiceovers; Esther and Joy, best friends who can't stand each other; Anna, whose seemingly perfect life hides a secret; Ken, good egg and perennial loser; and Sheila, dark horse and pathological liar! Home truths are revealed and secrets laid bare in this feelgood comedy, which explores loneliness and connection while celebrating the joy and power of community art.

Booking at cft.org.uk - 01243 781312



The ladies of East Dean and Singleton Women's Institute met on Thursday 19th June

June's meeting started a little differently than other months, this time meeting at East Dean Village Hall, but not for our usual sit down talk. Instead we all loaded up on to the tractor and trailer ride, and off we went into the fields, joined by partners and friends. With a quick stop for an introduction from John Holt to the Farm, we then had an exclusive tour of the parlour and important farm workings, before we headed off up the hill. With a gorgeous view we had a lovely evening of drinks and nibbles, socialising as the sun set. We just about managed to corral everyone in for a picture, before returning in our tractor carriage to the Village Hall as the evening ended.

Our next meeting is on July 17th, at East Dean Village Hall, for our lovely Summer Party. Please do feel free to come along and see what we are about, and spend a lovely summer's evening together with these amazing ladies. If you would like any information please email us at singletonandeastdean@wsfwi.co.uk

Jess Ashworth

WI Report

MUDDY AWARD!

Two years after running my first 'Wellie Walk' around the farm, I was delighted to receive the news that Muddy Adventures has won the Best Children's Business in the Muddy Stiletto Awards for Sussex.

I have created my dream job running the Farm and Forest School and get to work with so many wonderful children and their families. In the same week as winning the award I received substantial funding from South Downs National Park to enable me to offer schools a free visit to learn about how we produce organic milk, keeping our animals healthy and safe.

As we get ready for another busy summer of calving, holiday clubs and our very popular Farm Fun toddler group, being given this award to recognise all the hard work was a real boost!

If anyone wants to find out a bit more then please do visit my website at muddy-adventures.com **Esther Jewitt**



West Dean College Summer Show & Soft Ground Exhibition

West Dean are delighted to announce two new exhibitions the School of Arts Summer Show, open to the public from Sat 5th - Fri 11th July in the Edward James Studios at West Dean College. This much anticipated annual event will be followed by Soft Ground; an exhibition of graduating students works at Copeland Gallery in London from Wed 16th - Sun 20th July.

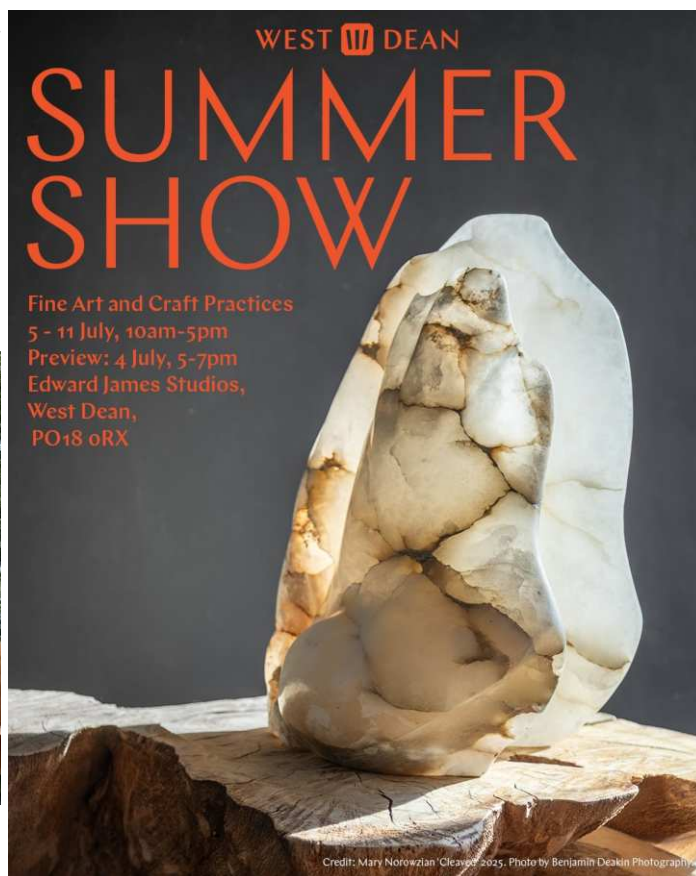


The Nest, a brand-new venue, opens at Chichester Festival Theatre

The Nest, a brand-new 120-seater venue at Chichester Festival Theatre, will throw open its doors over a launch weekend on Thursday 31st July - Saturday 2nd August.

This intimate new studio space offers something different: powered by CFT but with its own rhythm and feel. Think fringe theatre, open mics, comedy, live music, family shows and community-led events - all in one welcoming space.

The opening taster weekend offers a snapshot of what's to come with further programming to be announced in July.



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The Valley Challenge Go-kart Results

The first valley charity go-kart challenge took place in the field next to All Saint's church in East Dean on a nice grassy slope in glorious sunshine. Seven homemade karts were ridden by nine children all under the age of twelve. Two karts had a pair of riders, one to steer while the other operated the brakes. Plenty of time was given for practicing before we ran a series of timed runs to pick out the fastest machine.

Sam and Adrian were our timekeepers and judged the karts on their engineering, ingenuity and use of recycled materials and style. Not all karts were quite up to the safety standards required to get down the slope safely without tipping over – apologies to Noah and Alf riding in “the two smokin’ barrels”. Otherwise, a very successful and entertaining morning followed by a display and presentation of awards in the afternoon at West’s Wood Fair. All riders received a wooden medal and the winners Ava and Tommy from Donnington won the 2025 Valley Go-kart Challenge trophy. We managed to raise a useful £100 towards the “Standing the Test of Time” church appeal. **John Holt**



The Weald & Downland Living Museum Outdoor Theatre The Wind in the Willows

Thursday 31st July, 6pm - 8pm

Multiple award-winning Illyria celebrates Kenneth Grahame’s timeless tale of friendship, laughter, the longing for home and the lure of adventure. Enjoy it all summer across the UK where the story is set: in the great British outdoors. Running time is 100-minutes

(approximately), including a 20-minute interval. Suitable for: Ages 5+ (younger children also welcome). Tickets and important information

Tickets are pre-book only for our Open Air Theatre, and will not be available on the door on the day of the performance.

£20 Adults, £14 Children aged 5 – 17 yrs,
£4.50 Children aged 2 – 4 yrs, £62 2 Adult Family (2+2), £42 1 Adult Family (1+2),
Under 2’s Free: Bring your own picnic.

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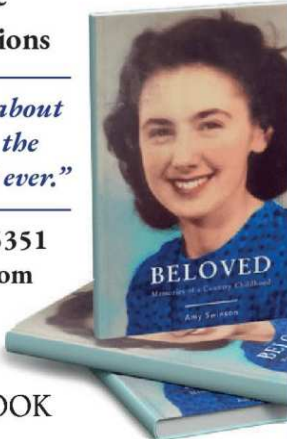
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StJP Approved 27/02/2023

**VALLEY GARDENING CLUB
PETALS, PRODUCE
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PETALS, PRODUCE & PIMM'S SHOW

Saturday 9th August, 3pm, East Dean Village Hall

This year's Annual Show is a little different – a new name, no RHS rules, no formal judging, just creativity, fun and community spirit. Everyone is welcome to enter any class, whatever your age. All exhibits must be grown or made by the exhibitor. We hope you will give it a go. "People's Choice Awards" will be given in each of the 5 categories - voted on by visitors. Come and celebrate everything we grow, make and love in our gardens and homes.

20 classes range from "A collection of 5 vegetables or fruit" to "Funniest looking vegetable or fruit" to "Vase of mixed garden flowers" to "Vase of roses" to "Miniature fairy garden" to "Tray of tea for two" to "My garden - photo, painting or collage" to "Funny face made from anything found in your garden or allotment" and more. The full programme plus timings and forms for setting up your entry etc can be obtained from anyone on the VGC Committee or found on the VGC website. Entry fees are £1 for each class you enter and free for Juniors (14 and under). Prizes are rosettes, sweets and eternal glory!

At 3pm the doors will open and visitors will be able to view all the exhibits and cast their votes for "People's Choice Awards". Homemade cakes will be served with tea and PIMM'S! At 4pm there will be prize giving, raffle and sale of some exhibits.

Another date for your diary...

Hort Talk - Tom Brown, Head Gardener, West Dean Gardens. **Thursday 23rd October** 6.30 pm for 7 pm, East Dean Village Hall. Open to All. Look out for further details. **Miranda Mayne**

VGC Committee Contacts

Penny Buchan, Charlton, 811544 - Sabine Burgert, Binderton, 07530 453304 - Lyn Burlyn, East Dean, 07889 690894
Joan Burnett, Charlton, 01243 811307 - Miranda Mayne, Charlton, 07970 370627 - Vicky Mudford, East Dean, 818046
Larrie Robinson, Goodwood, 811467 - Julie Rimmington, Singleton, 07887 943523 - Penny Spence, Singleton, 811453

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