

The Rotherwick News

March /April 2026

Volume 39 Edition 3

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.

Get Gardening



One bonus of having a wet winter is that our clay soil is now soft and easy to dig which made planting a few bits of hornbeam hedging relatively easy. Hornbeam seem to tolerate our wet winter soil better than beech and being very similar to look at blends well into our established beech hedge. However, it seems squirrels like to strip their bark, and we've lots of squirrels so they will need protecting (woodlandtrust.org.uk). Apparently hornbeam is a very hard wood and sometimes known as musclewood or ironwood and can live for 300 years. They make a lovely shaped tree so I might



Woodlandtrust.org.uk

plant one of the bits of hedging and see if it eventually becomes tree shaped, mind you it could take a while! I've never come across anything made of hornbeam but it seems it is used for flooring and of all things, clogs (arborfacts.com), which might be why.

Talking of squirrels, we came across one fast asleep which I've not seen before. We first thought it was dead but when about to prod it, it moved but didn't travel far before once again going to sleep. We left it alone but as I was mowing the lawn (where it was snoozing) it wasn't long before it moved again, only to fall sleep again! I always thought squirrels slept in trees in their drey nests not on the ground. However, it seems sometimes they will find elsewhere to hide from predators, all I can say is this one would have been easy prey as it was dead to the world when we first came across it by our front door (www.nhm.ac.uk)



A hole made by a squirrel

We have also recently found once again a series of holes in our lawn which may now be squirrel holes. I first thought they were holes made by rats but rat holes are apparently bigger than these 2 inch diameter holes. They are most likely to be made by squirrels looking for insects or acorns at this time of year or in the autumn (coguardpestmanagement.com). Phew, I'd rather squirrels than rats any day!

Catherine

Looking Ahead...



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

Thursday 2nd April Village lunch at the Falcon. All welcome. To book, please contact Tony Merricks
anthony@merricks.me.uk

Friday 3rd April Rotherwick Walkers 10.15 am. Meet outside the village hall. See page 8 for more details and more dates.

Thursday 9th April Crafty Cuppa at the village hall. 10.30—12.30. £2 Everyone welcome.

Wednesday 15th April Annual Parish Assembly for the parish of Rotherwick - 7.00pm at the village hall. See page 5 for more details.



A Message from Helen



Over the past few weeks the news has felt particularly heavy. Wherever you look there seem to be stories of conflict, uncertainty and suffering in different parts of the world. It's hard not to feel a sense of worry when the headlines are filled with war and tension, and many people have said to me recently that it all feels a bit overwhelming.

At times like that, I often find myself noticing the smaller, quieter things closer to home. The mornings are slowly getting lighter. There are snowdrops in the churchyard and the first signs of spring appearing in hedges and gardens. The seasons carry on turning, just as they always have, gently reminding us that change and renewal are woven into the fabric of life.

Living in a village has a way of grounding us in those rhythms. The familiar walk to School, the sound of children playing, the sight of neighbours stopping for a chat — these everyday moments may seem small, but they are also deeply reassuring. They remind us that community, kindness and ordinary life still matter.

For Christians, hope isn't simply wishful thinking; it's the belief that God is present even in the most difficult circumstances. The Bible is full of stories of people facing uncertainty and fear, yet discovering that peace can appear in unexpected places. God does not promise that the world will always be easy, but he does promise that we are never alone within it.

So while the wider world may sometimes feel unsettled, perhaps this season can be an invitation to notice signs of hope around us — in the returning light, in the turning of the seasons, and in the care we show one another day by day.

Whether you are someone of faith or simply someone looking for a little encouragement, my hope for all of us this spring is that we might find moments of peace in the ordinary and perhaps discover that hope can quietly grow even in uncertain times.

As I am writing this the sun is shining and the temperature is set to hit 18 in March! I can't help but notice as I drive through the countryside the amount of litter that is in the hedgerows, I'm sure it didn't used to be this bad?!

The village are about to embark on their annual litter pick on Saturday 21st March and I am pleased to say that the church will be open for coffee and cake after you guys have finished so please do pop in and grab some well earned refreshments, it would be lovely to see you.

Kindest Regards
Helen

Rev'd Helen Sherlock
Associate Priest of Whitewater Benefice

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

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – 2026

The Annual Parish Assembly for the parish of Rotherwick
will be held on

**Wednesday 15th April 2026 from 7.00 p.m.
in Rotherwick's Village Hall.**

The meeting will begin with the Chairman, Cllr Hugh Radesk providing a roundup of the pc's activities during 2025-26, and its plans as well as challenges it faces during 2026-27. Your engagement on some of those challenges is required so please, **do come along**.

There will also be an opportunity for residents to raise any matters relating to life in the parish.

Refreshments & Nibbles will be served.
clerk@rotherwick.org.uk



North Hampshire Repair Cafe



Hello Rotherwick News,

It's been a busy time since we last sent out a full newsletter. Our big news is that we have now surpassed **£100,000 in customer savings**. That's repairs to items that would have cost at least £100,000 for customers to replace instead of repair. We also had the BBC come and visit us and we featured on South Today under their special report on Reduce, Re-use, Recycle as an example of Re-use. Click [here](#) to see the great article on the BBC website about us...

And here are our updated stats...

Savings to date (43 meetings)

£103,911 customer savings
2211 total repair requests
74% fix rate
2.78 tons of avoided waste
18.09 tons of avoided greenhouse gasses

Basingstoke & Deane Community Lottery

We now get some funding through the Basingstoke & Deane Community Lottery. If you would like to help us (and other causes in the area), and have the chance of winning the £25,000 jackpot, click [here](#). Last month's winning numbers were **159063** and there were 28 winners!

Next meeting

28th March - Sherfield on Loddon village hall, 10:00-13:00 (10:30 for customers not booking online). See nhrc.uk for more details and make a booking.

Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/northhampshirerepaircafe

Thanks,

Simon G from the NHRC team



Quiz of the Month

March Questions

- 1. On which sea does Estonia have a coast?**
- 2. What is the principal alcoholic ingredient in a Hurricane cocktail?**
- 3. As of 2026, who is the only Democrat US President to have been born in Texas?**
- 4. From which flower is the spice Saffron obtained?**
- 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?**
- 6. Which company or organisation's website would you reach using the address aa.com?**
- 7. In the 2003 American animated film "Finding Nemo" what type of fish are both Nemo and Marlin?**
- 8. What is the capital of the Australian state that extends the furthest north?**
- 9. In which British town did the first double-yellow no parking lines appear in 1956? Slough or Reading?**
- 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?**

Answers to last month's quiz are on page 14



The Rotherwick Walkers



Friday 3rd April 2026

Monday 20th April 2026

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 rwsq25@gmail.com and I will be in touch!

VILLAGE WALK - WEDNESDAY 4th MARCH 2026



In the absence of our Supreme Leader, Steve - sadly laid low by a back problem - it fell upon his deputies, Maria and Richard, to lead this week's expedition. Fourteen brave walkers and two of our four-legged companions. A couple of new faces joined our regulars as we set off at 10:30am from Rotherwick Village Hall beneath a slightly overcast sky.

Our route took us past Rotherwick Recreation Ground and across Ty-lney Park golf course as we made our way towards the recently reopened Old House at Home in Newnham. After a brief interlude for a photo opportunity on Newnham village green, surrounded by some beautiful examples of the Amaryllidaceae family (daffodils to you and me), we continued across the fields, skirting the northern edge of Hook. At this point, the going turned heavy underfoot, although I am pleased to report that all our walkers negotiated this section without sacrificing their footwear to the mud.



Not a great deal of wildlife was spotted on this walk, just a few cows and a Tarsier. The final leg brought us out onto The Street at precisely 12:30, with 4.5 miles completed just as the sun finally broke through the clouds. Sweets of the Day were Haribo, supplemented by a bag of strawberry and blackcurrant Fruit Pastilles - an inspired

choice given that admirers of the lime-flavoured variety are hard to find.

Many thanks to all who attended. We hope you enjoyed the walk and look forward to seeing you again next time. And get well soon, Steve!

"March brings breezes loud and shrill, to stir the dancing daffodil." — William Wordsworth



ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL MONTHLY NEWS

Once again the village hall has been on the telly! You may have spotted it on BBC South Today when it hosted the Repair Café as part of a feature on dealing with waste.

A new venture is starting up this month, thanks to Richard Burke introducing Pickleball to Rotherwick. The hall will be the venue for this new club which is already creating lots of interest in the village. If you want to find out more, Richard's contact details are at the bottom of the Useful Contacts list on the back page.



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Befriending Service

New volunteering opportunity for 2026

Odiham Cottage Hospital's Befriending Service is a volunteer led service run and managed by the Hospital and covers the areas of Odiham, Hook, Hartley Wintney and Old Basing and surrounding villages. Our clients are those who have become lonely and isolated due to living with a long-term health condition, or are receiving palliative care.

The service recruits, trains and supports volunteers who on a weekly basis visit people in their homes, as well as provide befriending via the telephone. All clients are referred to the service through their GP practice, community health team or another medical professional.

We are currently recruiting new volunteers to be Befrienders for the service. For just 2 hours a week, you can make a real difference in someone's life within your local community.

For more information or an application pack, please contact: -

Tina Birch- Befriending Manager

on 01256 393609

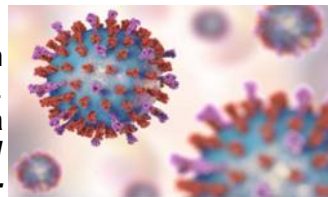
or via email at: befriending@odihamcottagehospital.org.uk

Thank you.

RSV: The Little - Known Virus

What is it?

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is a common seasonal virus that infects lungs and airways. For most healthy adults, it feels a lot like a heavy cold, ***but for babies, older adults and people with long-term heart or lung conditions, RSV can be more serious.***



RSV has been around for decades, but its impact on older adults has only become clear in recent years and is now recognised as a major cause of winter pressures on the NHS, contributing to thousands of hospitalisations every year.

Who Is Most at Risk?

While RSV is often associated with infants, recent research has highlighted its impact on older adults. Every year, thousands of people over 75 become seriously unwell with RSV, placing additional pressure on the NHS during the colder months. Those living in care homes or managing chronic health conditions being particularly vulnerable.

So What is Changing this Spring?

The NHS is expanding its RSV vaccination programme to offer broader protection.

From April 1st 2026, Whitewater Health will be inviting:

- **Pregnant women**
- **Adults aged 75 to 79**
- **Anyone who turned 80 after 1 September 2024**

Patients who are eligible will be invited to book an appointment at the surgery. SMS invitations are being sent out on an ongoing basis to all

eligible patients as they become due.

These vaccinations are delivered routinely by the nursing team.

Why It Matters

With no specific treatment for RSV, prevention is the best defence and the updated vaccination guidance aims to protect those most at risk and ease the seasonal strain on the NHS.

PPG Contact Details:

(Please Note: The PPG is unable to deal with any medical or personal matters)

Email: Whitewaterppg@gmail.com

125<https://www.facebook.com/WhitewaterPPG>

Practice/Surgery Contact Details :

Website: www.whitewaterhealth.nhs.uk

Telephone Hartley Wintney - 01252 842087 Hook - 01256-762125



A book from the box

The Great Alone By Kristen Hannah



I don't know if any of you have seen programmes about life in the wilds of Alaska but I have and they have left me fascinated by what it must be like to live in such a remote part of the world and in such isolation from the rest of the world, especially in the extreme winter weather. It seems that to live there you need to be hardy and particularly strong minded to say the least—definitely not for the faint hearted.

So when I came across the book *The Great Alone* which is all about a family that move to live in the wilderness there I was intrigued to read it. Especially as Kristan Hannah has lived this life and although, fiction, I felt it would be based on real life..



Below is a description of the book taken from Good Reads.com

Ernt Allbright, a former POW, comes home from the Vietnam war a changed and volatile man. When he loses yet another job, he makes an impulsive decision: he will move his family north, to Alaska, where they will live off the grid in America's last true frontier.

Thirteen-year-old Leni, a girl coming of age in a tumultuous time, caught in the riptide of her parents' passionate, stormy relationship, dares to hope that a new land will lead to a better future for her family. She is desperate for a place to belong. Her mother, Cora, will do anything and go anywhere for the man she loves, even if means following him into the unknown.

At first, Alaska seems to be the answer to their prayers. In a wild, remote corner of the state, they find a fiercely independent community of strong men and even stronger women. The long, sunlit days and the generosity of the locals make up for the Allbrights' lack of preparation and dwindling resources.

But as winter approaches and darkness descends on Alaska, Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates and the family begins to fracture. Soon the perils outside pale in comparison to threats from within. In their small cabin, covered in snow, blanketed in eighteen hours of night, Leni and her mother learn the terrible truth: they are on their own. In the wild, there is no one to save them but themselves.

In this unforgettable portrait of human frailty and resilience, Kristin Hannah reveals the indomitable character of the modern American pioneer and the spirit of a vanishing Alaska—a place of incomparable beauty and danger. *The Great Alone is a daring, beautiful, stay-up-all-night story about love and loss, the fight for survival, and the wildness that lives in both man and nature.*

Sue



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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.



February Quiz Answers

1. In October, which church with a height of 162.91 metres became the tallest in the World? **SAGRADA FAMILIA (Barcelona)**
2. Which bank used the slogan "Local banking for Britain"? **TSB**
3. Which area is another name for a portion of the Nevada Test Range that some think contains evidence of visitors from outer space? **AREA 51**
4. What name is given to the pursuit of hiding and locating small containers using GPS coordinates? **GEOCACHING**
5. If all the cities that have hosted the Summer Olympic Games were listed alphabetically, which one would come last? **TOKYO**
6. In December 2026, which of the four nations of the UK is due to become the first to ban plastic wet wipes? **WALES**
7. Recently overtaking Tesla as the world's biggest seller of electric vehicles, in which country is the company BYD based? **CHINA**
8. Considered one of Britain's toughest outdoor challenges, which mountain is climbed second on the National Three Peaks Challenge? **SCAFELL PIKE**
9. In 1875, which 19th-century Norwegian composer wrote incidental music to accompany Henrik Ibsen's play "Peer Gynt"? **EDVARD GRIEG**
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? **RED**



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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.

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Rotherwick Walkers	Steve Cooper	rwsg25@gmail.com
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