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09/26

Issue 075
September 2026

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Our next edition will be distributed from October 1st. Make sure you are a part of it.

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What a summer!

IT'S been a tremendous summer for Eastbourne, with *Airbourne* and *Tennis Week* standing out as real highlights.

By **Peter Lindsey**

***Airbourne* proved to be a huge success – despite the train derailment near Lewes, the *Red Arrows* unable to be there, and the *Fireworks* having to be cancelled.**

Despite all this – and with it proving a real challenge for visitors to get to Eastbourne – *Eastbourne Borough Council* and the *Airbourne Team* pulled off an amazing four days.

They deserve our congratulations – and our sincere thanks.

It was also an opportunity for *Victoria Place* to come to life – and what a great area it is turning into.

Yes, it took a long time but it has become a part of Eastbourne that we can all be really proud of.

Let's hope the businesses are seeing real success after all the heartbreak and sometimes anger during the development.

The Town Centre itself is still under considerable pressure with improvement works continuing for a seemingly ended period.

Those works should be finishing shortly – and again let's hope Eastbourne sees the benefit of this investment.



Because that is what it is – all these works – costing millions of pounds – is intended to boost the Eastbourne shopping experience.

Homelessness is back in the spotlight – has it ever gone away, because it shouldn't.

Eastbourne – like many other towns – has a real problem with this, and until now it hasn't been solved.

Now PM Andy Burnham has decreed that nobody should be living on the streets by Christmas.

That will prove a tough challenge – and he is adamant that local leaders i.e. *Eastbourne Borough Council* must take swift and effective action.

Will that mean taking over an empty and unused building?

EBC won't have long to crack this one.

Happy September Eastbourne!

Bournefree

Bournefree is becoming more and more popular each month, and we want to make it easier for you to promote your business or organisation.

Gail and Harry are here to help you with your marketing and to raise awareness of what you do.



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Experience Sharnfold

OVER the last couple of years, *Sharnfold Farm* undergone an impressive transformation, with 16 new and improved play areas, alongside seasonal favourites such as our Wildflower Meadow, Sunflower Field, Maize Maze and Pick Your Own Pumpkin Patch.

By **Chelsie Sewell**

These exciting improvements have also lead to a year round calendar of events, with something for everyone. We have some fantastic events lined up over the next couple of months.

In September, join us on the farm to meet *Bluey and Bingo*! These lovable sisters are back at *Sharnfold Farm* on the 20th of September and will be making special appearances in our arena-style meet and greet.

Our scheduled time slots are designed to create a relaxed and enjoyable experience. Your ticket provides access to the farm from 9am to 4pm, so the fun doesn't end once you have met your favourite characters.

Children can enjoy memorable moments with *Bluey and Bingo*. While individual interactions or photos cannot be guaranteed, the characters love engaging with their fans and will do their best to interact with every little visitor.

Spaces are limited, so book your farm tickets today for a magical day with *Bluey and Bingo* at *Sharnfold Farm*!

Then, in October join us for an unforgettable autumn season. From the 3rd until the 18th of October, our Pick Your Own Pumpkin Patch will be open at weekends.

Step into our beautifully decorated pumpkin patch, filled with hundreds of pumpkins in all shapes and sizes. Whether you are searching for a large carving pumpkin, a small decorative pumpkin or something in between, you are sure to find your perfect one.

Don't forget to capture those perfect autumn photos. Our pumpkin patch is bursting with autumn charm, featuring beautifully themed displays, seasonal decorations and fun photo props throughout.



From cosy countryside scenes to spooky Halloween backdrops, there are plenty of picture perfect moments for the whole family!

Entry is just £7.45 per person when booked online in advance. This includes full access to the farm and the Pick Your Own Pumpkin Patch. Pumpkins are priced individually by weight.

Looking for a Halloween activity that is perfect for the October half term? From the 24th of October to the 1st of November, join us for our Sharnfold Spooktacular.

Venture around our Halloween themed farm trail, perfect for little monsters, brave adventures and



families looking for a magical autumn day out.

Keep your eye peeled for:

- Mischievous Halloween Characters
- Magical woodland scenes
- Spooky surprises hidden throughout our farm trail
- Fantastic autumn and Halloween photo opportunities

Whether you are searching for hidden surprises or simply soaking up the autumn atmosphere, it is a Halloween adventure the whole family will love.

Entry is just £8.45 per person and includes access to the whole farm.

You can also add a Pumpkin Carving Experience to your visit.

Make your day even more memorable by adding Pumpkin Carving for just £6.95 per carver. Choose your favourite pumpkin in our Sussex Barn and create your very own spooky masterpiece to take home!

Our Pumpkin Carving Experience operates in timed sessions and has limited capacity, so we recommend booking in advance. Adult supervision is required, and the activity is recommended for children aged three years and over.

There is so much to enjoy when you spend the day at *Sharnfold Farm*, so be sure to book your next visit soon, as some events have limited availability.

Keep an eye on our website for details of all our upcoming events.

<https://thefamilyparksgroup.co.uk/days-out/sharnfold-farm>

Shakespeare... or is it?

FIRST full Shakespeare play comes to Eastbourne Bandstand with a punk twist.

By **Peter Lindsey**

Printers Playhouse Arts CIC is bringing Shakespeare to Eastbourne Bandstand like never before, staging the venue's first full Shakespeare play with a bold 70s punk-inspired take on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Eastbourne Bandstand will host its first full Shakespeare play this September as *Printers Playhouse Arts CIC* transforms one of Shakespeare's best-loved comedies into a colourful, mischievous and distinctly unconventional night of theatre.

A Midsummer Night's Dream will take over the iconic seafront venue on Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th September 2026 at 7:30pm, combining Shakespeare's original comedy with a 70s punk-inspired aesthetic, music and an after-show party with DJ Plucky 'Boo-Bastic' Bottom.

Desperate to escape their unhappy fates, young lovers Demetrius, Lysander, Helena and Hermia flee their village for the moonlit woods.

There, alongside a band of actors and musicians, they fall under the

spell of mischievous Puck and punky apprentice Cobweb, tumbling into a dream world where love, illusion and reality become hilariously confused.

This is Shakespeare, but perhaps not as Eastbourne audiences have seen it before.

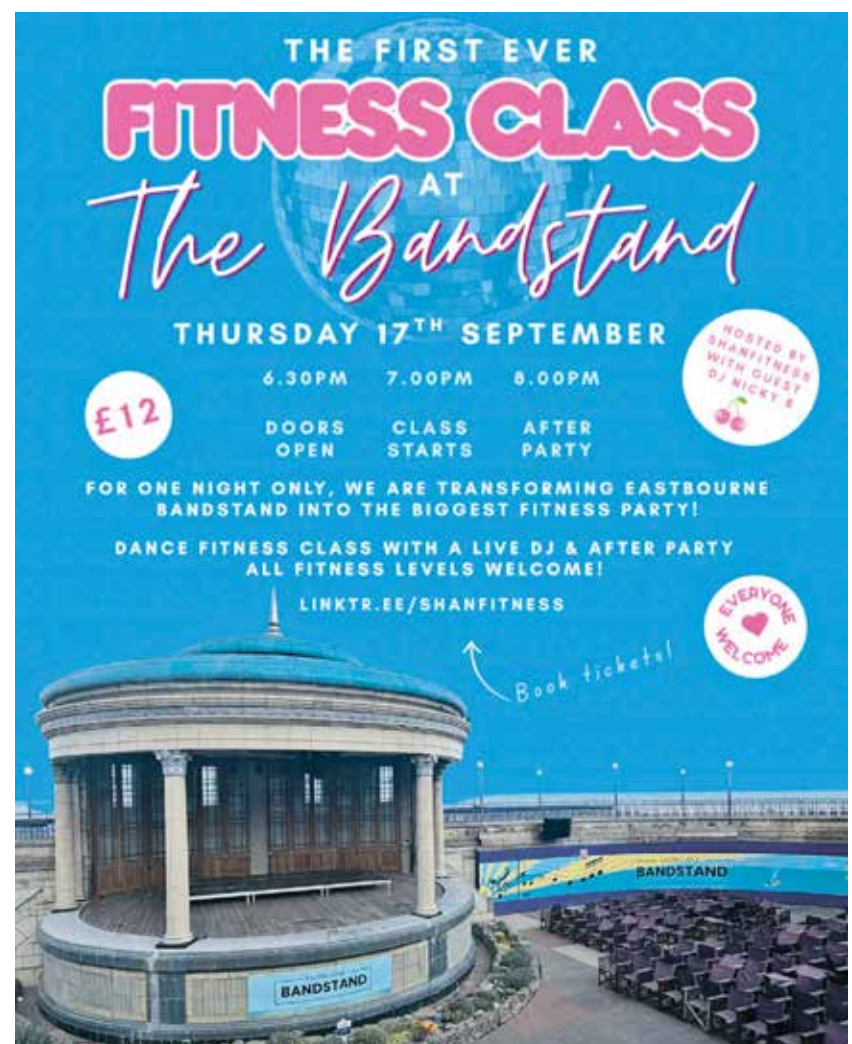
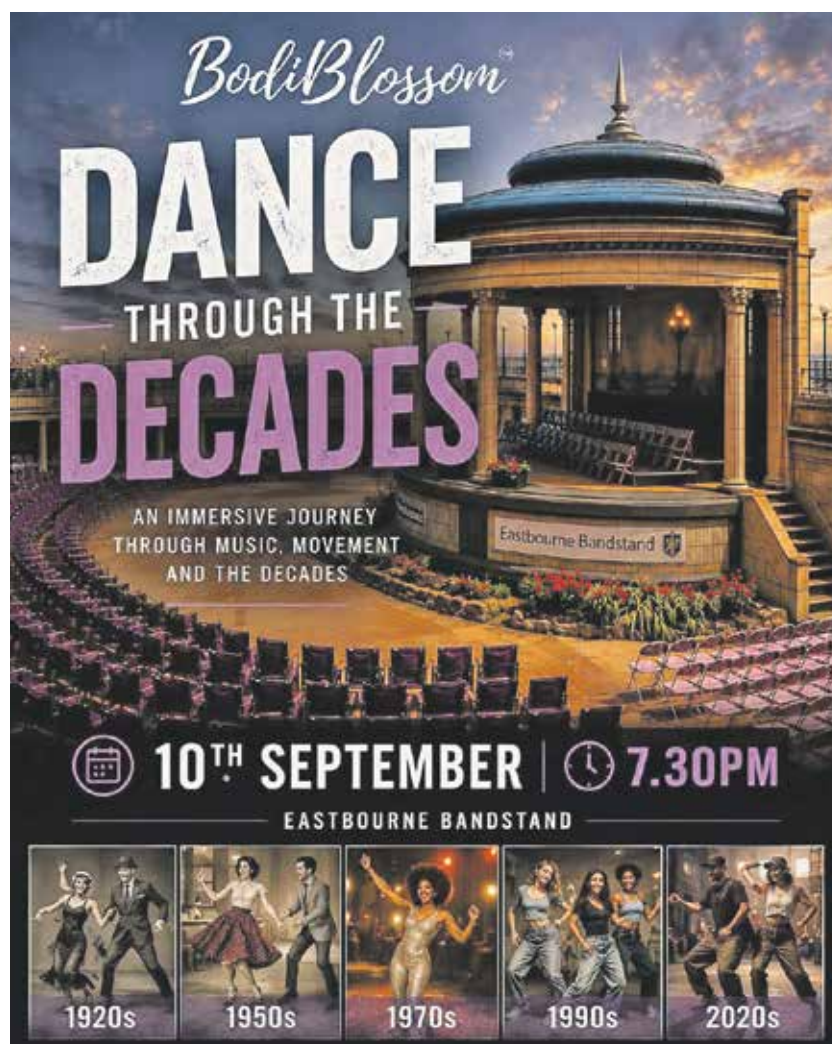
Director John Berry said: "A *Midsummer Night's Dream* has survived centuries of reinvention because it invites imagination. This production takes that invitation seriously, but not too seriously!

"We've trimmed a few lines, altered a few roles, added some music and focused on fun."



With psychedelic vibes, punk-inspired characters, Shakespearean chaos and one of Eastbourne's most recognisable venues as its backdrop, *Printers Playhouse* is promising a very different kind of Shakespeare by the sea.

<https://www.ppharts.co.uk>





“

This is a fantastic opportunity for Eastbourne businesses to enable young adults and to grow themselves. Young people do not have to leave the town for opportunities. They can stay local and thrive.

– Christina Ewbank, CEO, Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce (unLtd)

What if you were the best at something, but didn't know it?

THINK about the person who changed things for you – not a teacher or a boss, just someone who asked the right question at the right moment and helped you see your next step clearly. Now imagine you could be that person for someone else – right now, without even knowing it.

By **Peter Lindsey**

That's the idea behind *The Blueprint*: Eastbourne's town-wide mission to put a coach in the corner of every young adult here. It's happening now, built by the town's own businesses and made possible by OKO, the platform that pairs people up and guides every session.

Any 18-to-30-year-old in Eastbourne can be matched with a trained coach – free to them, their family and the taxpayer, funded entirely by the employers who take part. This isn't just for young people having a hard time. Whether it's a first job, a route into education, a promotion, or simply working out what's next, the

door is open to anyone ready to work hard and be ambitious. OKO pairs each young adult with a coach using psychometric profiling, matching people who genuinely think and feel the same way.

The Blueprint is backed by the people who lead this town – Josh Babarinde MP, Christina Ewbank and Councillor Stephen Holt – alongside *Bournefree*, *The Blueprint's* media partner.

Musicians Frank Turner, Elles Bailey, Toddla T and Jess Greenfield have lent their voices too.

For businesses, this isn't just a good deed – it's a workforce tool that drives real, measurable results. 82% of UK managers have had no formal management training; OKO gives every employee genuine, practised coaching skills. The most engaged workforces are 23% more profitable and 18% more productive than the least, and training paired with coaching lifts productivity by 88%, against 22% for training alone. Your people also get to know capable young adults from the town over six sessions – a hiring pool they've already vetted.

In partnership with *The Blueprint's* founding partner, *Eastbourne unLtd Chamber of Commerce*, they're waiving the £1,000 year-one platform fee for local businesses – simply enter EASTBOURNEUNLTD at checkout.

This isn't just doing a good thing – it's investing in your people, driving productivity, and possibly meeting your next hire along the way.

18 to 30 and in Eastbourne? Claim your free coach at:
www.weareoko.com

Work in a business? Download *The Blueprint Mandate* at:
www.weareoko.com/blueprint
and send it to your leadership team today.

Someone in this town could be exactly what a young person needs. Maybe it's your business. Maybe it's you.



“

We want a revolution and we need the infrastructure to make that happen. That is OKO.

– Toddla T, multi-platinum producer, Steeze Factory boss and DJ

Ratton School Open Events

RATTON School, part of the *South Downs Learning Trust*, are holding their 2026 Open Evening event and Open Morning tours in September.

By **Lucie Hamblin**

Mr Peevers, Headteacher at Ratton, said:

"As ever, we look forward to opening the doors to our community, ready to showcase everything we have on offer here at *Ratton School*.

"It is always a pleasure to welcome prospective students together with their families, giving them the chance to explore our school grounds, educational opportunities and meet our dedicated teaching staff and wider support team.

"Our open events offer our current students the chance to share their own educational journeys and accomplishments, something we have found is most helpful to prospective students when considering if our school is right for them and their next chapter into secondary school. Our aim is to ensure our events are informative, interactive and honest in our approach.

"We look forward to welcoming prospective families into school very soon. Details for all upcoming events are available on our website and

across our social media platforms. We look forward to welcoming our community and prospective learners, ready to explore *Ratton* and how we can all 'Achieve Together'."



Students help with centre transformation

THE new *Wellbeing & Creative Health Hub* in Old Town is well on the way to becoming a vibrant destination.

By **Peter Lindsey**

And the *Motcombe Community Pool Community CIC* is now looking for experienced operators with the capability, vision and commitment to help develop the centre.

Students

Painting and Decorating students from *East Sussex College Group*, Eastbourne have been working on site. They helped to advance the final stages of Phase 1 of the Pool's rejuvenation, transforming the former attendant's house into the new hub.

Supported by *Eastbourne Borough Council*, the programme enables students to gain practical experience in a real community setting.

Teaching Assistant Georgia said: "The initiative delivers strong social value by building confidence, teamwork, communication and employability skills, giving learners a sense of ownership and pride in place."

Combing heritage with opportunities

MP Josh Babarinde praised the partnership, calling it 'a wonderful way to combine heritage with future opportunities for young people.'

The rejuvenated Attendant's House will support community wellbeing, creativity and social connection, while generating income for the wider site's redevelopment and future swimming operations. The centre will offer spaces for exercise, therapy, creative arts, workshops and life-skills activities.

Expressions of interest

Helen Nichols, Chair of *Motcombe Community Pool Community CIC*, said: "The Involvement of young people taking pride in place helps to advance long-term plans to secure Motcombe's future and ultimately to reopen the Pool.

The *CIC* is inviting Expressions of Interest from experienced operators with the capability, vision and commitment to help develop



the centre as a vibrant destination serving Eastbourne and the surrounding community.

www.motcombepool.org

Skylark celebrated their one year anniversary of being under new ownership

We can't believe it's been a whole year of owning our restaurant in the heart of Little Chelsea, one of Eastbourne's most charming areas. We are so grateful for all of our wonderful customers as well as people visiting Eastbourne for local events such as Tennis week and Airbourne.

We are so proud of what we have created at Skylark and finally feel that we have put our mark on Eastbourne's restaurant scene. We owe it all to our amazing and supportive team and we wouldn't have been able to achieve what we have without their continued passion and genuine love for hospitality. The hospitality sector has had it really tough recently with constant rising bills and rates, so we are lucky to have such a supportive community around us who continue to show up regularly. Thank you.

Skylark serves their highly rated brunch Wednesday to Sunday as well as a new lunch menu. We also open in the evenings on Friday and Saturday where the atmosphere mellows into a cosy neighbourhood dining spot, serving fresh, seasonal and local produce changing with the seasons. This summer, Skylark launched their new concept of dinner menu to include small and large plates, where food is designed to be shared with friends and family over a candlelight and a relaxing yet still upbeat vibe of the restaurant.

To give our customers the best experience, we support local using as many suppliers based in and around Eastbourne as possible. There are so many amazing small businesses nearby from incredibly tasty fruit and veg, to butchers who've been around for years and fishmongers where we know everything is freshly caught. This makes it so easy to support local in an area full of such wonderful suppliers.



Pour Decisions make the best stories

Have you experienced a few "Pour Decisions" yet?

Friday and Saturday nights in Eastbourne have got a little bit more interesting. Running from the end of July until the end of September, Pour Decisions brings together music, drinks and a fun late night atmosphere across Mark Lane and Station Street.

Organised by Your Eastbourne BID, alongside Bear Club, Eastbourne Cocktail Club, The Loft and Temple Bar, it's all about good music, great company and making the most of your night in town.



Driven by business, funded by business

Your Eastbourne BID is independently funded by town centre businesses to support and promote our area. We've organised events like the Little Chelsea Festive Fun and Fireworks, funded Christmas lights and installed CCTV and planters. Decisions are made by a voluntary team of Directors who represent local businesses, dedicated to creating a thriving, vibrant town centre for everyone to enjoy.

Don't forget, the BID has launched a monthly newsletter that promises exclusive updates, hidden gems and early access to special offers. It's an exciting way for residents and visitors alike to stay connected to everything happening in town, so please do sign up by scanning the QR code.



Tackling food waste

EASTBOURNE Food Partnership relaunched its two **Crop Drop** sites at **Rooted Community Allotment** on Gorrington Road and **Gather Community Garden** at Churchdale Allotments, unveiling new signage and clearer information to encourage more growers to donate their surplus produce.

By **Charlie Rosthorn**

The Crop Drop initiative invites growers to share any excess fruit and vegetables with Eastbourne's Community Fridges.

Produce collected at *Rooted* and *Gather* is delivered to the fridges – often via the new e-cargo bike jointly funded by *Eastbourne Borough Council*, *Eastbourne Food Partnership* and *Eastbourne Eco Action Network* – where surplus food that might otherwise go to



waste is sold at low cost. Fresh fruit and vegetables help supplement supermarket surplus, ensuring the *Community Fridges* can offer affordable, healthy food and support *Eastbourne Food Partnership's* commitment to widening access to nutritious produce across the town.

The re-launch at *Rooted* was marked by volunteers showcasing the impressive progress made across their two plots during this summer's heatwaves. At

Gather, the event coincided with the opening of *Eastbourne Eco Action Network's* new *Mary Ann Gilbert Community Room*, a free space available for local groups. Councillors *Jim Murray* and *Hugh Parker* also attended to show their support.

Eastbourne Food Partnership hopes the *Crop Drop* initiative will continue to expand and thanks *Rooted*, *Gather*, *Eastbourne Allotments*, and all local growers for their ongoing efforts to build a healthier, more sustainable Eastbourne.

eastbournefoodpartnership.org.uk

An invitation to you

SEPTEMBER Open Day provides an opportunity to see what makes *Tweed* special.

By **Harry Farmer**

It's been a busy few months at *Tweed* during which we received confirmation that our services were rated "GOOD" on all counts following a *Care Quality Commission (CQC)* inspection in April. The residents and Trustees share the pleasure of the staff whose hard work and commitment has been recognised by the *CQC*.

On **Thursday 10th September** we are holding an Open Day from 10am until 4pm. Visitors are welcome by prior booking. The event will provide an opportunity to appreciate the home setting we offer and to relax and enjoy light refreshments.

Tweed is run by the *Emilie Galloway Home of Rest* charity and so is not-for-profit. It occupies a beautiful, well-maintained Edwardian property in Silverdale Road near the *Grand Hotel* with spacious rooms and is comfortable and friendly.



If you are looking for a home from home for a loved one, we welcome visits by appointment. This provides time to show you around, answer all questions and to really get a feel for the Home.

To learn more about *Tweed*, visit www.tweedcarehome.co.uk

'Tweed' The Emilie Galloway Home of Rest
8–10 Silverdale Road
Eastbourne BN20 7AL
Tel: 01323 733223





Folk night in memory of dear Linda

IN 2020, Chris Westcott lost his wife Linda to motor neurone disease, a terrible illness.

By **Peter Lindsey**

To try and turn a negative into a positive, each year he organises a charity event to raise funds for research into the disease.

On Saturday September 19th, his brother Nick will perform with his folk band *Black Strap Molasses* at the *Lamb Inn*, Old Town, from 7:30pm until around 9:30pm.

The band has been playing locally for more than 30 years and is very highly regarded.

Catalogue of songs

It is known for a wide-ranging catalogue of songs, some poignant, some funny and all beautifully produced in a blend of vocals and instruments.

Nick has also written a song dedicated to people affected by MND, which he will perform on the evening.

Entrance is free with a collection at the end, and there will be a raffle with some great prizes.

Chris said: "Linda was incredibly well known in Eastbourne, and I do hope that people will support the night."

"If anyone is unable to make the evening but would like to make a donation, I will buy a raffle ticket on your behalf. It promises to be a fun evening for a great cause."

Email: chriswestcott@hotmail.co.uk



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SAT 5TH SEP - MOTOWN - SOULTOWN COLLECTIVE
SUN 6TH SEP (3PM) - SOUTHDOWNS CONCERT
SUN 6TH SEP - CELEBRATION OF NEIL DIAMOND

FRI 11TH SEP - SKANDALIZERS
SAT 12TH SEP - 90S SPICE GIRLS
SUN 13TH SEP - JERSEY BOYS - BIG MEN IN TOWN

WED 16TH SEP - EASTBOURNE SILVER BAND
FRI 18TH SEP - PHIL COLLINS & GENESIS - EASY LOVER
SAT 19TH SEP - COUNTRY NIGHT - GEORGIE SINCLAIR
SUN 20TH SEP - FLEETWOOD MAC - FLEETWOOD SHACK

FRI 25TH SEP - OASIS - FAKERMAKER
SAT 26TH SEP - MADNESS - BADNESS
SUN 24TH SEP - UB40 - RATS IN THE KITCHEN

OCTOBER:
FRI 2ND OCT - QUEEN - ONEVISION
SAT 3RD OCT - ABBA - ABBA MAGIC

DOORS 7PM/STARTS 8PM UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED
FOR MORE INFO : WWW.EASTBOURNEBANDSTAND.COM

Lightning Fibre reaches Key Milestones

LIGHTNING Fibre has announced two major milestones: surpassing 20,000 customers and achieving 1 in 4 homes taking up broadband across its full fibre network.

By **Peter Lindsey**

Founded in Sussex and headquartered in Eastbourne, Lightning Fibre has built its growth on a simple promise: delivering better broadband through a local team, excellent customer service, and strong community connections.

The company says this growth reflects sustained demand for a simple, fixed price, human-centric approach to delivering broadband, one that contrasts

with national providers who often apply multiple in-contract price increases.

Lightning Fibre family

Bertrand Mazieres, CEO at *Lightning Fibre*, said: “Achieving 25% residential take-up in this highly competitive market shows that our approach resonates with customers. People want broadband that simply works, at a fair price, with local support they can rely on. And that’s exactly what the team delivers every day – with more than 9 in 10 of our *Trustpilot* reviews rated 5 stars. Thank you to all our customers for buying local and joining the *Lightning Fibre* family.”



Jack from the Lightning Fibre engineer team installing residential full fibre broadband.

The company’s network development has boosted Eastbourne into the top 3.5% of UK-wide constituencies for superfast broadband coverage at 99.9%. Josh Babarinde, MP, recently thanked the *Lightning Fibre* team for “the work that has gone into delivering high-quality connectivity across the town.”

Expanded reach

Alongside investing in its own full fibre infrastructure, the company has also expanded its reach through strategic network partnerships, enabling more homes and businesses to access *Lightning Fibre* services.

Secure and reliable network

Tim Passingham, Chairman at *Lightning Fibre*, added: “Today’s milestone showcases our appeal in the residential market. But we’re not stopping there. We also continue to grow our presence in the business market, offering solutions of up to 10Gbps powered by our high-performance, secure and reliable network.”

Lightning Fibre remains focused on sustainable growth, expanding network availability, enhancing its product offering and continuously improving the customer experience.



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Moving with Joy. Celebrate Dance founder Maureen dancing with her husband on the grounds of The Grand Hotel.

Celebrate Dance: Rediscover the Joy of Movement

MINDFUL movement, somatic imagery and beautiful music for joyful longevity.

By **Maureen Gordon**

What if dance could help you move with greater ease, enjoy beautiful music and connect with others—without complicated steps or high-impact exercise?

Celebrate Dance offers a unique approach designed especially for adults who wish to maintain mobility, balance and confidence while experiencing the pleasure of dance. Rather than focusing on technical footwork, we begin with the most natural movement of all: walking.

Drawing inspiration from the elegant floor patterns of 17th-century

Playford Dance, participants move through flowing pathways that develop coordination, memory and spatial awareness, while deepening sensitivity to the relationship between movement and musical phrasing.

At the heart of *Celebrate Dance* is the belief that movement begins from the body's centre. I often describe it this way: the core is the engine; the hands and feet are simply the wheels. By bringing awareness to alignment, breath and natural movement, participants discover a more balanced, comfortable and effortless way of moving.

Somatic imagery plays an important role in the classes. Gentle images—such as grounding through the pelvis while allowing the upper body to release upwards—can encourage greater length, balance and ease without strain or force. This mindful approach helps people become more aware of how they move and how they relate to the space around them.

The result is a dance experience that is accessible, engaging and enjoyable. We do not focus on what the body cannot do; we celebrate what it can do.

Participants often enjoy:

- Pleasure of moving to beautiful, uplifting music.
- Improved body awareness and confidence in movement.
- Support for balance, posture and mobility.
- Mental stimulation through pattern, memory and coordination.
- Social connection, shared laughter and community spirit.
- A welcoming environment suitable for a wide range of abilities.

“

It was such fun and I went home singing in my heart.

– Frankie

These qualities make the approach particularly suitable for older adults. It remains an intellectually and artistically engaging form of dance while being highly accessible. Because the classes are entirely walking-based, there is little impact on the knees, hips and ankles, allowing participants to enjoy movement, music and social connection without the demands of complex footwork or high-impact activity.

About Maureen Gordon

Maureen Gordon has spent more than fifty years teaching dance. She holds the *Advanced Teachers Certificate* from the *Royal Academy of Dance* and has studied *Playford Dance*, *Dalcroze Eurhythmics*, *Pilates Technique* and somatic movement practices. Throughout her career, she has developed a holistic, centred approach that brings together movement, music and body awareness.

Now based in Eastbourne, Maureen founded *Celebrate Dance* to help people of all ages—and particularly those who want to continue experiencing the pleasure of dance and music as they grow older and rediscover the dancer within.

Maureen currently holds fortnightly classes in Eastbourne on Monday mornings at *Meads Hall*, corner of Meads Road and Meads Street, and *St Saviours Church Hall*, corner of South Street and Spencer Road. Class fee is: £10.

For further class information and bookings contact:

Email: celebratedance88@gmail.com
Mobile: 07776 180903



Add your ideas to the flooding Action Plan!

OUR colleagues in *ESCC* have drafted a new *Local Flood Risk Management Strategy*, which is open for public consultation until midnight on October 18th.

By **Eleanor Lanyon**, Blue Heart

Natalie Jamfield, Principal Flood Resilience Officer, explains:

"This strategy is different from the last; it focusses on the impact of flooding on communities and businesses, rather than just on the engineering side of things. We've also tried to make it a lot shorter!

The strategy will guide how the team works alongside others, including

local communities and businesses to help manage and reduce the impacts of flooding over the next 10 years. As part of the strategy, we're also creating an Action Plan, a list of potential projects that could help raise awareness and reduce the impact of flooding to communities across the county.

Local communities know their area better than anyone, so we're inviting people to share their ideas – big or small – that could build understanding about flooding or help manage it at a community level.

Suitable projects will help shape our Action Plan.

Share your thoughts on the Strategy or suggest ideas for the Action plan at: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/lfrms-27>

You can also contact the team by email: flood.strategy@eastsussex.gov.uk or by post via: **East Sussex County Council, Flood Risk Management Team, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE**





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By **Ryan P**

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Put your business in front of millions

LOCAL businesses have a powerful advertising opportunity right in the heart of Eastbourne – with prominent poster sites inside *The Beacon* shopping centre.

By **Harry Farmer**

Paul Spink, of Media Attention which manages a range of advertising poster sites within the centre, believes *The Beacon* offers local businesses an extremely effective way of reaching people right in the heart of Eastbourne.

The company is particularly keen to encourage smaller independent businesses to consider shopping-centre advertising.

“People sometimes assume advertising in a major shopping centre is going to be expensive, but our A1 poster sites start at just £119 + VAT per calendar month. For the number of people potentially seeing your business, we think that represents fantastic value.”

Paul said: “*The Beacon* welcomes a footfall of over 11 million people every year, which is an incredible audience for a local business. You don’t necessarily need a huge advertising budget – you just need to put your message somewhere people are going to see it.

“We’re a local company and we genuinely want to help other local businesses get noticed. If someone is interested, we’re very happy to meet them at *The Beacon*, show them the different poster locations and talk through what might work best for their business.”

For more information about advertising opportunities at *The Beacon*, please contact **[Paul](mailto:Paul@mediaattention.co.uk)**



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One year of Bare Beauty

THIS August, Eastbourne's *Bare Beauty* celebrated its first birthday!

By **Peter Lindsey**

Founded by Holly Foster-Carter, 27, Holly started her beauty journey at just 17, working from her bedroom before opening her own studio and, in 2025, her dream salon on South Street.

Today, *Bare Beauty* is home to a growing team of self-employed beauty professionals, offering nails, lashes, brows, hair, facials, massage and aesthetics, all under one roof.

Next for Holly is the launch of *Bare Beauty Academy*, where she'll be sharing her experience with the next generation of beauty professionals.

Here's to year two!

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Grim Glory: Lee Miller's Britain at War

A FASCINATING new exhibition at *Farleys House and Gallery*, the former East Sussex home of renowned photographer Lee Miller, explores her powerful photographs of Britain during the Second World War.

By **Sophie Thompson**

***Grim Glory: Lee Miller's Britain at War* brings together a significant collection of Miller's images from 1940–1944, including photographs of the Blitz and the vital contribution of women to the war effort.**

Some were published in *Wrens in Camera* in 1945 but have not been exhibited since, while others have never been printed before.

American-born Miller arrived in London just as war was declared and, despite initially lacking a permit to work, became one of only four female photojournalists accredited to the US. Working closely with British

Vogue editor Audrey Withers, she documented everyday life during wartime – from bomb-damaged streets and underground shelters to rationing and women taking on traditionally male roles.

The exhibition highlights an often-overlooked chapter of Miller's career, revealing her remarkable ability to combine journalism with sensitivity and humanity.

A revised accompanying publication features 50 additional photographs and a new essay by Ami Bouhassane.

Grim Glory: Lee Miller's Britain at War runs from 30th July to 30th October. *Farleys* is open Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays and selected Saturdays, 10am–4:30pm.



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Chiddingly Festival of The Arts returns

THE 46th Chiddingly Festival opens on Thursday 17th with Tony Penrose treating audiences to the inside scoop on the making of Kate Winslet's biographical film of his Mother, Lee Miller.

By **Gail McKay**

On Friday, straight from BBC's *Live at the Apollo*, Jake Lambert is popping into the Village Hall to crack a joke or two, or several hundred. A world class comedian on your doorstep for £20 in Chiddingly!

Saturday's event features a night of Burlesque, Circus, and Thrills & Spills. Be sure to don your own glad rags for a chance to win the "best dressed" prize.

Renowned pianist Joanna MacGregor will perform accompanied this year by world percussionist Adriano Adewale. Jazz fans are also in for a treat as Poppy Daniels is also on the

bill having just released her debut disc. Her next stop is the London Jazz Festival (where you'd pay a lot more and sit a lot further back!).

Local internationally acclaimed film director Corin Hardy runs a hands-on Animation workshop which has already sold out. But be sure to follow the Festival on social media to watch the finished Animaniacs Music Video!

If you are quick there are still a few tickets available for Sat 26th's closing night, themed immersive 'Cine-Supper', with a screening of *The Shawshank Redemption* alongside



a 3 course gourmet 'prison' menu, cocktails, period trailers, and live music accompaniment. All for just £22! Prizes for the best costumes! It's an evening of immense cinematic fun and collective celebration.

The Chiddingly Festival runs from Sept 17th to Sept 26th.

All tickets now available at: www.chiddinglyfestival.co.uk

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Charity brings back popular Antiques Fair

CHILDREN with Cancer Fund is an incredible charity based in Eastbourne which has supported thousands of people in its 28 years.

By **Peter Lindsey**

Fundraising is an important part of what it does, and it's bringing back an event it used to run before Covid.

Its Antique Fair is being held on Saturday October 24th from 9am until 2pm at *Willingdon Community School*.

Everyone is welcome.

A variety of stalls

Here's Chris from the charity: "Come along please and enjoy a variety of stalls and an on-site valuation service."

"We are currently booking stall holders to sell their antiques to local buyers on the day. Pitches are only £25 per 6ft table. All types of antiques and older vintage items are welcome."

"Pitches are selling fast, so contact us as soon as possible to secure your spot."



Chris said: "We used to love this Fair, it was always so busy and made good money for the charity. That's why we thought let's start it up again."

"We need to make sure we have enough stalls. Then, on the day, the public are invited to come in, have a look around the stalls, bring items to be valued if you wish, and enjoy lunch and/or a drink as well."

"It costs only £1 to enter, and valuations cost £2.50 per item."

"Children with Cancer Fund is currently supporting over 150 families across East Sussex, Brighton and Hove."

To book a stall, please email:
community@childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk

Or call **01323 488561**

www.childrenwithcancerfund.org.uk



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Making a real difference to the community

IT started off as a small community project – but a whopping £40,000 has now been invested into *Old Town Recreation Ground*.

By **Peter Lindsey**

The facilities were poor and very tired – then in stepped Craig Wells and the *Old Town Hub CIC*.

It has been a huge success – and the public absolutely love it, not just those who live locally in Old Town.

Craig said: “We have created spaces that the whole community can enjoy.

“This investment has included major improvements to the tennis courts and the restoration of the former changing rooms, which now provide a thriving community café and refurbished public toilets, available to recreation ground visitors at no additional charge.



The opening of the First Serve Café.

“We have also created and maintained flower beds outside the café.

“The work has received wider recognition through multiple *LTA Parks Awards*.

“Aside from the Council, *Old Town Hub CIC* is now the largest financial contributor to the recreation ground.”

Craig says the future is looking bright:

“We continue to explore funding opportunities and develop projects across the recreation ground.

“Our purpose has never been simply to operate the tennis courts or café. It is to protect, improve and invest in *Old Town Recreation Ground* as a whole, helping to create a more welcoming, active and sustainable community space for today and for future generations.”





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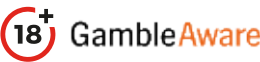
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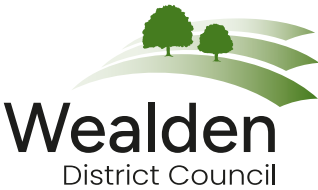
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www.eastbournechamber.co.uk

Less than two months to go until Eastbourne DigiFest 2026

EASTBOURNE DigiFest, the Tech Conference for Business, is fast approaching, with less than two months until doors open on Wednesday 14th October.

Now in its fourth year, Eastbourne DigiFest 2026 boasts a host of engaging speakers, a packed exhibition hall, and loads of networking opportunities. This year's event focuses on "Working and Leading in the Age of AI", helping delegates understand how technology is changing the way work gets done.

The speaker lineup continues to grow on a weekly basis and the organisers will soon be announcing a brand new headline speaker, so keep your eyes peeled on social channels.

AI is a huge topic and top of everyone's agenda, so it is no surprise that it is a key theme for the 2026 conference. Tom Fielder, from event organisers *Switchplane*, will be talking about "AI Strategy: From Pain Points to Productivity". In his keynote, Tom will be looking at how embedding AI into core processes, systems and decision making, not just using bog-standard AI like *ChatGPT*, can drive real growth – a must for any business owner. Keeping on the theme of AI, Lucy Butt from *Bramber Bakehouse*, a

small Sussex-based charity, will be sharing her experiences of "Learning AI on the Job", some real lessons from a charity CEO.

Come and meet some fantastic local digital and tech businesses and organisations in the packed exhibition hall, book yourself in for the networking lunch, or just engage with them on their stands. A host of *Eastbourne Chamber* members will be exhibiting, including *Switchplane*, *Lightning Fibre*, *East Sussex College*, *Global WealthMAP*, *PRG Marketing Communications*, *Sussex Audiology Centre*, and *Fountain Digital*.

Eastbourne DigiFest 2026 takes place on Wednesday 14th October at *The Kings Centre* and offers a lively day full of insightful talks, thought-provoking sessions, and an interactive exhibition space. Come along to gain practical knowledge and strategies from industry experts to help you and your business step confidently into the future and adapt, grow, and thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Book your ticket today at:
www.eastbournedigifest.com



Tom Fielder MD at Switchplane.

EASTBOURNE BUSINESS SHOW 2026

Get the chance to showcase your brand, meet decision-makers face to face, and build relationships that lead to real opportunities.

- **Wednesday 9th September**
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Visit www.eastbourneunltd.co.uk to learn more and become a member today.

Eastbourne's biggest business celebration returns this October



THE spotlight is set to shine on Eastbourne's thriving business community once again as the highly anticipated *Eastbourne Business Awards* event returns on Friday 16th October, promising an evening of glamour, celebration and unforgettable moments at the stunning *Winter Garden*.

Recognised as one of the most prestigious dates in the local business calendar, the awards bring together the very best of Eastbourne's entrepreneurs, innovators, charities and organisations for a spectacular night of recognition and celebration, with a fantastic new host, magician and presenter Ben Hanlin ready to take to the stage.

Whether you're celebrating success, supporting colleagues, entertaining clients or simply wanting to be part of the town's most talked-about business event, this is the place to be. Expect an evening of sparkling entertainment, exceptional hospitality and unrivalled networking with Eastbourne's leading businesses and community champions.

If you only attend one business event this year, make it this one. *The Eastbourne Business Awards* is renowned for selling out, with businesses from across the region coming together for an evening of celebration, inspiration and first-class entertainment.

Secure your tickets now. Gather your colleagues, invite your clients,

book your table and be part of an evening where connections are made, successes are celebrated and Eastbourne's business community comes together in style.

Whether you're hoping to lift a trophy or simply soak up the atmosphere, this is your invitation to be part of the event everyone will be talking about.

To book visit:
eastbournebusinessawards.co.uk

From £1bn revenue to Eastbourne's high street: a one-day workshop to launch your business

THIS September, a new event is bringing serious commercial expertise to Eastbourne's aspiring founders, and it's built around a simple promise: walk in with an idea, walk out with a real business.

Launch Your Business in a Day, hosted by commercial advisor Greg McCallum of ThinkWork, takes place at Breakwater by FOUNDRY in The Beacon on Monday 28th September.

McCallum is an Eastbourne-based commercial leader with more than 15 years of scaling sales and revenue for startups and high-growth companies, work that has influenced over \$1 billion in revenue globally. He helped

scale the UK B2B operations of tech company Booksy from the ground up, and now works as a fractional Chief Commercial Officer and advisor to early-stage founders, helping them simplify sales, marketing, and growth. He's also the founder of behavioural-data startup Peer and hosts the *Founders Unplugged* podcast.

Now he's bringing that experience home. "Many people across East Sussex have a business idea but never

take the first step," he says. Fear of failure, overwhelm, conflicting online advice, and a lack of affordable local support all get in the way. This workshop is built to remove those barriers in a single, energising day.

Rather than theory, the day is built around one principle: everyone should leave with something real. Attendees, whether aspiring entrepreneurs, market traders, freelancers, or creatives, will spend the day validating their idea, building a simple online presence, setting up payments, clarifying pricing, and creating a 30-day plan to launch. They'll leave with a live business or honest feedback on what to refine first.

Ongoing 1:1 and community support will also be provided for attendees.



The event is supported by Switchplane, Global Wealthmap, Edeal / EDCC and Eastbourne BID, reflecting a shared commitment to local entrepreneurship, economic growth, and digital inclusion across the region.



Please scan the QR code to book via www.eventbrite.ie

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Paul Robeson's October in Eastbourne

A CELEBRATION and plaque unveiling at the *Winter Garden* on 25th October at 3pm.

By **Carol Mills**, Peoples Eastbourne

Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation in support of our Robeson Celebrations across the town.

Peoples Eastbourne spent many years campaigning for Paul Robeson's connection with Eastbourne to be widely recognised. We finally achieved our goal with the approval of a plaque at the *Winter Garden*, (where he performed from the late 1920s until 1939). We now need to raise the funds for a town wide celebration.

Plaque

This particular CROWDFUNDER is to help towards the cost of the plaque and the formal ceremony at the *Winter Garden*. Please donate if you are able to, or if you are unable, it would help a lot if you could share this appeal.

Black History Month events

Meanwhile, Peoples Eastbourne are busy promoting the *Black History Month Season* of events being hosted by local community groups and businesses across the town.

So far we have planned: a screening of *Proud Valley* at the *Towner Cinema* on 4th October at 11am; *BHM Poetry Cafe*; *BHM Quiz*; *Love Robeson Songs* evening at the *Grove Theatre Bar* on 21st October; *Shades of Sussex* film event; *Reggae Night*.

For details of each event please visit: www.peopleaseastbourne.com/events

If you would you like to hold an event as part of the *Black History Month Season*, please contact: hello@peopleaseastbourne.com

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Maps and Apps

ONE of the identifying accessories of a rambler has got to be a transparent and waterproof bag on a string around their neck, containing a neatly folded Ordnance Survey map.

By **Lindsey Gwynne**

Indeed, some ramblers still favour this trusted option, but many (folded map carriers included) now use the digital version of OS maps (or similar by other names) on their phone.

This version is invaluable. For starters the 'pinch-to-zoom' option displays the map zoomed-out for an overview of the area, and zoomed-in for precise following of paths. A simple

tap will display a marker showing your exact GPS location – hopefully on your route!

A walk can be plotted at home on the laptop and then followed out in the countryside on the phone, and an exploratory walk can be recorded, saved and followed again at a later date.

Saved routes can be shared online with friends or with the OS fraternity, and



similarly routes discovered by complete strangers can be browsed and downloaded for use from the website's database, knowing that someone has already checked them out.

The length and elevation of a route is shown, so you can choose a walk to suit your mood and stamina as well as the landscape you want to enjoy. The app is so convenient, and automatically updates any changes

to footpaths, access etc, but for a mega-overview, you can't beat a paper OS map!

Polegate Ramblers meet every Thursday with walks to suit all abilities.

Check out their website:

www.polegateramblers.org.uk

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Study / Extra Bedroom
Integral Double Garage
No Onward Chain



Pride View Stone Cross

Guide Price £380,000

Three bedroom linked-detached house
Part converted garage creating further
reception room or office
Spacious lounge and dining room
Modern kitchen
Stylish family bathroom
Double glazed with gas central heating
(boiler is 1 year old)
Landscaped rear garden



Walnut Walk Polegate

Guide Price £170,000

Two bedroom apartment
Ground floor
Purpose built block
Close to polegate train station
Quiet residential location
Modern stylish bathroom
Communal gardens
With communal car parking



The Cloisters Eastbourne

Guide Price £650,000

4 Bedroom detached bungalow
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Guide Price £470,000

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Lamont Court Eastbourne

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No Onward Chain



Sevenoaks Road Langney

Guide Price £280,000

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Three Bedroom
End of Terrace
Fully Refurbished
No Onward Chain
Low Maintenance Garden
Popular Location

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Up the Borough for the new season

EASTBOURNE Borough Chief Executive Alan Williams says it has been a long and incredibly busy summer behind the scenes.

By **Peter Lindsey**



And he says the changes haven't just been on the pitch.

He said: "Those of you returning to Priory Lane will have noticed the new playing surface, the removal of the walls from the main stand and the introduction of the new pitch-side fencing.

"All of these changes have been made with one objective in mind: to

improve the stadium and enhance the matchday experience for everyone who comes through the gates.

Continue to build

"While we continue to build a squad capable of being successful, one thing that will never change is our commitment to developing young players and helping them progress to a higher level.

"I genuinely believe that no club at our level has a better recent record of doing that than *Eastbourne Borough*.

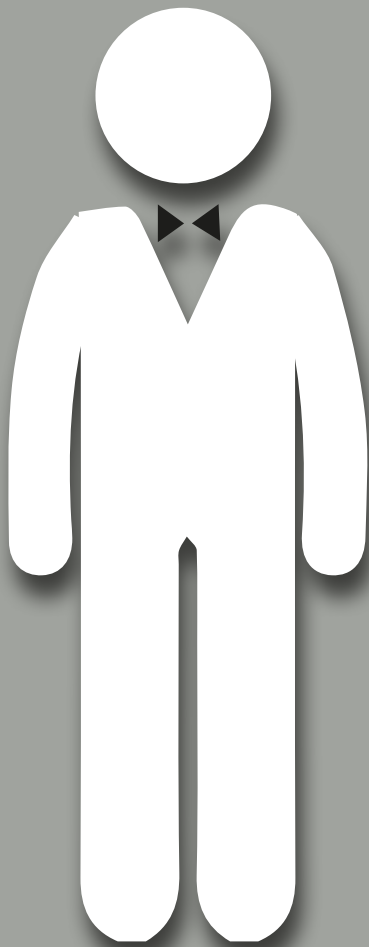
Young talent

"For me, this is about far more than transfer fees or football statistics. It is about building a football club that gives talented young people an opportunity. It is about helping them develop, giving them a platform

and, in some cases, changing the direction of their lives forever.

"Up the Borough!"

Let's hope for a cracking season...



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Do you use a mobility scooter, or know someone who does?

FOR many mobility scooter users, it isn't the distance to a friend's house or the local shop that can stop them going – it's the worry about what might happen on the way.

By **Kate Faulks**

That worry alone can be enough to stop the trip and quietly take their independence too.

That's why Surewise is giving away the mobility scooter that starred in its first TV advert, plus a year's free



insurance – to help give someone that confidence back. To enter, answer the question: *"Where would a mobility scooter give you the confidence to go?"*

The prize is a Class 3 scooter worth around £3,000, road-legal at up to 8mph. The competition is open to UK residents aged 18 or over with difficulty walking due to injury, disability or a medical condition.

Entries close at 12 noon on Monday 14th September 2026. Full terms and conditions apply.

Know someone who'd benefit? Please pass this on.

To enter, scan the QR code or visit: www.surewise.com/mobility-scooter-insurance/articles/win-a-mobility-scooter



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To find out more about joining the team call us on: **01323 870920** or email: **volunteer@cuckmerebuses.org.uk**



Stick 'em up, cowboy

MEMBERS of an Eastbourne-based charity had a day out with a difference – axe throwing while visiting a town built by a group of country and western lovers.

By **Peter Lindsey**

Fifteen people from SASBAH visited *Deadwood*, situated on *Wattlehurst Farm* at *Kingsfold*, near *Horsham*.

The town recreates life in 19th Century America. All trappings of modern life are banned and residents walk around the streets in full cowboy attire, dropping into the saloon for a whisky or the hardware store to pick up a rifle.

There is a bank, a school, a blacksmith's forge, a church and lots more.

Rom Sanglaji, CEO of SASBAH – *The Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus* – said it was a wonderful opportunity for the group who went.

He said: "We were very lucky to have been invited over by a

businessman in Eastbourne who is part of the community at *Deadwood* and spends time there with his family.

"It was a chance conversation and he very kindly asked if we wanted to come and visit for the day.

"Our people absolutely loved it. We booked a minibus with *Eastbourne Coaches*, and it really was a fun day out.

"We had a tour of the town, some of us were locked up in jail and handcuffed.

"We had lunch in the saloon with the locals and then painted glass bottles with lights inside. We then had a session of axe-throwing which was good fun!

"A special thanks to Dave and Mikaela Shearing for inviting us to a great place and for a very special day out."

To find out more about SASBAH please visit: www.sasbah.org.uk

CHARITY FIRE WALK

SATURDAY 21st November 2026, 4pm onwards

Lottbridge Golf Club, Lottbridge Drove, Eastbourne BN23 6QJ

Raising funds for SASBAH. The bar will be open and a burger van will be available to purchase food from, followed by entertainment into the evening.



For more information:

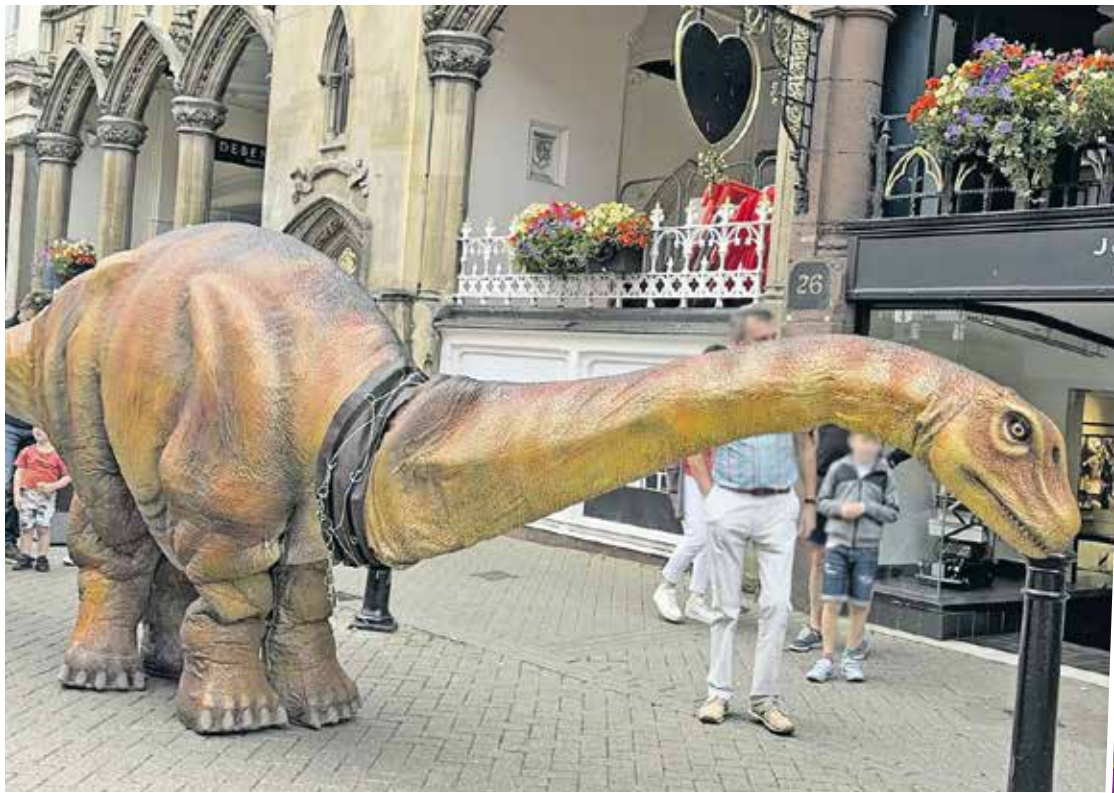
Telephone or text Karen Hurst on: **07944 684631** or Email: **kazhurst@gmail.com**



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SASBAH
SUSSEX ASSOCIATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA AND HYDROCEPHALUS



Celebrating Arts, Culture, and Community Spirit at Hailsham Festival 2026

AS September approaches, Hailsham is preparing to transform into a vibrant hub of creativity for the annual *Hailsham Festival*, running from 5th to 20th September.

By **Emma Donovan**

Celebrating two decades of artistic excellence, this year's theme, 'The World Around You,' invites our community to connect and reflect through music, theatre, visual arts, and interactive workshops.

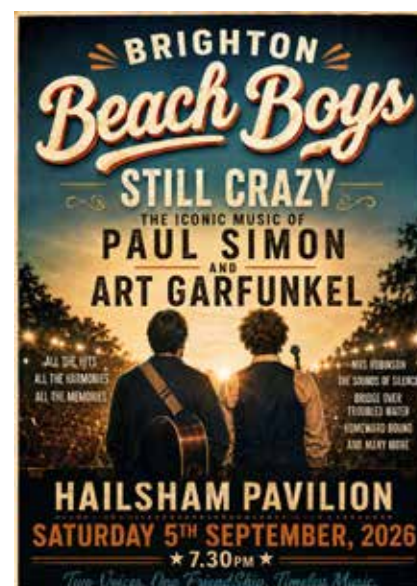
The packed 2026 programme kicks off on Saturday, 5th September, with an exciting town centre Street Celebration featuring gigantic dinosaur puppets and outdoor theatre by the *Sonia Sabri Company's The Gazelle and the Hunter*.

Highlights throughout the fortnight include live performances by the *Brighton Beach Boys*, the ever-

popular interactive *Murder Mystery* Supper, Comedy Actor **Tony Harris** as **Henry VIII**, and the multi-generational *Flock Art Exhibition* at Gallery North.

Families can also look forward to pottery sessions, puppet shows, and the annual Book & Author Fair.

Tony Biggin, Chair said, "Organising a festival of this scale takes dedicated community effort and vital corporate support. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Lead Corporate Sponsor, *Lightning Fibre*. Now in their fifth consecutive year of support, the local full-fibre broadband provider plays a crucial role in bringing our creative vision to life."



Whether you are attending a workshop, enjoying live theatre, or dancing in the street on 5th September – there is something for everyone.

Full details and event tickets at: www.hailshamfestival.co.uk

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Help to 'Rescue a Railing'

IN the middle of the Sussex countryside – within the *Herstmonceux Castle Estate* – lies one of the UK's most important historical science sites.

By **Peter Lindsey**

Built in the 1950s, Historic England describes the grade II* listed building – now the *Observatory Science Centre and Museum* – as “one of the most important government commissions of the period,” and the “leading work” of its renowned modernist architect, Brian O’Rorke.

A key element of the design is the building’s railings, which are characteristic of the architect’s functional “purity of line” aesthetic.

But the elements have been unkind to the railings over the years, with accumulated rust and peeling paint. A quote for the work is £50,000.

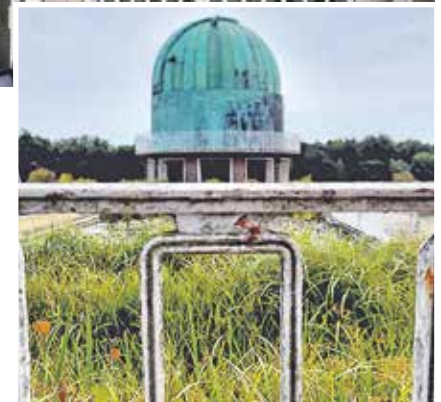


Now a fundraising campaign has been set up.

Sponsoring a single railing costs just £15. Sponsors can leave a dedication, which will appear on a linked Dedications page, and on the *Science Centre’s 2027 Donors Flag*, which is to be displayed at the observatory next year.

The *Friends of Herstmonceux Observatory*, with the *Observatory Science Centre and Museum*, are hoping the money can be raised.

Ian Whiteley, Chair of *Herstmonceux Observatory Campaign Group*, said:



“We want the Centre to continue its great work, opening up science education for everyone, and preserving this unique site not just for the next ten years but for the next century. Please support this important fundraiser.”

www.the-observatory.org/rescue-a-railing

Hailsham gears up for Christmas Lights Switch-On celebration

HAILSHAM’S annual *Christmas Lights Switch-On* eventing will take place on Friday November 27th.

By **Peter Lindsey**

This year’s event will run from 1pm to 7pm, with Vicarage Field and Hailsham High Street hosting a programme of festive entertainment, seasonal market stalls and community activities, culminating in the official switch-on of the town’s Christmas lights at 6pm.

Visitors will have the opportunity to browse an extensive selection

of handmade gifts, festive decorations, artisan food and drink, locally produced crafts and seasonal products, making it an ideal opportunity to support local enterprise and complete some early Christmas shopping.

The entertainment programme will include live performances from *The Sussex Stompers* and *Con Brio*, together with Christmas carols

performed by students from *Hailsham Academy* and *Hailsham Academy Primary* ahead of the lighting ceremony.

Father Christmas, courtesy of *Hailsham Rotary Club*, will also be attending the event to meet children throughout the afternoon.

The Town Council is encouraging market traders and local businesses wishing to participate in this year’s event to apply for a stall. For further information or to book a pitch, contact **01323 841702** or email markets@hailshamstreetmarket.org.uk.





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Country dancing with a Scottish theme!

AFTER its summer break, *Dance Scottish!* Eastbourne will be restarting its weekly classes in early September – and all are welcome!

By **Peter Lindsey**

A fun class for beginners and improvers will take place on Thursday mornings, 10–12:30, starting on 10th September, at St Saviour's Church Hall in South Street, Eastbourne BN21 4UT. (There is free parking for dancers in the church car park – entrance in Spencer Road.) An intermediate dancers' class – on Wednesdays from 5–7pm, in the same venue – will begin its new term on 9th September.

Do you want to meet new people? Be part of a fun group? Feel better both physically and mentally? If so – and don't we all! – then come along and join *Eastbourne Scottish Country Dancing Club...or Dance Scottish!* Eastbourne for short.

Everyone is welcome to either of the two classes, which cover all ages and abilities, and promote Scottish country dancing in a fun and relaxed

atmosphere. The Thursday morning beginners' and improvers' group – started four years ago – has been a great success, and is a wonderful opportunity for beginners to come and try out a form of dancing that they have never done before, as well as being a perfect place for improvers to come and hone their skills.

Absolutely no prior experience is necessary, as the basic steps and formations are taught by our excellent teacher. Many of these formations are common to both Scottish and English country dancing, as the Scottish form is derived from early English forms, dating from the 17th century.

Each weekly class reinforces these steps and formations, to ensure that all beginners quickly gain the confidence to learn how to do simple dances, helped and encouraged along the way by our super-friendly group. All dances that are taught are 'walked through' several times before we dance them, and prompting is given by a caller.

The first 'taster' session is free, and the cost for each subsequent one is just £5.

Keeping fit and taking exercise are important at any age, and *Dance Scottish!* Eastbourne will definitely make you feel better both physically and mentally – and make you smile while doing it!

Come along and join either of the groups, make new friends and, above all, have fun!

dancescottisheastbourne@gmail.com

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A little shop with a lot of Local Love

THIS August, *Little Chelsea Health Store* turned two – and what a lovely two years it has been!

By **Melanie Beard**

When we first opened our doors, we had lots of ideas about the kind of shop we wanted to create, but we could never have known quite how much it would grow and evolve, or how much support we would receive from our wonderful local community.

Two years on, the shop feels very much shaped by the people who come through our doors.

Our customers tell us what they'd like to see more of, introduce us to things we've never heard of and challenge us to track down products they can't find anywhere else.

Our in-store ordering service has become a big part of what we do – however obscure the request, we'll always have a go at finding it!

Our food selection has grown enormously too. All our fresh fruit and vegetables are 100% organic, with much of it sourced locally, and we've

expanded our vegan, gluten-free and other specialist-diet ranges considerably.

Keeping things local is really important to us. Wherever we can, we work with other small independent businesses and local producers – from those supplying our eggs, honey, bread and cakes to local makers whose products you'll find dotted around the shop. We love that supporting our little shop also allows us to support others in our local community.

Our refill station has gone from strength to strength too. In just two years, our customers have helped save nearly 5,000 single-use plastic bottles through refilling their household and toiletry products – a lovely example of how lots of small changes can really add up.

The *Little Chelsea* family has grown too, with Abbie joining our team, while our reward cards have become incredibly popular. We've also continued to develop the *Little Chelsea Health Hub*,

our treatment room within the store where independent local practitioners offer a range of complementary therapies and services, with more talks and workshops planned for the coming year.

And what about year three? We have plenty of ideas! We'd love to work with even more local suppliers, introduce weekly organic fruit and veg boxes and expand into areas such as natural make-up and clothing. We're also exploring taking *Little Chelsea* online and offering local delivery.

But however much things change; we don't want to lose what makes a small independent shop special. We genuinely try to go above and beyond to help – whether that's talking something through, researching a product, tracking down something difficult to find or simply being there for a chat.



The support we've received in return has been amazing, and we never take it for granted.

So, as we head into our third year, we'd simply like to say thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey so far, and we look forward to welcoming lots of new faces in the year ahead.

Here's to another year of local people, local businesses and lots more local love.

**Open Monday–Saturday,
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hello@littlechelseahealth.store
www.littlechelseahealth.store**





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- 🤝 Dementia
- 🤝 Mental Health & Wellbeing
- 🤝 Prevention & Healthy Aging
- 🤝 Community Partnerships

Event Details



Thursday 1 October 2026



12.30pm arrival– Networking from 2.20pm



Hillbrow Health & Wellbeing
1 Denton Road, Eastbourne. BN20 7SS



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hillbrowhealthandwellbeing.org/events/

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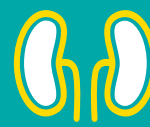
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Coming together in the name of health

IT'S a joint partnership between *St Wilfrid's Hospice* and the *Eastbourne Healthcare Network*, – and the dates have been set for February 2027.

By **Peter Lindsey**

The Sussex Healthcare Expo is taking place at the East Sussex National Hotel on February 25th and 26th.

The trio behind this new venture are Dave Longman from *St Wilfrid's*, Bryce Murphy from the *Sussex Audiology Centre*, and Andy Albon from *Sussex Footcare*.

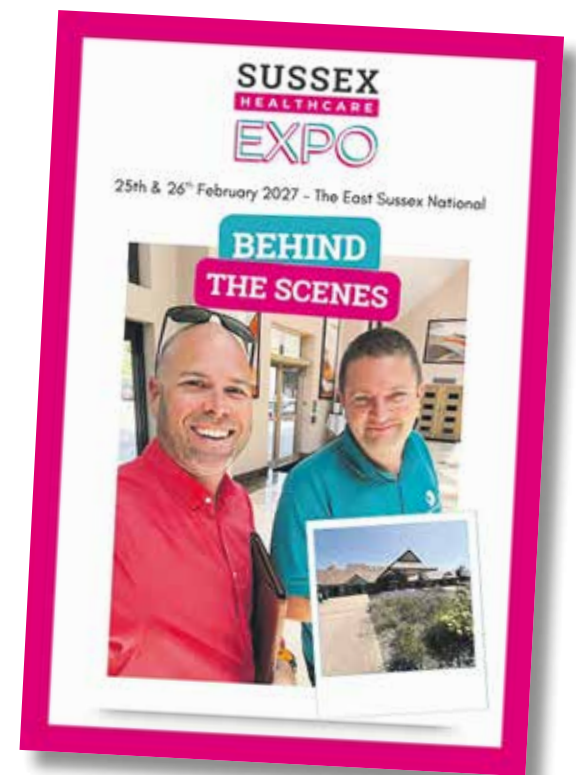
Bryce said: "The event will bring together healthcare professionals, care providers, charities, suppliers, and local businesses for networking, education, exhibitions, and CPD-approved clinical skills workshops.

"We are currently seeking event sponsors, exhibitors for the exhibition hall, and guest speakers

who would like to share their expertise with attendees."

The *Eastbourne Healthcare Network* meets on the third Wednesday of each month at *St Wilfrid's*.

It runs from 6–8pm and there are three speakers. Entry is £10 – every penny goes to the hospice.



Early bird pricing is available until 30th September 2026.

<https://events.stwhospice.org/event/stw-expo>

eastbournehealthcarenetwork@gmail.com

First-ever Breatheasy Eastbourne Sports Day

MAYOR of Polegate Cllr Stephen Shing officially opened the first-ever *Breatheasy Eastbourne Sports Day*.

By **Peter Lindsey**

It was a way of celebrating the courage, determination and achievements of people living with long-term lung conditions. This inaugural event brought together participants, families, volunteers and organisers for a day of sport, friendship and community spirit.

In his opening remarks, the Mayor thanked Kim, Steve, Kevin and everyone involved in organising the event for their hard work in bringing the Sports Day to life.

The Mayor said: "It was a great pleasure and honour to officially open the very first *Breatheasy Eastbourne Sports Day*.

"Today is not simply about competition or winning medals. It is about celebrating courage, determination and the incredible progress made by everyone taking part.

"I understand that all the participants live with a long-term lung condition and attend pulmonary rehabilitation every week. To step forward and take



part in a Sports Day like this is a real milestone and a wonderful example of resilience and commitment.

"Physical activity can play an important role in improving confidence, independence and overall wellbeing. Events like today demonstrate that, with the right support and encouragement, people can continue to achieve amazing things."

He also praised the work of *Breatheasy Eastbourne* and those involved in supporting pulmonary rehabilitation, recognising the positive difference they make to people across the local community.

The event demonstrated that sport is not only about competition, but also about confidence, friendship, determination and community.

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By **Molly Graff**

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DGH staff wellbeing takes to national stage

STAFF at the DGH are celebrating becoming shortlisted for the *Staff Wellbeing and Culture Award* at the national *HSJ Awards*.

By **Peter Lindsey**

Its *Anyone Can Ally* programme stood out as a real 'success story' worthy of a prized place on the panel's shortlist.

The culture and allyship programme was developed by Sarah Feather, Workforce Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, to strengthen

psychological safety, staff voice and confidence to speak up.

Workforce data showed colleagues from multicultural, disabled, LGBTQIA+ and female staff groups were less likely to report experiences of bullying, harassment or discrimination.

In response, *The East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust* delivered co-produced listening events, anonymous



staff feedback opportunities, and a Board-supported Task and Finish Group, which culminated in the *Anyone Can Ally* programme.

This led to significant increases in reporting confidence across multiple protected characteristic groups.

Sarah Feather, Workforce Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, said: "We're incredibly proud that our *Anyone Can Ally* programme has been recognised on a national stage.

"This nomination isn't about a single initiative, it's about the hundreds of colleagues who shared their experiences, challenged us to do

better and helped shape the changes we've made together.

"What makes this recognition so special is that the programme was built with our colleagues, not for them. From our listening events and staff networks to the allyship video featuring our own colleagues, every part of the programme has been co-produced. Seeing more colleagues feel confident to speak up tells us we're moving in the right direction, and we're honoured that this work has been recognised by the *HSJ Awards*."

The winner will be announced during the awards ceremony on 19th November 2026.

Help Sandy and The Hydro raise funds for the DGH

THE *Friends of Eastbourne Hospital* has already raised £3,260 from its first season of charity lunches at *The Hydro Hotel*.

By **Peter Lindsey**

Season two starts in September, and *Friends* President Sandy Boyce-Sharpe is hoping to raise even more.

Three luncheons are planned:

- Thursday September 17th, speaker is Vice Lord Lieutenant Kathy Sambrook OBE.

- Thursday October 8th, Rukshana Masters with Tales from the British Raj.
- Thursday December 10th, with celebrity Alex Polizzi back for a third time.

Sandy said: "These are marvellous lunches, and they have been so well supported by the public. Alex, of course, was magnificent and she is

so kind to have offered to come back again for our Christmas event.

"Every ticket sold generates a donation to the charity which is greatly appreciated."

Price is £40 per luncheon with a three-course menu plus coffee and mints and a welcome drink at 12:00 in the *Garden Suite*.

The luncheon will commence at around 12:30pm.

Sandy added: "Some of the dates are reaching maximum places available very quickly so please, if you would like to attend, either book



direct with the hotel or let me know and we will endeavour to ensure you are successful.

"The programme commencing January 2027 is being prepared."

For more details please email: sandyboycesharpe@gmail.com



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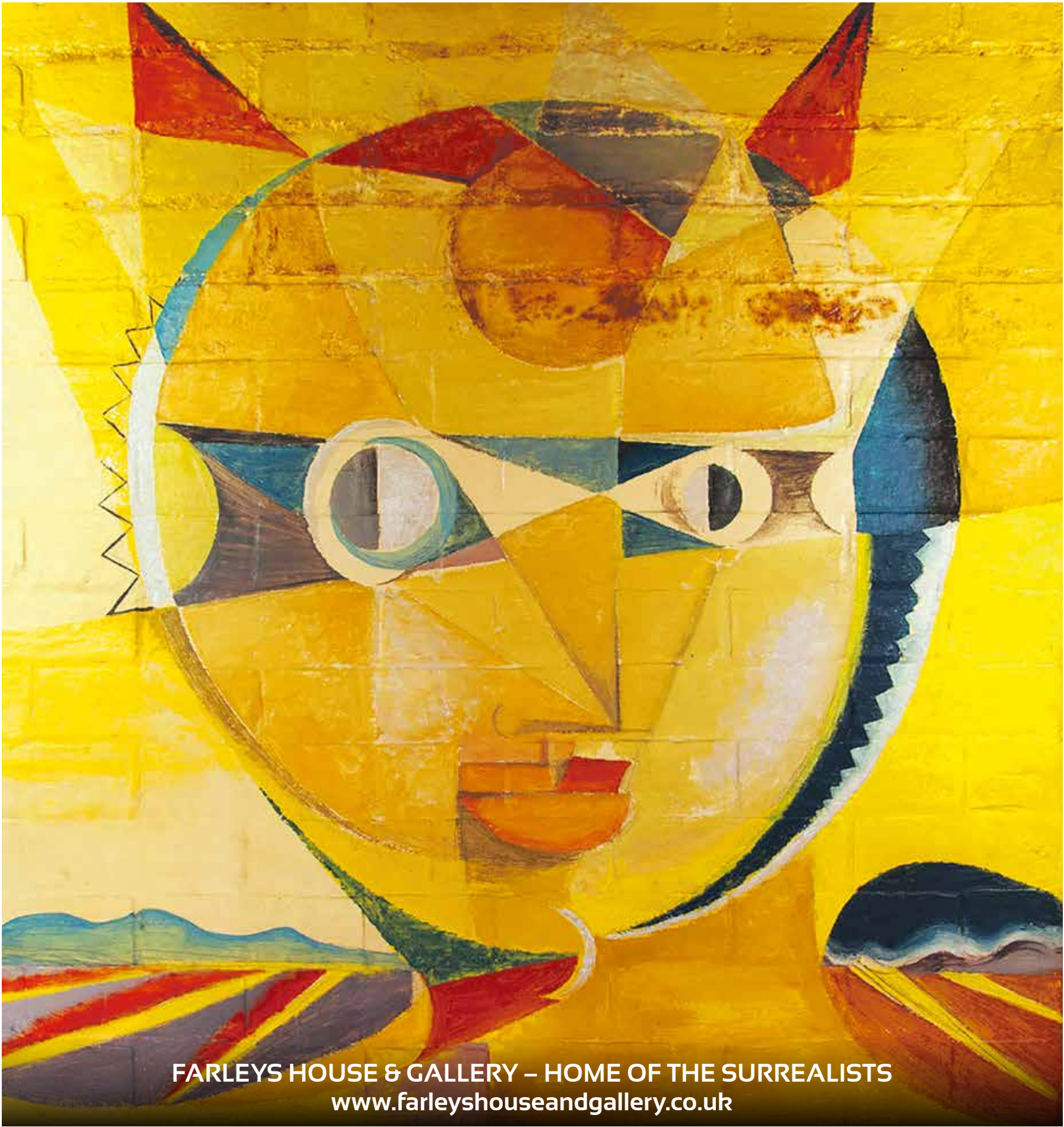
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Comedy with Jo Neary & Friends

COMEDY favourites Dyball & Kerr are BACK on Saturday 26th September at *The Lamb Inn* with their much loved character and sketch comedy alongside a wonderful stand up comedy show *THEOLOGIST* by *Edinburgh Fringe* favourite Oli Riordan.

By **Gail McKay**

Oli pulls off the stunning feat of being hilarious about the world of Catholicism and The Bible whilst also being brilliantly honest and astute.

Raised Catholic and at one time considering priesthood, Oli has studied Catholic theology for a decade for the same reason every other bisexual atheist studies Catholic theology. You have to know your enemy.

New young star on the rise Oli is a *Leicester Square New Comedian of the Year finalist (2025)* and Dublin's *Next Top Comic Runner Up*. This is an extraordinary show and extremely funny, full of jokes and very original too.

Come and see a new young star on the rise (this is the night after all that brought you Joe Lycett in 2009, Bella Hull a year before her viral appearance on *Have I Got News For You* and regularly brings incredibly popular acts such as Mark Steel, Phil Kay, Robin Ince and Zoe



Oli Riordan.

Lyons to this tiny venue, a room above a pub... Albeit the best-loved pub in BN20... and the tickets remain around a tenner.

Tickets on sale now at: <https://wegottickets.com/f/23873> or at the bar. Booking in advance highly recommended.

Visit www.joannaneary.com to join the early birds mailing list for tickets for 2026. Coming up are ROBIN INCE (October 17th) SEYMOUR MACE (November 28th) and PHIL KAY (December 12th).



Jo Neary.

**Lamb Inn, 36 High Street
Eastbourne BN21 1HH**

**Saturday, 26th September
7:15pm, start time: 7:30pm**

A date for your diary

SATURDAY 3rd October 2026, 2pm.

By **Caroline Adcock**

Following the success of our very first Poetry Bee last year, the team are delighted to invite you and your members to the second Alfriston Poetry Bee event.

We have listened to feedback from last year and made some changes in line with comments received. The aim is still very much to provide an entertaining and lively event to encourage a deeper exploration and appreciation of poetry, with the excitement of a competitive edge.

The programme starts at the later time of 2pm on Saturday 3rd October and

all the afternoon activities will take place in the *Old Chapel Centre*, The Tye, Alfriston BN26 5TL.

Now is your chance to submit one or two poems for this year's competition.

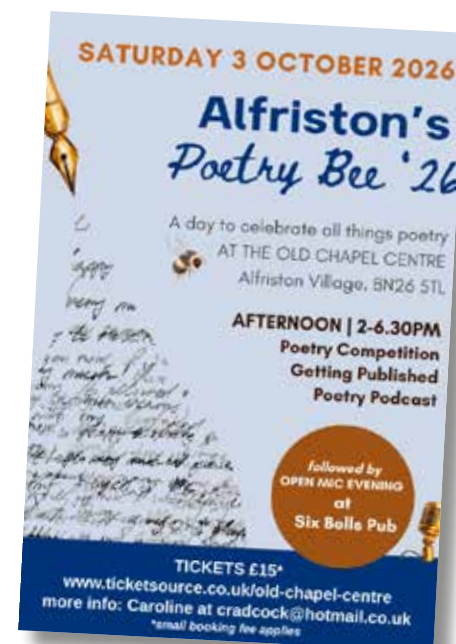
We're also providing more opportunity for those who wish to share their own poetry at the optional open mic night, following on from the afternoon activities which include:

- The chance to meet and discuss your ideas with local poets.
- A Poetry Competition where you can submit one or two poems in advance for judging (this is optional).
- Panel discussion to review, discuss & vote for the shortlisted poems.

- Talk plus Q&A on "how to get your poetry published".
- Poetry Podcast session.
- Live music.
- Book sales.
- Light refreshments.
- Followed by Open Mic evening at *Six Bells Pub* next door with optional supper deal (£17.50 per head) vegetarian available.

Welcome pack

A welcome pack for the day which contains the programme, full details and how to enter the competition is available to read or download via: www.ticketsource.co.uk/old-chapel-centre



Or email Caroline Adcock to receive a pack via email cradcock@hotmail.co.uk

Please note the deadline for submitting your own poem for the competition is Midnight on Sunday 13th September 2026. Details inside the pack.

Ticket price incl. booking fee: £16.17

LitFest brings big names to Eastbourne

FROM Lord Kinnock to Jacqueline Wilson.

By **Gail McKay**

Eastbourne is preparing for its first-ever book festival, with more than 40 events bringing authors, poets, performers and readers together across the town from 25th to 27th September.

The weekend will feature established writers, new and local voices, poetry, food, crime fiction, live performance and events for children and young people.

“At this first *Eastbourne LitFest*, we have big names and local voices. It’s all about celebrating stories in fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama, and we hope people will come along, meet the authors and maybe get a book signed,” says festival director Jane Branson.

Crime and historical fiction

Crime and suspense are well represented. C.J. Tudor, whose novel *The Burning Girls* is now a gripping screen drama, will discuss the horror writers she loves and her new book *Serenity Falls*, full of dark secrets and twisty plotting.

Meanwhile, over in the courtroom at *Eastbourne Town Hall*, crime fiction is on trial as authors Sarah Yarwood-Lovett, Graham Bartlett and Blake

Mara debate cosy mysteries and gritty dramas. There are more thriller writers to discover at *Eastbourne Library*.

Historical fiction is another part of the programme, with Frances Quinn, recently featured on Sara Cox’s *Radio 2 Book Club*, and Joanna Miller, whose novel *The Eights* was a *Queen’s Reading Room* choice earlier this year. Meanwhile, *LitFest* patron Lucy Mangan will be discussing what makes a bookworm.

Politicians

Politics and public life feature too. Lord Kinnock appears at *The View Hotel* to talk about his extraordinary life in British politics, and Sir Norman Lamb will be at *Wolf on the Corner*, discussing why we need a mental health revolution.

Food podcast

Food and books come together on Saturday 26th September at *Cooking the Books Live*. Food journalist, broadcaster and author Gilly Smith will bring her award-winning podcast to *Light at Towner*, joined by Verena Lochmuller, Head of Product Development at the *Ottolenghi Test Kitchen* and co-author of *Simple Too*, publishing this month.

Dame Jacqueline Wilson

Children attending the festival might even meet Oakley Doodle, the *Eastbourne LitFest* Bear! The family



Festival directors, Jane Branson and Jane Midwinter, with Oakley Doodle, the *Eastbourne LitFest* Bear, named by local youngster Bethany in a recent competition.

programme includes poet AF Harrold, Dame Jacqueline Wilson with her new book *Esme Pepper*, and Eastbourne author Jenny McLachlan, taking the audience to *The Land of Roar*.

Younger readers can also become detectives with Lucy Strange’s *Murder on a Midsummer Night* and investigate their brains at *Inside Your Brain*. And young adult readers can hear from four superb YA writers when Dean Atta, Sarah Crossan, Tia Fisher and Louisa Reid come together for a panel discussion.

Get creative

There are opportunities to get creative too, with workshops covering Greek

heroes, tarot for creativity, local history and more. Sessions take place at venues across the town, including *Green Up Your Space*, *All Things Analogue*, *Café 32* on South Street and *Foundry*. The festival is also working with *Printers Playhouse*, whose production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* comes to the *Bandstand* on 23rd and 24th September.

The weekend ends with an evening of poetry, storytelling and comedy at the *Birley Centre* with Henry Normal and Tim Barlow — a fitting finale for Eastbourne’s first literary festival.

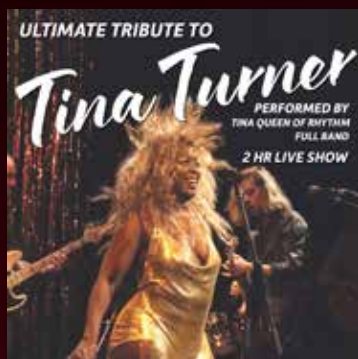
Visit eastbournelitfest.org for full programme information and booking.



Thriller writers Mara Timon, Jo Furniss, Holly Seddon and Kate Bradley, at *Eastbourne Library*, Friday 25th September.



Looking For Ghosts
Friday 4 September



Ultimate Tribute to Tina Turner
Saturday 5 September



An Evening with Martin Hopgood
Thursday 10 September



UK Pink Floyd Experience
Friday 11 September



Cabaret Cerises
Saturday 12 September



RHT

Royal Hippodrome Theatre



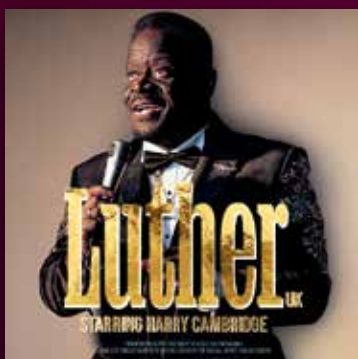
Thank You For The Music
Thursday 17 September



The Music of Joni Mitchell
Friday 18 September



Madness Vs The Specials
Saturday 19 September



Luther UK
Thursday 24 September



Maximum Who
Friday 25 September



Benoit Viellefon & His Hot Club
Saturday 26 September



The Bon Jovi Experience
Sunday 27 September

Box Office 01323 802020 | royalhippodrome.com
106-114 Seaside Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3PF

Steve brings real talent to the stage

STEVE Hewlett is the famous Eastbourne ventriloquist who finished fourth on *Britain's Got Talent*.

By **Peter Lindsey**

He travels the world performing and says ventriloquism is more popular than ever – and he's putting on two shows in Eastbourne in October.

They are both at *Bibendum* in South Street on Saturday October 17th and tickets are selling fast. There are 100 tickets per show.

The first show is from 6pm-8pm, then a second show – which is completely different – starts from 9pm.

The shows are called *Eyes & Teeth*, the name of Steve's podcast, which he started during Lockdown.

Steve said: "I am forever wanting to bring great entertainment to Eastbourne, and thought that bringing the guests of the podcast to the stage to create special nights out was the next step.

"To launch *Eyes & Teeth* the night out, I am starting with two performances to give the audience a choice of an early evening show or late night performance.

"Every member of the cast in these shows have appeared on my podcast."



Show one kicks off with comedian and opening act to the stars **Paul Adams**, who Steve first saw as support for Stevie Wonder at the *Royal Albert Hall* back in 1995.

Then, it's **Nina**, my wife, who just happens to be an amazing singer – she has put together a stunning set, followed by Headliner *Comedy Store Legend* **Richard Morton**. Steve will also be featuring a few of his ventriloquial characters.

To book, go to:

<https://stagestubs.com/hewlett-entertainments/eyes-teeth-live-show-one-starring-richard-morton>

<https://stagestubs.com/hewlett-entertainments/eyes-teeth-live-show-two-starring-bobby-davro>



Show two sees Paul Adams return as Host, followed by local vocalist **Barney Pout**, and then TV comedy legend **Bobby Davro**. Steve will be performing a set as well.

Steve said: "Please do come and support us, it will be a great night – both shows will be fab.

"We will also be having a raffle – all proceeds to *SASBAH*, an Eastbourne charity doing such great work in the community."

Stand Up at the Playhouse

STILL Feeling the buzz from July's sell-out night, *Salt Water Comedy* is back with another fabulous early evening of standup comedy.

By **Gail McKay**

Friday 18th September sees Graeme Collard headline! Graeme is always busy on the comedy circuit, rubbing shoulder to shoulder with TV names and making audiences laugh up and down the country.

Graeme's self-deprecating humour and likeable character will be perfect for our friendly room at *Printers Playhouse*. He will be supported by four hand-picked comedians.

What a fantastic Friday night out in Eastbourne!

"Graeme Collard is very very very funny" – TV's Joe Wilkinson

"There is much to enjoy in his way of thinking" – Steve Bennett of *Chortle*

Also up on stage is Archie Monge, a Brighton Comedian. 'A Whimsical young man with a relaxed style of



anecdotal humour' The gig is going to be a popular one and seats go fast, so get your tickets while you can!

Doors 6:30pm, show starts 7pm, ends 9pm. £8.

Tickets:

www.tickettailor.com/events/saltwatercomedy/2350748

“The cure for everything is Salt Water.

**Printers Playhouse
49a Grove Road,
Eastbourne BN21 4TX**



Green and pleasant

LATE summer progresses into autumn. September is generally a cooler, gustier month than August and the days are noticeably shorter. While you may not have much to do in the bulk of the garden, if you have a fruit or vegetable patch, hopefully you'll be busy reaping the rewards of your harvest. It's also time to get out and start planting spring-flowering bulbs for next year and you can collect seeds for next summer's colour too. Make the most of the remaining warmth while you can!

By **Geoff Stonebanks**

At this time of the year, we can see the garden slowing down. Some herbaceous perennials and annuals have finished for the summer, others such as roses, sweet peas may keep on flowering. Exactly what is flowering when depends on the sort of spring and summer we have enjoyed. Sadly, this year's excessive heat has played havoc with many plants in our gardens and we may need to review what we grow for future years.

Open Gardens for National Garden Scheme this month

There are several gardens you could visit this month, including a brand-new opening at *Black Shed Studios Garden* at Sunnyview in Nursery Lane, Fairwarp near Uckfield. Set

in the Ashdown Forest, this unique 3-acre garden blends formal structure with naturalistic planting. Designed by an artist, it features sculpture, painting, ceramics, and glass art throughout. Explore a wildlife pond, meadow, and a small wetland, all offering tranquillity and inspiration in a relaxed, welcoming setting. Open from 2pm to 5pm for a 3-day weekend, from 11th to 13th of the month, but for pre-booked ticked holders only.

Alternatively, you could pre-book a visit to *Rapkyns Nursery* in Street End Lane, Broad Oak from 11am to 4pm on Wednesday 9th with entry £15. There will be 2-hour time slots at 11am and 2pm. They have been growing plants in an idyllic country setting for over 30 years, and during that time have amassed an extensive range, including a large collection of salvias. Join them for a talk about the nursery and discover more about how they grow

and propagate our beautiful plants, with a chance to learn some of our secrets. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions about all things gardening.

Full details and how to book for both gardens at www.ngs.org.uk

Drought tolerant planting

After the summer we've had here in Sussex this year, maybe we need to think more about drought tolerant planting! Drought tolerant plants have evolved over millennia to cope with high temperatures and long periods of drought in summer. They often have succulent or furry leaves, thin leaves or grey or silver leaves. They also often have underground storage organs (bulbs) and wide and deep root systems. If you have a hot, sunny border with well-drained soil, consider switching to more drought tolerant plants. This will cut down on watering and the plants will positively thrive in these conditions.

Here are a few you might like to consider. Sedums look good for months, with their fleshy leaves and flat, nectar-rich flowerheads which develop slowly over many months. It's worth doing the Chelsea chop on sedums to prevent them flopping in the middle later in the year.

Anthemis are lovely mound-forming plants with attractive, ferny leaves and masses of daisy flowers in summer. Most have grey leaves and low mounding, silver ferny foliage and pale-yellow flowers that fade to cream as they age.

Salvias are excellent drought tolerant and long flowering plants. They tend to flower for ages and are great for bees, flowers are borne in long, dense, spikes on reddish stems in summer.

Santolina (cotton lavender) is also a really good doer plant. You can see it growing in my beach garden in the header. People tend to think it's a bit mundane and boring but if used in association with other plants, it becomes much more interesting.

Nepetas are really good value, both the low mounding ones and the taller ones and are great for attracting bees and butterflies to the garden as well.

One of my very favourite grasses is *Stipa tenuissima*, also called pony tail grass. It is good for adding animation in a border as it provides a nice bit of movement. It produces narrow, arching, feathery flowering panicles from early summer. I have several planted along the footpath in my beach garden to visitors can run their hands through them as they walk up the footpath.

Another very delicate and pretty flower is *Nigella*, also known as love-in-a-mist. It does really well on dry soil and will flower May and early June then go to seed but the seedheads are useful and pretty too as well. Once you've got it, you've got it forever.

Read more of Geoff's garden at www.driftwoodbysea.co.uk or follow both him and the garden on social media.

Geoff is a member of the Garden Media Guild and multi-award-winning garden owner, garden writer & broadcaster. Driftwood has appeared twice on BBC2 Gardeners' World and was a finalist in Gardeners' World Magazine Best Small Space. See the amazing 5-star reviews on TripAdvisor. Read all about Geoff's work for the community, appointment as a Coronation Champion and trips to Buckingham Palace including two Royal Garden Parties, in 2018 and 2023. Read the many published features on the garden in national, local and worldwide media, including TV.

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September 2026

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RESULTS DAY 2026
CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
BEHIND **EVERY STUDENT JOURNEY**



T-LEVEL *Highlights*

A-LEVEL
Achievements

EASTBOURNE

HASTINGS

LEWES

East Sussex College students celebrate their achievements on Level 3 Results Day 2026.

110

students achieved A or A* grades in their A-Levels

Students across East Sussex College's Eastbourne, Hastings and Lewes campuses celebrated their A-Level, T-Level and Technical & Professional results on 13th August, marking the culmination of years of hard work, determination and commitment.

Many students will be going onto their first choice universities, starting higher apprenticeships, or going into the world of work.

A-LEVEL *achievements*

Among the highlights, 110 students achieved A or A* grades in their A-Levels, while 56 A-Level courses recorded a 100% pass rate.

100%

56 A-Level courses achieved a 100% pass-rate!



Violet Lloyd

Violet Lloyd, from Eastbourne, achieved two A*'s and an A in Biology, Chemistry and Psychology. She is now heading to the University of Southampton to study Biomedical Science.

"I really enjoyed my time at college. I got a lot of support from teachers, who helped me improve my academic study skills. One of the highlights of my studies was getting to complete a work experience placement at an NHS hospital. I learned a lot and I'm really looking forward to learning more at uni."

Eastbourne student, Seth Anderson, studied Business and Criminology alongside an EPQ, achieving an A, B and C. He is progressing to Oxford Brookes University to study Business.

"The support from the teachers and tutors was just amazing. The course was great, there were loads of opportunities for trips and guest speakers, and I really enjoyed broadening my knowledge of the world of business!"



Seth Anderson



Cailyn Kennedy

Cailyn Kennedy, who moved to Eastbourne two years ago, achieved an incredible four A*'s in English Language, Politics, History and an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

"My time at the college has been really good. My tutors were there whenever I needed them for advice and I've gained lots of independence and resilience. I secured a work placement with a local solicitor. It gave me a taste of a possible future career and now I'm keen to do a law conversion after my three years studying International Relations at the London School of Economics. I'm not sure what type of lawyer I want to be, but I know I want to work internationally!"

Deimante Babarskaite, who studied Chemistry, Maths and Physics A-Levels at the Eastbourne campus, achieved BCC and has secured her place at the University of Surrey to study Chemical Engineering.

"I loved my time at college. We were so much more independent and the support from teachers was lovely."



Deimante Babarskaite

34

T-Level
Distinctions

T-LEVEL *highlights*

T-Level students celebrated another year of strong achievement. Nine T-Level cohorts, including Digital, Health, Management & Administration, and Education & Early Years, achieved a **100% pass rate, while 34 students achieved Distinction grades, contributing to a 91.3% overall pass rate.**



Fleur Hazell-Jarvis

Fleur Hazell-Jarvis studied the Business Management and Administration T-Level at the Eastbourne campus, achieving an A in her Employer Set Project (ESP) and a C in her two core exams.

"My time at East Sussex College was really good. Originally, I applied to study A-Levels but decided to switch course to the T-Level. Everyone was so helpful and supportive and I'm glad I switched."

91.3%

T-Level
pass-rate!

100%

9 T-Level cohorts
achieved a 100%
pass-rate



Joshua Cooper

Joshua Cooper studied T-Level Engineering and secured his place at University of Derby.

"Doing my work placement at Hotchkiss, an engineering and ventilation company in Eastbourne was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed it and it gave me a lot of hands-on experience. My goal after uni is to go into the motorsport industry and hopefully work for one of the 24-hour endurance race teams."

Preparing students for what comes next

Across East Sussex College, students benefit from opportunities to gain valuable experience alongside their studies, including work placements, industry placements, mentoring and live projects.

These opportunities are supported by the College's extensive network of employers and industry partners across Sussex, helping students develop the practical skills, confidence and experience they need for their future careers.

Through East Sussex Futures, the College's partnership with the University of Sussex, students are also supported to develop the independence, confidence and skills they need to make informed decisions about their futures and progress to university.



Rebecca Conroy, CEO & Principal of East Sussex College, said: *"Results Day is always a moment of immense pride for everyone at East Sussex College. Whether they are progressing to university, apprenticeships or employment, we know they are leaving the College with the skills, confidence and experience they need to take their next steps and succeed. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and look forward to seeing all they go on to accomplish in the future."*

Coming up this **September & October**



OPEN EVENTS

for year 10s & 11s 3.45 - 6.45pm

Come and explore our campuses, meet our supportive tutors, and take the next step towards your future!

HASTINGS 13th October

EASTBOURNE 14th October

LEWES 15th October



scan to find out more!



**Eastbourne
LitFest**



Headliners & performances

Friday 25 September

Dragging the bookworm out of the bookwormery

Join beloved columnist and author Lucy Mangan as she explores the joy, comfort, and obsessive nature of a life lived through books, sharing how reading shapes our inner worlds.



Photo: Stylist Magazine

Dean Atta in conversation with Patrice Lawrence

Join award-winning author Dean Atta as he chats to Children's Laureate Patrice Lawrence about his new adult novel, *Big Man*.



Photo: Thomas Sammut

Ekin Oklap in conversation

The Turkish-born writer and translator discusses *First Summer*, her tender, dreamy, queer debut set against the heat of a transformative summer.



Photo: Rebecca Roughan

Saturday 26 September

C.J. Tudor in conversation

An exclusive session with international bestseller C.J. Tudor, delving into dark plot twists, horror influences, and atmospheric thrillers, and discussing her new book, *Serenity Falls*.



Photo: Bill Waters

Crime fiction on trial: cosy mysteries v. gritty drama in the court room

Sarah Yarwood-Lovett is joined by Graham Bartlett and Blake Mara to debate the spectrum of crime writing—from cosy sleuthing to intense and gritty procedural realities.



Sunday 27 September

An evening with Henry Normal & Tim Barlow

A heartwarming and funny evening of witty poetry, story-sharing, and comedic reflections on life, love, and growing older.



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East Sussex College



Visit eastbournelitfest.org for the full line-up of over 40 events

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Wednesday
14th
October

Are you ready for what's next?

Eastbourne DigiFest is a one-day business conference on technology, leadership, and the future of work. With lively expert talks, thought-provoking sessions, and inspiring conversations, you'll leave with valuable connections, new tools, and an understanding of how technology is changing the way work gets done.

Step confidently into the future.

Book your conference ticket now
eastbournedigifest.com



A SWITCHPLANE event



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East Sussex College
Proud to be supporting Eastbourne DigiFest 2026