

initiatives

issue 97 • winter 2024



Countdown to Christmas

Events galore!

Community wildlife projects

Encouraging more habitats



Christmas waste and recycling advice inside



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Welcome to the winter issue of initiatives



It's been a busy few months with lots of projects taking place across the district. On page 20 you can find out about the work we have carried out to refurbish several public toilet facilities in the district. Another key project that we gave the go ahead to in January, was to improve a number of play parks in the district. You can find out details about this on page 20.

Since last winter, we've also been carrying out some fantastic work to boost our district's strategic wildlife corridors, in partnership with our local

communities. You can find out about this wonderful project on pages 8 and 9.

In this issue we also want to highlight the work of our Social Prescribing Team. They are here for people across the district who need support with a non-medical issue that is impacting on their general health and wellbeing. Find out how to access their support on page 4.

This issue also kicks off our festive 'Countdown to Christmas' campaign and so pages 10 to 16 are jam packed with plenty of useful information that you'll need in the run-up to the big day! We will also be running a variety of festive events, including a festive market in Chichester city centre, and you can also find out about The Novium Museum's new exhibition, which focuses on memories of the 80s!

We've also included details about our waste and recycling services over the holiday period and you can find even more events in our What's On section, by turning to pages 12 and 13.

Whatever your plans are over the festive period, keep safe and have a wonderful time,

Best wishes,

Councillor Clare Apel,
Chair of Chichester District Council

Sign up to initiatives+

Get all the latest updates and details from our council by signing up to our monthly email newsletter, Initiatives+. To sign up for more news and information from across the council simply go to: www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts



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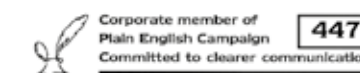
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District Council offices



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We'd like to thank our advertisers for covering the design, print and distribution costs of this magazine

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Social Prescribers: here to listen, here to help

There may be times in our lives where we find ourselves experiencing an issue that is not medical, but which is having a serious impact on our health and wellbeing. You might feel isolated, have financial worries, be experiencing housing problems, or dealing with a traumatic event such as bereavement.

Trying to find a way forward through these problems on our own can sometimes be difficult, and so our Social Prescribing Team is here to listen and work with you to plan the next step.

The service launched six years ago, and the nine-strong team supports individuals across the district, providing personalised care. The service is all about connecting people to activities, groups, and services in their community to meet the practical, social and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing.

The team also includes our specialist Youth Connections social prescriber who looks after clients aged 13 to 19. One social prescriber is based in each GP

practice across the district so that doctors can identify any patients who could benefit from the service and to make the service easily accessible. In addition, residents can now also refer themselves to the service.

The team makes a huge difference to people's health and overall quality of life and each member finds it really rewarding to help people get back on their path. Over the last year they have supported 1,200 people, which shows that there is a real need for this practical and emotional support. The social prescribers come from a variety of different backgrounds, including social care, homelessness charities and carers support.

This breadth of experience means they can assist with a wide range of needs and issues.

Our Social Prescribing service is here for you, whatever stage of life you're at.

If you're ready to move forward, whatever the issue, our team is here to listen and help you find a way to feeling healthier and more positive about the future.



If you or someone you know would find their help useful, do get in touch by emailing socialprescribers@chichester.gov.uk or visiting: www.chichester.gov.uk/socialprescribing

Let's talk about housing

Housing is a top priority for the council. Our vision is that everyone has a safe, stable and affordable home where they can live an independent and prosperous life.

Chichester District, like the rest of the country, is facing the severe effects of a housing crisis. With over 2,200 households on the council's housing waiting list, we are developing a new housing, homelessness and rough sleeping strategy. This aims to improve

the quality, supply and affordability of new homes in the district. It will cover all types of homes, including social housing, the private rented sector and owner-occupied homes.

Working with you and our partners will be key to developing the strategy and the accompanying action plan. We have already started to talk to those who are currently using our services, as well as

key partners, such as housing associations, to shape the draft strategy. Once this is ready, we will then be consulting with all of our residents in the district, giving everyone the chance to have their say on what matters most to them when it comes to housing. We expect this to be in early 2025.

If you would like to find out about housing advice and support, please visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/housing



Are you over State pension age? Make sure you are not missing out on financial support.



We are urging those over State Pension age to check if they are entitled to Pension Credit.

If you are eligible and currently not claiming Pension Credit, you could be missing out on payments, which could top up pension income, help with day-to-day living costs and provide access to the Winter Fuel Payment.

We are especially keen to raise awareness of this following a government announcement that only those receiving Pension Credit, or other means tested benefits, will now be eligible for the Winter Fuel Payment.

The deadline to apply for Pension Credit and still receive the Winter Fuel Payment is **21 December 2024**.

"Pension Credit is one of the most under-claimed benefits, with figures indicating that nearly 900,000 households across the country have not yet claimed it," says Cllr Oona Hickson, Cabinet for Housing, and Revenues and Benefits at Chichester District Council.

"A successful application for Pension Credit will also give people automatic eligibility for the Winter Fuel Payment of up to £300. We are urging any pensioners in our district to look into this as soon

as possible by visiting the Government's Pension Credit guidance online at www.gov.uk/pension-credit or by calling **0800 99 1234**."

Even though someone may have modest savings, retirement income, or own their home, they may still be entitled to claim this. The scheme can also provide access to a range of other benefits such as help with housing costs — from housing benefit (if you rent the property you live in), to support for mortgage interest (if you own the property you live in). Other benefits could include help with council tax, heating bills, help with the cost of NHS services, and for those aged 75 or over, a free TV licence.

You could be eligible for Pension Credit if your weekly income is below £218.15 or, if you have a partner who lives with you, £332.95. Qualifying income level may be higher in some circumstances.

"We also want to make people aware that our Supporting You team at Chichester District Council is available to help with the process if someone is unsure of how to apply, or if they are struggling with the application," adds Oona.

"They are a dedicated team of trained advisors who work hard to make a difference to the lives of many people living across our district by helping to

deal with a range of challenging issues at once. They work with services across the council to help people access a range of assistance including financial help to pay bills; help with housing; and health and wellbeing support."

People can find out more about the team at: www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyou, and can contact them by emailing: supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk or calling: **01243 534860**.

The council is also encouraging people to visit their Supporting You campaign web pages at: www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyou. On these pages there is a link to a free benefits and budgeting calculator. The calculator helps someone to estimate their entitlement to a range of different benefits. Anyone can use this to see what support they may be eligible for. For example, it can be used by residents to compare income under both their current situation and Universal Credit. People can also save and download information about benefits and how to maximise income and see which benefits couples can claim to maximise joint income. People can then choose to share this information with an advisor, who can give additional support and provide tips on how to make savings.





Selsey coastal scheme

We've secured more than £2.9 million to develop options and outline designs for a sea defence scheme that would reduce the risk of coastal flooding and erosion along the 4km of Selsey seafront.

The money has been awarded by the Environment Agency (EA) after the council's coastal engineering service, known as Coastal Partners, carried out early feasibility work.

The current defences are now nearing the end of their life and although a lot of work has been carried out over the years to help prolong them, a long-term solution is now a priority. A detailed bid was submitted to the EA outlining the risks and asking for funding so that essential ground investigations, flood modelling and environmental assessments can start.

The new funding means we can press ahead and come up with options and designs that will allow us to bid for further funding to move forward with the work. We expect that there will be a significant funding gap, so we'll be working hard to close this, including contacting the Environment Agency to highlight funding issues. We'll also be working with other partners and the community on funding options for a long-term solution because as things stand, additional funding is necessary to unlock the government grant. Huge amounts of work will need to take place to design and fund the scheme. If successful and all goes to plan, we anticipate that construction work would start approximately six years from now. To find out more, please visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/article/38993/Multi-million-pound-funding-is-awarded-to-investigate-options-and-designs-for-Selsey-sea-defences

Photo taken by Coastal JJ



Laser show in Petworth

We're excited to be working on preparations to bring a laser show event to Petworth on **Saturday 15 February** next year. In addition, we'll also be bringing back our popular shows to Chichester Canal Basin on **Friday 21 and Saturday 22 February** to round off the school half term week. Make sure that you save the dates – we'll have more details nearer the time, so make sure you follow our social media pages (Facebook, X and Instagram) and sign up to our monthly email newsletter at www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts

Tree scheme



TreeChichesterDistrict
PLANTING FOR OUR FUTURE

Thanks to working together with our community, 50,000 trees have been planted across the district as part of the Tree Chichester District scheme. The latest round saw 25,000 trees planted in 22 projects on 15 different sites between December 2023 and March 2024.

To find out more about this please visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/treescheme



Parking made easier

Do you use the MiPermit app to pay for your parking in Chichester District Council-run car parks? If not, the app makes it easier for you to pay by enabling you to purchase parking online or by calling 0345 520 7007. By using MiPermit you can also opt to receive a reminder by text when your parking is about to run out which gives you the option to extend it if you want to. Find out more details at www.mipermit.com/help

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Making a difference to our wildlife



In 2021, we embarked on a project to help safeguard and enhance a series of 'strategic wildlife corridors' which will help connect the South Downs National Park to the internationally designated sites of Chichester and Pagham Harbours.

'Wildlife corridors' – including woods, hedgerows and streams – are essential for allowing species to move and migrate for food and to breed. They also provide a living landscape around the most important wildlife sites, which cannot exist in isolation, but need connections to other sites and habitats. They also allow species to adapt in response to changes, both natural and man-made, making them resilient and helping to ensure their survival over the longer term.

Strategic Wildlife Corridors Officer, Mark McManus, worked on several projects last winter and says: "We carried out a huge amount of work in partnership with local landowners, community groups and volunteers across the district and it's fantastic to see some of the projects taking shape. Some projects will take time to mature, but what we have done is laid the groundwork needed to help attract and encourage wildlife and enable it to flourish."

Coir rolls in the Hambrook stream

Along the bankside of the Hambrook, 70 three-metre-long coir rolls were installed, featuring a mixture of around 700 native aquatic plants. This will increase the aquatic plant diversity for invertebrates and provide additional habitat for rare water voles. Coir rolls also help to filter the water of impurities that flow downstream towards Nutbourne and Chichester Harbour. The rolls will also help create better structure as the banks are eroded.



Hedgerows and hedge-laying at Oldwick Farm, Lavant

More than 1.5km of linear native hedgerow and tree species were planted across the paddocks at Oldwick Farm. This helped link up two parcels of ancient woodland through a paddocked area that had been previously used for gravel extraction. Species planted included Field Maple, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel and Spindle. Within five years the hedgerow will thicken and mature into a wonderful habitat for nesting farmland birds such as Linnets and Yellowhammers, while also providing a home for invertebrates and small mammals.

We also laid over 100 metres of existing hedge. Using the 'South of England' style, volunteers used stakes and binders sourced locally from West Dean woods. They used tools to partially cut through and bend the line of hedge or small trees near ground level but without breaking them. This has rejuvenated and encouraged new growth from the base. Over time the hedgerow will thicken and become a much stronger structure providing habitat for many species of wildlife.

Native tree planting, Patricia Way, Nutbourne

We provided over 100 native hedgerow whips that have been planted by local volunteers in and around this community green space. Tree saplings have also been planted including Black Poplar, Alder,

Guelder Rose and Goat Willow which all thrive in the wetter conditions that this area experiences in the winter.

Providing nestboxes and bat boxes at Old Bridge Meadow, Bosham

Last winter we installed 10 nest boxes of different designs to attract a variety of species. These were kindly made for us by the Chichester Men's Shed volunteers. It was extremely rewarding to see the nestboxes being used this spring by Robins, Blue Tits and Great Tits, which all successfully raised young chicks. We also put two bat boxes up in an area that is frequented by Common and Soprano Pipistrelle bats. Hopefully, the bats will use these to roost in.

Installing dormouse boxes at Maybush Reserve, Chidham

Several dormouse boxes were placed within this hazel copse, and in a nearby area of private land. We hope that the local dormouse population will start using these to roost and breed in, which will help increase the numbers of this declining mammal.

Dead hedging at Rolls Royce Motor Cars, Westhampnett

We worked with staff volunteers on the land adjoining the factory at Westhampnett, to help enhance the site's nature reserve. This involved creating structures using stakes and binders and then filling the spaces with cuttings, dead foliage and branches – a practice called

'dead hedging'. This creates a thick, natural structure that is used by birds, small mammals, reptiles and insects. We'll be continuing enhancement work over winter to create more bio-diverse habitats.

Find out more

People can find out more about the work being done to help protect our district's wildlife at: www.chichester.gov.uk/biodiversity



Keep your dog close in Chichester Harbour

Dog owners are being encouraged to ensure their dogs are close with them when walking in Chichester Harbour, to help protect the site's internationally important over-wintering wading birds.

"We know that people love their dogs and want to walk them along Chichester Harbour," says Councillor Jonathan Brown, Cabinet Member for Environmental Strategy at Chichester District Council. "However, research indicates that during the winter period, when dogs are off the lead and enjoying themselves, they can unintentionally disturb the winter migrating birds that feed on the ground in the harbour. These birds are internationally protected and need to build up enough energy to fly back to their summer breeding grounds.

"When a dog comes along, the birds will naturally fear a predator and either stop feeding or fly away to escape. Unfortunately, these disturbances harm the birds because they use all their energy flying away when they need to be on the ground feeding and conserving energy – it can take a bird a whole day to refuel the energy lost.

"This means that they are not gaining enough weight to survive the summer migration. Short daylight hours in winter, plus the fact that many of these birds feed at low tide, mean that feeding time is limited, so it's vital that disturbances are minimised. Unfortunately, the cumulative impact has a serious effect, and we want to raise awareness among dog owners so that humans, dogs and wildlife can co-exist. We're asking dog owners to make sure they know where the sensitive parts of the harbour are, and to ensure their dogs are close by them."

Chichester District Council is a member of Bird Aware Solent, a partnership of coastal local councils and conservation bodies from Selsey to the New Forest. The aim is to help people enjoy the coast without disturbing the thousands of birds that over winter there.

The Bird Aware Coastal Code

- Look out for birds feeding or resting on the coast.
- Take care not to scare or disturb them.
- Move further away if birds become alert and stop feeding.
- Stay on paths where they exist.
- Always follow requests on signs.
- Exercise your dog away from coastal birds to avoid disturbing them.
- Keep your dog in sight and on a short lead if you cannot rely on its obedience.
- Please clean up after your dog.
- If you are going out on the water contact the local harbour authority for special guidance.

Find out more at: birdaware.org/solent/coast-and-country-canines



Festive fun throughout the district

If you're thinking of opportunities for getting friends and family together over the next few weeks, then get your diaries ready as there is a whole host of fantastic events taking place across the district this festive period.

Chichester

Priory Park events

We'll be making Christmas magical in Priory Park with a special programme of festive events to coincide with the city's Christmas Market which runs **7-15 December**.

Families will be able to enjoy a specially-commissioned pantomime in The Guildhall **13-15 December**. The performance is being specially written and staged by two local actors.

Get your dancing shoes on for two Silent Discos taking place to tie in with the launch of The Novium Museum's 'I Grew Up 80s' exhibition. On **Thursday 15 December** there will be a family-friendly disco in the early evening and then an over-18s event later on.

We'll be dressing up The Guildhall with an eco-friendly Christmas tree and our Culture Spark partners will be organising family arts and crafts activities and music performances across the nine days.

You'll be able to find full details and book tickets through Chichester Box Office: chichesterboxoffice@ticketsolve.com

Chichester Festive Market

Chichester City Centre will host a festive market **7-15 December**. A wide variety of stalls selling Christmas gifts and novelties will be accompanied by a mouthwatering selection of festive food and drink from local vendors.

Cross Market and More

Our popular artisan market returns to the city centre on **Sunday 24 November**, celebrating the very best creatives, designers, makers and producers from the district along with

entertainment, family activities and mouthwatering food from the local area. Find out more: www.chichester.gov.uk/thecrossmarketandmore

Lights switch-on

The Chichester BID (Business Improvement District) will hold the Christmas Lights Switch-on event on **Saturday 23 November** at 5pm outside The Assembly Rooms, North Street.

To complement the event, we're working with the Chichester BID to deliver a **pop-up food event** on **Saturday 23 November** using some of our wonderful local eateries and suppliers.

From **23 November until 24 December**, the Chichester BID will also be running a family Christmas tree trail plus a Family Day on **Saturday 14 December**. Find out more at www.chichesterBID.co.uk

Tree blessing

On **Sunday 24 November** the Rotary Club of Chichester will be holding their blessing of the Christmas tree at The Cross at 4.30pm.

The Novium Museum

Starlight Trail

On **Saturday 23 November**, 2pm-4.30pm visit The Novium Museum and Pallant House Gallery to make a paper lantern and festive crafts. Find out more: chichesterboxoffice@ticketsolve.com

Gonk trail

The museum's popular Gonk Trail will run again, **Saturday 14 December – Saturday 4 January** – ideal for little ones! Find out more: www.thenovium.org.uk/whatson



Support local

To encourage people to support our local businesses, we have created personalised tags and recycled wrapping paper for our city and each of our towns to use on your Christmas gifts. You can download these to print out here www.chichester.gov.uk/countdowntochristmas

Christmas parking offers

Free parking at Avenue de Chartres car park for lights switch-on

If you're going to the big switch-on then you can park for free at Avenue de Chartres from 4pm on **Saturday 23 November**.

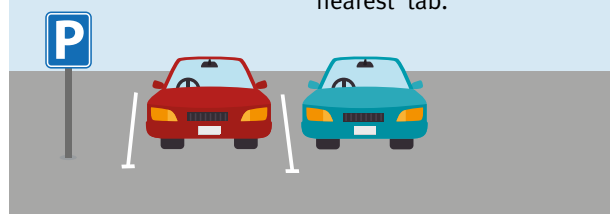
Weekend offer when using MiPermit app

When you select two hours using the MiPermit app during weekends in December, you will get the third hour free. The app is available to use in most council-owned car parks across the district. To find out more about the app, please visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/mipermit

Free Sunday parking in Avenue de Chartres during December

We are also offering free parking in our Avenue de Chartres car park in Chichester on Sundays during December 2024.

You can find out the locations of all Chichester District Council run car parks across the district by visiting: www.chichester.gov.uk/carparks or by downloading the Chichester District Council app and looking under the 'Find my nearest' tab.



Love from Chichester

For Chichester events and activities, contact the Chichester Business Improvement District (BID):

Call: **01243 773263**

Email: office@chichesterbid.co.uk

Visit: chichesterbid.co.uk

Or follow on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/chichesterBID or on X at: x.com/ChichesterBID



Love from Midhurst

For Midhurst events and activities, please contact Midhurst Town Council:

Call: **01730 816953**

Email: eventsofficer@midhurst-tc.gov.uk

Visit: www.midhurst-tc.gov.uk

Or follow on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MidhurstTC



Love from Selsey

For Selsey events and activities, please contact Selsey Town Council:

Call: **01243 605803**

Email: enquiries@selseytowncouncil.gov.uk

Visit: www.destinationseley.co.uk and click 'What's On'



Love from Petworth

For Petworth events and activities, please contact Petworth Town Council:

Call: **01798 344883**

Email: clerk@petworth-tc.gov.uk

Visit: www.petworth-tc.gov.uk

Or follow on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/PetworthTownCouncil

Love from East Wittering

For East Wittering events and activities, please contact East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council Town Council.

Call: **01243 673588**

Email: enquiries@eastwitteringbrackleshampc.org.uk

Visit: www.ewbpc.org.uk

Or follow on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/EWBPC



Midhurst

Midhurst Town Council will run their annual Christmas Street Party 11am until 10pm on **Friday 6 December** including live music; fairground rides; late-night shopping; a Christmas gift market; the popular Santa's Grotto and much more! More information will be available closer to the time at www.midhurst-tc.gov.uk

Petworth

The Petworth Christmas Cracker event takes place on **Saturday 7 December**, 11am until 7pm. Visitors will be able to enjoy a variety of stalls throughout the

day in Market Square, the High Street, Lombard Street and the Leconfield Hall. There will also be an array of musical entertainment throughout the day based in Market Square.

The town's Christmas tree lights in Market Square will be switched on by a special guest at approximately 6pm or 6.30pm. The town is looking forward to welcoming you. Parking will be busy, so visitors are asked to park considerately and to follow the instructions of marshals who will be out on the day to help people enjoy the event.

Find out more at: www.petworth-tc.gov.uk or call the town council on **01798 344883**.

Selsey

Selsey is holding a 'Community Christmas' event in the High Street on **Saturday 30 November** from 2pm until 6pm. This will include a parade at 3pm, with special guest, Steve Power. It will also feature children's entertainment and a Santa's grotto. The 'East Beach Christmas Party' will take place on the same day – **Saturday 30 November** – between 2.30pm and 5pm. Santa is arriving at 3pm. There will be fairground rides and children's entertainment. For more information see: www.destinationseley.co.uk



What's on this Christmas

Venue codes and useful numbers

CC
Chichester Cathedral
www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/events

CCC
Chichester Chamber Concerts
www.chichesterchamberconcerts.com

CFT
Chichester Festival Theatre
www.cft.org.uk

CHIBID
Chichester BID
01243 773 263
www.chichesterbid.co.uk

DS
Discover Selsey
www.destinationseley.co.uk

ME
Mulberry Marine Experiences
01243 601000 or
www.mulberry-me.co.uk/marine-ecology/beach-cleans.html

NOV
The Novium Museum
01243 7775888 or
www.thenovium.org

WD
The Weald & Downland Living Museum
01243 811363 or
www.wealddown.co.uk

Tickets for a variety of events are available from Chichester Tourist Information Centre at The Novium, Tower Street. For more information contact 01243 775888.

While every effort has been made to make sure the accuracy of this information is correct, Chichester District Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions or inconvenience caused. We would advise you to check the details with the organiser before attending any of the events published.

Apologies to those people who will get the magazine after some of the events listed. The list runs from when the first deliveries of 'initiatives' are made, but delivery to all properties normally takes two weeks.

Every week or seasonal

City centre market
Every Wednesday in North Street and East Street, Chichester.

Car boot sale
Every Sunday from 11am in Cattle Market car park.

Farmers' Market – 15 November, 6 December, 20 December
North and East Street, Chichester City Centre. 9am-2pm, 1st and 3rd Friday of each month (including bank holidays).

New Park Community & Arts Centre

Offering a wide variety of arts, sports, community events and activities. See more at www.newparkcentre.org.uk/WHATSON or email facilities/booking enquiries to operations@newparkcentre.org.uk

Midhurst Farmers and Artisan Market
First Saturday of the month, 9am-2pm. Market Square.

Midhurst Vintage Fair
The second Saturday of the month 10am-4pm in the Market Square.

Petworth Farmers Market
Fourth Saturday of the month, 9am-1pm. Market Square.

4 Nov – 8 Dec

Seal Safari and Birdwatching Boat Trips. Chichester Harbour Conservancy. www.boattripschichesterharbour.co.uk

6 Nov

Violet's Titanic Escape. Chichester Literary Society Talks. Boxgrove Village Hall, 1.20pm, £8. www.chichesterliterarysociety.org

From 6 Nov

Watercolour Classes. Wednesdays and Fridays, 12.30pm-3.30pm. Roussillon Park Community Hall, Chichester. johnhillwatercolour.com

7 Nov

Pageantry and Horses. Talks at Six. Bassil Shippam Centre, PO19 7LG. 6pm-7pm. www.talksatsix.co.uk

8 Nov

Evening Armistice Talk. Stansted House. "Remembrance, Faith and

Identity", a talk by Justin Maciejewski DSO MBE, Director General of the National Army Museum. www.stanstedpark.co.uk/armisticelecture

9 Nov until 27 Apr
Dora Carrington: Beyond Bloomsbury. Pallant House Gallery

10 and 24 Nov, 8 Dec, 21 Jan, 8 and 22 Feb, 23 Mar

Marine Life Walks. Guided, suitable for all ages. ME

10 Nov, 12 Jan and 2 Mar
Antique & Collectors Fair. The Grange Centre, Midhurst. 10am-4pm. £2.00. www.grandmasatticfairs.co.uk

11 Nov

Eleonora Tully 'coastal crochet'. Chichester Creative Textiles. Talk and workshop from Elenora Tully, crochet designer. From 11am. £5 admission for talk. Lavant Memorial Hall

16 Nov

Joanna Cooke live at Empire Hall. Live blues music at Empire Hall, Graffham. 8pm, £12. www.empirehall.org.uk

16 Nov, 21 Dec, 19 Jan, 15 Feb, 15 Mar
Monthly Market at The Grange. 8.30am-2pm

16 and 17 Nov

Milland Contemporary Crafts. Exhibition and Sale. Milland Village Hall, 01428 741530

20 Nov

Harbour Tots – Hibernating Hedgehogs. Chichester Harbour Conservancy. Outdoor fun for toddlers, Dell Quay. www.conservancy.co.uk/education/harbour-tots

21 Nov

Shipwrecks in dark seas. Chichester Historical Association. £5. 7.30pm, Friends' Meeting House, Priory Road, Chichester. chihistoricalassociation@gmail.com

23 Nov

Selsey Shantyman in Concert. 7.30-10pm, Assembly Room, North Street. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/shiver-me-timbers-tickets-1004771537717

23 Nov

Chichester Christmas Lights switch-on. CHIBID

23 Nov

Starlight Trail. NOV

24 Nov, 15 Dec, 26 Jan, 23 Feb, 30 Mar

Indoor car boot at The Grange. 10am-1pm

24 Nov

Cross Market and More. North and East Street, Chichester. 10am-4pm

24 Nov

Tree blessing – Rotary Club of Chichester. Chichester Market Cross, 4.30pm

28 Nov

Vintage Celebrations by Dawn Gracie – Talks at Six. Bassil Shippam Centre, PO19 7LG at 6-7pm. www.talksatsix.co.uk

30 Nov

Indoor Christmas Market at The Novium Museum. 10am-4pm. NOV

30 Nov – 5 Jan

A Christmas Spectacular at Petworth House. Discover eight historic showrooms dressed for Christmas. 10.30am-4pm

From 7 Dec

I Grew Up 80s exhibition. More details to follow. NOV

6 and 7 Dec

A Christmas Carol at Stansted House. Explore Stansted House with characters from Charles Dickens' classic. www.stanstedpark.co.uk/whatson

7 Dec

Petworth Christmas Cracker. Festive activities and stalls, 11am-7pm. Lights switch-on around 6pm. www.petworth-tc.gov.uk

7 Dec

Christmas fair at The Grange. 9am-2pm

7 Dec

Binocular and Telescope Open Day – RSPB Pagham. 10am-3pm. Free.

7 – 29 Dec

Hey! Christmas Tree. An enchanting festive story by Michael Morpurgo for ages 3-7. CFT

7 and 8 Dec

Christmas arts and crafts activities with music. The Guildhall, Priory Park

7 – 15 Dec

Chichester Festive Market. East Street and North Street, Chichester

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13 – 15 Dec

Pantomime in The Guildhall. Priory Park. NOV

14 Dec – 4 Jan

Gonk Trail. NOV

From 14 Dec

Panto at New Park Centre. Various performance days and times. CardboardBoxTheatre@outlook.com

15 Dec and 16 Feb

Antique & Collectors Fair. Westgate Leisure Centre, Chichester. 10am-4pm, £2. www.grandmasatticfairs.co.uk

5 Jan

Toy fair at The Grange. 9.45am-1.15pm

15 Jan

Lavant Horticultural Society. 'Gales, green houses and global warming'. Talk by Ian Currie. 2pm, Lavant Memorial Hall

20 Jan

'Flying the Jaguar, whilst in the RAF' – Air Aces Talks. Talk from Tim Kerres. £10, Boxgrove Village Hall. www.airaces.org.uk

23 Jan

Maxwell quartet. The Assembly Room, Chichester. 7.30pm. CCC

28 Jan – 1 Feb

A Man for All Seasons. Martin Shaw stars in the classic Tudor drama. CFT

From 1 Feb

Chichester Pride Exhibition. NOV

1 and 2 Feb

Chichester Camera Club Members exhibition. North Mundham Village centre, Mundham. Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-4pm, £1

14 Feb – 15 Nov

Religion, Rebellion, and Reformation. Exhibition celebrating Chichester Cathedral as part of Chichester950. CC

15 Feb

Guided Walk: Magnificent Medmerry. RSPB Pagham. 10am, £8 / £5 members. events.rspb.org.uk/paghamharbour

27 Feb

Atenea Quartet with Jaren Ziegler viola. The Assembly Room, North Street, Chichester. 7.30pm. CCC



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EXHIBITION

Religion, Rebellion & Reformation

14th February – 15th November 2025

CONCERT

Together in Unity

Saturday 17th May 2025

PARTY

TrinityFest on the Green

Sunday 15th June 2025

EXHIBITION

Immersive Light Show

Friday 24th – Friday 31st October 2025

CHICHESTERCATHEDRAL.ORG.UK/CHICHESTER950



Shop local. Visit local. Support local.

www.chichester.gov.uk/countdowntochristmas

Shop Local this Christmas!

During the festive season we are keen to encourage as many people as possible to 'shop local, visit local and support local' to give our amazing independent businesses a boost.

Our fantastic high streets in Chichester, East Wittering, Midhurst, Petworth and Selsey have so much to offer, with local and beautiful gifts from a wide variety of shops, many of which you can't find anywhere else. And while you're busy ticking gifts off your shopping list, don't forget to visit the district's great selection of cafes and restaurants while you're out and about too.

Support your regular local markets

You can buy all your festive food from local producers at our popular Chichester Farmers' Markets.

Pop along to Chichester Farmers' Market on **6 and 20 December** for a range of delicious breads, cheese, meats, cakes and pastries, olives, fruit and vegetables and more. Some stalls will even be taking pre-Christmas orders. Please ask individual stallholders for more information.

After the Christmas break, the markets will resume on **17 January 2025** and will then take place as normal on the first and third Friday of each month.

Find out more at: www.facebook.com/ChichesterDistrictEventsAndMarkets and on X (previously Twitter): [@ChiFarmMkt](https://twitter.com/ChiFarmMkt)

The Novium Museum will also be holding their first ever indoor Christmas Market on **30 November** from 10am until 4pm.

General market

In addition, the Wednesday and Saturday general market will take place in their regular locations both during and after December, apart from on **Wednesday 11 December** – this date will be moved to **Monday 23 December** instead. Find out more at: bray-markets.com

Businesses support local suppliers



We have a variety of high-quality local food producers here in the district, and many have signed up to the Sussex Six campaign, which is all about encouraging businesses in the area to stock or use more locally-made produce.

Launched in summer, the campaign aims to get more of the district's shops, pubs, restaurants and cafes stocking and using at least six products or ingredients from the local area which can be highlighted with customers through their menus, shelves, websites and social media channels.

Chichester District Council is helping to fund the scheme using money that we secured from the government, and we've had an

enthusiastic response to the campaign so far with a number of businesses signing up either as venues or suppliers in the Chichester District Directory.

So, this festive season, you can help by supporting local businesses by buying from local shops and food businesses – simply look out for the for the 'Sussex Six' logo. By supporting our amazing food businesses and producers you are really helping our local economy.

"This campaign is all about highlighting the great work that our food businesses are already doing to support local suppliers and help create supply chains in the area," says Councillor Harsha Desai, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Communications, Licensing and Events at Chichester District Council. "Highlighting that they are using local produce and stocking local products can really help to increase customer numbers and loyalty for our independent businesses.

"We have so many fantastic and high-quality suppliers within the Chichester District and wider Sussex area and it would be wonderful for as many food businesses who don't currently stock local produce to use this as an opportunity to get behind these suppliers. By supporting them we help keep money within our local economy, which is really important during the busy festive season, and in turn supports local jobs."

Businesses that have signed up include The Hungry Guest in Petworth; Langham Brewery shop in Lodsworth; Sky Park Farm in Harting; The Escapist Brew Company in Chichester and Milland Community Store and Café, and Stubbcroft Farm Campsite, an award-winning sustainable, family-run site.

If you're a local business that makes, serves and sells local produce then make sure you get listed for free before Christmas at www.sussexfoodanddrink.org – it's free and being listed helps to increase your visibility and promote what you do.

If you're looking to buy locally made produce, then head to these pages for places where you can enjoy and purchase local products:

sussexfoodanddrink.org/chichester-producers
sussexfoodanddrink.org/shopping-chichester
sussexfoodanddrink.org/eat-out-take-away-chichester



Back to... the 1980s at The Novium Museum

A fun and nostalgic showcase of memorabilia from the 'greatest decade in the history of history' is coming to The Novium Museum in Chichester.

'I Grew Up 80s' is set to provide a colourful trip down memory lane, capturing what the decade was like from a child's perspective when music was on cassettes, shellsuits and leg warmers were must-haves and everyone received a Rubik's Cube for Christmas.

The period saw huge developments in science, technology, fashion, entertainment and the way we interact with each other. The exhibition will explore life before

the internet and investigates the shared cultural experience of childhood in the 1980s.

Visitors will find more than 200 items of memorabilia showcasing the youthful exuberance of the decade, from toys such as Care Bears, My Little Pony and Transformers, to album covers of timeless musicians like Queen, George Michael, Phil Collins and Kate Bush.

'I Grew Up 80s' is guaranteed to bring back many memories but also provides an enlightening insight for children to see the differences between then and now.

The exhibition will launch with a 'Celebration of the 1980s' event on Saturday 7 December and the

museum will also be running a special events programme including an 80s Bingo Night with Dawn Gracie on Friday 13 December. Find out more by visiting: www.thenovium.org/whatson

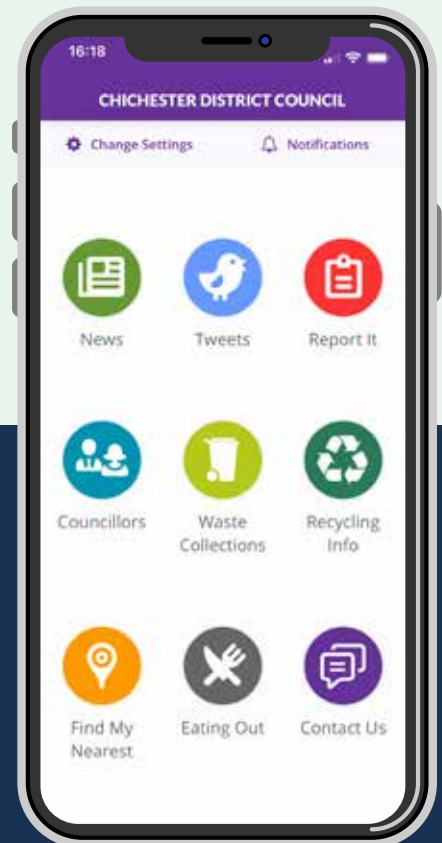
The exhibition opens at The Novium Museum on Saturday 7 December 2024 and runs until Saturday 8 June 2025. Tickets cost £5 for adults, £3 for children or £14 for a family of up to five (maximum 2 adults). For more information, and to book visit: www.thenovium.org/1980s

Download the Chichester District App

Don't forget that you can also download the Chichester District Council app from the Apple app store or the Google Play store. This enables you to view your waste and recycling collection dates and sign up to receive handy reminders when your bins are due for collection. Please make sure that you switch your notifications on to get live updates on your recycling and waste services including personal notifications of any changes to collections. For more information please visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp

The app enables you to:

- sign up to receive weekly reminders on recycling or waste collections, including our garden recycling service.
- search how and where items can be recycled at home or at the local recycling centre.
- read council news.
- complete 'Report It' forms for issues such as street cleaning, fly-tipping, or to request a new bin.
- find your nearest facilities, such as recycling centres, car parks and public toilets.
- view local food hygiene ratings for restaurants and cafes.





Festive recycling

Collection dates over Christmas

Our recycling and waste collection dates will be altering over the festive period. Below you will find a table showing all changes during December and January. You can view your personal collection dates on our website by visiting: www.chichester.gov.uk/wastecollectioncalendar

Normal Collection Day	Pre-Christmas week	Christmas week	New Year week	Post-New Year
Monday	16/12/2024	23/12/2024	31/12/2024	07/01/2025
Tuesday	17/12/2024	24/12/2024	02/01/2025	08/01/2025
Wednesday	18/12/2024	27/12/2024	03/01/2025	09/01/2025
Thursday	19/12/2024	28/12/2024	04/01/2025	10/01/2025
Friday	20/12/2024	30/12/2024	06/01/2025	11/01/2025

You can also download the Chichester District Council app www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp which enables you to view your collection dates and sign up to receive handy reminders for when your bins are due for collection.

What can I recycle?

Please refer to our handy checklist to see which items can and cannot be recycled in your burgundy bin.

Empty chocolate advent calendars	✓
Cardboard boxes and packaging	✓
Polystyrene	✗
Wrapping paper and empty tubes	✓
Shiny or metallic wrapping paper	✗
Greetings cards and envelopes	✓
Ribbons and bows	✗
Plastic confectionery tubs	✓
Plastic meat trays	✓
Plastic film and wrapping	✗
Foil and mince pie cases	✓
Glass bottles and jars	✓



To find out more, use the handy searchable A-Z of recycling and waste.

Our Garden Recycling Service will stop from **20 December 2024** and will start again on **6 January 2025**. You can recycle your real Christmas tree using the Garden Recycling Service.

There will also be some slight changes to the clinical waste collections — all affected residents will be contacted directly.



We've teamed up with St Wilfrid's Hospice once again to promote their Christmas Tree Recycling Scheme.

If you sign up, St Wilfrid's volunteers will collect your real Christmas tree and recycle it for you in January 2025, in return for a donation to the hospice.

Collection dates will be **10 – 13 January 2025** and bookings close on **6 January**. Postcodes being covered are: PO18, PO19, PO20, PO21, PO22, PO10, GU29, GU28, BN18, and the suggested donation is £15 per tree.

Find out more at www.stwh.co.uk

Customer Care Centre Christmas closure

Our Customer Service Centre will be closed from midday on **Tuesday 24 December 2024**, and will reopen on **Thursday 2 January 2025**.

If you need to contact our car parks office, please go to www.chichester.gov.uk/applyreportpay or call our out-of-hours messaging service on **01243 785166** or **01243 534734**.

For any other district council-related emergency, please call the 'emergency out of hours' number on **01243 785339**. If you have an enquiry about roads, pavements and street lighting, or need to report a fault relating to them, please contact West Sussex County Council by calling **01243 777100** or visiting www.westsussex.gov.uk You can also access our services online at www.chichester.gov.uk



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How to get your home weather ready this winter

As we all know, our weather is becoming more unsettled through the year. During the winter months, we've been seeing much more rain which can increase the risk of flooding, along with sudden cold spells and extreme weather. This is why it's so important that we are prepared.

There are several things we can all do to make sure our homes, gardens and businesses are ready for the months ahead and so we have collated some useful tips and information.



Know what to do in a power cut

During extreme weather, power cuts may occur. If this happens, you must contact your electricity Distribution Network Operator by calling 105, and someone will put you through to your area operator.

Check if you're at risk of long-term flooding

Check the flood risk for your postcode area at: www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk.

Sign up for flood warnings

In many flood risk areas, you can sign up for flood warnings by visiting: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings. These warn of the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea and groundwater. You can receive alerts by phone, email, or text when flooding is expected. Please note that these alerts are not available in all areas.

Know how to turn off your gas, water, and electricity supply

Familiarise yourself with where your mains water, gas and electricity shut-off is, in case you need to leave your home because of flooding. The location of these varies between properties. Gas shut-off valves

are normally beside the meter. The mains electricity cut-off is usually a big red switch on your fuse box. If you can't find your water stopcock, ask someone with practical experience or a plumber to help you.

Are you insured?

Sometimes no amount of planning and preparation can stop weather events from damaging your property. Insurance offers peace of mind so you know that whatever happens, your home and property is covered. Ensure your policy is up-to-date and covers what you need.

Protect your property

When high winds are forecast, remember that this can turn everyday items like garden furniture and chairs into dangerous objects. Make sure they are secure or stored away before a storm or when high winds are forecast.

Check your roof and guttering

Before it gets windy or a storm hits, check your roof for loose tiles, slates and flashing. It's also worth removing dead branches from old trees. In winter, leaves can build up in your guttering and drainpipes. As a result, water may not drain away properly and will leak into the roof and sides of your house, so do consider having your gutters cleared.

Insulate water pipes and tanks

Be prepared for cold weather and make sure water pipes and water tanks in your property are covered with good quality insulation. This will help insulate your hot water system, helping you to save money and protect them from freezing.

Find out more at: prepare.campaign.gov.uk/get-prepared-for-emergencies

Keep a list of important numbers

Make a list of numbers you'll need in an emergency, including local services and loved ones.

Print or write them on paper just in case the situation means you can't use your mobile phone.

Also, write down your plan of action, including what to take if you need to leave your home quickly.

It's also worth bookmarking these webpages:

Met Office: www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/weatherready

British Red Cross: www.redcross.org.uk/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies



Improving your play areas

We're currently working on a key project to refurbish several play areas in Chichester.

The project was given the go-ahead by councillors in July, who approved a total budget of £814,000 to refurbish play parks at Sherborne Road; Whyke Oval; the Amphitheatre; Priory Park; Florence Park; and Oaklands Park.

"Outside play areas are vital to help our children develop physically, socially, creatively and emotionally, and I know that this project will make a huge difference to families and children across the area," says Councillor Mark Chilton, Cabinet Member for Contract Services at Chichester District Council.

"The level of work required in these play areas varies. At some of sites the equipment has been there a long time and is very worn, so we'll need to replace it, while a couple of areas will need more of a light touch refurbishment.

"We'll also be looking to enhance certain areas by installing some inclusive play equipment which can be used by disabled children and those with health conditions and impairments."

Over the summer holidays members of the council's Green Spaces team spent time in

each play area identified for refurbishment, talking to children, parents, and carers about how they use the play equipment, and asked for ideas and comments which will be used to help shape proposals.

"We received a really positive response to our initial consultation, and we'd like to thank everyone we spoke to who took the time to give us their thoughts and ideas," adds Cllr Chilton. "The team will now be working with play area specialists on a series of proposals and which we'll share with members of the public as part of a second stage of consultation."

Refurbishing toilets in the district

We've just finished a major project to refurbish several key public toilet sites in the district to ensure that our facilities are of a high standard for residents and visitors.

Work was carried out to Market Avenue and Priory Park in Chichester; East Beach in Selsey; and, Bosham to install new flooring, tiling, and sanitary ware. Some of the sites now also have solar panels and LED lights fitted which are more efficient and better for the environment. All the sites also have new disabled facilities that meet modern legislation.

In addition, councillors have approved budget to replace the public toilets and provide associated landscaping in Tower Street, Chichester. They have agreed a new facility consisting of three toilets, including a disabled access toilet, plus a 'pocket park' and bicycle storage.

"The existing toilet block in Tower Street has severe structural and subsidence issues which were highlighted last year as part of our current refurbishment project,"

explains Councillor John Cross, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Place at Chichester District Council. "Putting these issues right would have cost the council significant amounts of money to resolve, and so several options were put forward for the site.

"As a council, we felt it was really important for our residents and visitors to keep public toilet facilities on the site, and so we investigated the option of using direct access toilets (also known as modular toilets).

"I'm very pleased that as a council we are still able to invest in this service for our residents and visitors and I'm delighted that this year's refurbishment project has been completed, with work on the Tower Street site to begin shortly."



Expert advice on paying for care

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Scrutinising our work

You've probably have heard of our Cabinet, Full Council, Planning Committee and Licensing Committee meetings, but you may not be so familiar with the work of another key committee – the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (often referred to as O&S) performs a key function by reviewing existing council policy and decisions and holds executive and Cabinet members to account. It has also the power to ask for a decision taken by the Cabinet to be reconsidered before it is introduced.

While the Committee has no 'formal' power to force anyone to make changes, it can help influence decisions and encourage the executive to implement recommendations.



The committee can require any member of the council's Cabinet, chief officer, and /or any divisional manager to attend to explain a decision concerning their area of responsibility.

It can also invite other public sector or public service officials, external partners and/or residents and stakeholders to address it, discuss issues of local concern and/or answer questions. Recommendations may be made to the Cabinet or directly to Council. If scrutinising an external partner or partnership, recommendations may be made directly to that body.

"The committee plays a really important role in addressing issues which are fundamental to our communities and ensures openness and transparency in how decisions are made," explains Committee Chair, Councillor Donna Johnson. "Our role is to be a critical, but supportive friend, and identify where policies and decisions impacting our residents can be improved."

"The last year has been extremely interesting and informative. A key piece of work was inviting the Sussex Police and

Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne along, so that we could raise various concerns. We discussed a range of issues, including police resourcing, road safety and anti-social driving and rural crime.

"Other work has involved finding out more about the work of the Chichester BID (Business Improvement District) and how they are supporting businesses who pay the BID levy. We've also been looking at the Social Prescribing service and hearing about Coastal Partners and their role in protecting our district's coastal areas."

The committee has invited the head of West Sussex County Council's Highways Department to attend the meeting in December and over the next year work will include monitoring and reviewing the work around the Southern Gateway project and the council's budget.

You can watch Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings online at www.chichester.gov.uk/viewcouncilmeetings and you can access agendas and minutes at: www.chichester.gov.uk/Committees

Find out who your local district councillor is by going to: www.chichester.gov.uk/Committees



Local Plan examination

The Local Plan is currently being examined by planning inspectors. Hearings started on **1 October** and are expected to run until **13 November**. You can find out more details at: www.chichester.gov.uk/localplanexaminationnews

Climate change consultation – thank you!

love your district protect our world

Thank you so much to all of those who took part in our Climate Change consultation, which we featured in our last issue of initiatives. Over 1,000 submissions were received and your answers and comments will now help to shape our new climate emergency action plan, which will run from 2025-2030. We're busy assessing all of these and will then share them with our councillors. We will feed back on the outcome of the consultation in a future issue of initiatives.

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