

initiatives

issue 99 • summer 2025



Against Litter

Keeping our district beautiful

Investment in play areas
Refurbishments underway

Community Wardens
Celebrating 20 years

Summer fun across the district

See inside for details about the amazing events taking place!



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Welcome to the summer issue of initiatives



I am sure you'll agree that it's been a very busy year so far, with plenty going on across the district.

We have lots to tell you about in this issue, including our project to refurbish play areas in Chichester which is well underway. You can find out more about on page 5.

I know that many of you will have family members and friends who would have worked at the famous Shippam's factory in Chichester years ago. The factory has a very special place in people's hearts and The Novium Museum will be telling the Shippam's story at their new headline exhibition which you can learn more about on page 4.

You'll also be interested to know that we are working on a project to introduce food waste

collections next spring, and on page 6, you can find out about a new milestone as we get prepared for this new service.

In this issue you can also read about some of the business and community projects that we have been funding throughout the district.

On page 14, we celebrate our Community Wardens who have been helping residents for an amazing 20 years and we also feature the wonderful story of Mud Foods on page 16, a business that started its journey at our St James Industrial Estate, and which has now returned following the investment we have made into the site.

No doubt many of you will be having picnics and barbecues over the summer so on page 10 we have a few reminders of how you can help us to keep the district looking beautiful through our Against Litter campaign.

Don't forget that our What's On pages both here and online will have lots of ideas for activities and events to keep you busy over the next couple of months. As ever, I hope you all have a wonderful summer and enjoy all that our district has to offer.

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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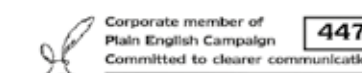
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Hurrah for Shippam's

The Novium Museum

Behind every jar of potted paste was a person, a story – and a city. One of Chichester's most beloved brands is stepping back into the spotlight with a major new exhibition at The Novium Museum, opening 12 July 2025.

Famous for their potted meat and fish pastes, Shippam's was a household name for over two centuries. But behind the iconic glass jars was a deeply local story – of family, community, and innovation.

Thanks to a £44,593 grant from Arts Council England, the museum has been working with volunteers and the community to unlock the extraordinary advertising archive from Shippam's which forms part of the collection at The Novium Museum.

The result is a vibrant, nostalgic, and at times surprising exhibition that explores not just what Shippam's made, but who they were – and why the company meant so much to so many.

Founded in 1786, Shippam's grew from a local grocer into a global food manufacturer – exporting products around the world while remaining proudly rooted in Chichester. Known for looking after their staff, Shippam's became a cherished local employer. Generations of families worked there. School-leavers found lifelong careers. Couples met in the social clubs. Loyalty ran deep. For many, it wasn't just work – it was family.

This exhibition brings the story of Shippam's to life through rarely-seen photographs, quirky advertising, colourful packaging, and objects from life on the factory floor. You'll hear from the people

who worked on the lines, packed jars, and operated the switchboards – with their voices collected through new oral histories. Visitors of all ages can even explore archaeological finds from the old East Walls factory site. Children can get hands-on with interactive drawers, explore a Shippam's play shop, handle real museum objects, and enjoy themed activities within the exhibition. A series of free family days will also run throughout the summer holidays, offering Shippam's-inspired craft sessions.

Whether you remember the advertising jingles, worked at the factory, or are just curious to explore a truly local legacy, this exhibition offers something for everyone. Come and uncover the story of Chichester's 'Ace of Pastes' – and rediscover a slice of history that's anything but bland.

Admission is free, with donations welcome.

FIND OUT MORE AT
www.thenovium.org/shippams



Refurbishment of play areas begins!

Our exciting £800,000 project to refurbish several district council-run play areas is well underway and nearing completion.

Work to update Priory Park, Sherborne Road and Whyke Oval began in June following a 'light touch' refurbishment of Florence Road play area in March. Once the current phase of work has concluded then our specialist contractors will move on to Oaklands Park.

We anticipate that this work will be finished by the beginning of the summer holidays, ready for little ones across the area to have fun!

Work on the Amphitheatre play area will begin once we have approval from Historic England. If approved, work is likely to take place late summer or early autumn.

"We know that outside play areas are vital for helping our children develop physically, socially, creatively and emotionally, and so it's important that they are in top condition," says Councillor Mark Chilton, Cabinet Member

for Finance, Corporate Services and Chichester Contract Services at Chichester District Council. "Once refurbished, the new and improved play areas will offer an experience for a range of ages and abilities, including the opportunity to learn, interact, imagine and play together.

"It's really important to us that all of the sites are open and accessible to everyone, and so our plans feature a range of inclusive play equipment. To help with this, we have worked closely with a local children's charity, Parents and Carers Support Organisation (PACSO), and incorporated their feedback into the designs.

"I'd also like to thank everyone who took part in our consultation. We received some really useful comments, and the designs were refined to take account of these.

"Our plans also include enhancing Oaklands Park so that it becomes a flagship 'destination' play area. To help deliver this particular part of the project, we are working in partnership with Chichester City Council. Usually larger

than an average play park, a destination play area, offers a unique, engaging and exciting experience for all, with a wide range of creative play equipment to entertain people for a longer period of time.

"This type of play area serves as a 'day out' for local residents as well as visitors from further afield who will travel for the bespoke experience. We believe our plans for Oaklands Park will benefit our local communities, while also acting as an attractive draw to the city for those outside the area, which will help to support the local economy."

For updates on this project, visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/latestnews; follow us on social media; or sign up to our email newsletter: www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts

Our 12-strong Green Spaces team cares for and manages a range of parks; gardens; ponds; sports pitches; play areas; local nature reserves; and open spaces. Find out more at: www.chichester.gov.uk/parksandgardens



Dates for your diary!

Events that Chichester District Council is supporting over the coming months:

Sunday 10 August
Skate, Scoot & Bike
Chichester skate park

Enjoy thrills and spills with a repeat of last year's event, but bigger and even better. With demonstrations, hands-on activities and live music.

Sunday 17 August
Antiques and arts festival
Chichester city centre

As well as a variety of vintage items and antiques discover some fantastic local artists and their work and soak up the city's summer atmosphere.

Sunday 24 August
Emergency Services Day
Oaklands Park, Chichester

Fun for all the family – meet representatives from local emergency services, see their fantastic vehicles and enjoy a range of stands and activities.

Don't miss out on our events!

Make sure that you don't miss our events by signing up to our monthly **Initiatives+** email newsletter. Get event dates, council news and information straight to your inbox – sign up at: www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts



We're busy preparing for your new food waste recycling collection service!



From Spring 2026, we will start rolling out a new weekly food waste recycling collection for households. Implementing a new service like this is a big job, and requires a lot of forward planning, but we are excited to have placed orders for our trucks, caddies and bins. Our first truck has already arrived with the remaining fleet to arrive later this year.

Each household will receive a small food waste caddy to use in the kitchen and a larger bin for outdoor collection. These will be distributed next year in time for the service rollout, which will take place between March and the end of May 2026. The rollout for properties who share communal bins will start later in the year and more information will be released nearer the time.

Food waste collections will be every week, with all household recycling, waste, and garden waste (if subscribed to) continuing as usual every two weeks.

Currently, about a third of the waste in the average household bin in the district is food. By collecting food waste separately, it can be recycled through Anaerobic Digestion – a process where food waste is broken down to produce biogas and bio-fertiliser and is a much more efficient and environmentally friendly way of processing.

The new service is also expected to encourage residents to reduce their

food waste, potentially saving around £20 per person per month. For tips on how to reduce your food waste please visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/fightagainstfoodwaste

To help you prepare, we are encouraging you to download our free Chichester District App from either the Apple or Google Play store and turn on your notifications. This is the best way to receive regular, tailored updates about your bin collections. By turning on notifications, you can get reminders and updates specific to your collection schedule and stay up to date with information on the new service rollout. You can find out more about the app at: www.chichester.gov.uk/chichesterdcapp

This is a significant change that promises to bring substantial benefits to our district. We will keep you well-informed of our progress and provide more details as we approach the launch of the new service. You can also find out more at: www.chichester.gov.uk/food-waste

For information on food waste collections for businesses, visit <https://businesswaste.chichester.gov.uk>



Free falls prevention course!

Do you feel a little unsteady on your feet or have concerns about balance and mobility? Would you like to improve your balance?

Our FREE Falls Prevention Exercise Service is here to support adults of all ages who are at risk of falls to lead a confident, secure and active life. **24-week course.** Mondays 1-2pm and Thursdays 1.15pm – 2.15pm, New Park Centre, Chichester. Led by our friendly Postural Stability Instructors.

Visit: westsussex.everyonehealth.co.uk or phone: 0333 005 0095

everyonehealth
because everyone matters

Free, friendly support with *chichester wellbeing*

Our Chichester Wellbeing programme provides free support for adults who live or work in the district. We aim to help people make small changes to their lifestyles that will make a big difference to their health and wellbeing, including reducing their risk of heart disease, stroke, Type 2 Diabetes and some cancers.

Our Wellbeing Advisors can help with weight management;

healthy eating; stopping smoking; alcohol reduction; falls prevention; and becoming more active.

Book in for a free one-to-one appointment by calling: **01243 52104** or emailing: wellbeing@chichester.gov.uk. You can also follow us on Facebook [@ChichesterWellbeing](https://www.facebook.com/ChichesterWellbeing)

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Over £800,000 allocated to support projects across the district

Over the past year, we've been pleased to allocate more than £800,000 of grant funding to help deliver a range of projects that encourage economic growth and improve quality of life across the Chichester District.



Funded by
UK Government



We've supported 65 grant-funded projects in the last 12 months, following a successful bid to the government three years ago in which we secured money from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund aims to boost economic growth and improve quality of life by funding projects that invest in communities and place, local businesses, and people and skills. The Rural England Prosperity Fund is for projects that support businesses and community infrastructure to address challenges faced by rural areas.

"It's fantastic to see the amazing variety of projects that we've been able to support with this funding, from small charities to growing businesses and community organisations," says Councillor John Cross, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Place at Chichester District Council.

"During the previous year, 23 projects were approved in our area, all of which were successfully completed by April 2024. Since then, we've been issuing many more grants as part of a second round of funding. I'm pleased to say that we've been able to support a further 65 grant-funded projects, which were all completed throughout the year.

"These varied and exciting projects are already making a huge difference to our businesses and community groups, helping them to expand their customer offer and allowing them more flexibility. Some of the businesses have also been able to keep jobs in our district and increase staff posts, supporting our local economy and ensuring that our communities continue to thrive."

Here are some of the recently completed projects that have benefited from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Selsey Community Forum

Grant funding was awarded to this local initiative to provide one-to-one support that helps people of all ages and situations to find voluntary work or paid employment. The service includes help with CV writing, interview practice and signposting to available courses.

Manhood Wildlife and Heritage Group

This community group was issued funding to help people connect with part of our district's local history. The group produced a film recounting the fascinating but ill-fated story of the Selsey Tramway, which was featured in an exhibition on the same topic at The Novium Museum in Chichester www.thenovium.org.uk/selseytramway

Berries on Tap

This is one of many businesses that successfully bid for a grant to help install renewable energy features with the aim of reducing environmental impact and energy costs. Berries on Tap provides locally grown produce and locally produced goods. They installed a solar panel to their innovative customer vending machine, which is helping them to grow the retail side of their business.

Chichester Racquets and Fitness Club

A grant was used to part-fund a project that enabled this sports club to upgrade all of the existing flood lights to LEDs at the Chichester tennis and padel courts, which means that more people can benefit from these valuable facilities.



Shore Watersports

Based in East Wittering, Shore Watersports, used their grant to install solar panels to their warehouse and to purchase a battery to store the energy generated. They are now 73% self-powered and the battery ensures they can continue operations if the mains power supply is interrupted.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund has supported a variety of different businesses, including:

Legend Presents

A new arena, viewing area and a coffee shack were created to support Legend Presents' annual jousting festival in Loxwood. Following a successful 2024, the organisation is intending to employ more people and for longer this year.

Axiom Product Development

Axiom Product Development used this funding to develop their business by purchasing a large-scale 3D printer, which has increased capacity and resulted in a new job role.



Axiom Product Development

Directly delivered projects

We've also been able to use funding from the UK Shared Prosperity scheme to support a number of council initiatives. In the past year, we've directly delivered a range of free community events, including the popular Chichester Laser Light Shows and some brand-new events, such as 'Skate, Scoot and Bike' in Chichester, and the Good Food For All 'Festival' in the city centre. We've also

supported free events in rural areas of the district including the Petworth Laser Light Show and Midhurst March Mayhem.

We're pleased to say that we've been allocated further UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity funding for the year 2025-2026, and a number of direct delivery projects that will benefit our local communities are already underway!

New Park celebrates its 50th anniversary!

For half a century the New Park Centre has been at the heart of Chichester, offering a space for people to 'connect, create and celebrate' and currently offers more than 100 arts, sports and community activities to people each week, and is also home to the Chichester Cinema.

The centre stands on the site of the former Sussex Central School for Boys, which was established in 1818. In 1888, it became the Central Junior Church of England Boys' School, until the school was relocated in 1964.

In 1968, the building was saved as a community centre and is now leased from Chichester District Council by New Park Community & Arts Association.

In 2010, a project to develop a new building to provide even more facilities, began, which Chichester District Council supported with over £1 million of funding.

This year, the centre has been holding a packed programme of events to celebrate their 50-year milestone. A children's art competition launched the festivities, with the winning artwork exhibited in the Cafe Bar. The Centre held mini 'Heart of New Park' festivals' as part of The Fringe and The Festival of Chichester. Local schools and the wider community are being invited to contribute to time capsules capturing life in 2025; and in August, local historian Alan Green will be giving a talk on the history



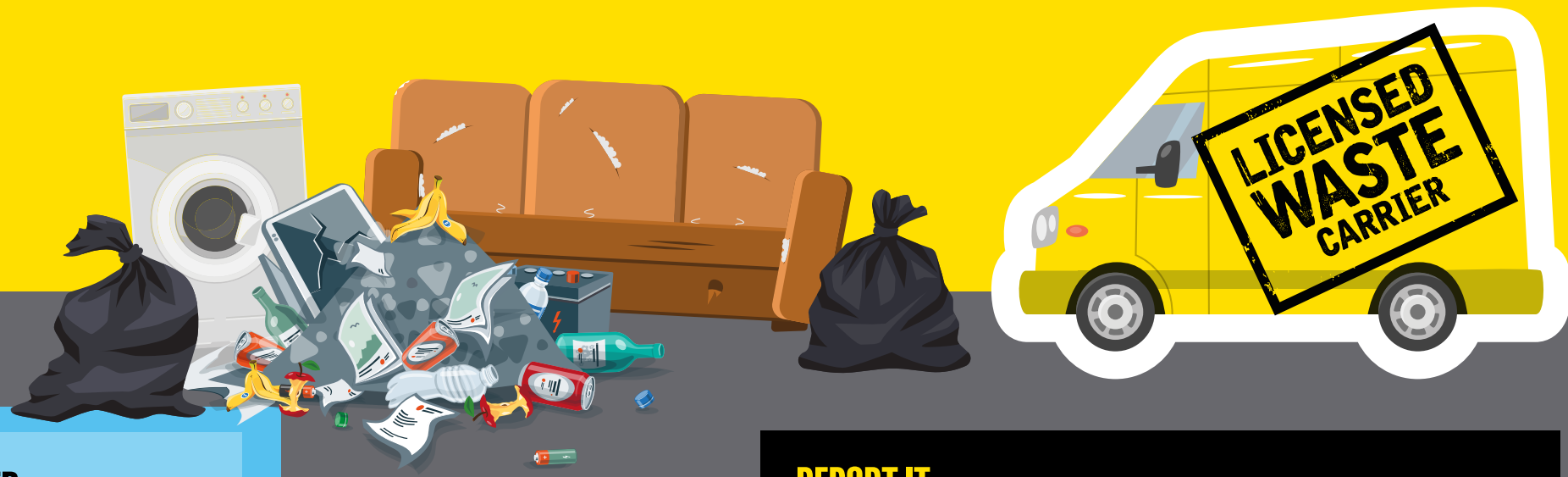
of the New Park site and there will be an exhibition of photographs, memorabilia, and personal stories from the past five decades. Other planned events are an arts programme throughout August and a gala weekend in September.

To find out more about the centre's celebration year go to: www.newparkcentre.org.uk

KEEPING OUR DISTRICT BEAUTIFUL THIS SUMMER

WE LIVE AND WORK IN ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES IN THE COUNTRY AND WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR HELP TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

Each year we spend over £1 million keeping our district clean and tidy, as well as cleaning up after those who are spoiling our environment.



We believe that by reducing fly tipping, dog fouling and littering, some of this money could be saved and spent on other important community services. As a result, we are relaunching our award-winning Against Litter campaign.

We look after 303 square miles across the district, which is a huge area, and one of the largest district areas in the country. As you can appreciate, we can't cover such a large area every day and so we need your help too!

There are lots of people across our district who have taken part in our successful **Adopt an Area** scheme, where individuals and groups have pledged to look after a particular area of the district by undertaking litter picking on a regular basis.

The areas adopted have included all kinds of spaces, from just a single road or grass verge, to a whole village, a community green space, shop frontage or other area. As part of the campaign, we ask people signing the pledge to commit to one or more of the following:

- encourage people to take pride in their local area.

- report any problems to us, such as fly tipping, extensive littering or continuous issues of dog fouling in your local area.
- help keep the area clean by getting involved in, or organising, community clear ups.

We are not asking you to do our job for us. Instead, we are asking for your support and to be our eyes and ears in your local community.

By working with you, we will be able to better respond to the issues facing our district by:

- identifying litter, dog fouling and fly tipping hotspots and taking action;
- encouraging more people to support our campaign;
- bringing our communities together; and
- most importantly, protecting our beautiful district.

We are lucky to already have a number of wonderful groups who make a huge contribution to keeping our district clean and tidy – if you would like to get involved please sign up today!

GET INVOLVED – ADOPT AN AREA

Whether you are an individual or part of a group, you can adopt an area and join us in the fight against litter. To sign up to the scheme and receive an Adopt an Area pack, which contains tips on how to plan a clean-up activity and details of how we can support you, visit www.chichester.gov.uk/againstlitter

We also want to hear about the litter champions in your street, village or town. Please get in touch at the web address above, by emailing wasteandrecycling@chichester.gov.uk or by calling us on 01243 785166.



PLEASE TAKE YOUR LITTER HOME

With summer in full swing, we're sure you will be enjoying plenty of picnics, barbecues and other outdoor get togethers. One of the best things we can all do to help keep our green areas, countryside and beaches in tip top condition is to take your litter home and encourage others to do the same.

As you can imagine, with all the packaging that comes with these occasions, our public litter bins fill up quickly – especially during the summer. People can help by holding onto their rubbish and taking it home to recycle or dispose of responsibly.

ROADSIDE WASTE

Unfortunately, our district experiences a high volume of roadside litter which people have thrown from their vehicles.

In addition, there is a lot of waste that comes from trade vehicles and so we are encouraging tradespeople to ensure that everything on the back of their trucks is secured with netting.

REPORT IT

If you see someone throwing litter from their car onto the roadside, please do report this at: www.chichester.gov.uk/againstlitter

If you have dashcam footage that clearly shows the car registration plate, then this would be really helpful to send us.

When making a report on our website we'll also need a brief statement from you about what you saw, the time, date and a description of what happened.

The more specific and detailed the information you provide then the more likely we are able to take action. By working together, we can all help to keep our communities looking clean.

Tower Street Toilets are open again after major refurbishment

We're excited to share that the refurbishment of the Tower Street public toilets in Chichester is now complete! This is part of a wider upgrade programme we've been rolling out across several sites in the district.

Not only have the toilets been modernised, but we've also added a lovely little 'pocket park'. It also has new planting, bike racks, a notice board, a bench, and even some informative displays about Chichester's rich history. It's all about creating a space that's not just practical, but also pleasant and welcoming.

This is one of five sites we've recently improved, alongside East Beach in Selsey, Bosham Lane in Bosham, Market Road in Chichester, and Priory Park in Chichester. All of these have been upgraded to ensure they meet the latest accessibility requirements in line with the Equality Act, especially for people with disabilities and older residents.

We've also made sure the facilities are more eco-friendly, with energy-saving lighting, efficient handwashing equipment, and solar panels fitted where possible to help cut down on carbon emissions. Plus, the new designs are built to last, with better drainage and features that help prevent vandalism.

Even though councils aren't required by law to provide public toilets, we know how important they are for both the local community and visitors. We've already had some great feedback from people using the new facilities, and we're really proud of the difference these improvements are making.



What's on?

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

GC
The Grange Community and Leisure Centre, Midhurst
01730 815 285
www.everyoneactive.com/centre/the-grange-community-leisure-centre

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 – 18 July, 1 & 15 August, 5 & 19 September, 3 & 17 October
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 Seasonal Markets
Summer Market with MADhurst Unplugged: Saturday 2 August, 9am-2pm. Market Square.

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

Until November 2025 Religion, Rebellion & Reformation:
Nine centuries of the Christian Faith in Sussex. Exhibition as part of Chichester Cathedral's 950 years celebrations. CC

From July Harbour Discovery Boat Trips.
Chichester Harbour Conservancy boat trips departing from Itchenor/Emsworth, times vary. £15 for adults, £5 for children. www.boattripschichesterharbour.co.uk

5 – 11 July West Dean Summer Show 2025.
This year's exhibition will showcase original work by emerging artists and makers from West Dean's courses. Edward James Studio, West Dean College. www.westdean.ac.uk/events/summer-show

From 9 July Watercolour classes with John Hill.
Every Wednesday and Friday. Roussillon Park Community Hall, Chichester. 12.30pm-3.30pm. www.johnhillwatercolour.com

9 Jul, 10 Sep, 8 Oct Lavant Horticultural Society talk.
Talks at Lavant Memorial Hall. From 7pm. www.lavanthortsoc.org.uk/programme-2025

From 10 July Marine Life Walks.
Weekly walks from Oval field, Selsey to explore the marine life of Selsey beach. £15. ME

11 July 20th Anniversary Food Producers evening
at Tuppenny Barn Celebrate 20 years of Tuppenny Barn and meet local artisan producers, with music. Tickets £12 and include a cream tea. www.tuppennybarn.co.uk

11 – 13 July Outdoor Cinema
at Stansted Park. Showings include The Greatest Showman with sing-a-long, Queen Specatular, Notting Hill, and more. www.stanstedpark.co.uk

13 July Festival Fundraiser for THINK18.
Bella sings musicals, THINK18 perform, Silent auction, raffle, Archery, Games set in glorious countryside. Cocking Village Hall 1.30pm-4.30pm.

14 July Talk on 3D Beaded Embroidery.
Chichester Creative Textiles Group talk at Lavant Memorial Hall. 2pm. £5, free entry for members. www.chichestercreativetextiles.wordpress.com

14 July – 6 September Top Hat.
The classic Irving Berlin musical tap extravaganza. CFT

15 July Batty About Bats.
Discover the bats which call Pagham harbour home. 8.30pm from Church Norton car park. £12 per person, £9 for RSPB members.

17 July Evening Talk
– In conversation with Shippam's employees, 6pm. NOV

17 July – 2 August Petworth Summer Festival.
A range of live music, performances, theatre, and comedy. www.petworthfestival.org.uk/whats-on

18 Jul, 22 Aug, 26 Sep & 31 Oct Primal Warrior Mens Circles.
A monthly meeting for men's mental health and wellbeing support. Goodwood Education Centre. www.primal-warrior.co.uk

19 Jul, 16 Aug, 20 Sep, 18 Oct Monthly Market
at The Grange. GC

19 & 20 July Stansted Summer Festival.
The popular festival returns for 2025, featuring a wide range of family entertainment, music, stalls & food!

21 Jul, 18 Aug, 22 Sep Air Aces talks.
Talks from guests on a range of aviation subjects. Two talks on 22 September. Boxgrove Village Hall, 7.30pm. £10. www.airaces.org.uk

22 July – 3 September Toys Through Time
– Summer Holiday Activities. Explore the evolution of toys from the Medieval period to the Victorians. WD

23 July Craft.
Make a Shippam's shopping bag. FREE, Drop in, 10am-2pm. NOV

24 July, 28 August, 18 September, 23 October 'Drink and Draw'
workshop at Pallant House Gallery. A laid-back studio session to sketch and drink in a friendly environment supported by an experienced artist educator. 6.30pm-8pm. £12.50. www.pallant.org.uk/whats-on/workshop-drink-and-draw-2

27 Jul, 24 Aug, 28 Sep, 26 Oct Indoor Car Boot
at The Grange. GC

2 August Lavant Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show.
A display of flowers, vegetables, home produce, photographs and crafts. Lavant Memorial Hall. From 2pm. www.lavanthortsoc.org.uk/programme-2025

2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 August Loxwood Joust.
Immersive medieval experience over three weekends at Loxwood Meadow. Live jousting, performances, and music. Tickets from £8. www.loxwoodjoust.co.uk

2 – 30 August Choir.
Heartwarming new comedy about a community choir. CFT

6 Aug, 3 Sep, 2 Oct Chichester Literary Society talks
All talks from 2pm, doors 1.30pm. Boxgrove Village Hall. £8 admission on the door. www.chichesterliterarysociety.org

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Community Wardens mark 20-year milestone!

Our Community Wardens are proudly celebrating 20 years of dedicated service to our communities.

The wardens started in 2005, initially as a two-year pilot programme, to help community development and serve as a link to key services such as the police. Since then, they have been a trusted presence, supporting and strengthening our communities. The team currently consists of Jon, Community Warden for Chichester East; Carol, Community Warden for Chichester South; Sue, Community Warden for Chichester West; Dawn, Community Warden for The Witterings and Bracklesham; Rich, Community Warden for Selsey; Jimmy, Community Warden for Tangmere and Oving, and Barry who has recently joined as Community Warden for Chichester city centre.

Over the past two decades, the wardens have played a key role in bringing their communities together, helping to deal with environmental issues; working with services to help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour; as well as offering a reassuring presence in their area.

During this time, the wardens have worked within their communities on a wide range of projects, from a nationally recognised junior wardens programme which was led by Sue and was recognised by the then Home

Secretary, through to more recent projects such as installing key safes to support vulnerable people in Selsey, and a campaign that aims to help protect people from scams.

The wardens, whose backgrounds range from working for the police and security focused jobs, through to retail, hospitality, and teaching, find that their previous roles have helped them to deal with the various issues they are asked to help with.

Carol, who has been a Community Warden for 19 years, says: "We always set out to do the best we can and help where possible. No matter what it is, it's always very fulfilling when we can help a resident reach a solution or resolve an issue. Quite often though, we find people just want to talk with us and be heard."

The wardens never know what issues might come up, for example, Sue once had a call to help herd a flock of swans out of the road and back into their pond for safety. Meanwhile, Dawn had a call on her first day as Community Warden for Bracklesham and The Witterings, about a boat that had come untethered in the harbour.

Over the years, the nature of the role has changed, as Dawn explains: "In the first

few years, we found that the common issues were things like graffiti and litter, but since the pandemic, we've noticed that it's shifted to more community and neighbour issues, and directing residents to where they can get support. We also spend a lot of time with elderly residents who may feel lonely, and we do our best to make sure they are supported."

The team face different challenges every day, however, last year was an unexpectedly tough time for the team, as Community Wardens Declan Moody and Drew Allardice sadly passed away. Declan and Drew had been with the wardens right from the start and were huge characters who were loved and respected by everyone they came into contact with. Their memory will live on through the team as they continue to help residents feel safe and reassured.

To find out more about the Community Wardens, people can visit www.chichester.gov.uk/communitywardens

If a resident or local business has a question, or issue they feel the Community Wardens may be able to help with, the Wardens can be contacted by emailing community@chichester.gov.uk





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- 4 Check for ticks on young children, including around their heads and necks.
- 5 When you're back indoors, check for any ticks on you, your children and pets.
- 6 If you find a tick, safely remove it as soon as possible.

Scan the QR code for more information



WS33303 04.2025

Local business returns to St James Industrial Estate where it all began

At the end of 2024, local business, Mud Foods, affectionately known as Mud Pies by many, moved into our new £6 million St James Industrial Estate. We speak to owner Christian Barrington about his inspirational business journey over the last 16 years and his return to the 'spiritual home' where he first launched his business.

Since starting out making pies in Unit 19 at the old St James' site in 2009, Christian and Mud Foods have been on the most amazing journey and have come full circle, back to where it all began. When he first started out, it was back in the days when most of the businesses at the site had to share a toilet block, although Christian was lucky as his unit had its own – plus hot and cold running water!

"I started off with 200 pie tins and within a year we had 1,500 tins and had already outgrown the space at St James," explains Christian, who at this time was selling his produce at a range of local farmers' markets including Chichester Farmers' Market. "So, then I looked for new premises and found a site in Wedglen Park, Midhurst which was four times the size of the unit we were in and that's where we stayed for 13 or so years."

Mud Foods is a very family-oriented business. For many years, Christian's parents-in-law have played multiple roles

over the years, but now focus mainly on picking and packing, and this family ethos still runs throughout the business. While based in Midhurst, Christian went on to purchase the building so that he could tailor it to his business needs. Mud Foods evolved and expanded to include supplying their pies and quiches to high quality farm shops, delicatessens, restaurants, pubs and caterers. For the last five or six years, they have also been supplying products to Southern Co-op. During Covid, Christian saw an opportunity to improve the business' online service and applied for one of our council's business grants to improve his website, which was an exciting development.

In 2022, Christian and his Mud Pies beat hundreds of competitors to become Aldi's Next Big Thing, appearing on the Channel 4 television programme and then seeing their pies in stores across the country. Christian's products were then in such demand, he again started looking



for new premises. He initially couldn't find anything suitable and then he found out about the St James redevelopment three years ago when he was chatting with Chichester District Council's Economic Development Team.

"We really did have to move – I'd turned my own office into a pastry room, and ended up working from the staff room table! We were also having issues with electricity capacity, so discovering the redevelopment at St James was a game changer.

"Our new unit at St James means we have the capacity to access new markets. It will allow us to expand our ranges and bring back products we stopped making when we had to focus on producing the volume needed for other product lines.

"The new site is worlds apart from our previous accommodation – the big difference is the infrastructure – the road and rail links close to the site are really important. It's also more accessible for our wonderful staff and provides an improved environment for the whole team.

"Thinking about how we started all those years ago and where are now and where we are going, coming back to St James and coming full circle like this, it gives such a big, warm feeling – we've come back to our spiritual home." But despite Mud Foods' growth, our founding ethos and values remain unchanged to this day – crafting pies and fine pastries using the very best local ingredients from our doorstep, including meats and dairy from Goodwood, West Dean, and the South Downs.

Businesses interested in finding out more about the space available at St James Industrial Estate and our other commercial units can call **01243 534632**, email **property@chichester.gov.uk** or see more at: **www.chichester.gov.uk/commercialproperty**



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NEWS in brief



Research progresses into decline of Selsey fishing catches

Research to investigate whether sediment is one of the reasons behind the decline in crab and lobster catches off the Selsey coast is progressing thanks to a key report which has been completed. The report carried out by the University of Southampton was commissioned by The CHASM project (Crustaceans, Habitat and Sediment Movement) which is led by Chichester District Council. The report seeks to understand environmental change from the perspective of sediments. You can read the report at: <https://peninsulapartnership.org.uk>



Funding released for pump track in Petworth

A total of £70,000 is being released for a pump track in Petworth. The funding was approved at the February meeting of the council's Cabinet. The project will be led by Petworth Town Council in partnership with local landowners, subject to all the relevant planning permissions being in place. For over 10 years, both the district and town council have been working to find a suitable site for a skate park, but unfortunately an appropriate location was never identified. Last year, Petworth Town Council was asked to come up with alternative ways to use the money, and so they put forward the idea for a pump track, and the funds were re-allocated.

New housing register and advice system introduced

A new online housing applications system, which makes applying to join our district's housing register quicker and easier has just been launched.

The new Chichester Home Move system has been introduced in direct response to customer feedback and offers a more personalised approach. Residents can now 'bid' for available properties that meet their needs more often. It also means that housing associations

(known as Registered Providers) can add vacant homes as soon as they become available. The changes will increase the opportunities for people to find a suitable home.

The new system also makes it quicker and simpler for people who need to contact the council to seek housing advice, or to access support if they are homeless or are facing homelessness. Find out more at www.chichester.gov.uk/housing



New housing strategy for Chichester District

Intervening early to prevent homelessness and end rough sleeping; improving housing standards across the private housing sector; and, supporting work to improve the energy efficiency of homes, are some of the key aims of a new housing strategy adopted by Chichester District Council. The five-year Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was agreed at April's Full Council meeting.

It sets out how the council will continue to work with partners to prevent people from becoming homeless; create and retain affordable housing for young people and families; address the housing needs of older people; and improve housing standards for all residents in the district. You can read the full strategy at: www.chichester.gov.uk/housingstrategiesandstudies

More funding available for local projects

More than £360,000 has been made available to community groups, local businesses and parish councils thanks to an enhanced grants scheme, which we have just launched. The scheme aims to help community projects that support the economy, improve places and spaces, or build stronger communities.

Small grants of up to £2,000 each can be applied for at any time, while applications for larger Grants of up to £25,000 are open four times in the year. Interested groups need to consult with a Funding Adviser before applying. An enquiry form and full details can be found at: www.chichester.gov.uk/grants



New website offers free personalised home energy efficiency plan

Making changes that will improve the energy efficiency of our homes can lower our energy bills, make us warmer and more comfortable, and reduce our carbon footprint, but it's not always easy to know the best place to start.

That's why we've launched our 'Energy Saving Plan Builder' website, which allows you to explore and customise the energy efficiency improvements that could be most appropriate for your home and budget.

The website creates a personalised plan, which you can use as a starting point before seeking professional advice.

Using the free Plan Builder website is simple. Visit <https://energysaving.planbuilder.co.uk>, type in your postcode, and select your property. Once you've checked your property information is correct, the tool will create a summary of energy-efficient improvement ideas, along with estimated costs and savings for each measure.

You can customise the recommendations by setting budget options and selecting different combinations of measures to find out how these could reduce your bills and carbon footprint. By registering a free account, you can log back in to edit your plan or have it emailed to you. You can then take this to a retrofit assessor who will be able to offer further guidance on the measures that will suit your needs.

From fitting LED light bulbs to installing an energy-efficient heating system, making energy efficiency upgrades to your home can make a big difference!

Try the Energy Saving Plan Builder website by visiting: <https://energysaving.planbuilder.co.uk>

You can find more information, including details about grants that are available to support you, on our website: www.chichester.gov.uk/homeenergyefficiency



The future of local services in West Sussex

Changes are coming to the way your local councils operate.

Currently, some services such as education, social care and roads are run by the county council, while others, like bin collections, planning and housing, are run by our council.

The national government wants to simplify that system – combining councils into unitary councils, so that one council delivers all services in your area. This is called Local Government Reorganisation.

We have been working closely with the other councils in West Sussex to consider how this could look. The Government is expecting to see the creation of new unitary councils that will manage all local services.

All of the councils in West Sussex must submit their proposals to the government by 26 September. We are committed to ensuring that these plans reflect what matters most to you. To find out more about this, please visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/devolution

The government has provided a framework to help us develop options that are financially sustainable and aim to enhance local services. We are currently gathering data and feedback, as well as conducting

research to support this. Alongside other councils in West Sussex, we will use this evidence to develop proposals for the government to consider. The government will consult with you on the options and will then make a final decision.

If approved, the government expects the new councils to operate in a shadow form by 2027, with full implementation by 2028.

We want to assure you that regardless of the outcome, our services will continue

to be provided, and we will strive to make the transition as smooth as possible. We will keep you informed every step of the way. We would encourage you to sign up to our monthly email newsletter at: www.chichester.gov.uk/newsalerts to keep regularly updated.

For more information about local government reorganisation and to read our Frequently Asked Questions, please visit: www.chichester.gov.uk/devolution



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Image: Luxmuralis Gloucester Cathedral (2023)



Who is your District Councillor?

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**The political make up of the council
as of May 2025 is:**

**25 Liberal Democrats
6 Green and Local Alliance Group
5 Conservatives.**



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