

PRIORY PARK

Mini Festival 2026

Sponsors

The Priory Park Society.

Festival of Chichester

The Rotary Club of Chichester



Priory Park, Chichester

David Shannon 2016

Souvenir Programme

Priory Park Society Mini Festival

8-13th June 2026

The events in the Guildhall, Priory Park run from 8-12 June, 2026 and 13th June in Priory Park

Programme

Monday	8 th June 11am		
Talk-	<i>History of the Park Part 1</i> -	Richard Childs	1 hour
Tuesday	9 th June 11am		
Talk-	<i>History of the Park Part 2</i> -	Alan Green	1 hour
Tuesday	9 th June 2pm		
Walls Walk-		Anne Scicluna	1 hour
Wednesday	10 th June 11am		
Talk -	<i>Cricket in the Park</i> –	Bruce Ruddock	1 hour
Thursday	11 th June 11am		
Talk-	<i>Archaeology of the Park</i> –	James Kenny	1 hour
Friday	12 th June 11am - 12:30pm		
Panel-	<i>Discussion on the future of Park</i> –	Chair Martyn Bell	
Friday	12 th June 7 –9 pm		
Concert-	<i>Last night at the Proms</i> –	Chichester City Band	
	<i>Shewing of PP100 film-</i> (in the concert interval 7:45 pm)		
Saturday	13 th June 11am-4pm		
	<i>Bowls Club Open Day</i> –	James Neilson	

Welcome

This is the first Priory Park Mini Festival from the Priory Park Society in cooperation with the Festival of Chichester, and the Rotary Club of Chichester.

Priory Park is a top visitor attraction but many are unaware of the long rich history from Roman times to today

A series of talks has been arranged by Local experts on the history, cricket and archaeology of the Park and there is a “Last night of the Proms” concert with Chichester City Band featuring composers who have a link to Chichester

TICKETS

For each event it is £5 per person except the Friday Panel which is free. Tickets can be purchased on the day and there will be a card reader available.

If you would like a Pass for all events for just £20 please email me on plowman.richard@gmail.com.

Richard Plowman

Organiser, Priory Park Society.



History Timeline



43 AD ROMANS SETTLE AND BUILD CITY WALLS- 80% OF THE ORIGINAL WALL CIRCUIT SURVIVES TODAY.



1066 NORMAN CONQUEST .BUILDING OF THE MOTTE AND BAILEY CASTLE

1216 THE FRENCH OCCUPY THE CASTLE AND THEN ARE DRIVEN OUT A YEAR LATER DURING THE REIGN OF KING JOHN



1269 FRANCISCAN PRIORY BUILT AFTER HENRY III GAINS CASTLE, HOSPITIUM REMAINS STILL STANDING. CHURCH CHANCEL IS NOW GUILDHALL.

1538 DISSOLUTION OF MONASTERIES BY HENRY VIII

1642 SIEGE OF CHICHESTER IN THE CIVIL WAR AS THE ROYALISTS ARE DEFEATED BY THE PARLIAMENTARIANS. GUNS POSSIBLY PLACED ON PRIORY MOUND.



1790 ADMIRAL FRANKLAND OCCUPIES HOUSE

1802 WILLIAM BLAKE TRIED FOR SEDITION IN THE GUILD-HALL



1850 PRIORY PARK SOCIETY FORMED

1851 CRICKET BEGINS IN THE PARK.

1867 FIRST AUSTRALIAN TOUR AND WG GRACE-TEA IN THE PAVILION.



1918 DUKE OF RICHMOND PRESENTS THE PARK TO THE CITY AS A WAR MEMORIAL

MONDAY 8th June 11am

The History of Priory Park- Part 1 Romans to the Reformation



For 18 years from 1993–2011 Richard Childs was the County Archivist of West Sussex. He was born in Liverpool and educated at Leeds and Liverpool Universities.

From 1979 his first professional posts were with Sheffield City Council. From 1988-93 he was the City Archivist.

After retirement Richard was Chairman of the Chichester Society for 7 years. In 2025 he became Chairman of the Chichester Local History Society.



TUESDAY 9th June 11am
The History of Priory Park- Part 2
Reformation to Present Day



Alan Green was born and educated in Chichester. A Chartered Civil Engineer by profession, he turned in retirement to local history, and his published works include nine books on his native city. One of these is *Priory Park in 100 Objects*, written for the 100th Anniversary of the Park in 2018.



TUESDAY 9th June 2pm

Walls Walk

Guide: Anne Scicluna

Anne Scicluna. was born in Chichester, attending Chichester High School and Bishop Otter College. She followed her father as a City Councillor and has served on that Council for the past 48 years, being Mayor three times, as well as serving as a District Councillor for 36 years and Pallant House Gallery Trustee for 20 years.



Her career was as a youth worker, and she created an adventure centre for Chichester teenagers to spend weekends and short holidays in the Brecon Beacons. A keen local historian she now conducts guided tours of the city, of the Walls, of the Cathedral and up in the Cathedral roof and spire, and she has also written two books on aspects of Chichester history.

Anne will be conducting a tour of part of the Roman Walls of Chichester, which are the oldest and most intact in the South of England – showing some of the Chichester features which can be seen from them, and maybe relating some interesting stories associated with them .

WEDNESDAY 10th June 11am
Cricket in Priory Park
Birthplace of International Cricket



Reverend Canon Bruce Ruddock

Born and bred and educated at Hurstpierpoint, Bruce Ruddock's passion for cricket was instilled in him by his father (MCC and Sussex Martlets) and Derek Semmence (Sussex CCC). He played for the Martlets until clerical duties took over but returned to the pitch in retirement as an umpire in the Sussex League, often standing on Priory Park. As a member of the Priory Park Society, Bruce continues to champion every aspect of "Chichester's village green"



James Lillywhite

Since its opening in 1851 Priory Park and cricket have been inseparable. Indeed the Park can claim a role in the history of the international game. One of Chichester Priory Park Cricket Club's members, James Lillywhite, led an All-England team to Australia in 1876-77 on a tour which ended with a match recognised as being the first ever Test. In 1882 and 1886 an Australian side visited the Park. Arguably the most celebrated cricketer ever to take the field here was W G Grace (centre of picture, below), who in September 1871 played in a match between a United South of England XI and a team raised by CPPCC. For many years the Park was one of the grounds favoured by Sussex County Cricket Club as an alternative to its home at Hove, but it is 68 years since the First XI played here. The Priory Park 100 match against The Duke of Richmond's XI is doubly momentous because of his family's unequalled link with cricket. The earliest existing written rules of the game were drawn up for the 2nd Duke in 1727.

In the interest of a fair contest a few Sussex players – including Jofra Archer, Chris Jordan and Luke Wright - were loaned to the 11th Duke's side.

Although the Priory Park 1st and 2nd XIs decamped in 2017 to Goodwood, the 3rd and 4th teams remain based in the Park. The two senior XIs return for Cricket Week each August.



THURSDAY 11th June 11am
Archaeology in the Park
James Kenny, BA, MCIfA



James was educated in Chichester and at Newcastle University. He has worked professionally in archaeology since 1983. Since 1998 he has been employed as Chichester District Council's Archaeology Officer, providing advice on development management, managing and maintaining the District Historic Environment Record and leading community archaeological investigations.



Friday 12th June 11am

The Future of the Park

Panel discussion

Chairman of Priory Park Society, Martyn Bell leads a discussion on the future of Priory Park including the developments on the buildings in the Park.

Could ownership move to the Chichester City Council?



Automatic Zoom

Friday 12th June 7pm
CHICHESTER CITY BAND
Last Night of the Proms



Chichester City Band was founded in 1897 after the City Council sought a “live” band to play at events in the City and its surrounding areas. Mr Robert Bottrill, a local coal merchant, both loaned the members £60 for instruments and served as bandmaster for many years.

Since then, the Band has continued to provide music for local fetes and shows in West Sussex and beyond. We also present our own popular public concerts in and around our home city.

Programme

First Half

Arrangements from Composers
With a Connection to Chichester

7:45 Interval : Priory Park 100 film

Second Half

Radetsky March – J Strauss
I vow to Thee, My Country – P Sparke
Fantasia on British Sea Songs – H Wood
Pomp and Circumstance March No 1 – E Elgar
Jerusalem – P Sparke
National Anthem
Sussex by the Sea

The Chichester City band are indebted to our patrons /sponsors who provide the band with a level of financial support and encouragement. (Would you like to become a Patron/Sponsor. Contact us via chichestercityband@gmail.com to find out about the benefits to you and the band.) If you would like to hire the band or become a member, please contact Carol Williams band secretary via chichestercityband@gmail.com

Last night at the Proms

Programme Proms In The Park

Radetsky March

I Vow To Thee My Country

I vow to thee, my country
All earthly things above
Entire and whole and perfect
The service of my love

The love that asks no questions
The love that stands the test
That lays upon the altar
The dearest and the best

The love that never falters
The love that pays the price
The love that makes undaunted
The final sacrifice

And there's another country
I've heard of long ago
Most dear to them that love her
Most great to them that know

We may not count her armies
We may not see her King
Her fortress is a faithful heart
Her pride is suffering

And soul by soul and silently
Her shining bounds increase
And her ways are ways of gentleness
And all her paths are peace

Fantasia on British Sea Songs (Audience Join in with Rule Britannia)

Rule, Britannia

When Britain first, at heaven's command,
Arose from out the azure main,
This was the charter of the land,
And Guardian Angels sang this strain:

Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves!
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves

The Muses, still with freedom found,
Shall to thy happy coasts repair.
Blest isle! with matchless beauty crowned,
And manly hearts to guard the fair.

Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves!
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves.

Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves!
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves.

Pomp and Circumstance

(audience join in with Land of Hope and Glory)

Land of Hope and Glory
Mother of the Free
How shall we extol thee
Who are born of thee?
Wider still, and wider
Shall thy bounds be set;
God, who made thee mighty
Make thee mightier yet

Finale and Sussex by the Sea

Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark Satanic Mills?
Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant Land.

Sussex by the Sea

Now is the time for marching,
Now let your hearts be gay,
Hark to the merry bugles
Sounding along our way.
So let your voices ring, my boys,
And take the time from me,
And I'll sing you a song as we march
along,
Of Sussex by the Sea!
Chorus:
For we're the men from Sussex, Sus-
sex by the Sea.
We plough and sow and reap and
mow,
And useful men are we;
And when you go to Sussex, whoever
you may be,
You may tell them all that we stand or
fall
For Sussex by the Sea!
Refrain:
Oh Sussex, Sussex by the Sea!
Good old Sussex by the Sea!
You may tell them all we stand or fall,
For Sussex by the Sea

National Anthem

God Save the King
God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious
Happy and glorious
Long to Reign over us
God Save the King.

Sometimes your feet are weary,
Sometimes the way is long,
Sometimes the day is dreary,
Sometimes the world goes
wrong;
But if you let your voices ring,
Your care will fly away,
So we'll sing a song as weSome-
times march along,
Of Sussex by the Sea.
Chorus:
For we're the men from Sussex,
Sussex by the Sea.
We plough and sow and reap
and mow,
And useful men are we;
And when you go to Sussex,
whoever you may be,
You may tell them all that we
stand or fall
For Sussex by the Sea!
Refrain:
Oh Sussex, Sussex by the Sea!



The Novium Museum

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