

The Rotherwick News

April /May 2026

Volume 39 Edition 4

Still Time for a Change

It is with great sadness that, after producing the magazine for over 5 years now, the current Rotherwick News Team has decided it is time for a new editorial team. We are very much hoping that one (or more) of the residents of Rotherwick will take over and breathe some new, innovative life into it. It's a great way to get involved, get to know people and make a contribution to village life.

The Rotherwick News has been delivered through your door for many, many years. Certainly, since I, Amanda, arrived in the village some 23 years ago and many years before that. I have been a part of The News Team twice since then.

Unfortunately, if there is a lack of interest the June edition will sadly be the last, never perhaps being delivered again.

Please do get in touch on The Rotherwick News email rotherwicknews@yahoo.co.uk to find out more, even if you are just thinking about it or wondering what it involves. You will be fully supported through the take-over by us, the current team, should you choose to give it a go.

Amanda, Catherine and Sue

Looking Ahead...



Tuesday 5th May Rotherwick Walkers 10.15 am. Meet outside the village hall. See page 12 for more details and more dates.

Thursday 7th May Village lunch at the Coach and Horses. All welcome. To book, please contact Tony Merricks anthony@merricks.me.uk

Thursday 14th May Crafty Cuppa at the village hall. 10.30—12.30. £2 Everyone welcome.



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.

Get Gardening



At last some warmer and drier weather has arrived. The daffodils are nearly over and the tulips are blooming, well most of them. A lot of the bulbs I planted last year are blind which could mean I didn't plant them deep enough or that the winter we had was not cold enough. The RHS suggests they might benefit from a feed but whatever the reason I shall lift the blind ones. The Fabulous Gardner (thefabulousgarden.com) suggests that to guarantee flowers next year the heads should be snapped off as soon as they have finished flowering and the leaves left to die down completely 'turning to a rotten mess'. I'm probably guilty of clearing them before they have reached the messy stage.

www.gardeningknowhow.co



I always look forward to April as it is when I can start to organise my vegetable garden, decide what to grow and get planting. Although as usual I've bought too many seeds and am no doubt growing too many different vegetables for the space I have.

Nevertheless, I'm going for broad beans (fingers crossed the black fly stay away), a variety of beetroots, butternut squash, carrots and red onions as well as the usual runner beans, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, etc., so space is going to be tight. It's just so easy to get carried away. I'm also going to sow some zinnia seeds (not amongst the vegetables) which did so well last year and originating from Mexico are drought tolerant, which does help if we have a hot summer. Zinnia's are great pollinators and last year the flowering period was incredibly long with the flowers often changing colour but blooming most of the summer. I will also be sowing the verbena seeds (verbena lollipop) I collected from the garden last year, a dwarf variety I've always had trouble sourcing. If they grow I will be very chuffed.

By the way, has anyone seen chaffinches this year? They are according to the RSPB the most common birds in Britain but we rarely have them, or at least rarely see them. This year is the first time I have. We do seem to get a lot of birds in our garden, maybe it's because we no longer have any cats!



jillorne.org.uk/spinster/

Catherine



Quiz of the Month

April Questions

- 1. Waitrose has become the first UK supermarket to announce it is suspending the sourcing of which fish over sustainability concerns?**
- 2. Dulverton, Dunster, and Porlock. In which National Park would you find these places?**
- 3. Marking the first time it has been held outside of London, the 2026 Brit Awards took place in which city?**
- 4. Which actor, who played the role of James Bond, was once the best paid male model in the world?**
- 5. During Live Aid in 1985, Phil Collins famously performed at both Wembley Stadium and JFK Stadium. Which TV personality piloted the helicopter that took him to London Heathrow for his Concorde flight?**
- 6. Of which federal republic was Marshal Tito the first President?**
- 7. What is the one-word subtitle of the companion show to the TV show The Traitors?**
- 8. What foodstuff did Mark Twain describe as "a cabbage with a college education"?**
- 9. Which distinctive style of furniture originally designed in the late 1700's gets its name from the religious group who developed it?**
- 10. In the Disney movie "Frozen", who accidentally triggers a storm that freezes Arendelle?**

‘Quizinquisitor’



Answers to last month's quiz are on page 15

A Message from Helen

I'm currently on a train to Gatwick having just finished the wonderful Easter Day service at Rotherwick church where we saw over 80 people come to celebrate the risen Christ.



People often say I'm always going somewhere - and that is true because I have decided that I need to do as much as I can while I still can. I'm only in my fifties but I can already feel my body slowing down and refusing to do some of the things it should be able to do so easily. I'm currently doing the couch to 5k for about the tenth time and this time is much harder.

You often hear that old age is a privilege, and it absolutely is but as we think about the crucified Christ we can't help but also think about our own mortality. The truth is we will all die at some point - hopefully not too soon. But we just don't know what the future holds.

The world is a crazy place right now and I think we can feel anxious about the future, but Jesus reminds us that death is not the end. It's hard for us to imagine, although I am hopeful that in heaven I will be surrounded by dogs, be a size 8 and chocolate will have zero calories, but I try to think of it like this: Earth is just something we are passing through. This was never meant to be our forever home. We cling to it because it is all we know. But I believe that in Christ there is something much better waiting for us. Something so amazing it's hard for us to articulate or even imagine.

I hope if you're facing challenges of any kind, you might be able to find hope in the promise God has made to us all that he will never leave us or forsake us. He is there even in the small things if we allow ourselves to see him. There has to be more than this, but while we are here we may as well enjoy the ride for as long as we can!

Kindest Regards
Helen

Rev'd Helen Sherlock
Associate Priest of Whitewater Benefice

Workdays: Sundays, Wednesday and Thursday (or by arrangement)

A Journey Through Namibia

Sarah Douglas recently visited this beautiful country with its stunning landscapes and has kindly sent in this article and photos for us to enjoy.

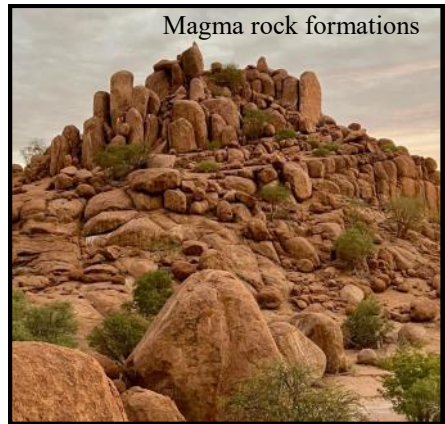
Namibia is situated in South West Africa astride the Tropic of Capricorn and beside the South Atlantic Ocean.

It is a young country in the sense that it became an independent state as recently as 1990. In reality it is incredibly old, a land where the passage of time took on concrete and visible forms as magma and sediment slowly changed to rock.

Namibia was a German colony from 1884 until 1915 when South Africa forced them out and most Germans fled but a few remained, are still there today and have built beautiful lodges. It is a sparsely populated and a great last wilderness.

Namibia shows its geological wonders more than most countries partly because it is an arid land. Over much of it, the soil is too thin and the vegetation too sparse to cover the hard evidence that elemental convulsions of earth, water, air and fire shaped the land.

Namibia is the home of the only desert elephant on our planet. They are smaller than the normal African elephant but have larger feet and are more gentle. They eat at one patch sparingly so as to preserve the vegetation, sincerely intelligent. It was a privilege to find a herd of seventeen.



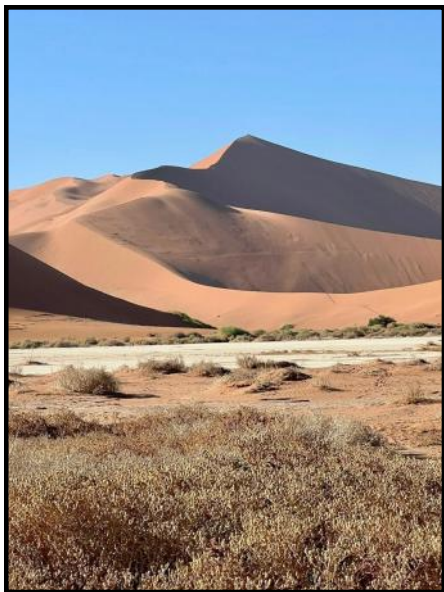
Magma rock formations



Stunning colours at sunset



Desert elephant



“Big Daddy” sand dune



5,000 yr old rock drawings

Annual Village Litter Pick

We were lucky again with the weather as it was yet another fine and warm spring day for this year's litter pick.

With around 30 villagers donned in hi-vis jackets and armed with litter pickers, the clean-up began in earnest. The great turnout and enthusiasm meant we were able to cover a large area once more – from the far end of Cowfold Lane to the end of Post Horn Lane, and everywhere in between. This year's special item was a plethora of industrial sized bottles of hand sanitiser which had been discarded at regular intervals along the lengths of Cowfold Lane and Hook Road – somewhat ironic that a cleaning product was the most abundant item of rubbish!!

Post litter pick, the volunteers gathered at Rotherwick Church (which had also had its Spring Clean that day) for a natter, a well-earned cup of tea and a slice (or two) of cake. Many thanks to Rev'd Helen and the members of the Church for hosting us and providing the refreshments – the selection of bakes was very impressive! From delicious tray bakes to a gooey chocolate cake, a pear tart with a nice little brandy tipple as well as Amy's usual fluffy Victoria sponge, all were a lovely, sweet end to the afternoon.

It was great to meet some new residents of Rotherwick as well as catch up with those who've lived in the village a little longer.

We certainly gave the village a good spring clean and thank you to everyone for supporting the event and for all your efforts, it's really appreciated.

Cllr Adam Bealey
(on behalf of Rotherwick Parish Council)





ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL MONTHLY NEWS

There's nothing like a good clear out.....and that was nothing like a good clear out.... You've heard it all before, the old jokes are the best and all that!

Indeed the Village Hall Committee were taken down memory lane as we had a good clear out of the 'Cleaning Cupboard' - storing an awful more than just cleaning products! It would more appropriately have been named the 'The Cupboard where we put everything and anything we don't know what to do with and it might come in handy again!'. I have one at home! They are very popular.

I revisited the show we put on where the 'Rotherwick Boys' performed the 'Top Hat', having found the white topped sticks they made and also the 'Diamonds are a girls' best friend' number I performed with them, upon finding the diamond rings I wore....made from pottery clay. I expect they are worth a fortune being somewhat rare!! I revisited the WW2 show we did, finding posters we had used.

We also came across the seating plan for 360 people, all accommodated in the village hall carpark for one of the many celebrations for the late Queen, spanning her many years reign.

I was reminded that we really have done some fabulous things over the years bringing the village together.

We now have simply a 'Cleaning Cupboard'.....BUT there is plenty of room to store props for shows etc we may do in the future...any ideas?

Amanda

The Wessex Chamber Choir

The Wessex Chamber Choir are performing 2 concerts on Saturday 16th May. The Silver Swan – Music for Spring and Summer will be performed at Rotherwick Village Hall at 3pm, followed by St Lawrence Church, Alton at 7.30pm. These promise to be joy-filled concerts. From folk songs to madrigals, with music by composers such as Dowland, Daley, Gjelo, Lander, Rutter and Tarney; this is guaranteed to put a spring in your step! Tickets are £17.50 (free for under 18s) and are available on www.wessexchamberchoir.co.uk

Rotherwick Pickleball

It's a spring evening in Rotherwick. A group of people gathers at the Village Hall. The distinctive smell of liniment hangs in the air.

Have the residents formed a 5-a-side football team? Tag rugby, maybe?

No—this is the first night of Pickleball.

It begins with a light workout as players rearrange the chairs and assemble the net. Soon, the rhythmic clack of paddle on plastic fills the room.

A high shot floats across the court.

"Mine!" someone calls.



The ball rockets down the court and thumps into the floor just inches inside the baseline. The attacking team celebrates. The spectators applaud.

But then a voice cuts through the noise. "Kitchen."

Everyone looks around, confused. Are we stopping for a break already? We've only been playing for two minutes, and the score is 2-3-1.

"You were standing in the kitchen," our makeshift umpire explains.



More blank expressions.

"You can't volley if your foot is inside the non-volley zone on either side of the net."

Gradually, understanding dawns. Play resumes, rallies lengthen, and confidence grows. The game eventually ends in a hard-fought 11-9 victory for the team at the stage end of

the court.



Eleven players attended the first Pickleball session on Monday night, and ten on Thursday. We have now reached our full complement of twenty members. Many thanks to everyone who has signed up. We hope you enjoyed the games and look forward to seeing you again next week.

Richard Burke



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.

Anthony Merricks



The Rotherwick Walkers



Tuesday 5th May 2026

Wednesday 20th May 2026

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:

Lovely walks around the village of 4 to 5 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 just send an email to rwsg25@gmail.com and I will be in touch!

VILLAGE WALK - THURSDAY 19th MARCH 2026

GLORIOUS – For the first time in seemingly an eternity the sun was shining and it really was a gorgeous start to the day. Eighteen keen walkers and three of our four legged companions. Five new faces joined our regulars as we set off at 10:30am from Rotherwick Village Hall beneath



a beautiful bright blue sky. How different one feels when the weather is like this, especially after such an endless winter.



Our route took us behind the village hall to near the end of Wedmans Lane and then up through the fields past the farm to Frog Lane. We walked along the lane before cutting in through the churchyard onto the Street before walking up through Rotherwick Recreation Ground past the golf course.

We then had a very quick foray into Tylney Hall and had a peep at the gardens which were looking stunning and were a joy to behold. The final stretch brought us down Ridge Lane, through the fields and back onto The Street with 4 miles completed.



Conditions underfoot were actually pretty good in the main and it was nice to get back into walking boots rather than Wellies for a change. Along the way we saw just a few red kites, some koi carp and a Capybara. Sweets of the Day were Fruit-tella Juicy Chews. After

the walk a record fourteen of us dropped by the Falcon Public House

and enjoyed a lovely lunch and drinks - basking in the sun on the front terrace. It was a super end to the walk. Many thanks to all who attended. We certainly do have a lovely, friendly group that is ever expanding. We hope you enjoyed the walk and look forward to seeing you again next time.

"A vigorous walk will do more good for an unhappy but otherwise healthy adult than all the medicine and psychology in the world" — Paul Dudley White

Steve Cooper

Hello Rotherwick News,

I thought this month after our fantastic milestone of exceeding £100K in customer savings last month, I'd do a quick reminder of all the items we can attempt to repair!



In short, it's more or less anything that can be carried in, with a few exceptions due to risk (see at the end). If you're unsure, just reply to this email (or direct to info@nhrc.uk) for some clarification.

- Computers, hardware or software faults
- Small Electrical. This is what we get most requests for. From vacuum cleaners, to table lamps, to CD players, and anything in-between
- Small items of furniture
- Clothes (please clean)
- Toys
- Garden tools for repair or just sharpening. Another one of our most popular requests
- Bicycles. We don't get many of these repair requests, but we have at least 2 bike specialists (myself included in that!)
- Jewellery (not diamonds or other precious/valuable items)
- Clocks and watches (we get quite a few of these and have a top repairer to complete the repairs)
- **What we're not allowed to repair because of risk.** Anything petrol driven, microwaves, electric blankets, cane furniture (I think the cane furniture is more because it's unrepairable)

Next meeting: 25th April - Hartley Wintney, St Johns Church 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

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



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

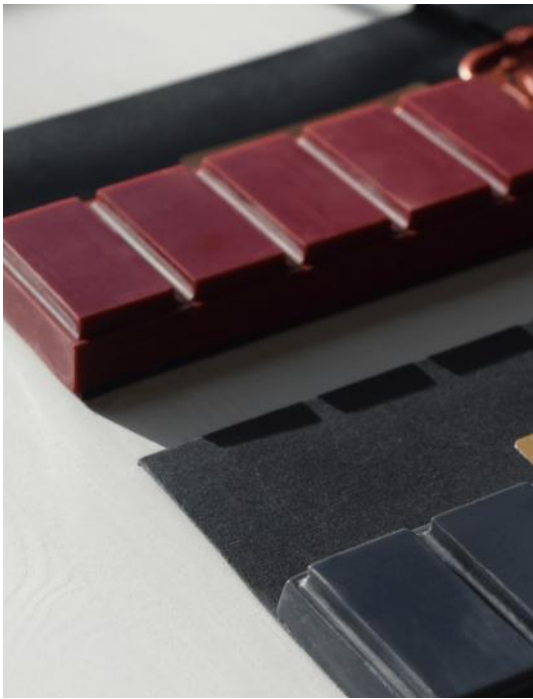
Please keep your articles and photos coming—they bring the magazine to life and it is so interesting to see and read about people we all know and love.

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



March Quiz Answers

1. On which sea does Estonia have a coast? **BALTIC**
2. What is the principal alcoholic ingredient in a Hurricane cocktail? **RUM (White & Dark)**
3. As of 2026, who is the only Democrat US President to have been born in Texas? **LYNDON B JOHNSON**
4. From which flower is the spice Saffron obtained? **CROCUS**
5. Figure skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean famously won gold at the 1984 Winter Olympics. Why were they not allowed to compete in the 1988 Winter Olympics? **THEY HAD TURNED PROFESSIONAL**
6. Which company or organisation's website would you reach using the address aa.com? **AMERICAN AIRLINES**
7. In the 2003 American animated film "Finding Nemo" what type of fish are both Nemo and Marlin? **CLOWN FISH**
8. What is the capital of the Australian state that extends the furthest north? **BRISBANE (Queensland)**
9. In which British town did the first double-yellow no parking lines appear in 1956? Slough or Reading? **SLOUGH**
10. What is the name of the obelisk on the Victoria Embankment in London that was originally erected in the city of Heliopolis in Egypt, but was given to the UK as a gift in the 19th century? **CLEOPATRA'S NEEDLE**



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Rotherwick Village Hall	Booking Secretary	secretary@rvh.org.uk
Rotherwick Walkers	Steve Cooper	rwsg25@gmail.com
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