

Parish council ward report

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March 2024

Welcome to the March report.

Ward matters:

Upcoming surgeries: Saturday 16th March
The Horse and Groom, East Ashling: 11.00-11.45am
The Earl of March, Lavant: 12.00-1.00pm

District council matters:

February has been a busy month preparing and planning for the months ahead. At full council, members approved the budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

I'm also pleased to report that the free laser light shows that took place at Chichester Canal on 16 and 17 February were a huge success. I hope you managed to get down there to enjoy one of the four displays that took place over the two days. As a result of the success of these events we are actively looking to bring an additional laser light show to another location in the district next year – so we'll keep you updated as these plans progress!

There are lots more events to look forward to including markets – including the Cross, Market & More event on Sunday 3 March; Culture Spark events; and Chichester Roman Week, which will take place from Monday 27 May until Saturday 1 June. The Novium Museum have also arranged for Europe's leading Roman re-enactment group to take over the museum on Wednesday 29 May, offering a series of interactive talks and demonstrations. Look out for our article in the Spring initiatives (out in April), which lists all of the events coming up.

Cross Market & More dates for 2024:

Our first of four Cross Market & More events happens on Sunday 3 March in Chichester city centre when North Street and East Street will once again be filled with artisan stalls showcasing some of the best talent from across the area including local students who hope to be our budding entrepreneurs of tomorrow! Having proved popular over the last couple of

the years the team will be curating and delivering the events involving jewellery makers, clothing, street food, live music and much more. As before, the Cross Market & More event will operate between 10am and 4pm. The four dates for your diaries are 3 March, 7 July (which also includes the fabulous Summer Street Party), 29 September and 24 November.

I hope to see you there.

Just a reminder that the council have secured £12,000 to increase tree cover and enhance community wellbeing through the creation of new community orchards in the district. This is thanks to a share of the government's £2.5 million Coronation Living Heritage Fund, which has been developed to promote green spaces and connect communities with nature to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. We will be issuing grants to parish councils and community groups to support the development of community orchards within their local area. This is part of our successful 'Tree Chichester District' scheme, which has already supported the planting of seven community orchards in Selsey, Chichester, Fishbourne and Goodwood over the past year. If you are interested in starting a community orchard planting project, please get in touch with our Tree Project Officer by emailing treescheme@chichester.gov.uk or by calling 01243 521161.

Finally, we are recruiting and working with local volunteers to catalogue, re-pack and digitise the Shippam's collection, which consists of over 700 items from the company's iconic advertising archive, hundreds of photographs, ephemera and objects relating to life in the factory, and archaeology recovered from an excavation of the old factory site in 2005. A volunteer recruitment event will take place on Thursday, 29 February from 10am to 12pm at The Novium Museum. This event is for anyone who wishes to find out more about the project and volunteering opportunities. To register your interest, please book a place at the recruitment event here:

<https://chichesterboxoffice.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873642742> For more information, email thenovium@chichester.gov.uk or call 01243 775888. More information about the history of Shippam's can be read on our website: www.thenovium.org/shippams

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in any way.

Best wishes
Joseph