THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY No. 1000 The CHICHESTER SOCIETY

The Newsletter goes into Colour

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Dunlin in May at Selsey

Photo by David Wilson

Time for a Change

Following a suggestion from a member, we decided that it was time to examine the possibility of switching to colour for the Newsletter and to seek some advice on improving its design and layout.

Your Committee acted on her suggestion and agreed two main actions:-

1. We are printing the Newsletter in colour

You may ask why we did not choose colour earlier. Cost was the reason. However, relative costs have changed and we have received a very competitive quote which will mean we can afford the switch. We paid WSCC £406 for 720 black and white copies of the 16-page December and our colour printer will

charge £460.

2. We arranged to see both Colin Channon, Editor of the *Chichester Observer* and John Carter, Deputy Editor

We obtained their advice on design, layout and the proper use of colour. We then redesigned the December 2007 issue, along the lines they suggested and took it back to them to make sure we had correctly absorbed their advice. We are very grateful to Colin and John for their good advice.

This issue is the result. We hope you like it! Please let us know what you think!

Printed on Nine Lives recycled paper





We are all shocked at the Post Office's proposal to shut the post offices in Parklands, and in Sadlers Walk.

Sadlers Walk: A boon to Local business.

Businesses bank with this Post Office because it offers a good financial deal. For businesses, time is money. If they have to spend over half an hour queuing at West Street, instead of five minutes at Sadlers Walk, they will take their business elsewhere. The Post Office, in proposing the closure of Sadlers Walk, is cutting off its nose to spite its face.

The Role of Parklands Post Office

This post office is the hub of the Parklands and East Broyle communities, and is literally at the corner of a thriving parade of shops, including a pharmacy, a grocer, a butcher and other retail outlets. Perhaps 5,000 people, of whom the elderly represent a 30% above-average proportion, depend for day-to-day essentials on this shopping parade. Mr Depen Chadasama, the Postmaster, estimates around half his weekly 1,000 plus transactions are for pensions. Two pensioners can be seen in the photo at the top of this page approaching on their special scooters.

Why Propose Closure?

It is difficult to understand the rationale for the Parklands closure. We need to look to the underlying reasons why Post Office Ltd. is planning to close 2,500 post offices across the country.

We use them less

The post office network made a loss of more than £200 million in 2006/7 and there are 4 million fewer customer visits every week compared with just two years ago. One of the major reasons for fewer visits has been the decline in revenue from government transactions, which fell by £168 million in 2005/6.

Save our Post Offices!



Sadlers Walk Post Office



Parklands Post Office at The Ridgeway

For example, many of us used to obtain our TV licence and vehicle licence renewals from the Post Office. If you now go to the websites of TV licensing and vehicle licensing, you will see no reference to the Post Office. Utility companies have encouraged us to pay by direct debit and pension payments are mostly made directly into our bank accounts.

State Aid is Capped

Small post offices have been kept alive by a Social Network Payment, but this is capped to the 2003 figure of £150 million per year until 2011, with no allowance for

inflation and therefore of reducing real value. Apparently, the sum is restricted, thanks to an EU directive forbidding increases in existing patterns of state aid. There is no government guarantee of any payment after 2011.

Loss of Monopoly

The Post Office is under further financial pressure as it has lost its monopoly for the delivery of all items of more than 50 grams, or roughly the weight of the average letter.

The Closure Criteria

In selecting the Parklands office for closure, certain national criteria have been applied, which are all related to distance from a Post Office, including:-

- "99% of the UK population to be within 3 miles and 90% of the population to be within 1 mile of their nearest Post Office branch.
- For each individual postcode district (e.g. PO19) 95% of the population of the postcode district to be within 6 miles of their nearest Post Office branch."

Further Closure Threats

These criteria are so broad that they would probably allow the post offices at Broadway in Summersdale, St. James Road and the Whyke estate all to be closed, as all PO19 residents are within 6 miles of the main West Street office in the City. The financial pressures on Post Office Ld. make further closures almost inevitable within a few years.

An Arbitrary Choice

In other words the choice of Parklands is totally arbitrary, taken without regard to its vital role in the community, its over 1,000 transactions a week, and the inconvenience inflicted on local residents, not to mention the extra car miles required. 1600 post offices have fewer than 120 customers per week, less than one eighth of Parklands, so why choose Parklands?

Who wants to join the frequently long queues in the poorly ventilated office in West Street? How many times have you been in there and found the queue less than half a dozen people long?



Parklands Post Office at corner of busy Parade



Broadway Post Office: Threatened with closure too in a few years?

The same number of counter assistants appears to be on the tills early and late, irrespective of demand; and of course there are fewer at lunchtime when there is an extra peak.

Can you imagine a supermarket adopting this policy? If the Post Office were a commercial organisation as it claims to want to be, it would take the presence of these queues as a reason for expansion, not contraction.

Probably the real reason for proposing the closure of both Parklands and Sadlers Walk offices is that it will increase the profitability of the main post office directly owned by Post Office Ltd.

We must all try and save both Sadlers Walk and Parklands Post Offices

The Chichester Society will be putting in a protest, but don't just

leave it to the Executive Committee; the more letters and emails, the greater the effect.

The consultation period of six weeks is nearly over but you can still write to:

National Consultation Team Post Office Ltd FREEPOST CONSULTATION TEAM

OR E-mail

consultation@postoffice.co.uk

Telephone: 08457 22 33 44

Tony Dignum and David Wilson

GRAYLINGWELL - Progress Report On an Exciting Development

In the newsletter for June 2006 we outlined the District Council's Development Brief for North East Chichester, the two major opportunity sites being the Roussillon Barracks and the former Graylingwell Hospital.

Although this Brief had to be withdrawn when the Inspector rejected the Council's Core Strategy, a "refreshed" Brief is being prepared. This, we understand, will be very similar to the old one and will be out to consultation in March/April.

In 2007 the Government's national regeneration agency English Partnerships acquired the Graylingwell Hospital site as part of a transfer of 96 surplus National Health Service sites. In consultation with the District Council and English Heritage, English Partnerships has initiated a joint venture consisting of itself, Linden Homes and Downland Housing Association to develop the site by a Master Plan within the framework of the NE Chichester Development Brief.

The North-East Forum

In November 2007 the District Council established a North East Chichester City Forum composed of District, City and County Councillors and representatives of the Chichester Society, Chichester Conservation Area Advisory Committee, and the Summersdale and East Broyle Residents' Associations. The purpose of this Forum is to investigate and make recommendations on the opportunities available for the development within NE Chichester". This covers initially the Graylingwell Hospital site and in due course the southern part of the Roussillon Barracks, which is also due to be transferred to English Partnerships in the near future and prepared for disposal and development.

The English Partnership Proposals

The inaugural meeting of the Forum took place on 13 November 2007. Presentations were given by English Partnerships and the joint developers and their architects, John Thompson



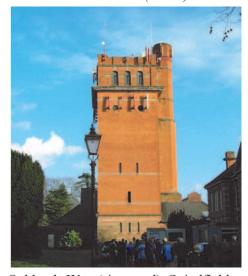
The Chapel (above) and the Water Tower (below)

Partnership, who outlined their proposals for up to 800 homes, community facilities, the reuse of listed buildings including the Victorian chapel and water tower and the Georgian farmhouse, restoration of the Grayling Well, and reuse of other substantial Victorian buildings of merit to give 'heart and soul' to the overall development. Several landscaped open spaces and many mature trees would be retained and great emphasis would be placed on providing substantial development with a zero carbon strategy and the need to build a vibrant and creative neighbourhood community.

The relationship between Grayling-well and the City is seen as crucial and the development must complement rather than compete with the city centre. Community involvement in the project is also seen as essential and examples were given of successful community workshops elsewhere including for the former Caterham Barracks in Surrey which had been imaginatively developed by Linden Homes with John Thompson Partnership.

Traffic Concerns

Members of the Forum expressed concern at the impact of traffic on the surrounding areas in particular on



Oaklands Way (ring road), Spitalfield Lane and Summersdale. The recently built Eastern Link Road from Westhampnett was intended to cater for much of the traffic generated by the new development as well as much of the traffic to and from the University and St Richard's Hospital. A bus service, convenient pedestrian and cycle routes, and a possible car club, were being discussed with the District and County Councils.

The Vision

The second meeting of the Forum on 14 January this year was preceded by a chilly walk round the Graylingwell

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site led by the developers and architects. Forum members were impressed by the high quality of many of the buildings and their relationship to attractive landscaped open spaces with views across the Lavant Valley to the Downs, and southwards towards the Cathedral spire, and most of the site is within the Graylingwell Conservation Area.

Returning to the warmth of East Pallant House, a vision was presented to the Forum of a "master plan" to create a development of unique identity, enhancing the setting of the historic buildings and landscape whilst removing more recent buildings of no architectural or aesthetic merit.

Make your views known!

To ensure that the citizens of Chichester are given every opportunity to influence the detailed design of this exciting project at Graylingwell, the developers plan an extensive programme of community consultation. This will shortly be launched, comprising newsletters, exhibitions, questionnaires, focus groups of 'stakeholders', media publicity, and culminating in a two-day community planning weekend open to all. The proposals will then be finalised and a planning application submitted to the District Council towards the end of the summer.

This is an unprecedented invitation to Cicestrians to participate in the largest ever development the city has ever seen. We hope many members of the Chichester Society will take the opportunity to make their views known on the proposals and the "refreshed" Development Brief.

The Forum's role going forward

The Forum will remain in being to help guide the various phases of the Graylingwell development. It will also examine the forthcoming proposals for the Roussillon Barracks and those for surplus land between Graylingwell and St Richard's Hospital and elsewhere in the vicinity.

John Templeton



The pre-Roman Chichester Dyke (above) and the Queen Anne-style former Medical Superintendent's House (below)



The eighteenth-century Graylingwell Farmhouse (below)



Two Cicestrian Characters: Alf and Carrie Ainger

Alfred William 'Alf' Ainger was born in 1881, the son of Alfred and Elizabeth, who were born in Sidlesham and Bosham respectively. In 1901 the family were at Birdham where Alfred senior was the lock keeper of what was then called Lower lock (now Salterns) as well as being a general labourer on the Chichester Canal, and living in the lock keeper's cottage. His younger brother George was the lock keeper of the Upper (Casher) lock. 'Young Alf' was an agricultural labourer. On 2nd July 1903, Alfred senior took over the licence of the Royal Oak at Hooksway in Elsted parish from William Woods. 'Young' Alf moved at the same time, milking cows at Treyford, and married 22 year old Caroline Cribb at Birdham on 3rd February 1906.

'Carrie' was born at Birdham, one of six daughters of Barnabas and Emma Cribb. Barnabas was the miller at Birdham Tidal Mill, which stood next to Lower lock, and closed during the 1930s. Her ancestor Tom Cribb had been undefeated bare-fist boxing champion of the world. Alf and Carrie had known each other as youngsters, and before she was married Carrie worked as a kitchen maid for the Carnegie family at Fair Oak, Rogate. She recalled plucking pheasants that had been hung too long and were full of maggots.

The Royal Oak at Hooksway

On 5th December 1907, 26 year old Alf Ainger took over the licence of the Royal Oak at Hooksway from his 60 year old parents. Could anybody who dropped in for a first drink with them that evening have foreseen that they would still be there 63 years later, as Alf died 'in harness' on 17th December 1970?

Many people living in this area before 1970 will have known of the Royal Oak during the Aingers' time there. Indeed so well known did it become that in the last years of Alf's tenancy a visit was a 'rite of passage' for anybody with any interest in the sort of country pub that was rapidly becoming a memory. Consequently it isn't



just locals of 55 and older who have memories and anecdotes from that time but a much wider public. At that time only one room was available for drinkers, the lower bar on the northern side of the building, the rest of the ground floor being the Aingers' living rooms. The beer, for it was only a beer house, was served from a hatch opposite the entrance, and when the pub was full one had to walk over the low table which blocked the way. Alf had his own seat on the left hand side of the fire, and woe-betide anybody who was sitting in it when he wanted to. There was no electricity, the light being provided by candles and paraffin lamps. They were often guttering which, combined with smoke from the fire and cigarettes, made the room filthy dirty – but that was part of its character. It must be noted that latterly nobody with any taste buds went for the beer, as in Alf's final years it became a Watneys house, selling the notorious Red Barrel.

Alf's Smallholding

No country pub, especially one as isolated as the Royal Oak, could provide a living from beer sales. The pub had been bought in the 1880s by the brewer Charles Henty, whose business operated out of the Westgate Brewery in Chichester, and with it came a smallholding of about 8 acres. Alf retained the use of some of this land to the end of his life, and kept animals and grew vegetables and animal fodder on it

Alf's Wood Business

Carrie looked after the pub during the

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day, and for a short time Alf continued to milk cows at another farm at Treyford, walking there and back twice a day. He then ran a wood business, which entailed him getting up at 5am to feed his cart horse and pony before milking his four cows. He would stop to eat between 6.30 and 7.00 and then either cut wood on the West Dean Estate or take a cartload of timber to such places as Lavant, West Ashling and Fishbourne. He would regularly visit Fishbourne Mill to pick up horse and cattle feed on his way home. Every three weeks he would take a load of wood faggots to the Black Boy at Fishbourne and also to West Wittering, an 11 hour journey which he would break to refresh himself and his horses at the Wellington Public House, now Comme ça, in Chichester. How many of the 11 hours were accounted for by that stop?

After eight years of this routine the West Dean estate employed him sawing timber. He got to the woodyard at West Dean by 9am, having milked his own cows and walked four miles. In 1918 Henry Sampson offered him a 5 year lease on land at Philliswood Farm next to Hooksway, and in the dry summer of 1921 Alf grew oats, which was thrashed by the machine belonging to Mr Ricketts of Littlegreen. The coal strike of 1926 made wood more attractive, and Alf purchased, cut and distributed 25 acres of timber with one man's help. No chain saws in those days, it was all axe and hand saw work. This hard work bore financial fruit, as Alf was one of the earliest owner hereabouts of a car, a Belsize. He bought a Ford lorry from D. Rowe and Co. in 1930 for £220, which enabled him to haul loads as far as Portsmouth. Many people he met there turned up at the pub over the years. During the last war he broke up 'his' land for crops, and dug out 24 acres of potatoes by himself. Only when he reached 78 did his doctor forbid him working so hard.

Hooksway Anecdotes

John Russell, the oldest son of Bertrand Russell (who lived at nearby Telegraph House, and who became the 4th Earl on the death of his father),



The couple (above) and the Royal Oak today (below)



as a boy walked down to the pub to escape from the pressure of the high expectations that his philosopher father had for him. When 'called-up' for military service he was a 'Bevan boy', becoming a coal miner. This undermined his already delicate health, and he convalesced for quite some time with Alf and Carrie, who treated him like the son they never had.

The young doctors from the Royal West Sussex and St Richard's hospitals used the pub as their local, as it was sufficiently far from Chichester for them to be able to let their hair down. They joined many in the folk singing that took place there, one renowned singer being Ted Ayling who would cycle there over the Downs

from Trotton.

A story often told of Alf concerns his reply to a question about what WC facilities were provided for ladies. He replied that they were welcome to use his fields behind the pub.

Alf's funeral at Birdham church on 22^{nd} December 1970 was attended by a very large number of people from very varied backgrounds. Carrie stayed on at the Royal Oak for a short time before moving to a relative's. She was buried at Birdham on 14^{th} March 1974, aged 90.

Many tales are told of Alf and Carrie, and the institution that was the Royal Oak during their tenure.

Andrew Shaxson

West Dean College and Gardens



West Dean College and Gardens lie just six miles north of Chichester, nestled in the slopes of the rolling South Downs. I'm sure many of you have visited the beautiful Gardens, but how many of you have passed the grand black and gold gates of the College on the way to Midhurst and wondered what exactly is behind them?

Let me unfold the mystery...

The West Dean Estate was inherited in 1912 by Edward James, a patron of the surrealist artists Salvador Dalí and René Magritte. As the founder of West Dean College, he believed that West Dean 'should concentrate on helping young artists and craftsmen and on teaching others to become artists and craftsmen'.

The Courses Available

The college opened in 1971 and remains committed to these aims by running specialist MA and diploma courses and over 700 short courses per year.

The MA degrees are in Conservation Studies and Visual Arts; West Dean College Diplomas in Musical Instrument Making and Antique Clock Restoration; the short courses in an array of subjects from beadwork to bookbinding, from glass to gardening, from sketching to sculpture.

Our June to October brochure is now out, including both familiar favourites and innovative new courses. It introduces internationally renowned practitioners new to West Dean:

Susan Cross, a Jerwood Prize winner for contemporary jewellery Hiroshi Suzuki, world-renowned silversmith creating dramatic large scale vessels using his method of free-style hammering on air

Garrett Hack, a furniture maker from Vermont specialising in contemporary interpretations of Federal style furniture

Brian Boggs, whose beautifully handmade chairs are not only a work of art, but comfortable and built to last a life-time

Jo Budd, a textile artist and writer, who focuses on evoking the landscape

West Dean College: The southern face and (below) textile course



Michael Brennand-Wood, a textile artist with a national and international reputation for innovative and imaginative combinations of ideas and media.

If you can't decide on a course,

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why not try a Taster Day? They are run in a variety of subjects which offer you the chance to discover a new subject and open up the opportunity to develop new skills. They are ideal for complete beginners and cover twenty-six different subject areas.

The Sussex Barn

The Edward James Foundation also encompasses the Sussex Barn Auditorium which plays host to a variety of talks, lectures, concerts and recitals. Earlier this year Matthew Collings gave an art appreciation lecture and Juliet Stevenson read some of her favourite prose. Forthcoming events include John Clegg – Classical and Romantic Piano Masterpieces in April, the Sussex Camerata in May and Noel Kingsbury's garden lecture in July.

Adjacent to the auditorium is the Sussex Barn Gallery; which programmes a variety of exhibitions of work by established and emerging artists as well as work inspired by the College, its students and tutors. The current exhibition, **Jenken-po: Rock, Paper, Scissors** is on until the end of March. Entry to the gallery is free and exhibitions run throughout the year. Exact dates are still to be confirmed but the forthcoming are:

Recycle - March to April

Out of China: Monumental Porcelain - The work of Felicity

Ayleiff - May to June

West Dean Visual Arts Graduation Show - June to July

Summer School - July to August **Lee Miller: Muse** - September to October

Books as Art - October to November

Effervescence III - November to January 2009

West Dean Gardens

The beautifully presented **West** Dean Gardens are open seven days a week until October and include the Visitor Centre where you can buy lunch or light refreshments. Considerable investments of time and resources over the last decade ensure that there is always plenty to see and smell in the exquisite walled kitchen garden and its associated Victorian glasshouse range. It doesn't end there however: this floriferous cornucopia extends throughout the 35 acres of ornamental grounds and on into the 50 acre St Roche's arboretum. Whether tree or tulip, pear or pine. rose or rocket, West Dean is a haven for all.

Garden Events - Dates for your diary

An exciting programme of events continues throughout the summer:

Wholly Herbs, 17th & 18th May; a celebration of the not-so-humble herbs in all their diversity

Garden Event, 21st & 22nd June; celebrates the glories of the English garden

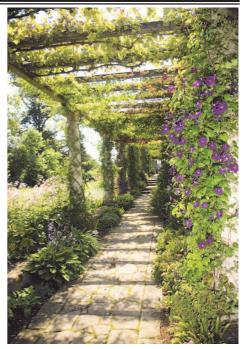
Chilli Fiesta, 9th & 10th August; all things chilli; food, drink and West Dean's famous collection of over 250 chilli peppers

Totally Tomato Show, 6th & 7th September; growing, cooking and eating, plus over 150 tomato varieties grown in West Dean's Victorian glasshouses

Apple Affair, 11th & 12th October; cooking demonstrations, apple games and the annual opening of West Dean House.

The Tapestry Studio

The Edward James Foundation also encompasses the Tapestry studio, which promotes the art of tapestry through accomplished production of commissioned work for corporate bodies and private clients, to create individual works of



The Pergola

art. Clients of the Studio include Historic Scotland, the Palace of Westminster and numerous private clients. The Tapestry studio is open to visitors every Wednesday from 1.30 pm - 2.00 pm.

Conference Facilities

Conferences can also be held at West Dean, as there are fully equipped State Conference Rooms in the Main House and in the The Sussex Barn - a contemporary barn conversion. The extensive grounds can accommodate a host of activities, and team-building exercises and a variety of short creative courses in our well-equipped art and craft studios can also form part of the conference package.

There is so much going on at West Dean, you'll have to experience it for yourself, so book a course, attend a lecture, come to a recital, visit the Gardens or the Gallery and come and see what West Dean has to offer.

For further information please visit www.westdean.org.uk, or email enquiries@westdean.org.uk or call 01243 811301.

Replace those Level Crossings!

How many days, weeks, or even months in a lifetime does an average Chichester resident spend sitting in a vehicle at one of the city's level-crossing gates? For a lot of us, it adds up to a very long stretch of boredom, frustration and, in the case of taxi-drivers, lost income. A case of chronicles of wasted time, in the words of the late Malcolm Muggeridge.

The monstrous traffic jams do not exactly enhance the economy of the city, either. Visitors can find themselves confronted by ever-lengthening queues, particularly if approaching from the south - something of a deterrent when considering a return trip.

Now, however, a unique opportunity could be about to present itself to rid Chichester of this thorn in its flesh. Plans are in hand for a new public transport interchange at the railway station, involving the relocation of the city's bus station across the road.

This will point the way to a major redevelopment of both the bus station site and the extensive bus garage nearby, and possibly of other land in the area as well.

The landowner is Chichester District Council, which one would expect to be a major financial beneficiary of the building bonanza when it goes ahead.

Both housing and commercial development have already been talked about, and even a possible youth hostel, and this is all likely to happen in the not too distant future. West Sussex County Council is already poised to press ahead with the first phase of the bus/rail interchange, and successive phases will hopefully follow soon.

The local authorities quite frequently - and rightly - extol the virtues of so-called 'planning gain' for the local community. This is a system under which developers fork out quite hefty sums to improve the local infrastructure and community facilities as part of a formal agreement when planning permission is given. For example, a major-facelift about to start at Eastgate Square is being paid for with contributions from the company which redeveloped the former Rowes Garage site (now St. Agnes Place).

Large sums of cash from the developers of the new leisure complex in Stockbridge Road are earmarked for improvements in the Southgate area. The bus station land is right next to the busiest level-crossing in the city, in Stockbridge Road. When the money comes rolling in from the development of this and other land, surely the district council should be ready to consider chipping in towards curing a running sore which has plagued Chichester for decades, and which the new development will otherwise exacerbate?

The alternatives are basically an underpass or a bridge Environmentalists, including most Society members, would, I imagine, much prefer the former. Certainly a bridge structure would be highly intrusive. As always, cost will be the big stumbling block, but West Sussex



The queue builds (above) At last, the train passes! (below)





Freedom! The gates rise.

County Council, as highway authority, should also be prepared to find some funds to help address this severe traffic problem.

Network Rail, too, despite its much-vaunted problems elsewhere in the country, has a vested interest in eliminating level crossings wherever it can. In the light of the sophisticated equipment now used on them, their provision and upkeep must be a constant drain on its resources.

A once in a lifetime opportunity is coming. This is a nettle which must be grasped, or the city will be condemned to a traffic-choked and chaotic future.

Cicestrian

A Tale of Two Cities

(or, at least, a city and a town) - by 'A Kentish Man'

Maidstone and Chichester have a lot in common

Both are fair-sized towns, county towns in fact, situated in the South East. Both have their fair share of national retail chains, and both have a hospital under threat. The approaches to Maidstone from west and north are lined with large pre-war houses which are under threat from developers who want to demolish these properties and convert them into monotonous blocks of flats.

So where's the difference? The difference is that Maidstone Borough Council, unlike Chichester District Council, is prepared to do something about this form of development blight!

What Maidstone is Doing

I have an article from the Downs Mail in Maidstone describing what the Borough Council proposes to do. They are starting out on a consultation that will lead to the setting up of 'Character Area Assessments' (CAA). These assessments

- Identify distinctive features which give an area its character
- Provide guidance for appropriate development
- Set out criteria for testing development proposals

The drafts have been prepared after discussions with local people.

The positive features which the Council wish to preserve include the preservation of specific buildings, Victorian in this case, as well as buildings already listed. Both Tonbridge Road (from the west of Maidstone) and London Road (from the north) are noted for their attractive ragstone walls and mature trees. We can at least and at present seek to preserve our trees. There are local landmarks, and driving down these roads presents attractive vistas to the eye.

Not all the features of the area are idyllic of course. Maidstone has problems with the amount of traffic (who doesn't?) and provision of safe cross-

ing for pedestrians. They have already suffered from parking areas being built on frontages open to the road, which we have so far by and large avoided. And a number of high-rise buildings have begun to disfigure the area, a feature which has led to the present proposals.

Why not Chichester?

So, if Maidstone can do it, why can't Chichester? When the Chichester Local Development Framework (LDF) was being compiled, the Chichester Society suggested that a similar device, namely a Special Policy Area (SPA), should be included, to protect Lavant Road and Fishbourne Road. The idea was turned down flat, without even the courtesy of a formal explanation. There were rumours – only rumours, it is true – that the view being taken was that once one SPA had been set up, everybody would want one. A pettifogging excuse for inaction, if ever there was one.

Anyway, the LDF has now been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate. We will renew our claim for SPA or CAA, whichever you like to call them, in the next round of devising the new LDF. It is to be hoped that Lavant Road and Fishbourne Road have not been totally submerged in soulless blocks of flats before then.

Chisoc Date for Your Diary

Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 15th October at 7:30 pm

PETER HANCOCK ANTIQUES

Anything old bought and sold

Optical toys and stereoscopes, old swords, daggers, and clubs, chinese vases, autographs, clocks, furniture, corkscrews, Books, coins and medals. Anything old and interesting. FREE Help and advice on the phone

01243 786173 40 West Street, Chichester



Worth preserving in London Road, Maidstone (above) and The Avenue, Summersdale, Chichester (below)





Singleton, Chichester, W Sussex PO18 0EU Telephone 01243 811348 www.wealddown.co.uk

Easter Festivities Fri 21 – Mon 24 March

Activities and Easter celebrations for all the family throughout the holiday weekend, including traditional crafts and pastimes, storytelling, music, tasty seasonal fare, games and activities with younger visitors in mind, plus an Easter bonnet parade on the Monday.

Sussex Food and Farming: Food Fair Sun 4 – Mon 5 May

A wonderful choice of quality fare to sample and buy from the local producers of the south east, plus tastings, cookery classes, demonstrations and children's activities. And new for 2008, to reflect 'The Year of Food and Farming' a celebration of downland farming. *In Association with A Taste of Sussex*.

Open 10.30 am – 6 pm. Adults £8.25; over 60s £7.25; children £4.40; family (2+3) £22.65. Children under 5 free.

Gravel: The Public Protest Meeting on 1st February

St Paul's Church was packed with well over 200 residents on Friday 1st February for a protest meeting against gravel extraction around Hunters Race between Lavant and West Broyle organised by RAGE, Residents Against Gravel Extraction.

The meeting was addressed by Andrew Tyrie MP, county councillors Louise Goldsmith and Mike Hall, and RAGE committee members Marianne McQuaide, Bill Tarry and Nick Reynolds

RAGE's Aims

The speakers' aims and those of RAGE are to ensure that the WSCC Planning Committee rejects Tarmac's application because it fails to conform to the current Minerals Plan in three vital respects:-

- 1. It would allow noisy, dusty onsite Processing close to Lavant for 14 years instead of off-site, including crushing stone on site; and also light pollution by winter afternoon working.
- 2. It would send 84 lorries a day along Broyle Road, Spitalfield Lane and Westhampnett Road, also for 14 years, instead of using rail or conveyor. The number of 38-tonne mineral lorries going along Spitalfield Lane will increase from 54 to 134 during a typical working day, a staggering extra 150%
- 3. It would extend gravel extraction beyond the area laid down in the WSCC Minerals Plan (to the south, right up to Sennicotts).

RAGE also believes gravel should not be worked at all in an area so close to the statutory Area of National Beauty, which is proposed to be part of the South Downs National Park.

It opposes the consequent destruction and industrialisation of the 'strategic gap' which was designed to prevent Lavant becoming a suburb of Chichester.

RAGE is also concerned also by:

♦ The lack of enforcement by WSCC of planning conditions on existing gravel pits, which means

that the number of permitted lorry movements is being regularly exceeded

- ◆ Potential vibration damage to road foundations, and even to house foundations, particularly to older houses close to the lorry route, as in Spitalfield Lane
- ♦ Traffic congestion from Oaklands Way out to Portfield, with heavy lorries having to negotiate narrow roundabouts and, as already in one recent incident, significantly delaying an ambulance trying to get to St Richard's Hospital
- ◆ Loss of public amenity through denial of the quiet enjoyment of Centurion Way
- ◆ Urbanisation of the south edge of Lavant with a new bridge over Centurion Way and a round-about with extensive lighting on the A286

Timing

Tarmac's application has not yet been put to the WSCC planning committee. WSCC has required Tarmac to provide further information regarding the environmental impact. When this has been received, the new information will have to be sent to all the previous Objectors plus the statutory consultees (City and District Councils). One month has then to be allowed for comments to be received.

The consultation is likely to be in March, and the earliest likely date for a hearing at the full WSCC Planning Committee is in May.

Please Give your Support

Chisoc supports RAGE and we urge you to help in any way you can by:-

- Distributing leaflets and placing posters
- Signing the petition on RAGE's website
- Joining our placard protest outside County Hall on the day of the Planning Committee meeting. Date to be confirmed.
- ◆ Offering your knowledge of transport, environment, quarrying or



The packed meeting *



The Speakers' Panel **



Andrew Tyrie addresses the meeting*

- photos by Margaret Whitehead
- * photo by David Wilson any other specialty that could help
- Making a donation to the fighting fund, administered through Summersdale Residents' Association to whom cheques should be made payable marked "Rage" on reverse side.

Further information

This can be obtained from RAGE's own website

http://www.chi-rage.co.uk/ or by emailing chi-rage@hotmail.com

You can support RAGE's protest by filling in the petition form on the website.

If you can display a placard, please contact Sue Spooner on 01243 528467.

Spring in the Garden by Trudi Harrison

Nature is stirring out of her slumber and little by little the garden stirs, with daffodils and *hellebores* among the first to flower. The weather is having its usual battle, bitterly cold one day, howling gales the next. Then those rare glimpses of sunshine that, as we tumble towards spring, become more frequent, and oh so welcome.

This year in our little garden we are going to have a go at growing vegetables. Shockingly it isn't my idea but that of my teenage daughter, who wants to grow her own. We don't have much space and I am unsure how they will fare with the salty winds, but try we will. Interestingly Thompson and Morgan are doing a range of mini patio vegetable seeds. Not only can you grow tomatoes in hanging baskets but peas and beans too. We have made a raised bed to grow them in, but you don't need much space to grow this range and although it won't feed my family the year round, just the thought of fresh vegetables, tasting like they used to, chemical free and fresh is enough.

It's time to start sowing seeds: why not have a go yourself? Growing a few perennials from seed that flower the first year is so rewarding, and all you need is a window sill. Try *Papaver ruprifragrum*, *Abutilon hybridum*, or *Gaillardia*, for some very pleasing results.

Its also time to cut back ornamental grasses, but be careful, I was tidying my Pampas grass this week, and snuggled safely in the debris was a hibernating hedgehog. I quickly covered him up again. I do hope he's alright: I need him after this moist, mild, winter to clean up all those slugs and snails.

Give the borders a good top dressing of compost or well rotted manure to give it a boost. Pay attention to recently pruned hedges and shrubs and give them a good feed too. Start pruning Mahonias when they have finished flowering, and, if you have not already done so, prune the Roses and other summer flowering shrubs.

I say this all the time but don't try and do it all in one bank holiday weekend. Little and often is a far better plan. It's a very busy time for the gardener and you don't want to be put off at the first hurdle. Take your time, enjoy your surroundings.

Now we are heading to more clement weather, I am still keen to visit more Chichester gardens; they are all so interesting and different (and I love to talk plants).

So give me a ring on **01243 673215** and I will try to pop along. Don't be shy! I really would like more to see and write about!



Hellebore



Raised bed for vegetables



Gaillardia

ARE YOU VALID TODAY?

"Now, sir, it's about this planning application you've sent in, for the loft extension to your house."

"Yes, we just thought that I could use a study upstairs, and put all the computer stuff up there. We got an architect in and he designed this unobtrusive extra dormer. It looks rather nice, don't you think?"

"Well, yes, and the drawings are a cut above some we get, you wouldn't believe some of the rubbish that comes in."

"So there's no problem, we can go ahead?"

"Er ... there's a validation local list that we have nowadays before we can accept your application."

"Validation? Of what?"

"Well, you might have bats or owls in the roof, or slowworms in the garden" "No, of course not! All we can manage are a few spiders in the house – and the mice like to play in that compost bell that you foisted on us along with the recycling."

"You never know. They could be rare mice, or spiders not previously recorded in Chichester. You'll have to have a biodiversity survey done before we can validate and accept your application – item 3 on the Required Documentation list."

"OK, I'll just scribble down that these are all ordinary animals and send that as an email."

"That won't do sir. The survey of protected species has to be undertaken by a fully qualified ecologist. But while we're talking, there is something you could do for yourself, something we also need. If you go to the Environment Agency website and look up PPS25 on flood risk, you'll be able to do the declaration of Flood Risk Assessment."

"Flood Risk Assessment? But we're up by the top of Oaklands Park — there'll be people drowning in the Cathedral before anything reaches us. And whoever heard of anyone drowning in an attic? This is a loft extension, you know."

"You can't be too careful, sir. Anyway, it's number 7 on the list."
"I don't suppose you're worried about parking, since it's a loft exten-



sion. I'm not going to park the car up there, only the computer."

"Wrong, I'm afraid. Details of existing parking has to be shown as per item 16. You can do that for yourself, however; it's not like 'Arboricultural Implications'"

"Arbori- what? Talk English, for heaven's sake."

"It's trees, sir, number 27."

"It's true we need to take a branch off a cherry tree, but we'd have done that anyway, it's knocking on the roof, and it's not as if it were a Protected Tree."

"Ah, but this is a new application. What it says here is that a survey should be undertaken by a specialist consultant if there is an impact on trees. Knocking on the roof sounds like some sort of impact to me, ha! ha!. We've skipped item 19, though, which says that you need to address the relevant policies of the Local Development Plan and Government Policy Advice in support of the proposal Sir? Are you still there, sir? ..."

Not entirely joking, either. Chichester District council is consulting on a local 'validation list' of a possible 28 items which could be required for a planning application on top of those specified by central government. The five items above plus one on sewerage could be required even for small domestic extensions if CDC's preferred options are exer-

How much validation for this (above) or that (below)?



cised rigorously – and none of the document references have been invented! Larger planning applications require correspondingly more items to be submitted.

You can read the full list for your-self at http://www.chichester.gov.uk/validationchecklist. Your Executive Committee has replied to the consultation and suggested that CDC is in danger of burdening itself with too much unnecessary data, and at the same time obstructing reasonable proposals for small-scale development.

David Wilson

Chichester Society Open Meeting

7:15 pm-9:15 pm at St. Paul's Church

on Tuesday 1st April

A Transport Strategy for Chichester

with

- Iain Shepherd, recently retired President of Chamber of Commerce: what business wants included in a transport strategy
- Trevor Tupper of Arun Valley Rail Users on the role of railways in a transport strategy, and the Level Crossings Issue
- Rob Patterson, Stagecoach Manager, Chichester, on the role of bus and coach in a transport strategy
- Tony Dignum on the Society's transport strategy

Followed by discussion and questions

West Sussex County Council were invited to contribute but are not yet ready to make proposals in the absence of a Government decision on the A27 improvements



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The Chichester Ship Canal

Take a Boat Trip on the unique Chichester Ship Canal as Immortalized by Turner's famous painting. Just five minutes from Chichester Station at the Canal basin. There are two trip boats, the 50 seater *Richmond* and the 12 seater *Egremont* with disabled access. A shop serving refreshments. Fishing or paddle your own canoe.

Tel 01243 771363 for information.



SPECIAL EVENTS

EASTER BUNNY BOAT TRIPS
15th March to 24th March

These ever popular trips will take place as usual over the Easter period. Pre-booking essential. Please phone **01243 377405** for bookings £7.50 adult or child.

More details on the web site www.chichestercanal.org.uk

PLEASE PASS THIS TO A FRIEND AND GIVE THE ENCLOSED BROCHURE TO ANOTHER FRIEND!

SEVEN GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN AND HELP US SAVE THE CITY WE LOVE

THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY

(Registered Charity No.268055)

- Increase our influence through increasing our numbers \Diamond
- \Diamond Support us in our fight against over-development, and ugly design
- Back us in our fight against noise, drunkenness, and dirty streets \Diamond
- Share your own ideas for improving and protecting our City \Diamond
- Enjoy our meetings with other lovers of our precious city
- Receive our quarterly Newsletter now in full colour
- Choose just how much help you give us

WHAT IT WILL COST

Membership Fees Annual Single £ 5** **Annual Joint** £8**

Life Membership (60 and over): £60 Single

£75 Joint

On renewal, annual subscriptions increase to £7 (Single) and £10 (Joint) if payment is not made by Standing Order

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHEQUE AND THE FORM BELOW TO:

The Chairman

THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY

Highgate House, West Broyle Drive, Chichester PO19 3PP

I/We wish to apply for Single/Joint/Life (delete as appropriate) Membership of The Chichester Society and enclose my/our cheque payable to The Chichester Society:-

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PLEASE COMPLETE FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS On receipt we will send you a Gift Aid Declaration and also a Standing Order Form for subsequent years.

THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY

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Joint Membership (double): £8.00 (£10 if not by Standing Order) Corporate membership: £50.00

Life Membership (60 and over): £60 single; £75 joint

Applications for membership and annual subscriptions to the Chairman, Highgate House, West Broyle Drive, Chichester PO19 3PP (01243538585)

THE NEWSLETTER

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Neither the Editorial Sub-Committee nor the Society necessarily subscribe to the views expressed by our contributors, but we believe that all shades of opinion should be expressed in this newsletter. The Editorial Sub-Committee reserves the right to edit as necessary any submitted articles and letters.