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hedgerow

MAGAZINE

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WELCOME TO HEDGEROW MAGAZINE



As I write this, spring is most definitely on its way – the continued wet weather and colder temperatures may not indicate this – but, the small signs of nature are clear to see.

We are now in a new Year of the Fire Horse in the Chinese calendar bringing courage, energy and change, so, if you have been putting something off for a while, or

want to try something new, this might be the year to make it happen.

The broader media can often paint a depressing picture but, like signs of spring, there are lots of amazing things happening in communities right now – especially in the Hedgerow area. So please seek out local businesses and community groups and show them your love. Until the summer issue...

Kerry, Hedgerow Magazine
editor@hedgerowmagazine.co.uk

Please seek out the services of those businesses who support Hedgerow Magazine. Their location and page number in this publication is included on the Hedgerow map below – thank you for supporting our local businesses.

Image: iStock

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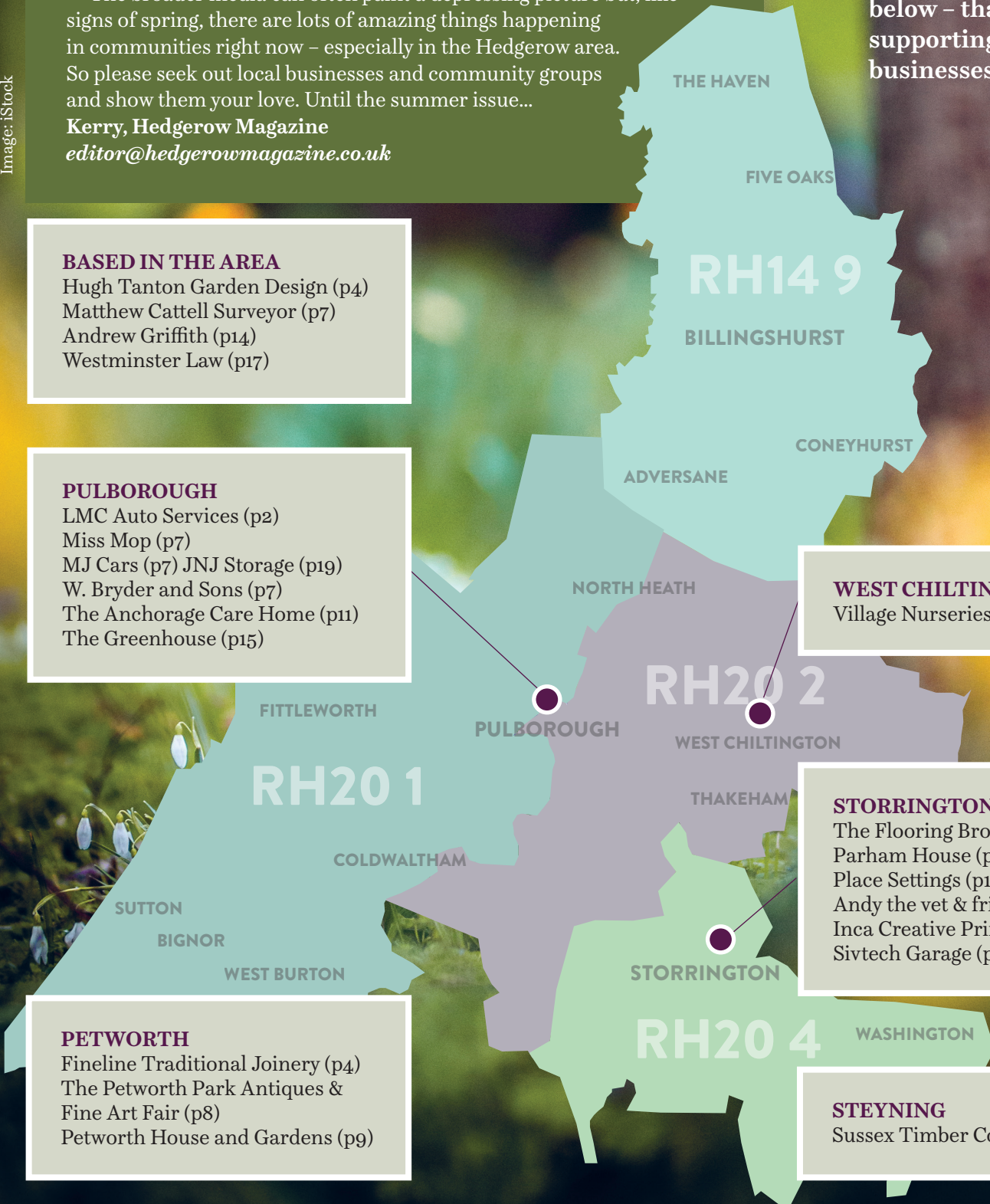
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Local information



New food waste service

From spring 2026, Horsham and Chichester District Councils will be introducing a new weekly food waste collection service for households.

New government legislation being bought in for March 2026 requires all councils in England to collect food waste.

Horsham District estimates that on average, more than 40% of rubbish is food waste so, by separating this from general waste, more recycling can take place.

Examples of the types of food you will be able to put into the food waste container includes cooked and uncooked foods, eggshells, coffee grounds, tea bags and solid fats. It is important that only compostable liners (such as the ones initially supplied) are used in the bins and all other packaging is removed from food

before placing in the caddy or bin.

Each household will receive a kitchen caddy, a roll of caddy liners to get you started, an outside bin, and instructions on how to use the new service. You won't need to be at home to receive the containers, they will be delivered outside your property or outside your door if you live in a flat.

Your food waste collection day may be different to your recycling and waste collection day, so do check your start date before you begin to use your bin (details at the end of this article).

When it is recycled, food waste can be turned into something useful. Your food waste will be recycled at an anaerobic digestion facility where it will be used to generate natural forms of energy, such as biogas – an excellent alternative to fossil fuels, and bio fertilisers which can be used in farming.

There are other benefits too to this new service:



- your household waste bin will be cleaner and less full if you recycle your food waste.
- this additional recycling service gives you the opportunity to recycle more of your waste.
- your collection will be easy and convenient.

www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/household-bin-collections
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My Year of Reading

In 2025, our Library Service celebrated 100 years of being at the heart of the community right across West Sussex by sharing a love of reading.

West Sussex Libraries has launched their 2026 reading challenge: My Year of Reading.

Throughout the year readers will explore different themes (see below), each one encouraging them to build small, meaningful reading moments into their routine, and improve their wellbeing.

Everyone is welcome to join in – individuals, reading groups and families. The challenge started in January but you can still join up.

Visit **libraries.westsussex.gov.uk/my-year-of-reading**

January: Read a short book or short story

February: Read a book set in another country

March: Read a book to make you feel good

April: Read a book featuring an animal

May: Read a historic book

June: Read a book set by the sea

July: Read an old favourite

August: Read a book with a musical theme

September: Read a translated book

October: Read a biography

November: Read a book about food

December: Read a book set in winter

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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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Events in the local area

The Chantry Quire will be performing Bach's St John Passion at Boxgrove Priory on Saturday 21st March at 7.30pm. The Quire will be joined by the Chantry Camerata and soloists in a performance of one of Bach's most memorable Oratorios.

Tickets are £20 and are available on the choir's website www.chantryquire.org.uk



The Arts Society West Sussex is holding a talk by Ian Swankie on Battersea Power Station - Four Iconic Chimneys. This is an amazing story about just one building.

This talk on 7th April will be followed by a visit on 28th April. Starts at 2pm (doors open 1.15pm) at Fittleworth Village Hall, Fittleworth RH20 1JB. Refreshments available. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £10.

For further details contact Gilly Myers on 07805731663 or email westsussex@theartsociety.org www.theartsocietywestsussex.org

Annalie Talent will give a talk to The Arts Society West Sussex on Girls Behaving Badly: Jane Austen's Wicked Women.

This lecture on 5th May explores how far the author subverted her readers' expectations and rebelled against what was expected of women of her day. 2pm start (doors open 1.15pm) at Fittleworth Village Hall, Fittleworth RH20 1JB. Refreshments available. Visitors are welcome at a cost of £10. *For contact details see box on the left.*

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21

APRIL

7

MAY

5

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Events in the local area

Spring Festival at Petworth House and Park 4th-19th April

This April, Petworth House and Park will be celebrating the arrival of a new season with their annual Spring Festival. Enjoy talks, demonstrations, a community art installation, a makers market, art and craft workshops, and family activities.

On Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April there will be a two-day Makers Market, held in partnership with Petworth Pop-Up.

There will be demonstrations and tours from Monday 13th until Thursday 16th April, and workshops in the Battery House from Tuesday 14th until Sunday 19th April.

A highlight of the festival will be



a series of talks from Thursday 16th – Sunday 19th April. Join a variety of free horticultural experts for talks in the Garden Theatre Marquee. No booking required.

The local community and volunteers have been busy hand-crafting a spectacular floral display, which will be on show for the duration of the festival.

From Saturday 28th March until Sunday 12th April families can pick up a free 'Tilly Plants a Tree' trail map to explore the buggy-friendly paths of the Pleasure Garden and discover fun games and activities along the way.

Normal admission applies.

nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth

Image ©Mike Cole



SPRING FESTIVAL

4 - 19 April

Petworth House and Park

Celebrate the arrival of a new season at our Spring Festival. With gardening talks, demonstrations, creative workshops, makers market, garden tours, a community art display, family activities and more.

Check our website for the full programme.

nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth

Events in the local area

Beekeeping Introductory Day

Wisborough Green Beekeepers Association (WGBKA) have an "Introduction to Beekeeping" day on Saturday 28th March 2026 in Rudgwick Village Hall.

The day is tailored for those who may have an interest in keeping bees, but aren't sure if it is for them or not. The day is packed with all the information needed to become a beekeeper, including the time needed, basic equipment, costs and where to site beehives.

For those who wish to go further, there will be a free follow-up session at the large and well equipped WGBKA teaching apiary, where you can handle bees under supervision. This provides the opportunity to learn and achieve a reasonable level of competence using someone else's facilities before buying bees and equipment.

Further information for beekeepers and non-beekeepers about the Introduction to Beekeeping Day and general beekeeping can be found at www.wgbka.org.uk or contact honeybee@wgbka.org.uk



Rotary club raises record amount with christmas tree recycling

In its 8th year of raising funds by collecting used Christmas trees, the Rotary Club of Storrington & Pulborough District raised a record amount of around £8,400 for local charities.

Chestnut Tree House (Children's Hospice Care) will be receiving in excess of £4,000 and the rest will go to other worthy local causes supported by Rotary.

In all, 486 Christmas trees were collected – a 16% increase over last year from Pulborough, Storrington, Amberley, Ashington, West Chiltington, Billingshurst and other local villages.

Welcome help with the collections this year came locally from Pulborough Shedders teams and Billingshurst District Lions Club.

Rotarian Anne Fielding Smith said "Many more trees were collected this year which shows this service is appreciated by many throughout the community and Rotary thanks everyone who made a donation when booking their tree for recycling".

The Village Fete and Dog Show at Bignor Park

On Sunday 24th May, from 12pm-5pm, a fun filled day out for children, adults and dogs is promised in the beautiful location of Bignor Park.

Exciting attractions included a fun dog show and a dog agility demonstration by Billingshurst Dog Training Club. The Petworth Town Band and the Fishbourne Mill Morris Dancers will also be performing.

Food and drink will be available all day including sandwiches in the Stable Cafe with hog roast baps, hot dogs and burgers provided by Sophie's Kitchen. Find homemade cakes in the Stable House Cafe and ice cream from De Luca's. Pimms, local beers, wine and soft drinks will also be on offer.

There will be lots of stalls as well as a tombola, a grand raffle and a silent auction.

Children can enjoy Punch and Judy, coconut shy, welly wanging, golf putting, splat the rat and lots more!

All proceeds go towards the repair and upkeep of the five Norman and Saxon Churches at Bignor, Sutton, Barlavington, Burton and Coates.

Entrance Fee: £10 per car.

Bignor Park, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1HG
suttonandbarlavington.co.uk/fete-at-bignor-park-2026

Sussex Sunday Walkers celebrates its Centenary in 2026

This independent walking group meet every Sunday, mainly in Sussex but occasionally in neighbouring counties.

They walk between 12-16 miles, usually starting at 9am, with a lunch stop at a country pub where they enjoy a break and a drink. Most members bring a picnic, but some choose to eat in the pub.

The name of the group was originally the Society of Sussex Wealdmen but was changed to Sussex Sunday Walkers in 2016.

During their centenary year they will be recreating the Society's inaugural walk on 29th March when walkers will dress in 1920's clothing. They also plan to walk the South Downs Way over eight Sundays in the spring and summer and hold a celebratory tea party in July. Full details can be found on the Centenary page on their website.

Visit sussexsundaywalkers.org.uk for more information or call Gaynor Waterman on 07986 515078.

New members will be made very welcome and a taster walk is free after which, if you decide to join, the annual subscription is £5.

Well-behaved dogs are allowed at the discretion of the walk leader.





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Springtime reflections



Spring is a time of renewal and hope.

Along St Mary's churchyard path, crocuses and daffodils lift their golden trumpets to welcome visitors. A Silver Award Eco Church, St Mary's is cared for by a dedicated team committed to nurturing its natural environment. Among ancient graves and venerable yew trees, birds, insects, wildflowers and small mammals find a precious refuge, while birdsong drifts through the church walls into quiet, reflective spaces.

Inside, spring sunlight pours through Sir Ninian Comper's beautiful Baptismal Window above the children's corner. Dedicated by the children of the parish in 1929, it depicts Jesus holding a child, surrounded by delicately rendered wildflowers, butterflies, birds, dogs and fish. Comper, a highly acclaimed architect whose family originated in Pulborough, is represented here by



three windows, shared with his son Sebastian. Together they contribute to the church's Grade I listed status. Sir Ninian famously signed his work with the image of a wild strawberry, in memory of his father.

Nature, however, can also be challenging. Perpetual rain and frost slowly erodes the church's soft sandstone, wearing away carved details shaped by generations past. Yet, just as spring brings hope, plans are in place to restore these ancient stone structures. This careful work will ensure the church continues to enhance our village and stand, as it has for centuries, in harmony with the natural world that surrounds it.

For more information on forthcoming events at St Mary's church in Pulborough including the community barn dance please visit www.friendsofpulboroughparishchurch.org

Written by Laura Batchelor, on behalf of the Friends of Pulborough Parish Church.

Images © Laura Batchelor

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Birds of prey



We have an abundance of birds of prey in the UK and particularly in West Sussex. Here we detail four birds often seen in our area but if you would like to find more then visit: www.wildlifetrusts.org/identify-birds-prey

Buzzards are a medium sized bird and one of the most frequently seen in this area. They have broader wings and shorter tails than the red kite. Their plumage varies from dark brown to paler shades.



buzzard

Male kestrels can be identified with a grey head and tail and distinctive black band. They have a ginger/brown back and cream, speckled underside. Females are similar but with a more uniform brown back.



kestrel

The red kite is considered a large bird of prey. They have angled red wings, tipped with black with white patches underneath. They have a distinctive long, red/brown forked tail.



red kite

A small bird of prey, the sparrowhawk male has a blue/grey back and white underparts with red/orange barring. Females tend to be larger with a brown plumage above and grey bars below.



sparrowhawk

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Community groups



Arun Valley uga is a friendly learning and social co-operative for anyone no longer in full-time work.

They have over 200 members and more than 30 interest groups, ranging from arts and sciences to social groups, history, outdoor activities, improv, world affairs and much more. Membership costs just £10 a year.

Their Open Coffee Morning is at Pulborough Village Hall, Lower Street, Pulborough RH20 2BF on Thursday 30th April, 10.30am-12.00pm.

Visit arunvalley.uga.site.uk or email enquiries@arunvalleyuga.org.uk to find out more.



Billingshurst Beck (Evening)
WI meet on the first Wednesday of the month (except August) at 7.30pm in the Stanley Room, Billingshurst Centre, Roman Way, RH14 9QW. Visitors are welcomed at a cost of £6.

For more details please follow on Facebook @WI Billingshurst Beck Instagram @BillingshurstBeckWI, Email us at billingshurstbeckwi@wsfwi.co.uk

Billingshurst Open Gardens is on Sunday 7th June this year.

Would you like your garden to be considered for the 2026 Open Garden event or volunteer to be a steward for the day?

For more information on opening your garden or volunteer opportunities, please email bhopengardens@outlook.com for more details.

The Connection Hub is a newly established local charity supporting people with additional needs and their families and carers across West Sussex.

They are holding their official charity launch day on Saturday 28th March, at Bognor Regis Youth & Community Centre. This launch day is a free, inclusive community event running from 10am-3pm, featuring accessible entertainment, sensory activities, music, crafts and calm spaces. It's designed to bring people together, reduce isolation, and celebrate connection in a safe, welcoming environment for all ages.

After the launch they have events lined up at venues including Storrington, Thakeham and Ashington.

For more details contact info.theconnectionhub@gmail.com or visit www.theconnectionhub.uk

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Community groups

Storrington Flower Club meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 2pm for 2.30pm, at Sullington Parish Hall, Thakeham Road, Storrington RH20 3PP. Visitors are £8 on the door.

- 25th March – Brenda Bull – ‘Ancient Routes’
- 22nd April – AGM (members and new members only)

For more details please contact Chrissy Desmond on 01903 742102.

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.

Contact President, Alison Forster at alisonjforster@btinternet.com



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.

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

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 and how to get involved contact westchiltprobus@gmail.com



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Community groups



West Chiltington Floral Club

meet at West Chiltington Village Hall, Mill Road, West Chiltington RH20 2PZ.

£7.00 for non-members on the door. Events include:

- Tuesday 17th March – 7.00pm for 7.30pm – Demonstrator: Duncan Ward with a “Trip to Brighton”. Visitors are free this month.
- Tuesday 21st April – 7.00pm for

7.30pm – Demonstrator: Sue Flight with “Spring is in the Air”

- Tuesday 19th May – 6.30pm for 7.00pm – Spring Workshop with Barbara Caldecourt – details to be confirmed.

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

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.com or visit westchilthortsoc.wordpress.com



Junktique Collectables & Clutter Sale

at West Chiltington Village Hall, Mill Road, West Chiltington RH20 2PZ

Saturday 18th April from 10.15am-12.30pm

(no public entry before 10.15am)

Adults: £1 / Children under 12 free
Cakes/Produce/Plant Stall (Refreshments available)

Sellers 9.15 am / Tables £12.00

Must book in advance before

Thursday 16th April

Call 01798 813608

(07803 658377)

or 01798 813712.

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.

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Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) registration fee, when applicable, is not included in these prices.



Sports + leisure



Chanctonbury Badminton Club

LOCATION: Storrington Leisure Centre.

TIMES: Club nights on Wednesdays 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

Pulborough Lawn Bowls Club

LOCATION: At the top of the Recreation ground with free parking.

TIMES: Roll-ups are mid April-September, Monday & Friday from 6pm-dusk.

CONTACT: Jane Gray on 01798 873643; pulboroughbc@gmail.com; www.pulboroughbowlsclub.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



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hedgerow MAGAZINE

If you have a community group, sports club 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 summer 2026 edition: 1 May 2026



Sports + leisure



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



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Rotary 

FILM NIGHT

At Sullington Parish Hall
 Wednesday 11th March 2026



Starring: Tom Basden, Tim Key & Sian Clifford

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



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