

The Rotherwick News

January/February 2026

Volume 39 Edition 1

The Day Rotherwick Mother and Toddlers met Father Christmas



Turn to pages 7 and 12 for more about
the Mother and Toddler Group

Looking Ahead...



Saturday 24th January Burns Night at the village hall. Contact Ray 01256 763834

Monday 2nd February

Rotherwick Walkers 10.15 am. Meet outside the village hall. See page 14 for more details and more dates.

Thursday 5th February Village lunch at the Falcon All welcome. To book, please contact Tony Merricks anthony@merricks.me.uk

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



Finance and Funding for the Rotherwick News

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

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Quiz of the Month

January Questions

- 1. England will play Croatia in their opening 2026 FIFA World Cup match. Name one of the other two countries in their group.**
- 2. Santa Fe is the capital of which US state?**
- 3. Name any year in which Mary, Queen of Scots was alive.**
- 4. What was the last port of call for the Titanic before hitting an iceberg?**
- 5. In ten-pin bowling, a "turkey" refers to how many consecutive strikes?**

Which creature has three hearts and blood that is blue?

- 7. What five-letter word can go before "class", "cup" and "record" to give three well-known phrases?**
- 8. What type of animal does Eddie Murphy voice in the Shrek films?**
- 9. On the TV show The Traitors, each contestant is either a "traitor" or a what?**
- 10. Who was the first British monarch to travel by train?**

'Quizinquisitor'

Answers to last month's quiz are on page 19



Get Gardening



As I write this it is cold and frosty outside and I'm not inspired to do any gardening, mind you the ground is probably too hard at the moment and there is really little to do, apart from a bit of pruning. It is apparently a good time to prune gooseberry and blueberry bushes as unpruned they can grow to 3 metres according to Gardeners World! There is little in our kitchen garden that is edible at this time of year, unlike a garden we recently visited in Cornwall which was packed full of things to eat, but it was a large area and had several gardeners to look after it. Nevertheless, it did inspire me to think about what to grow this year.



Corn on the cob I won't do again purely because of lack of space, neither

would I grow broccoli or sprouts, too many pests. I thought I might try some carrots in a large deep pot as the one or two I got last year were lovely. What I didn't know was that the leafy foliage can also be eaten in moderation and apparently tastes (surprise, surprise) like carrotty parsley (horticulture.co.uk/carrots/tops/). Another crop I want to try is beetroot,



www.masseyharpers.co.uk

which I think is fairly easy to grow although sometimes difficult to germinate. Freshly cooked beetroot is delicious and so much better than the pickled beetroot I had as a child which put me off beetroot for years! There are also more varieties of beetroots around now, from yellow to pink to the deep red seen everywhere, the leaves can be used in salad and claim to have many health benefits (www.forkly.com). They are rich in potassium and vitamin C, help to lower blood pressure, are anti-ageing and even boost athletic performance—

might be a bit late for me for the last two! I've made beetroot risotto before, which is really nice as is roasted beetroot with red onions, olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Lots to think about if not a lot to do at the moment.

Happy New Year

Catherine

To All my valued customers,

I just wanted to take a moment to say a heartfelt thank you for all the kind wishes you shared with me on my return to work. As many of you know, my time away was due to a knee injury, and while I'm back on my feet, there's a chance it may still need a bit more treatment in the future. Your warm welcome back has genuinely lifted my spirits and reminded me how fortunate I am to serve such a thoughtful and supportive community.

It has been wonderful to see so many new faces over the past year and may I take this opportunity to welcome you to an amazing village.

I'm also incredibly grateful for the Christmas gifts you so generously gave. Your kindness never goes unnoticed, and I appreciate every gesture more than I can say. It's a real privilege to deliver to such considerate and supportive households.

As we step into a new year, I want to wish you and your families a happy, healthy, and prosperous year ahead. May it bring you plenty of good moments, good news, and good company. Thank you again for your kindness - it truly makes my job a joy.

Mark, The Postman

Rotherwick Toddler Group

Rotherwick Toddler Group has been running with the help of local mums for at least 50 years. It is a milestone year for us all.

We are very fortunate to have the use of the village hall which gives us such a large space for the children to run and play in, especially during the cold weather, and the village garden to create sports and science activities in warmer weather.

The support of the village in attending our group has always been integral to its ability to keep going for 50 years. It is a hub not just for Rotherwick parents, but those from the surrounding villages as well as childcare networks. We love that many of you have supported Rotherwick Toddlers in previous years, enjoying the space to catch up with each other whilst the children play.

The school terms help to shape the fun, with Christmas, Easter and Summer term activities. Before Christmas we had our latest visit from Father Christmas, who gave each of our children a favourite book to enjoy over the break. At Easter, we enjoy Easter themed crafts and egg hunts. The summer term brings with it the use of the outdoor space where we can have messier fun and sporting activities.

Unfortunately, over the past year we have found that the number of parents and toddlers attending has started to decline. This means that it's becoming increasingly harder to pay the rent of the hall. It would be such a shame to lose a strong supportive network of family ties within the village. Rotherwick just wouldn't be the same without it.

So, can you help us spread the word about Rotherwick Toddlers?

This year we welcomed everyone back from the 12th of January and would love to see you there from 10am- 11:30am.

For more information you can follow us on our facebook page.

Rotherwick Mother and Toddler group! Not just for Mums!!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/100608403358287/>

From Rotherwick to Poland

26th World Scout jamboree, Poland



Hi everyone, I just thought I would give you a quick update on Evan.

For those who don't know, Evan started his scouting career way back in 2017 when he joined Beavers at 1st Bramshill, Rotherwick Scout Group.

It was here under the leadership of Ricky and Sue Whistler that his love for all things scouting grew. It started off with a few visits before committing and eventually getting invested. Every week he was so excited to go and take part in the organised games, scouting activities in the hut and especially outside either by the camp fire cooking or in the woods building dens. He attended his first Beaver camp, miles away (Farnham) where they all slept in a patrol tent, did lots of camp activities such as go on a zip line, sing around the camp fire, drink hot chocolate and earn his very first nights away badge.



A few years later he moved up to cubs. More emphasis on practical scouting such as knots, first aid and map reading. He still enjoyed the camp fire cooking and all the games as well.

Unfortunately, Covid took place but cubs kept going online throughout this period. It just changed to the home and the kitchen instead. Now they were making things at home and cooking cakes using the microwave instead of the outdoors and the camp fire.

When he turned 10 he moved up to scouts. More emphasis on community and team work. Night hikes, Raft racing and tree planting for example. Several camps and a couple of residential trips to PGL and he was fully immersed in the scouting world. Attending everything that was on offer scouts was something he wasn't going to give up.

In July 2024 we moved to Somerset, he immediately joined 1st Crewkerne Scouts, part of Blackdown Scouts, Somerset. Unfortunately, the scout hut is surrounded by houses, so no more fires outside or a walk in the woods etc. But the evenings are the same indoors and outdoors, we just have a bit of a walk for the open area.

What the scout hut location in Crewkerne lacks, the leaders make up for with a truly varied and fun list of activities. Supported by other local scout groups, Evan has been on summer camps, winter camps, Exmoor Challenge hikes, scout skills days along with Kayaking and paddle boarding etc

He did return briefly to Rotherwick as he was booked on a trip to Ypres, Belgium with his friends, visiting all the battle fields and WW1 sites. Like the other scouts who attended, he loved the international experience, along with chatting to the Belgique scouts.

His biggest scout challenge was attending the International scout camp in Kent this summer where 8,000 youngsters attended KIJ2025 from all over the world.

He has now moved on to Explorer scouts - scouts aged 14-18. He has signed up for his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh with scouts and the Ten Tors. This is a weekend hike over Dartmoor with hundreds of other teams completing 35 miles in two days, carrying everything you need as a team of 6.

But his big news - so far the pinnacle of his scouting career, he's passed the selection events, and been chosen to be one of the 36 scouts representing Somerset at the World Scout Jamboree in Gdansk, Poland in 2027. Overjoyed and excited is an understatement. These only happen once every 4 years and every scout has the option to apply for them, but they only get one chance. By the time the next 4 years come around he will be too old.

So along with his Ten Tors training events and weekends and his Bronze D of E, he now has a year's worth of team building and scouting events to attend and take part in leading up to the World Scout Jamboree.

Now here comes the killer, each scout has to raise £3,600 to attend. This he is doing by making crafts for the local markets, volunteering at events where they get a little of the funds raised and by doing talks for the British Legion and other community groups such as the Lions Club. He is also applying for some grants but if you feel like helping him out and making a donation, then please visit his go fund me site by scanning the QR code.

I would just like to thank everyone at Rotherwick, especially those involved in scouting, including Whitewater school and anyone who has had anything to do with Evan for making him into the young man he is today. His scouting journey started at Rotherwick and it won't end in Somerset, but to date it has been such an incredible one.

As they say it takes a village to raise a child.

Thank you.

Ramblings of Rotherwick.





ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL MONTHLY NEWS

You may have noticed the rather large empty space left behind since the tree at the entry to the Village Hall car park from the field has been cut down. It was dead and needed to be removed. In its place, 2 trees will be planted.

The Christmas Trees at the front of the Hall have also been removed. We are grateful to our Village Hall team for being brave enough (or stupid enough) to hang off the balcony to secure them. They certainly add a bit of festive cheer on the dark nights around Christmas (the trees, not the team).

Happy New Year to you all.



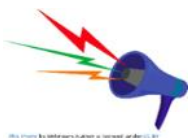
Nice to see Kelly and Evan back in Rotherwick hand bell ringing with the bell ringers at the Coach and Horses just before Christmas. Also it was lovely to hear how well Evan has settled into his new life in Somerset. (See pages 8 and 9) Good luck with your continuing scouting adventures Evan.

Photo Gallery



Thanks to
John Cutler
for these
beautiful
views of
Tylney Hall
taken on a
walk.





Let's give a shout to...



A huge thank you to Caroline Brown for organising the toddler group Christmas party at the village hall - and a visit from an extra special guest! Our children loved it! Many readers will know Caroline, and we're sure will join us in thanking her for being a wonderful pillar of the community, and for all she does for the children of Rotherwick and the surrounding area.

Danni, Joel, Wren, and Leif x



If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to read Caroline's article on page 7 about the Mother and Toddler group and let's all help spread the word to keep this very special community group going.

A Message from Helen

Happy New Year everyone! What a wonderful turn out we had in church over the Christmas period! The Baby Jesus Rocks went down well with families coming to exchange them for a gift – it was lovely to see many new faces.



I wonder if you have made a new years resolution? If you have, is it still going? I'm usually terrible at keeping them – within a week I am back on the chocolate! SO, this year I decided to give myself a little bit more hope. I have decided to concentrate on one word a month that will help me in how I view the world. On New Years Eve our new little granddaughter was born, Ottilie. And when we went to see her less than two hours after she was born the one word that came into my mind was WONDER. I wondered at the wonderful and beautiful gift of life. The beautiful hands, the eye lashes and nails and in Ottilie's case the carpet of hair. I wondered at how she could have possibly fitted into her mummies tummy less than 2 hours ago and how she was so perfectly formed and perfectly loved by us all.

I still wonder at the beauty of the countryside, when I give myself time, and when I am out in nature I definitely feel closer to God. It reminds me that God loves us and has given us this world to wonder at, if we make time. I definitely take this beautiful countryside for granted, but for January I am going to make time to wonder.

What word would you choose? Hope, peace, joy, love, kindness. I am going to be working my way through 12 words over this coming year and I hope that by December I will have a much more balanced outlook on life.

Hopefully see you around – do say hi.

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

The Rotherwick Walkers

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:



Monday 2nd February 2026

Tuesday 17th February 2026

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Thursday 19th March 2026

Friday 3rd April 2026

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!

NEW YEAR’S DAY WALK – Thursday 1st January

Pleasantly surprised. After so many days of wet and gloomy weather we were very pleased to find that the weather on the day was both dry and mild – which was in contrast to the atrocious conditions on our previous walk. Given that this was the first New Year’s Day walk that we had arranged and we had no idea of potential numbers it was lovely to find that we had nineteen walkers and five pooches. This included seven lovely new walkers. Some of these even indicated that they would come back.

The walk itself, which was ably led by Richard, was about 5 miles long and



took us across the fields towards Wild-moor, walking parallel to the Rivers Lyde and Loddon before heading back down Rotherwick Lane to Lyde Green, Frog Lane and back into the top of the village.

This was a lovely walk with the swollen rivers in full flow and conditions under-foot quite good given the recent weather. On the walk we were lucky enough to see a host of animals and creatures including sheep, red kites and a Ranger Tarandus. The Sweets of the Day were Haribo party bags as well as Mint Humbugs (thanks Graham).



One of our regulars, who had lost his mobile phone on the walk, was relieved to find that a very kind lady from Hook had found it whilst herself out walking. He was very happy to have it back though not as happy as we were as the thought of retracing our route and finding it was quite daunting. Overall a super walk which was very much enjoyed by the group and is another that we will aim to repeat in the future. After the walk several of us retired to the, very busy, Falcon Public House for a swift drink.



Many thanks to all who attended. It was a lovely, happy mixture of friends, villagers and first-time attendees. I do hope you all enjoyed it and I look forward to seeing you all on our next walk.



"January, the first month of the year, a perfect time to start all over again"-

Charmaine J Ford

Steve Cooper

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These include Hart's Community Garden situated between Hartley Wintney, Winchfield & Fleet, free weekly health walks, and our young carers & counselling services.

This event is for being led by our volunteer centre to help place volunteers across all Hart towns & villages.

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After 48 hours

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After 72 hours

If you notice that breathing feels easier, it's because your bronchial tubes have started to relax. Also your energy will be increasing.



After 2 to 12 weeks

Blood will be pumping through to your heart and muscles much better because your circulation will have improved.



After 3 to 9 months

Any coughs, wheezing or breathing problems will be improving as your lung function increases by up to 10%.



After 1 year

Great news! Your risk of heart attack will have halved compared with a smoker's.



After 10 years

More great news! Your risk of death from lung cancer will have halved compared with a smoker's.

Evidence shows if you make it to 28 days smoke-free, you are 5x more likely to quit for good !

Remember :

- It's never too late to quit and easier with the right support. Check-out the free tools and tips at the **Better Health Quit Smoking** website: www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking; and download the free NHS quit smoking app. Your family, friends & your pocket will benefit too!
- Smokefree Hampshire** also offer a free stop-smoking service to those who live or work in Hampshire at www.smokefreehampshire.co.uk

MISSED APPOINTMENTS!

On average between September & December 2025 **107 patients per WEEK failed to show-up for their appointments – equivalent to 89 hours of wasted appointments per WEEK.**

PLEASE, if you can't make an appointment, CANCEL IT to allow the time-slot to be re-allocated.

PPG Contact Details: (Please Note: The PPG cannot deal with medical or personal matters)

Email: Whitewaterppg@gmail.com
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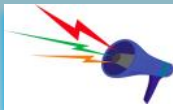
Practice/Surgery Contact Details :

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.



December Quiz Answers

1. Which Jewish festival fell on Christmas Day in 2024 for the first time in 20 years? **HANUKKAH**
2. Who did Tom Cruise marry on Christmas Eve 1990? **NICOLE KIDMAN**
3. According to the original lyrics to "Jingle Bells", who was seated by my side? **MISS FANNY BRIGHT**
4. Which German city is often called "The Gingerbread Capital of the World"? **NUREMBERG**
5. Happening every Christmas since 1914 (except for 1937 & 1938) the swimming race known as the Copa Nadal de Natacio takes place in which European city? **BARCELONA**
6. Who joined LadBaby on his 2021 UK Christmas number one "Sausage Rolls for Everyone"? **ED SHEERAN & ELTON JOHN.**
7. This cricketer, born on Christmas Day 1984, scored 12,472 Test Match runs, with 33 hundreds retired from the international scene in 2018. Who is he? **ALASTAIR COOK**
8. Terry's Chocolate Orange was first produced in which English city? **YORK (1932)**
9. Often used in Christmas floral displays, what is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*? **POINSETTIA**
10. "Quiet in the dark" is a cryptic clue for which Christmas carol? **SILENT NIGHT**



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Hook Care Group		08450 941549
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Churchwarden	Steve Burridge rotherwickcw2@btinternet.com	
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Group Scout Leader	Richard Whistler	01256 763118
Rotherwick Mother & 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	rwsg25@gmail.com