

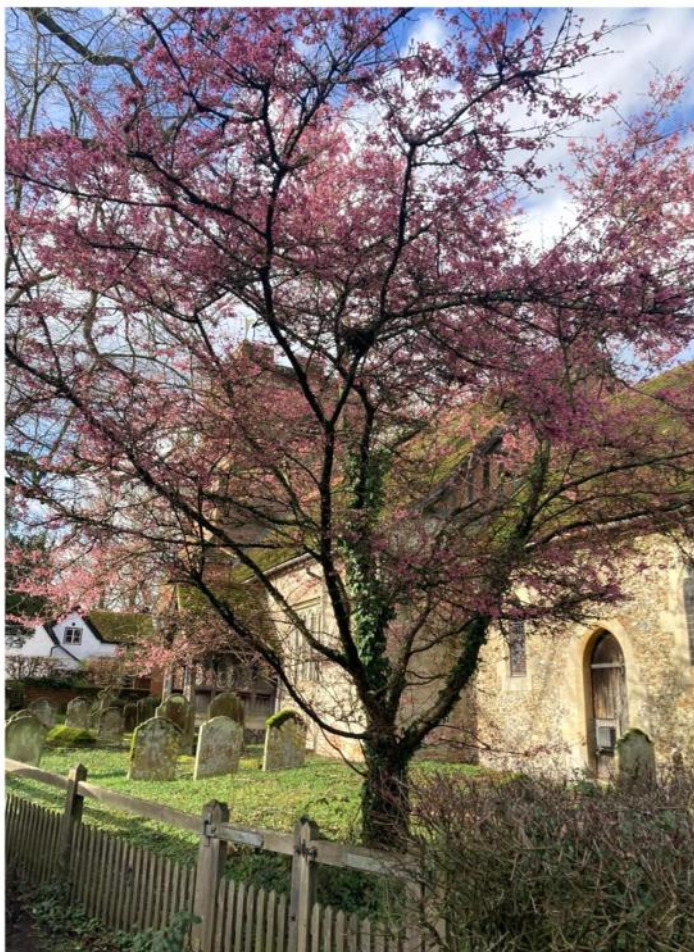
The Rotherwick News

February/March 2026

Volume 39 Edition 2

Spring is Springing!

Thanks to Catherine Bolt for this beautiful photo.



Pickleball is coming to Rotherwick—turn to p 7 to find out more.

Looking Ahead...



Saturday 28th February Hampshire Repair Café at the village hall—see page 9 for more details.

Wednesday 4th March

Rotherwick Walkers 10.15 am. Meet outside the village hall. See page 13 for more details and more dates.

Thursday 5th March Village lunch at the Coach & Horses. All welcome. To book, please contact Tony Merricks anthony@merricks.me.uk

Thursday 12th March Crafty Cuppa at the village hall. 10.30—12.30. £2 Everyone welcome.

Saturday 21st March Annual Spring Litter Pick. Meet at the church at 12.00. See page 9.



Finance and Funding for the Rotherwick News



Many thanks to those residents in the village who have kindly donated as a result of the appeal below in the January issue.



We have included it again (as you can see) with the details incase you missed it last month.

Dear Reader,

Our Parish Council has kindly supported the Rotherwick News once again with a grant. The Village Hall trustees have kindly donated £200. However, the Rotherwick News funds are low. In order to reduce printing costs we have reduced the number of pages in the mag and tried to keep the articles relating only to local information or interest. Nonetheless the funds in the bank account will run out by the end of the year.

The generous donations from the village have helped enormously in the past to keep going. If you are pleased to receive the magazine and value what it represents and if you would like to help to keep the magazine, run by local volunteers, to keep going, you can donate. The magazine needs your continued support, if you would like to donate the bank details are below.

THANK YOU

The Editors,

Amanda, Catherine and Sue

For donations with a suggested amount of £15, the Rotherwick News bank details are: Santander

Acc No. 43394811. Sort Code 090666

Acc name is, The Rotherwick News

Get Gardening



Well, January is thankfully over, I didn't think it could get any wetter than last year! However, there are still some 'things' I can do in the garden. I can now prune the roses and autumn raspberries. As the raspberries are under netting they became an impenetrable clump last year making them difficult to harvest, so I think I'm going to have to move some of them which may result in less fruit for the first year but I think it will be worth it in the long run.



www.gardenersworld.com/
plants/the-rose-family/

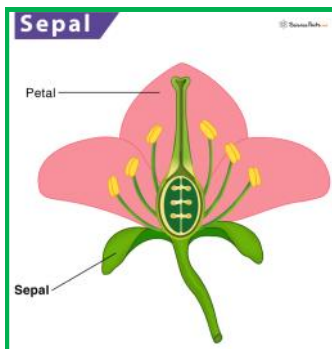
Amazingly raspberries belong to the rose family (ohmyfacts.com/food-beverage/fruits). This family of plants, also known as rosaceae, have flowers with five petals and five 'sepals' and include plants such as apples, pears, plums, cherries and trees. Plus some unexpected plants such as Lady's Mantel whose green flowers certainly look nothing like those of the rose. (www.gardenersworld.com).



Lady's Mantel

The sepals, I've discovered, are on the outer part of the flower and primarily green (the sepals of a single flowers are collectively known the calyx) .

They can vary in shape, size and numbers and are there to protect and support the flower bud and petals when the flower is in full bloom, and I thought they were just leaves! (www.sciencefacts.net/sepals.html)



February is the ideal time to divide snowdrops, but I've tried and our ground is just too hard, I just ended up damaging the bulbs. It's also the time to prune late flowering clematis, hydrangeas and buddleias. I tend to give hydrangeas only a light pruning to keep them the size I want however I'm going to be brutal with the buddleias. They flower on new wood even so I never want to cut it down to the ground 'just in case' but this year I'm going for it!

On the slightly warmer (and slightly drier) days I have already started to see more birds visiting our garden. One, the fieldfare, I haven't seen for a while and last time they visited there were a flock of them so I was surprised to see one just on its own. It's the white marking on their side and the fact they are, I think, a bit bigger than other thrushes that makes them recognisable.



www.birdguides.com/gallery/birds/turdus-pilaris

The Times reported that the cold weather over the continent and Scandinavia has forced the fieldfares to visit us for food. There certainly looks to be many berries still around, our cotoneaster is still laden as are those in the gardens of Tylney Hall.

As I finish this, guess what? It is still raining. The only plus side is that Spring is around the corner so it will at least hopefully be getting warmer if not drier. Doesn't make me want to do any gardening at the moment though but there was a striking double rainbow as we were driving to Camberley the other weekend (scenery wasn't quite as nice as below) so there are some plusses to the rain!



Catherine



Quiz of the Month

February Questions

- 1. In October, which church with a height of 162.91 metres became the tallest in the World?**
- 2. Which bank used the slogan "Local banking for Britain"?**
- 3. Which area is another name for a portion of the Nevada Test Range that some think contains evidence of visitors from outer space?**
- 4. What name is given to the pursuit of hiding and locating small containers using GPS coordinates?**
- 5. If all the cities that have hosted the Summer Olympic Games were listed alphabetically, which one would come last?**
- 6. In December 2026, which of the four nations of the UK is due to become the first to ban plastic wet wipes?**
- 7. Recently overtaking Tesla as the world's biggest seller of electric vehicles, in which country is the company BYD based?**
- 8. Considered one of Britain's toughest outdoor challenges, which mountain is climbed second on the National Three Peaks Challenge?**
- 9. In 1875, which 19th-century Norwegian composer wrote incidental music to accompany Henrik Ibsen's play "Peer Gynt"?**
- 10. The latest series of The Traitors began in January with a secret traitor wearing a cloak of what colour instead of the usual green?**

'Quizinquisitor'



Answers to last month's quiz are on page 19



PICKLEBALL COMING TO



ROTHERWICK SOON

A Pickleball club will be starting at Rotherwick Village Hall in the next few weeks.

Pickleball is a fast-paced game that is cross between badminton, tennis and table tennis. It is played on a badminton court but with a low net.

At this stage we are trying to gauge the level of interest. If you like to get involved, please contact Richard Burke by Thursday 5th March.

Email pickleball@rjne.uk or phone/text **07528 373062**.



Once we have an idea of numbers, we will arrange some taster sessions.





Volunteers Needed Become a School Governor!

Would you like to make a real difference in our community? Our local school - **Whitewater Church of England Primary School** - is urgently looking for new governors to join the existing team.

No experience needed — just enthusiasm, common sense, and a commitment to supporting children's education in the local community. All training provided.



A few hours each month.



Great way to give back and shape the future for children in Rotherwick & the local area.

If you're interested or would like to find out more, please contact our clerk, Amanda, by email - **amandasims48@yahoo.com**.

Whitewater Church of England School - <https://www.whitewater.hants.sch.uk/>

Love - Respect - Courage

ANNUAL SPRING LITTER PICK 2026

Saturday 21st March 2026 from 12.00 noon

This year's village spring litter pick will take place on Saturday 21st March 2026

We would like to invite all residents to join the Parish Council for a few hours litter picking.

We will be meeting at the Church at 12.00 noon, where refreshments and equipment will be provided.

This annual event provides a great opportunity to make a difference to our village as well as meet other residents.

We hope to see you there.
ROTHERWICK PARISH COUNCIL



**North Hampshire
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Coming to:
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28th February: 10am till 1pm

We repair most household stuff, including:

- Electrical products, computers
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- 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

Did you know that Rotherwick has a thriving business networking community? It meets at the Coach and Horses from 10.00a.m. until noon on the third Thursday of each month.

The group is hosted by local resident Claire Johnson of Bluebell Bookkeeping and Admin and attracts attendees from a wider area of Hampshire and sometimes beyond.

The Hook group is part of a bigger community. Fabulous Networking has groups in Fleet and Basingstoke as well as London, South Oxfordshire and some online meetings. Its ethos is non-judgmental support and learning for ambitious lifestyle business owners. Members run their businesses to support the lives they want to lead, not fit their lifestyles around their businesses. Regular attendees include copywriters, financial planners, will writers and estate planners, solicitors, marketers, HR consultants, health and wellbeing professionals, utilities providers and more. There are no restrictions and everyone is welcome.

The meetings are relaxed but purposeful. Attendees get to introduce themselves and their business, there's usually a speaker and always lots of conversation and laughter. Recent speaker topics have included online marketing, health care, business organization, divorce, tax rules. We're always interested in hearing from local speakers who might want a new audience.



Hook
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19th February
10-12

Host
Claire Johnson

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Visitors are always welcome. The cost is £15 including light refreshments. Find out more and book your place here <https://fabulousnetworking.co.uk/fabulous-networking-hook/>. You can also follow our Facebook page 'Fabulous Networking Hook'. You will also be supporting one of our lovely village pubs!

A Message from Helen

I'm writing this while laying in the sun on my annual leave in Antigua. I realise how lucky I am. We left the UK in the middle of the torrential rain which has seemed endless throughout January.



My word for January was wonder. That quickly got drowned out, literally by the both the weather and the news. My word for February is seek. I'm seeking out the things that bring me joy. This will obviously be different for all of us and sometimes it's even hard to think what does bring us joy when all around seems to be spiralling into despair.

We recently lost our beautiful little dog- she was full of life and was sadly killed instantly when chasing a squirrel. But she left this life as she had lived it, at full throttle, grabbing every piece of fun she could get. She knew what she loved and she always sought it out. It made me realise, perhaps even for the first time, how fragile and precious this life is. How instantly things can change and how we are the only ones who can control how we live this life in terms of attitude.

We are about to enter into the season of lent. Preparing for the death of Christ on the cross - the central part of the Christian faith. There is something beautiful and tragic about the gift of love that Jesus gave to us. The immense sense of being loved this much by God is something not to be taken for granted, even if you don't feel it. Love is something we all seek - each in very different ways with varying degrees of success. I believe God offers love unconditionally whether we recognise him as God or not. I continually search for that love because it brings me peace, gives me purpose and helps me love others. What is it that you are seeking? Could the answer in some way be God?

Kindest Regards
Helen

Rev'd Helen Sherlock
Associate Priest of Whitewater Benefice

Workdays: Sundays, Wednesday and Thursday (or by arrangement)
St Michael Heckfield with Mattingley and Rotherwick Mobile: 07513 818498

YOUR CRICKET CLUB NEEDS YOU



In order to run our All Stars and Dynamos courses again this year, we need at least two new Activators.

Unless we can recruit at least two new Activators we will not be able to run the courses which will be a great disappointment to the children and a blow to your village Cricket Club.

In 2022, we started to run the ECB All Stars and Dynamos programmes for boys and girls age 5 to 11. Since then, over 80 boys and girls have benefitted from the courses run by our amazing Activators, namely Chris Ball, Matthew Gasser, Paul Haddock and Zach Coe.

As an Activator you would supervise the children in a variety of fun activities. The sessions not only help to improve hand/eye coordination, but most of all, they are great fun. You will be helping support our youngsters and your club whilst having fun at the same time.

Our All Stars and Dynamos courses will run on Friday evenings at 5 p.m. over eight weeks from 8th May. Each session is only one hour and you do not need to commit to helping every week. Even one or two weeks would be a great help. Full training will be provided and you do not need to know anything about cricket ! All Stars is for girls and boys ages 5 to 8 and Dynamos is for ages 8 to 11.

For further information or to register your interest in becoming an Activator, please contact our Secretary, Tim Culver. Tel: 07882 406429

E-mail: rotherwickcc@gmail.com

For further details of the courses, please go to ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars and ecb.co.uk/play/dynamos-cricket. Registration for boys and girls starts in early April so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment.

The Rotherwick Walkers



Wednesday 4th March 2026

Thursday 19th March 2026

Friday 3rd April 2026

Monday 20th April 2026

Tuesday 5th 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!

‘KYNREN’ WHAT A SHOW !

As strange as it might seem, and despite living in our lovely Village, a mini-break can do us the world of good. So, since a catch-up was due with my husband's siblings and their spouses, who live a few hundred miles from us, we planned an “outing” with a couple of nights stay at a hotel for us all. The journey for us to Bishop Auckland was around 300 or so miles, so we set off early on the Friday, eventually all meeting up at the pre-booked hotel.

We had tickets for a show (which we'd never *previously* heard of) for the Saturday evening, and which meant we had a whole day to fill meantime, so we visited the railway museum, “Locomotion”, at Shildon. Sister site of the National Railway Museum in York, Shildon is much larger and has Europe's largest collection of historic railway vehicles – 99 in all.



Shildon was originally chosen as a key location for a railway (1825) because of its proximity to coal mines, and its connection to Darlington and Stockton on Tees. Being the first place with a steam locomotive, it was also the first place to have a steam locomotive designed to carry passengers. With a huge number of trains stored within the two large exhibition halls, there is plenty to see, and there is also a small café offering food and drinks.

Now, it was time to prepare for the evening's entertainment. We had planned in advance to see a show called “Kynren”, which until then we had never heard of.



The word “Kynren” is derived from the Anglo Saxon word “cynren” meaning generation, kin or family, and the show itself tells the story of 2,000 years of British history, myth and legend. It was extremely well-organised, with dedicated meeting points where we parked our cars, and a fleet of buses then

transported us to the venue.

From here we could enter the Viking Village where there were working black-smiths, wood carvers, and various crafts being demonstrated by "villagers", plus goats, Wenslydale sheep, chickens and donkeys (and, of course Viking soldiers). Once outside of the Viking village, there were a number of food and drink stalls on site for those who were peckish.



After wandering through the Village we took our seats in the open-air auditorium (seating 8,000), ready for the show to

begin – and from start to finish we were not let down! It was an amazing display of team work (1,000 cast members, including children – the youngest being 5 years old, plus 150 animals, for a start).



There were also many clever back-drops that were constantly changing on the 7½ acre open-air "stage". Some of these appeared to be changing before our very eyes – which was down to the very clever stagecraft techniques, including moving set pieces, projections, and lots of water-based effects.

I don't believe I have ever seen so many smiling faces in an audience who, like us, were amazed at the perfect timing of the special effects and the wonderful spectacle that it was, ending with a 25-minute pyro musical display. The epic soundtrack, adding to the drama and excitement was created by award-winning composer Nathan Stornetta.

If you like a "feel-good" show (suitable for both adults and children) then you would love this. There were many adults-only groups too. A visit "up North" is well worth it, as there is also some beautiful countryside to be seen, and so many other areas of interest.

Gan canny,

Lín



ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL MONTHLY NEWS

Another very enjoyable Burns Night at the hall last month. Jonathan Glen entertained us all with an amusing addressing of the haggis and leading the dancing after a delicious meal.

Thanks to Ray Beech for organising and to all those who helped to make it such a good evening. Thanks too to Jonathan and Sharon Glen for leading the dancing and making it great fun.



Photo by David Robak

Whitewater Health

March 2026

Patient Participation Group

IMMUNISATION - WHY GET IMMUNISED?

The UK vaccination programme prevents around 5,000 deaths and 100,000 hospital admissions each year.

In recent years there has been a trend of lower vaccine uptake such that England no longer has the high levels of population immunity recommended by the World Health Organisation for infectious diseases like measles to be eliminated (95%).

Vaccination is one of the easiest and most powerful ways to protect children from serious illness. In a world where global travel and close community living allow diseases to spread quickly, vaccines act as a vital shield. They train a child's immune system to recognise and fight infections before they can cause harm, reducing the risk of complications that can lead to life-long complications like deafness, blindness, encephalitis (infection of the brain) paralysis or in some cases death.

fun to join in.

Beyond individual protection, vaccination strengthens the entire community. When most children are immunised, diseases struggle to spread - a benefit known as herd immunity - especially important for babies, older adults, and those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.



Childhood vaccinations offered by the NHS have been:

- rigorously tested
- continuously monitored
- used in millions of children worldwide and
- proven to be safe.

Important Communications from the Practice

To ensure you receive information quickly from the practice, please could you ensure you have “Notifications” in the NHS App turned on and if you have one, supply an email address to the practice.

Use of texts-SMS and emails will cost the practice from April whereas it is free via the NHS App. From April 2025 the practice has sent 562,511 texts to patients

New interesting stats:

Average booked time to being seen is 8.2 days

Average time in the waiting room is 4 minutes

Appointments missed or where patients did not attend in December:
348 missed appointments, which is 1 in 22 missed, wasting 115 hours of practitioner time
= 1.1 full time clinician; costing the practice £10,400.

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

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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.

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.



January Quiz Answers

1. England will play Croatia in their opening 2026 FIFA World Cup match. Name one of the other two countries in their group.
GHANA or PANAMA
2. Santa Fe is the capital of which US state? **NEW MEXICO**
3. Name any year in which Mary, Queen of Scots was alive.
Any year 1542 to 1587
4. What was the last port of call for the Titanic before hitting an iceberg? **QUEENSTOWN (accept COBH or CORK)**
5. In ten-pin bowling, a "turkey" refers to how many consecutive strikes? **THREE**
6. Which creature has three hearts and blood that is blue?
OCTOPUS
7. What five-letter word can go before "class", "cup" and "record" to give three well-known phrases? **WORLD**
8. What type of animal does Eddie Murphy voice in the Shrek films? **DONKEY**
9. On the TV show The Traitors, each contestant is either a "traitor" or a what? **FAITHFUL**
10. Who was the first British monarch to travel by train?
QUEEN VICTORIA

'Quizinquisitor'



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