



• ROTTINGDEAN • VILLAGE NEWS



SAVE OUR LIBRARY!

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website: Save Rottingdean Library

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Welcome to the Autumn edition of RVN! Residents have reacted with fury to BHCC's proposal to close the village library. Among the more polite comments have been 'an act of cultural vandalism', 'an outrage', and 'class warfare' against the village. According to the Council's deeply flawed 'needs analysis', the citizens of Rottingdean are insufficiently deserving of a library compared to others - never mind the two primary schools within 100 metres, Longhill School within 500 metres, the many elderly and disabled residents, and high library usage. Schoolkids, the old and disabled, and people who use libraries a lot - easy targets and clearly 'undeserving'! On a brighter note, the sun shone, the crowds came - in record numbers - to the centenary village fair on August 2nd. A huge thanks go to Gary, Peter and the team for putting on such a magnificent event. You did the village proud - well done!

Roger Levy, editor

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CIRCULATION AND COPY DEADLINES

Rottingdean Village News is a non-profit making magazine established for the benefit of the community of Rottingdean and produced by volunteers. It is published quarterly and delivered free to all households within the recognised Rottingdean boundary. Non-residents can subscribe to have the magazine posted to them (£10 p.a.). Please contact Helen Clark: helen@azygos.co.uk

Deadlines for the next issue are 25th October 2025 (adverts), and 1st November 2025 (articles). Printed by WASP Printers of Peacehaven

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HELPING PAWS FUN DOG SHOW

SALTDEAN OVAL PARK

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

11AM – 3.30PM



HANDSOME BOY - PRETTY GIRL

BEST PUPPY - GOLDEN OLDIE

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• THE VILLAGE FAIR AT100 •

SUNSHINE, SMILES & CENTENARY CHEER: ROTTINGDEAN VILLAGE FAIR TURNS 100 IN STYLE!

On Saturday 2nd August 2025, the sun appeared right on cue to help Rottingdean celebrate the centenary of our beloved Village Fair! Thousands flocked to the heart of the village to mark the occasion, and what a day it was!

With over 65 diverse stalls lining the spaces — from handmade crafts and artisan treats to local charities and vital community groups — there was something for everyone. Thanks to a brand-new layout, visitors were able to meander safely and comfortably through the festivities, with stallholders reporting bumper takings and beaming faces.

A historic first this year: we extended into the churchyard of St. Margaret's Church, creating a magical haven just for kids! Punch & Judy, captivating magic shows, mini archery, and a cuddly petting zoo brought joy and giggles all day long. We even had a cheery lollipop person helping everyone cross safely!

Two buzzing entertainment areas showcased an extraordinary lineup of local talent, including the debut of 'The Together Choir' who brought the house down with their uplifting performance. Other crowd favourites included a fabulous Dog Show hosted by Mewes Vets, a lively Pimm's Bar in Kipling Gardens (cheers to Jamie & James!), surprise appearances by the Brighton Morris Men, and a thrilling whodunnit from the Rottingdean Drama Society.

The entire village — from The Green to Kipling Gardens to the Churchyard — was alive with a sea of happy faces, laughter, and that unmistakable Rottingdean charm. It was a joyful, incident-free day to remember. Huge thanks to our generous key sponsors, Brighton Tools and Fixings and The White Horses. Funds raised for our three chosen charities will be announced at our AGM at The Plough on 29th September — all are welcome!

Here's to another 100 years of community, celebration, and a fair that just keeps getting better. See you next year on Saturday 1st August 2026!

Peter Mackenzie Litten, on behalf of the Rottingdean Village Fair Committee



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ACTING ON YOUTH HOMELESSNESS



Figures from Centrepoint show a 12% increase in young people facing homelessness in 2023/4. Brighton is a hotspot, linked to high rental costs, among many other factors like zero hours contracts and the cost of living.

Tim Williamson is chair of the Board of Trustees at Sussex Nightstop. A logical and straightforward way to support young people experiencing homelessness, this Brighton-based charity places young people in volunteer host homes for short overnight stays.

"My wife and I have hosted for eight years now and we get a lot out of it. It's rewarding, supporting young people through a rough patch so they can go on to flourish in our community. Both of us have busy working lives, but the beauty of volunteering with Nightstop is that you are in control. You can host when it suits you. Some people worry about safety, but Nightstop is seamlessly managed. In all our time hosting, we've had no incidents at all – just lovely young people in need of a little bit of help. I'd urge anyone living in Brighton & Hove who has a spare room to consider joining this very logical, kind and human solution to a growing problem."

Volunteer hosts receive excellent training and support, which includes an on-call team to cover nights when the office is closed. Expenses are covered and volunteers pick their hosting nights to suit their schedule. Some volunteers prefer to host for a few days and others like to commit to a week-long placement, to give the young person a smoother stay.



Clare and David have hosted with Nightstop for seven years and live in Hove. Clare volunteers for Nightstop among other local charities. *"Hosting opens your eyes to the different lives out there. You never know who's coming and whether you'll get on, but we no longer worry about that as all our experiences have been good. The support is brilliant and you never feel on your own. It's great that the Nightstop service works so quickly.... people aren't in the service for long and the best thing is when a guest tells you they're getting the keys to their new home."*

URGENT CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you or someone you know lives in Brighton & Hove and has a spare room, they could be part of Sussex Nightstop's community response to youth homelessness. The charity needs more volunteers to host young people aged 16-25 for short stays (3 -7 days) whilst homeless and working towards a new home.

Sussex Nightstop needs more hosts and community champions, as the cost-of-living crisis and high rents in the city continues.

To find out more visit sussexnightstop.org.uk/volunteer and to apply, contact liz.wakefield@sussexnightstop.org.uk



ROTTINGDEAN WHITEWAY CENTRE (RWC) •



**AUTUMN 2025 COURSES BOOKING NOW. TERM STARTS
ON MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2025**

French for beginners	Mon 10:00 – 11:30	Sarah Snow
Bridge second year (5 weeks)	Mon 10:00 - 12:00	Monica Watts
Drawing and Painting with Lucy	Mon 10:30 - 12:30	Lucy Parker
Watercolour Technique – intermediate/advanced	Mon 13:30 - 15:30	Caroline Marsland
Art for beginners with Amanda	Mon 14:00 - 16:00	Amanda Rosenstein Davidson
Exploring the Solar System (8 weeks) NEW	Mon 16:00 - 18:00	Dr William Joyce
Exploring the Night Sky (8 weeks)	Mon 19:00 - 21:00	Dr William Joyce
French advanced conversation level 4	Tues 9:30 - 11:00	Sarah Snow
Drawing and Painting – Improvers	Tues 10:00 - 12:00	Caroline Marsland
Turbulence, change and reform: Early Victorian Britain	Tues 10:30-12:30	Sarah Tobias
French level 2	Tues 11:30-13:00	Sarah Snow
Surrealism in Acrylic	Tues 13:00 - 15:00	Caroline Marsland
French level 3 continuation	Tues 13:30-15:00	Sarah Snow
Tai Chi and Chi Kung	Tues 19:00 - 21:00	Dr Jonathan Newman
Creative Writing	Tues 19:00 - 21:00	Claudia Gould
Italian level 1 – first steps on your Italian journey	Wed 09:30 - 11:00	Roberta Bonfa
The history of the string quartet part 1	Wed 09:30 - 11:30	Dr Peter Copley
Italian conversation club 1	Wed 10:00 - 11:30	Nicla Mazzoni (Zoom)
Renaissance Art History:Florence/Rome/Venice NEW	Wed 10:00 - 12:00	Katy Blatt
Italian level 2 - moving beyond the basics	Wed 11:30 - 13:00	Roberta Bonfa
Italian level 5 - conversation & confidence	Wed 13:30 - 15:00	Roberta Bonfa
Roman Britain	Wed 14:00-16:00	Dr David Rudling
Burning Issues of the Day	Wed 19:30 - 21:30	Andrew Clark (Zoom)
Italian level 3/4 - building fluency/expand your skills	Thurs 09:30 - 11:00	Roberta Bonfa
Italian conversation club 2	Thurs 09:30-11:00	Nicla Mazzoni (Zoom)
Introduction to Pilates - 5 Weeks	Thurs 10:00 - 10:50	Julia Murray Logue
British Sign Language- continuation class	Thurs 11:00 - 12:30	Louise Gibson
Introduction to Pilates - 5 Weeks	Thurs 11:00 - 11:50	Julia Murray Logue
Life Painting & Portraiture	Thurs 13:00 - 15:00	Amanda Rosenstein Davidson
Spanish level 2 continuation	Thurs 18:30 - 20:00	Maria Simons
Sussex Landscapes	Fri 10:00 - 12:00	Dr Geoffrey Mead
Spanish level 3 continuation	Fri 10:00 - 11:30	Maria Simons
Spanish level 4 continuation	Fri 12:00 - 13:30	Maria Simons
Advanced Conversational Spanish	Fri 14:00 - 15:30	Maria Simons

Course fees: £110 per term (10 weeks). For full details and to book (and to see any changes to the programme) see our website www.rwc.org.uk

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Our new programme of Inspirational Talks can be found on our website at www.rwc.org.uk.

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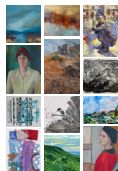


Saturday 13 Sept 7.30pm The Village Hall Tickets £22	THE BEST OF BRITISH JAZZ One of our favourites, The Jazz Repertory Company, are back for their 10th visit. This year they will play the Best of British jazz in their usual lively and amusing style. Great fun for all jazz lovers. Lead vocalist Vimela returns with her engaging, expressive singing.
Saturday Sept 20 7.30pm St Margaret's Church Tickets £29	HARVEST CELEBRATION WITH THE COPPERS, DUCK SOUP AND A PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER Enjoy folk music and an evening meal. The Coppers have a unique style of harmonised Capella singing. They will be joined by local folk group Duck Soup for an evening of traditional Sussex folk
Saturday Oct 4 7.30pm St Margaret's Church Tickets £25	ARMONICO CONSORT DIDO AND AENEAS AND STABAT MATER The renowned Armonico Consort play Renaissance to Baroque music, performed by some of the world's finest singers and period instrumentalists.
Saturday Oct 11 7.30pm St Margaret's Church Tickets £22	THE PASADENA ROOF ORCHESTRA One of the UK's finest dance bands playing the timeless music of the 1920's and 1930's to audiences all over the world. Revel in nostalgia and enjoy 'You you're driving me crazy'
Sunday Oct 12 3.00pm The Hillside Barn Tickets £18.00	THE AURORA TRIO The Aurora Trio is an exciting chamber ensemble which has developed a fine reputation. This is a return for this popular trio playing harp, flute and viola. They play from a repertoire that is classic, melodic and popular. This year they include a work by our Honorary President, Professor Paul Patterson
Saturday Oct 18 7.30pm The Village Hall Tickets £18	THE TOTTIES Carolyn Allen & Paul Smith (A man, a woman and a piano) who perform a classy, clever, stylish entertainment that spans opera to jazz. An evening of warmth, wit and laughter with their own sparkling lyrics. Cabaret style

THE GRANGE

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The Green, Rottingdean, BN2 7HA



10 - 21 SEPTEMBER FIVEWAYS GROUP

The Fiveways Artists are a collective of Artists and Artisans living in and around the Fiveways area in Brighton. The group is comprised of painters, ceramicists, photographers, sculptors, textile artists, printmakers and more.



24 SEPTEMBER - 5 OCTOBER LAURA DARLING & JOANNA FARROW LAND MARKS

We seek anchors in the landscape, building webs of familiarity. Trees become friends, light hooks the eye, rocks mark the path. We know the land, we're part of it.



8 - 19 OCTOBER AMANDA HARRIS FACES & SPACES

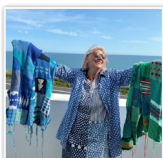
"It has been such fun to finally let my creative Genii out of the bottle, and I am excited to show some of my work in a gallery setting; in this, my first exhibition."

22 OCTOBER - 2 NOVEMBER

SUE JONES

PERSONAL JOURNEYS WITH TEXTILES

Personal Journeys with Textiles – final exhibition. Sue Jones presents craft as art with contemporary handmade wearable waistcoats that are shown alongside examples of traditional worldwide textiles that inspired them. Opportunities to participate.

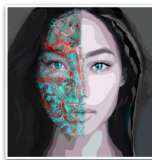


5 - 16 NOVEMBER

JANET CAWTHORNE

FLEETING GLIMPSE

Is there a limit to how minimalist an artwork can be, while still being interesting? I am excited to see where this line of enquiry will take me next particularly as it links two of my passions: art and psychology. My recent work has involved a mixed-media process involving both digital creation and manual painting.



19 - 30 NOVEMBER

SOPHIA MURPHY

VIBRANT GOUACHE COLLECTION

"I'm of Dutch origin and a watercolour artist. I usually paint in vivacious colours in a wide range of subjects, since I was 16 - although my first paintings were all done in oils, for the past 20 years I have developed a love for water colours and also gouache and alcohol inks".



**ROTTHINGDEAN
HERITAGE**
Conserving & Enhancing the Village

• ROTTHINGDEAN HERITAGE •

The main topic of conversation over the summer months has been the possibility of the library closing. By the time this goes to print, we will hopefully know more, but Rottingdean Heritage has voiced serious concerns. Our charitable aims include protecting local culture and heritage, and the closure would not only deprive residents of a much-loved and well-used resource but could also put the future of the Grange Gallery and Museum at risk.

These spaces, leased by Rottingdean Heritage from Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC), partly depend on the library's footfall and the shared use of the building. Despite the uncertainty, under the terms of our lease, BHCC cannot evict Rottingdean Heritage before 2030. This ensures the Gallery and Museum will remain open as a cultural attraction for both residents and visitors in the coming years. Rottingdean Heritage, however, remains firmly committed to working alongside others to secure the library's future and safeguard this important community hub.

In other news, it has been another busy summer season for Rottingdean Heritage. Our Gallery Director, Dimitrios Evangelou, presented a wonderful exhibition of Edward Burne-Jones's The Flower Book, and the Wilde Volk exhibition at the Windmill attracted over 1,000 visitors in just two days! We have several exciting exhibitions coming up, too. Please continue to check our website for news and events: www.rottingdeanheritage.org.uk

Fiona Kirkcaldy

**ROTTHINGDEAN
HERITAGE**
Conserving & Enhancing the Village

• WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORT •

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCILLORS FOR ROTTINGDEAN, OVINGDEAN AND WEST SALTDEAN

THE RED PACKAGE BOXES BY PO SORTING OFFICE ON NEVILLE ROAD

The PO has been advised by BHCC planning that these need planning permission.

RECYCLING

You can now put the following items in your black recycling bin. Please clean them and take off any plastic film.

- Plastic pots used for yoghurt, prepared fruit, mini desserts, soup and cosmetics (such as skin cream and hair gel)
- Plastic tubs that contained margarine, chocolate, pasta sauces, ice cream, baked goods, such as bite-sized flapjacks, and laundry powder
- Plastic trays or bowls – these include meat and fish trays, ready-meal bowls or trays, snack and salad containers, fruit punnets, containers for fresh or prepared vegetables as well as cakes and pastries, also trays used inside boxes of chocolates

UNDERCLIFF SAFETY CAMPAIGN.

We recently met with BHCC, RPC and the owners of Molly's and Ovingdean café. As a result, share the space signage is going to be refreshed and rumble strips will be laid by the cafes which will hopefully slow cyclists down and make them aware they are in a busy area.

SEAWATER AND SEDIMENT TESTING.

FORCE is looking to rollout testing our local seawater for pollution and sediment from the marina. Its' ultimate goal is to secure Blue Flag status for Rottingdean beach following its Bathing Beach status achieved last year.

ROTTINGDEAN LIBRARY

Of course, we oppose its proposed closure and are working with RPC, Rottingdean Heritage and library campaigners to save this much-loved, and well-used, community facility. Please join, and use, the library if you don't already.

Finally, a big Congratulations and Thank You to RPC, and all the other volunteers, who have worked so hard to bring us the new community field.

If RVN readers have any views on the above, please contact us at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-committees/contact-your-councillor or www.facebook.com/independentcouncillorinbrighton

Mark.earthey@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Brighton Coastal Ward Cllrs. Dr Mark Earthy and Bridget Fishleigh

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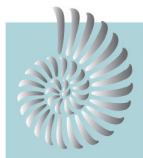
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Lisa Costigan has worked at Rottingdean Dental Care since 1991. One of the most common concerns patients have with their teeth, is that they feel they look yellow.

Yellow teeth aren't necessarily unhealthy and like everything else, everyone's smile naturally comes in a myriad of different shades. However, who doesn't want a dazzling bright, white smile? White teeth can make you look younger, more attractive and will boost your confidence too. So what causes yellow teeth?

1. Smoking

One of many reasons not to smoke! Tar and nicotine quickly stain your teeth, making them yellow and brown. While you can remove stains with professional hygienist cleans and whitening, results won't last until you ditch the ciggies

2. Getting Older

Unfortunately, your teeth become more yellow with age. This happens as enamel reduces in thickness over time because of everyday wear

3. The Yellow is in your Genes

Blame Mum or Dad for this one! Its also possible that you inherit enamel that is more yellow than others

4. Bad Oral Hygiene

When you do not routinely brush and floss to remove plaque, it can quickly turn to yellow-coloured calculus and therefore discolour your teeth

5. Dead Tooth

Teeth can "die" as a result of decay or an accident. The blood supply to your tooth is cut off and because of the dying blood cells, discolouring can occur

6. They are what you Eat

Darkly coloured foods and drink, like red wine, coffee and some curries, can stain your teeth

Here are some helpful tips to try and minimise the colouring of your teeth

- Quit smoking
- See a hygienist
- Drink a glass of water after drinking or eating dark coloured food and drink

Whitening your smile has become increasingly popular over the past couple of decades. Provided it is carried out by a dental professional, whitening is safe and a very effective way to a bright, white smile!

• PAST LIVES •

NURSES: 1. ZOE DOUET GRAVE 7049

You have probably heard about the Windrush generation. This was a group of Caribbean workers who arrived in England during the fifties and sixties which was a post war period marked by labour shortages. Many of them became the backbone of our transport, health, and other essential public services. However, Brighton residents were benefitting from West Indian carers in our hospitals some fifty years before!

Zoe Douet was born in 1873 in South London to Jamaican parents. Her father was a Principal in the Inland Revenue. In 1881 they had one servant. By the 1901 census they were prospering as they had moved to Epsom employing a cook and a maid. Sadly, her mother Sophia had died, and her father had remarried so she now had a stepmother, Henrietta, a woman from Kent.



As the register of nurses shows she trained at the Royal Sussex County Hospital from 1904 to 1907 and was still nursing there in 1925 only a year before her death.

She died at her home in Nevill Road in 1926 and left over £2,000 in her will.

NURSES: 2. JULIA EDWARDS GRAVE NO 6202

The above grave is inscribed "Nurse JULIA EDWARDS for 22 years a faithful friend and helper at St Aubyns School." She died on 9th January 1918, aged 65 years.

She had been with St Aubyns school since it was opened by Mr Stanford in 1895. One of four matrons by 1911, Nurse Edwards ran The Cottage which was used as a sanatorium. She is said to have been an old-fashioned nurse who doled out the castor oil in generous quantities.

Despite all the healthy sports the boys were often affected by contagious illnesses. For this reason, there was a footbridge over the twitten which linked the school and the field. This was to reduce the risk of catching infectious diseases from the village children.

If you would like to join the adopt a grave scheme, please email Mike Laslett at mike18j37@gmail.com



Mike Laslett

• REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2025 •

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. We gathered in May and August on the Village Green to respectfully commemorate both Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan days. Our Remembrance Sunday Service on 9th November will focus upon the ending of the war.

The order of service will include accounts of those who served at home, and in Europe and the far East. We also aim to light a beacon to commemorate the ending of WW2. Key dates and times are below, all members of the community are welcome.

Remembrance Sunday 9th November

11.30 Parade forms up at Lower High Street, 11.40 Parade marches off, 12.00 Service on Village Green, 19.00 Lighting of the beacon (tbc)

Armistice Day Tuesday 11th November

11.00 short service on the Village Green

Julie Frith

To advertise to 1450+ Rottingdean homes, contact rvnadvertising@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER DIARY

Mon	1	7.30	Parish Council meeting	W
Thur	4	10-12	Deans Senior Tea Club	P
		9-2	Farmers' Market (and every Thursday)	WH
Sun	7	11.00	Beach Grab / cleaning	RB
		2-4.30	Windmill open	B
Mon	8	2.15	Rainbow poetry group	GL
Tue	9	10.00	Friends of Beacon Hill Volunteer workday	B
Wed	10	10-4	Fiveways Group, art exhibition (until 21/9)	G
Sat	13	10.30-12.30	Repair Shop, 29 Chichester Drive West	
		7.30	The Best of British Jazz, Jazz Repertory Company, concert	VH
Sun	14	2-4.30	Windmill open	B
Tue	16	7-9	Rottingdean Writing Group	P
Wed	17		Tickets go on sale for Perfect Nonsense, Jeeves & Wooster, Drama Society	
Sat	20	7.30	Harvest Celebration with the Copper Family, concert	VH
Sun	21	2-4.30	Windmill open	B
Mon	22	9.00	Whiteway Centre autumn term starts	W
Wed	24	10-4	Laura Darling & Joanna Farrow, art exhibition (	B
Sat	27	11-4	Oxford International College, art exhibition, Windmill	B
Sun	28	11-4	Oxford International College, art exhibition, Windmill	B

OCTOBER DIARY

Wed	1	10-4	Laura Darling & Joanna Farrow, art exhibition (until 5/10)	G
Thur	2	10-12	Rottingdean Deans Senior Tea Club	P
		9-2	Farmers' Market (and every Thursday)	WH
Fri	3	7.30-9.30	Everything You Wanted to Know about Viruses..., talk	W
Sat	4	7.30	Armonico Consort, Dido & Aeneas/ Stabat Mater, concert	STM
Sun	5	11.00	Beach Grab / cleaning	SB
Mon	6	7.30	Parish Council meeting	W
Wed	8	10-4	Amanda Harris, Faces & Spaces, art exhibition (until 19/10)	G
		7.45	Drama Society, 'Perfect Nonsense'	VH
Thu	9	7.45	Drama Society, 'Perfect Nonsense'	VH
Fri	10	7.45	Drama Society, 'Perfect Nonsense'	VH
Sat	11	2.00	Drama Society, 'Perfect Nonsense'	VH
		7.45	Drama Society, 'Perfect Nonsense'	VH
		7.30	The Pasadena Roof Orchestra, concert	STM
Sun	12	7.30	The Aurora Trio, concert	HB
Mon	13	2.00	Rainbow poetry group	GL
Tue	14	10.00	Friends of Beacon Hill Volunteer workday	B
Sat	20	7.30	The Totties, Opera to Jazz concert	VH
Tue	21	7-9	Rottingdean Writing Group	P
Wed	22	10-4	Sue Jones, Journeys with Textiles, exhibition (until 2/11)	G
Thur	24	7.30-9.30	Restoring Wildlife Habitats within Brighton & Hove, talk	W
Fri	24	10.00	Friends of Beacon Hill Volunteer workday	B
Sun	26		BST ends; clocks change	

NOVEMBER DIARY

Sat	1		RVN deadline for articles for articles for Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) issue	
Sun	2	11.00	Beach Grab / cleaning	OB
Mon	3	7.30	Parish Council meeting	W
Wed	5	10-4	Janet Cawthorne, Fleeting Glimpse, exhibition (until 16/11)	G
Thur	6	10-12	Rottingdean Deans Senior Tea Club	P
		9-2	Farmers' Market (and every Thursday)	WH
Sun	9	11.30	Remembrance Day parade	LHS
		12.00	Service of Remembrance	VG
Mon	10	2.00	Rainbow poetry group	GL
Tue	11	10.00	Friends of Beacon Hill Volunteer workday	B
		11.00	Armistice Day Service	VG
Fri	14	7.30-9.30 A	Sussex Farm During the 1950s, talk	W
Wed	19	10-4	Sophia Murphy, Violent Gouache, exhibition: (until 30/11)	G
Tue	18	7-9	Rottingdean Writing Group	P
Fri	21	7.00	Whiteway Quiz Night	W
Sat	22	10.30-12.30	Repair Shop, 29 Chichester Drive West	
Fri	28	10.00	Friends of Beacon Hill Volunteer workday	B

B Beacon Hill
G The Grange
GL Grange Library
HB Hillside Barn
LHS Lower High Street

OVB Ovingdean beach
P The Plough
RB Rottingdean beach
SB Saltdean Beach
STM St Margaret's Church

VG Village Green
VH Village Hall
W Whiteway Centre
WH White Horses car park

• ROTTINGDEAN ARTS •

I hope you have enjoyed a sunny, musical summer. We have enjoyed staging the 6 Terrace concerts and, by the time you read this, over 1500 visitors will have listened to jazz, swing bands, opera, smash hits and much more. Thank you all for joining us. We have had wonderful support from our



Sponsors, Patrons and Friends not forgetting Rottingdean Parish Council. Nearly half our funding comes from your financial contribution and without it Rottingdean would not enjoy such great music.



The Autumn programme is just starting. On September 13, there is Jazz at The Village Hall and a week later, folk music by The Coppers with a Ploughman's supper. You may also enjoy the famous Baroque pieces Dido and Aeneas followed by Stabat Mater in St Margaret's Church on October 4th. Then, step back to the 20' and 30's

with The Pasadena Roof Orchestra on October 11th.

If you like intimate chamber style music then the Aurora Trio play flute, harp and viola at The Hillside Barn on Sunday 12th. The season ends with a very witty, fun cabaret performance by The Totties on October 18th.. I hope you can join us.

Bernard Turnbull, Chair, Rottingdean Arts

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Rottingdean Drama Society

is a well-regarded award-winning group.

We produce a pantomime and three plays each year from costume drama to murder mystery, comedy, classics and challenging contemporary works.

We rehearse and perform in the Public Hall on Park Road, Rottingdean. There are opportunities on stage and in the vital backstage activities of lighting, sound, set design and building, stage management, props or costumes.

We hold social events such as a summer BBQ and a Christmas dinner.

If you want to find out more about our friendly and dynamic group please find us on Facebook or contact us at rdsdrama@gmail.com

Rottingdean Drama Society presents

JEEVES & WOOSTER

in ***Perfect Nonsense***

by David and Robert Goodale
based on work of P.G.
Wodehouse

8-11 October

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• PARISH COUNCIL •



ROTTINGDEAN PARISH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY LIBRARY REVIEW

Following the review of Brighton and Hove community libraries, on the 17th of July BHCC Councillors agreed to consult on the closure of three libraries, including Rottingdean. A 12-week consultation is underway ending on the 10th of October that will include a drop-in session at the library on the 9th of September. A decision on the closure will be made in December. The Parish Council is very concerned that these proposals include the recommendation to close the Rottingdean Library and understands its importance and strong feeling to the community for all residents, not only as a place to borrow books but also as a community hub sited within walking distance of two schools and two churches. We are committed to ensuring that residents' views are clearly and effectively communicated to BHCC officers and Councillors throughout the consultation process. We strongly encourage all residents to respond to the consultation and attend public meetings, where they can share their views directly with BHCC officers and Councillors. The Parish Council will continue to be actively involved with the community during the consultation process and our formal response to the consultation will be available on our website.

MAJOR PROJECTS

St Aubyns. We are delighted to confirm that the former St Aubyns Field, Chapel and Pavilion has now been acquired by Rottingdean Parish Council (RPC) from Fairfax Properties. An opening event was held on the 28th of June with around 250 people in attendance. The ceremony included the return of the former school colours from St Margaret's Church to the Chapel handed over by Father Martin (former Parish Priest at St Margaret's) to Tim Prideaux, Chair of the St Aubyns Alumni. The future use of the Chapel and the Pavilion has yet to be decided but will bring additional community facilities for generations to come.

High Street. Repair of the High Street road and pavements remains a key priority. The working group set up with the local Ward Councillors to address both resurfacing and pedestrian safety met with BHCC senior engineers on the 17th of July. A plan for a traffic management study was agreed that will model the impact of options to reduce traffic flow through Rottingdean. The Study is schedule to report by the end of the year. The group also discussed BHCC proposals for the repair of the pavement and road surface subject to available funding. Further updates will be available on our Website.

VILLAGE AMENITIES

Repair of the Pond Barrier. The pond barrier has now been fully repaired and painted

Damage to the Kipling Garden's rear wall.

We are continuing to press BHCC to pursue advice from Sussex Police regarding the possibility of making an insurance claim. Once this has been confirmed, the Parish Council and BHCC will be able to decide how the repair costs will be met.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Meeting with Jess Gibbons, BHCC CEO.

Cllr Nixon is to meet with Jess Gibbons and senior members of her team on Tuesday the 5th of August. The discussion will include the Community Library review, progress on the High Street and the repair of Kipling Gardens Wall.

Upcoming meetings of the Parish Council,

Monday the 1st of September, Monday the 6th of October and Monday the 3rd of November all at 7.30 pm in The Whiteway Centre.

Councillors: Mike Nixon (Chair), Julie Lawrence (Vice Chair), Mark Cherrie, Kerry Levins, Chris Poole, Phil Evans, Patrick Lowery and Sarah Helen Snow, Sandra Hickin.
Parish Clerk: Chris Hayes,
 email parish.clerk@rottingdean-pc.gov.uk

For the very latest Parish Council news visit our website: www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk
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• SAVE ROTTINGDEAN LIBRARY! •

To cut spending, Brighton and Hove City Council is proposing to close Rottingdean, Westdene and Hollingbury Libraries and reduce opening hours elsewhere. If this goes ahead, Rottingdean Library will close for good in April 2026. It will be gone forever, a black day for the village, the result of a stupid, reckless and ill-informed decision based on the Council's deeply flawed 'needs analysis'. This will keep the least used libraries in the city open as present while closing the second most used (Rottingdean Library) and reducing hours at the most used (Jubilee).

In the rushed consultation process (due to last until October 10th), it is already evident that the needs of the village have been completely misjudged by the Council. According to its analysis, schoolchildren, the elderly and disabled, and the many other people who use Rottingdean library, are insufficiently deserving compared to others elsewhere.

The fact that there are two primary schools within 2 minutes and Longhill Secondary within 10 minutes' walk, seems to have been ignored. To take away this resource from our schoolkids will have detrimental effects on their literacy skills, leave them even more prey to social media, and adversely affect their futures in a city which has one of the worst records in the country for youth educational and employment outcomes.

The elderly and disabled are similarly dismissed. Because of the high level of car ownership and bus links along the coast, it is assumed that these groups will either drive or get the bus to another library. This takes no account of whether the elderly and disabled are indeed all car drivers, or if they can easily use the bus service, or would be able to walk the 4-mile round trip to Saltdean and back.

Yes, it's outrageous, it's unfair, so make your views known! Join the library if not already a member, sign the petition, join the campaign, voice your concerns at the consultation events, to your Councillors and your MP. Make a noise! Website [Save Rottingdean Library](http://SaveRottingdeanLibrary.org), has all the information you need. My thanks to Clive Bonny and others for their invaluable input.

The Editor

• ROTTINGDEAN AND SALTDEAN LIONS CLUB •

We are holding an Open Evening on 3rd September at Rottingdean Village Hall. If you would like to find out more about the Lions, please come along to talk to us over a glass of wine. We are always looking for new members and friends to help us at our major events



We would like to thank all those who supported our summer Lions Fayres in Rottingdean and Saltdean. The success of these family events enables us to help people and charities in our communities. We were particularly pleased that 223 people attended our Diabetes Screening session, in Rottingdean. Eight people were referred to their GP for further investigation.

In the autumn we are planning a quiz at Rottingdean Village Hall on 25th September. Looking farther ahead, we will be holding a Christmas Fair, also in Rottingdean Village Hall, on 29th November with mulled wine and craft stalls for your Christmas presents. Please contact Rottingdean and Saltdean Lions on 03458 339617, email at info@rottingdeanandsaltdeanlions.org.uk if you would like to attend our Open Evening, or our website: (www.rottingdeanandsaltdeanlions.org.uk).

Roger Bluff

• PARC •

Ovinggreen Farm Festival on Saturday 12th July turned out to be a terrific success raising money for the Air Ambulance and for PARC. Funds from this and other smaller events such as the Rottingdean Yard Sale has allowed PARC to:

- Contribute £25,000 to the new MUGA due to be built in August
- Fund Summer Youth Work Sessions
- Fund extra youth football sessions while the MUGA is out of action

Many thanks to all who continue to support the work of the charity

Cathy Taylor



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ENTRANCE IN PARK ROAD

• IN BLOOM •

What a challenging summer for plants! Lack of rain and high temperatures meant that our volunteers had to work extra hard, special thanks to Richard who trundles his wheelbarrow full of water around the village regularly. We're also grateful to several businesses, namely Fox's, the Mewes Vets, Deco Dogs and Aiden Barbers, who help water the containers outside their premises.



Missing the In Bloom Competition this year allowed us to spread the work and achieve some bigger projects. The large bed in Golden Square and the east side Coast Road containers were cleared and replanted. All the hanging baskets were sponsored, and generous donations enabled the purchase of new planters. Their installation in Nevill Square was delayed by the appearance of large, ugly parcel lockers. Very sad to see the bricks dug up and replaced by concrete; the shrubs in the raised bed behind will die due to lack of light. While the Square is the property of Royal Mail, some prior discussion would have been appreciated.

In the Lower High Street, we bowed to the inevitable. Having tried for years to cultivate the two large concrete planters and finding virtually nothing that could survive salt and wind – or peoples' bottoms and shopping bags - we decided to top them with slabs and gravel.

But lots more positives than negatives! We've welcomed new volunteers and enjoyed our usual productive working sessions. The appreciative comments received from so many passers-by and on-line on Facebook are a fine reward - thanks so much!

Helen Clark 01273 390467 helen@azygos.co.uk

• FRIENDS OF KIPLING GARDENS •

The gardener and the growing volunteer group have had a busy summer. The abundant growth of plants this year has now led to plenty of material for composting. In response we have tripled the capacity we have for this process. It's a great and free way to reinvest in the soil quality of the garden. It's a much better solution for garden cuttings, leaves and vegetable food waste than sending it all off to the refuse tip.



All it needs is some compost bins made of donated scrap pallets and a regular commitment to turn the compost over and keep it nice and warm and mixed up. Depending on the weather the whole process takes about 9 months to a year. We will be using the compost in our new raised beds where we will be growing seasonal vegetables throughout the year.

We welcome new recruits to help in the varied work in the Kipling Gardens. We work on Thursdays 10-12 weather permitting. For more information and details about volunteering with us please send an email to kiplinggardens@btinternet.com.

Keith Young (volunteer) and Nicolas Collins (gardener)

PERSONAL JOURNEYS WITH TEXTILES - THE FINAL EXHIBITION*: SUE JONES



A CELEBRATION OF TEXTILES AS PART OF OUR LIVES

At The Grange Gallery, Rottingdean
22nd Oct – 2nd Nov 2025

THINGS TO SEE

- The range of techniques and patterns
- Wearable art - 3D waistcoat samplers
- Personalised 'Thank U' garments
- Examples of worldwide textiles that were collected and inspired these objects

THINGS TO SEE

- Add your own textile memories
- Take part in the Quiz on waistcoats around the world
- Try your hand at knitting
- Come and knit Friday or Saturday morning 10.30 – 12
- Buy cards and handmade objects were collected and inspired these objects

The Open View and Celebration - Please join us!
Saturday 25th October 2 – 4 pm – Free drinks, a talk and a fashion show

*This last exhibition is a thank you to all of those involved in my personal textile journey – and finally, to Rottingdean which was an inspiration for showing textiles as Art as well as Craft.

• JOURNEYS WITH TEXTILES •

My third and last 'Personal Journeys with Textiles' exhibitions at the Grange Gallery marks the conclusion of my voyage: in the 50s, taught practical textile skills by my mother; in the 70s, inspired by the wave of innovative knitting; in the 80s and 90s, picking up textiles in local markets abroad; finally undertaking PhD research with a group of Bedouin women weavers.

In retirement I resumed hand knitting and researching. Moving to Rottingdean in 2017, I was encouraged to think about a textile exhibition, as the Grange Gallery has showcased Arts and Craft supporters. One exhibition led to another: 2019, Textiles reflecting designs in other cultures; 2023 Textiles as handwoven jackets linked with traditions worldwide; and for this 2025 exhibition Waistcoats as Textile samplers, wearable today.

I have learnt how patchwork and squares are a successful way of displaying the range of techniques. And, as with so many worldwide rugs and textiles, repeated and contrasting patterns are a way of eliciting an emotional response. This exhibition is also a thank you to all those who have helped in my textile journey and especially to Rottingdean, an inspiration for showing textiles as Art as well as Craft.

Sue Jones

• LINK TO HOPE – SHOEBOX APPEAL 2025 •

The Christmas season seems far off, but it will be here soon enough with the opportunity to spread love, joy and hope to those who need it most. The deadline for this year's shoebox appeal is the 7th November so there's plenty of time still. A shoebox means a brighter Christmas. Imagine the joy on the face of a parent struggling with no money for gifts for their children, to see a shoebox being delivered bringing smiles; or the elderly couple feeling forgotten, and then receiving a full box full of beautiful and useful gifts sent with love. They are not forgotten.

Please support the appeal if you can. Leaflets are available at St Margaret's church porch, the Grange and the phone box in Vicarage Lane. I can also deliver to you and collect filled boxes, goods and or donations. Please phone David Hunt 01273 303236

To advertise to 1450+ Rottingdean homes, contact rvnadvertising@gmail.com

• DEANS VOLUNTEERS •

Did you know that lost or discarded plastic fishing gear - line, rope and tackle - makes up nearly 70% of the ocean's plastic pollution by weight? And that accounts for a whopping 640,000 tonnes floating around in the oceans, trapping wildlife and doing untold damage to the ecosystem as it breaks down?

Even if you're not a fishing fan, you can do your bit to help the environment by removing any fishing line or rope that you find from our beaches. Thanks to a partnership between local beach cleaning group The Deans Volunteers and the Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme, all the rope, line and fishing detritus can now be recycled into something useful - like surfboards, sunglasses and even building materials. Simply "post" any line or rope you find into the collection tubes which are sited on the sides of the information boards at our beaches and The Deans team will do the rest. No dog poo bags, tho, please!

And to see for yourself what an issue discarded line is for our marine conservation zone, why not join the team at one of its next beach cleans, which take place on 7 September at Rottingdean, 5 October at Saltdean or 2 November at Ovingdean, all from 11am-12.30pm. All equipment will be provided or feel free to bring your own. For more information, please search "thedeansvolunteers" on Instagram or Facebook. Hope to #seeyouonthebeach!

Brian Aikens



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• LONGHILL SCHOOL •

As you read this, the new term will have begun: an exciting time for our Y7 pupils! They are the only pupils in the city to have their own dining hall, toilets and dedicated classrooms to help them to transition to secondary school. Hopefully they will join some of our fantastic 41 extra-curricular clubs.

We continue to work closely with our local primary schools, with our sports leaders running sports days for them; our science ambassadors holding investigation workshops and our computing teachers educating Y6 pupils here at Longhill.

Last year our pupils had the opportunity to go to Madrid, Montpelier or skiing in Andorra, and in 2026 we are taking our Y8 & 9 football teams to PSV Eindhoven for a few days of professional training and fun! This is to recognise the immense talent we have in our small school: five cup finals and league winners two years in a row!

Our new PTFA is working hard to raise funds for us and support the school, please get in touch if you would like to help: head@longhill.org.uk Best wishes from Longhill High School,

Rachelle Otulakowski, Headteacher



• ST MARGARET'S PRIMARY SCHOOL •

As another fantastic school year ended at St M's, we reflected on the many learning opportunities, creative projects and cultural experiences that have filled our classrooms and playgrounds this year. A heartfelt thank you goes to our brilliant staff and pupils who make our school such a vibrant and nurturing place to be.



We said a fond farewell to our amazing Year 6 class. They've been a joy to teach and we're incredibly proud of all they've achieved. We wish them every happiness and success as they begin their next adventure. At the same time, we've had the pleasure of welcoming new families to St M's, and we look forward to them becoming part of our school community in the autumn term.

The summer term has been packed with exciting events and memorable moments. Our talented school choir performed at the Rottingdean Summer Fair, Year 6 took part in surf lifesaving training on the beach, and we even had a surprise visit from an Egyptian Mummy as part of a history enrichment day! Of course, we also enjoyed our much-loved sports day, the Year 6 leavers' performance and the annual summer festival too.

To stay updated on all the exciting things happening at St M's, follow us on Facebook at St Margaret's School Rottingdean. You are always welcome to come and see us in action – do contact the school office, as we have spaces in some year groups!

Best Wishes,

Rachel Kershaw (Headteacher) & all the St M's team



• OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC • CHURCH, WHITEWAY LANE

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Fr. Stephen Hardaker 01273 302903 Deacon Bernard Hill 07505 460888

Parish Office open: Tuesdays & Fridays, 8.30am – 12 noon, Eastfield, Steyning Road.

SUNDAY MASSES

6.30pm (Sat) Our Lady of Lourdes Church

9.00am St Patrick's (Woodingdean)

10.30am Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Weekday Masses:

No Mass on Wednesday. Monday at St Martha's Convent, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9:30am at OLOL Church. Saturday 10.00am at OLOL Church

If there is a funeral mass – mass times may change. Please check website/newsletter.

Holy Days of Obligation : masses 9:30am and 7:30pm

Confessions on Saturday at OLOL after 10.00am Mass and 5.45-6.15pm. Tuesdays 10.00 – 10.30am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Saturday 10am at OLOL

Times of other Devotions (Rosary and Divine Mercy) and services can be found in the Newsletter and on the Website and Notice Board on Steyning Road.

Feasts :

18 September the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 14 September the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 29 September SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels, 9 October St John Henry Newman, 19 October St Philip Howard, 2 November All Saints, 3 November All Souls, 23 November Christ the King, 1 December St Andrew, 8 December the Immaculate Conception, 25 December Nativity of the Lord, 26 December St Stephen, 28 December the Holy Family.

Hall Events:

Weekly : Monday Standing Tall, Thursday Breakfast Club 10am (Everyone welcome), Friday 10am Coffee after mass.

Monthly: First Monday of the month 7-9pm Hand in Hand. Second Tuesday of every month 10am Ministry of Consolation Meeting (everyone who is suffering a bereavement is welcome to attend).

• OUR LADY OF LOURDES RC PRIMARY SCHOOL •

And just like that, the 2024/2025 year ended here at OLOL, excitement as well as nostalgia filling the air as I write. After years of learning, friendships, and growth, these young students are now ready to take the next big step. Some will head to large secondary schools such as Cardinal Newman, while others will attend smaller, specialized schools focused on particular interests or skills. With strong foundations and encouragement, the future looks bright for every child leaving OLOL.

Our brand-new Career AxIs project was a great success. Inspiring guests came in to spark children's curiosity about the world of work. People like Paralympic Gold medallist and Strictly Come Dancing star Will Bayley and DJ Fat Boy Slim (Norman Cook) gave engaging talks and shared their stories.

We are looking forward to welcoming our full Reception class in September. If you'd like to apply for a school place for your child, for September 2026 we'd love to hear from you! Feel free to get in touch with us anytime. You can reach us on 01273 306980 or email us at michellericetti@lourdes.brighton-hove.sch.uk and we can book you into an open event.

Michelle Ricetti, Family Liaison Officer



• FOOTBALL CLUB •

We celebrated the end of last season with our annual club presentation event attended by more than three hundred players, parents and grandparents. Each player received an award, the photo shows the under 11 team receiving theirs. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made the event such a success.

We now turn look forward to the new season. Our club continues to grow, and we have increased the number of youth teams. We now have youth teams at most age groups and still have room for one or two players if your child is interested. Please contact us at the number below. We have also started a new adult team which plays on Saturday afternoons at the sports field on Falmer Road, so come along and support your local team.

Finally, if you thought your playing days were over, we run a Walking Football group. We have many players in their 60s and 70s (some younger members too) who enjoy a bit of exercise and socialising at our sessions on Wednesday mornings. Collectively this group has more replacement knees than original working parts, but that doesn't have to be an obstacle to playing! For more information contact Keith on 07803 899472.

Keith Meeres



• CRICKET CLUB •

Sad news from Australia that Peter Ledden, brother of Dorian, had died. I must be one of the few people to remember seeing him play for Sussex! He was a favourite amongst us schoolgirls! He was very handsome and hit the ball so hard. He captained Rottingdean in the 1970's before emigrating to Australia. A dynamic batsman and agile fielder. Here is Peter (on right) on a recent visit to Rottingdean to see his family. Dorian Ledden and their 2 sisters.



On the home front our teams have had a mixed first part of the season. The 1st XI started badly but have since pulled up and sit in the middle of Div. 3 East table. Sean Campleman has run into his best batting form. Good to see Josh Gilbert from Longhill School forging a place in the 1st team. The 2nd XI made a good start in Div. 6 Central but have fallen behind of late. Holidays, weddings, etc. all take their toll of availability on Saturdays. Josh Woolcott made a great hundred against Crawley recently and it is a good experience for young players to try the higher divisions. The youngsters of Rottingdean Raiders have been playing in the 5th X

and doing well. 3 girls!

It is heartening to have so many youngsters at the Friday evening session and again thanks to those who coach and run teams. Gail Bettsworth and daughter Mollie have kept the kettle boiling and bar open for all home games.

Thanks to the captains and those behind the scenes who do the wicket, clean up, etc. Do pop in and watch us – we are at home every Saturday. You will be welcomed!

Frances Low

• NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH •

Q) What is Anti-Social Driving? A) Driving that is careless, aggressive, dangerous including speeding, mobile phone use when driving, dangerous overtaking etc.

Operation Crackdown is an initiative run by Sussex Police, Road Safety Team, which gives communities an opportunity to report driving incidents as well as abandoned cars. More details in the next issue of RVN.

NOT A NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEMBER YET ? For more information about Neighbourhood Watch contact Secretary 01273 306441 email nhw.sro-sec@hotmail.co.uk

• BOWLING CLUB •

This summer, the green has never been busier! We're thrilled that our players have made their mark at county and national levels. Congratulations to Bob Markham in the Men's four wood Singles and made it to the semifinals. Adele Wakefield has been consistently successful in the County competitions, claiming victories in the Ladies Pairs alongside partner Sue Ford, and in the Mixed Pairs with Anthony Brown. Adele also secured a win in the Ladies Singles, although it came at the expense of fellow club member Sue Ford in a closely contested and respectful match. We're so proud of the way our players have represented Rottingdean.



For Ladies Day, our Ladies hosted Brighton and Hove Rock Choir for a fun afternoon learning to play bowls and enjoying afternoon tea. One of summer's most anticipated social events is the friendly Gents vs Ladies match, the men taking on catering duties "surprising everyone with their culinary skills". Annual Tournament Day had 16 teams competing in a round-robin format in a friendly atmosphere. Lunch and afternoon tea thanks to our volunteers ensures a wonderful mix of bowls, delicious food, and community spirit. A big thank-you to our generous sponsors, Yeomans Toyota, whose support helps make the day a success. We will also run a well-supported tombola, with some of the proceeds going to the Connor Saunders Foundation, a cause close to many of our hearts. As always, we are deeply grateful to our volunteers, without whom none of these events would be possible.

Whether you're competing in matches, enjoying a casual roll-up, or just joining us for a cup of tea and a chat, your presence is what makes Rottingdean Bowling Club such a special place.

Sue Henning

• CROQUET CLUB •

Living in the grounds of the Horsted Place Hotel near Uckfield, provides a lucky pair of deer an idyllic lifestyle for 364 days of the year as they graze and roam undisturbed in the adjacent woodlands and grassland. The one blot on their annual calendar is when over thirty members of Rottingdean Croquet Club invade in June and set up two croquet courts in the rear garden of this majestic building. It's the Club's annual Away Day when over half the membership of the Club arrive signalling an abrupt, temporary 'all change' in the lifestyle of the resident ruminants.



They look on as the players, dressed in whites and wielding mallets, strike large, coloured balls through a metal hoop with varying amounts of success. While some aim at the hoop, others decide to strike their ball against their opponent's ball at speed which, hit or miss, ends up with the balls flying in all directions. The ever-vigilant deer must leap over these spherical missiles. The Club's skilled wildlife photographer was able to catch such a moment.

All goes quiet at lunch time as the members retire inside and partake of the fine cuisine on offer, but this does not fool the animals. They have seen this too many times to be lulled into thinking that all is now clear and are proved right when the players emerge and the madness recommences. Come late afternoon, the activity stops, the players applaud the winners of the day, clear away all the paraphernalia and make their way home to Rottingdean leaving the deer to resume the enjoyment of their tranquil surroundings for another year.

However, don't get too comfortable you two - in the words of Arnie, "We'll be back."

Brian Aikens

To advertise to 1450+ Rottingdean homes, contact rvnadvertising@gmail.com

• FRIENDS OF BEACON HILL •

Summer on a sunny day is a lovely time of year on Beacon Hill. The grass is tall, many species of plants are flowering, and this year there seem to be plenty of insects about. One plant which we have noticed more frequently in recent years especially on the village side of the hill is common ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*). Ragwort contains potent toxins which can cause liver failure in grazing animals (especially in young animals), including horses, ponies, donkeys, deer and cattle, although sheep appear to eat it without apparent injury. It is also quite invasive; a single plant can produce up to 200,000 seeds which can lay dormant in the soil for as long as 20 years.



However, it is a wonderful plant for wildlife. At least 30 insect and 14 fungi species live on nothing else, and about one third of those are nationally scarce or rare. Probably the most familiar insect associated with ragwort is the Cinnabar Moth, a striking black and red moth often disturbed from the low vegetation on which it spends the day. The black and gold caterpillars of this moth gorge themselves on ragwort, starting off by eating the developing seeds before moving onto the leaves. In sufficient numbers, Cinnabar Moth caterpillars make effective biological control, as they eat all parts of the plant. We have been removing some plants in areas on the hill where it is becoming dominant whilst leaving sufficient to support wildlife.

The Friends of Beacon Hill are a welcoming group of volunteers who help maintain this wonderful natural environment for all to enjoy. We meet at 10 AM on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Friday of each month at the Beacon Hub for a 2-hour session. You can contact us at FOBeaconHill@gmail.com and Facebook page [@beaconhillrottingdean](https://www.facebook.com/beaconhillrottingdean) for up-to-date info.

Andrew Rose

www.thedeansseniorteacub.org registered charity no 1191298

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We reached out to Dr Suzen urgently late Sunday night as our beautiful boy Mousie had collapsed after a short illness. We wanted him to have a peaceful and gentle parting and that's exactly what Dr Suzen gave us. We were given so much time before, during and after to be with him and say our goodbyes and Dr Suzen was so very respectful and gentle with our boy and with us. We take great comfort knowing that he didn't feel any pain or distress and died with a little smile on his face. Thank you so much for helping us navigate through this.

Heather



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