

The Rotherwick News

August /September 2025

Volume 37 Edition 8

It is a Mystery to Me



A notice in the Telephone Box caught my eye recently. 'Welcome to Rotherwick Library' with a smiley face added. It must have been carefully measured and cut to fit into one of the window frames.

Looking beyond the sign, into the telephone box, as you can see from the photo, all the books are tidy, the right way up, the titles easy to see as you browse. A lovely no smoking sign as a reminder to stub it out before you step in (may be an original feature!) and a Rotherwick News clearly seen in its own special box.

Indeed, it has been wonderfully transformed from a phone box to a library for the use of the village.

BUT ... who cares for this special little place? Does everybody know but me or are we all wondering?

Whoever it is, and I'm sure the rest of Rotherwick will agree, we are grateful that you care, grateful that you make it a welcome little space.

Thank you.



Looking Ahead...



Fri 29th August

Rotherwick Walking and Friendship Group 10.15 am.
Meet outside the village hall. See page 5 for more details and more dates.

Thursday 4th September Village lunch at The Coach and Horses. To book, please contact Tony Merricks at anthony@merricks.me.uk

Thursday 11th September Crafty Cuppa at the village hall. 10.30—12.30. £2 Everyone welcome.

September Church Services See page 11 for dates.



Get Gardening



With my sweet corn now netted I was pleased to see the cobs forming and the 'hairy bits' starting to brown, apparently indicating they may be soon ready for picking. I read on the internet that to test their ripeness you pierce a kernel and if a milky liquid comes out they are ripe, if its clear they are not yet ready. Armed with a fork I peeled back the covering of the cob only for a hairy caterpillar to drop out! Since coming across the hairy oak processionary caterpillars in France which are toxic I'm wary of anything small and hairy! I first thought this might be a brown tail caterpillar which can cause rashes and breathing problems but I think, thankfully, it is a knot grass moth (ukmoths.org.uk) and although rather a good looking caterpillar it turns into the most boring grey moth! Has anyone else come across these when growing corn on the cob? I haven't inspected the rest of the cobs but when I do I will be inspecting them thoroughly and wearing gloves. It is apparently okay to still eat the cob (I did wonder) as long as I don't find any holes or evidence of it being eaten (how do farmers produce anything!). As the caterpillar is also found on other plants I'm now wondering where else are these hiding.



Is it the hot weather that is producing a lot more bugs this year? The figs are being eaten by wasps and my courgettes look deformed and are bulging. Although it seems this may be due to erratic watering (hopefully) or a viral infection (hopefully not) (gardeningknowhow.com). I'm just waiting for something to eat the raspberries or for the runner beans to get some disease.

On the plus side I've loads of cucumbers but I do sometimes wonder if growing my own fruit and vegetables is worth it, at the moment I could quite easily give up and stick to flowers!

Catherine.

(We know what you mean ...with the weather and wildlife/insects, growing veggies does seem to be a bit of a battle).



The Rotherwick Walkers

WALK – Wednesday 30th July

Wow! What a good turnout we had for this walk given that many of our regulars were away. Having anticipated about nine walkers we were very pleasantly surprised to welcome seventeen, including two new faces. The walk was led by the lovely Roisin who advised us that it was to be a slightly longer walk and there was an opportunity for a pit stop to have coffee and cake. Honestly, I have never seen the group set off so quickly.



The walk itself was just shy of 5.5 miles and took us down to the end of Wedmans Lane, passing through the Black Wood onto Bottle Lane. From there we went through some beautiful fields full of oats to Vicarage Lane,



through one gate and suddenly we were most surprised to find that we were in the grounds of the Plant Centre at Hortus Locci. Once inside there was a rush to the coffee shop. Some of us stopped and were in awe of the world's largest plant pot that was hidden in the grounds. Clearly, none of our group have coffee and cake at home as, within a very short time, there were drinks and cakes aplenty. Even the dogs were provided with sausage

treats. We were all very well looked after it is fair to say! We returned the same way we had gone albeit a bit slower.

It really was a lovely walk which was very much enjoyed by the group and is another that will be most definitely repeated in the future. I get a great deal of pleasure when our walks take us to places I have not personally explored previously. This is especially so when some of our walkers who, despite having lived here for hundreds of years, also discover new walks, paths, tracks and places to enjoy themselves.



There was not a great deal of wildlife spotted on this particular walk but

we did see a white horse, a red kite and a lost looking Meerkat.

The Sweets of the Day were Percy Pigs.

Thank you to all who attended. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as I did. We really do have such a lovely group with so many interesting, kind and knowledgeable people.

I look forward to seeing you all on our next walk which will involve water. Just hopefully not being in it.

“Walking: The most Ancient exercise and still the best Modern exercise” – Carrie Latet

A fun, friendly and very welcoming group of walkers, friends and canine companions. All walks meet outside the village hall at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. The next walks will be held on:

Friday 29th August 2025

Monday 8th September 2025

Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Wednesday 8th October 2025

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Lovely walks around the village of approximately 4 miles and lasting just under two hours followed by refreshments in the local hostelry if required (it usually is). We hope to see as many of you joining us as possible!

If this sounds like something you would be interested in getting involved in – either regularly or whenever you can – it would be great to hear from you. We have a Facebook page “Rotherwick Walkers’ or send an email to rwsq25@gmail.com and I will be in touch!

Steve Cooper



Quiz of the Month

August Questions

- 1. Which Asian country has announced it plans to nominate US President Donald Trump for a Nobel Peace Prize?**
- 2. What cheese do competitors chase after in a famous annual event called the Cooper's Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake?**
- 3. Born in 1986 and retired in 1999, what breed of dog was the Blue Peter pet Bonnie?**
- 4. Which of King Henry VIII's wives was the first to be beheaded?**
- 5. What is the name of the dead court jester whose skull is exhumed by a gravedigger in a famous scene from the William Shakespeare play Hamlet?**
- 6. Which supermarket group opened its first shop in the UK in Birmingham in April 1990?**
- 7. Starting in September 2024, the Short n' Sweet Tour is the first arena tour by which chart-topping female singer?**
- 8. In March 1977, the rings of which planet in our solar system were discovered?**
- 9. Established in the 11th century, the oldest university in continuous operation in the world is in which country?**
- 10. Where was the recent state banquet for President Macron held?**

'Quizinquisitor'

Answers to last month's quiz are on page 17



Community Spirit

Earlier this month an incident occurred in Rotherwick that required a search party. An appeal was made on facebook and indeed the village turned out in force to help. All was well in the end, with the lost party found. It is always heartening to know what a wonderful village we live in where we all pull together.

The North Hampshire Repair Café July Update



In July, we had our first event in Hook and we had a great turnout, including support from our Hart Councillor, Derek Smith.

Savings to date

£85,224

2.43 tons not in landfill

15.6 tons avoided greenhouse gasses

Last meeting (Hook)

71 repair requests

67% fix rate

Most unusual item at last meeting - a machete

Next meeting

30th August - Sherfield-on-Loddon, Village Hall, 10:00-13:00 (10:30 for customers not booking online). See nhrc.uk for more details and make a booking.

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/northhampshirerepaircafe

Thanks, Simon G from the NHRC team

ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL

Monthly News



Nothing to report this month, the Hall is ticking along as usual, taking a well-earned rest from many of our termly regular bookings which include

- * Mother and Toddlers- Monday morning
- * Zumba and Ballroom – Tuesday morning and evening
- * Choir – Wednesday evening
- * Badminton – Thursday

Bookings taken for celebratory events including weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties etc. Contact Sue Whistler, the booking secretary—see back page for details.

If you have never been inside the hall and would like a tour let us know

Mands789@icloud.com



WEDDING NEWS

Last month I reported that Jenny and her partner Mike have stepped down from the Village Hall. This month I can report that ‘partner Mike ‘ is now ‘HUSBAND Mike’.

They got married !! Many congratulations to you both.
You see Rotherwick, dreams can come true and all it took was a spell on the village hall committee.



The Village Hall Committee



Photo Gallery



Same field - very
different skies.



Thanks to John
Cutler for these
fabulous views
across the field.

Can you spot the little fella?

A Message from Helen



I hope that as you read this you have the opportunity to rest and recharge over the summer - whether at home or away. Both as a church and as a community it is always hard to see people move away. I have only been around for the last 6 months but the Burridge family have had such an impact on me in that short time, I can only imagine the impact they have had on this community in the years they have been in the village. We will miss them but wish them well on their new journey in Salisbury. They go with huge gratitude from the church community for all they have done but we also welcome Jason Drury who steps into Steve's shoes as Churchwarden of Rotherwick.

September sees the launch of a weekly service in Rotherwick at 11am and we look forward to welcoming you if you want to come and join us - coffee and pastries after the service and all are welcome. Enjoy the last of the summer as we look towards the autumn and remember to pause and take time just to be.

From September until further notice the pattern of services will be as follows

1 st Sunday	11am Family Communion Rotherwick
2 nd Sunday	8:30am BCP Communion Rotherwick 11 am Family Worship 18:30 Evensong
3 rd Sunday	8:30am BCP Communion Mattingley 11 am Mattins Mattingley 11 am Family worship Rotherwick
4 th Sunday	8:30am BCP Communion Heckfield 11am Family Worship Rotherwick

Our plan is to hold harvest on 5th October in Rotherwick at the 11

Birthday Celebrations

A lovely Sunday afternoon in his beautiful garden seemed the ideal venue to celebrate Ray Beech's "BIG" birthday.

With the sun shining brightly if slightly blighted by the pesky wasps - who had not been invited. A beautifully arranged gathering enjoyed drinks and smashing food.

Family friends & neighbours gathered to celebrate, made all the more memorable by Ray's great granddaughter being present at just a few weeks old. So 4 generations gathered together for a very special party for a very special man of the village.



Happy birthday

Mr Rotherwick!



Lynnda Pullen

The Wessex Chamber Choir

Come and Sing Event

The Wessex Chamber Choir along with Music Director Oliver Tarney, are due to hold a Come and Sing Event and would love you to join them.

They will be singing The Armed Man; a Mass for Peace by Karl Jenkins.

The event will be held on Saturday 20th September 2025 in The United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke RG21 7NU.

Registration is at 09:30am and the rehearsal commences at 10am. There will be a lunch break at 1pm with a performance at 2pm which is free of charge, but donations would be welcome. The cost for singers is £20, to include music hire and light refreshments. Under 21s will be £5.

For more information, or to book tickets, please see the web-site: www.wessexchamberchoir.co.uk

Your Privacy, Photos and the Rotherwick News



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.

Rotherwick Cycling Club

Last month the Rotherwick Cycling Club fulfilled a long-held dream. With thanks to our wives and families, we extended our annual summer tour to two weeks and cycled the length of the UK. We'd been talking about doing this 'end to end' adventure since 2017, and the recently retired Iain Moore and Steve Burrige, told us they were doing it whether the rest of us were coming or not!

The most southerly point in the UK is on the Isles of Scilly and the most northerly point is on the Shetland Isles. To make the logistics easier, Land's End and John O'Groats (LEJOG) have become the accepted end to end points, which 3,000 people a year journey

between. Despite this accepted convention, after 1,000 miles of cycling, Jonnie Wills insisted we cycle an additional five miles to Dunnet Head to ensure we really did do the length of mainland UK. We gazed across to the Orkneys in magnificent sunshine and basked in the achievement of what we'd accomplished over the past 14 days. The fact that a few weeks earlier, Sarah Ruggins had cycled it both ways JOGLE-LEJOG in five and a half days, setting a new women and men's record, didn't diminish our feeling that we'd possibly made The Rotherwick Cycling Club a credible sporting outfit.

At times on the trip this new-found athletic credibility was brought into question; the calories devoured in Cornish cream scones, Kendall mint cake, Scottish Tablet and Ironbrew milkshakes, the beers chugged at Durty Brewery Innerleithen and Black Isle Brewery Inverness, Steve's back wheel inexplicably falling off as we ascended Cheddar Gorge (due to not being screwed on).

On other gruelling but great days, we felt like true cyclists; ascending Glenshee the highest public road in the UK, climbing The Leicht with 20% gradients into a Scottish Ski Resort, our day in Devon through Dartmoor with over 7,000ft of climbing elevation. Long fast descents on smooth black tarmac, racing along the river Wye, dropping down from Shap Fell and hammering between Loch Shin and Loch Naver.



Except for two freezing cold hours in pouring rain into Lancaster, every pedal stroke was accompanied with wide grins of relaxed enjoyment.

The bicycle, seemed to us, to be the perfect mode of transport. It's fast enough to cover relatively large distances, which in the ever-changing UK ensures the next day is uniquely different from the previous; carboniferous grey limestone turns to Triassic red sandstone, blue hydrangeas turn to pink, beautifully barren moors with stunted asymmetrical krummholz trees turn to verdant pastures and oak woodlands. In a car, it's a bit too quick to allow the senses time to take in the subtle changes in landscape and scenery; the scent of the Scottish Pines, the cabbage whites against the pink willow herb, the burnt smell of ash from charred heather. Before the trip we had a slight worry that it could become tiresome or boringly repetitive, but it never did, every day brought something unexpected to laugh at, talk about and appreciate.



Towards the end of the trip, one of our wives messaged to say that Vicar Helen mentioned us in the morning worship at Whitewater school. We were all feeling great about this until I read the full message at dinner, and

it turned out she talked about the school's value of courage and how a group of old men from the village cycled the whole of the UK and some were older so would need more courage! As it turned, Steve's van was the only one that didn't make it the whole way, we had to abandon her in Perth !

We were raising money for polycystic kidney disease which my wife Rachelle suffers from. You can scan this QR code if you'd like to sponsor.

Mike Edwards's
JustGiving Page



The Rotherwick Cycling Club head out every Sunday (all year round) and every Wednesday evening in the summer, and we'd welcome anyone from the village to join us for a ride. Drop Mike Edwards a note on 07799071727 and we'll add you to the Group Chat.





We are now
**Hook Odiham and Hartley
Wintney Lions Club**

Your local Lions Club has a new name!

We are proud to officially announce our new name. The addition of Hartley Wintney now better reflects the geographical area we serve. Our Lions Club covers the nine parishes of Greywell, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Long Sutton (including Well), Mattingley, Odiham (including North Warnborough), **Rotherwick**, South Warnborough and Winchfield. Adding Hartley Wintney to our club name makes sense as Hook, Odiham and Hartley Wintney are the three largest parishes and their geographic relationship to one another more clearly defines our area.

Yes, the name is a bit long to say, so you can simply call us the Lions when talking to us or about us. However, to differentiate us from neighbouring Lions Clubs, with a little imagination, the acronym version—HOWHL Club—can be pronounced 'howl' Club making it easier at meetings and events.

Our registered charity status and number remain unchanged, however, there will be changes to our website, social media, emails, shirt logos . . . As we go through this transition, our old and new websites, email addresses, and social media channels will all stay live. You can still reach us anytime and keep up with what we're working on!

Along with a new name, we also have a 14 weeks social media campaign underway to help you get to know WHO and WHAT your Lions Club is and a recruitment campaign for new members. We are an active club with big plans and we may be the club for you!

Lion Lynn Sandford
Lions Phone, text, or WhatsApp on 07817 886 002
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



www.hookandodihamlions.co.uk

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.



July Quiz Answers

1. Little Gem, Lollo Rosso and Red Salad Bowl are all types of what? **LETTUCE**
2. Manchego cheese is made from the milk of which animal? **SHEEP**
3. The Victoria Cross was introduced to reward acts of extreme bravery in which war? **CRIMEAN**
4. Who was the driver of "Ivor the Engine"? **JONES THE STEAM**
5. In 1988, which 22-year-old became the youngest ever player to captain the England rugby union team? **WILL CARLING**
6. The old proverb says that "Necessity is the Mother of Invention", but what did Galileo Galilei say was "The Father of Invention"? **DOUBT**
7. Which have there been more of?... a) UK number 1 hit singles by The Beatles; or b) UK number hit singles by Cliff Richard? **THE BEATLES (17 / 14)**
8. What killed roughly 400,000 Europeans each year during the 18th century before Edward Jenner administered the first vaccine in 1796? **SMALLPOX**
9. What has been the occupation of most American presidents prior to politics? **LAWYER**
10. Formerly known as Formosa, what country are the Islands of Quemoy and Matsu part of? **TAIWAN**

Patient Participation Group

Update on NHS Health CheckWhat is it?

An NHS Health Check is a **free NHS health assessment** undertaken by GPs and pharmacists for people aged 40 to 74yrs; once every 5yrs and aims to find any **undiagnosed disease early** to give patients space and time to talk about risk factors like inactivity, smoking and any concerns about issues like dementia.

The **20-to-30-minute assessment** checks if you are at risk of any **potentially avoidable conditions**, like heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease and stroke by recording your height, weight, age, sex and ethnicity, checking your blood pressure and cholesterol levels and asking some simple questions on family history and choices. You will be **guided through your results** and what they mean and given some personalized advice on how to lower your risks and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Treatment or medication may also be prescribed to help maintain your health.

Even if you're feeling well, it's worth having your NHS Health Check now so that the NHS can work with you to lower your chances of developing health problems in the future.

Screening Types

Screening is always a choice. You decide which tests, if any, are right for you. For more information/ support speak to a doctor or visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-screening/>

Age	Female/ Male	Condition	Screening Type	Screening Timeline	Useful Links
12 and onwards	F / M	Diabetes	Diabetic retinopathy	Diabetic eye screening at least once every 2 years	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diabetic-eye-screening/
From 25 years old	F	HPV Screen	Cervical screening / Smear test - Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)	24.5 to 49 years, every 3 years 50 to 84 years, every 5 years	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening/
50-74 years old	F	Breast Cancer	Mammogram	From 50 years old, then every 3 years until 71st birthday, then you can request every 3 years. Tel: 01962-824841 or email breast.screening@hft.nhs.uk or www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/breast-screening	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/breast-screening-mammogram/
50-74 years old	F / M	Bowel Cancer	FIT (Home Test Kit)	From 50-74 years old, a Home Test Kit will be received every 2 years then you can request every 2 years. Tel: 0800-707-6060	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bowel-cancer-screening/
From 64 years old	M	Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)	AAA screening	From 64 years old you will be screened once, unless an aneurysm is found	https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/abdominal-aortic-aneurysm-screening/

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)



Moonlight Walk



Scan the QR code to sign up!

Saturday 27 September 2025

Starts at **9pm** (arrival from 8pm) in Festival
Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

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light up Basingstoke and support your local
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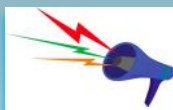
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For more details and prices, contact Catherine

at

rotherwicknews@yahoo.co.uk



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Hook Care Group		08450 941549
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Cricket Club	Tim Culver, Hon Secretary	07882 406429
Group Scout Leader	Richard Whistler	01256 763118
Badminton Club	Richard Burke, Secretary badminton@rjne.co.uk	01256 761013
Rotherwick Toddler Group	Caroline Brown carolinebrown1@me.com	
HCC Councillor for Rotherwick	Jonathan Glen jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk	
Hart North Police (based in Aldershot, non urgent)		101 Hart.North.Police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
Rotherwick Village Hall	Booking Secretary	secretary@rvh.org.uk
Rotherwick Walkers	Steve Cooper	rws25@gmail.com