



WEALD
LIVING
BY SAXON WEALD

Spotlight

The newsletter for Weald Living residents | spring 2026



Saxon Weald news

Corinna's round up on what has been happening at Saxon Weald.



What's on this spring

A selection of fun things to do and places to go over spring and the Easter break.



Staircasing

How to buy more shares of your shared ownership home.

A welcome into spring from our Chief Executive, Corinna Bishopp

We hope you find this edition of Spotlight useful and interesting. We're always keen to hear your feedback, so please tell us how we can improve. If you have ideas for what you want to see more or less of, we would love to hear from you.



I joined several events over the Christmas period, and each one reminded me why Saxon Weald is such a special organisation. The energy and excitement of Santa's Grotto in our Horsham office was truly fabulous, and the whole team brought real warmth to the season. I had the honour of attending our fourth annual Youth Awards, which recognises inspiring young people in our local communities. We also marked our silver anniversary, which was a great chance to look back on how far we've come and how much we've grown.



Now, I'm looking forward to the spring, and a break from the harsh winter weather. I know this winter created problems in many homes, and I appreciate how challenging this has been for you. We helped as many people as we could, and we want to make sure nothing has been missed. If you still have issues in your home, please let us know so we can put things right.

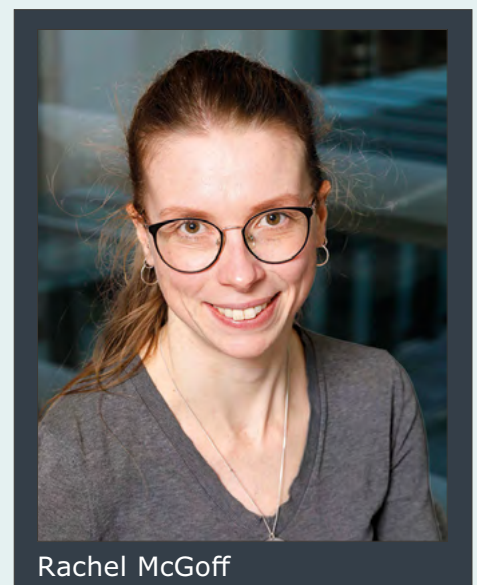


We have also been completing the final touches on our new Corporate Plan which we will launch in April. Your feedback shaped every part of it, and it sets out how we will improve our services over the next three years. We want to support you better, give our teams the tools they need, and stay responsive in an ever-changing world.



The plan shows how we will increase investment in our homes, strengthen our work in the community, build more new homes, and listen even more closely to what you tell us. We will send you a summary of the plan in April.

Finally, I'm pleased to share that Rachel McGoff joined us earlier this month as our new Executive Director of Finance and Governance. Rachel brings wide experience in housing and charity finance, with a strong track record of leading positive change.



Rachel McGoff

We have a great year ahead at Saxon Weald, and I feel excited to see where it takes us. Keep an eye on our social media channels, website, and monthly newsletters for updates throughout the year.

Corinna

The value of apprenticeships

Apprenticeships play a vital role in helping people begin, grow, and thrive in their careers. At Saxon Weald, we're proud to support apprentices at every stage of their journey - from those just starting out, to those who have completed their qualifications and want to progress into permanent roles. Michael, Samuel, Shaun, Jayden and Callum are all at different stages of their development, so we asked them to share their experiences with us.

Michael, Samuel and Shaun - current apprentices

What's the most interesting job you've completed recently?

“Michael - I was recently involved in a job installing four new radiators at a customer's property. This was one of the bigger jobs I've been to. Learning the process and being able to stand back and see what I had accomplished at the end of the day was a great sense of achievement.”

How is your apprenticeship supporting your development?

“Samuel - I am learning more about different trades; how to perform them and what the common defects are in the building trade. Before, I only had a small amount of practical experience, so this apprenticeship is helping me get much more hands on and involved.”

What advice would you give someone considering a trade apprenticeship?

“Shaun - Get as stuck in as you can. Have the confidence to try work that you have never done before and don't be afraid to ask questions, even if you think they are silly.”

Jayden - former apprentice, now Electrician Improver

What have you gained from your apprenticeship?

“The apprenticeship taught me not only the essential skills I need for my role as an electrician, but also how to put those skills into practice. There are many things you do when carrying out electrical work that I didn't know about before.”



How did the support from Saxon Weald help you succeed?

“I have moved into an improver role which has allowed me to gain more experience of working on my own, while still having the back-up and support of my colleagues. I am proud of completing my apprenticeship and passing my final assessment. This means that I am now a qualified electrician.”

Callum - former apprentice, now Team Leader - Gas & Plumbing

How did your apprenticeship support your career development?

“My development has been strongly supported throughout my career, especially at the start. I spent time on site with senior engineers who taught me best practice, safety, and practical problem solving. This hands-on learning worked alongside my college training, which helped me understand the theory behind what I was doing on site.”

As I progressed, completing my gas qualifications became a key internal development opportunity, and every role I have taken on has included tailored training. All of this has helped me build confidence and carry out my job to the best of my ability.”

If you're interested in an apprenticeship, or any other job opportunities with Saxon Weald, please register for alerts on our careers page: www.saxonweald.com/careers.



Fire safety: simple steps to keep you and your home safe

Keep communal areas clear

Shared spaces like hallways, stairwells, corridors and landings must stay clear in case people need to exit quickly. Items left in these areas can also block escape routes and add fuel to a fire.

Please do not store personal items in communal areas.

This includes:

- Bikes, mobility scooters, e-scooters and scooters
- Pushchairs and prams
- Rubbish bags
- Shoes
- Any items of furniture

Even small objects can slow people down. If you spot items being stored in shared spaces, please report them to your scheme manager or email info@wealdliving.com



Fire safety matters wherever you live. A few small actions can help protect your home, your family and the people around you. Many fires start from everyday activities, but most can be prevented with simple checks and good habits. Here are some ways to help reduce risks and keep you and your family safe.

Test your smoke alarms regularly

Working smoke alarms give you an early warning and extra time to get out in an emergency.

You should:

- ✔ Test alarms once a month
- ✔ Change the battery if you hear beeping or chirping
- ✔ Report broken or missing alarms to us immediately
- ✔ Never remove or cover a smoke alarm

A quick monthly test helps keep everyone safe.



Use the right chargers for your devices

Did you know that cheap or faulty chargers can overheat and cause fires? It takes only one faulty cable to start a fire. So, to help prevent electrical fires in your home:

Do

- ✔ Use the charger supplied by the manufacturer
- ✔ Replace damaged cables
- ✔ Charge on a hard, flat surface
- ✔ Unplug chargers when not in use

Don't

- ✘ Leave devices charging overnight
- ✘ Charge on soft furnishings
- ✘ Use chargers that feel hot or smell unusual



E-scooter and e-bike safety

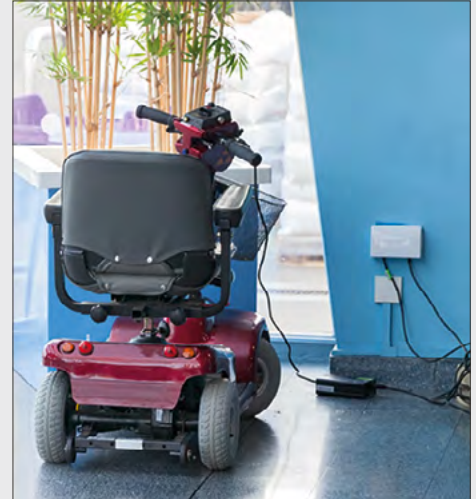
Lithium ion batteries can be dangerous if damaged or charged incorrectly. Battery fires are fast and produce toxic smoke, so it's important to be aware of the risks.

Charge and use your e-scooters and e-bikes safely by:

- ✔ Charging scooters and bikes inside your home, or in designated buggy storage and charging areas, but never in shared areas
- ✔ Using the original charger
- ✔ Keeping batteries away from heaters and direct heat
- ✔ Making sure the charger and cables are in good condition

Remember, you should never:

- ✘ Charge near doors or escape routes
- ✘ Block corridors or stairwells



Stay safe in the kitchen

Cooking remains one of the main causes of home fires.

Remember:

- Don't leave cooking unattended
- Turn off the heat if oil starts smoking
- Keep packaging and tea towels away from the hob
- Turn pan handles inwards
- Never add water to a burning pan
- Regularly check your older appliances – if in doubt do not use them

If a fire starts, turn off the heat if safe to do so, leave the room, close the door and call 999.



Look after each other

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility. Report blocked exits, damaged fire doors or faulty alarms as soon as you notice them. A simple call can prevent a serious incident.

By following these steps, we can all help reduce fire risks and keep our homes, families and communities safe.



Keep an eye out over the coming months for more information on these areas and other fire safety guidance. Your safety is our priority.

Staircasing - How to buy more shares of your shared ownership home.

What is staircasing?

Staircasing is when a shared ownership homeowner buys more of their property over time. You start by owning a percentage, then purchase extra shares when you can afford to. As you buy more, your rent goes down.

Most shared ownership schemes allow you to staircase in steps, such as 5% or 10% at a time. Each time you buy more, you will need to have a valuation of your home carried out by an independent surveyor. This sets the current market value of your home. Your new share is based on that value, not the price you paid at the start.

Some people choose to staircase all the way to 100% ownership, which means they no longer pay rent on their home, although service charges may still apply.

There are costs to consider, such as valuation fees and legal fees, so it's important to plan ahead.

Benefits of staircasing

- Lower rent as the share you own increases
- More control over your home and future decisions
- Flexibility to buy shares in small steps
- Build equity over time
- Option to reach full ownership, which can make selling easier

Head over to our website to find out more, including our available homes:

www.wealdliving.com



More affordable homes, coming soon to Sussex!

Works are progressing well at several new and existing development sites across Sussex to bring more affordable homes to our local communities. These sites include:

- Bluebell Gardens, Wivelsfield in partnership with Elivia Homes
- White Stork Vale, Storrington in partnership with Croudace
- The Oaks, Wivelsfield in partnership with CALA Homes
- New Monks Park, Lancing in partnership with CALA Homes
- Furzefield, Horsham in partnership with CALA Homes
- Mowbray Village in partnership with Dandar



Keep your eyes peeled on our website and social media channels for updates.

What's on this Easter and spring



West Sussex

Lancing Village Easter Fayre & Trail

28 April 2026 | Lancing Parish Hall, Lancing

Enjoy the Easter Fayre and Easter Egg Hunt, where there will be live entertainment, local stallholders and a meeting with the Easter bunny who will be handing out Easter Eggs! No booking required.

Broadbridge Heath Easter Egg Hunt

29 March 2026 | Broadbridge Heath Village Centre, Wickhurst Lane, Broadbridge Heath

The annual Easter Egg Hunt returns! Includes stalls, arts & crafts, a children's disco, Easter bunny visits and more! Free entry. (The Easter Egg Hunt is £4 entry and includes a chocolate egg).

Petworth Spring Festival

4 April – 19 April 2026 | Petworth House and Park, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 9LR

Come along to the Spring Festival for talks, demos, a community art piece, craft workshops, and family-friendly activities. The event is free, but usual admission to the house and garden still applies.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/petworth/events



East Sussex

Wilderness Wood Bunny Trail

28 March - 12 April 2026 | Wilderness Wood, Hadlow Down TN22 4HJ

Activity: Follow the bunny trail, crack the woodland anagram, and get creative with courtyard crafts. No booking needed. Find out more here: www.wildernesswood.org/whatson

Hampshire

Bishops Waltham Easter Eggstravaganza

19 April 2026 from 10am-3pm | Jubilee Hall, Bishops Waltham

Meet the Easter Bunny and enjoy crafts, family friendly activities, stalls and food. Entry is free for all.

Easter Garden Games Trail at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

28 March – 4 May 2026 | Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Ampfield Nr. Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 0QA

Meet the Easter Bunny and enjoy crafts, family friendly activities, stalls and food. Normal garden admission fees apply + £3 per trail.

Perfect Peter Rabbit Puppets

31 March 2026 | Southampton City Art Gallery, Commercial Road Southampton, SO14 7LP

Anyone over the age of 4 can craft their perfect Peter Rabbit puppet this Easter holiday. Limited spaces available. For more info or to book go to: www.southamptonmuseumsandgallery.co.uk/events/peter-rabbit-puppets-march2026/

Easter holiday closure

Please note that our office will be closed on Friday 3 April (Good Friday) and Monday 6 April (Easter Monday).

If you have an emergency, please call our usual number 01403 226060 and your call will be transferred to our out-of-hours service.

We would like to wish our customers a very happy Easter.



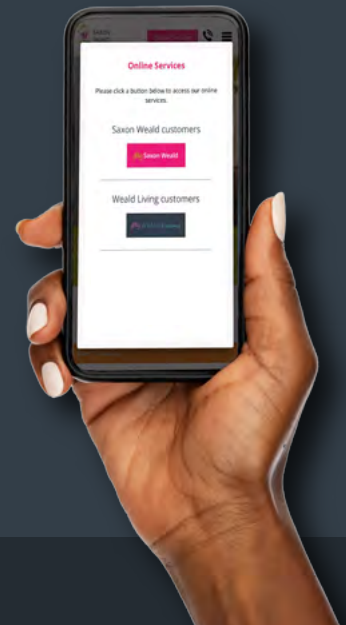
Domestic abuse support reminder

If you're experiencing domestic abuse or concerned about someone you know, please remember that there are a range of support networks and services available to you, which you can find through www.saxonweald.com/DA-support-services



Online, anytime, anywhere

Our easy-to-use, online services put you in charge of your home, anytime, anywhere. They provide secure access to your information and are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week from a desktop, laptop, tablet or mobile.



Pay your rent or service charges



Book repairs, manage appointments



View and update your details

Sign up today at www.wealdliving.com.



WEALD LIVING
BY SAXON WEALD

Saxon Weald House, 38-42 Worthing Road, Horsham, RH12 1DT

Tel: 01403 226060 | Email: info@wealdliving.com | Web: www.wealdliving.com

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