

The Rotherwick News

October/November 2021

Volume 33 Edition 10

ROTHERWICK VILLAGE HALL FIREWORKS



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**at the VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2021**

**GATES OPEN 6.30 PM
FIREWORKS 7.30PM**

Turn to page 29 for further details

Absolutely Agnes...

As Agnes sits down to write, Autumn is in full swing, leaves are on the turn & berries in the hedgerows are a plenty.

This is the perfect time of year to bring in foraged branches to display in jugs & vases, amongst which Agnes loves to display pinecones & pumpkins, both handmade & real- it lends such an air of cosiness to the cottage.



Speaking of cosy, the chimney has now had its annual sweep & Agnes has already enjoyed her first evening in front of the fire. There may or may not have been a small tippie involved to mark the occasion.

According to Lady Celia Congreve, the type of wood you choose to burn is of the utmost importance:

*Beech-wood fires burn bright and clear, if the logs are kept a year:
Store your beech for Christmastide, with new cut holly laid aside.
Chestnut's only good they say, if for years 'tis stored away;
Flames from larch will shoot up high, dangerously the sparks will fly.
But ash-wood green and ash-wood brown, are fit for a queen with
a golden crown.*

Well, a queen she may not be, but armed with this knowledge, Agnes shall insist upon nothing but ash in her log delivery from now onwards!

With her thoughts always drawn to the food & drink associated with each season, Agnes is already looking forward to the village bonfire this November....for this marks the first mulled wine of the season, and with any luck a good banger or two!

As for now, the Harvest Service is scheduled for this weekend....as well as the chance to chat to friends & neighbours, Agnes can confess that the promise of a spit roast was perhaps only the slightest of incentives.

Enjoy Autumn dear friends & neighbours.

Warmest wishes,

Agnes

PS. If you would like to see more of what Agnes is up to, do follow her village adventures: Instagram: [absolutely_agnes](#)
Facebook: [absolutelyagnes](#)

Thanks Agnes as always. You make us almost look forward to winter! (The poem can be read in full on page 21).

Dear Reader,

Once again a huge thank you to all who have donated to the Rotherwick News in order that it will arrive on your mat, come rain or shine, ablaze with colour and full of..... Rotherwick news and anything else we think may be of interest to you.

We, the Editors, the Writing Group and those who deliver your magazine are delighted that it is so well received. It really is wonderfully supportive and most encouraging, giving us all the confidence to keep writing and become more mindful in our daily lives as to what might make a good read.

THANK YOU

The Editors, *Amanda , Jenny and Sue*

For donations with a suggested amount of £10, the Rotherwick News bank details are:

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Acc name is, The Rotherwick News

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Dear Editor,

I am thinking about fireworks and animals at this time of year, as animals are scared of fireworks. Our family has a dog called Rosie and a horse called Ed, who are both frightened of fireworks. If you are having a fireworks party for November 5th, a birthday or New Year, please tell your neighbours before so that they can keep their animals safe inside.

Thank you and keep safe.

Kind regards

Will Hare

Get Gardening

Have you seen how many berries there are in the hedgerows? It seems there is a bumper crop this year. I've seen sloes, blackberries, hawthorn berries (haws), rose hip and cotoneaster berries galore and even the holly berries are starting to turn red. We have what I thought was a pretty ropey cotoneaster which is now covered in the most wonderful red berries – a feast for the blackbirds!



(All photos taken when walking around Rotherwick, except the cotoneaster which is from our garden.)

Has anyone else heard the old wives' tale that an abundance of berries means a hard winter? Whether it's true or not we'll have to wait and see. Some old wives' tales we've all heard of such as 'An apple a day keeps the doctor away' and 'Red sky at night shepherd's delight, red sky in the morning shepherd's warning.' Others said to be true I've not heard of are 'One year's seeds is seven year's weeds', 'vinegar kills weeds' and you should 'plant seeds when you can sit on the ground with your trousers down!'

Then there are these on the next page. I always thought might have some truth to them but apparently do not...

1. Potatoes should be planted on Good Friday – it was thought the devil was powerless on this day!
2. Daffodils should be tied up when finished flowering – not that I've ever done it.
3. Never water in the heat of the day (I'm not sure I agree with this one).
4. Cut an earthworm in half and it will make two (apparently, they can grow a new tail but if the cut is near the head, then it's a goner!).
5. Crocks in pots improve drainage (I've always done this!)
6. Tree roots only go as far as the crown – most go twice as far, and poplar's go 3 times as far!
7. Plant marigolds to keep the bad bugs away.
8. Plant three crops of parsley – two for the devil and one for me.
9. Parsley grows best where the woman wear's the pants. Well! For years and years our parsley thrived but this year it has not – therefore I fear I'm losing my position as head of the household!

A new one on me is that perennials and root vegetables should be planted during the dark of night – true or not I've no idea. Nevertheless, I shall be trying to ensure I have a good crop of parsley next year!

Catherine Bolt

Overheard at the bus stop



These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter – I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm here after!

Rotherwick Scout Group

All sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts restarted the autumn term recently at the Scout den with several new members joining us, some as a result of a Beaver activities afternoon.

We made the most of the light evenings in September to enjoy various activities outdoors including fire lighting and outdoor cooking. A great day was had by the Cubs recently at the District Cub activities day, with a full programme of activities including, kayaking, shooting, tomahawk throwing, fire lighting and outdoor cooking ending with a campfire. In October we have already had a Scout hike from Hook to Rotherwick with cooking supper on open fires, a scout archery competition, and a cub archery competition. October ends with our postponed trip for Cubs and Scouts to PGL Hindhead.

It is so lovely to be able to get back to some degree of normality. A couple of weeks ago, Pete Day, district commissioner for Bramshill District attended Scouts to make 2 presentations, to Dan, Skip, his Wood beads to show he had completed all the training to be Scout Leader, and to Nicky Howells, a 10 year service award. Well done Dan and Nicky. Congratulations.

If you would like to join us and take part in these types of activities, either as a leader, helper, or youth member we still have opportunities available. For more details please contact Richard or Sue Whistler, 01256 763118 or email, thewhistlers@btinternet.com.

A reminder to everyone

We are still collecting postage stamps in aid of Hampshire Air Ambulance.

Please drop these at 1 Wogsbarne Cottages or to the Scout den during meetings.

Great to see the cubs
and beavers back in
action.



A message from Rachel Johnson—Parish Councillor

As the Parish Councillor who attends the quarterly policing priorities Meetings, I am keen for Rotherwick residents to inform me of any concerns they have or questions they wish me to ask, on their behalf, at these meetings. It is our opportunity to have a direct link with the Hart Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Email Rachel Johnson on rachel.johnson@rotherwick.org.uk

Please visit www.rotherwick.org.uk
for Rotherwick Parish information and sign up for Parish

Your Wellbeing Matters



Did you know its **World Mental Health Day** this month?

Good mental health is not simply the absence of diagnosable mental health problems, although good mental health is likely to help protect against development of many such problems. Good mental health is characterised by a person's ability to fulfil a number of key functions and activities, including:

- the ability to learn
- the ability to feel, express and manage a range of positive and negative emotions
- the ability to form and maintain good relationships with others
- the ability to cope with and manage change and uncertainty

It's important to take care of yourself and get the most from life. Below are 10 practical ways to look after your mental health. Making simple changes to how you live doesn't need to cost a fortune or take up loads of time. Anyone can follow this advice. Why not start today?

1. Talk about your feelings Talking about your feelings can help you stay in good mental health and deal with times when you feel troubled.

2. Keep active Regular exercise can boost your self-esteem and can help you concentrate, sleep, and feel better. Exercise keeps the brain and your other vital organs healthy, and is also a significant benefit towards improving your mental health.

3. Eat well Your brain needs a mix of nutrients in order to stay healthy and function well, just like the other organs in your body. A diet that's good for your physical health is also good for your mental health.

4. Drink sensibly We often drink alcohol to change our mood. Some people drink to deal with fear or loneliness, but the effect is only temporary. When the drink wears off, you feel worse because of the way the alcohol has affected your brain and the rest of your body. Drinking is not a good way to manage difficult times.

5. Keep in touch There's nothing better than catching up with someone face to face, but that's not always possible. You can also give them a call, drop them a note, or chat to them online instead. Keep the lines of communication open: it's good for you!

6. Ask for help None of us are superhuman. We all sometimes get tired or overwhelmed by how we feel or when things don't go to plan.

If things are getting too much for you and you feel you can't cope, ask for help. Your family or friends may be able to offer practical help or a listening ear.

7. Take a break A change of scene or a change of pace is good for your mental health. It could be a five-minute pause from cleaning your kitchen, a half-hour lunch break at work, or a weekend exploring somewhere new. A few minutes can be enough to de-stress you. Give yourself some 'me time'

8. Do something you're good at What do you love doing? What activities can you lose yourself in? What did you love doing in the past? Enjoying yourself can help beat stress. Doing an activity you enjoy probably means you're good at it, and achieving something boosts your self-esteem.

9. Accept who you are We're all different. It's much healthier to accept that you're unique than to wish you were more like someone else. Feeling good about yourself boosts your confidence to learn new skills, visit new places and make new friends. Good self-esteem helps you cope when life takes a difficult turn

10. Care for others 'Friends are really important... We help each other whenever we can, so it's a two-way street, and supporting them uplifts me.'

Caring for others is often an important part of keeping up relationships with people close to you. It can even bring you closer together.

WHO LIVED IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

We may all know a little of the history of some of the *buildings* in Rotherwick, but have you ever wondered who has actually lived here in the village before you?

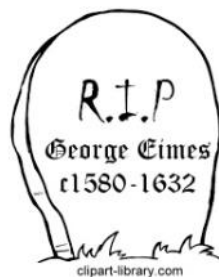
Many of us will know of some past residents from the last twenty to thirty years or so, and some will even be able to recall some from as far back as the 1960s. But, over the past several hundred years, there have been a great number of people who have made the Village their home, living here for many years.



Between 1561-1661 there were 433 burials recorded at Rotherwick Church, and between the years 1561-2021 that number increases to 2,233 but there are very few headstones to mark the graves.

Take resident Aves Kemner,⁽¹⁾ and George Emes⁽¹⁾ for example. George, born c1580, married Aves on 4th November 1619 at Rotherwick Church when she would have been about 35 years of age. Avies Kember⁽¹⁾ was baptised 24th January 1584 at Rotherwick with her sister Prues, and was followed by siblings Elizabeth in 1587, and Robert (1600-1600).

George Eimes was buried in Rotherwick in 1632. In 1631 on 6th January, George Emes,⁽¹⁾ a husbandman (farmer) made his last Will and Testament in which he declared himself “weake of body but of good and perfect remembrance”. He requested that his body be buried in the Parish Churchyard at Rotherwick and bequeathed £1 (roughly £122 today) towards the repairing of the Church, and also ten shillings to the poor of Rotherwick. His wife was to remain in his property until her death.



It would seem that George and Avies had no children, which would explain why a gift of ten pounds each was to be paid to his brother's two daughters, and £28 divided between his sister's three children.

To give an idea of the value of the bequests, a National Archives⁽²⁾ rough guide suggests that £10 could have bought a horse, a cow, or even 2 quarters of wheat back then, and 10 shillings would have paid the wages of a skilled tradesman for 7 days! Dream on, if you're looking for somebody to do a cheap job for you today.



Lin Humble

Notes:

⁽¹⁾ Kemner/Kember/Kimber, Emes/Eimes/Eeames, Aves/Avies (or Avis?): Name spellings, even for the same person, could vary greatly and were often down to the curate or his clerk since many people could not read or write.

⁽²⁾ Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.



The Coach and Horses

So I have literally just bumped into Jenny from the Coach and Horses and she was telling me all about the renovation and decoration work happening at the pub.

Which was really interesting, but the underlying question was “when will it be open again?” So the word is definitely by the end of October, but hopefully sooner. Jenny did say she will know more this week and confirm to the masses via their Facebook page and signs outside the pub.

So other burning questions we put to her were, what beers will she be serving? She will definitely have one main supplier for the wets and dry, but for other items such as the Ales she is looking at some local breweries and trying to stay away from the big corporate run of the mill ones you can buy from Tesco .

Will you still be doing my favourite traditional ham egg and chips? I must admit I forgot to ask Jenny this one, so I will need to wait and see.

What is the colour scheme inside? She did offer us a sneak peak but like everyone else we want to wait and see, so no spoilers here.

What about the garden as there had been a video posted on Facebook showing work happening? It's all getting tidied, and will be having gravel surface with plenty of seating and a picket fence surrounding the garden.

Other questions I've found on their Facebook page are along the lines of,

Has CAMRA been informed that the Coach is changing to a free house?

Will there be live music nights?

Hope the character won't change?

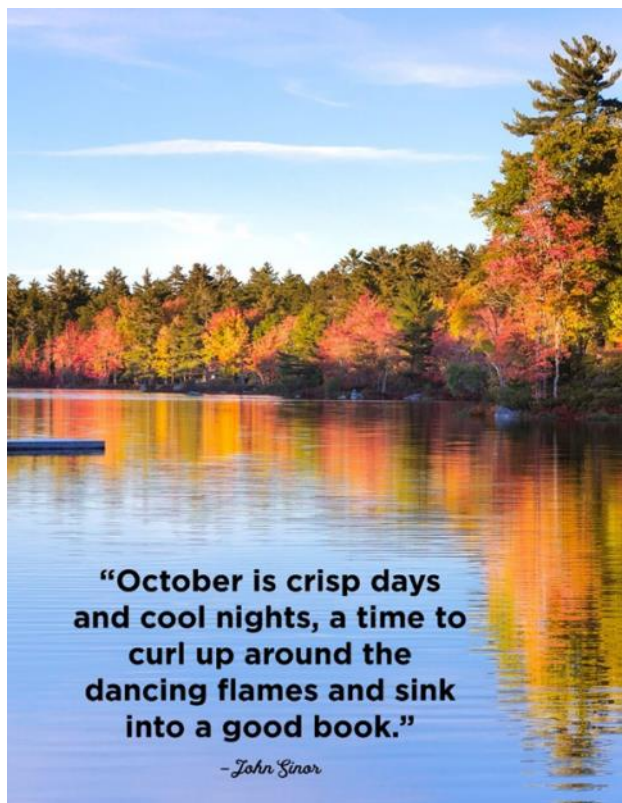
Is the garden getting bigger?

Will there be a children's play area?

I know the answers to a few of these but I would suggest if you see Jenny stop and chat to her.

Visit at the end of the month when they open.

A customer.





CHRISTMAS DOOR WREATH WORKSHOP



AT THE VILLAGE HALL

8TH DECEMBER 7.30PM – 9.30PM

£35 each (inc refreshments)

Design and create your own Door Wreath.

***Flowers By Becky* are delighted to be here to help you through the whole process.**

What you will be given:

1 x 12" wire wreath ring, already mossed

A ball of mossing twine

Scissors

A selection of freshly cut winter foliage

For decoration, you will be able to choose from:

A ribbon hanger, various colours and designs

A wider ribbon for creating a bow, various colours and designs

Fir cones, plain, silver or gold

Dried Lotus Heads, plain, silver or gold

Whole dried oranges and limes, Sliced dried oranges and limes

Cinnamon sticks

Baubles in a variety of different colours and sizes

All you need is to bring yourself, maybe an apron as it can get messy and a sense of fun and creativity!

Tickets on sale now

**Limited places available so please
book early by contacting Sue**

07800559600

Organised by the village hall committee

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Mental Health

You may have noticed some jolly good advice elsewhere in this magazine on looking after your mental health. I am an avid reader on all that is to do with good health both mental and physical. Recently I have read more and more about how your mental health can affect your physical being and indeed when I address all my angst (when I have finally understood what is really bothering me) I release a lot of tension and feel better and happier.

However, it doesn't always work like that! Particularly at the end of yet another busy week at work with a couple of unexpected family disasters thrown in or the dog decides to break a nail (claw) which requires a visit to the vet which I haven't got time for. (In the case of our little dog, a trip to the vet is not simple since he hates the vet and is absolutely petrified so he has to take calming medication the night before which I have to go and collect the day before the 'procedure' visit!). The car pings up a warning light at 7 42am as I start it up ready to go to work already running late and I can't find the coolant it needs. Little Betty at work has lost her music the week before her piano exam. The supermarket has no beer (grumpy Husband). The list goes on and by Friday evening I am ready to explode.

How to calm down? A glass of wine I think to myselfnope that will lead to me opening the nearest packet of crisps/peanuts, which I love but can't stop at one packet once I start. Then the following morning I will be full of regret and yet more angst at all the empty calories I consumed (and I will have a headache since nowadays a thimbleful full of wine is all it takes at my age!). So I steer clear of the wine route and consider a workout which I instantly dismiss ... haven't the energy .

As I cast around for a remedy it appears in front of me. The same little dog that contributed to the problem in the first place, looking at me with the "Please can we go for a walk eyes" and of course duty bound if nothing else, I put on his lead and off we go , him utterly delighted and me grumpily following along behind. Slowly but surely though, my irritated stomp turns into a 'spring in my step' jaunt as I calm down and release all my problems one by one into the evening air, walking through our delightful village with its woods and fields and birds singing, streams and little waterfalls and peace. My equilibrium is restored. Phew !

AP

Lisa's Recipe of the Month...



Creamed Spinach

This is a delicious side dish to serve with steak or burgers.

Ingredients

500g baby spinach, washed
250g double cream
40g grated Parmesan
Fresh nutmeg, grated
1/2 tsp fine salt

Serves 2



Method

1. Blanch spinach in a large pan of boiling unsalted water for one minute in 2 or 3 batches.
2. Drain spinach in a colander and squeeze the spinach in your hand to remove excess water - you need to squeeze hard to remove as much water as possible - you can use kitchen paper to squeeze out the last drops.
3. You should now have 200-225g of cooked spinach. It is very important that you weigh the spinach at this stage. If it's too wet (ie weighs more than 225g) you will have spinach soup!
4. Chop spinach finely.
5. In a pan combine the cream, Parmesan, salt and grate in some nutmeg. Be careful with the nutmeg as it is strong in flavour. You can always add more later if it is to your taste. Place the pan over a gentle heat and bring to simmer.
6. Add the chopped spinach and stir well to combine. Leave over a gentle heat until warmed through. This should take about 2 minutes.

If you go down to the woods

It's October. Not that anyone needs reminding, it gets so dark so early and cold. But it's not all bad.

If you go down to the woods today, you can have a good rummage around in the undergrowth to see what is thriving in these dark cold damp days. Why would you I hear you say? Well a couple of years ago as a family we went for a walk in Hudsons Copse with The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. In total there was about 20 of us and obviously a few very knowledgeable people amongst us. We met



at the Falcon and proceeded in the rain to the woods. This did mean we had to return to the Falcon which is never a bad experience and sample some autumnal lunch.

Walking around the woods we found various different types of fungus none are rare but some are not as common as you might think. The experts from the trust identified everything for us .

Our favourite (the largest picture) is a type of Coral fungus. There were plenty of Fly agaric in the woods. (The red ones with white spots that elves sit on). We spotted plenty of other types and I would urge everyone to either attend one of these organised walks or go with a friend and a little fungus identification book.

Remember to wash your hands after handling the fungus, oh and don't eat any, even though every type of fungus is edible at least once. Seriously though, **DON'T EAT THEM.**

So October is also full of pumpkins. Pumpkin recipes on the TV as well as the magazines' pumpkin pie, pumpkin soup etc. They are in the shops ready for you to buy to carve into your best spooky face or scary scene.

But before you do go and buy one at the shops, think about our very own local producer, The Pumpkin patch. If you never went for a visit last year or last week even, it is up at the grain store on Frog Lane.

Henry and Lynette have transformed the Sunflower field into their annual pumpkin harvest.

You can just walk up and purchase your very own locally produced pumpkin this Sat 23 - Sun 31. Good for you, good for the environment and our local farmers. Win, win for everyone.

If you are visiting in a car you need to go online to book a parking space. Just google Rotherwick Pumpkin Patch.



Now you have your local pumpkin what are you going to carve into it?

We have done various different designs over the years, all are usually a sort of seasonal scary face. I say scary most are actually funny and not scary but they are on topic.

We also grow our own and over the years we have grown blue pumpkins.

Yes they really are a thing and the seeds can be bought up the road at Hortus Loci. A word of warning though, the colour is a great talking point, I mean blue pumpkins but the carving of it will last a lot longer than the chat. They are so tough to carve. I've never in my life tried to carve something this hard apart from a lump of wood.

The other variety we always grow are the Atlantic Giants. These are the ones that dominate the county show grounds as the huge monsters that they are. The RHS at Wisley grow these and when they get to a certain size they carefully move them onto pallets, to let them keep on growing. This then allows them to be transported when they are fully grown. Now all pumpkins are hungry feeders so the show ones have been fed all manner of concoctions that are a closely guarded secret.

However, I'll let you know how we grow ours. We start them off back in the summer just like the seed packet tells you. In a 3inch pot, then when large enough to handle we move it on to a slightly larger pot. When its larger still we transport it and plant it into last year's compost heap. The compost is nice and rotted and full of all the good stuff that the pumpkins like. Add some water and keep watering on dry days and you then have a large pumpkin.

Obviously if you are after a show winner you will have to google special feeds or talk to someone with experience who doesn't mind sharing their hints and tips. I can safely say that tomato feed or comfrey leaves steeped in a bucket of water will help.

Personally we just plant ours and leave it up to nature to do her thing. They will spread, if you have never grown one they send out fantastic long creeping stems. We have found them in the hedge before now. Ours are not show winners, but if you need a wheelbarrow to move it, then you know it's a big one. Let's face it, who doesn't love growing their very own pumpkins?



Happy Halloween.

Ramblings of Rotherwick

Sheena's window at the church well worth a visit



Photo sent in by Tony Merricks

Pet Perspective:

Ticking Along Nicely

There's nothing worse than treading on a rogue raisin on the floor, then looking down and realising it was a huge tick that has dropped off your dog: 'Arghhh yuck there's blood on the floor!' At least that's what I heard my owner saying the other day. Then something about how disgusting it was that the baby was right next to the squashed tick and busy picking the sticky weed balls - also dropped off me - off the floor tiles and eating them. 'What if she'd eaten the tick?' yada yada. It's a shame no one wants my opinion. If you ask me, they need to get the hoover out more often.

Perhaps that's why they aren't keen for me to jump on the sofa or snuggle down in their bed. That and the muddy feet. I suppose sometimes after I've had a good roll, I can be a bit pongy. I can't for the life of me see the problem. Ticks or no ticks, sticky-weed balls, mud dreadlocks and all, I'm irresistible. Aren't we all? That's why you love us. 😊





AUTUMN LEAVES



*The falling leaves drift by my window
The falling leaves of red and gold
I see your lips, the summer kisses
The sun-burned hands I used to hold*

*Since you went away the days grow long
And soon I'll hear old winter's song
But I miss you most of all my darling
When Autumn leaves start to fall*

The original of this song, written in French as “Les Feuilles Mortes” (literally , “Dead Leaves”) by Jacques Prevert and Joseph Kosma, was a dark lament of lost love and regret. The translation, by Johnny Mercer “Autumn Leaves “touched on the same theme, but in a gentler, more wistful way.

Nat King Cole took this to No 1 on the hit parade in 1955. It then did the rounds as standard fare for the nightclub singers from Frank Sinatra to Tony Bennett to Eartha Kitt.

To my surprise I discovered when I researched this that Eric Clapton and Bob Dylan have also recorded their versions of the beautiful song.

All of the above are well worth a listen, I can't decide which one is my favourite.

AP



KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

As the evenings draw in and we all turn our attention to heating up our homes many of us are busy sorting our log piles, but how much thought do you give to what type of wood is in your pile?

The poem on the next page exists in various forms and, though probably composed using traditional English folklore, was originally written by Lady Celia Congreve and published in The Times in 1930. It is certainly a more entertaining way of reading up about which type of wood burns best in your fireplace and has proved to be as accurate as most scientific research.



The Firewood Poem



Beechwood fires are bright and clear,
If the logs are kept all year,
Chestnut's only good they say

If for logs 'tis laid away.
Make a fire of Elder tree,
Death within your house will be;
But ash new or ash old
Is fit for a queen with crown of gold.

Birch and fir logs burn too fast,
Blaze up bright and do not last,
It is by the Irish said,
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.
Elm wood burns like churchyard mould,
E'en the very flames are cold.
But ash green or ash brown
Is fit for a queen with a golden crown.

Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke.
Apple wood will scent your room,
Pear wood smells like flowers in bloom.
Oaken logs, if dry and old,
Keep away the winter's cold.
But ash wet or dry,
A king shall warm his slippers by.

Attributed to Lady Celia Congreve



live.staticflickr.com



Stop Press! New Book Release!!



For those of you who have browsed the latest offerings within our very Rotherwick library ((ok, the old phone box!) you may have been lucky enough to have found a copy of the final part of the Decimation trilogy! Richard T Burke (Rotherwick's very own author of Wedmans Lane) has just released his sixth novel **Annihilation** on the 12th September.

Richard first started writing about eight years ago and published his first book **The Rage** in late 2015. Since then, he has published another 5 books at a rate of about one per year. Richard's second book **Decimation: The Girl Who Survived** is based on the theme of a deadly virus which some may find particularly apposite in these strange times of COVID-19. The Decimation series became a trilogy with **Termination: The Boy Who Died** and **Annihilation: Origins and Endings** following in May, followed by this year's publication.

Below is an excerpt from an interview Richard gave a while ago which explains more about him as an author.

Where did/do you get your ideas from?

Ideas often just pop into my head or originate from something I have read or watched. Take Decimation, for example. I know Dan Brown is a bit like Marmite with readers, but I quite enjoy his work. I was discussing the plot of *Inferno* with my wife (terrorists plan to release a plague that will sterilise the human race) when I had a flash of inspiration. I asked her what would happen if, instead of simply making women infertile, a virus killed mothers immediately after giving birth. Rather than the main character trying to prevent the disease from spreading (as in *Inferno*), what if the virus had already been around for sixteen years? And what if the main character was pregnant herself?

How do you pick your characters' names?

The name Antimone (AN-TIM-OH-NEE) just came into my head. I suspect my subconscious mind was influenced by the Harry Potter books (which my daughter loved as a child) and the character of Hermione (HER-MY-OH-NEE) Granger.

Who are your top 3 favourite authors?

I read widely, so narrowing down to three is hard, but here goes. I love the work of Blake Crouch. Dark Matter and Recursion were both hugely imaginative books that left my head spinning by the end. John Marrs is a writer I initially discovered through recommendations on The Book Club (TBC) on Facebook. His mix of thriller with a hint of near future Sci-Fi (for example, The One) is something I aspire to in my own writing.

My final choice is Chris Whitaker. We Begin at the End was a fantastic read and I also loved The Foreverers.

Were you a big reader as a child?

Absolutely. I can't remember much of what I enjoyed as a child, but I do remember reading some Biggles books (that shows my age a little).

When did you start to write?

It must have been around 2014. The daughter of one of my friends, who was thirteen at the time, mentioned that she had started writing a book. I had been meaning to write myself, but life always seemed to get in the way. At the time I remember thinking to myself, if a thirteen-year-old can do it, so can I.

If you could re-write the ending to any book what would it be and what would you change?

I'm not going to be specific, but I hate books where the story is left unresolved. Cliff-hangers are a particular pet hate. Even in a series, I think an author owes it to the reader to resolve the major plot points.

Is there a book you wish you had written?

I'm going to go with Recursion by Blake Crouch. When you find your dreams are affected by a book, the author has done a good job!

If you wrote an autobiography, what would your title be?

Made in Blackburn: the tale of an engineer and author

If you could invite any fictional character for coffee who would it be and where would you take them?

I'm fascinated by new technology, so I'd invite Marty McFly (Back to the Future). I'd take him to a coffee shop a hundred years in the future (if they still drink coffee) to see how the world has changed.

What are you working on right now?

I have just released *Annihilation: Origins and Endings*, the third part of the Decimation series. My next book is in the planning stage and has a working title of “The Last Thirty Seconds”. It will be a near future Sci-Fi / Thriller story, but I don’t want to give too much away yet!

Tell us about your last release?

The Decimation series takes place in a world where a virus has infected every living person. For the past sixteen years, no woman has survived childbirth. Until now.

The third instalment, *Annihilation: Origins and Endings*, is written in two timeframes, one that goes back to the beginning and covers the initial outbreak, and another which follows the main characters as they help the scientists to develop a cure. There are several twists and turns, which eventually bring the two timelines together.

How can readers keep in touch with you?

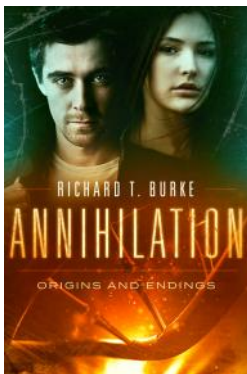
I’m on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/RichardTBurkeAuthor/>), Twitter (<https://twitter.com/RTBurkeAuthor>), and I also have my own website at <https://www.rjne.uk>. I’m always delighted to hear from readers and try to respond to any direct contact.

Can you provide advice to anybody who might be thinking of writing a novel?

The best advice I can offer is to read as much as possible, especially in the genre of your book. Secondly, learn about the process of writing. There are numerous free resources on the Internet, including several Facebook groups. Amazon also stock vast numbers of books on the art of writing. Thirdly, find some beta readers to provide you with honest feedback. Friends and family telling you a book is great may bolster your confidence, but if you are expecting people to pay to read your work, it needs to be as good as possible or the reviews will suffer. Finally, create an attractive cover. The process of releasing a book on Amazon is relatively straightforward and doesn’t cost anything, but it is definitely worth investing in a good cover (prices start at around £50). I am happy to answer more questions (email readers@rjne.uk) or to meet up for a chat over a pint.

*Thankyou Richard for sharing your interview with us
and we look forward to your next novel!
The Editors.....*

The Decimation Trilogy



Richard has kindly left a paperback copy of all 3 books of the trilogy in the phone box library to borrow.

The Fred Whitton Challenge 2021



If you google 'Hardest UK cycle event', your search results nearly always return one name. The Fred Whitton climbs all of the major passes in the Lake District in a single-day event, covering 114 miles and approximately 3,600 metres (nearly 12,000 feet) of climbing. Fred Whitton himself was the secretary of the Lakes Road club. Following his untimely death of cancer in 1998 aged just 50, the club members instigated a memorial ride taking in all of his favourite climbs. This has grown from those initial days to approximately 2,500 entrants. Three of us from the Rotherwick Cycling Club travelled up last month to do the 2021 ride; me, Steve Burrige and Iain Moore.

Heavy rain in the night gave way to a damp morning. 6am came, and we were off with the first wave of several hundred. A mad dash in the dark along the shores of Lake Windermere then followed, before we turned inland, and immediately faced a 10% slope. It was the start of the first major pass – Kirkstone, a 6-mile, 353 metre climb (for reference, the hill on Crown Lane from the railway bridge to Newnham crossroads climbs approximately 30 metres in a third of a mile). The three of us regrouped at the top in the gathering dawn, and then it was down the other side of the pass. At a 20% drop, the bicycle goes very fast, very quickly. At this point, the ride becomes a bit like a bad video game – having to steer a bike on slick, wet roads, with random sheep

which may cross at any point! Steering off the road is not really an option, due to steep drops and dry-stone walls. I was delighted to find that my brakes were up to the job, and we shot down the road, to emerge alongside the banks of Ullswater, a lovely view in the morning.

More climbing, then a fantastic blast down the A66 – a beautiful road with gentle gradients, followed by a delightful spin along the banks of Derwentwater. With a (short) glimpse of the sun, we came to the second and third of the passes – Honister Pass, which had a vicious 25% (1 in 4) ramp, then Newlands Pass, my personal favourite, which only tops out at 18%, but was more a steady 10-14% for the whole of its 1.2 miles. An 'interesting' (translation, super-steep and scary) start to the descent developed into a glorious ride to checkpoint one, at 55 miles. Cut-off time here was 11.30, and we were delighted to reach it with over an hour to spare. Good progress so far. Whinlatter pass next, then a quick lunch stop. We were congratulating ourselves on dodging the rain, when we felt a drop, then another. To the south, we saw a wall of rain, which was to be with us for the next two hours.



Eventually the rain stopped, in time for the sting in the tail – Hardknott Pass. The book '100 Cycling Climbs' lists this as the hardest climb in England, with ramps of up to 33%, or 1 in 3. By this time also we had 95 miles in our legs! We emerged from the trees to see chaos – many cyclists falling over and walking. I was very pleased to stay on, and keep riding past those walking. I nearly made it! But near the top there is a famous Z bend, which is incredibly steep, and which defeated me. So I joined the line of walkers. However I mounted the bicycle again after only 100 metres and cycled safely to the top. At least the sun had come out by now. The descent off Hardknott, and the next pass, Wrynose, were both also very 'interesting' – gradients worse than 25%, on terrible roads, with potholes and multiple bumps and hollows. How they tarmacked the road, I have no idea. But we were nearly done. One more climb, and it was the final ten miles back to the finish at Grasmer. We made it some two hours inside cut-off, 114 miles in 9 hours 12 minutes. Overall it was a fantastic day, highly recommended. We ate and slept well that night.



Finished!

Now all I can think about is entering again next year, and that with better gears I can definitely cycle up Hardknott without stopping, I know I can do it....

ROTHERWICK BULK OIL BUYING CLUB **A COMMUNITY SERVICE SAVING YOU MONEY**

Have you organised your own oil delivery recently? If so, you're sure to have paid more than you needed to. Who wants to throw their money down the drain or send it up in smoke?

Rotherwick Bulk Oil Buying Club (a community service co-ordinated by a village resident) has saved locals tens of thousands of pounds since it was first established in 2008. If you, too, would like to save on your oil bills, (and who wouldn't?) just contact rotherwick-bulkoil@gmail.com for more information about how the club works, or to join the club (there's no commitment to place orders and no fees to join).

Once you indicate you're ready for oil (by emailing rotherwick-bulkoil@gmail.com), the rest of the group is immediately contacted and, with enough demand (at *any* time of year), we can negotiate a bulk delivery at substantially lower prices.

Since the process was revamped in June 2020, there have been orders placed in 11 of the last 16 months, so chances are the timing of bulk orders will line up with your requirements. The members drive the timing of orders.

Don't keep sending money up in smoke, contact rotherwick-bulkoil@gmail.com today for more information, or to join the club.

Rotherwick Community Support Network



The Rotherwick Community Support Network was set up in anticipation of the first Covid lockdown in March 2020 and supported several early requests for prescriptions and shopping.

Although the phone line has been discontinued, the network itself is ongoing with no plans to disband. There is an associated WhatsApp group of over 25 members around the village ready to connect and respond when needed – if you would like to access any support or be added to the group, please do let me know.

Nicky Howell s 07787 541927
Kernets

ROTHERWICK ITW CRICKET CLUB

The 2021 season was completed at the end of August with the club finishing in 12th place in Division 5 North East of the Hampshire League, winning 4 games and losing 6. In all, 7 games were cancelled due to rain, in fact the club played only 3 home Saturday games all season. Remarkably there were only 2 Saturdays during the season where every fixture was played. Having had a season 'off' during 2020 due to the pandemic, we were not alone in sometimes struggling to raise a team. We managed to put 11 on the field for all games except for one when we had only 10 players but happily we won!

4th place was achieved in the North Hants Cricket Association Midweek League division 2, but, once again, the weather played its part. 4 games were won, with 5 losses. 4 games were cancelled, 3 to rain and 1 for an admin error.

Veteran club skipper Paul Buckingham, not for first time, topped the batting statistics averaging 30.11 on Saturdays (highest score 77) and 80.20 (highest score 53 not out) in midweek. He proved his overall fitness on 5th June by taking part in a charity football match in the morning then drove to Winchester for cricket, batting for 37 overs then keeping wicket for 40 overs.

On the bowling front Tim Culver took the honours on Saturdays with an average of 13.90 and a best of 3 for 10. Adam Cordery topped the mid-week charts with an average of 6.66 and a best of 3 for 20.

Prior to the start of the season the club spent a four-figure sum scarifying, spiking and fertilising the outfield with another four-figure sum being spent on the square at the end of August. This was spent on scarifying, fertilising, seeding and adding loam. Spiking will take place in November.



Paul Buckingham



Tim Culver



Adam Cordery

Future projects include restoration of the artificial wicket and we are currently awaiting quotations for this project. We are also looking into the possibility of founding a Colts section for next season.

As with most clubs we are always looking for new players and helpers. If you are interested then do please contact us via our Facebook page 'Rotherwick ITW' via our Instagram feed 'rotherwickitwcc' or by email – chair.ritwcc@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

'Twelfth Man'



17th July A v St Mary's

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Badminton Club	Richard Burke, Secretary badminton@rjne.co.uk	01256 761013
Rotherwick Toddler Group	Caroline Brown carolinebrown1@me.com	
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(please see full menu on Facebook or our website)

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BBQ chicken wings, blue cheese dip & celery	£7.5
Beef burger, cheddar & fries <i>add bacon</i> £1	£10
Crispy chicken burger, chips	£9
Butter Chicken curry with mushroom and garlic rice	£10
Pie of the day with mash or chips, vegetables and gravy	£12
Beer battered cod and chips with tartare sauce and peas	£9.5

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Looking Ahead



Upcoming dates for events at the village hall

November 6th – Fireworks at the Village Hall

December 8th – Christmas wreath making at the hall. 7.30pm—more details on page 11.

“That would be good to go in the Rotherwick News!”

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

Most of the articles are signed by their author but not all. For those articles that appear to be “anonymous” the editors would like to give a mention to Lottie Girling, Jenny Gordon, Dan Pearce and Harriet Steger for their contributions this month.

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 to rotherwicknews@yahoo.co.uk or the Rotherwick News mobile 07849471227 by 10th of the month. What could be easier?

Use of Photos in the Rotherwick News



Please Read the Following Carefully

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 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.