

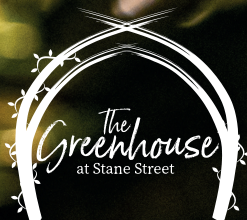
WINTER 2025

hedgerow

MAGAZINE

CONNECTING RURAL COMMUNITIES

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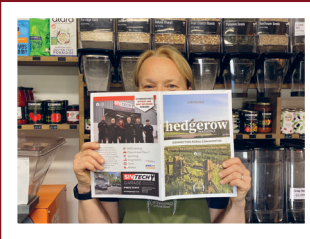
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WELCOME TO HEDGEROW MAGAZINE



As 2025 draws to a close, this time of year is one of reflection and to spend time with friends, family and your community.

There are plenty of festive events in the Hedgerow area to enjoy, as well as further afield. From a traditional pantomime to a school Christmas fair, carol singing to christmas quizzes – there is something for

the whole family (our events pages 8-9 might give some inspiration).

As our attention turns to gifting at this time of year, please, do support your local businesses in the towns and villages. They provide an amazing service and unique gifts for all.

There are those in our community for whom Christmas will be a difficult time either from personal circumstances, or losing loved ones, so please give a thought to those who may be spending this time alone, or look at ways of offering help and support to local charities and organisations, either by volunteering or financial help.

All that remains is for me to wish you well this festive season however you celebrate and look forward to what 2026 brings.

Kerry, Hedgerow Magazine
editor@hedgerowmagazine.co.uk

Please seek out the services of those businesses who support Hedgerow Magazine. Their advert location and page number in this publication is included on the Hedgerow map.

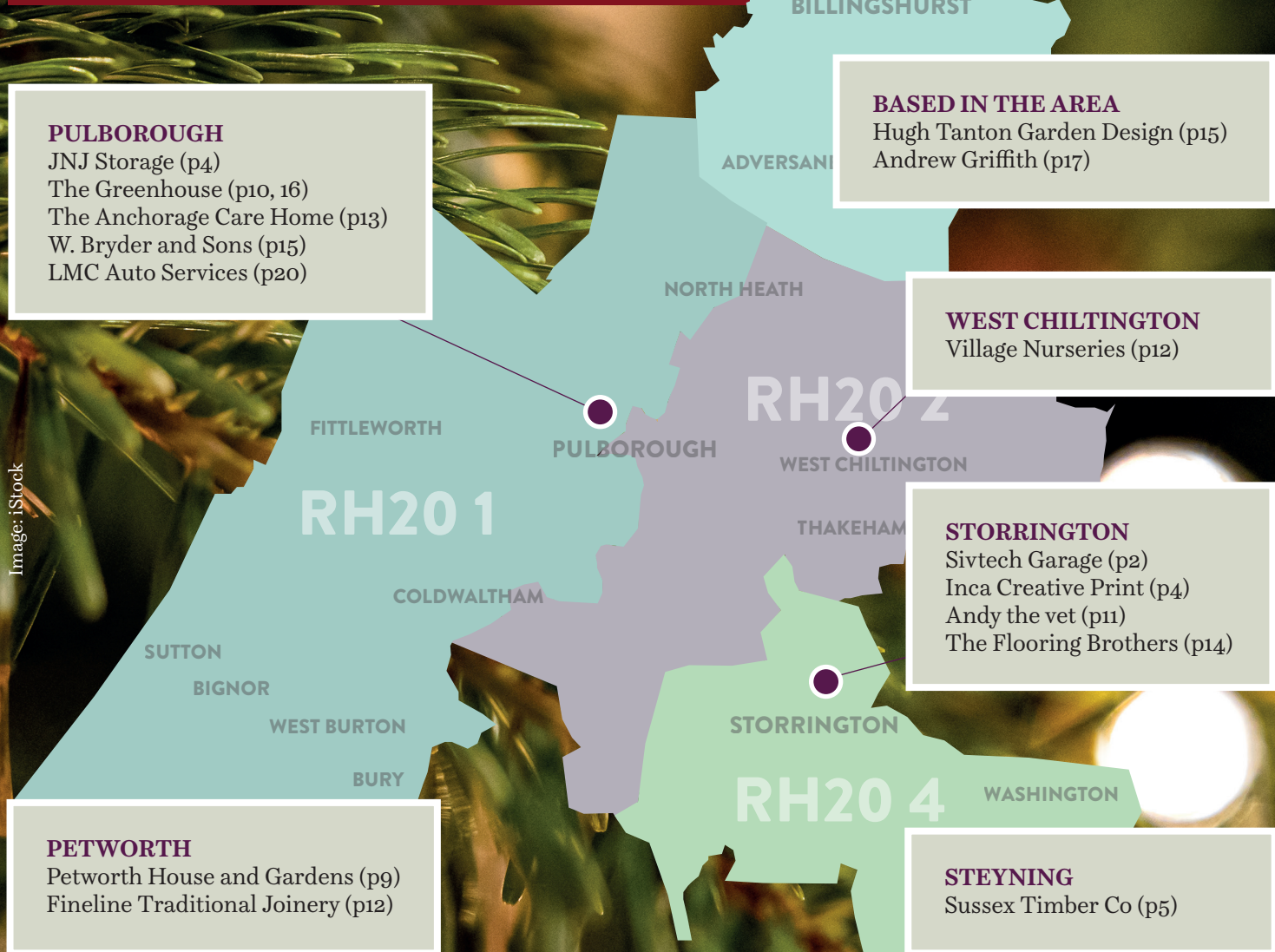


Image: iStock

Billingshurst park award from South and South-East in Bloom

The efforts of volunteers at a community garden in Billingshurst were recognized recently at the South and South-East in Bloom awards ceremony. Station Road Gardens was given a Silver Gilt award in the small park category at the event at RHS Wisley.

A number of the volunteers from the gardens were able to attend the event which also saw representatives from other volunteer-led gardens as well as council owned parks and prestigious private gardens such as Leonardslee and Arundel Castle. The

team felt justifiably proud of their achievement, against competition from gardens with full-time, paid staff.

The gardens in Station Road were saved more than twenty years ago when the land, previously a sports pitch, was at risk of being turned into a car park for the station. Billingshurst Parish Council purchased the land but much of the maintenance is undertaken by volunteers, as well as regular help from people on day-release from Ford Open Prison. The gardens are well loved by Billingshurst residents with an open grass area for informal games and events such as the recent VJ Day commemoration.

There is also a walled garden,

with an orchard whose produce has been donated to Billingshurst Community Larder, a basketball court and two play areas for younger children as well as the beautifully tended flower beds.

Volunteer work parties are held on the first Saturday of the month, from 9.30am to 12.30pm. All tools are provided and no expertise is needed. There is always time to stop for refreshments, often in the form of homemade cake, taken in the Billingshurst Men's Shed which has also found a home in the gardens.

If you are interested in volunteering go along on the first Saturday of the month (restarting in February) or join the Facebook page *Friends of Station Road Gardens*.

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Below: Station Road Garden volunteers enjoying a walk round Wisley after the awards ceremony

Main picture: Station Road Gardens. © Alan Wright

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2 March 2026

Hedgerow Magazine is produced four times a year by The Greenhouse at Stane Street, Stane Street Nurseries, Stane Street, Pulborough RH20 1BQ
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WEBSITE: hedgerowmagazine.co.uk



Hedgerow Magazine is printed from certified sustainable sources using plant-based inks.

Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of content and information is correct at time of going to press. Hedgerow Magazine cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions or endorse companies, products or services that appear in this publication.

Supporting local businesses

Hedgerow Magazine always champions local businesses – particularly being one itself. Local businesses are at the heart of the UK, providing a healthy economy for your community.

When you shop with local businesses, those business owners and their staff members put money back into your local community by shopping locally and visiting local eateries, thereby circulating the finances and allowing a community to thrive.

Supporting local shopping venues and independents creates jobs in local communities. It reduces travel time for employees, and also provides a place for young people to get their first taste of work whilst still at school or college, as well as placement and work experience opportunities.

If you've ever had to organise an event for an organisation then your first point of contact is usually local businesses, who are often more than happy to oblige. Many local businesses in turn help local charities, either financially or, by donating their time and resources.

Shopping locally makes more sense for the environment. If you live within walking distance of these shops, then the amount of traffic is reduced and ultimately reduces the air pollution. It also reduces the amount of traffic on the road who deliver online purchases.

There is a misconception that independent shops are always more expensive than online, and in some respects this may be the case. However, when you add in postage costs, possible time costs in tracking down your purchase that the courier has delivered to a random address(!).



Then, if the item was incorrect or faulty, the time spent sending the item back (phew...), shopping locally sounds far less stressful.

So please get behind your independents this Christmas.

Image: iStock

7

Tackling loneliness in your community

It is hard to think in this decade, when we are more 'connected' than ever before, that there are so many in our community that are affected by loneliness.

Loneliness isn't something that affects just older people, it can be something we can experience at any age and at any time of our life.

Age UK reported back in 2016 that half a million older people go at least five or six days a week without seeing or speaking to anyone at all and for many the television is their main company.

There is support out there, so please contact any of the following organisations to help and find support for yourself, or anyone you know in the community who may benefit.

Marmalade Trust
www.marmaladetrust.org
Eden Project Communities
edenprojectcommunities.com

West Sussex Mind
www.westsussexmind.org
Age UK West Sussex
www.ageuk.org.uk/westsussexbrightonhove



Image: iStock

Events in the local area

Warminghurst Christmas Tree Festival 5th-7th December Warminghurst Church RH20 3AW

A festive display of trees decorated by local businesses, schools and groups all set inside Warminghurst Church.

Mary How Trust The Big Christmas Quiz: Saturday 6th December at West Chiltington Village Hall Doors open 7pm 7.30pm start

Bring your own drinks and snacks. Tickets £10 and available from Nisa Local, Haglands Lane, West Chiltington, the Mary How Trust Shop and Clinic in Pulborough and online.

West Chiltington Silver Band Family Christmas Singalong Concert. Sunday 14th December, West Chiltington Village Hall, Mill Road, West Chiltington RH20 2PZ. Doors open 2.30pm 3pm start.

Free mulled wine and mince pies, plus bar, quiz and raffle. Tickets £10 (accompanied under-16s free) from simplythebest21@btinternet.com, rabarron@btinternet.com and Nisa Local, West Chiltington.

Community Carols with the Mary How Trust led by the Arun Choral Society St Mary's Church, Pulborough. 17th December Doors open 6.30pm with carols from 7pm.

Mulled wine and mince pies available. Donations welcome.

DECEMBER

5

6

14

17

8



A festive display of trees decorated by local businesses, groups and schools, all set inside a beautiful church

WARMINGHURST CHURCH RH20 3AW

5TH-7TH DECEMBER
10AM-4PM

**FREE ENTRY
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Rotary 

FILM NIGHT

At Sullington Parish Hall
Wednesday 17th December 2025



Steve Coogan, Jonathan Pryce & Bruno Blas

Performance commences at 7.30pm

There will be an interval and Bar & Raffle.
Tickets £5 from 'The Card Shop' in Storrington.
Unsold tickets will be available for purchase on the door on the night.

For further details please contact
Ken Collins on 01903 740745

Rotary Club Members can provide transport to the Film Night for local residents who are unable to make their own arrangements. Anyone needing transport should contact John Ollerton on 07523322554

Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District

Events in the local area

A Christmas Enchantment at Petworth House 29th November - 4th January

Step into a Christmas Enchantment at Petworth House – a midwinter journey inspired by the Winter Solstice and the shifting rhythms of nature. The grand state rooms are transformed into a dreamlike world of overgrown wonder, where woodland animals roam through theatrical spaces filled with trees and winter sparkle. Look out for celestial shooting stars and a mid-winter banquet.

On Saturday 29 November and Saturday 20th December, choirs will sing in the courtyard on special late openings, when visitors can experience the house's winter transformation in a magical evening atmosphere, with an extra sparkle to the lights after dark.

A Christmas makers market in partnership with Petworth Pop-Up is on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th November.

Traditional wreath making and festive block printing workshops are the perfect opportunity to add some Christmas cheer to your home. Booking essential.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/petworth



© National Trust Images: Michael Cole

NOVEMBER-JANUARY

National Trust

A CHRISTMAS ENCHANTMENT

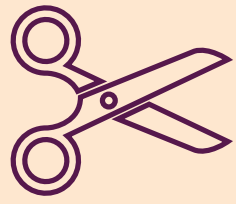
**AT PETWORTH HOUSE
29 NOV 2025 - 4 JAN 2026**

A midwinter journey through Petworth House.
Step into a dreamlike world of overgrown wonder.
Normal admission applies. No booking required.
nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth

The poster features a watercolor-style illustration of a snowy night scene. On the left, a large green Christmas tree stands next to a spotted deer with large antlers. In the center, a shooting star streaks across a dark blue sky filled with falling snow. On the right, a small owl perches on a bare, white tree branch. The overall atmosphere is magical and wintry.



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ADVERTISER FEATURE



Andy the vet & friends is an independent, small animal veterinary practice based in Storrington, owned and led by local vet Andy Mead.

Celebrating our first birthday!.....

We made it! Hard to believe that just over a year ago and after what felt like a lifetime of planning, the process of converting our new home on Robell Way into a veterinary practice was almost complete and we were opening our doors for the first time.

Time has flown by, and the rest as they say, is history. Our aim was

always to create a warm and inviting environment that would put even the most anxious of patients at ease- the sofa in reception has certainly gone down well with clients and patients alike!

It has been so good to see so many faces from the past and to meet many of you for the first time too. We have been overwhelmed by your support and are truly humbled that in such a short space of time, so many of you have chosen to entrust the care of your precious companions to us!

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Your pet is your best friend, and best friends deserve the best care. The problem is health issues can be unpredictable, so sometimes the best care means unplanned costs for you.

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'Friends Unlimited' includes vaccinations and parasite control as well as unlimited consultations



throughout the plan year, making budgeting for the cost of veterinary care straightforward.

Visit www.andythevet.co.uk/healthplan for more information

Registering with us is really simple. All we need are a few details about you, your companion(s), and the name of the practice if you have previously been registered elsewhere. We will do the rest.

How do I register at the practice?

1. In person at the practice during opening hours.
2. Call us on 01903 323416 and speak to Clare, Debbie or Lorraine.
3. Visit andythevet.co.uk and register online at your convenience.

Andy

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Sustainable Christmas

175 million
mince pies purchased
= 175 tonnes of
aluminium packaging

3 million
tonnes of additional waste
generated over Christmas

227,000
miles of wrapping paper
used each year

Statistics
defraenvironment.blog.gov.uk
wastemission.com
www.gwp.co.uk

The festive season is a time for celebration, but for the environment it can be a time of waste and excess. There are however, plenty of ways to reduce your environmental impact and still enjoy all the festivities.

A real Christmas tree is at the centre of many homes, but choosing the right one and then disposing of afterwards can be difficult. Confused by the type of tree to purchase? Visit The British Christmas Tree Growers Association to view the options available and source local suppliers www.bctga.co.uk They also have tips for keeping your tree in tip top condition throughout the festive period.

Choosing a Christmas tree with roots still attached means you can keep in a pot and reuse for many years to come, or plant out in the garden.

A tree without roots can be recycled, and many companies will collect from your home. These trees are then recycled into wood chips and used for parks and green spaces. Artificial trees may seem the better option as they can last for many years, but are not recyclable, and ultimately end up in landfill. Consider donating yours if you no longer require.

Home-made decorations can be a fun thing to do for all the family including using scrap cardboard or drying fruit slices and adding cinnamon sticks.

When it comes to wrapping gifts ensure that paper is recycled and recyclable and try and save for future use. Scrunch test the wrapping paper into a ball – if it stays in a ball, it can be recycled, if it bounces back it has to go in the bin.

For more tips on how to have an environmentally friendly Christmas visit recyclenow.com

Let Christmas begin!

Join the Mary How Trust for our annual event and sing all your favourite carols, led by the Arun Choral Society



Enjoy mulled wine and mince pies and help get our community into the festive spirit!

community carols

Wednesday 17th December
St Mary's Church, Pulborough
Doors open 6.30pm Carols from 7pm

OUR HEADLINE SPONSOR



This is a **FREE** event organised by the Mary How Trust charity



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maryhowtrust.org | reg charity 1122393

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Saving St Mary's Church

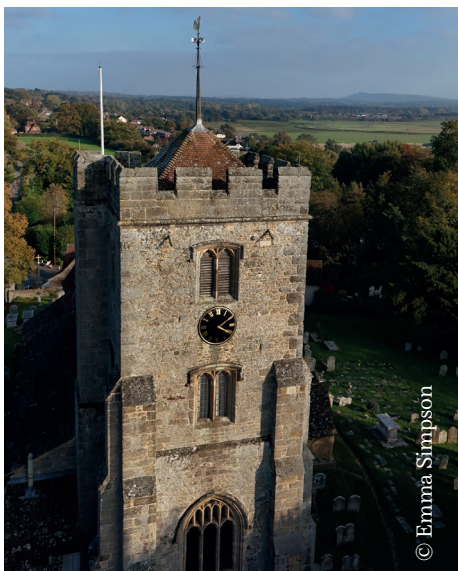
Standing on the brow of Pulborough's Church Hill above the former Roman river crossing, St Mary's Church has been a place of worship for at least 800 years.

It is a community hub, a village focal point, a reassuring landmark on the skyline and home to a large maternity roost of bats.

Step through the heavy oak doors and one finds gems that include the Norman font – possibly surviving from an earlier church on the site – and stained glass windows designed by the eminent architect Sir Ninian Comper. More importantly, there are the memories of all those who have paused within the thick stone walls. Moments in time, joy and heartbreak, births, baptisms, marriages and funerals. But also concerts, playgroups, exhibitions, lectures and other gatherings. It is

a place belonging to the people of Pulborough through countless years of history.

St Mary's is the only Grade I listed building in Pulborough. Just 2.5% of all listed buildings carry such status, including Windsor Castle and The Tower of London. This is



exciting, although it brings a heavy responsibility to the community. St Mary's has never stopped evolving with the times; this has been made possible by all those who, down through the centuries, have used their skills, knowledge and resources to build, maintain and improve the building. No financial help comes from central church funds.

Recently and visibly, the weather vane and clock were overhauled. The ancient stonework is crumbling, and repairs must be made to make the building weatherproof. Much also needs to be done inside to ensure the building is sustainable into the future for the benefit of the whole community, both spiritual and secular.

Written by Roger Hunt, on behalf of the Friends of Pulborough Parish Church.

Visit friendsofpulboroughparishchurch.org to find out more and donate.

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Local services



From 1 October 2025, Recycling Centres will switch to their autumn/winter opening hours. All 11 centres will be open from 9am to 4pm on selected days until 31 March 2026.

Remember to book your slot online before heading to the centre. Appointments can be booked up to 14 days in advance or even on the same day if there's availability. If you no longer need your slot, don't forget to cancel it so someone else can use it.

www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-waste-prevention/recycling-centres/book-to-recycle-booking-system

The UKHarvest Community Food Hub project has been extended to continue until April 2027, thanks to additional funding from West Sussex County Council.

This means the programme will continue to redistribute surplus food from suppliers and provide food waste prevention advice for a further year.

Launched in partnership with Sussex-based charity UKHarvest, the Community Food Hubs offer residents access to surplus food for a small voluntary donation of £5, no referrals needed. These child-friendly hubs run monthly in each district and borough across West Sussex, helping communities reduce food waste and save money.

Since its launch in April 2023, the scheme has so far saved over 106 tonnes of food from going to waste.

Alongside food redistribution, the hubs provide food waste prevention advice, recipe ideas, and information on wellbeing, recycling, fire safety and Citizens Advice services.

www.ukharvest.org.uk



Image: iStock

16

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REFILL REFILL REFILL REFILL REFILL REFILL



Community groups



Sing for Pleasure, Pulborough

meet on Tuesday 16 December and Tuesday 20 January, all at 2pm until 3.30pm in the Meadows Hall at Pulborough Village Hall.

This is not a choir, but a group of people who enjoy singing together. The music is varied, ranging from music hall, traditional tunes and songs from various decades, including hits of the Seekers, the Beatles, and many others.

Entry is £4, which includes refreshments. There is no need to book, just turn up and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

For further details contact Michael on 07811 050699 or email michael@pioli.co.uk

Sullington Windmills WI

meet every third Wednesday each month in the Sullington Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington.

Everyone is welcome to attend, and the group offer a social occasion, with monthly speakers, on a variety of topics, together with crafts evenings and opportunities to take part in various groups such as the Book Group, the Walking Group, Science Group.

Anyone interested in joining can get more details from the President, Alison Forster, who can be contacted at alisonjforster@btinternet.com

Storrington Flower Club

meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2pm for 2.30pm, except for August and December at Sullington Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington RH20 3PP.

Visitors are £8 on the door.

- 28th January – Katie Baxter – ‘Spring is Here’
- 25th February – Mo Dorking – ‘On a Whim’
- 25th March – Brenda Bull – ‘Ancient Routes’
- 22nd April – AGM (members and new members only)

For more details please contact Chrissy Desmond on 01903 742102

Storrington and District Museum once again have their calendars for sale at the Museum, The Community Market and The Scribbling Shop. The 2026 calendars feature stunning images of different aspects of village life, taken by some gifted local photographers – from the White Storks Day to the Duck Race.

Storrington and District Museum is a small local charity which sets out to preserve the history of the area and to make it available to everyone. All proceeds from the sale of Storrington products go towards covering the cost of running the museum, which is entirely manned by volunteers and largely self-funded.

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Community groups



Thakeham Gardeners' Club

meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at Thakeham Village Hall.

Doors open at 7pm with meetings starting at 7.30pm. New members are welcome at £4 per visit or £10 for annual membership. Each evening there is a talk followed by refreshments. There are two plant sales each year and an annual flower show and a christmas party.

For more information contact Gil Quince, on 01798 812748

The Probus Club of West Chiltington

is a group who are generally retired or semi-retired men from a professional or business background. They meet at the Roundabout Hotel on the first Wednesday of the month for lunch, followed by a speaker. They also enjoy a diverse range of activities such as visits to museums, theatre trips, skittles and croquet events.

For further information contact westchiltprobus@gmail.com



West Chiltington Horticultural Society

meet at West Chiltington Village Hall RH20 2PZ. on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

Membership is currently £10 a year and includes all talks as well as discounts from some local suppliers. Visitors are welcome at £3 per visit.

Contact Carys Pickett, 01798 815371 or carys.pickett@btinternet or visit westchilthortsoc.wordpress.com

West Chiltington Floral Club

meet at West Chiltington Village Hall, Mill Road, West Chiltington RH20 2PZ. £7.00 for non-members on the door.

- Friday 12th December – 7pm for 7.30pm Christmas Show – ‘My Kind of Christmas’ by National Demonstrator, David Thomson. Floral and Festive Raffles.

This is a ticketed event at £15.00 each to include a glass of wine.

- January – New Year Lunch for members only
- Tuesday 17th February 1.30pm for 2.00pm: Demonstrator: Elizabeth Wait – “Topless in the Alps”

All bookings and further details call Brenda on 01798 813712; Carol on 01798 813608 or email whiltfloralclub@gmail.com westchiltingtonfloralclub.co.uk

West Chiltington WI meet at 2pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month (excluding August) at West Chiltington Village Hall.

For further information westchiltingtonwi.com

West Chiltington Rainbows (4-7), Brownies (7-10) and Guides (10-14)

meet on Mondays at the Church Hall, West Chiltington.

Contact guidingwestchiltington1@gmail.com or call Sarah 01798 812449.

Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District

Christmas Sacks Appeal

Can you help us to help less fortunate families in our community this Christmas?

We are making up sacks of goodies – children’s toys, gifts and other items plus a Tesco voucher that will make a real difference to local families to whom we reach out this Christmas.

If you would like to make a cash donation please email rotaryxmassackappeal@gmail.com

or, if you have a PayPal account, scan this QR code



Registered Charity No1029115



WoW – Women of Washington is an independent social women’s group that meets monthly in Washington Village Memorial Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

They have a varied programme of talks, craft activities, walks, outings and theatre trips throughout the year.

Ladies are welcome to go along for a single session or join up for a whole year.

For more information email womenofwashington2024@gmail.com

hedgerow MAGAZINE

If you have a community group or event you would like listed in a future issue of Hedgerow Magazine then please send details to:

editor@hedgerowmagazine.co.uk

Copy deadline for spring 2026 edition: 30 January 2026



Sports + fitness



Chanctonbury Badminton Club

LOCATION: Storrington Leisure Centre
TIMES: Club nights on Wednesday between 8pm and 10pm with matches played on Mondays.
CONTACT: Michael Murray at mikemurray53@btinternet.com or call 0793 2175797. Facebook @ [chanctonburybadmintonclub](https://www.facebook.com/chanctonburybadmintonclub)

West Chiltington Badminton Club

LOCATION: West Chiltington Village Hall
TIMES: Sundays from 11am until 1pm.
CONTACT: Vivian Jones on 01798 813550 or e-mail vmjones18@hotmail.co.uk

Storrington Lawn Bowling Club

LOCATION: near Wholesome Warehouse on West Street
TIMES: Various
CONTACT: Barbara on 01798 813740 or 07709 265359, or www.storringtonbc.co.uk

Sutton Lawn Bowls Club

LOCATION: behind the church in Sutton RH20 1PS
TIMES: Roll up sessions three nights a week and afternoons by arrangement.
CONTACT: www.suttonbowlsclub.co.uk or Sue Dudman 07796 851441

West Chiltington Croquet Club

LOCATION: West Chiltington Croquet Club, Mill Road, West Chiltington, West Sussex, RH20 2PZ
TIMES: Four times per week
CONTACT: westchiltingtoncroquet.com

Keep Fit For Seniors

LOCATION: Ashington Community Centre
TIMES: every Thursday, between 1.30 and 2.30pm. £5 per session.
CONTACT: Diana on 07824 159642

Thakeham Short Mat Bowls Club

LOCATION: Thakeham Village Hall
TIMES: Monday evenings from 6.45-8.45pm
CONTACT: Barbara on 07539 850848.

West Chiltington Short Mat Bowls Club

LOCATION: West Chiltington Village Hall
TIMES: Mondays 2-4pm, Thursdays 9-11am and Thursdays 11am-1pm
CONTACT: Jean Palmer on 01798 815930

Thakeham Table Tennis Club

LOCATION: Thakeham Village Hall
TIMES: Various
CONTACT: thakehamtabletennis.co.uk

West Chiltington Table Tennis Club

LOCATION: West Chiltington Village Hall
TIMES: Various throughout the week
CONTACT: Secretary, Iain, on 01403 731341 or email westchilt.tabletennis@hotmail.co.uk

FEELING DAUNTED BY JOINING A NEW CLUB?

Top tips

- 1 Call or email the club organisers to discuss what happens at each meeting.
- 2 Many clubs lend any special equipment needed before you commit to joining – check in advance.
- 3 Find a friend to go with – at least for the first few sessions – until you get to know everyone.

If you have a sports club in the Hedgerow area that you would like listed in a future issue of Hedgerow Magazine then please send details to: editor@hedgerowmagazine.co.uk
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