

Parish council ward report

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Welcome to the February 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:

January has already been a busy month preparing and planning for the months ahead. At the end of January, councillors agreed the council's corporate plan at Full Council, which identifies the key projects for this year.

Projects include creating more short-stay accommodation for people facing homelessness; refurbishing several children's play areas; the introduction of food waste recycling collections – and even bringing a festive ice-skating rink to Chichester in December. Other projects include reviewing the leisure management contract, which is due to come to an end, and replacing CCTV at the council's depot site.

The introduction of food waste recycling is a particularly major project and will include procuring vehicles and associated equipment; looking at how the new service will be accommodated on the depot site; waste transfer and processing points; designing efficient rounds; recruiting staff; and rolling out the service. The Government requires all council's that collect waste to be delivering this service by March 2026. This is something that I will be keeping you closely informed about as the project progresses, as it will be something that all our residents will be affected by and interested in.

I'm pleased to let you know that we 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.

I also want to highlight an event for your diaries - we will be holding two laser light show events in February on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 September between 6pm and 7.30pm at the Canal Basin in Chichester. We held one of these events for the first-time last year and it was a huge success. We're able to deliver this for free thanks to funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Each show will last for around 15 minutes and will be choreographed to music. We're also hoping to bring the laser light show to a different area of the district next year and some exciting discussions are already underway about this.

Finally, you may be interested to know that this year marks 50 years since the council was formed, along with all other district councils in the country. This provides us with the chance to reflect on the advancements made by the council over successive decades, in partnership with you, previous councillors and our communities. You only have to look at how we have adapted and transformed to meet the technological advancements over this time and the financial challenges we have had to face. Not to mention how we dealt with the coronavirus pandemic – which was something that none of us had ever had to deal with before.

The Novium Museum Shippam's Grant We're thrilled to announce that we've been awarded a grant of £44,593 from Arts Council England to unlock the advertising archive of the former local family-run business, Shippam's, in an exciting new project which will culminate in an exhibition in 2025. Established in 1786, Shippam's was a beloved employer in Chichester, whose success and popularity spread worldwide. The project will explore how family and community shaped one of the best loved brands of the 20th century. We'll be working together with the local community to explore themes of community, family, sustainability, and identity within the company, and members of the public will also have the opportunity to be a part of the Shippam's project.

We'll be 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