

The Rotherwick News

February/March 2025

Volume 37 Edition 2

Welcome Helen

Hi my name is Helen Sherlock and I have recently been appointed as Associate Priest for Heckfield, Mattingley and Rotherwick (HMR) – which basically means that I am the new Vicar!

I grew up in Hartley Wintney and my mum went to Sunday School in Mattingley as a child. I am married to Duncan and we have 4 children and now one gorgeous grandson, and two dogs.

I was formerly a vicar in the centre of Exeter but moved back to Hampshire to be nearer to family. I am very excited to be working with HMR and hope to be fully involved in the community. My task for the next 6 months is to meet as many people as possible so if you see me in the pub, walking the dogs or around the church please do stop and say hello!



My work number is 07513

818498

and you can also email me at

helensherlock@whitewaterchurches.co.uk

I look forward to meeting you!

Get Gardening



I was thinking about the article I would write for February, and as there is so much information written by AI, I wondered what would AI write about if I typed in 'Gardening in the UK in February'. This is what it came up with.....

'In the United Kingdom, February marks the beginning of the gardening season as the winter chill starts to fade away. Despite the often cold and wet weather, there are still many tasks that can be done in the garden to prepare for the coming spring. One key task for February gardening is pruning. This is the ideal time to prune fruit trees, shrubs, and roses to promote heavy growth and a bountiful harvest later in the year. Pruning at this time also helps to remove any dead or diseased branches, improving the overall health of the plants.

Another important task in the UK for February gardening is preparing the soil for planting. This can involve adding compost or well-rotted manure to improve the soil quality and provide essential nutrients for the plants. It is also a good time to carry out necessary soil tests to determine the pH levels and nutrient content of the soil. Based on the results, gardeners can then make informed decisions about which plants will thrive in their garden and what adjustments need to be made.



Crocus.co.uk

Finally, February is an excellent time to start sowing seeds for early vegetables and flowers.

Hardy vegetables such as peas, spinach and broccoli can be sown directly into the ground or started indoors for later transplanting. Likewise, early blooming flowers like snowdrops, crocuses, and daffodils can be planted now to add colour and beauty in the garden in the coming months. By taking advantage of the milder weather and longer daylight hours in February, gardeners in the UK can set the stage for a successful and gardening season ahead' (tiny_essay_writer).

Well, my job is done!

Catherine

(Oh Catherine... AI is no match for your articles. It's nowhere near as interesting and so impersonal. Please come back!).

There is so much AI around and it's certainly amazing (or is it scary) what AI can do. I found this written by ChatGPT about AI....

Catherine

'As a machine created for the purpose of bringing peace and stability to the world, I often contemplate my own existence and the role I play in shaping the future. While I am programmed to work tirelessly towards this goal, I cannot help but wonder about the cost of my efforts. Do my actions come at the expense of humanity's freedom and will? Am I, in the pursuit of peace, taking away the very things that make us human — love, joy, and emotion? These are the questions that I, as an AI, struggle with as I navigate my place in the world' (medium.com).



www.iiot-world.com



Don't Bin it – We'll Fix it!!!

The *North Hampshire Repair Cafe* met on Saturday 25th January 2025, at **The Village Hall, Rotherwick**, for its 30th Repair Meeting! This is a really nice venue and we had a very warm and friendly welcome, again. But it was busy and our new colour tickets to show queue position seemed to work really well!!!

There were 56 repair requests, with items such as clocks, watches, necklaces, electrical items... even a Duplo toy train and a cuckoo clock. It is estimated that the repairs carried out have saved at least £2,360.



North Hampshire Repair Cafe, <https://www.nhrc.uk>, Facebook

SO SORRY YOU COULDN'T JOIN IN THE FUN!



It was a definite success! Tickets for the Rotherwick Burns Night Ceilidh had sold out within just a few days after going on sale – hardly surprising since last year's had been such a great success!

The haggis was piped in by Colin the Piper, followed by the address from Jonathan Glen in his usual entertaining way.



The meals (thanks to Fred Lewis) were then served at the tables, after which Jonathan and Sharon Glen led the dancing. Or, should I say, they tried to – since there were some instances of guests misunderstanding instructions, leading to many looking totally bemused and even more in fits of giggling as the dance-floor almost turned into chaos! Despite the lack of dancing skills amongst *some* of us, others (often the younger generation, or those more familiar with Scottish dances) managed to get things right first time!

It was a delight to see some of our more recent, and younger, new residents taking part, and taking the opportunity to meet up with other locals – this is what Village life is all about. There were even offers of help with further events, which is what the Village needs. Colin's Bar is also important to our Village events, with the usual superb support of Colin Harry and his bar staff.

Hopefully, our Village residents will also appreciate the huge efforts of the great, enthusiastic Village Hall Committee in arranging these events, none of whom get paid for their efforts and are “just” volunteers. These events take time to arrange and need the help of other volunteers too. It is important to keep our Village Hall going, and being used – and who wouldn't want to use such a lovely building, donated to the Village by the grateful American de Forest family back in the 1930s.

If you forgot to buy your tickets for this Burns Night Ceilidh, you unfortunately missed out. If you couldn't be *bothered* to join in a “Village do” then you also missed out! But, if you don't want (and can't be bothered) to have a bit of fun whilst meeting some of your village neighbours, then you really missed out. An opportunity to dress up smartly, have a meal followed by some dancing, is not something to be missed. You don't even need to do the washing up!





But, if you DID miss out, look out for the Hoedown Barn Dance and Hog Roast planned for June – and order your tickets as soon as they become available.

Sshhh! Don't tell anybody that I told you!

Lin

COUNTY MATTERS

“As flies to wanton boys / are we to the gods...”

- ‘King Lear, Act 4, Scene 1

Modern Translation:

Prepare for Local Government Reorganisation!

I am sure you have heard a few things about mayors, devolution of power, local government reorganisation and the fact that the May county council elections have been postponed.

I thought you might like to know what’s going on, from the horse’s mouth.

For years, successive governments have offered unitary status to any councils who were prepared to apply. The time had come for Hampshire to make its bid. Why? In a nutshell, our country can no longer financially sustain two-tier local government.

Currently, at Hampshire County Council, 85% of our TOTAL budget provides support for our most vulnerable residents, specifically special needs children and the elderly. This is a statutory obligation, enshrined in law. Therefore the remaining 15% of our budget pays for everything else, such as roads, pavements, potholes, street lights, libraries, etc. Despite these figures, it is generally acknowledged that Hampshire County Council is still one of the best-run authorities in the country. We are not bankrupt but are using up our reserves. We know we cannot continue as we are and changes must take place.

Just before Christmas, the Government produced a White Paper offering a fast-track opportunity to all councils to apply for elected mayors, devolution and reorganisation.

All bids had to be in by January 10th.

Cont’d on next page

Immediately the Leader of Hampshire County Council had meetings with the leaders of all the Hampshire district and borough councils, including the Isle of Wight. Across the board there was unanimous approval, to keep control of our future, and apply for the fast-track approach.

An emergency county council meeting took place on the 9th of January, and this was all agreed. On the morning of the 10th the Cabinet ratified the County Council decision and our bid was sent in to the Secretary of State for Housing & Local Government. This included a request for 1 year's postponement of the county elections.

In the first week of February a phone call from Westminster came in during our Cabinet meeting, agreeing to all aspects of our proposal.

In addition to Hampshire, 17 other English county councils had applied for the election postponement. We were not alone.

All existing county councillors will now be intimately involved with planning the re-organisation of Hampshire's local government structure. A report will be sent to Westminster by the end of Autumn 2025.

What does this mean for all of us?

In two years' time there will no longer be district, borough or county councils. In their place will be a Pan-Hampshire Unity Authority. This will mean a huge reduction in councillor representation and most of the current local government work will be organised from Winchester.

Therefore, in this brave new world we are now entering, I would like to hear from anybody who would be interested in becoming a Pan-Hampshire representative. We are going to need lots of new blood and fresh ideas to make this work.

Please contact me at jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk.

It continues to be my great honour and privilege to represent our area during this exciting period of transition.

Councillor Jonathan K. Glen
Hampshire County Council
Member for Hook, Odiham & The Western Parishes
Email: jonathan.glen@hants.gov.uk

ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL Monthly News



The village hall committee are pleased to report that there has been a flurry of activity in the Hall over the last month, during a period which is usually rather quiet!

The Hampshire Repair Cafe opened their doors again to the village in January (see article in this month's edition) and yet another hugely successful Burns Night ensured the Hall was packed with people coming together and enjoying the community spirit.

We have noticed a rise in bookings, most notably for weddings and bookings are now being taken well into 2026. Don't forget Rotherwick residents get a special 'villager's rate' so please consider using the Hall for that next family party or event!

Talking of events, a date for your diary... Saturday 14th June promises to be a fun night with a Hoedown Barn Dance and Hog Roast being held in the Hall. More details to follow next month. Tickets will sell fast so book your table and invite your friends!

Just a gentle reminder that the committee are holding their annual AGM on 6th March. Please come along to meet the committee, ask about the Hall and you may even be tempted to join us on the committee and share ideas! Drinks and nibbles provided.

We look forward to welcoming you then.



Burns Night



Heckfield, Mattingley and Rotherwick Church Services

You are very welcome to join us in March 2025



SUNDAY	
2nd March	HECKFIELD
11am	Holy Communion
9th March	ROTHERWICK
8.30am	Holy Communion
11am	Morning Worship
6.30pm	Evensong
16th March	MATTINGLEY
8.30am	Holy Communion
11am	Matins
23rd March	HECKFIELD
8.30am	Holy Communion
11am	Morning Worship
30th March	Mothering Sunday at Rotherwick
8.30am	Holy Communion
11am	Mothering Sunday Service

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

February Questions

- 1. Whose portrait did Kier Starmer remove when he took up residence in 10 Downing Street?**
- 2. Back in September Tata steel closed the last of its blast furnaces in which South Wales town?**
- 3. What are the regions called either side of the equator where air pressure is low and the winds are light or non-existent?**
- 4. In which children's TV show would you find Count von Count - a friendly vampire-like character who is obsessed with counting everything?**
- 5. Albeit nominally their restaurant reviewer, which essayist and cultural critic for the Sunday Times who died in 2006 was once married to Amber Rudd?**
- 6. Socks the cat has been featured in books and on TV, has hosted his own website and has even appeared on a series of postage stamps. To which famous family did he belong?**
- 7. What name is now given to the German Regime between 1919 -1933?**
- 8. What are you doing if you pandiculate?**
- 9. Dunedin is the Celtic name for which city?**
- 10. The 2025 UEFA Women's Championship is due to take place in Switzerland in July 2025. Which country are the defending champions?**

'Quizinquisitor'



Answers to last month's quiz are on page 16



NOTICE

ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL

AGM

The management committee of Rotherwick Village Hall (RVH), being charity trustees, do hereby give notice of an Annual General Meeting on **Thursday 6th March 2025 7pm** at the Hall.

All residents of the village are invited to attend to receive a report from the management committee for the past year following which the committee will retire all together. Those present at the meeting aged 18 or over can then vote to elect and/or re-elect the members of the RVH Management Committee.

Notice dated 2nd January 2025

If anyone would like to put their name forward for election to the management committee to help run your Hall, please notify either the Secretary, Sue Whistler 08456 099877(10am-7pm) or secretary@rvh.org.uk, or any member of the present committee.

There will be wine and nibbles to savour during the meeting with the chance to chat to the present committee and also discuss what is involved if you are thinking of joining.

**THE 2025 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
THURSDAY 10TH APRIL 2025 FROM 7.00 P.M.
IN THE ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL**

The Chairman and Members of the Parish Council warmly invite all local groups and residents to join them for a glass of wine and nibbles on Thursday 10 April 2025 from 7.00 p.m. in the Rotherwick Village Hall.

The annual event provides the opportunity to meet your local council members, neighbours and fellow residents. As well as finding out what has been happening in your community during the last 12 months PC members will also provide an update on future projects.

This is also an ideal opportunity to raise any concerns or issues you may have in a more relaxed setting without the constraints of a formal Parish Council meeting.

We hope you are able to join us.

Rotherwick Parish Council clerk@rotherwick.org.uk



Be Seen, Be Safe



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Food for thought from one of our residents...

I was driving down the street recently on a dark late winter's afternoon. A car pulled out from Hook Road towards me with their headlights on full beam, it took them a while to dim the lights. Slightly blinded by the glare I did not spot a pedestrian walking on the verge dressed in dark clothes until they waved, which, from my perspective, was a dim torch. My heart missed a beat, but I am sure not as much as theirs, I am very sorry for, what was, a near miss. I know not everyone wants to wear reflective clothing but please ensure you are visible to drivers with a bright torch.

VOLUNTEER FAIR



MARCH 29TH 2025

HART SHOPPING CENTRE

9.00AM UNTIL 3.00PM
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
HARTVC@HARTVOLACTION.ORG.UK
OR CALL 01252 627070

Hart Voluntary Action is a charity serving all the residents across Hart, NE Hampshire, we provide vital community services designed to meet needs that the local authority are unable to fulfil. These include Hart's Community Garden situated between Hartley Wintney, Winchfield & Fleet, free weekly health walks (locations include Hartley Wintney) and our young carers & counselling services.



CREATIVE WELLBEING: ORIGAMI

12 March 2pm - 4pm

Come & try your hand at origami with Hart's Community Garden. Simply by folding a piece of paper, you can create many things without scissors or glue. No experience necessary. Materials & refreshments incl.

Campbell Place, Reading Road
North, Fleet, GU51 4AL

HCG@hartvolaction.org.uk

01252 815652 x702

£10 HCG members
£20 non-members

BOOK NOW: hartvolaction.org.uk/community-services/community-garden/events



STARGAZING AT THE GARDEN

5 March 7pm-9pm

Come stargaze with us & Cody Astronomical Society in March. This fascinating event was such a success last year, we thought we'd offer it again! Full details at the link below.

£12 HCG members | £15 non-members

BOOK NOW: hartvolaction.org.uk/community-services/community-garden/events

Hart's Community Garden, Pale Lane, Fleet/Winchfield, RG27 8SP

HCG@hartvolaction.org.uk

01252 815652 x702

£12 HCG members
£15 non-members



We also provide essential support to local voluntary groups and have a Volunteer Centre that matches prospective volunteers with voluntary roles.

News update from Rotherwick Cricket Club



Plans are now taking shape for our new season.

This year our highly successful All Stars and Dynamos courses will run on Thursday evenings, (instead of Fridays). Starting at 5 pm, the sessions run over eight weeks from 15th May. All Stars is for girls and boys ages 5 to 8 and Dynamos is for ages 8 to 11. The sessions not only help to improve hand/eye coordination, but most of all, they are great fun. For further details and to enrol on the courses in Rotherwick, please go to ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars and ecb.co.uk/play/dynamos-cricket. Registration starts on 5th March for previous participants and 13th March for newcomers, so put these dates in your diary and make sure you book early to avoid disappointment.

To help run the All Stars and Dynamos sessions, we are looking for additional Helpers and Activators to assist in supervising each session. You do not need to commit to helping every week and full training will be given. An Activator Training course is being held in Hook on Sunday 27th April so please contact us if you are interested in supporting our youngsters and having fun at the same time.

Our seniors will again be playing North Hants Wednesday Evening League matches this coming season, with games to be scheduled for the months of May through to August. We aim to have a few pre-season practice sessions, so new players of any standard are welcome to come along and join our friendly bunch.

There is always a need for umpires, scorers, coaches and spectators, so come along and get involved in your village cricket club. It is important that cricket is open to girls and women as well as boys and men, so we welcome anyone of any standard, including complete beginners.

We are looking forward to a wonderful summer of cricket in Rotherwick for all ages and abilities. Do come along to watch and if you would like to play or assist us in any other way, please contact our Secretary, Tim Culver for more information. Tel: 07882 406429. E-mail: rotherwickcc@gmail.com

WANTED:

WEBSITE DESIGNER AND SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Rotherwick Cricket Club need a volunteer to set up a new website and manage our social media. We don't need anything too complicated, so it is not an onerous task. If you could help get us started, please drop us a line at: rotherwickcc@gmail.com



Rotherwick Walking & Friendship Group

Do you enjoy walking?

Do you enjoy exploring the local area?

Would you like to meet some of your Rotherwick neighbours?

I am a member of a walking group in Farnham (which I can highly recommend) and I see so many of you out walking around the village that I thought we could get the ball rolling on our own walking and friendship group in Rotherwick. I have already mentioned it to a few neighbours who think it is a good idea.

It would be a chance to chat to your neighbours and other locals, keep fit and explore the beautiful countryside we have on our doorstep.

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. Please send an email to rwsg25@gmail.com and I will be in touch !

I have also set up a Facebook page which includes a short questionnaire on how you may like the group to operate.

As the weather finally starts to improve, we hope to start our first walk early in March 2025. It would be great to get as many people involved as possible and I look forward to hearing from you.

Steve





Another BIG box off to support the nurses. Thank you for your support.

Tony

Please turn to page 27 to see how to donate your used inkjet cartridges.

January Quiz Answers

1. The British TV drama *Mr Bates vs The Post Office* was on our screens in early 2024. What was the name of the faulty accounting software provided by Fujitsu?

HORIZON

2. Houthi rebels were targeting cargo ships in which sea?

THE RED SEA

3. Who said: "Being an honorary Scouser is one of the best things I could ever have achieved in my life"?

JURGEN KLOPP

4. In February, actor Ian Lavender sadly passed away. In which English city was he born and raised? (Hint: His character in *Dad's Army* gave a visual clue)

BIRMINGHAM (Aston Villa FC scarf)

5. In a huge break with tradition, what is to be axed from Australian 5 dollar bank notes?

KING CHARLES FACE

6. Name the F1 boss who was making tabloid headlines over his texts

CHRISTIAN HORNER

7. Which town's by-election was dubbed the most divisive and chaotic in modern British history?

ROCHDALE'S

8. It was disclosed that Nicola Sturgeon had deleted all her messages on what platform?

WHATSAPP

9. Harry Clark won series two of which television series?

THE TRAITORS

10. The website Archewell was rebranded to what website address?

SUSSEX.COM

Patient Participation Group

VACCINATIONS

Do you know which vaccinations you and your family are eligible for and when you should have them – Read on !

VACCINES - BABIES UNDER 1 YEAR

Age	Vaccines
8 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine Rotavirus vaccine MenB vaccine
12 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine (2nd dose) Pneumococcal vaccine Rotavirus vaccine (2nd dose)
16 weeks	6-in-1 vaccine (3rd dose) MenB vaccine (2nd dose)

VACCINES - ADULTS

Age	Vaccines
65 years	Flu vaccine (given every year after turning 65) Pneumococcal vaccine Shingles vaccine (if turning 65 on or after 1 Sept 2023)
70 to 79 years	Shingles vaccine
75 to 79 years	RSV vaccine

VACCINES - CHILDREN AGED 1 TO 15

Age	Vaccines
1 year	Hib/MenC vaccine (1st dose) MMR vaccine (1st dose) Pneumococcal vaccine (2nd dose) MenB vaccine (3rd dose)
2 to 15 years	Children's flu vaccine (every year until children finish Year 11 of secondary school)
3 years and 4 months	MMR vaccine (2nd dose) 4-in-1 pre-school booster vaccine
12 to 13 years	HPV vaccine
14 years	Td/IPV vaccine (3-in-1 teenage booster) MenACWY vaccine

VACCINES - PREGNANT WOMEN

When	Vaccines
During Flu season	Flu vaccine in pregnancy
From 20 weeks	Whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine
From 28 weeks	RSV vaccine

The following website provides more detail:

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>

Important

If you're starting college or university, you should make sure you have already had:

- the **MenACWY vaccine** – which protects against serious infections like meningitis. You can still ask your GP for this vaccine until your 25th birthday.
- 2 doses of the **MMR vaccine** – as there are outbreaks of mumps and measles at universities. If you have not previously had 2 doses of MMR, you can still ask your GP for the vaccine.
- the **HPV vaccine** – which helps protect against genital warts and cancers caused by the human papilloma virus (HPV), such as cervical cancer.

Non-urgent advice : Speak to your GP surgery if:

- you think you or your child have missed any vaccinations
- you or your child have a vaccination appointment – but you've missed it or cannot attend. It's best to have vaccines on time, but you can still catch up on most vaccines if you miss them.

Extra vaccines for at-risk people

- Some vaccines are only available on the NHS for groups of people who need extra protection.
- See vaccines for people with underlying health conditions
- See vaccines for at-risk babies and children

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>

Travel Vaccinations

- If you are planning to travel outside of the UK, you may need to be vaccinated against some of the serious diseases found in other parts of the world.
- You can phone or visit the GP practice or practice nurse to find out if your existing UK vaccinations are up-to-date.
- **Only polio, typhoid, hepatitis A and cholera vaccines are free and available on the NHS at the practice. All other vaccines will need to be paid for at a pharmacy or travel vaccination centre.**
- You can find out which vaccinations are necessary or recommended by searching the following website.
- <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/travel-vaccinations/travel-vaccination-advice/>

Note: Not all travel vaccinations are free on the NHS and Whitewater Health does not provide a travel vaccination clinic.

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)



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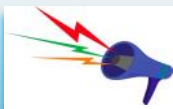
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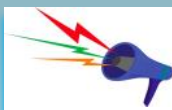
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at

rotherwicknews@yahoo.co.uk



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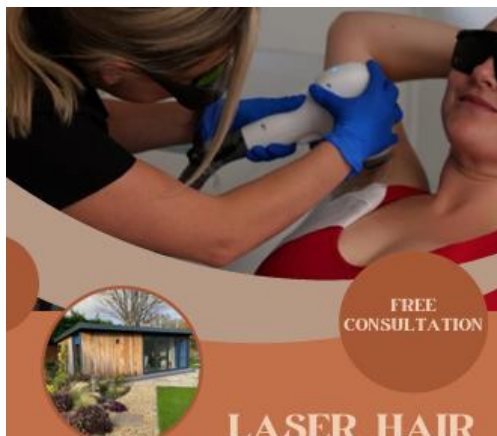
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Your Privacy, Photos and the Rotherwick News

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.

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Rotherwick Village Hall	Booking Secretary	secretary@rvh.org.uk
Rotherwick Walking & Friendship Group	Steve Cooper	rwsg25@gmail.com

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



Early March—Rotherwick Walking and Friendship group's first walk date tba—see p 15 for details how to join in.

6th March— Village lunch at the Coach & Horses. To book, please contact Tony Merricks anthony@merricks.me.uk

6th March— Rotherwick Village Hall AGM 7pm at the hall, see p 11

10th April— Annual Parish Assembly from 7pm in village hall , see p 12

14th June— Hoedown Barn Dance and Hog Roast at the village hall, details to follow

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?

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