

The Rotherwick News

December 2024

Volume 36 Edition 12

Happy Christmas Everyone!



*This month's front cover photo was taken
one misty morning this month by Ruth Booker.*

Get Gardening



I don't know about anyone else but I haven't done a lot of gardening this month as the ground is so wet although there isn't really a lot to be done at this time of year. The climbing rose does need pruning but it is still in leaf so can be left a while but thankfully the leaves are off the trees and we can now see the grass. My vegetable garden even with its raised beds has suffered from the wet once again. I dug up one of my celeriac only for my hand to come in contact with a whole lot of what I can only describe as slime! Despite advice to leave root vegetables in the ground until needed it was completely rotten. I was hoping my turnips might have fared better but they too have suffered and seem, at least according to the RHS website, to have been infested by cabbage root fly. Apparently I should have been more vigilant and checked the plants in spring before any damage occurred (www.rhs.org.uk/biodiversity/cabbage-root-fly). Another lesson learned!

One success in the garden despite the ground being waterlogged was a cutting I took from a Banksia (a thornless rose with tiny flowers). After sticking the cutting in the ground in winter last year it's now gone 'bananas'! As it's a rambler I'm hoping it will take over from the ivy that is dying on an old wall. I have done this with other roses and am amazed that from just a stick (cutting) stuck in the ground a new plant emerges. So hopefully come spring next year the Banksia will have an abundance of flowers and look just like this picture, fingers crossed.

wikipedia.org/wiki



I often have a problem keeping indoor plants alive which is annoying as I do like to have cyclamens during December. However, I've just read an RHS guide on how to make them last bit longer at least: keep them cool, water carefully by standing in water when dry, remove spent flowers and feed once a month after flowering (something I've never done!) . Oh, and yes, in July repot them with some new compost. It will be a miracle if I can keep one until July!

This year does seem to be a good year for berries. There are lots of lovely bright red berries on skimmias and cotoneasters and the ivy berries are being devoured by the pigeons who all look well fed. There do seem to be more than last year so it will be interesting to see if the old wives tale that a lot of berries means a hard winter comes true.

Mind you, some say that lots of berries is just due to the weather that has passed and not a prediction of the future. Other signs I'd not heard of before are geese leaving early, lots of foggy days during August, an abundance of acorns and thick hair on the nape of a cows neck (www.farmersalmanac./20-signs-of-a-hard-winter-ahead). I shall be having a good look at the cows when off for a walk.



All the berries we have will be good for Christmas decorations and wreath making and a cold dry winter would be preferable to a wet soggy one. I don't think a lot of our garden plants would survive another very wet winter.

Catherine



We would like to thank Sophie for her part in delivering the Rotherwick News which would not exist without the help of our volunteers.

thank you

Sophie, your help has been very much appreciated, so thank you. We wish you and all our volunteers a very Happy Christmas.



After a very successful visit to the village hall earlier in the year, the Repair Café team are returning.



Welcome back to Rotherwick!

North Hampshire Repair Café



Coming to:
Rotherwick Village Hall
25th January: 10am till 1pm

We repair most household stuff, including:

Electrical products

Computers

Furniture, indoor and garden

Sewing, clothing and textiles

Teddies and toys, clocks

Knives and garden tools sharpening

Jewellery, necklaces, etc

Bicycles

For more information and booking see:

- our Website - www.NHRC.uk

- Facebook.com/northhampshirerepaircafe

Part of the RepairCafe.org global network.
Supported by HCC, BDBC, Hart Rotary & others

ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL



To Be Or Not To Be

Have you ever considered what Rotherwick would look like if the Village Hall stood empty and unused. With no hirers of the hall, weddings etc coming and going, breathing life into the magnificent space, what would happen? Would unwelcome visitors take up residence in the car park? Would squatters move in, coming as they do, with all their squatters rights? The grounds, uncared for would be overgrown, the hedges growing every which way, weeds sprouting and brambles overtaking. The building would look sad, no longer the wonderful centre piece of our lovely village but a blot on the landscape.

Thanks to a donation made by Henry and Julia de Forest from Oysterbay, New York, USA the Hall was built. A Declaration of Trust was drawn up in 1931 (amended 2013) detailing how the Hall should operate. Under this trust the Hall should consist of up to ten elected management committee members.

There are currently four members on the committee.

The Hall, in order to 'stay alive', requires maintenance and in order to be maintained it needs an income. That income comes from various village groups, hiring on a weekly basis. Weddings take over whole weekends. Celebrations in the form of christening parties, birthdays. It has been booked for band rehearsals/recordings. The Hall has featured in television series too, booked through the booking secretary, a role separate from the committee and currently filled.

All of this and of course the maintenance is managed by the committee as well as wages paid, insurance, fire safety and certificates etc. Terms and conditions are written, altered, policies created- think covid and all that required. We meet once a month.

However, if those 4 resigned would paragraph 1 become a reality?

If the 4 became 8 the load would be shared.

If you would like to know more about the hall, the running of it and possibly joining I would be glad to show you around the hall, answer questions over a coffee in an informal setting with no obligation. If there is a lot of interest perhaps an open morning can be arranged on a drop in basis. I would be very pleased to meet you and you can put a face to at least one of the committee members!

Amanda Palmer

Contact me at mands789@icloud.com

Heckfield, Mattingley and Rotherwick Church Services

You are very welcome to join us in January 2025



SUNDAY

5th January

11am

HECKFIELD

Holy Communion

12th January

8.30am

11am

6.30pm

ROTHERWICK

Holy Communion

Morning Worship

Evensong

19th January

8.30am

11am

MATTINGLEY

Holy Communion

Matins

26th January

8.30am

11am

HECKFIELD

Holy Communion

Morning Worship

*www.whitewaterchurches.co.uk
Details of all our activities and services are on our website.
Download our Notice Sheet from the front page.*





Quiz of the Month

December Questions



MERRY CHRISTMAS



1. Always popular at Christmas, who wrote the book 'The Snowman' on which the TV animation was based?
2. The song 'Do You Want To Build A Snowman' comes from which Disney movie?
3. Which country did the USSR invade on Christmas Eve 1979?
4. Which UK Christmas number one hit single has this as its first line? 'Are you hanging up a stocking on your wall'?
5. From which European country did the modern-day tradition of a Christmas tree originate?
6. Which is the highest order in the hierarchy of Angels?
7. The modern Santa Claus was based on traditions surrounding which fourth-century Greek bishop?
8. In which Panto would you find King Rat?
9. Often used in Christmas floral displays, what is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*?
10. 'Clarion call for the loyalists' is a cryptic clue for which Christmas carol?

'Quizinquisitor'



Answers to last month's quiz are on page 17



A book from the box

Thought we would reprieve the book from the box... at least for this month.

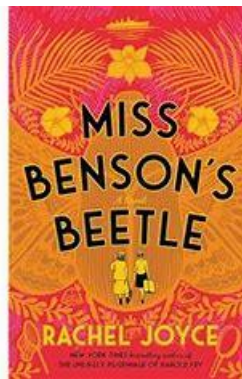


I tend to get stuck on the same go to authors as I am not very good at moving away from crime fiction and so called psychological thrillers—many of which are not what I think of as “psychological “. I think it is often just publisher hype to lure the reader into books which, in my opinion, are often lame and obvious. Not very psychological at all resulting in me suffering many disappointments!

Nor am I fan of romance novels as they don't hold my interest—I don't mind either way if the characters get together or not! So I was really pleased to discover this book recently. It is different to what I normally read with quirky characters and sufficient adventure to hold my interest.

The following is taken from Amazon's website.

It is 1950. In a devastating moment of clarity, Margery Benson abandons her dead-end job and advertises for an assistant to accompany her on an expedition. She is going to travel to the other side of the world to search for a beetle that may or may not exist. Enid Pretty, in her unlikely pink travel suit, is not the companion Margery had in mind. And yet together they will be drawn into an adventure that will exceed every expectation. They will risk everything, break all the rules, and at the top of a red mountain, discover their best selves.



This is a story that is less about what can be found than the belief it might be found; it is an intoxicating adventure story but it is also about what it means to be a woman and a tender exploration of a friendship that defies all boundaries.

Sue Scrutton

Do you have a book you have enjoyed? You could send in a short review to rotherwicknews@yahoo.co.uk.

Let's get the Book from the Box going again!

Rotherwick Village Hall
invites you
to a traditional

Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh

25th January '25

7pm for 7.30pm

at Rotherwick Village Hall

£30 pp to include

2 course meal

a wee dram

dancing until you drop

(or 11.30pm, whichever comes first)

For more information and tickets, contact
Ray at chairman@rvh.org.uk or 01256 763834

Bar 7pm until 11pm

Dress code: Smart evening attire
...maybe with a touch of tartan?



On her trip to Prague earlier this month, Sarah Douglas visited the astronomical clock and shared this with us.

The Prague Astronomical Clock, or Orloj, is one of the oldest astronomical clocks in the world and certainly one of the most famous. First installed in 1410, it adorns the southern wall of the Old Town Hall in Prague's Old Town Square.

The clock consists of several fascinating components:

The Astronomical Dial shows the position of the Sun and Moon in the zodiac, along with various measurements of time. It displays different time zones, including Babylonian time, Old Czech time, and modern time. The blue circle in the background represents the Earth, while the moving zodiacal ring shows the stars above Prague.



Below the astronomical dial is the Calendar Dial, added in 1490, which displays the months of the year with painted medallions representing the agricultural activities and rural life of each month.

The clock features animated figures that perform on the hour, including:

- Death (represented by a skeleton) ringing a bell
- Vanity looking in a mirror
- The Miser holding a bag of gold
- The Turk shaking his head
- The Twelve Apostles who parade through the windows above

According to legend, the city councilors had the clock's original creator, Master Hanuš, blinded after its completion to prevent him from building another clock as beautiful as Prague's. However, historical records show the clock was actually built by clockmaker Mikuláš of Kadaň and astronomer Jan Šindel.

The clock has undergone several major renovations throughout its history, including significant repairs after damage during World War II and a comprehensive restoration completed in 2018. During this latest renovation, many original mechanisms were restored and the clock's astronomical functions were precisely recalibrated.

Today, the Orloj remains one of Prague's most popular tourist attractions, drawing crowds who gather to watch the hourly show of moving figures and marvel at its intricate mechanical and astronomical features.



And breathe!



Dreamstime

We all need to escape the house at some point over Christmas so why not explore some of the great walks around us. The Hampshire Countryside Service has a great interactive map of walks online where you click on a walk of interest and it gives all the detail you need. Some of the walks even have an accompanying story to entertain children as you go along. Why not try the story of Henry the Forgetful in Greywell or the one about The Princess, the Pike and the Pond at Fleet Pond.

Fleet Pond is definitely worth exploring, it's the largest freshwater lake in Hampshire, plus the nature reserve has 141 acres of varied habitats and is a designated site of special scientific interest.

Alternatively with the recent torrid weather you may be opting for hunkering down away from the outside world and enjoying a seasonal tippie but just remember to take it easy as research shows fourteen different muscles are activated when opening a bottle of wine, so don't overdo it!

Marion



(Good advice Marion—wouldn't want to strain a muscle!).

Do you get recipes drop into your Facebook feed (assuming you are on Facebook of course). At this time of year I am constantly getting posts involving cranberry, brie and puff pastry so in case you've missed them or at least are not too bored with them I thought I would share one here. Also you might not be on Facebook and therefore the cranberry, brie and pastry extravaganza may have passed you by...

This particular one was posted by vjcooks.com and can be downloaded with video from the website.

Cranberry and Brie Wreath

Ingredients

- 1 sheet of puff pastry, thawed
- 125g Brie, sliced
- 100g cranberry sauce
- Handful of basil
- 1 egg, beaten



Method

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees fan.
2. Place the sheet of puff pastry on a large piece of baking sheet.
3. Press down a small bowl in the centre to make a mark.
4. Remove the bowl, then in the centre of the circle make 4 cuts as if cutting a pizza into 8 slices.
5. In a wreath shape, around this circle, spread the cranberry sauce. Layer up the sliced brie and basil on top of the cranberry sauce.
6. Take one piece of pastry from the centre, over the top of the filling and connect in with the edge of the wreath. Press down to seal. Repeat until the wreath is fully formed, cutting off corner pieces of pastry if necessary.
7. Brush the pastry with the beaten egg.
8. Place the wreath on the baking paper onto a baking tray and bake for 25 mins or until golden and cooked through.
9. Remove from the oven and allow to rest for 5 mins before cutting into pieces.

Sue

Thank you to Rotherwick Roamers Linda Pullen for the beautiful sky over Rotherwick and Sarah Taylor for Barney inspecting the damage caused by Storm Darragh.



HIDDEN TALENTS A-PLENTY

The Christmas Wreath Workshop at the village hall is becoming a bit of a tradition as it entered its 4th year.

A great evening was had by all and the wreaths were just beautiful...again.

See you all again next year for the 5th?





Patient Participation Group

January Update 2024

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), affects about **1% to 2%** of the population, particularly women and young people between the ages of 18 and 35, while a milder form of the winter blues may affect as many 10 to 20 percent of the population. The further north one lives (or south in the southern hemisphere) the more impact it has.

There are a number of approaches that can be used to enhance your mood and overall well-being and help you overcome SAD. Here are some examples many of which are free!

1) Maintain a Routine

Keeping a consistent daily schedule helps regulate your body's internal clock. Try to wake up and go to bed at the same time every day, even on weekends. Structure your day to include regular meal times, work periods, and time for relaxation.



2) Get Outside

Even on cloudy days, natural light can help improve your mood. Aim to spend at least 30 minutes outside every day. A brisk walk in the park during lunchtime when the sun is at its peak can make a huge difference.



3) Exercise Regularly

Physical activity is a natural mood booster. Aim for at 30 minutes or so of moderate exercise, like walking, swimming, or yoga most days of the week. Exercise releases endorphins, which can help alleviate symptoms of depression.



4) Stay Connected

Social interaction is crucial. Make plans to meet friends and family, join clubs or groups, and engage in social activities. Isolation can worsen SAD symptoms, so staying connected with others is important.



5) Eat a Balanced Diet

A healthy diet can improve your overall well-being. Include plenty of fruits, vegetables, lean proteins and whole grains in your diet. Avoid high-sugar and high-fat foods which can lead to energy crashes and worsen your mood.



6) Light Therapy

One of the most effective treatments for SAD is light therapy. Using a light box that mimics natural sunlight for about 20-30 minutes each morning can significantly improve your mood. Look for a light box that emits at least 10,000 lux of light.



7) Seek Professional Help

If your symptoms are severe, consider speaking with a mental health professional. They can offer therapy, medication or other treatments to help manage SAD.



Remember, taking small steps each day can lead to significant improvements in your mood and overall health over a period of time.

PPG Contact Details:

(Please Note: The PPG is unable to deal with any medical or personal matters)

Email: Whitewaterppg@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/WhitewaterPPG>

Practice/Surgery Contact Details :

Website: www.whitewaterhealth.nhs.uk

Telephone (Hartley Wintney - 01252 842087); (Hook - 01256-762125)

November Quiz Answers

1. What was the previous name of the London newspaper that recently moved to a once-a-week print edition under the new name The London Standard? **THE EVENING STANDARD**

2. Palatine, Capitoline and Esquiline are three of the what? **SEVEN HILLS OF ROME**

3. Who was the Roman God of Wine? **BACCHUS**

4. Surrey won the 2024 county cricket championship, but which county was runner-up? **HAMPSHIRE**

5. Which famous British car company was declared bankrupt in February 1971 and nationalised by the Government? **ROLLS ROYCE**

6. Often served with sushi, what is the more common name for the condiment that is also known as Japanese horseradish? **WASABI**

7. In 2009, Fortune magazine named it the fastest growing company in the world but by 2013 its stock price collapsed because it preferred keyboards over touchscreens. Which company? **BLACKBERRY**

8. What unit of measurement was originally defined as the length of three barleycorns? **INCH**

9. The 1968 film Planet of the Apes is set on which planet? **EARTH**

10. Which 1993 film had the tagline – 'What if someone you never met, someone you never saw, someone you never knew was the only someone for you'? **SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE**



ROTHERWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - HEALTH CHECK

Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2032 sets out the vision, objectives and planning policies by which the community wishes to shape future development in the Parish, enabling residents to conserve its rural character and identity and to influence design.

Our Neighbourhood Development Plan (the NDP) became effective as a planning document in December 2016. It was produced over a period of two years by a team of volunteers guided by a consultant with the support of the Parish Council. It was 'made' following a referendum.

The NDP covers planning topics supported by the Rotherwick community, though it cannot override strategic policies in higher level documents, in particular the Hart Local Plan (HLP) and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which take precedence.

Legislation does not require review of neighbourhood plans. However, if it is decided to review and update a neighbourhood plan, regulations define the process to be applied depending on the nature of modifications required. Except for the simplest cases, an update to a neighbourhood plan requires similar consultation and external examination stages.

Our NDP provides that the need for review will be considered every five years. In June 2024, the Parish Council engaged Troy Planning & Design to conduct a 'health check' to identify the modifications which might be needed to ensure the NDP policies remain up to date.

The health check assessed the NDP against HLP 2032 and NPPF December 2023. It also included dialogue with officers at Hart DC about time-scales for review of HLP 2032, with the prospect of an updated NPPF with new housing targets coming into law during 2025. Rotherwick Neighbourhood Plan Health Check Report V3' can be accessed at www.therwick.org.uk.

The Parish Council has decided not to proceed to update the NDP now, having concluded that:

Even though modifications to the NDP suggested in the Health Check Report do not change the nature of NDP, the updates would nonetheless

dictate consultations and external examination under the regulations to formalise an updated version as a 'made' NDP.

The discrepancies identified in the Health Check Report do not appear to be affecting practical operation of NDP policies in planning determinations. In fact, policies in HLP 2032, adopted in 2020 after the NDP was 'made', generally align well with its policies.

The benefit for Rotherwick of proceeding with a project to update of the NDP at this stage do not appear significant, when set against the cost/volunteer effort involved for a project of around 9 months.

The wider context is that Hart is expected to kick off a review of HLP 2032 in 2025, when new housing targets in an updated NPPF are introduced by the Government. An update to HLP 2032 would trigger a need to review the NDP, even if it is updated now.

The Parish Council considers that review of the Rotherwick Conservation Area Character Appraisal 2011 (older than the NDP) offers a more positive path to conservation area and character protection for Rotherwick at this stage.

An updated Conservation Area Character Appraisal could be available as part of the evidence base for the review of HLP2032 as well as for any future review of the NDP. The Parish Council intends to initiate this review, which has been taken by several neighbouring parish councils.

NDP review project_RN article_V1-0_9 Dec 24

Still standing after Storm Bert...



You may remember Amanda's hidden fence building talents. Well she must be good after the storms we've had...



Dr Hilary Jones Opens Luxury Care Home Elm Lodge in Hartley Wintney

The grand opening ceremony took place at 1pm on Tuesday 10th December. Cutting the ribbon was Dr Hilary Jones, who has made regular appearances on ITV programmes reporting on medical stories, including updates on Covid-19 during the pandemic, and who started his career as a GP in Basingstoke.

Dr Hilary praised the care home's facilities; "It is beautifully designed with residents in mind, the garden is wonderful, there are lots of different facilities for residents to enjoy, every room has a different atmosphere to it. There are opportunities for socialising, which is very important for elderly residents, there is a café, there is catering which is really good. It is better than a five-star hotel because residents have the quality of care too."

Director of Forest Care Ltd, Mark Vickery said "It was a lot of hard work, but it was worth it. There are all sorts of facilities including a self-playing piano! Care homes move on and develop over time, so this is very different from those we have built before, it is bigger and better. There are a lot of people who have worked very hard to get to this point so it has been a big team effort."

Elm Lodge is a purpose-built 60-bed luxury residential care home set in three acres of stunning landscaped grounds. As part of the Forest Care group, residents at Elm lodge benefit from over 43 years of caring experience and five-star hospitality led by resident's choice in this brand-new eco-friendly facility.

Alongside their luxury fully furnished bedrooms with ensuite wet rooms, courtyard, paddock or countryside views, smart TVs, telephones, complimentary Wi-Fi, and 24-hr call system, Elm Lodge has a home cinema, hair and beauty salon, café, restaurant, on-site activity and hospitality teams, a dedicated activities room, a family room, multiple spacious lounges and break-out areas. The reception area boasts a self-playing baby grand piano and provides a relaxing space for residents and visitors to unwind with refreshments or just sit and watch the world go by.

Complementing these features, is an extensive outdoor environment offering multiple tranquil spaces to entertain or unwind, including beautifully landscaped gardens, a summer house, a peaceful courtyard and terraces, wheelchair-friendly raised planters, a residents' gardening club, and even EV charging points.

The all-inclusive fee includes complimentary hairdressing, a nail bar, chiropody, physiotherapy, trips out (12-seater wheelchair-friendly mobility vehicle available) and the many other facilities Elm Lodge has to offer.

Forest Care is a family-owned company providing care since 1981. They are very proud of their award-winning care homes that are "homes" in the truest sense and thank their local communities for trusting them to care for their loved ones.

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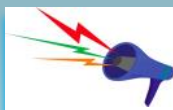
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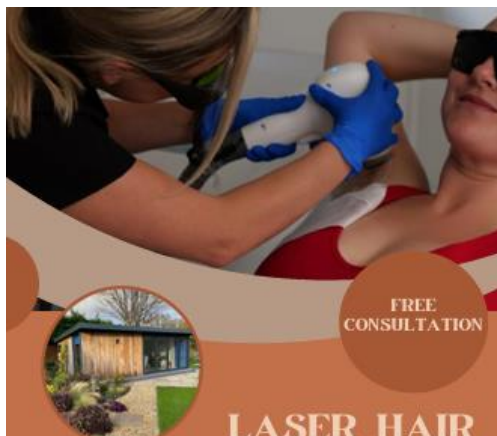
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The magazine is distributed to all houses in the village and contains the personal data sent in by readers, residents, advertisers, charities, local organisations and members of the wider community. The magazine is also published and stored securely on the Rotherwick Parish Council website forming an historical archive of village life. If you do not want your photos or other personal data to be published on their website please contact the Rotherwick News editors at rotherwicknews@yahoo.co.uk

A note about photos

It is great to have photos in the Rotherwick News to add interest and bring an article to life. A picture paints a thousand words as they say. However, the editors are aware that photos are also personal data and as such will take every care to ensure that privacy is respected.

Before publishing any photo, the editors will always seek your permission, or in the case of children, the permission of the parents before publishing any photos sent in by a third party. This will be sought either verbally, by email or text. You may be asked to give written permission for the photo to be used. This maybe in the form of an affirmative reply to an email or text. It will be assumed that by sending in a photo of yourselves, including your children, you are giving permission for it to be published in print and online. NB: photos of children are not published in the online version.

For more information on the collection and publication by the magazine of personal data, please contact the editors at rotherwicknews@yahoo.co.uk for a copy of our Privacy Policy.

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Rotherwick Village Hall	Booking Secretary	secretary@rvh.org.uk



Macmillan Nurses

I'm sure you all know of the work they do in support of Cancer Patients and their families.

They are always in need of more cash but this doesn't need to be the folding stuff! If you save your old inkjet cartridges they can be recycled and Macmillan receives the cash.

The Village Magpies have agreed to take them or just put them in an old envelope and pop them through my door "Feldheim" Wedmans Lane.

Inkjet cartridges ONLY originals or compatibles.

Looking Ahead



10th January— Village lunch at the Coach & Horses. To book, please contact Tony Merricks anthony@merricks.me.uk
NB this is a change from the 9th as the C&H are closed.

25th January '25 Repair Café at the village hall—see page 4

25th January '25 Burns Night Ceilidh at the village hall—see page 9

That would be good to go in the Rotherwick News!"



Thank you to the people who have contributed to this month's magazine.

Please keep your articles and photos coming—they bring the magazine to life and it is so interesting to see and read about people we all know and love.

As always you can send photos and articles to
rotherwicknews@yahoo.co.uk by 10th of the month.
What could be easier?



Please visit www.rotherwick.org.uk
for Rotherwick Parish information and sign up for Parish Alerts