

The Valley Diary

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

thevalleydiary.org ~ October 2026 Edition

HALF A CENTURY!

Goodwood Education Trust celebrates 50 years

Formed in 1976 by the 10th Duke of Richmond, the Goodwood Education Trust connects children with food, farming and nature, particularly those who are more vulnerable or underserved.

To mark its 50th anniversary, the founder's son and Trustee, His Grace the 11th Duke of Richmond, hosted a celebration for supporters, education partners, charity and community leaders, funders, Trustees and the Trust's staff team. Guests included the Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex Lady Emma Barnard, the High Sheriff Gary Shipton, the Mayor of Chichester Sean McHale and representatives from Chichester District and West Sussex County Councils.

Welcoming guests, His Grace reflected on his father's legacy and how the Trust has remained true to its founding principles while adapting to the needs of children today. He concluded that his father would be very proud of how the charity has grown and evolved.

Lady Emma Barnard said, 'It was wonderful to join the Goodwood Education Trust to celebrate 50 years of connecting children with food, farming and nature. Their woodland activity days and their support for children and young people facing challenges in life are really important for our communities in so many different ways.'

The celebration concluded with a beautifully decorated birthday cake and a lively rendition of Happy Birthday.

Lloyd McNeill, Chair of Trustees, said, 'It's incredible to see such support from the local and wider community for the charity as we celebrate 50 years of connecting children with food and farming. Being the Goodwood Revival charity partner this year is also a great opportunity for the Trust to raise its profile, showcase its impact and secure much-needed funds to allow more children to visit in the coming years.' *Sarah Mayhead*



Sussex Yeomanry Association Remembrance Sunday Service

**Sunday 8th November
10.45am**

Sussex Yeomanry Memorial at Charlton

All are most welcome to attend



Mark Astley, MNAEA
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**17th October, 14th November, 12th December
16th January, 13th February, 20th March & 17th April**

Join us for a great day out, tickets can be purchased for birthday or Christmas presents. Full details on our events page.

Keep an eye out for what's "Coming soon"

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

**www.thefoxgoesfree.com
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WINTER IS COMING! BONFIRE NIGHT AT WEST DEAN GARDENS! Friday 6th November, 6pm-9pm

Come and experience the magic of Bonfire Night in the stunning setting of West Dean Gardens. As the crisp autumn air settles in and the leaves turn golden, gather with friends, colleagues, and neighbours for an evening of warmth, light and celebration

Set against the backdrop of our beautifully maintained gardens, this community event promises to be a memorable night for all. Whether you're here for the dazzling fireworks, comforting food and drink, or simply to enjoy the atmosphere, there's something for everyone. **Gates open at 6pm with the Firework Display at 7.15pm.**

A selection of hot food and drinks will be available to purchase throughout the evening perfect for keeping warm and festive! Please enter via the Gardens Gatehouse Entrance. We kindly ask attendees to lift share where possible and bring a torch, as lighting may be limited in some areas. Please wear appropriate footwear. **Tickets on sale soon so watch this space... tinyurl.com/2xo598sy**



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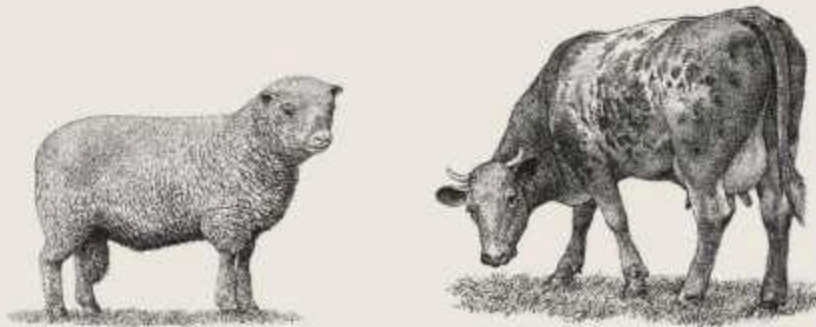


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Goodwood Farm Shop, Home Farm, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0QF
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm Saturday, 9am to 3pm Sunday, 10am to 3pm



October Half Term: Plagues & Potions

Something rather strange is happening at the Museum... The year is 1665 and the Black Death is about to spread across the country. A local

village healer has prepared a protective potion in readiness of the plague arriving at the Museum, but some mischievous spirits have scattered the precious potion ingredients across the historic buildings! Families must help gather the lost potion ingredients, uncover clues from the past, and complete the Plagues & Potions Challenge before it's too late...

Take part in the Plagues & Potions Trail everyday over the October Half Term! Saturday 24th October - Sunday 1st November: 10am - 4pm



Haunted Hambrook Hambrook Barn has been given a spooky makeover and is filled with terrible toys and ghastly games. Take part in Eyeball and spoon race, Pin the spider on the web, Ghostly beanbag toss, Besom broomstick racing, Poisoned apple bobbing are in store. Keep an eye out for the giant hairy spiders above your head!

Spooky Craft Activities (27th - 29th October: 10am - 3.30pm) Get creative with Halloween-inspired crafts and make a spooky keepsake to take home.

Make a Medieval Plague Potion (27th - 29th October: 10am - 3.30pm) Step back in time and immerse yourself in the world of Medieval medicine to make a protective potion. This hands-on activity offers a gruesome insight into how people in the past may have tried to fight off some terrifying diseases.

Ghost Stories with The Bard Dawn (27th & 29th October: 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm) Gather round the fire and get ready to be told a ghostly tale or two if you are feeling brave enough!

Spooky Victorian School (28th October: 10.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm) Meet our frightfully strict Victorian school teacher who will teach you the art of spooky paper sculpting to create an origami bat.



A REVIVAL SWEATSHIRT FAVOURITE, REIMAGINED

New for 2026, the Revival Racing Quarter-Zip Sweatshirt takes one of our most-loved graphics and gives it a fresh update. Featuring the classic Goodwood Revival Racing design, this easy-to-wear layer blends vintage character with everyday comfort. Perfect for cooler mornings, it's a timeless piece that celebrates the heritage and spirit of the event in understated style.

Available in M, L, XL or XXL in Navy or Grey at £115 from tinyurl.com/22n95t7x

goodwood.com

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Keep Calm and Carry On - The East Dean Way!

Denise Humphrey and Les Calloway spent a lot of time this summer planning the village barbecue, and when it all came together on the last Saturday of August it was a do worth waiting for!

Penfolds of Parklands (the best butchers in Chichester) did Denise a great deal on the burgers, sausages and chicken wings, but the salads that accompanied them were all her own creations, supported by an impressive team of commis chefs. On the morning of the event I looked into the kitchen and found Les, Kate Shaw, Miranda Andrews, Helen Scott, Louise Hughes and Sara Hutton-Potts all chopping, grating, grinding and marinating; focused intently on their tasks, just like you see in TV programmes about restaurant kitchens, but without anyone shouting or throwing things!



Meanwhile outside the rain was hammering down! Well, we were lucky with the plant sale, the Art Fair, the Selsey Shantymen and the eclipse party, but our luck had to run out somewhen and the drought broke the day before the barbecue. So what I and Annie Guy were doing whilst the magic was happening in the kitchen was hanging up bunting in the hall and playing with the tables, trying to work out how we were going to seat 77 people inside. We generally tell potential hirers that 60 is the maximum number for a sit-down meal. In the end we did it, although the seating plan we came up with can only be described as “snug”. And yet, crammed in together, everyone got along, met new neighbours, made new friends. The following day a lot of people told me what a great “community” feeling they thought it had. Perhaps after the enforced “social distancing” of Covid it was an overdue return to social normality.

The rain eased up by the evening, which was some comfort to Roo Underwood and Paul Humphrey who were doing the barbecuing under the scant cover of the alcove next to the back door, passing the finished results in through the kitchen window. Then, once everyone had had the first course (with some having seconds and a few having thirds) came the desserts. Wow! Talk about saving the best ‘til last! Dutch apple tarts, lemon crunch flan, chocolate eclairs, mandarin yoghurt tart and (my favourite) fruit and vodka terrine with lime syrup! I have never seen such a magnificent spread in our beloved Village Hall. If anyone questions what the point of keeping it going is: well, where else could we have a village party like this?

As the evening was winding down a friend confided that, as she watched the rain in the afternoon, she felt sure we would have to call it off. I told her we’d never even considered doing that. We were never going to let a little thing like a monsoon stop us. That’s not how we do things here. Floreat East Dean! **Tim Weeks**

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*A connection to the South Downs National Park qualifies purchasers for the scheme.

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Saturday 10th October
10am - 10.30am
Singleton Village Hall

Monday 21st December
10am - 10.30am
East Dean Village Hall

Lavant Horticultural Society

Start with Soil: Simple Steps for a Thriving Garden

A talk by Julia Sargent

Wednesday 14th October
Memorial Hall

From 7pm for refreshments before being
inspired by ideas for 2027

Whale of a Tale

A Poem by Francis

The whale took overall charge,
Of who came and went in the sea.
Fixing a label on everyone,
Including my spaniel and me.

Yes, even my hound was tagged,
Then entered the whale's log.
Which just proves that old saying,
It's 'the whale tagging the dog'.

Scrummy Sultana Scones

Here's a scrummy afternoon treat for those with a half-hour to spare. I tried my hand at my late mum's (and grandma's) recipe, which is apparently not quite like you'd expect to see it elsewhere.

Ingredients ½lb Self-raising Flour, 3oz. Butter, preferably soft, 2oz. Sugar, 2oz. Sultanas and Milk

Method Rub the flour, butter and sugar together until you have a uniform consistency, add the sultanas and work in across the mixture, add milk, a drop at a time until you have a soft dough, divide the dough into 6-8 parts and work each into a round thickish pat, grease a flat baking tray, place the pats onto it, glaze each with a little milk and cook in an oven at 180° or so for 12 to 15 mins.

When you get them out, leave to cool a bit, but part of the enjoyment here is to eat them whilst warm with real old-fashioned butter and cream and/or jam (and worry about where the defibrillator is later)! This particular recipe and method aims to ensure that the scones are soft and light on the inside with a crispy shell. Yum!



Preparing the Lavant Valley for the 2026/27 El Niño Winter

The Met Office has confirmed that the planet is entering an unprecedentedly intense El Niño climate phase. While this starts in the Pacific, it historically drives heavier autumn and winter rainfall, frequent

severe storms and heightened flood risks across the UK. Because the Lavant Valley sits on the South Downs groundwater fringe, prolonged winter downpours present direct challenges to our local water tables and drainage systems. Chichester District Council urges all residents to take four simple, proactive steps before the severe weather sets in...

- 1. Clear Your Drainage** Remove dead leaves and debris from gutters, downpipes and boundary ditches to prevent pooling.
- 2. Secure Your Garden** Tie down or store garden furniture, trampolines and bins to stop them from becoming storm hazards.
- 3. Insulate Your Pipes** Protect exposed water tanks and external piping now to prevent bursts during sudden temperature drops.
- 4. Know Your Shut-Offs** Make sure everyone in your home knows where the main water stopcock and electricity trip switches are located.

Critical Emergency Contacts

Keep these numbers written down in case of power or internet outages.

Power Cut Helpline Call 105 (Free from any mobile or landline)

Emergency Services Call emergency services (For immediate danger to life or property)

Environment Agency Floodline Call 0345 988 1188

Register for Live Local Alerts

Get Text Warnings for Floods gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

Join the Priority Services Register If you are a senior resident, have medical equipment that relies on power, or have young children, head for theprs.co.uk to register for priority hot food, water and power restoration during an outage.

Let's keep the Lavant Valley safe, dry and prepared this winter.



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Why are Charity Shops Leaving our High Streets?

British charity shops are facing a decline and widespread store closures - such as planned cutbacks by Oxfam and the British Heart Foundation - driven by a combination of rising operating costs, competition from online second-hand platforms like Vinted and eBay and a shortage of good-quality donations.

While shops receive an estimated 350,000 tons of donated clothes annually, much of it is poor quality. Shops are overwhelmed with items they have to sell off cheaply to recycling companies as "ragbags" with the average price dropping from 45p to 15p per kilo over the past decade.

Charities increasingly compete with, and utilise, online resale marketplaces like eBay and Vinted, listing higher-value items online to maximize profit. Despite being exempt from business rates, charity shops are still severely impacted by escalating wage bills and national insurance increases. While some critics argue that sprawling charity retail networks have turned into aggressive high-street competitors, sector leaders remain optimistic, pointing to opportunities in larger store formats, higher retail standards, and potential efficiency gains from AI. **This article originally appeared in *The Week*.**

*It's interesting to see how society evolves. In our high street, like many others around the country, we have many shops struggling or closing down, not just charity shops. What seems to be thriving are vape shops, nail bars, hairdressers, cafes and yes, some charity shops too - but **some** have observed that **some** charity shops' prices are significantly higher than they used to be (mostly charity chains like Oxfam etc.) but there are smaller independent shops that seem to be doing alright still. What do you think? editor@valleydiary.org*



The Sussex Flint Wall Tradition

Look closely at the older cottages across our villages and you will see centuries of local geology at work. Hand-knapped flint, dug straight from the chalk of the South Downs, was paired with lime mortar to build homes that have stood for hundreds of years. It's a craft that requires immense skill - and one that gives our local lanes their distinctive, timeless character. As autumn rolls through the valley, the wild asters - traditionally known as Michaelmas daisies - provide one of the final splashes of purple and mauve in our cottage gardens. Blooming around the feast of St Michael, old country lore says they were planted to protect homes from winter storms. Today, they remain a vital late-season lifeline for our local bumblebees.



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Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital Autumn Wildlife Briefings



We're getting ready for what looks set to be a very busy hedgehog season! With milder winters, habitat loss and a growing scarcity of natural food sources, our little hedgehogs are facing more challenges than ever. Changes in temperature and food availability can disrupt their natural body clocks, making it harder for them to know when it's time to hibernate and potentially affecting when and how often they have hoglets.

There are lots of simple ways we can all help support our local hedgehogs through the winter months. Providing a safe, suitable place to hibernate - such as a hedgehog house or an undisturbed pile of leaves and logs - can make a huge difference. When natural insects and other food sources are scarce, leaving out suitable hedgehog food or poultry-flavoured cat or dog food overnight can also help supplement their diet. Finally, please keep an eye out for any hedgehogs that appear to be struggling, behaving unusually or are active during daylight hours. If you find a hedgehog in this situation, please give us a call for advice. Together, we can give our local hedgehogs the best chance of getting through the winter safely!

**For more information and tips,
please visit our website or get in
touch.**

**brentlodge.org
01243 641672**

Feedback from Last Month

Thanks to the handful of people who took the time to let me know how The Valley Diary looked in the September Edition. After many months of fighting to learn new Editing and Desktop Publishing software (at my age!) my appeal was for, well, encouragement, I guess, more than anything!

So it looks like that first month using Affinity instead of Microsoft Publisher was acceptable. It may have been only a handful of people feeding back, but there were zero complaints, so maybe I should take that as my data point! Well I shall turn the other cheek, place my tongue in it, and thank you all warmly for your zero complaints! **Ted the Ed.**

editor@valleydiary.org

OPERATION STOP!

We're delighted to share encouraging results from our innovative Operation STOP initiative, which combines GPS tagging with tailored rehabilitation support for prolific shoplifters across Sussex.

An independent evaluation has found a promising 58% reduction in offending among the small cohort taking part. The scheme is estimated to have prevented around 300 offences a year, saving up to £100,000 in associated costs to police and the wider criminal justice system.

It is the first time in the UK that prolific shoplifters have been tagged and, following the success of the pilot, the scheme has expanded countywide, increasing capacity to 30 GPS tags.

These early results are extremely promising. By protecting retailers, supporting police investigations and helping offenders break the cycle of crime, Operation STOP is making our high streets safer while delivering a smart and compassionate approach to reducing reoffending.

The Story Behind the Village Benchmark

Next time you pass an old church wall, stone bridge or brick barn, take a look for a small, carved horizontal line with an arrow pointing up to it from below.

These are Ordnance Survey benchmark marks, cut by hand by 19th-century surveyors measuring the precise height above sea level. An angle iron was placed into the horizontal slot to support a surveying staff.

Though digital mapping has taken over, hundreds of these quiet pieces of Victorian engineering remain hidden in plain sight across our countryside.

Hedgerow Blackberry & Apple Crumble

Nothing sums up early autumn in the valley quite like a hot crumble after a long Sunday walk.

The Secret Toss 450g of peeled, sliced Bramley apples with 250g of fresh, hand-foraged blackberries, two tablespoons of golden caster sugar, and a splash of water.

The Topping Rub 175g plain flour, 110g cold butter, and 50g oats together until crumbly, then mix in 80g demerara sugar for extra crunch

Bake 180°C (Gas Mark 4) for 35–40 minutes until golden and bubbling.

Serve with lashings of warm custard!



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Stick To What You Know Best Mac

A Poem by Francis

I'm sure you already know,
Old Macdonald had a farm.
And that was his whole world,
As he certainly had no charm.

It was all work and more work,
No play and never joy.
Which makes that old saying true,
For he was a very dull boy.

Then to my utter amazement,
He said, "could e 'elp oi change?"
Wanting me to assist him with,
Some education to arrange.

I suggested English grammar,
And he thought that was right.
But he had to farm by day,
Then go to his lessons at night.

I kept a very low profile at first,
Because it was a bit of a struggle.
Giving his all to farm and school,
He really did have to juggle.

So it was a long time later,
When our paths did cross.
And when I asked about schooling,
Old Macdonald was at a loss.

In fact he had learned very little,
I am very sad to say.
And what made him angry was,
The fees he still had to pay!

"Surely you learned something " I said,
As we chatted for a couple of hours.
"Well one thing did stick in my 'ead,
And that was them there vowels."

"Come on then Old Macdonald,
Make my day. Go on, have a go."
Then Old Macdonald from the farm,
Said, "E I, E I, O?"

Southern Water Public Meeting Autumn/Winter Preparations

Residents from East Dean, Charlton, Singleton, West Dean and Lavant are invited to attend a public meeting with Southern Water on **Wednesday the 11th November at 7pm at East Dean Village Hall.**

The meeting has been arranged to bring together representatives and residents from four local parishes, providing an opportunity for Southern Water to share its plans and preparations for the coming autumn and winter.

Representatives from Southern Water and Flow Management will be attending to discuss a number of important local issues, including proposals for the potential relaying of pipes, the positioning of tankers should they be required, and the introduction of new pump technology at Singleton Relief.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions, raise concerns and hear directly from those responsible for managing the local water infrastructure.

We hope that residents from across all the parishes will come along, find out more about the plans for the months ahead, and take the opportunity to have their questions answered.

Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Karen Nash, Cllr Singleton & Charlton Parish Council

Redesigning Your Garden Without Losing the Character of Your Home

A well-designed garden should enhance the home it surrounds rather than compete with it. At South Downs Gardens, our redesigns begin with a simple principle: understand what is already there before deciding what should change. By respecting a property's architecture, materials, and history, a new landscape can feel both fresh and entirely at home

Understanding Property Character

Every home has its own identity. A thoughtful redesign considers how the landscape can respond to a building's proportions and setting, creating a natural relationship and seamless continuity from indoors to out

Preserving the Soul

Starting again is rarely necessary. Mature trees, old walls, hedges, and established boundaries give a garden its sense of place. Removing them needlessly strips away identity. We assess what is worth preserving and refining so the finished landscape feels evolved rather than replaced

Designing with Purpose and Sensitivity

Good design relies on restraint. Small adjustments to layout, levels, circulation, and views can transform how a space functions. Thoughtful planting, quality materials, and subtle focal points introduce contemporary elements while remaining sympathetic to the original character. Every change must serve a clear purpose—whether improving privacy, seasonal interest, or usability.

A Cohesive Vision

Knowing where to begin can feel overwhelming. Our local knowledge and expertise allow us to look at the bigger picture, ensuring the garden, home, and wider landscape work together as one cohesive environment.

A Garden That Belongs

The finest redesigns never feel forced; they look as though they have always belonged. Through careful observation and respect for existing features, we create timeless landscapes that protect character while bringing renewed beauty and purpose to your outdoor space.

Julia Ciucur, SouthDowns Gardens
(see advert: Page 4)

Festive Fizz and Wreath Making

Join us for a sparkling evening hosted by Digby Fine English, based in Arundel and the talented florist Carina from The Blooming Truck. Sip on award-winning English sparkling wine while crafting your own unique festive luxury wreath. Using foraged foliage, seasonal accents, pheasant feathers and even wine corks. Perfect for adding a touch of seasonal charm to your home or give as a gift to your loved one Evening includes fizz and charcuterie board!



Sunday 29th November & Sunday 13th December
3pm - 6pm

Tickets £80 per person
thesussexsnowdroptrust.com/events
Limited availability



The Valley Parish

www.facebook.com/ValleyParish

Find out more about our services and events on the A Church Near
You website



25th October

11am

West Dean

Join us for bible stories, songs and games.
(oh and of course cakes and biscuits)

Services and Events

4 th October Harvest Festival	10am	Holy Communion With Choir East Dean
11 th October	10am	Holy Communion Singleton
18 th October	10am	Holy Communion West Dean
25 th October	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)

Churchwardens

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

Sarah John - 07769 887546 /

sarance@btinternet.com

PCC Treasurer

Lance John - treasurer.valleyparish@outlook.com

PCC Secretary

Susie Holmes -

pccsecretaryvalleyparish@gmail.com

Harvest Festival

On Sunday 4th October we will come together to celebrate the gifts of creation, and to say thank you. Thank you for God's goodness, and thank you to all those that work so hard to bring us 'our daily bread'.

But Harvest is also a reminder that we mustn't take our blessings, and our freedoms, for granted, and so whilst we sing our favourite Harvest hymns, we need to remember that God is a generous God, and that we are called to be generous to.

As always, we will be collecting for the Food Bank, but there will also be a retiring collection (cash only) for the Open Doors Arise Africa campaign in support of persecuted Christians. (More information can be found on their website - www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/arise-africa-explainer/)

So this Harvest time, as we enjoy the beauty and abundance of God's creation, may we remember to give thanks, to share generously, and to care for the world and the people with whom we share it.

The Diary

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

thevalleydiary.org

October

Wed 7th Defibrillator Training:
Singleton Village Hall: 6pm
Fri 9th Gentleman's Lunch: Star &
Garter: 12.30pm
Sat 10th Chat with your PCSO: 10am -
10.30am: Singleton Village Hall
Sun 11th Goodwood Horseracing
Mon 12th Singleton Community Cafe:
10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall
Tue 13th Ladies Night at The Star &
Garter at 7pm
Thu 15th Singleton & East Dean WI:
Fabulous Floristry: Alison Brown: East
Dean Village Hall
Sat 17th Clay Shoot: The Fox Goes Free,
Charlton
Sat 24th - Sun 1st (Nov) October Half
Term: Plagues and Potions: Weald &
Downland Museum
Sun 25th Star & Garter Pub Quiz: 7pm
Mon 26th The Valley Diary Copy
Deadline: 12noon

November

Sat 24th (Oct) - Sun 1st October Half
Term: Plagues and Potions: Weald &
Downland Museum
Fri 6th Bonfire Night at West Dean
Gardens: 6pm
Sun 8th Sussex Yeomanry
Remembrance Service: Charlton
Memorial: 10.45am
Mon 9th Singleton Community Cafe:
10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village Hall
Wed 11th Southern Water Public
Meeting: East Dean Village Hall: 7pm
Sat 14th Clay Shoot: The Fox Goes Free,
Charlton
Wed 18th Singleton and Charlton Parish
Council Meeting, 7pm, Singleton Village
Hall
Thu 19th Singleton & East Dean WI:
Agatha Christie: Jane Tally: Singleton
Village Hall

December

Thu 10th Gentleman's xmas Lunch: East
Dean Village Hall: 12.30pm

Thu 10th Singleton & East Dean WI:
Christmas Party: Singleton Village Hall
Sat 12th Clay Shoot: The Fox Goes
Free, Charlton
Mon 14th Singleton Community Cafe
Xmas Special: 10.30am - 12noon:
Singleton Village Hall
Mon 21st Chat with your PCSO: 10am
- 10.30am: East Dean Village Hall

January 2027

Mon 11th Singleton Community Cafe:
10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village
Hall
Sat 16th Clay Shoot: The Fox Goes
Free, Charlton
Thu 21st Singleton & East Dean WI:
Dog Sledding through the Snow: Zoe
Mann: Singleton Village Hall

February 2027

Mon 8th Singleton Community Cafe:
10.30am - 12noon: Singleton Village
Hall
Sat 13th Clay Shoot: The Fox Goes
Free, Charlton
Thu 18th Singleton & East Dean WI:
Sing Up!: Emily Barden: Singleton
Village Hall

March 2027

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

Got something to add to the Diary?

Please let us know...

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

thevalleydiary.org/diary

Deadline for the...

November 2026 Edition

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

Monday 26th October

editor@valleydiary.org

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

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Useful Telephone Numbers

CDC Councillor, Henry Potter	07792 857973
East Dean Football Club	07944 036709
East Dean PC Clerk	07710 098512
East Dean Village Hall	07785 740625
Goodwood Security	07909 876823
Lavant Road Doctors Surgery	01243 527264
Lavant Road Pharmacy	01243 380185
Local Police	101
Singleton & East Dean WI	07770 822067
Singleton Fete	01243 818037
Singleton Parish Clerk	07702 240126
Singleton School	01243 811679
Singleton Tearooms	01243 811899
Singleton Village Hall	07711 573276
W&D Museum: Office	01243 811363
W&D Museum: Shop	01243 811020
West Dean College	01243 818300
West Dean Gardens	01243 818318
West Dean PC Clark	07596 884847
West Dean School	01243 811247
West Dean Stores	01243 818222

Lineage Ads.

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PILATES CLASSES Jo, 07917 177404
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Albert says...



A bowl of nuts in the Star,
 Said hello handsome to me.
 I told Jim the boss who said,
 Yes they are complimentary.

Register of Local...

B&B

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
The Blue Bell, Cocking: 01730 239669
Barnfield, Heyshot, Tessa: 07789 888004

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Make a Free Will and Support 4Sight Vision Support

Writing a will ensures your loved ones, pets and the causes you care about, are looked after...life can change quickly, and whether you've recently married, divorced, moved home, or welcomed a child or grandchild, it may be the perfect time to make or update your will.

4Sight Vision Support (4SVS) has partnered with Octopus Legacy to offer a free, easy to use online will service which allows you to make the right will for your needs in the way that suits you best.

In return, if you'd like to make a donation to 4SVS, or consider gifting an amount in the will, the charity would be extremely grateful, as it relies heavily on donations and public fundraising to be able to offer its free and essential services across the county.

Octopus Legacy's service is an easy step-by-step process, with legal experts on hand to check over each will. You can also call Octopus Legacy for simple will writing advice, and 4Sight Vision Support offers assistance with completing the form - not providing legal advice, but straightforward, practical support to help complete the information required. Further details may be found on 4SVS's website.

4sight.org.uk/a-gift-in-a-will
01243 838001
fundraising@4sight.org.uk

The Barn Owl's Silent Flight

As dusk settles over local fields and hedgerows, keep an eye out for the distinctive ghostly white silhouette of the barn owl.



Unlike most birds, a barn owl's primary feathers have tiny comb-like serrations on their leading edge that disrupt air turbulence.

This allows them to fly in complete silence, hunting small rodents along field margins without giving away their presence.

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The best homes are still worth paying for...

The property market has certainly become more sluggish and difficult to navigate in the last few years, but one thing has not changed. The best houses are still the hardest to buy.

After several years of price falls and buyers sitting on their hands, reluctant to commit, there is now much more stock on the market and therefore more choice and negotiating power for buyers - but not every property should be viewed through the same lens.

A house with the right location, beautiful architecture, privacy, good outside space and a strong sense of place will always be in short supply. Some are held by owners for generations, with no intention of putting them on the open market. They rarely become available and are often sold without ever appearing on a property portal

Through local knowledge, established relationships and an understanding of what owners may consider doing, a buying agent can sometimes identify unique, off-market opportunities before a property is formally offered for sale. This can give a buyer the opportunity to negotiate directly with an owner before the property reaches the wider market. The win for the seller is a quiet, private sale without having to open their home up online or to multiple in-person viewings.

This past year alone, I have purchased three homes in the South Downs and surrounding villages that had not been to market for more than 35 years. These are precisely the sort of properties that are hardest to find through the traditional search process and often the owners are very selective about who they will consider selling to. Of course, price is important, but it also needs to be the right buyer.

If you're a cash buyer, being able to move quickly and offer certainty is particularly valuable. A clean, proceedable offer is extremely attractive to a seller, especially where a property has never been intended for the open market. But so is your backstory, why you want to buy the property, what you love about it and how you plan to live in it. People passing on a treasured family home usually want it to go to someone who will love it as much as they do.

The temptation in a slower market is to assume that prices will continue to fall and that waiting will automatically produce a better deal. Sometimes it will. But waiting can also mean missing out on the property that was worth buying. When you do find the property you want, the competition may be tougher than you think, so be prepared to move quickly and negotiate smartly.

Jennie Hancock, 07776 452128, jh@propertyacquisitions.co.uk

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CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL TO CULMINATE YEAR OF ARTISTIC CELEBRATION WITH SPECTACULAR LIGHT EXPERIENCE

Chichester Cathedral will culminate its artistic celebrations this autumn with Illuminating Art, the spectacular new Chichester Cathedral Light Experience by internationally acclaimed artistic collaboration Luxmuralis.

Running from **23rd to 31st October**, the immersive experience by artist Peter Walker and composer David Harper transforms the Cathedral through breathtaking projection, light and music. Inspired by four centuries of artistic expression, Illuminating Art explores everything from the Baroque and Impressionist movements to the arrival of photography, the age of steam and the birth of animation, bringing artistic ideas vividly to life within the Cathedral's remarkable 950-year-old architecture.

Making its Sussex debut, Illuminating Art arrives during the 60th anniversary of artist and print-maker John Piper's well-known High Altar Tapestry. The milestone has been celebrated through a year-long programme including an immersive exhibition, specialist art tours and family activities.

The Light Experience theme also coincides with a remarkable year for Chichester's wider artistic community. Pallant House Gallery is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its award-winning Gallery extension, reinforcing its reputation as one of the UK's leading galleries of Modern British Art. Meanwhile, Oxmarket Contemporary marks its 50th anniversary, continuing its long-standing commitment to showcasing an ever-changing programme of exhibitions by both emerging talent and established local and regional artists.

Visitors are encouraged to spend the day exploring Chichester's rich cultural offer, from its galleries, museum, exhibitions and independent creative businesses to its historic streets, before experiencing the Cathedral, transformed after dark.

Tickets start from £13 per adult and £8 per child with concessions for students and families.

To book, visit ChichesterCathedral.org.uk or call 0333 666 3366.



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It's Nearly Quiz Time!

As the long hot summer has dragged on, inbetween slapping on the factor 50 and surreptitiously watering the lawn, have you found yourself wondering when the fact that you know that the lifting bits of Tower Bridge are called 'bascules' will come in handy? That for the Vikings the feasting hall of the gods was called Valhalla? That Aker Bilk played the clarinet and white rum is the principal ingredient of a Banana Daquiri (apart from the banana, that is)? Do you yearn to bring home victory for your team by knowing that, travelling north by train, the station that comes immediately after Petersfield is Liss? The long wait is nearly over! Relief is in sight!



The first Star and Garter pub quiz of the season is on Sunday October 25th at 7pm!

The ticket price is being held at £15 for the fourth year in succession and for that you will get six rounds of ten questions, plus a picture round and lasagne (or vegetarian alternative) whilst raising money for St Wilfrid's Hospice - which, like all charities, needs the money now more than ever.

Teams should ideally consist of six members, but if you aren't already part of one, come along on the night and we'll do our best to find you one. You may win a prize or you may make some new friends but either way you'll have some fun - and with the cost of oil as it is, it's probably cheaper than staying at home with the heating on!

To book your place phone the pub on 01243 811318 as soon as possible, so the Chef knows how many he's catering for. See you there and until then, which is the odd one out:- New York, Chicago, San Francisco or The Moon? Answer on the 25th!

Reflecting on Ten Years of Progress in Tackling Stalking



At the NPCC, the Home Office and CPS Joint Stalking Conference 2026 last month, where partners from across policing, the criminal justice system and victim support services came together to discuss how to collectively strengthen the response to stalking. We reflected on the progress made in Sussex over the past decade to make stalking a policing priority and improve support for victims, recognising the lessons learned, the improvements made and the continued importance of working together to identify stalking early, protect victims and prevent harm.

The journey has not always been easy. Ten years ago, following the murder of Shana Grice, we commissioned HMICFRS to independently inspect Sussex Police's handling of stalking and harassment. The findings highlighted significant shortcomings but also provided a clear roadmap for improvement. Since then, Sussex Police has strengthened officer training, improved the identification and recording of stalking offences and enhanced support for victims. Shana's legacy is a responsibility that remains with all of us: to recognise stalking for what it is, respond effectively and do everything possible to prevent further tragedies.

An Award-Winning Entrance to West Dean Gardens

West Dean is delighted to announce that its Gardens Gatehouse has won the 2026 Sussex Heritage Trust Public & Community Award. The project transformed a redundant former biomass building into an inspiring new visitor hub, craft shop, plant nursery, and creative learning environment.

Designed by conservation architects Vallis & Hall and delivered by the West Dean Estate team alongside local contractors, the project reflects a strong commitment to sustainability. By retaining the existing structure and reusing materials, the team created an accessible, welcoming space without unnecessary demolition.

Ian Graham, Director of Estates, noted: "We are delighted that the Gardens Gatehouse has been recognised. This project reflects West Dean's long-standing commitment to caring for our historic estate while ensuring it continues to evolve for our visitors."

Laurence Hall of Vallis & Hall added: "It was particularly rewarding to convert a redundant agricultural building into a glorious new entrance and to have the judges acknowledge our approach to reusing natural materials."

The Gatehouse will host new two-hour Creative Taster Sessions, offering visitors the chance to try a new art or craft and leave with a finished piece.

West Dean Gardens is open year-round, plan your visit or book a course at westdean.ac.uk



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The women of the Singleton and East Dean WI met on September 17th in East Dean Village Hall for a talk about Tuppenny Barn in Southbourne.

This hectare plot, established in 2005, is farmed organically and uses growing and the outdoor environment to support workshops for children and adults, providing respite and support through green therapy programmes and helping build a more sustainable community for everyone. It was a beautiful talk and a timely reminder that, as we move into a season of change, the beautiful countryside should never be taken for granted and we should be utterly grateful for the access and opportunity we have to the forests, paths, fields and parks, which many people do not have.

We were delighted to welcome a new member on the evening, as well as an advisor from the West Sussex Federation of the Women's Institute, who came to support our WI and who also delivered a beautiful stitched picture, made to celebrate the anniversary of Singleton and East Dean WI 1915 - 2005, a lovely reminder of days gone by. As usual, delicious tea and cake afterwards!

Our next meeting is on **15th October in East Dean Village Hall**, where Alison Brown will be talking on Fabulous Floristry. If you would like to come along and see what we are all about, please drop me a note at zk.mann@icloud.com and I will be delighted to share some details. Until then, take an extra moment to enjoy our wonderful countryside and the cooler weather. **Zoe Mann**

Singleton & East Dean WI

Discover the Wild: Foraging Walk at West Dean Saturday 17th October & Sunday 18th October

Step away from the everyday and discover the delicious wild foods growing across the West Dean estate. Whether you're new to foraging or want to deepen existing knowledge, join a professional forager for a relaxed, hands-on walk through the South Downs.



You'll learn how to forage responsibly, identify wild plants and fungi safely, and turn your finds into delicious food - with plenty of practical tips and inspiration to take home.

The event takes place outdoors, rain or shine, so please come dressed for the weather with weather-appropriate clothing, walking boots or sturdy footwear, a drink or snack and notepad and pen, if you wish to take notes. Of course, foraging is seasonal, so we cannot guarantee exactly what you'll find, as the plants, fungi and wild food will vary throughout the year.

Book now for £45 at tinyurl.com/2btc7a6w



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East Dean Gentleman's Lunches

Friday 9th October at 12.30pm

The Star and Garter, East Dean

Thursday 10th December at 12.30pm

East Dean Village Hall (The Christmas one!)

Book up via The Old Vicarage at East Dean
01243 811377 or rmaxdavies@aol.com

Petworth House & Park
nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth

Halloween Trail: 'We're Going on a Ghost Hunt'

Saturday 10th October - Monday 1st November

Follow our ghost-filled Halloween trail through the Pleasure Garden. Along the way, discover spooky stops packed with fun games, activities and playful challenges. Free with admission, no booking required.

Ranger Ramble in Petworth Park: Ancient Trees

Wednesday 21st October, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Learn all about the ancient trees of Petworth Park on this two-hour guided walk with our Senior Ranger. Part of a series of free walks for local residents and frequent visitors to Petworth Park who would like to get to know the Park and its wildlife better. The walk is free but booking is essential, either via the website or by calling 0344 249 1895.

Deer Rut Guided Walk

28th October - 4th November, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Discover more about the annual deer rut in the park on this two-hour guided walk. £15 per adult, £7.50 per child. Booking essential, either via the website or by calling 0344 249 1895.

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Latest News from St Wilfrid's Hospice



St Wilfrid's Hospice
Making a difference to local lives

Firewalk - Can you handle the heat?

On Friday 16th October, you are invited to take on the challenge of walking barefoot across a bed of hot embers. Taking place at Bognor Regis Town Football Club, you'll have to put mind over matter as you take on the Firewalk in support of St Wilfrid's Hospice.

Get your ticket today: www.stwh.co.uk/firewalk



Looking for a challenge?

St Wilfrid's Hospice has a number of incredible challenges available for you to take on, from marathons, trail runs, skydives and even ultra challenges such as the Isle of Wight Challenge! Taking on one of these challenges in support of the Hospice is a great way to push yourself while also making a difference to local people living with a life-limiting or terminal illness. See all the events at stwh.co.uk/events

Gifts in Wills

Your kindness could mean less tax for you and more hospice care for your community. A gift in your Will to St Wilfrid's Hospice could reduce the amount of tax you have to pay. A gift left to any charity, such as St Wilfrid's Hospice, would be taken off the value of your estate before Inheritance Tax is calculated. Plus, if 10% or more of your estate is left to charity, your Inheritance Tax rate could also be reduced. Your gift could help protect the future of hospice care in your local community. It's simple to do and we are here to help you every step of the way. You can find out more about the importance of gifts in Wills and how it can help local charities like St Wilfrid's at stwh.co.uk/gifts-in-wills



What a View! That's where you live! Go and have a walk! HG

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01243 786003



Defibrillator Training

**Wednesday 7th October
6pm**

Singleton Village Hall

All welcome

DEFIBRILLATORS

You will find these defibrillators locally at Singleton Village Hall (PO18 0HA), the Phone Box at Charlton (Foxhall Lane, PO18 0HX), behind East Dean Village Hall (PO18 0JG), on the front of West

Dean Stores and at Chilgrove on the flint wall of Four Walls Wine, opposite the White Horse Pub (PO18 9HX) or W3W: suspended.lace.marzipan.



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.

The Sussex Snowdrop Trust invites you to the...

**Saywell International
Supercar Day at the
Goodwood Motor Circuit
on Saturday 10th October
between
9am and 5pm - Free Entry!**

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

100 CLUB

**1st... Donated to Church Funds
2nd... Sylvia Sinahan, East Dean
3rd... Pauline Headey, East Dean**

Our lucky winners all came from East Dean this month - congratulations all round. They share prize money of £110.

After a very slow start to the renewal of tickets - we lost some members, but we did gain one or two - we are nearly back to our numbers in the spring.

Extra numbers are still available if you know anyone who may be interested in supporting the fabric funds of our three churches. Please ask them to contact me, Wendy (811608)

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The Henry Smith Charity
for
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Charity number: 214103



NEED HELP?

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

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

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

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

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

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Rain Ponchos!

I was heading out on my moped/scooter the other day and it was laggin' down with rain (hurrah!) but it wasn't anything close to cold, so I thought 'kagool' (if that's how you spell it) with a memory from the 1980s and went to hunt out the options.

Landed on this - or these - as I got 2 in a pack for £9.99. I see today that they have hiked the price to £13.99 however!

Anyway, these EVA Waterproof Ponchos with hood do the job perfectly - and for once, something actually fits me as it's like a tent!

It does have poppers down the sides so you can put it on that way if you like, but pulling over the head seems easier. And on my scooter it just about covers my knees too.

Seems great - though some reviewers say that they eventually tear. Seem quite well made to me. Here's my affiliate link at Amazon if you fancy using it - if you do, Amazon give me a few pennies. Thanks...

link.amazon/B03wvy8wH

Singleton Trees by Terry Timblick



CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE

Winter Season - Coming Soon!

This Winter, Chichester Festival Theatre is the place to see some of the country's most exciting touring theatre, music, comedy and dance.

From James Graham's Olivier Award-winning Best New Play *Punch* and the cult phenomenon turned smash-hit musical *Heathers*, to imaginative looks at three fascinating

trios: the comedians Tommy Cooper, Bob Monkhouse and Eric Morecambe in *The Last Laugh*, and Labour politicians Roy Jenkins, Denis Healey and Tony Crosland in *The Gang of Three* - both direct from London runs - there's a wealth of unforgettable stories. A gripping new production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* featuring Joe McFadden and Charlie Brooks sits alongside Noël Coward's celebrated comedy *Present Laughter* starring Tracy-Ann Oberman, James Dreyfus and Adrian Lukis.

More beloved novels come to the stage with Dickens' classic *A Tale of Two Cities* and Khaled Hosseini's acclaimed *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, while Jane Asher, Matthew Cottle, David Robb and Samantha Womack evoke the fashion choices of the late Queen in *By Royal Appointment*, and Giovanna Fletcher returns in the tense thriller *Before I Go To Sleep*.

At the heart of the Christmas programme is *Peter Pan: A Musical Adventure*, brought to life by Chichester Festival Youth Theatre, and the return of *Hey! Christmas Tree*, alongside our much-loved *Santa's Grotto* and *Christmas Concerts*. Enchanting ballet *The Nutcracker* rounds off the festive season in magical style.

An outstanding programme of one-night events includes Dame Judi Dench, Sir Derek Jacobi, *The Archers Live* at 75 and Sara Pascoe.

The Winter season follows the final shows of Festival 2026, created specially for our stages: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* relocates Shakespeare's exuberant comedy to 1990s Sussex, where rave culture collides with magic on the South Downs; while in the Minerva Theatre, *Antigone Exits* brings Greek tragedy blazing into the present day. Meanwhile, our newest venue, *The Nest*, continues to buzz with a vibrant year-round programme.

Box Office - 01243 781312 - cft.org.uk

An allocation of tickets priced at just £5 is available for 16 to 30 year olds for many productions throughout the Winter season. Sign up free at cft.org.uk/prologue



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Perfect Winter Porridge - Forget the Microwave!

I've always loved Porridge! There's a million ways to enjoy it of course, but here's my method...

- 1 measure of Porridge Oats.**
- 1 measure of milk.**
- 1 measure of water.**
- Bring to the boil, stirring throughout.**
- Remove from heat, cover and leave for 5 minutes.**
- Serve, sprinkled with brown sugar (naughty!)**

Obviously there are variations on this and I have, for some time now, used these instant microwave packs, but there's nothing quite like making it on the stove.

I remember when I lived in Scotland they used to make it with all water, no milk and salt - which I didn't like at all!

Honey, syrup, fruit - pretty much anything can be added to taste of course. Good healthy high-fibre grub!

What's your method or variation?
editor@valleydiary.org

REMEMBER THESE?

Original Mackintosh's Week-End chocolates are no longer available, as they were officially discontinued in 2019. Nestlé (which owns the former Rowntree Mackintosh brands) stopped making the classic Weekend box after falling sales, apparently.

I remember in my childhood in the 60s and 70s these were very popular and my grandparents loved them! They were a huge treat for us at xmas or birthdays! Stacked full of sugar of course - especially those Fruit Jellies - no wonder we have rotting teeth now and dentists did so well!

Wonder if someone'll bring them back during our Retro Resurgence!



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LOOK UP! What's above
your head might surprise
you in The Valley at this
time of year. *HG*

Got local photos to share?
Please do send them in...

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Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner

Last month, one of the weeks marked Rural Crime Action Week, led by the National Rural Crime Network and providing an important opportunity to shine a light on the challenges facing our rural communities. This year's campaign is about making sure the government's proposed reforms to policing do not overlook the needs of our rural communities.

Rural Voices
Real Impact



Our farmers, landowners and countryside communities face unique challenges that require specialist police knowledge, resources and collaboration to tackle effectively. That's why we established the Sussex Police Rural Crime Team in 2020 - to ensure rural crime remains a policing priority. The Rural Crime Team held events across Sussex, including activities focused on tackling livestock worrying, an issue regularly raised with me by rural residents. These events were designed to help raise awareness among dog owners and highlight the significant impact these incidents can have on farmers, their livelihoods and animal welfare. Our farming and rural communities are custodians of Sussex's countryside. By continuing to listen, engage and take action on the issues that affect them most, we can help ensure rural Sussex remains a safe and prosperous place to live and work.

Supermarkets Sad Inattention to Stock Rotation!

My 90-year-old dad wanted coffee, which was on the bottom shelf. The shelf was all-but empty, but bending at his hips he could see some in there, right at the back. Without kneeling on the floor, there no way he could get low enough to grab it - it was essentially out of arm's reach otherwise. No staff around, of course. He did kneel and once down there, his arm was just long enough to reach it. Then it was time to get back up. Struggling, nobody helped him of course. All avoidable if stock rotation is done. Which it isn't, often. No wonder people have stuff delivered, don't exercise and kill the planet with fuel being used!



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