

£11 million help for families

Thousands more children and families across West Sussex are to get one-stop 'family shops' right on their doorstep.

The £11 million development of 30 new Children and Family Centres around the county started this spring and means more families with young children will have help, support and advice.

Seven will be large 'full service' centres offering childcare, family support, child and family health services, and links with Jobcentre Plus. The remaining 23 will be smaller and will include four covering isolated rural areas.

Each centre is expected to reach an average of 800 under-fives and their families, with additional services for older children. They will feature multi-purpose rooms to allow for on-site services such as health visitors, childcare, early education, childminding and foster carer support, ante and post-natal groups, toy libraries and parenting groups. Some services will be delivered in other local venues too.

Six dedicated centres already exist within the county, in Littlehampton, Bognor Regis, Chichester, Worthing and two in Crawley.

By 2011 the County Council aims to build a further 17 Children and Family Centres bringing the total to 53.

This further expansion will make sure that every child and their family in the county will have greater and better access to valuable local services and information.

County Council Leader Henry Smith said: "I think this is a very exciting time for everyone involved and our goal is to give every West Sussex youngster the best start in life by providing access to services and information in their area.

"As a parent of young children myself I



know how some mums and dads can feel isolated or overwhelmed, so I hope our new centres will achieve the aim of providing help and advice to families with young children as well as providing a social network. Many of the centres are to be around primary schools or within local

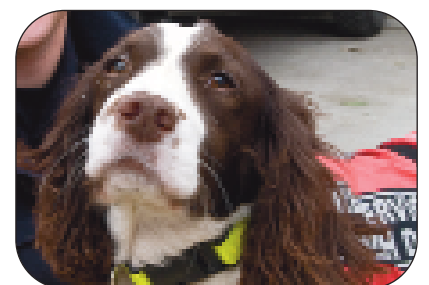
communities, which we know will be convenient."

To find out more and where your nearest centre is, please contact the Children's Information Service on **01243 777807** or email childrens.info.service@westsussex.gov.uk

**2008
The Year of
Reading**
Whether you read for
knowledge or simply for
fun, The Year of Reading
2008 is for everyone! Read
all about it on page 4.



**Strictly Come Dancing in
West Sussex**
See page 3



**Sniff and Search dog
goes nationwide**
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**Tackling childhood
obesity**
See page 5



**Have you got good Taste
yet?**
See page 7



**Highway Rangers branch
out**
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Fighting racism

To experience a racist incident can be frightening and bewildering...

Attacks can range from verbal abuse and insults through to physical violence. Often victims can feel isolated and alone with nobody willing or able to help them. They suffer in silence and sometimes endure repeated attacks because they don't know who to turn to or where they can seek help.

This is where West Sussex Racist Incidents Team step in. They are there to assist everyone who experiences racist incidents. The team also carries out educational work in the community, including schools, helping to prevent incidents in the first place.

Dan Sanders, the team's Training Officer said: "First of all it is important to understand what we mean by a racist incident. The definition of a racist incident came out of the Stephen Lawrence enquiry - 'Any incident, which is perceived to be racist by the victim or any other person'. So if you think or feel an incident is racist - then we will treat it as racist."

Examples of racist incidents include graffiti and other written insults, comments, refusal to cooperate with other people because of their ethnic origin, derogatory name calling, insults, racist 'jokes' and language, ridicule of an individual's cultural or religious differences, their music, dress or language and vandalism or damage to property motivated by racism.

racist incidents team

Dan added: "Often people are afraid to report incidents because they don't want to cause further trouble or are worried the police might be called in."

"But our service is completely confidential. The police do not always have to be involved and, in fact, may not be able to respond if the incident isn't a criminal offence. There are other agencies that might be able to help victims. We don't necessarily have to go in wielding the big stick."

"It is sometimes perceived that there is a greater awareness of racism in urban areas and often victims in these areas have a better idea of where to seek help. But it is just as important that people living in rural areas are given the support they need."

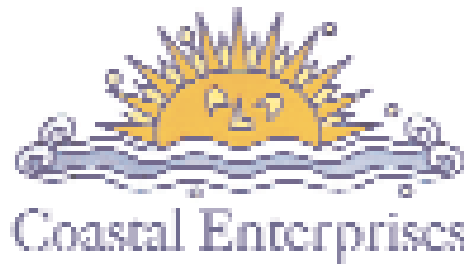
Dan's colleague, Beverly Knight, who is a co-ordinator for the West Downs area, said: "It is important that all incidents are reported. We need to know when, where and what is happening so that action can be taken to tackle it."

Reports can be made anonymously, and don't necessarily have to be made by the victim. Witnesses and other third parties can also report incidents.

"It is a sad thing that many people seem to believe that racism is no longer a problem," added Dan. "If only that were the case. It still causes enormous distress to many people in West Sussex and we believe there are many incidents that still go unreported."

To report a racist incident use the online form at www.westsussex.gov.uk/rit call the hotline **0845 0751 021** or report it to Sussex Police, Victim Support Sussex or your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

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Coastal Enterprises is on the look out for new business opportunities for its enthusiastic team of workers.

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Coastal Enterprises has been established for over 10 years and has successfully completed long term contracts with Virgin Atlantic, Southern Water and The Body Shop, as well as many smaller businesses in the local area. The service they offer is reliable, flexible and friendly. They are used to meeting deadlines and are very competitively priced.

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LOVE AND ADDICTION



Eighties pop sensation Kevin Rowland judged a photography competition run by West Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT).

The lead singer of Dexy's Midnight Runners, who had hits like Come On Eileen, judged the entries with the theme Love and Addiction.

Entrants had to imagine what it would be like to live with someone with an addiction.

The DAAT has a countywide network of five drop-in centres for families and friends affected by drugs and alcohol.

They are safe places where people can receive - in total confidence - free information and support

from the volunteers. They are in Bognor Regis, Crawley, Horsham, Southwick and Worthing.

Kevin said: "It was obvious that a lot of feeling went into the entries."

Amy Bilby, a volunteer with the Project, said: "The competition encouraged people to get out and about and be creative. It was an alternative to getting sucked into the lives of the people they care for."

An exhibition of the photos has been touring libraries and can be seen at **Arundel Library** (between May 13-20), **Selsey Library** (April 7-14), **Southwick Library** (April 15-22) and **Steyning Library** (May 5-12).

Contact the Project on **01243 382940**.

Get your kids on the buses!



Give yourself a break from running a taxi service for your kids!

With the **FREE 3 in 1 card** West Sussex young people get reduced bus travel right across the county, plus discounts in a wide range of shops and attractions, and a proof of age.

The 3 in 1 Card is aimed at all young people aged 5-19 living in the county and in full time education.

Further details of the scheme, together with an application form, can be found at www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk, or by ringing **01243 777330**.

There's also loads of information for young people on the website.

Are you a business who would like to offer a discount? Contact Jackie on **01243 756842**.

Watch Council Meetings

Ever wondered what goes on at a county council meeting? Now you can watch proceedings via our webcast either **LIVE** or at a later date at your convenience. Follow the link from our website homepage. Next County Council meeting will be webcast on 18 April.

Dance for all



Photos: Amanda Stanley

The nationwide explosion of interest in dance, fuelled by TV programmes like **Strictly Come Dancing**, is mirrored in West Sussex.

The County Council employs qualified dancer **Kirsty Bell** to ensure the delights of dance are brought to as many people as possible.

Kirsty says: "People have realised that dance can aid health and well-being. Dance is not just about getting the steps right and performing, it's about having fun, socialising, learning a new skill, stimulating your mind and using your body. I love my job because it is all about



developing opportunities for young and older people to take part in dance activities."

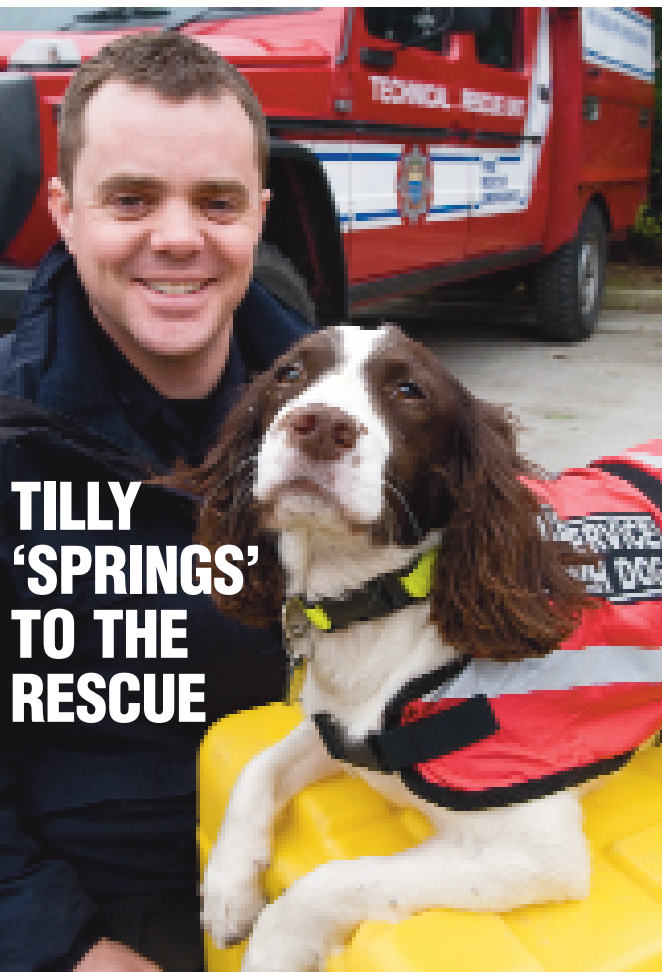
An impressive array of dance programmes and workshops are available in West Sussex with world-class and local professional dancers and dance companies offering training and performance experience to the county's most gifted and promising young dancers.

As part of the 'Keeping Older People Active' initiative a dance pilot was launched last year in six day centres across the county. Each centre had 10 hours of creative movement and dance with a dance artist. Participants used their own 'memory boxes' to create movement to explore their own childhood. One woman who hadn't spoken for a year uttered her first word in one of these sessions.

To find out more about the work of the dance development officer please go to our website or contact

kirsty.bell@westsussex.gov.uk

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TILLY 'SPRINGS' TO THE RESCUE

A dogged duo from our Fire and Rescue Service have been selected to join a new nationwide sniff and search squad.

Firefighter Jon Lacey and Springer Spaniel Tilly are one of 21 teams that can be swiftly deployed across the country to sniff out people trapped in collapsed buildings and help in searches for missing people.

Tilly was trained by Jon for 18 months to develop acute sniffing skills.

He said: "I volunteered to join the squad because I wanted the challenge of training a dog to acquire specialist life-saving skills. Tilly has been great all the way through her training.

"She can now work in a variety of difficult environments to find people that are trapped, and could make a vital difference when it comes to saving lives."

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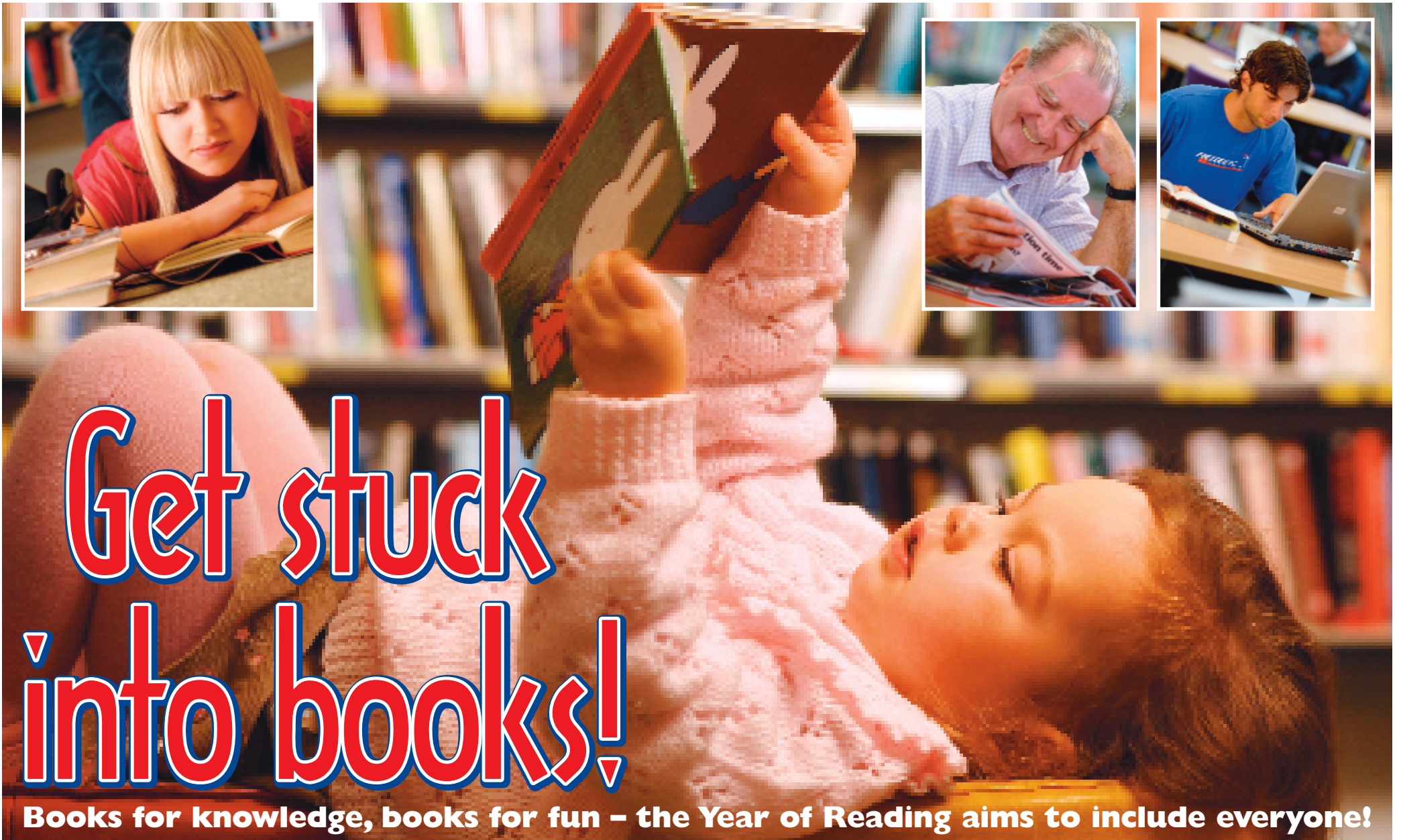
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Get stuck into books!

Books for knowledge, books for fun – the Year of Reading aims to include everyone!

2008

NATIONAL Year OF Reading

Reading is the perfect pastime - it's not dependent on the weather or splashing out on expensive kit and it can be enjoyed by everyone from tots to great-grandparents.

You can devour a book while laying on a sun-drenched beach or curled up in front of a roaring fire.

You don't even have to buy the books - why not borrow them from your local library for free?

The County Council is bucking the national trend by opening libraries instead of closing them.

Forty closed in Britain last year, but our service keeps on growing. Recently we've extended opening hours in some branches by public demand, and opened a brand new library at Southwater and a replacement library at Southwick. Later this year the long-awaited new Crawley Library will open.

READING - THE BEST HABIT TO GET HOOKED ON

Our 36 libraries and three mobile libraries will be holding events throughout the year to open up the wonderful world of books and reading to West Sussex people.

There will be a theme to each month including:

April - Read All About It.

Read anything and everything, anywhere and everywhere - with libraries focussing on the Electronic Library and newspapers.

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Activities to try: Learn about online research sources at Read All About It, a talk in Worthing Library on 14 April. Or try and win a prize with a News Quiz available throughout April in Horsham district libraries.

Or come to Chichester Library on 29 April when crime writer Sue Walker will ask: 'Why Crime Fiction?'

May - Mind and Body.

Celebrate the links between reading and health.

Activities to try: Find out more about the extension of the Books on Prescription scheme (see www.westsussex.gov.uk) to see how GPs and library staff are working together to use a self-help approach to health.

If you would like to get healthy join one of our guided walks, starting at Pulborough and Southwater libraries this month.

Or bring the family to the libraries stand at a BBC Family Fun Day at Fontwell Park on 25 May.

June - Reading Escapes.

Hot holiday reads will be top of the lists. Reading Escapes is a chance to focus on holiday reading or how reading helps you escape into different worlds.

Activities to try: Check the Book Miles postcard display at Horsham Library to see where all the holiday reading books have been taken on their hols!

Commuters from Billingshurst, Pulborough or Horsham stations can look out

for our library trolley service including express membership. We will be on the platform on selected Tuesdays in June.

Pick your desert island books - choose the books you would most like to take to a desert island or send recommended reading postcards to your friends - you can do this electronically via the e-postcards at www.westsussex.gov.uk

To link in with Sussex Day, we have a range of themed talks this month, including County Local Studies Librarian Martin Hayes on Sussex books on 19 June at Worthing Library. The Adur Festival also includes our Record Office experts Bill Gage on Steaming through Sussex on 5 June and Alan Readman on the Shoreham Film Studios on 9 June, both at Shoreham Library.

Our Library Service plans to build on the success of the last Year of Reading in 1998 which launched a number of popular initiatives including the Early Years Bookbus, Reading Groups and the Summer Children's Reading Challenge. We have changed our



library membership cards to include two new designs for the National Year of Reading. Children can add to this by designing a new children's membership card. Entry forms are available in libraries until 30 April.

Visit our library pages on the website for more details of how you can get hooked on books or go to www.yearofreading.org.uk

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the thought of delving into War and Peace. A new Quick Reads collection has been launched which consists of fast-paced, short books by best selling writers and celebrities.

Horsham Library is in the top ten of English libraries

according to a survey by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. It came ninth for loans in a list of the top 150 libraries after issuing more than half a million books, DVDs, videos, CDs and audio books last year.

There are 331 Reading Groups in West Sussex

supported by the Library Service, Rhyme Times for toddlers in 32 libraries and the national summer reading challenge attracts over 10,000 young readers every year.

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Children who are overweight suffer both mentally and physically.

They are often the butt of unkind jokes and the victims of bullying. Because of their excess weight they sometimes can't take part in activities most children take for granted. They are also storing up health problems for later life.

But now a programme is being run in West Sussex to help children and their parents called MEND, (M)ind, (E)xercise, (N)utrition.

It is run by West Sussex Primary Care Trust in partnership with the County Council and other local authorities.

The programme targets children aged seven to 13 and their families. Equal emphasis is placed on mind, exercise and nutrition in a combination that helps to treat and prevent children from becoming overweight.

Sessions, which last nine weeks, include family involvement, practical education in nutrition and diet, increasing physical activity and behavioural change. It is not a diet, there are no "forbidden" foods and rapid weight loss is not encouraged. The activities are fun and interactive.

They include:

- Goals and rewards to help children reach and maintain a healthy weight



- Changing family attitudes towards healthy eating and physical activity
- Practical ways to remove unhealthy food triggers
- Understanding the difference between hunger and cravings and what to do about them
- Knowing how to curb comfort eating

All activities are based on popular children's games, music and sport. The intention is to increase awareness and show that not all exercise is boring.

Paige has successfully completed the programme. She said: "I can fit into last year's school uniform, feel more in control and confident and lots of people tell me that I look better - this makes me very happy."

Tyler also took part in MEND. He said: "I never liked wearing jeans before, now I wear them all the time and I even had to put an extra hole in my belt."

For more information about MEND contact the team on **01903 708437**.

More than 100 schools are now part of the West Sussex Dyslexia Friendly scheme and currently 69 have achieved the Quality Mark accredited by the British Dyslexia Association as 'dyslexia friendly'.

Every school in the county has dyslexic pupils and it is estimated that 10% of the UK's population has some form of dyslexic learning difficulty.

To gain the prestigious award, schools have to meet a rigorous set of standards relating to policy, identification and assessment, teaching and learning, and working with pupils and parents.

Advisory teachers in the Inclusion Support Team and a member of the Educational Psychology Team from the County Council help schools complete training on dyslexia. Each school volunteers to undergo a year long stringent assessment to achieve the award.

Liz MacDonald, a Principal Advisory Teacher said: "We are working towards the majority of schools being 'dyslexia friendly'. For schools and

Friendly Award

teachers to have this kind of specialist training and knowledge means that West Sussex pupils can benefit from good teaching and learning practice."

St. Peter's Primary School in Shoreham received its 'Dyslexia Friendly Award' last year. Headteacher Catherine Walker said: "The award is public recognition of what we already have in place and our very talented teaching team at St. Peter's. It is so important to be able to spot children who are dyslexic at a very early age. We can give them extra support with literacy and monitor their progress so they don't slip through the net. Every teacher wants to make sure his or her pupils reach their full potential."

For further general information see: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

For Our Young, Gifted and Talented

The Enrichment Programme for West Sussex's gifted and talented pupils attracted a record 3,700 applications from schools for places on its workshops this spring.

The Programme is the most comprehensive of its kind in the UK and has been running for over 13 years.

It is designed to give pupils, aged six to 16 plus, further opportunities to use and develop their talents like singing, acting, dancing, art, poetry or skills such as maths, science or English, alongside like-minded pupils.

Some 2,100 pupils from across the county will be able

to enjoy the 113 Saturday workshops on offer which range from poetry to contemporary dance to looking after wildlife.

Julia Handley, the Programme manager said: "In West Sussex we want to make sure every pupil develops to their true potential. If a pupil is dyslexic we would work with the school and the individual to address and meet their needs. In the same way, the Enrichment Programme is a way of ensuring that gifted and talented pupils are recognised, encouraged and developed.

"Being brilliant at football is seen as 'cool' in school but being excellent at maths doesn't carry the same weight. Therefore it's so important for these pupils to have their confidence boosted and mix with pupils from other schools who share the same talents."

The summer term Programme is now on the West Sussex Grid for Learning and includes new courses as well as old favourites.

For further information contact julia.handley@westsussex.gov.uk

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RADICALLY REDUCING RUBBISH

Two companies have been shortlisted for a multi-million pound contract designed to radically reduce the amount of rubbish going to landfill.

The contract - the biggest the County Council will ever have awarded - will be for converting 'black bag' rubbish, which mostly cannot be recycled, into a resource, such as compost, electricity and/or gas.

"This would be achieved by creating in West Sussex new treatment facilities using state of the art technology. It reflects the growing consensus that rubbish should be considered a valuable resource," said John de Mierre, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning.

The contract will also reinforce the innovations and achievements that have led to West Sussex being a UK trailblazer when it comes to reducing and reusing rubbish.

These achievements have resulted in an estimated 25,000 tonnes of rubbish being diverted from landfill this year, saving taxpayers £1.5 million. However, the aim is to get the figure up to 80,000 tonnes by 2015.

"This is as good as anywhere in Europe and it is technically achievable," said Phill Russell, Head of Waste Management Services.

Bids for the contract have been submitted by Viridor Waste Management and Biffa.

LIGHTS OFF

Our Household Waste Recycling Sites are leading lights when it comes to handling low energy light bulbs, which contain mercury vapour and can cause damage to the environment if not disposed of properly.

The Government has said it wants to see traditional 'incandescent' lights phased out and replaced by energy-saving fluorescent bulbs to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

All of the Household Waste Recycling Sites in West Sussex can dispose of these bulbs in the correct way and signs are in place to this effect.

If these bulbs are handed in at the sites they will be sent for recovery to a specialist facility, so minimising the environmental impact.

You can also dispose of household batteries at any one of the sites, which are listed on our website.

PAGHAM HARBOUR PLANS

A project is underway looking at how and where to build a new visitor centre at Pagham Harbour.

The harbour's nature reserve is an internationally important site for plants and wildlife. The reserve covers 1500 acres, ranging from saltmarsh and mudflats, through to farmland, copses, lagoons, reedbeds and shingle beaches. The attractions of the harbour include bird-watching, walking and enjoying the glorious scenery.

However, the current visitor centre is over 25 years old and is reaching the end of its useful life. The County Council, the Environment Agency and RSPB are hoping to replace it with a brand new centre with improved facilities and have earmarked a possible site. But before going ahead with the project they are consulting widely to make sure the new centre meets future needs.

A report will be published in June, which the public can comment on until September. It is hoped that a final decision on the new centre will be taken by December.

There will be a series of road shows and a display in local libraries. Anyone interested in the future of the harbour should come along and share their views.

In addition see our website to have your say.

FUTURE PERFECT?

The County Council is developing a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and we want to hear your views on it.

The SCS is about finding out what kind of place residents would like West Sussex to be in

2020. That includes education, transport, health and adapting to climate change.

The focus is on helping communities become more self-sufficient, with the County Council providing advice for people to choose

how they access services for themselves.

We welcome your comments and suggestions through your County Local Committee or direct to the County Council at www.westsussex.gov.uk/scs

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Reference WSC0408

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You will reap special benefits if you become a member, at a special introductory price of just £7.50.

For this price you will get three issues of Taste West Sussex magazine delivered direct to your door plus extra goodies.

Apply NOW as this special price will only run until the end of May.

Taste West Sussex spring issue is out now. It is packed full of features including ones on asparagus, chocolate, new young chefs and local beer.

It is published by the County Council to support local food producers and farmers.

The magazine subscription would also make an unusual and useful gift for

a friend or relative.

As a member of our Good Taste Club, you will receive a range of special offers including

- discounts and special offers;
- early subscribers will be sent two books worth £7 - Recipes from the Archives, which is a selection of old-fashioned recipes from the West Sussex Record Office, and Seasoned West Sussex - a collection of seasonal recipes using local food

(while stocks last);

- a regular 'Tastemail' - an electronic newsletter with foodie dates, recipes and information on local produce and businesses.

- Each Taste Club member will receive a 'TasteCard' which will be welcomed at restaurants, cafes, shops and businesses throughout the



region. We are working hard to gain discounts and benefits for you. If you are a business, or know one that might like to offer a discount, call Jackie on **01243 756842**.

To subscribe to Taste, contact subscriptions@westsussex.gov.uk or fill in the application form on the right and return to **Taste Subscriptions, Communications Unit, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ**.

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everybody has something to say



Here's how you can help shape County Council services

Having your say about how West Sussex County Council operates services couldn't be easier.

The County runs 80 per cent of local government services. That's everything from our schools and libraries to highways maintenance, from social services to the Fire and Rescue Service.

And it wants you to help shape those services. That is now possible through the County Local Committees that are made up of the local members of the County Council.

They meet up to six times a year in local venues and

their doors are always open, giving residents the chance to make their views known on local issues.

This is important because many of the decisions that used to be taken at County Hall are now being made at local level by the County Local Committees.

They also have a Community Initiative Fund, which enables them to support local projects that make a valuable contribution to the locality.

Your County Local Committees are there to listen, learn, and get things done.

Come along to one of our meetings and get that local issue off your chest.

These aren't simply formal committee meetings - we also have 'talk with us' events. You can always send your comments and points of view via email: talkwithus@westsussex.gov.uk or visit our website for all CLC information at:

<http://talkwithus.westsussex.gov.uk>

Together we can make a real difference

If you would like to submit a funding application for a community project in your area please complete an application online or telephone **01243 777732** for a paper version.

CLCs fight for your local hospital services



The 14 CLCs across West Sussex came together last year under the banner of **Fight For The Future**, seeking the views of the residents of West Sussex about the Primary Care Trust's proposals for reorganising hospital provision.

The e-petition on the 'talkwithus' website gathered the views of thousands of residents as it toured the county. This gave West Sussex residents the opportunity to make their views clearly known against the Primary Care Trust's Fit for the Future hospital proposals.

County Council Leader Henry Smith said: "This is the biggest issue to face West Sussex in recent years. Residents, clinicians and GPs have made their views known to the County Council through a series of County Local Committee meetings and direct to Members and in turn we will feed those views and many concerns to the PCT.

"We want the PCT to come back with a realistic option for acute health services in West Sussex."

West Sussex residents attending the CLC meetings raised concern about the population figures being used, particularly since the recent news that West Sussex may be required to accommodate even more housing than originally forecast. Additionally, the point was made that the population figures are subject to increases from holidaymakers and immigrant workers.

Transport times were also raised at the meetings as a major concern, given the predominantly rural nature of the County and the existing levels of congestion on the A27 and the lack of improvements planned for this road. The concerns related not only to time taken by ambulances during emergencies, but also the implications for people wishing to visit friends and relatives in hospital.

Final decisions regarding the Health Service reorganisation are due to be taken during the summer, based on a revised shortlist of six options announced by West Sussex PCT in February. Included in this shortlist is a new option which could see some form of Accident and Emergency services being retained at all three of the main hospitals in West Sussex. The three main hospitals in West Sussex are St Richards in Chichester, Worthing and Southlands and the Princess Royal in Haywards Heath. If the retention of A&E is achieved it will be a victory for 'people-power' and the CLCs will have played their part.

A roaring success

A performance by a traditional dancing lion ensured Adur County Local Committees 'talk with us' event was a roaring success.

The event was held at St Mary and St Nicolas School in Shoreham by Sea. Around 60 children and 40 parents attended the event and met with their local County Councillors to discuss the wide range of learning opportunities that are available in the area.

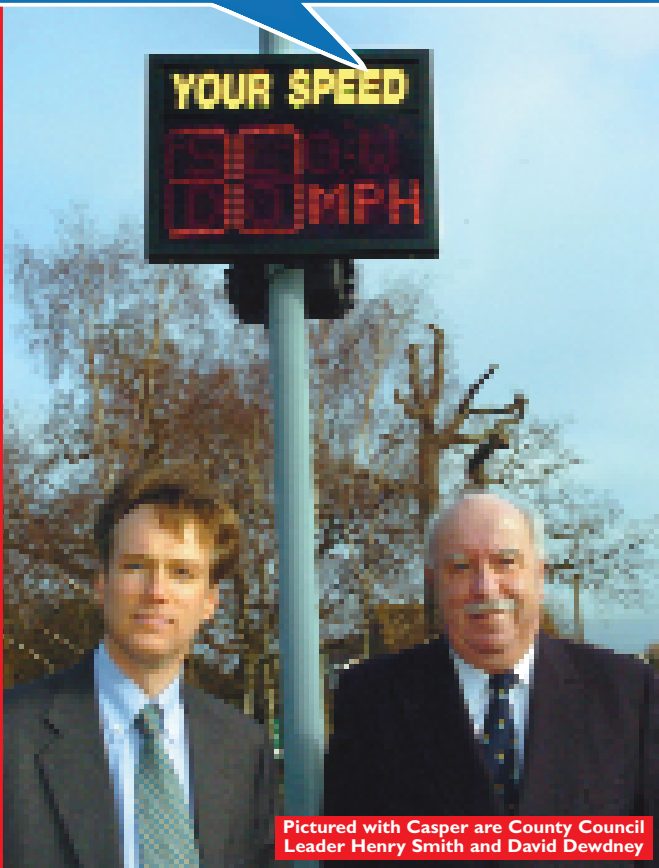


The dancing lion performance was arranged by the after school Chinese club, which the Committee awarded funding to earlier in the year. The club gives pupils the chance to learn about Chinese culture and the Mandarin language.

There were also information stands on the extended schools programme, sustainability in schools, West Sussex County Council's Libraries and Community Safety in Adur.

Clive Williams, the Committee Chairman, said the event was vibrant and exciting, and it gave the Committee members the chance to meet and talk with residents they hadn't met before.

'Casper' arrives in Crawley to tackle speed issues...



Pictured with Casper are County Council Leader Henry Smith and David Dewdney

A new piece of equipment has arrived in Crawley to play a key role in monitoring residential roads for potential speed issues, and to issue a warning to drivers who are going too fast.

'Casper' - short for **Crawley Automatic Speed Processor and Electronic Recorder** - has been introduced as a direct result of concerns about traffic going too fast in residential neighbourhoods.

The device will flash an advisory 'slow down' message to motorists who are exceeding the speed limit.

However, it also records speeds on a 24 - hour basis allowing highways officers and the police to monitor the data to see if there are specific problems that need tackling on a particular day or time.

East and West Crawley CLCs and Crawley Community Safety Partnership jointly funded Casper.

David Dewdney, chairman of East Crawley CLC, said: "This device will be highly visible to both residents and motorists. It will remind car drivers of their speed. The difference between 20 and 40 mph may be barely noticeable when driving but can make a life's difference in an accident".

Jim McGough, chairman of West Crawley CLC, said: "Casper will be used in a location for about seven days at a time before being moved to the next site, so over the course of the next year it will be possible to look at speed issues in a large number of residential areas."

Your Local meetings

Joint Western Arun Area Committee	23-April 7:00pm
<i>Jubilee Hall, Middleton-on-Sea, PO22 6DZ</i>	
West Crawley CLC	24-April 7:00pm
Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee	29-April 7:00pm
Central Mid Sussex CLC	7-May 7:00pm
<i>Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 3DN</i>	
North Mid Sussex CLC	15-May 7:00pm
Adur CLC	15-May 7:00pm
North Chichester CLC	20-May 7:00pm
Worthing CLC	21-May 7:00pm
East Crawley CLC - 'talk with us'	22-May 5:00pm
<i>Thomas Bennett Community College, Youth Wing, Ashdown Drive, Tilgate, RH10 5AD Event start time 3:00pm</i>	
North Horsham CLC	9-June 7.30pm
<i>Beeson House, Lintot Square, Southwater, Horsham, RH13 9LA</i>	
South Chichester CLC	11-June 7:00pm
Chanctonbury CLC	17-June 7:00pm
<i>Cowfold Village Hall, Bolney Road, Cowfold, RH13 8AA</i>	
South Mid Sussex CLC	17-June TBA
Joint Downland Area Committee	30-June 7:00pm
North Mid Sussex CLC	7-July 7:00pm

Subject to change, please check the website or call first

Help! We need... the committee

Following a fatal accident at Beaumont Park, Littlehampton, the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee was presented with a petition with 1600 signatures in January 2007. Committee members unanimously agreed that because of the safety concerns a crossing was needed as soon as possible to prevent similar tragedies.

By working with Highways & Transport, and after public consultation, a zebra crossing was installed at this location later in the year.

Committee chairman, County Councillor Peter Evans expressed his delight that the committee was able to make this happen. He said, "I know that the County Council's highways budget is under great pressure, with many high-priority needs, but I'm pleased that we were able to ensure that funding was found for this crossing which residents and the Committee felt strongly was much-needed".



Fire Dog sniffs out the views of West Crawley residents

West Crawley County Local Committee gave parents and carers of children attending Bewbush Community Primary School the chance to discuss their concerns at a 'talk with us' event.

Children were also encouraged to attend with their parents to see a demonstration by Hattie, one of the County Council Fire and Rescue Service's sniffer dogs, and handler Bas Wood.

Jim McGough, Committee Chairman, said: "We believe that mums and dads and carers have busy lives and so this 'talk with us' event was to enable them to meet their local County Councillors and speak about the concerns and fears they have within their community'.

"This dialogue gave us a chance to discuss how we can work together to resolve them."

The County Local Committee used the 'talk with us' event to poll people on issues that were of concern to them, with a promise that these concerns would be taken back and dealt with.



Community Responders

North Horsham and Chanctonbury County Local Committees (CLCs) are forums for local communities within Horsham District.

Using their Community Initiatives Fund the CLCs have been instrumental in ensuring that well-equipped Community Responders are in position across the region. Community Responders are often the first people to be present at the scene of a medical emergency and provide essential cover for their colleagues in the ambulance service. Heart attack victims have had their lives saved in West Sussex as a result of first responder groups. With extra kits further lives will be saved.

North Horsham CLC allocated two grants, worth £10,000, in 2007 for the purchase of specialist equipment



including defibrillators. The groups to benefit from the funding were Billingshurst Emergency Action Team (BEAT) and Horsham and Southwater Responders, both of which work in conjunction with the South East Coast

Ambulance Service.

Chanctonbury CLC have also provided grants for medical equipment to The Partridge Green Area Response Team (PART), Steyning Area First Responders and Henfield Area Response Team (Hart). The responder groups are actively seeking match funding from the British Heart Foundation which could double the money given by the CLCs.

Shown in training, left, Steyning Community Responders now have a wide coverage across both North Horsham and Chanctonbury responding to emergencies in the local community. Some of the defibrillators will be in public places which will further aid the speedy response required when people suffer a heart attack.

get involved online at:
talkwithus.westsussex.gov.uk

What's On

in West Sussex



Get out and chase the winter cobwebs away!

April:

15-19: **We Will Rock You**, classic hit musical by Ariel Company Theatre; Chequer Mead Community Arts Centre, De La Warr Rd, East Grinstead; Box Office 01342 302000 or www.arielct.co.uk

16: **Spring Crafts and Skills Day**; Amberley Working Museum, Amberley; 01798 831370 or www.amberleymuseum.co.uk

15-17: **Have-a-Go Archery & Fencing**; Petworth House; 01798 343929 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk

17: **Those Magnificent Moons**; Southdowns Planetarium, Chichester; 01243 774400 or www.southdowns.org.uk

18: **Chichester College Jazz Student Band**; Chichester Jazz Club, Pallant Suite, South Pallant, Chichester; Hugh 01243 527730.

19: **Early Morning Beach Walk**, West Wittering; Chichester Harbour Conservancy; 01243 512301 or www.conservancy.co.uk

19-20: **Afoot in Four Rivers**; guided walks exploring Sussex rivers; 01903 813381 or www.footprintofsussex.co.uk

20: **Go Wild in the Garden!** Buchan Country Park, Crawley; 01293 542088.

24: **Pop Art and the Swinging 60s**, guided tour; Pallant House Gallery, 9 North Pallant, Chichester; 01243 774557 or www.pallant.org.uk

25 - 3 May: **End of the Pier International Film Festival**; Bognor Regis; 01243 841775 or www.eotpfilmfestival.com

26: **Arun Choral Society Charity Concert** in aid of Motor Neurone Disease; Arundel Cathedral; 01798 812481.

27: **Bluebell 10km Fun Run**; Angmering Park Estate, opposite Fox Pub, Angmering; 07986 362435 or www.rawenergypursuits.co.uk

27: **Arundel Castle Jaguar Car Rally**; 01903 882173 or www.arundelcastle.org

27: **Sponsored Dog Walk**; Cat & Rabbit Rescue Centre, Holborow Lodge, Chalder Lane, Sidlesham; 01243 641409 or www.crrc.co.uk

27: **Gatwick International Aircraft Enthusiasts Fair**; models, photographs, memorabilia and much more; K2 Crawley, Pease Pottage Hill, Crawley; 01403 252628 or www.gatwickaviationsociety.org.uk

28: **Downland Art Society Spring Exhibition and Sale**; St. Nicholas Hall, Mill Rd, Arundel; 01903 526703 or www.downland.org

May:

1-31: **Great Gardens Chinese Plant Extravaganza**; celebrations of Chinese plants; Leonardslee Gardens, Lower Beeding, Horsham; 01403 891212 or www.leonardsleegardens.com

2: **When rocks fall from Space**; Southdowns Planetarium, Chichester; 01243 774400 or www.southdowns.org.uk

3-4: **Underground Petworth**; explore tunnels underneath Petworth House; 01798 343929 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk

3-5: **Bognor Regis Art Society Spring Exhibition**; Norfolk Centre, Mill Road, Arundel; 01243 820933

5: **Veteran & Vintage Motorcycle Rally**, Amberley Working Museum, Amberley; 01798 831370 or www.amberleymuseum.co.uk

7: **John Mann electronic Organ Concert**; Sussex Organ Society, Queen St Church Centre, Worthing; contact 01903 715764

10: **Classical Guitar Recital**; Regis Recital Hall, Sudley Rd, Bognor Regis; 01243 822965 or www.westsussexguitar.com

10: **Just Walk charity fund raising walk for all abilities**; Goodwood Racecourse; 01460 30456 or www.just-walk.co.uk

11: **Charity concert with Central Band of the RAF**; Burgess Hill School for Girls, Keymer Rd, Burgess Hill; 01444 417635 or www.rafamidsussex.co.uk

13: **A talk on the natural and unnatural history of Ashdown Forest**; Chequer Mead Community Arts Centre, De La Warr Rd, East Grinstead; Box Office 01342 302000 or www.chequermead.org.uk

15: **The Hamsters play Jimi Hendrix and ZZ Top**; Hawth Theatre, Crawley; 01293 553636 or www.hawth.co.uk

15: **Song of the Nightingale**; a gentle evening stroll along the Downs Link from Rudgwick with the West Sussex Countryside Rangers; Booking essential; 01403 864001 or www.westsussex.gov.uk

17: **Downs Link Challenge**; family cross country biking & walking charity event; Bramber Castle; 07816 123932 or www.downslinkchallenge.co.uk

17-23: **Adult Learners Week**; 01444 236355 or www.westsussex.gov.uk/adult_education

18: **Bognor Promenade 10k road race** with over 1,300 runners of all abilities; West Park and Bognor Regis; 01243 829065

20-23: **Creating Memories** arts and crafts exhibition, Fontwell racecourse; 01293 885156

26: **All Aboard! - a Tour of the Planets**; Southdowns Planetarium, Chichester; 01243 774400 or www.southdowns.org.uk

29: **Littlehampton Marina Aquathon**; river swim and beach run; RNLI Lifeboat station, Fisherman's Quay, Littlehampton; 07986 362435 or www.rawenergypursuits.co.uk

31: **Sands of Time Seaside Festival**, sandcastle competitions, classic and vintage car cavalcade, children's workshops; 01243 825535 or www.bognorregis.gov.uk

31: **Fishbourne Roman Palace 40th Anniversary Celebrations**; Fishbourne Roman Palace, Salthill Road, Fishbourne; 01243 785859 www.sussexpast.co.uk/fishbourne

June:

1: **The Sparkling Stars of Spring**; Southdowns Planetarium, Chichester; 01243 774400 or www.southdowns.org.uk

6-14: **Annual South Downs Way Walk** from Winchester to Eastbourne; booking essential; 01903 813381 or www.southdownsway.com

8: **Civil War Murder Mystery Day**; Petworth House; 01798 343929 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk

We cannot accept responsibility for events we publicise. Please phone venues beforehand to check information.

8: **Burgess Hill Bike Ride**; charity bike ride through Mid Sussex for all abilities; Oakmeads School, Station Rd, Burgess Hill; 07855 327234 or www.burgesshillbikeride.co.uk

14: **The Armed Man by Karl Jenkins**; Chanctonbury Chorus and Shoreham Oratorio Choir; Lancing College Chapel; 01903 815467.

16: **SUSSEX DAY** - see www.westsussex.gov.uk for events including The New Lipchis Way Walk starting at Tourist Information Centre, Midhurst. See www.footprintofsussex.co.uk or call 01903 813381.

21: **Colin Self - Art in the Nuclear Age**; Pallant House Gallery, 9 North Pallant, Chichester; 01243 774557 or www.pallant.org.uk

21: **Littlehampton River Revival**; a family fun day out and about on the River Arun; 01903 721866 or www.littlehampton.org.uk

22: **Fun Dog Show & Garden Party**; Cat & Rabbit Rescue Centre, Holborow Lodge, Chalder Lane, Sidlesham; 01243 641409 or www.crrc.co.uk

July:

2-5: **Not Now Darling** performed by Wick Theatre Company; Barn Theatre, Southwick; 01273 597094.

6: **Dream of Gerontius** performed by Sussex Chorus; Worth Abbey Church, Turners Hill; 01273 890598.

LEONARDSLEE
Lakes of Gardens

Open every day
1 Apr - 31 Oct
10am - 5pm
01243 822965

The Festival of Fun and Education for the whole family just get better

Kidz Stuff Festival 2008

Leonardslee Gardens (off the A31)

£10

Saturday 01st May and Sunday 01st June
www.kidzstuff.org.uk

Arundel Castle

EVENTS 2008

Saturday 12 April and Sunday 13 April
Raven Tor, Medieval (15th C) Knights & Men-at-Arms Tournament

Saturday 17 May
Charity Abseil - Bakehouse Tower

Sunday 18 May & Sunday 21 September
Hampshire Regency Dancers in the Castle

Sunday 25 May and Monday 26 May
Raven Tor, "Mustering for War!" Medieval (15th C) Knights Tournament

Sunday 22 June & Sunday 13 July
Medieval Murder Mysteries in the Keep

Friday 27 June, 25 July, 26 September
Meet The Gardener and Garden Tours

Saturday 28 June and Sunday 29 June
Sussex Guild Craft Show

Sunday 6 July
Distant Trumpets Storyteller - Tales of Agincourt 1415

* EVENT DETAILS ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

Visit WWW.ARUNDELCASTLE.ORG for the latest event information*

Arundel Castle, West Sussex. Open Good Friday 21st March - Sunday 2nd November, Tuesday to Sunday inclusive throughout the season, plus Bank Holiday Mondays & August Mondays, 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th. For more details, please call us on: 01903 882173

Take the Stage

If you enjoy the limelight and are aged 13-19 then you could perform at the South of England Show, Ardingly this June.

Last year over 300 young people took part, and this time it could be you! Contact sally.blackmore@westsussex.gov.uk for details.

SPRING PLANT FAIR

Real Plants from 20p
11am - 5pm
18th - 20th June
10am - 5pm

Flower displays
Traditional music
Refreshments

Flower displays
Traditional music
Refreshments

Open 10am - 5pm
18th - 20th June
10am - 5pm

01243 822965

www.leonardslee.org.uk

Plumpton College

Open Day, Saturday 10th May 2008, 10 am-5 pm

in association with the the Sussex Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs.

Farm tours, gun dogs, tractor tours, clay pigeon shooting, food hall, wine sales, climbing wall, dog grooming, falconry, fun dog show, woodland walks, plant sales, small animals, forestry, horse riding displays, children's activities, floristry, sheep shearing, metalsmithing, wine tasting, craft show, trade stands, careers advice on all courses and more!...

Cost: £5 adults, free entry for under 16s, £3 senior citizens.

A great family day out.

Tel: 01273 890454 email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk
www.plumpton.ac.uk

Ditchling Road, Plumpton, Nr Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE
Centres at Plumpton, Flimwell, Robertsbridge and Netherfield

£1 OFF with this coupon

SEDGEWICK PARK

OPEN DAY
Sunday 22 June
12.30-5pm

Gardens - Lunches and Cream Teas - Stalls - Displays - Pony Rides

Entrance £5 per person
Children & Car parking FREE

3 MILES SE from HORSHAM

Rangers expand

Special teams of 'Highway Rangers' working to improve the street scene are to patrol the whole of West Sussex.

A pilot scheme launched last year has been so successful in tackling problems on roads and pavements that the service has gone countywide.

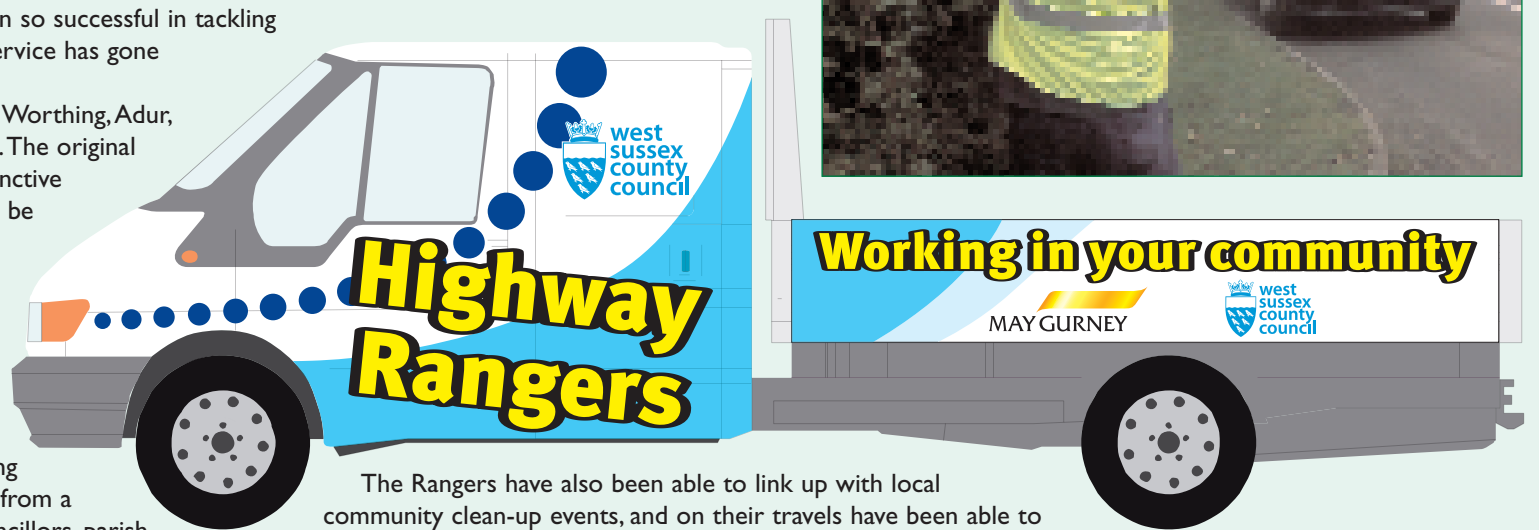
The Rangers are already a familiar sight in Worthing, Adur, Chancetonbury and parts of South Mid Sussex. The original crew will be joined by two new crews in distinctive new-look vehicles, pictured right, and they will be out and about throughout the county.

They spend a week at a time in various areas carrying out small scale but essential tasks such as clearing vegetation overhanging paths and roads, removing weeds from pavements, hedge trimming, cleaning signs and removing illegal ones.

More than 400 jobs were completed during the pilot scheme. Requests for work came in from a wide range of sources, including County Councillors, parish councils, residents and jobs they identify themselves.



To suggest a task for the Highway Rangers call 01243 642105 or email highway.rangers@westsussex.gov.uk



The Rangers have also been able to link up with local community clean-up events, and on their travels have been able to provide alerts about problems such as fly tipping and graffiti.



Hit the Road - Safely



In the past, serious accidents involving motorcycles nearly always involved young men.

But recently the number of deaths and serious injuries involving older motorcyclists - so called 'born again bikers' - has soared.

These are people who might not have saddled up in their leathers for some time or passed their test many years ago when roads were quieter and traffic was very different from today's conditions.

Crash investigations revealed that often the victims have been riding large machines far more powerful than the ones they owned many years ago when they first gained their driving licence.

Last year 17 motorcyclists riding big 500cc plus bikes were killed and a further 302 injured on the roads of Sussex.

This was a fall in injuries for the third year running. However, motorcyclists represent a large percentage of road casualties in

proportion to their number on the roads. Nationally they make up less than 1% of road traffic, but suffer 14% of deaths and serious injuries.

A course aimed at cutting the accident rate and raising the skills of these kind of motorcyclists has proved an outstanding success.

BikeSafe is run by Sussex Police in partnership with West and East Sussex county councils and Brighton and Hove City Council. The purpose of Bikesafe is to reduce casualties among more mature bikers by passing on tips and knowledge and to give them an insight into safer, smoother riding and a heightened awareness of possible hazards.

The courses will run on Sundays throughout the summer with lunch included and cost just £50.00 per rider.

Book your place on **08452 307407** or visiting the website www.bikesafe.co.uk

MOVE ALONG

Planning a journey in West Sussex has never been easier thanks to the County Council's upgraded travel information website pages.

Whether you intend to travel by road, train, plane or bicycle the travel website has essential information that can help you plan your journey.

A couple of mouse clicks will quickly tell you where there are major road works, the number of free car parking spaces in Worthing, Horsham and Crawley and which is the best route to take by bike. There is also useful information about bus and rail services with connecting links to Gatwick and Shoreham Airports.

Most of this up-to-the-minute information is provided by the County Council's new high-tech Travel Information Control Centre, which includes a bank of TV screens linked to cameras at key locations across West Sussex including major bus and road routes.

As the control room develops it will be able to relay details of potential problems ranging from delays due to accidents through to bad weather conditions that could make driving hazardous. It will also be able to send messages to bus stops fitted with electronic displays to give the time the service is due or to warn passengers if there is a delay.

Advertisement



Learn to drive like the experts on the Young Drivers' Skills Course

Aged between 17-25? You could benefit and improve your driving skills and awareness through this on-road course with Advanced Driving Instructors - run by West Sussex County Council in partnership with 'Minerva Accord Driving Services' and 'Skid-Control' on the skid pan at Goodwood Motor Circuit.

In addition to this, you will be offered the opportunity to drive a Ferrari!

The course, which is heavily subsidised by West Sussex County Council, costs just £60.00 or £120.00 when including the Ferrari drive.

Our Gift Vouchers which are valid for a year, make a great present, especially when choosing the exciting Ferrari drive option. This will give you the opportunity to drive 3 laps (approx. 7 miles) of Goodwood Motor Circuit at the wheel of this prestigious car!

For information call **08452 600 650** or visit www.westsussex.gov.uk



www.sussexsaferroads.gov.uk

LIGHTEN UP

Over 80% of the 64,000 streetlights in West Sussex are to be replaced with more modern, energy-efficient models.

The new energy-saving lights will be mainly white instead of the familiar orange glow. They will be directed down on to footways and roads and this will mean less light pollution in the sky.

The improvement programme is taking place thanks to the County Council joining forces with Hampshire County Council and Southampton City Council in a Private Finance Initiative (PFI). The PFI has been approved by the government and will bring new investment of well over £200 million to the three local authority areas.

Work replacing existing lights is expected to start late in 2009 and will last over five years. Six bidders have expressed an interest and whoever wins the contract will maintain the lights for the next 25 years. They will be expected to respond promptly to faults reported by residents. Some streetlights belong to Parish, Town and District and Borough Councils and they are being invited to join in the project. Local communities will also be asked for their preferences and in future it may be possible to install features in the lights such as switching them off after a set time.



Care to care?

How much do you know about foster care? Perhaps you'd be surprised to learn that 007 Pierce Brosnan, athletes Kriss Akabusi and Fatima Whitbread, pop star Seal, actor Richard Burton and queen of the chat show, Oprah Winfrey, have all been fostered.

Fostering can be very rewarding, not least financially. For example, you could earn more as a foster carer than if you were a florist, air cabin crew or a landscape designer!

West Sussex has around 410 foster carers but is looking for more people to provide a warm and responsive temporary family.



The County Council wants to celebrate the work of its foster carers to make more local people aware of the

rewards and benefits of becoming one. West Sussex has around 410 foster carers but is looking for more people to provide a warm and responsive temporary family. Children and young people come into care for a number of reasons. It can be due to a parent's illness, family problems or because a

child has been neglected or abused. When a child is fostered, they are temporarily cared for by people on behalf of the County Council and the child's birth parents. This temporary care can be for a weekend, a week or for much longer.

We'd love to hear from people who are carers or have been fostered for future Connections articles.

Email: alison.musk@westsussex.gov.uk

To find out more about fostering see below or visit our website.

Advertisement

Every speed camera is a memorial to someone who has been killed or seriously injured in road crashes

Pay Your Respects - Slow Down!

www.sussexsaferroads.gov.uk

*The Sussex Safer Roads Partnership looks at all injury accidents, vulnerable road user casualties and the local community when considering sites for camera installation. Set percentages of vehicles must be exceeding the speed limit and all other cost-effective road engineering options also have to have been considered. Excluding exceptional sites. Full criteria available from the SSRP.

The County Council's fostering team has been picked as one of only six authorities to pilot a new programme, devised in the USA, called 'Leapfrog' which benefits fostered children aged three to six who have complex behavioural difficulties.

North Team
family.placement.north@westsussex.gov.uk
Tel: 01403 246400

South-West Team
family.placement.south.west@westsussex.gov.uk
Tel: 01243 642444

South-East Team
family.placement.south.east@westsussex.gov.uk
Tel: 01903 839430

POLL POWER!



A record-breaking 8,000-plus young people voted in this year's elections for the County Council's Youth Cabinet, which now has more than 40 members representing the whole of West Sussex.

The new Cabinet is pictured at its first meeting, which was held at Lodge Hill

Activities Centre, near Pulborough.

Over the next year, members will be ensuring the views of young people on a wide range of issues are made known to the decision makers at County Hall.

See www.yourspacewestsussex.co.uk for loads more about the Youth Cabinet.



IN THE FRAME

A picture framing company that provides training for adults with mental health issues has won this year's West Sussex Social Enterprise Innovation Award.

Social enterprises are businesses that invest their profits to deliver lasting social and environmental benefits. To encourage more of these kind of businesses the West Sussex Social Enterprise Steering Group, led by the County Council, set up an award scheme with a £5,000 prize.

The winner was Frame of Mind of Bognor Regis. Trainees at the company learn picture framing and general business skills. As their confidence grows they become more active members of the community, moving on to volunteering, education and employment.

Be County Proud!

June 16 is Sussex Day which offers everyone a chance to show just how proud they are of their county.

Exciting events both big and small will be staged right across West Sussex to celebrate this very special day.

Last year schools, museums, libraries, farmers' markets and historic homes all put on special events to sing the praises of Sussex and show the rich heritage it has to offer. Traders, children, employers, businesses - in fact people young and old from all walks of life used the opportunity to display in word and deed all that is good about the county.

The date was chosen because it is also St Richard's Day - he was Bishop of Chichester during the 13th century.

If you or your community have an idea that fits in with the vision and the idea behind Sussex Day then why not add it for free to the growing list of events on our website **What's On** database.

You can also browse the listings to see what is already planned.



Fly the Flag!



You've been telling us you want to celebrate West Sussex - now you can by flying the flag!

We've had a special design made featuring the traditional shield and mythical martlets.

Now you can buy this official flag in a variety of formats - check out our website for details.

Send us your photos to show how and where you fly the flag on Sussex Day.

Send them to: connections@westsussex.gov.uk

ADULTS' SERVICES ROUND-UP

Have your say on health

A new countywide network is being set up to involve communities in health and social care services.

Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) are being set up across the country and will replace the current Patient and Public Involvement Forums (PPIFs).

They will be a network of voluntary organisations, community groups and interested individuals to represent the views of patients and the public on health and social care issues and how these services are planned and run.

The West Sussex LINK is due to be up and running later this year, but in the meantime a steering group of volunteers is working to lay the foundations of the LINK.

For further information contact Robin Kemp, Steering Group Chairman, via email robin.kemp@btinternet.com

Choice and Flexibility

A wide-ranging review will lead to greater choice and flexibility in day care services across West Sussex.

The Day Services Review will be carried out in six parts - with the first

study to cover the Chichester district beginning this month (April). The first study will cover Chichester district and take into account The Chestnuts in Bognor Regis, across the boundary in Arun.

It will cover day care facilities not just provided by the County Council, but also by community groups, voluntary organisations and charities, and other factors such as travel and transport issues.

The aim is to provide more personalised support, and to modernise, improve and offer more flexible services to residents.

As the review gets underway, people who use the services, their relatives and carers will also have the opportunity to be involved for their areas, as will the County Council's network of County Local Committees.

For further information visit our website.

POPP right in for advice

The first Community Partnership Team in West Sussex is now up and running in the Adur and Worthing area.

The team, based in Shoreham-by-Sea, provides support and advice for older people and is formed of nurses, social workers, health trainers, community link workers, pension

service advisors and volunteers.

In total six Community Partnership Teams will be formed across the county as part of the West Sussex Partnerships for Older People Project (POPP), of which the County Council is a key partner.

The Adur and Worthing team has already helped many residents including practical assistance such as arranging shopping or cleaning and referrals for residents who may not be claiming their full benefit entitlement.

To contact the Adur and Worthing Community Partnership Team phone **01273 268900**.

Ringling the changes

'Manage your mobile' courses have proved a big hit in West Sussex.

The free events are for carers and the people they care for and cover how to make and receive a call on a mobile phone, how to send text messages and how to manage its address book.

Courses were organised by the Carers Liaison Project (Regis, Chichester and Rural) last year. The Carers Liaison Service (Worthing and District) has held two events so far this year with more planned for the Adur and Chancetonbury areas.

For further information visit our website.

From Ferrets to Hell's Angels



Furry vermin and leather-clad bikers are all in a day's work for Sue Clarke, Crawley's Superintendent Registrar.

She is featured in the latest issue of Ceremonies in West Sussex, a comprehensive guide to marriages and civil services in the county.

Sue, who will move to the new multi-million pound Crawley Library and Register Office when it opens, began marrying people in 1974. She has tied the knot for countless couples either in the Marriage Room of Crawley Town Hall or at one of the many licensed venues in West Sussex.

"It was a big change for us when the Marriage Act 1994 came in. Now we can go out and perform civil ceremonies at a variety of licensed venues. We're so much busier," said Sue.

Sue and her colleagues offer a seven-day week service. During the summer, they marry 15 couples a week - often at least eight on a Saturday alone.

Many of the ceremonies are ones the team will never forget.

"At one of our weddings the best man was actually a ferret. It wasn't much help producing the ring and I can't imagine what sort of speech it made at the reception!" said Sue.

She has also officiated at a Hell's Angels wedding. "They were very well behaved - apart from a few accidental marks on the wall where they'd been leaning in their leather jackets."

With Gatwick Airport nearby, Sue has married a considerable number of foreign nationals.

"I love learning about their culture and traditions," she said. "Occasionally we've even been required to marry handcuffed deportees."

Civil partnership ceremonies are a growing part of the team's work.

"We treat these the same as wedding ceremonies. We always aim to put couples and their friends completely at ease. Sometimes older same sex couples have lived in the shadows all their lives - now the sun can shine on them."

Crawley will soon have a brand new Register Office. It will be part of the new County Council building in the town centre, which will also include the town's new Library. Call **01293 438341** for more details about the new Register Office.

Ceremonies in West Sussex brochure is available from Register Offices around the county, phone **01243 642122** or visit the website.

Can you solve these?

Here's a batch of genuine mystery photos that have been donated to our Record Office to keep you puzzling.

Is Picture A a church day out perhaps? It features three ladies with the Vicar, and may have a Sompting connection. It dates from the 1950s and was found in a bible in Swansea!

The flower seller in B looks like she pushed her pram round the streets and is making a sale, probably in the 1970s.

The quiet country lane with the new build 1930s houses in C is probably from the Midhurst area.

The ladies in Picture D stand in front of AD Hobden Baker and Confectioner around 1930.

If you think you know any of the locations then email connections@westsussex.gov.uk or write to



Mystery Photos, Connections, Room 133, County Hall, Chichester PO19 1RQ.

Our Archives and Record Office hold a wealth of information, used by thousands of people each year who are keen to research their family histories or delve back into the county's fascinating past. Visit our website to find out more.

We had a bumper response to the mystery photos in the January edition of West Sussex Connections. Go to our website to see the new webpages dedicated to our old photos and readers thoughts and memories.



For a wealth of information on the fascinating past of our county visit the Record Office web pages at www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro

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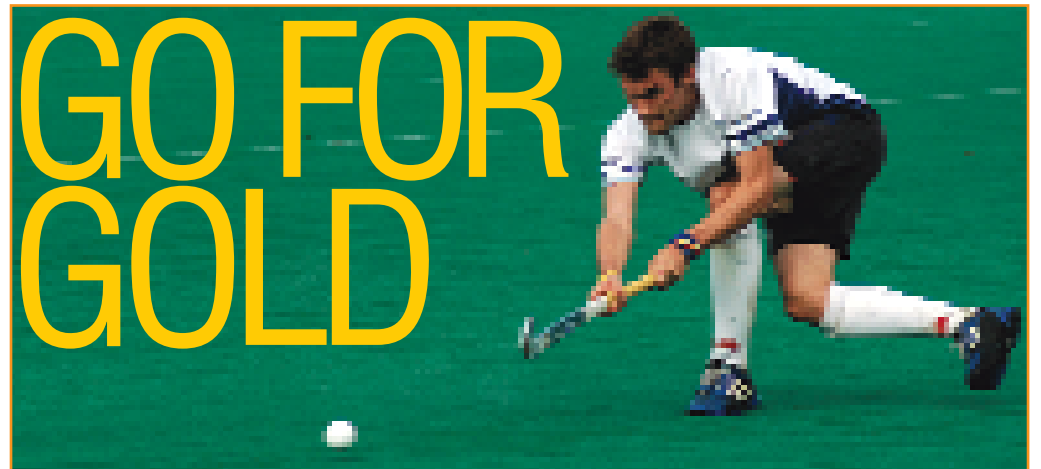
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Ten sporting venues across West Sussex have been selected as approved facilities for training camps in advance of the London 2012 Games.

In the months leading up to the Games, teams from around the world will be training and preparing for the competitions. While some teams will train in their home countries, others will use facilities in the UK for pre-games training camps.

Two West Sussex groups submitted bids for their facilities to be approved for pre-games training camps: Gatwick Diamond Venues and Chichester Gold.

London 2012 has announced that all of the Gatwick Diamond Venues meet the standards to host pre-games training camps in the run up to the 2012 Games. The venues are The All England Jumping Course, Hickstead, K2 Crawley, East Grinstead Sports Club, Olympos Burgess Hill, Broadbridge Heath Leisure Centre, and Pavilions in the Park, Horsham.

London 2012 also announced that the University of Chichester, the Goodwood Estate, and the Oaklands Park Archery Range, all part of Chichester Gold, have been approved as meeting the standards to host pre-games training camps.

In addition, the South of England Agricultural Society has been approved to host training camps.

All 10 venues will now be included in the 'Pre-Games Training Camp Guide', which will be available from August to aid National Olympic Committees to identify suitable facilities and sites for their training camps.

Ideal sports have been identified for each venue, including swimming at K2, gymnastics at Pavilions in the Park and boxing at the University of Chichester.

In addition, all Chichester Gold and Gatwick Diamond Venues are working together to organise a broad range of community activities inspired by 2012.

Chichester Gold and the Gatwick Diamond Venues are part of **West Sussex - Ahead of the Game**, the countywide initiative to ensure residents and businesses benefit from opportunities offered by the 2012 Games.

For more information call **01243 382243** or e-mail info@westsussex-aheadofthegame.com





BE A CONFIDENT BUYER

When seeking a local trader you can trust, make sure you consult the Buy With Confidence register drawn up by our Trading Standards Service.

It is a list of approved traders you can turn to instead of falling prey to rogue traders.

Some of the **Buy with Confidence** approved traders can be found in the adverts below.

BWC protects both consumers and businesses against unfair practices.

Every business on the register has been strictly vetted and inspected, so ensuring they are committed to maintaining high standards and have a good customer focus.

Thanks to Buy With Confidence,

people no longer have to rely on searching through telephone directories with a pin and hoping for the best.

You can Buy With Confidence from these traders because they have all signed up to the rigid standards of customer service set out in the rules of the scheme.

They are committed to fair trading and to providing a quality service for their customers. They have all undertaken to:

- Comply with the spirit and the letter of the law and not restrict your rights.
- Deal with customers promptly, efficiently and courteously and in accordance with good trading practice.

- Have a sound customer complaints procedure.
- Make sure their staff are competent for the work they carry out.
- Undergo reference and Criminal Record Bureau checks on owners and staff members where necessary.

Trading Standards is always looking for reputable businesses to join the register, so let them know if you're a trader who would like to assure potential customers they can Buy With Confidence from you because you've been approved by West Sussex Trading Standards.

To apply for membership, traders should go to www.westsussex.gov.uk/tradingstandards or call **01243 642124**.

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WINNING IDEAS

Imaginative projects devised by pupils and students to make their schools and communities safer were outlined at the finals of the annual West Sussex Safe Place competition.

The competition is organised by the West Sussex Strategic Community Safety Partnership. Haywards Heath's Oathall Community College won top prize, the High Sheriff's Award, for an anti-bullying project.

Projects to reduce bullying also won awards for:

- Northgate Primary School, Crawley, pupils (pictured).

- Bognor Regis Community College.
- Farney Close Special School, Haywards Heath.
- Little Green Special School, Chichester.
- Westergate Youth Wing, Chichester.

Two schools won awards for focussing on fire safety.

Littlehampton's Connaught School pupils devised a campaign to increase awareness of the need for smoke alarms and escape plans within the home.

Durrington High School came up with a graffiti project that highlighted the dangers of hoax calls and the misuse of fire.

Other award-winning



projects were:

- Student Voice, which uses IT to provide students with a voice in the school – Chichester High School for Boys.
- Lunch Time Play Leaders and Bus Monitors, who are making pupils feel safe at school and while travelling to school - Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Crawley.

- Safety from Prejudice, which was designed to change children's perception and preconceptions based on a person's race, religion or disability – South Bersted First School.
- The Whytemead Heroes, the name given to children who supervise safe areas within the school playground - Whytemead First School, Worthing.

Butts down and out!



Cigarette litter has dropped by an average of 48% in Adur, Arun and Worthing following local council campaigns that were backed by the County Council.

They distributed 12,000 pocket ashtrays, provided 100 bins specifically for cigarette butts and installed more than 100 new litterbins with fitted ashtrays.

"We will be looking to build upon this success with follow-up campaigns due to start this spring," said Matt Starling, the County Council's Street Scene Development Manager.

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we do not:

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You may
be required to wait while we confirm your identity

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SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Every day of the week, our Youth Service plays a key role in the lives of thousands of young people throughout West Sussex.

This is because the Service does more than simply provide local meeting places - although it's got 70 of them.

As we show here, its countywide team also makes sure young people have access to a wide range of:

- Information and advice through the internet, leaflets and its network of Information Shops.
- Activities and opportunities for their achievements to be recognised.
- Volunteering opportunities that meet the needs and interests of young people.

The Service also involves young people in running centres or projects and ensures their views are heard about all the issues and services that affect them.

MUSICAL YOUTH

A fully-equipped, professionally sound-proofed recording studio opened earlier this year at East Preston Youth Centre.

Alex Batty, guitarist with Lightning Boots, an indie rock band with a comic edge said

the new equipment is just right for them.

Violinist Mike Kemp added: "We're a new band and being able to use top quality equipment is a big boost."

Cherry Harris, Centre Manager, said creating a recording studio became a priority when she first took over about a year ago.

"I realised there was a lot of untapped talent out there and setting up the studio was in direct response to what the young people said they wanted."

However, the Centre's members didn't just sit back and wait for it to happen.

"They were actively involved in the fundraising, especially drawing up an application to the Youth Opportunity Fund, which led to us receiving 50% of the £10,000 cost."

It is not only young performers who benefit from the studio.

"We will be teaching studio skills, such as mixing, which can lead to them receiving recognised certificates of competence," said Cherry.

The studio marks another milestone in the Centre's regeneration and is a graphic demonstration of its



Cherry Harris, centre, with the Lightning Boots

determination to be a major focal point for young people.

"We've taken major strides to offer a safe and friendly environment where young people can socialise and take part in a range of activities, including an internet café with six computers, and a basketball court."

SAFETY NET

The team behind Crawley's Connexions Service, which provides confidential advice, guidance and support to young people, say they 'provide a safety net for life'.

The team, based in Queen's Square, primarily helps young people aged 13 to 19, but can also assist those up to 25 who have special needs.

There are advisers who can help on a wide range of issues, such as homelessness, finance, relationships, careers, further education and housing or more complex issues, such as lack of self-esteem and direction.

Pat Wickes, Key Advice and Guidance Manager, said: "We do not talk at the young people. We talk with them. We work with them. They have come here voluntarily and our aim is to encourage and empower them. We point them in the right direction."

The service runs drop-in sessions for teenage parents and one in partnership with Crawley Borough Council's housing department.

It also has connections with victim support, Crawley Foyer,

a local supported hostel and West Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team.

Underpinning the service is West Green Youth Centre, which gives young people who are experiencing difficulties the opportunity to take part in a range of activities, from the sporting to the arty.

The Centre offers a laundry service for young people who are homeless or 'sofa surfing' and they can also get a hot meal, food parcels, toiletries and secondhand clothes.

When Connexions began about five years ago, it was attracting around 40 young people a month. Now it's more than 600 - the vast majority through word-of-mouth.

DROP IN CRIME

Southwater's Senior Youth Club played a key role in seeing a drop in crime and anti-social behaviour in the village after it suffered from a high amount of youth crime and disorder.

"However, since the beginning of 2007 Sussex Police recorded an 8% reduction in overall crime in the village and a significant reduction in calls relating to youth problems and anti-social behaviour. A number of factors contributed to this reduction, not least the continuing support of the County Council's Youth Service in opening the Senior Youth Club twice a week," said Neil Worth, local Police Community Support Officer.

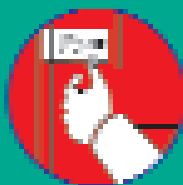
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So why not make your home a No Go Area to cold callers?

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