

# Village & Valley

**SPRING 2018**

The magazine of the Rowlands Castle Association





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# Village&Valley

The magazine of the Rowlands Castle Association

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## / CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

The Village magazine is published three times a year by the RCA. The aims of the RCA are to act as a channel of communication for the village, to conserve its character and to enhance the life of its residents.

Contributions should be between 200-300 words and you should provide at least one image (max 10MB) to accompany your article. Please provide the image(s) as a separate file, not as part of a Word doc.

**PLEASE NOTE** the deadlines below:

**SPRING issue:** 18th March  
**SUMMER issue:** 18th June  
**AUTUMN issue:** 18th October

### PLEASE BE AWARE:

*Due to print deadlines late submissions cannot be considered for publication.*

## / MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

You will have noticed some changes to the magazine and I would like to personally thank the RCA for their support and help in bringing this new look to life.

I would also like to thank those who have contributed content, which I hope has been displayed and attributed correctly. While there is no magic formula for a perfect mix, we all have different opinions, thoughts and ideas, I hope that somewhere on these pages you'll find something that reflects your voice and reminds the rest of us that what we have in this village and the surrounding countryside is all quite special.

Kelvin Schäfli

## / COVER PICTURE

Bee-ing in the spring moment 😊 - Kelvin Schäfli

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## / RCA CHAIR REPORT

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Fiona Charlesworth

By the time you read this I hope we will have said goodbye to winter and Spring will be properly here.

At the Rowlands Castle Association AGM in February we were pleased to report that we had given a total of £11,290.80 in donations to Rowlands Castle affiliated clubs and causes over the year. Do read the AGM Minutes (posted in the RCA notice board) if you would like more details of the donations and our events over the past year.

As I write, the annual litter pick is about to take place. Following this, I would like to start a monthly litter pick in Rowlands Castle that will be self organised. I propose that anyone wishing to participate meets at the flagpole on The Green at 10.30 on the last Saturday of each month. Individuals bring their own equipment to collect litter (ie bags, pickers, gloves, hi vis vests etc as you feel necessary). Participants agree where they will pick and take the collected litter home to recycle or put in their own rubbish bin. A Grapevine reminder will be sent out a week before each litter pick. So, the first litter pick would be Saturday 28th April. Please let me know your thoughts about this proposal.

There is a lot of publicity at the moment about plastic. It would be wonderful if Rowlands Castle could do something to reduce our plastic usage. I will get in touch with other towns/villages that have plastic free status and

also The Final Straw group in Emsworth and anything else that is useful. If you're interested in joining me in this endeavour, please get in touch. More information on grapevine and posters in the bus shelter to follow.

The next Rowlands Castle Association village event is the annual May Day Picnic on The Green in aid of Rowans Hospice. It is on Monday 7th May from 12-2. There will be a BBQ, Blendworth Brass Band, vintage car display, plants for sale, teas, coffee and cake and the Evolution Twirlers. Bring a rug/chair and a picnic.

With all best wishes  
**Fiona Charlesworth**

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07767 867603  
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## SPRING REPORT

Clerk to the Council  
Lisa Walker

After the unseasonably cold spell in early March it's good to see the Parish blossom with the arrival of Spring. Whilst the flood alleviation measures were not needed this winter, we remain grateful to the Flood Action Group for its hard work to ensure ditches remain clear year-on-year.

### **Electoral Review of East Hants District by the Local Govt Boundary Commission for England**

Whilst supporting the proposed inclusion of Finchdean, Idsworth and surrounding areas in the Ward of Rowlands Castle, RCPC objected to the Commission's proposals to include parts of Horndean as well with representation by 2 district cllrs. When the Commission made further proposals for a 'mega-Ward' to include even more of Horndean with Rowlands Castle, and representation by 3 district cllrs, RCPC objected even more strongly. We emphasised that Rowlands Castle (including Finchdean, Idsworth etc) has a strong sense of community and does not identify with Horndean in any meaningful way; therefore the proposals were unrepresentative and unworkable. Council's responses can be viewed on our website and we await the Commission's decision in early April.

### **'Oaklands II' and Land East of College Close**

The Council continues to monitor progress at both sites, bringing issues to the attention of other bodies as and when necessary. Regular liaison meetings between Bellway and local representatives have helped communication

with residents though we acknowledge Whichers Gate Road and Redhill Road are likely to experience disruption for some time with utility works etc. We are also emphasising the need for Bargate to restore Bridleway 24 to its 'former glory' when it reopens in the coming months. The entrance from the Keyline driveway was considerably improved a few years ago using £10K of developers contributions and we would hate to see that money go to waste. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for further updates with respect to both these sites. We have also flagged our concerns about inconsistencies in various applications for advertising signage at both sites to EHDC. We are endeavouring to ensure that any such signage is proportionate and in keeping with the street scene.

### **Developers' Contributions and other Planning Matters**

We continue to stress that these should be spent in as 'joined up' a way as possible, with maximum possible consultation with local residents, particularly where transport contributions are concerned. We are particularly anxious that satisfactory measures are put in place to help Whichers Gate Road/ the mini-roundabout system/Manor Lodge Road cope with the significant increase in traffic anticipated from developments in north Emsworth and East of Horndean, as well as those within this Parish. The Government's enthusiasm for house-building must be balanced with adequate infrastructure to support such new dwellings. We look to our local district and county cllrs for their assistance in these matters and please note a Council representative now attends their monthly surgeries on the first Thursday of the month in the café from 11am to 12 Noon.

We also anticipate significant contributions being available for community facilities and



have received expressions of interest in these from St John's Church, RC Scout Hut, the Church on The Green, RC Heritage Centre and St Hubert's Church, Idsworth. Each of these will be invited to give a 5-minute presentation on their project to the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and its value to the community. Although RCPC doesn't have the final say on the use of these funds, we can influence the spending of them and we'd really like to know how local residents feel about these projects as well, so do come along to the APM at 7pm on 23 April.

### **Finchdean and Trees**

We are pleased to see the bench on Finchdean Green has been replaced and the wooden 'dragons teeth' installed to prevent unauthorised parking. The Speed Limit Reminder devices now have 2 additional locations on Finchdean Green and Finchdean Road.

We are implementing a plan of works to ensure all the recommendations of last year's tree surveys are undertaken by mid-2019. As previously advised, we are also planning to allow the grass to grow longer around various trees in the Parish (e.g. on the Deerleap verge) to protect their base and root system from machinery damage and encourage flora and fauna. We'll review this policy at the end of this grass growing season.

### **General Council Matters & Dates for Your Diary**

We welcome Peter Cross as a newly co-opted member of the Council. By the time you read this, we also hope to have filled the remaining vacancy so we can be back up to 'full strength' of 9 cllrs.

After large year's substantial increase in RCPC's precept, we are going for a more modest increase of 4.9% for 2018-19, which includes provision of over £3,000 to compensate for the cessation of EHDC's Support Grant. This will enable us to tackle further traffic management and pedestrian safety issues, provide sufficient funding for the second half of the Neighbourhood Plan development, reserve funds for potential expert transport advice and fund more frequent rubbish bin clearance.

I would encourage you all to come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 23 April in the Parish Hall. Please make time to read the minutes of the monthly Council meetings if you want to keep up to date with what's going on in the Parish - see the Council's website and/or local noticeboards.

Our website also contains lots of information on the work of the Council as well as local events and history. If there's a particular event you'd like promoted on the website and/or on the Parish Council's Facebook page, please let us know.



## NOTES FROM EHDC

Cllr Malcolm Johnson

By the time you are reading this spring edition of the RCA magazine you will have received your council tax demand for the 2018-2019 tax year. I hope that you noticed that East Hampshire District Council has not increased its share of the total bill this time with a nil increase. Despite increases in costs to EHDC like the rise in the minimum wage plus the removal of the freeze on council staff salaries, the council has managed to produce a balanced budget which has resulted in their element of the tax not increasing. This has been achieved by the council through internal cost efficiencies, selling services and successful results from their investments in commercial property. This last point is worth mentioning because it is a further demonstration of how EHDC is moving forward in its aim of removing the need for their element in the annual local council tax demand that falls on every household. The EHDC commercial property portfolio is an actively managed portfolio run by a combination of experienced council officers, knowledgeable local councillors with an appropriate commercial background, together with support from national industry leading companies with relevant experience in the commercial property sector. This is producing genuine positive income for the council to add to its other financial income streams, helping to replace the loss of central government grants. We expect to see a continuation of this policy with the addition to the portfolio of more income generating properties in the near future.

With the prime minister's recent statements on the continuing need for more housing coupled with forthcoming changes to the National Planning Policy Framework document which is the planners "bible" EHDC has started work on its next Local Plan. You may recall that back in 2014 the council published a five year Joint Core Strategy document which set out a local planning development policy for East Hampshire and the South Downs National Park. That local plan is due to expire in May 2019. The Local Plan that is now being worked on, and will supersede the previous version, will just be for the area of East Hampshire outside the Park. A separate plan is being produced by the National Park. As yet it is too soon to say what the local consequences will be for Rowlands Castle but I have been asked to join the team working on the new Plan so I will be able to report back in due course. Needless to say the continuing work by the Rowlands Castle Neighbour Hood Plan team will be most important as eventually the Neighbour Hood Plan will become part of the much bigger East Hampshire wide Local Plan. For East Hampshire, and all its local communities, it is essential that a new development plan is produced in a timely manner so that the district does not become prey to speculative developers wishing to capitalise on a district without a robust Local Plan.

Recent reports of changes to water extraction licenses for local water companies such as



Southern Water have once again highlighted the need for the long postponed Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir to become a reality. Well Portsmouth Water is now well on its way to realising its long-held view of the need for the reservoir and has started to update its original work on the scheme with a view to the facility being in service by 2026. At a stakeholder briefing back in late 2017 the company came forward with a new timetable for the reservoir as Southern Water has now made clear that it will be in need of additional water resources

much soon than previously thought. Water companies now have a duty to co-operate in sharing water resources so Portsmouth Water will be doing just that with the Havant Thicket scheme. There are a number of stages to be completed before construction work actually starts but the process is now back on track so watch this space!

As in previous years once again I will have funds available from May under the Councillor Grant scheme which is designed to help local groups seeking financial assistance for a particular scheme. Go to the EHDC web site and download the forms and when complete just get in touch and I'll put your requests forward.

And finally please remember that on the first Thursday of each month along with our Hampshire County Councillor Marge Harvey and a representative from the Rowlands Castle Parish Council, I can be found in the village café between 1100 and 1200. So if you have something you wish to raise we will be there. I can also be contacted at EHDC via email: [malcolm.johnson@easthants.gov.uk](mailto:malcolm.johnson@easthants.gov.uk) or by phone 92412096.

## VIP VISIT TO WHITEHILL & BORDON

Whitehill & Bordon recently welcomed a special visitor when HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire was given a tour of the town.

The Lord-Lieutenant, Mr Nigel Atkinson, is HM The Queen's personal representative in Hampshire and has a special interest in the development of sustainable communities.

Mr Atkinson met with Cllr Ferris Cowper, EHDC's Portfolio Holder for Whitehill & Bordon, who explained the work being undertaken in the town.

His tour, on Tuesday 13 February, included some of the fantastic new facilities recently delivered in the town, including the BASE Bordon Innovation Centre, the Future Skills Centre, the Tech Forest and the new relief road. He was also shown the site of the exciting new town centre with plans for new retail, leisure, entertainment and office buildings submitted to East Hampshire District Council.

The tour finished at Quebec Park to see the town's Community Enterprise Hub at Chieftain House and some of the new high-quality homes built as part of the town's regeneration.

Cllr Ferris Cowper, EHDC Portfolio Holder for Whitehill & Bordon, said: "I was thrilled to have the chance to show the Lord-Lieutenant of



L - R: Cllr Ferris Cowper, Portfolio Holder for Whitehill & Bordon at EHDC, Lord-Lieutenant, Mr Nigel Atkinson, Ralph Facey, Director of Housing and Customer Services at Radian and Mick Sweeney, CEO of Radian

Hampshire around Whitehill & Bordon and show him some of the incredible progress we are making in this town.

"Whitehill & Bordon is being transformed into a green and healthy town with some 3,350 new homes, 5,500 jobs and nearly 100,000sqm of new commercial, retail and leisure floor space.

"We are very proud of what we have achieved here already and excited about what we will soon be able to deliver - and I think the Lord-Lieutenant was suitably impressed!"

The Lord-Lieutenant said: "I congratulate the development team and their partners on what has been achieved so far at Bordon and Whitehill. "The development is very exciting and will be a huge asset to the county."

Media Contact: Will Parsons, EHDC  
Communications Officer, 01730 234030

## IBM JOINS EHDC TO CREATE 'SMART' TOWN

Global technology giant IBM is joining forces with East Hampshire District Council and the Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company to turn Whitehill & Bordon into a 'smart' town.

The new collaboration will bring state-of-the-art technology to the town and change the way people interact with their homes, with each other, their community and local services.

The partnership plans to design solutions in the following areas:

- The ability for residents to interact more easily with their home, with other residents, and with local institutions and businesses;
- To encourage healthy lifestyles and enable people with care needs to increasingly receive care in their own homes;
- Enable new ways to travel within the town to reduce traffic and maintain good air quality; and
- Enhance interaction between residents and the council to enable improved access to public services

The project has just begun and it utilises the IBM Design Thinking method which places the resident at the centre of the design process in order to focus solutions on those that will tackle real-world problems and that will be accepted and adopted by residents.

Councillor Ferris Cowper, Portfolio Holder for Whitehill and Bordon at East Hampshire District Council, welcomed the new collaboration.

He said: "To have such a famous corporation of IBM's distinction just shows that Whitehill & Bordon's regeneration is firmly on the trail of success and prosperity. With IBM's help everyone in the town, in the new build and the existing town, will be able to look forward to a dramatic improvement in the quality of day-to-day living. The first few homes will be able to do that within just a couple of years."

James Child, Programme Director of the Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company, said: "The integration of smart technology into everyday life is an essential part of creating a future-proofed and sustainable new town. In five, ten, fifteen years' time, it will no longer be good enough to just have a fully-connected smart home, we will need to have smart streets, work places, transport, education and health facilities and more all talking to each other and making life easier and healthier.

"I am delighted that IBM is an active partner in the creation and delivery of digital solutions to meet the way in which people will choose to live and work in the new town. The design thinking to date has been exciting and I believe that together we can make a real difference to the lives of people in Whitehill & Bordon through this programme."

Chris Gage, Digital Lead Industrial Products UK for IBM, added: "The design of buildings and landscapes in a way that brings the community together is important in creating a sense of place and digital solutions can augment this by bringing the community together in new ways. Being involved at an early stage in this exciting development enables us to help create a better digital experience for residents."

Media Contact: Will Parsons, EHDC  
Communications Officer, 01730 234030

## COUNCIL REPORT

Marge Harvey

I think that for information, I should explain the increase in council tax agreed by the full council earlier this month.

The government allowed us to increase our part of the council tax by 5.99% of which 3.99% is towards social care and the other 2% is towards all other services. I really don't think that this will close the gap for social care, but at least it will help.

I am aware that potholes are an issue at the moment and has been made worse by the snow and cold temperatures. I have been assured that they will be dealt with very soon and that HCC have more teams out and about to solve this very important issue. If you see any really deep ones please go online to HCC and report them and they will be dealt with first. Failing that, you can always contact me and I will report them.

The devolved authority is now back on the agenda, but without a mayor, which is why we decided at Hampshire not to take it forward last time, so watch this space and I will report on how it is going in the future.

It has been a very busy time since Christmas with all of the committees that I sit on. I have been asked to be vice chairman of the Children and Young People Select Committee, of which I am a member. As you can imagine, it is a very important committee which deals with every part of children and young people's lives. I feel very honoured to have been asked and look forward to helping bring important issues to the committee.

I am also a member of the Health and Social Care Select Committee which, as you can imagine is a very busy committee, trying to make the most of the money that we have and holding hospitals and health trusts to account for their actions.

I am also on the regulatory committee, which oversees building and extensions of schools, new firms that are taking waste and recycling it and footways etc. This committee makes visits to all of these sites so we can make informed decisions about applications.

The other committee that I am on and in my view, a very important one, is the Autism

Partnership Board, where we discuss all issues to do with Autism and disablement and try to make a difference to these very vulnerable people.

Only 16% of Autistic people work and we are trying to make companies understand that there are many Autistic people who would be an asset to their companies. We do have Proctor and Gamble as a brilliant employer of Autistic people, who make it so much easier for these vulnerable people to apply and be interviewed in the right setting that takes the stress out of this for all of Autistic people, as this is something that really does affect them for applying for work.

I am also on two working groups which delve into why certain things happen for residents and how to help sort them out.

So, as you can see, I am kept very busy, but I really love being able to make a difference to people's lives and help where I can.

I am taking a training course to be an Autism Ambassador which will enable me to train firms and organisations about Autism and have already spoken to people about taking the training and want to be able to make our village at least, be Autism aware.

I am always available to speak to and if not I will always get back to you and there is, as always my surgery, which is attended by the Parish and the District Councillors, so you now have a one stop shop to answer all of your question.

Please remember the 1st Thursday of every month at 11am.

I look forward to seeing you.





## PHARMACY CHANGES OWNERSHIP

Nemesh and Kay Patel

The new owners of Rowlands Castle Pharmacy are Nemesh and Kay Patel, both registered pharmacists, with a combined 25 years community pharmacy experience managing numerous pharmacies throughout the South of England, relocating from Chelmsford, Essex with two young daughters-Lara and Arya.

We are absolutely delighted to become the new owners of Rowlands Castle pharmacy. Having been both brought up in rural villages in Essex and Kent, Rowlands Castle feels like home away from home, and we are most excited to be here serving the needs of the Rowlands Castle residents. In our first few months, the community has been most welcoming and supportive, for which we are most grateful and we have already sensed the warm spirit and friendly ethos, which makes Rowlands Castle a special community and thank those for making us most welcome.

We feel having two qualified pharmacists at the pharmacy at all time will be of immense benefit to the community and the positive feedback we have thus far received has been wonderful. Our aim is to provide a friendly, efficient and reliable dispensing service and support the community in the best possible way. We have purchased the pharmacy in extremely difficult times facing the pharmacy sector in the UK through the government funding cuts. We would truly



welcome all residents to support their local independent pharmacy. The government implementation to cut each pharmacy's funding by £35,000 has now started, coupled with the recent significant reduction in prescription remuneration by 20%, threatens the viability of smaller pharmacies across the UK, such as our pharmacy.

More than 100,000 people signed an online petition given the threat to their local pharmacies viability, including many Rowlands Castle patients challenging the government cutbacks, but unfortunately it was to no avail, the cutbacks stood and were implemented over the past three months. As a consequence over the past few months dozens of pharmacies in Hampshire have unfortunately had to close down, including established pharmacies in Hayling Island and Bedhampton. No pharmacy it seems is immune. All we can do is ask for the village support and ask residents to utilise us as their first port of call for their healthcare and toiletries needs, over the larger supermarkets and help sustain the long term future of this pharmacy in Rowlands Castle.

We will provide a number of vital NHS services to all patients including a free home delivery service, free electronic prescription service, free Medicines Use Reviews, free New Medicines Services, Private



Prescriptions, Free Blister Pack Medication, Care Home Services, Travel medications and stocking a wide range of healthcare and toiletry products including mobility & incontinence aids and compression hoiseries. We will try and provide a broad range of services and support the residents with their needs, even ordering bespoke items on a next day service- that a number of residents have already taken advantage of. We have already expanded the range of products we stock to great feedback.



We will aim to continue to work closely with the Practice Manager, Nurses, Receptionists and GP's at the practice to ensure all patients are provided the best possible care at all times and will continue to work symbiotically with the practice everyday and support the outstanding service the surgery already provides to its patients. We have forged an excellent relationship already and our continued collaboration looking after the healthcare of Rowlands Castle residents we feel will be of immense benefit to the village.

We have an excellent team in place, dedicated to looking after the residents of Rowlands Castle. If ever you need any help or support, please do not hesitate to ask. The pharmacy number is 02392 413952.

Nemesh and Kay look forward to meeting you all and providing the best possible service to support your healthcare needs.

## YOU TOO CAN HAVE A SAY

All content for this magazine is provided by readers like you and new contributions are most welcome.

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Send your contribution to:  
editor@rowlandscastle.com



## PROGRESS REPORT

David Holt

Since the last edition of this magazine the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan (RCNP) Steering Group (SG) has continued to meet monthly to develop the Plan.

In early December a workshop was held - to clarify and agree the "vision" for the Plan and to outline key objectives based on this vision. It was well attended by the members of the Steering Group and by others who have volunteered their time to the project.

From this, the agreed "VISION" for the Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan is:

**"To conserve and enhance the Parish of Rowlands Castle as an attractive community, whilst maintaining its separate identity, character and distinctiveness."**

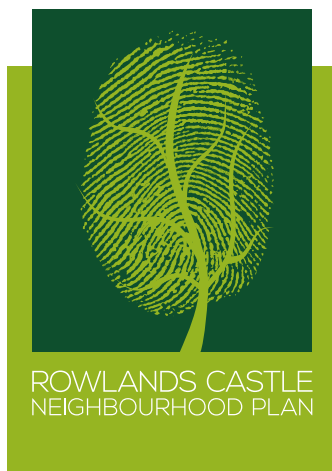
The key (planning) policy areas and objectives, identified by the workshop, broadly confirmed those previously identified, i.e. those to be covered by the Working Groups (WGs) - reported in the last edition of this magazine.

The target for the WGs is now to draft broad or outline policies and to identify the key issues and areas where work needs to be focussed. The Parish Council is being kept regularly updated on progress and issues.

But, recently, a problem has arisen because the government has changed its planning policy - including about how new housing requirements are to be assessed and about the need to review all Local Plans (LPs) every 5 years! East Hampshire District Council (EHDC) consider that their existing LP will therefore be out of date from May 2019 and that the new one might not be adopted until late 2020. EHDC has asked that we (and other EHDC parishes whose NP is at an early stage of preparation) suspend, or extend the timescale for, our NP development until their new LP is nearing completion.

However, because of concern about the possibility of there being no cogent planning policy in place for about 18 months from May 2019 (to enable a defence against any speculative developers' plans in the period between the old and new LPs), the SG has sought independent advice. The advice so far received is that we can and should continue with our NP to hopefully have something in place by (or soon after) May 2019.

It will require much more effort to achieve this challenging programme and close liaison with EHDC will be even more important. So, if you feel that you could help the Steering Group (currently 2 vacancies including the post of 'Finance Officer) or any of the Working Groups - e.g. in drafting parts of the NP, or helping to collect evidence - please do contact Gill Whatley at the Parish Council Office for further information.



## POETRY FESTIVAL 2018

Barry Smith, Director

An exciting major arts initiative has just embarked on its third year. After two years of organising successful and entertaining poetry events across the region, The South Downs Poetry Festival has just launched another year of exciting events.

The 2018 launch took place on Thursday 22nd March at Chichester Library, when admired poet Tamar Yoseloff was the headline guest. We've got lots more exciting poetry events lined up

for the coming months, with events planned for Arundel, Singleton, Bognor Regis, Waterlooville, Littlehampton, Chichester and, hopefully, Petworth, Lewes, Midhurst and Portsmouth. And we're adding events all the time so best advice is keep an eye on our website to catch a great evening of poetry near where you live - or take the opportunity to explore the region and go along to somewhere new.

Further information: [www.sdpf.org.uk](http://www.sdpf.org.uk)

## ROWLANDS CASTLE RVS LUNCH CLUB Together for Older People

**Rowlands Castle RVS Lunch Club continues to meet every Thursday in the Parish Hall.**

**It's a great way to Socialize and meet old and new friends, catching up on each other's news and discussing many events (Very often how the world is changing!) We really do have a sociable time, sharing a meal together and our wonderful volunteers try to make it a special time for everyone.**

**Currently we are at maximum with 32 service users however If anyone would like to join us on Thursdays from 12:00pm to approx. 1: 30pm (no rush to get away) we will try and find space for them as changes do occur regularly.**

**Wherever possible we offer to pick up and take home our service users who are no longer able to drive themselves. If you have some time to spare, maybe once a month or more, please contact us and we will guide you through joining the Royal Voluntary Service.**

**For more information please contact  
Carol Milford 02392 412321 or Sue Leonard 02392 412108**

*Carol Milford RVS Volunteer Coordinator and Treasurer  
Sue Leonard Assistant RVS Volunteer Coordinator*



## REGENCY GARDENS TO BE RECREATED

Steve Jones

The Staunton Country Park takes its name from one of the most illustrious owners of the former Leigh Park Estate, namely Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bt. Staunton acquired the then Leigh Estate of 828 acres in December 1819 for the sum of £22,000 from the previous owner, William Garrett.

Garrett can rightly claim the honour of originally establishing the estate. In 1800 he acquired the relatively small Leigh estate of a modest sized villa and 22 acres of land. Over the next nineteen years he acquired all the freehold and copyhold land around his small estate enlarging it to over 800 acres. Over the ensuing years gardens and parkland were established, and the house enlarged in 1802, making the Leigh Estate the largest in the neighbourhood.

When Sir George Staunton bought the estate in December 1819 he acquired an estate that was well established, but it was Staunton over the next thirty years or more who went on to create this splendid Regency Garden and Parkland, admired by all who came to visit.

In creating this wonderful garden and parkland Staunton had the help of the architect Lewis Vulliamy, who designed a series of over 25 follies and garden structures as well as designing and building various cottages and lodges.

The glory of Staunton's gardens, apart from the walled garden and the glasshouses, was Leigh Water, the ornamental lake which Staunton

created over a period of eight years. Around the lake were follies, statues, and a series of bridges which linked the various islands.

Leigh Park under Sir George Staunton can be best summed up by Sir George himself, in his memoirs in 1856 he writes: 'The situation is healthy; the views, including that of the sea, are beautiful; and although the mansion is of a modest size, and the park not large, the character of the property has been much raised



Leigh Park House from the south-east (front), 1833, by Joseph Francis Gilbert

Sir George Thomas Staunton (1781-1859) by Sir Martin Archer Shee, 1833

Leigh Water, looking north towards Havant Thicket. The Corinthian Bridge, Chinese Fort, Boat House and Cottage Island can be seen. Painted by Joseph Francis Gilbert, c.1836



*The glory of Staunton's gardens, apart from the walled garden and the glasshouses, was Leigh Water, the ornamental lake which Staunton created over a period of eight years.*

by the addition of a handsome Gothic library, by the construction of numerous hot-houses and conservatories, famed for the successful cultivation of rare flowers and exotic fruits, and by the very great extension of the pleasure grounds, generally admired for their picturesque views and various decorations.'

The above is just a small fragment of the incredible history of the estate and the wonderful park and gardens created by Staunton. Over the next three years, thanks to a Lottery funded programme, the Regency gardens under Sir George Staunton are going to be re-created. A series of programmes will transfer the landscape of the northern gardens to the gardens of how they were during the Regency period. Some of the follies, which still stand will be carefully renovated and new carparking and a heritage centre and café will be opened in the Coachhouse and stable block. William Stone's mansion, the house that was built overlooking the lake, after Staunton's death in 1859 will also be highlighted.



## RCWI

7:30 pm  
Second Monday of each month  
No meeting in August  
Parish Hall, Links Lane

## ST HUBERT'S

For our full summer programme please see pages 22-23

## WOMANS FELLOWSHIP

2:00 - 4:00 pm  
First and third Tues afternoon of the month. No meeting in August  
St John's Church centre. See page 49

## RVS LUNCH CLUB

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
Every Thursday  
Parish Hall  
Contact: Carol Milford 02392 412321

## ALTON ABBEY

**OPEN DAY:** Saturday & Sunday June 9th/10th  
The Anglican Monastery of Our Lady and St John in Beech will be open for visitors 12 noon - 5 pm / Entrance £3 / Teas £3  
Stalls selling items such as: Beautiful stationary, secondhand books, plants, and Hadeel products from Palestine. Also Lacemaking, and a display of work.

## ST MICHAEL'S

**Monday 2nd April**  
**Easter Monday** Teas and Easter Egg Hunt  
3:00 - 5:00 pm

**Thursday 26th April**  
**Deep South Gospel Sing-Along**  
Swinging 'Songs of Praise' with a 4 piece live band lead by Chris Walker, 7:00 pm  
Tickets £10, refreshments available  
For information and tickets contact: janehussy@btinternet.com T: 02392251664

**Thursday 10th May**  
**Talk by Tim O'Kelly** (One tree Books, Petersfield), 7:00 pm

**Monday 28th May**  
**Teas@3**, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

**Saturday and Sunday 16th - 17th June**  
**Open Garden & Teas**, 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Do come and join us in Chalton - we are renowned for our teas and refreshments, served at every event!

## GARDENING CLUB ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

Saturday 14 th April  
St John's Church Hall

Viewing in the afternoon plus fabulous cakes, hot drinks, tombola, plants for sale

## MAYDAY PICNIC & BBQ ON THE GREEN

**MONDAY 7 MAY 2018**  
**12:00 - 2:00 pm**

Fun for all, including music by the Blendworth Brass Band and childrens' activities. BBQ on the forecourt of the Fountain Inn. Collection in aid of the Rowan's Hospice.  
*Contact: secretary@rowlandscastle.com*

## VILLAGE FAIR

**SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2018**  
**From 11:00 am onwards**

The biggest event in the village calendar, the annual Summer Fair held on the Green on the first Saturday in July.  
*Contact: secretary@rowlandscastle.com*

## FIREWORKS DISPLAY

**SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2018**  
**GATES OPEN 5:30 PM, FIREWORKS AT 7:00 PM.**

The RCA Guy Fawkes fireworks display takes place in the Recreation Ground in Links Lane. Adults £5; children under 16 free. There is no bonfire this year.  
*Contact: secretary@rowlandscastle.com*

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

**SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2018**  
**11:00-1:00 pm**

The annual RCA Children's Christmas Party in the Rowlands Castle Parish Hall. For children 0-6 yrs (with an adult). Magic Mikey entertainment, lots to eat and Father Christmas. £1 per child and a wrapped and labelled present for Father Christmas to give.  
*Contact: Anita King 07952 882201 or anita.king43@googlemail.com for more information and tickets.*

# ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY? THEN LET THE EVENTS BEGIN

Andrew Callender  
Chairman of The Idsworth Church Friends Trust

With the snow behind us and the lighter days beckoning, it is time to look ahead to the 2018 Programme of Events planned by The Friends to take place at St Hubert's. The schedule is more wide-ranging than last year's. In April, we will hold our first-ever Dark Skies Event: with the support of the Hampshire Astronomical Group; there will be Star Gazing from St Hubert's - an evening for all the family. The month of May is especially busy: as well as an evening of Jazz and a guided farm walk, we welcome back the South Downs Poetry Festival for 'Story, Poetry and Prosecco'. In June there will be the Teas and Refreshments weekend and also our summer concert featuring The Salieri String Quartet with a reputation for music of a high quality. Our second guided walk, from St Hubert's to Butser Ancient Farm, is in August. The very popular Art Exhibition returns in September which will run over three days and not just two. Our season closes in October with a lovely concert by Highland harpist and singer, Mary Ann Kennedy. We very much hope to better the 2017 total of 1500 attendees to these events.

And will you be sitting comfortably? Well, I very much hope so as The Friends Trust has invested in a set of good quality pew cushions! Please join us.



Thursday 19th April, 2.15 pm at St Hubert's	<b>The Friends AGM</b> followed by refreshments 3.30pm Talk: 'St Hubert's - An Architect's View' by Mike Driver
Saturday 21st April, 7.30-9.30 pm at St Hubert's	<b>Dark Skies Event: Star Gazing from St Hubert's</b> Supported by The Hampshire Astronomical Group
Saturday 12th May, 7.00 pm at St Hubert's	<b>'Swing for a Summer's Evening - a taste of Jazz from the 30's &amp; 40's'</b> with Katie's Crooked Swing Band
Friday 25th May, 7.00 pm at St Hubert's	<b>'The Golden Thread: Story, Poetry and Prosecco'</b> An Evening of Poetry and Music by The South Downs Poetry Festival
Monday 28th May, Meet at St Hubert's 10.00 am start	<b>Guided Walk around the Idsworth Valley</b> Walk approx 3 hours Refreshments available at The Red Lion, Chalton
Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th June, at St Hubert's	<b>Teas and Refreshments</b> Saturday 10 am-4.30 pm; Sunday 2.00-4.30 pm All Visitors, Cyclists, Ramblers welcome
Saturday 30th June at St Hubert's	<b>Summer Concert and Picnics</b> The Salieri String Quartet Picnics from 5.00pm Concert starts: 7.00pm
Friday 10th August 9.30 am - 12.30 pm	<b>'Walking the Past'</b> A 5-mile Walk from St Hubert's Church to Butser Ancient Farm
Friday 14th, Sat 15th, Sun 16th Sept Open daily: 10.00 am - 4.30 pm	<b>Art Exhibition at St Hubert's</b> with work by Local Professional Artists Admission Free***Refreshments available
Saturday 27th October 6.00 pm	<b>Autumn Concert at St Hubert's</b> 'An Evening with Mary Ann Kennedy, Highland harpist and singer'

For further details go to: [www.idsworthchurchfriends.org](http://www.idsworthchurchfriends.org)  
For tickets tel: 02392 413410 or 02392 412394

## / PAINTING SOCIETY

Contact

John Davis

T 01243371662

The Society has enjoyed another productive year, thanks go to all those who keep the wheels turning. The committee carry out a sterling job of organising the year's programme, providing interest and variety for the members.

### The Spring Exhibition

The Society's annual Exhibition and Sale is in on the 13th - 15th April and can be seen in the Parish Hall. Links Lane, Rowlands Castle. Please come, bring your friends, it is a great opportunity to buy an original piece of art work. Home-made cakes and refreshments are available.

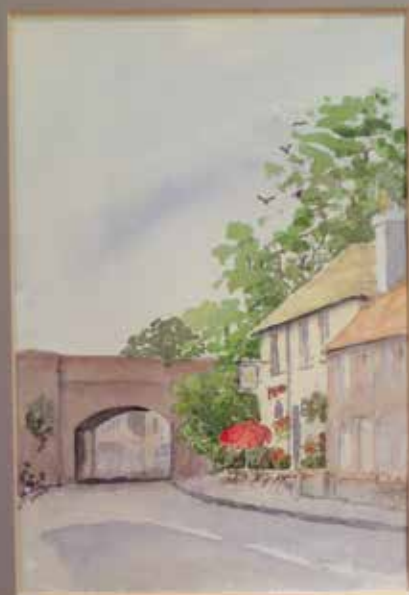
### The Programme

The outdoor meetings begin on the 1st May. For information on what the Society offers, please visit: [www.rowlandscastlepaintingsociety.org.uk](http://www.rowlandscastlepaintingsociety.org.uk)

### Membership

New members are welcome regardless of ability, for enquiries please contact John Davis at telephone: 01243371662. The Society looks forward to seeing you all at the Exhibition. Happy viewing!

*Ann Webber holding her aboriginal painting and a watercolour painted by Joan Adams*



## PAINTING SOCIETY - Upcoming events

Meetings held in Rowlands Castle Parish Hall P09 6AD  
Parking in car park at the top of The Fairway opposite.

*Workshops and Life Groups Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m. Demonstrations 7.30 - 9.30 p.m.*

20th March	AGM 7.00 p.m.
27 March	SILVER CUP AWARDS 7.0. P.M.
10 April	Life Group
13th - 15th April	ANNUAL - EXHIBITION 7.00 - 9.00 P.M.

### SUMMER PAINTING OUTINGS

Meeting in nearby car park or local area where available at 10.00 a.m. on site.  
Meet 12.30 p.m. for Picnic Lunch.

1st May	Old Portsmouth Walls P01 21NJ parking where available.
15th May	Port Solent parking at west end.
29th May	Fort Nelson car park P017 6AN
6th June	East Meon GU32 1PF. Car park at Community Hall or local as available.
19th June	Stanstead Gardens car park P09 6DX
3rd July	Bishop's Garden Chichester. Meet in Garden, parking where available.
17th July	Old Winchester Hill GU32 1HW. Meet in car park.
31st July	Porchester Castle car park P016 9QW
7th Aug	Emsworth Quay Local car park. Meet on Quay.
21 Aug	Hisea Lido / Halsea Lines Meet in East Car Park.

Intermediate Venues to be agreed by participants.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Paul Marshman

Asked if I had any ideas or names for the roads on the new estate called Oaklands II by the planners, or Montague estate by the developers, I remembered my ideas for Oaklands had been dismissed. Nevertheless I gave it my best.

Firstly I queried what Romeo or Juliet had to do with it and then pointed out that Dearleap Close would be better suited to a future development that would indeed be closer to the footpath cum bridleway.

St John's Close sounds good, the church and school are both nearby. Historically the area was East Durrants (well not that historically, with in living memory of some). Why not I suggested, call the whole estate East Durrants? Numbering the houses from 1 to whatever (106 is it for now?). Each road would only need a sign saying what houses were there (or down it in village speak). Look at the houses and the sign behind the old school in Redhill Road for an example

Now I was in my stride. The entrance points directly at Whichers Common. Here in the corner was once a public house called the Royal Oak and then in the same building a farm, both owned by a Mr. Pescott. How about I said; Pescotts Royal Oak Farm Way. I thought again, I can do better.

Pescotts Royal Oak East Durrants Farm Way, at thirty four letters it might be a record, but stick it up on two posts, say 4ft 6 inches or so high and you would have a ready-made goalmouth for a kick about area that I would like to think is part of the plan anyway.



## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

*Contact*

Jill Hewitt, President

T 02392 412941

E [jillhewitt2@icloud.com](mailto:jillhewitt2@icloud.com)

Sandra White, Secretary

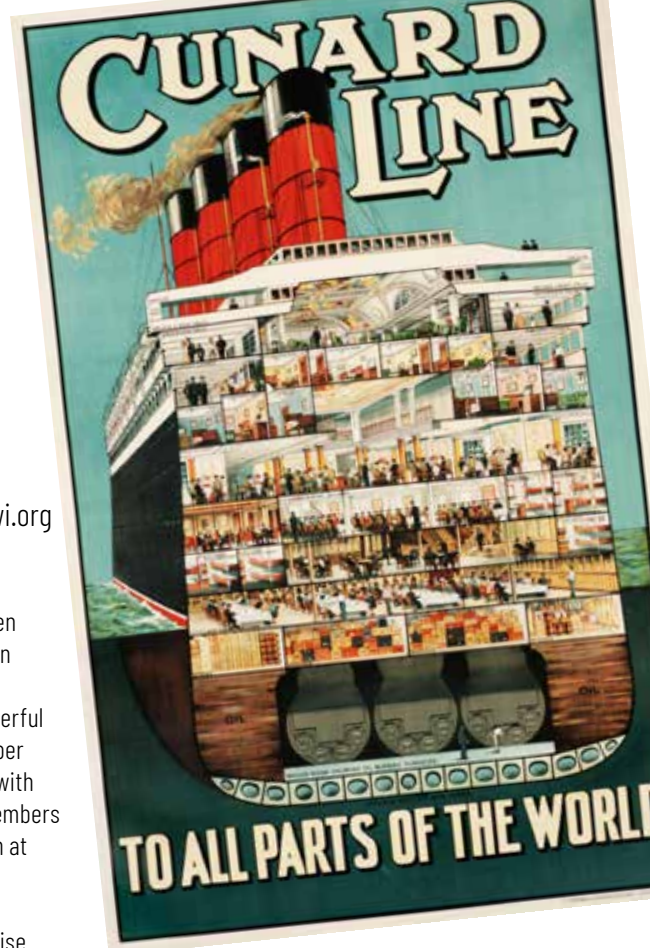
T 02392 413100

E [rowlandscastlesec@hampshirewi.org](mailto:rowlandscastlesec@hampshirewi.org)

RCWI started the Autumn with a talk by Ben Cross about his Alstroemeria Nursery. Ben also judged our annual Flower Arranging competition. In November we had a wonderful quiz and pudding tasting evening. December saw us enjoying the music of Cole Porter with nibbles and carols and we joined other members from local WIs for a Christmas celebration at Bedhampton.

The New Year started with a vicarious cruise - a talk entitled 'The History of Cunard and Glamorous Stars' by Steve Herra. In February we had a fascinating meeting with a number of short talks by members. In March we heard 'From cocoa bean to chocolate bar' by Dawn Shrives. April will see our Flower Arranging Evening and May will be our 72nd Birthday and AGM. Some of our members attended a special WI Gardeners Question Time at Sparshalt and one member had a question answered by the team on air. We learned about Silverline, the Help Line for the elderly, after attending a talk by Esther Ranzen.

RCWI have provided Christmas presents for MIND in Havant, had a fundraising Coffee Morning, raised money for the Southern



Domestic Abuse Service and the Snowdrop Trust and held our first Spring Fair.

We had a delicious lunch at the Golf Club in March and members are attending the Hampshire Federation of WIs Centenary concert at the Anvil, Basingstoke and the HCFWI Spring Meeting.

Members also enjoy our Craft Club, Scrabble, Table Tennis, a Reading Group, a Book Club (with lunch), Skittles and an annual local quiz.

RCWI meets on the second Monday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, Links Lane. Come along and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee or a glass of wine.



## SPRING SHOW

Gordon Charlesworth, Chair

When is the start of Spring?? It gets harder to predict each year! It makes writing this a bit of guess work. Also as I write this I don't know if the Gardening Club Spring Show is in the past or the future! If you are reading this after Saturday 14th April- then I hope you enjoyed the show and maybe won some prizes. But if our magazine is out in time, then do come along on 14th April at St. John's Church Hall. Entries are open to all, including photography, or just come to enjoy the displays, tea and home-made cakes.

"Spring flowers" does not just mean daffodils; Hellebores are increasingly popular. The ones shown here were previewed at a Gardening Club meeting a few years ago, brought by a speaker who works for Hilliers nursery. At the time they

were so new they had no name, and it has taken a few years for them to start appearing in the garden centres. One disadvantage of Hellebores is that the flower heads tend to droop, making it harder to see their lovely colours, but these 'Madame Lemonnier' have more upright, larger heads making it easier to see the pretty pink petals and yellow stamens.

Full details of the Spring Show and all our meetings and events are on the village web site. Non-members are always welcome to the regular meetings.

And if you did miss the Spring Show, don't forget the main horticultural show of the year at the Village Fair on Saturday 7th July!



A spring afternoon from above the village green.





# EMSWORTH ARTS TRAIL 2018



An explosion of colour awaits visitors to Emsworth this spring. On 28th, 29th April and 5th, 6th, 7th May 2018, Emsworth Arts Trail will showcase the exciting and varied work of over 100 talented local artists within the town.

From home studios to community halls, businesses, sailing clubs and churches, artists will open their doors to art lovers on its popular annual arts trail.

Nearly all venues are located within a mile of Emsworth's town centre. By walking or cycling, visitors can look forward to meeting artists and have a chance to purchase their work.

"A full spectrum of mediums and styles including painting, printmaking, photography, furniture making, weaving, woodturning, ceramics, jewellery and textile art will be on display," explains Carol Price, chairman of The Emsworth Arts Trail.

"We have lots of exciting new artists and makers this year, offering something new, alongside many established names that have been part of the trail since its launch in 2001,"

Emsworth Arts Trail works alongside local business to help stimulate economic activity in the town. Nearly 50 companies have paired up

with one or more artists to exhibit their work for its 'Adopt an Artist' scheme.

"We are delighted that so many shops, restaurants, churches, pubs and cafes across the town have offered their premises as temporary galleries so that visitors will be able to take advantage of all that Emsworth has to offer whilst enjoying the art on display. Nearly all of the venues are based near the centre of Emsworth so visitors will be able to follow the Art Trail map on foot or by bike to take in as many as they like," explains Carol.

Organisers recommend parking outside the village or on the outskirts of the Trail and walking in, as parking in the town is often very busy over the two weekends. All public transport information can be found on the web and in the Trail Guide

### Look Out For:

The Boat Project, the Arts Council England initiative that formed part of the London 2012 Olympic Festival will be on display at Hollybank House during the first weekend of the trail. 'Collective Spirit' is made of thousands of donated wooden items and was built in Emsworth during 2011-12. It documents the lives of people within the South East of England, with many items coming from local residents.

Hollybank House will also host a collection of artists on the 28th - 29th April, and promises to offer visitors a special experience this year.

And, of course don't miss all the local artists who open up their studios and gardens to welcome visitors to their homes, definitely worth a visit for a chance to see their work and spend some time in their company.

The event runs over two weekends on 28th - 29th April and 5th, 6th, 7th May 2018.

Visit the Emsworth Arts Trail's website for more information on each artist, opening times, access and trail map:

[www.emsworthartstrail.org.uk](http://www.emsworthartstrail.org.uk)  
[www.theboatproject.com](http://www.theboatproject.com)





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## HEROINES OF THEIR OWN STORY

Genevieve Raeburn  
RRN Press Officer

One crisp Sunday morning in February, the Rural Refugee Network held their annual fundraising 'Walk for Hope'. This year a number of Syrian refugees joined the walk through the West Sussex countryside - a far cry from the war torn cities they once called home. The walk followed the same route as last year, through Elsted village, a climb to Elsted Hanger, along South Downs Way, down through Treyford before returning to Elsted Village Hall.

Five years ago Larisa never thought she would leave Syria, till her town was razed to the ground in the course of just one day. Forced to seek asylum in Jordan the family were eventually assessed under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) and arrived in Gatwick with just one bag and their memories. Larisa is now studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths, determined to qualify in medicine and return to her own country.

At the start of the Syrian war Rasha and her family fled with few possessions in a backpack. Rasha wondered if she could study there, she was a good student, but there was no school, or even healthcare, in the camp. This was life for the next five years till they received a call saying the RRN had found a home and they would be moving to the UK. One day Rasha hopes to return to Syria to open an orphanage



and rebuild her country. 'This is my future,' she says, before asking for a moments silence for all those who have died in Syria.

Upon hearing the girls speak first-hand, these victims of war but heroines of their own story, volunteers at RRN feel ever more compelled to continue their work. The RRN relies on the generosity of landlords wishing to rent to refugee families, please contact the charity for more information, at [hello@ruralrefugeenetwork.org](mailto:hello@ruralrefugeenetwork.org) or visit our website at [www.ruralrefugeenetwork.org](http://www.ruralrefugeenetwork.org)

## GWENDA BREWER

Ian Hewitt, Chairman

In the last magazine I mentioned Gwenda Brewer's pivotal role of Co-ordinator Contact for the last 4 years. Words can't express how much her meticulous organisation had been such an enormous help. During the year ill health meant she couldn't drive but could still telephone and use her computer until she was too weak to continue. She handed over her records as Chief Co-ordinator in November. It was great shock to hear only 11 days later that she had passed away. What courage and character to keep on so close to the end. Her funeral was attended by many volunteers and grateful clients.

Sadly, we should also record the passing to two other stalwarts of the village, Eunice Byrom and Di Griffiths. Each contributed enormously to the local community in her own way.

We are grateful to new co-ordinator Judith and volunteers Siobhan, Sarah D, Claire and Sarah H.

We are always grateful to the Church-on-the-Green's hosting our coffee mornings so clients, volunteers and all involved can meet. Our last such meeting was on 14th March when the hospitality was as generous as ever.

**Diary Date:** Our AGM will be in the parish hall on **Thursday 10th May** where the talk will be on the **Silver Line** - the charity, founded by Esther Rantzen, providing free, confidential advice for older people. All welcome.



If you need any help - or know of anyone who may do e.g. with:

- Transport to hospital, library, shopping or a social event
  - Collecting a prescription
  - Any other neighbourly activity?
- then please remind them of our help line - 0845 519 6641

Please give **at least 48 hours notice** but don't phone more than 2 weeks ahead.



## OUR VILLAGE AT A CROSSROAD

Geoffrey J. Jacobs

### The Past:

The Romans made brick, tiles and pottery at Rowlands Castle because suitable clay was available. Next came the Saxons, their 7th century graves have been found near Stansted House. Through the centuries Rowland Castle remained a small, quiet village on the edge of the Forest of Bere. There was a castle by the village, built early 12th century, that fell into disuse by the 14th century and thereafter into ruins. Named Rowlands Castle because of the Castle, although possibly a corruption of much older Celtic words?

By the 18th century it was known for smuggling and poaching. Population about 120 inhabitants. Also Gypsies lived near nearby in The Thicket, giving their name to Gypsies Plain and Gypsies Clump. Rowlands Castle also had two fairs, held in May and November where cattle and horses were sold, ending late 19th century.

Richard Lumley built a mansion at Stansted in 1686. The Avenue was probably laid out at that time. However the house was destroyed by fire in 1900 and had to be replaced. The Parish Church of St John was built in 1838, architect Jacob Owen. In mid-19th century a school was created by St Johns Church and A United Reformed Church was built in 1881.

### The Present:

Rowlands Castle grew when a railway was built from Portsmouth to London in 1859. A small station was built in the village allowing

people to commute. In 1852 a wine merchant named Charles Dixon built an almshouse for six impoverished fellow wine merchants. However the building was demolished in 1971. For centuries Rowlands Castle was known for brick making which ended in 1967. The brick works chimney was demolished in 1971.

Rowlands Castle Golf Club was created in 1903 and the Parish Hall was built in 1914. Rowlands Castle was made a civil parish in 1932. In 1919 a War Memorial was erected in Rowlands Castle. In 1946 a memorial was erected to the day in May 1944 when King George VI reviewed troops shortly before the invasion of Europe.

In the 1960s some residents of Rowlands Castle were worried that the village would become developed and lose its identity. Indeed development did take place. Some new council flats were built in Durrants Road in 1978. Private houses were also built. In 1989 many new private houses were built on the area known as The Triangle, between Manor Lodge Road and Castle Road. Today the population of Rowlands Castle is about 2,600.

### The Future:

True, Rowlands Castle has no industry, though numerous shops and small businesses flourish. Supporting village life are the Parish Council : W.I. : RCA : RCCon. : RVS : Guides & Scouts : both Churches : and many more. These groups, as well as organising invaluable annual events, are also the catalyst for change, whilst maintaining

standards. For our village must keep up with the 21st century.

As building developers hover with input from SDNP and EHDC., we have a Neighbourhood Plan Committee who passionately scrutinise proposals for structural changes to our village, including the Gap between Havant and ourselves and the looming threat of 'Fracking' at Markwells Wood. Development sprawl is a very real concern for all villagers, from toddlers to our priceless senior citizens. So it pays to be diligent to protect our way of life. Many consider Rowlands Castle to be the jewel in the Crown, that is Hampshire.

This RCA Magazine is an excellent vehicle for promoting our village. We thank Kevin Connell, outgoing Editor and Kelvin Schäfli, incoming Editor. May this RCA Magazine go from strength to strength, with your support.

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Clinics in Rowlands Castle and Havant



## Visit our acclaimed working model railway.

Set in the centre of Rowlands Castle, this scale model shows the troops, vehicles and trains as they were during the approach to D-Day in 1944.

On display at **Stansted House**  
**Sun, Mon, Tues and Wed**  
**1 - 4 pm from Easter until the end of September.**  
Admission free, admission to Stansted House is extra.





## A FAREWELL

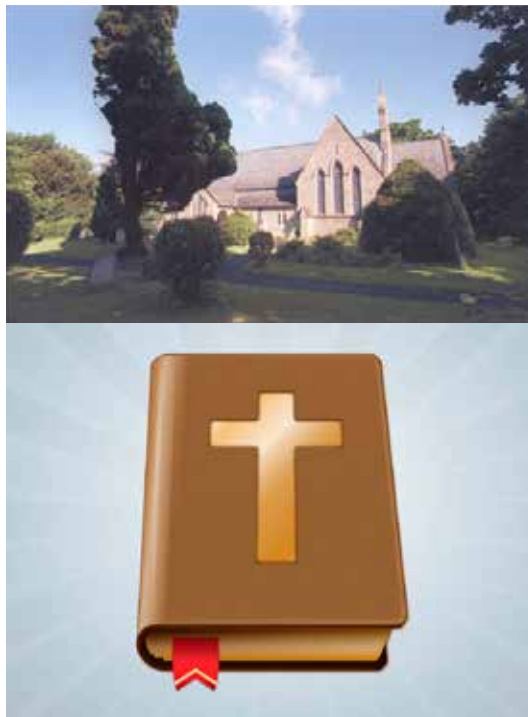
Vicar Trevor Filtness

Many of this magazine's readers may already know that I have decided to retire as Vicar with a final date in the parish of 23rd May, which is the day we move from the Rectory. This means that, from a CofE perspective, the parish will be in an interregnum, that is without a permanent Vicar, until one is re-appointed by the Bishop. Sadly, I am unable to forecast when this will be!

I have been associated with Rowlands Castle since 2005 when I joined RJD Technology Ltd which still has its HQ here. I didn't know at that stage that I would become the Vicar in 2011!

It goes without saying that if you are going to be a parish priest then there can be no finer place than Rowlands Castle, a village which has retained its essential English village characteristics and way of life, but which also embraces modernity. Rosemary and I have made many friends since living in the village and we will be very sad to leave, but another village in Devon beckons.

Can I thank you all for the support that you have given to St John's and myself in many different ways and for the many conversations that we have had from time to time around the village. It has also been a privilege to serve you in the good times and the unhappier times with all that life has to offer.



My final services in church will be Sunday 29th April, after that please contact Gill our Admin Officer on 92410111 or one of our Wardens via our website.

Thank you all again for a wonderful 7 years, every blessing  
Trevor

## GOODBYE WINTER HELLO SPRING!

Jace Clark Student Pastor CotG

Well, our typical British weather has not let us down, has it! Plenty of rain, high winds, cold and damp in the air.....and even some snow!!!! Dare we say it but I think it is safe to say that Spring has arrived, with flowers starting to bloom, buds on the trees, bird song gracing our ears and the lighter evenings increasing and we feel so much better for it all! It clearly tells us in the Bible that God is the giver of ALL things, even the times and the seasons and we praise His holy name for them.

Christmas seems a long time ago now but with that said, our 'Carols over coffee' and 'Christmas carol service' went well, as did our 'Christmas Eve celebration service'. There is something very special remembering the 'true meaning' that Jesus came into this World at Christmas along with lighted candles and a small ensemble of musicians! 2018 is here and we are over three months into it already!

Easter is nearly here and we could probably tell that a few days after Christmas, when the Easter eggs start to fill the shelves of many shops, both big and small. On Good Friday we, at Church on the Green will be holding a joint service with St Johns on the Green itself, starting with the 'walk of witness' from St Johns car park at approx 10am and walking down to the Green and then having the Good Friday service. For those who are elderly or find it hard to walk, there will be a short service at Church on the Green. Also, on Easter Sunday and again

with St Johns, we will be having a joint service and sharing in communion on the Green but if the weather is not friendly, we will then hold it in the Church on the Green. All times will be put on The Grapevine and our respective notice boards.

On the 23rd of March 7.30pm we will be holding another of our annual Musical Evenings. This event is free but any kind donations will go to Naomi House - Children and young adults hospice. The line up of musicians and acts are already looking in great shape, with more in the pipeline, so please put this date in your diaries for a very entertaining evening!

We continue to have our Tuesday and Wednesday coffee mornings from 10am to 12pm. There is always a warm welcome, hot drink and a slice of cake!

Music Makers, the mums, dads, carers and toddlers group we hold on a Friday morning continues to do well, we even have families on the waiting list! If you have pre-school children who might like some dancing, finger food and free play, please do let us know, we would love to hear from you. It is £2.50 per child and any further children are 50p each.

Our Chapel renovations are just about secured now, with work due to start in the next three months or so. A BIG thanks and shout out go to ALL of the kind and generous gifts from people and charities for this much needed work in progress!

May we take this opportunity from us all at Church on the Green to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Easter and may God bless you all.

# A PICTURE STORY

Local writer and artist, Mary Jane Lomer shares the background behind her pictorial history of the village.

Shopping in Southsea my naval husband Roger and I saw the details of a large run down property in Rowlands Castle. Having lived abroad in Malta and Gibraltar with a son of eighteen months, we were keen to settle down.

Trained as an infant teacher I was keen to start my own nursery school. I even had 24 Spanish small size chairs in our luggage! Clutching the details of Beech House, we hot footed it to the property, found an open door, the rest is history!

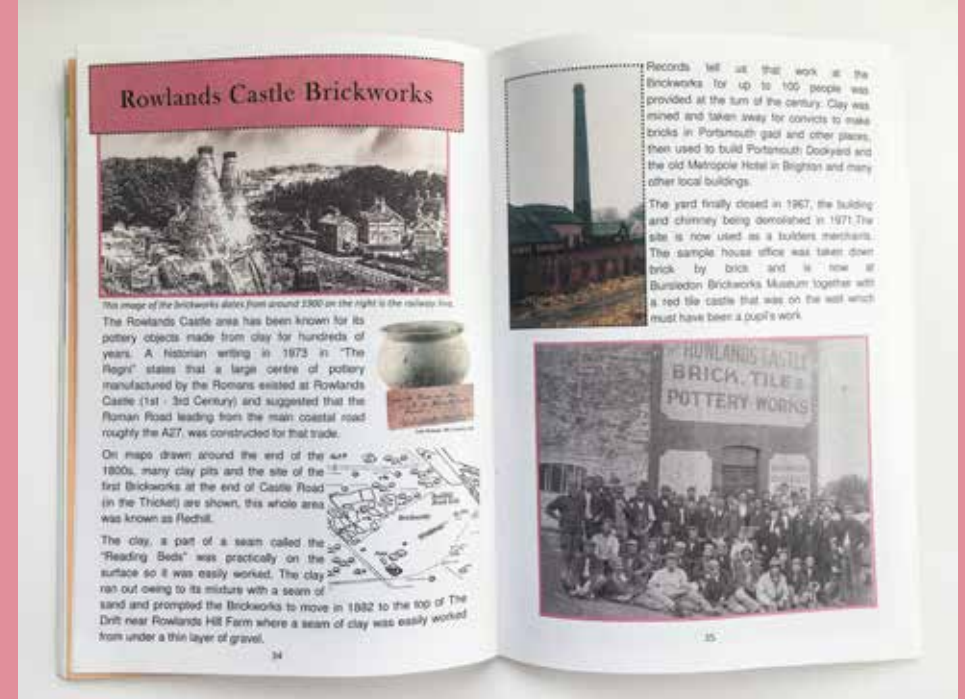
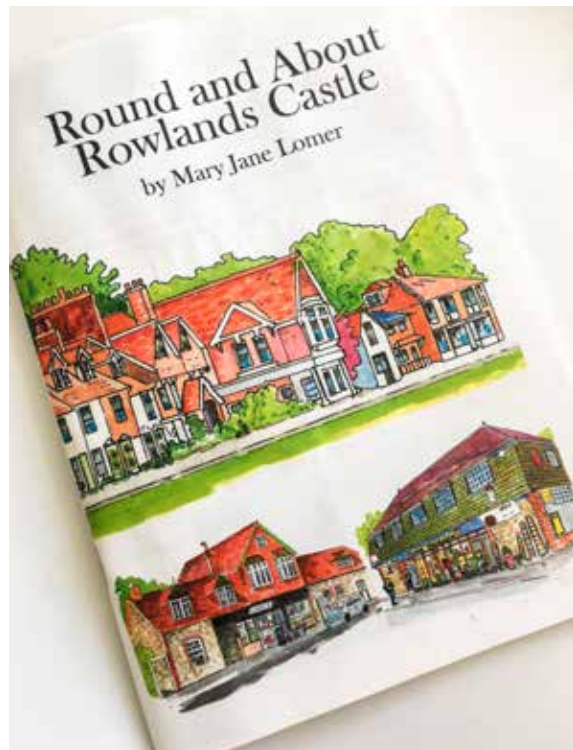
By January 1965 I got permission for the school, starting with 5 pupils, up to 300 attended by closure in 1970. What a wonderful village we had chosen. Beech House has an interesting history, being next to the ruins of the castle, this lead me to dig into the local stories surrounding the castle.

I collected booklets on Village history and painted local watercolours. We moved to the Coffee Pot in 1980 and I heard villagers stories.

Paul Marshman our local historian helped me produce Rowlands Castle Past and Present in 1988, followed in 2015 by Round and about Rowlands Castle in colour including artworks by myself and Charles R Cotton painted about 1860.

So a short shopping trip set the happy course of our lives in a village which continues to entrance me.

Welcome to new residents, bring your talents and join in the varied activities of modern village life.



## PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA

Matt Hancock

### Posh Pie & Quiz Night

70+ people took part in the ever-popular event in February with the Pie & Mash served up by the amazing, award winning Piecaramba. The organiser and compere on the night, Jim Cochrane, brought his eclectic sense of humour along with a wide variety of questions and teasers that got the quizee's debating amongst themselves. Hopefully you all enjoyed it and I think we all found out something new from it. Will you now start buying cheaper chocolate? Your taste buds suggested you might. Will you go and count the trees on the green? I suspect some of you will!

We made a healthy profit of approximately £450 and several people had said they mixed and spoke to people they'd not normally speak to, and part of the PTA remit is bringing the community together as well as just pure fundraising - so mission accomplished! The team, 'Man Down, Man Down', which included 3 teachers won a close fought contest. Good to know our children's education is safe in their hands!



### Date for the diary

Saturday 16th June 2018 - School Summer Fair 12pm-3pm. A real highlight of the year for not only the school but for the whole village too. Please do come along and join in the fun with friends and family!

### Easyfundraising

Do you shop online? Would you like to raise money for your village school, at the same time with very little effort? Win-win I'd say!

When you shop online the easyfundraising way with one of 3,147 shops/sites, they give a commission for your purchase. That gets turned into a donation to your good cause. Easy! And doesn't cost a penny extra.

Money received goes directly into the school 'donations' pot and is offset against purchases of special items.

There are 1000's of shops including big name retailers such as Amazon, ASOS, Boots, eBay, John Lewis, Majestic Wines, Thomas Cook and Waitrose.

- Go onto [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
- Search for "Rowlands Castle St John's CEC Primary School"
- Press 'Join us',
- Create an account
- and shop away!

Go onto [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) easyfundraising-app/ if you shop online on your mobile to get the app.

## RC NSPCC

Sue Arnold

The Rowlands Castle fundraising branch of the NSPCC has now been established in the village for about 43 years and continues to successfully raise money to support the work of the NSPCC throughout the year. In 2017, we held a very successful Barn Dance in the Parish Hall, which raised over £900.00. We then supported the Village Fair by running a refreshment stall on the Village Green and finally held our annual Christmas Fair in November. Tragically, Sarah Hancock, one of our long-standing committee members passed away suddenly in 2016 and her family organized a charity weekend away in her memory. The weekend raised over £8000 and they very generously donated half of the funds to the Rowlands Castle NSPCC. This meant that altogether over the past year we managed to bank more than £6500. Thank you to everyone in the village who has supported our events over the past year.

In 2018 our main fundraising event will be the:



If you would like to support the Rowlands Castle NSPCC at this event please contact Sue Arnold at [sueandjona@aol.com](mailto:sueandjona@aol.com). We would also be very grateful for any contributions to the raffle or "lots" for the auction.

## FAYRES RESUME FOR 2018

Hilda Tart

The craft fayres resume on Saturday 7th April from 10am to 1pm in the Parish Hall, Links Lane. Admission is free and refreshments are available. There will be approx. 24 local artisans selling a wide variety of hand-crafted items. The fayres are organised by a team of four stall-holders who are keen to maintain a very high standard.

They welcome enquiries from potential stall-holders so if you are interested in having a stall please contact [rowlandscastlecraftfayre@gmail.com](mailto:rowlandscastlecraftfayre@gmail.com) and include some images of your work if possible. Find us on Facebook at Rowlands Castle Craft Fayre.

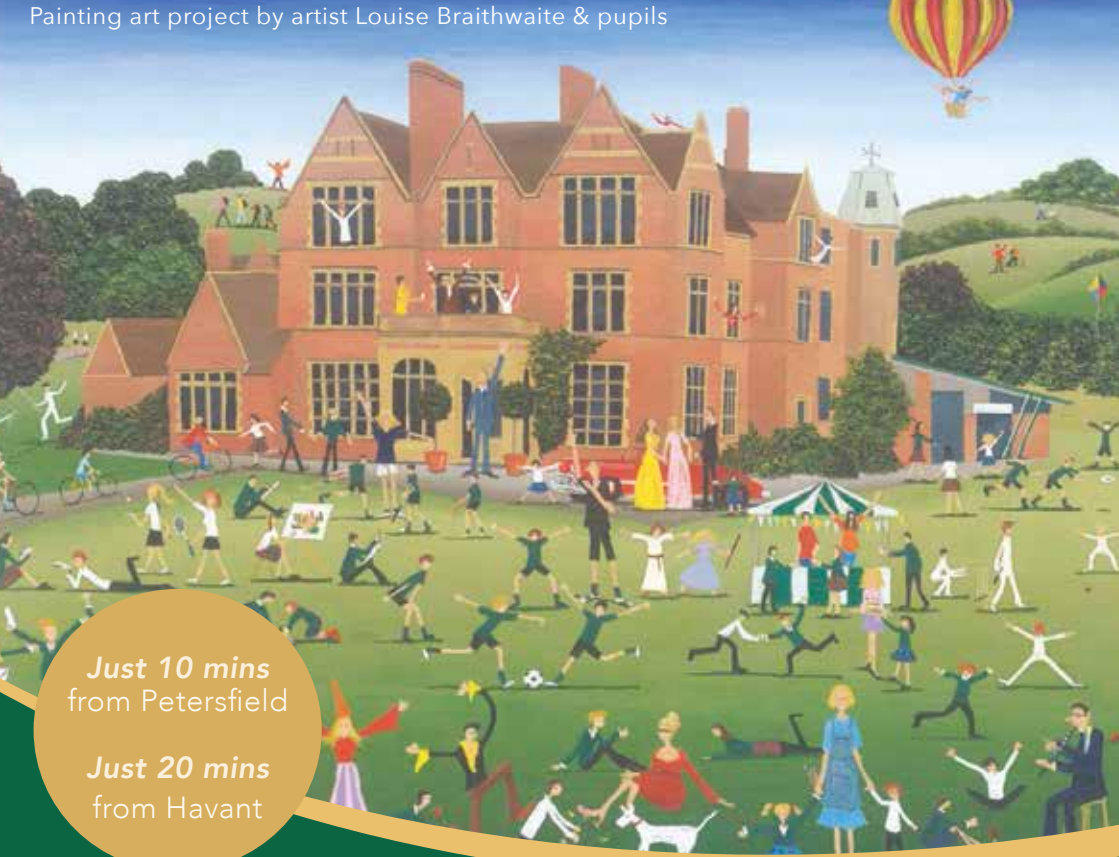
Last year we were pleased to have both halls filled with stalls at all the fayres and we welcomed several newcomers.

Further dates are:

- Sat 5 May:10am to 1pm
- Sat 2 June:10am to 1pm
- Sat 7 July:10am to 4pm







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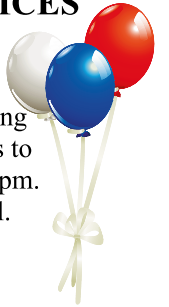
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Telephone: 01243 372015 or email: [childrenslc@btconnect.com](mailto:childrenslc@btconnect.com)  
Website: [www.clcemsworth.co.uk](http://www.clcemsworth.co.uk)



## SAVE THE CHILDREN PETERSFIELD "BIG SALE" NEW OPENING DAYS

Come and join us for three days of shopping at the Big Sale. Held in Petersfield Festival Hall there will be a huge selection of new and good-as-new clothing and shoes for all the family, many of them with the original price tags. There will also be homeware, a designer room and a cafe.

So if you're looking for a new outfit, tired of your current wardrobe or just want to have a good time, pop along to the Big Sale and help raise funds for disadvantaged children in the U.K. and throughout the world.



**Save the Children**

The dates and times are:

**Friday, 20th April** 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
(£2 entry Friday only),  
**Saturday, 21st April** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and  
**Sunday, 22nd April** 10 a.m. - 12 noon  
everything half price  
2 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
fill a bin bag for £10.

We're sure you'll find something to tempt you, so see you all there!!

For further information contact:

[www.petersfield-savethechildren.co.uk](http://www.petersfield-savethechildren.co.uk)

## SEABIRD SIGHTINGS

Langstone Harbour RSPB-managed old Oysterbed lagoons at the West Hayling Local Nature Reserve are well known for its amazing breeding seabird and wintering bird populations.

Free to visit at any time, this is a diverse landscape of tidal mudflats, saltmarsh, seagrass meadows and shingle; Langstone Harbour is home to an internationally important

number of breeding seabirds and overwintering wildfowl. The scenery and wildlife can be enjoyed up close at the old Oysterbed lagoons on the Hayling Island shoreline. Nearby, the offshore, wildlife only parts of the reserve can be viewed at a safe distance from the harbour's circumnavigating coastal paths.

In early March, black-headed gulls begin to court and stake territories throughout the harbours shingle islands whilst Mediterranean gulls usually form courting roosts at the old Oysterbeds before dispersing to breed elsewhere. Common terns, sandwich terns and little terns arrive back from migration in March/April and they can be seen fishing throughout the harbour's lagoons and shoreline.

Seabirds echo throughout the harbour in May, June and July with young black-headed gulls and common terns visible up close at the old Oysterbed lagoons. Meanwhile, sandwich terns, little terns and Mediterranean gulls breeding in the more sensitive, no access, offshore parts of the reserve start to bring their young on feeding expeditions in late June and can be seen roosting along the harbour's shore.

To find out more about Langstone Harbour and the RSPB please visit: [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk).



Black-tailed godwit in summer breeding plumage  
Credit: [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

## FIRST LAMBS OF 2018

Rachel Bingham

We're delighted to announce that the first Butser lambs of 2018 were born early in March.

Two sets of twin boys made their debut into the world, timing it just right to avoid the 'Beast from the East' and the plunging temperatures of that week. All are doing well with the curious lambs exploring their new environment already. After the recent cold snap we're delighted to be witnessing a real sign of spring on our doorstep!

The sheep at Butser are a rare Iron Age breed called Manx Loaghtan. Originally from the Isle

of Man, they have distinctive mousy brown colouring and a striking horned appearance - with up to 6 horns each when fully grown! Manx Loaghtan are designated as 'at risk' by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust; in the 1950s there were only 43 surviving specimens and although this has increased in recent years there are still fewer than 1,500 registered breeding females in the UK. Most of our ewes at Butser are also pregnant so we are delighted to be helping this rare breed animal to thrive and grow.

Now is a great time to visit Butser and see the turning of the seasons and blossoming of new life as we welcome in the warmer spring days. Current opening times are Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm and from April the farm is open seven days a week. For a chance to celebrate the turning of the seasons why not join us for our Beltain Festival on the 5th May to enjoy local ales, food and entertainment before the burning of the great Wickerman?

Tickets on sale now at:  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)  
Search: Beltain: Burning of the Wickerman





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## WOMENS FELLOWSHIP IN ROWLANDS CASTLE

A group of very enthusiastic local ladies meets twice every month with the exception of August. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons between 2 and 4pm. at St John's Church Centre at the top of Redhill Road.

We always begin our meetings with a rousing hymn and continues with a programme of activities suggested by members - including games, quizzes, craft, debates, beetle-drives, What's My Line, also seasonal meals and some outings. We round off the afternoon with a cuppa and posh biscuits. We hold our AGM every November.

Members will make you most welcome if you would like to join us.

Please contact Gill at St John's Church Centre Parish Office on 92410111



/ TENNIS CLUB

## TENNIS FOR ALL

*Contact*

Robin Thompson,  
Chairman

E chairman@rctc.co.uk

Alan Best, Secretary

E sec@rctc.co.uk

Rowlands Castle has a thriving tennis club with around 300 members, some 100 or so of them being active adult players. We are a friendly club, and won the Colin Manvell trophy for Sportsmanship, voted for by all the clubs in the Portsmouth tennis leagues, for three years in succession from 2015. We cater for all your tennis needs, be they for social or competitive tennis:

For the pure social player we have three tarmac courts in very good condition with an on-line booking system which ensures that you can book your court in advance.

We also run "club" sessions every Monday and Friday evening from 6pm until dusk. Newcomers

can just come along with a racquet, introduce themselves to the evenings supervisor and join in. For the more competitive players we run teams in the local Portsmouth League. We have Men's, Ladies and Mixed teams, all playing at a reasonable standard. We are always on the look out for new players, so if you are interested in playing for any of the teams then please do come along to a club session and introduce yourself.

Our summer "American Tournaments" in which all players are shuffled around to ensure you finish up playing with and against different people are very popular and are a great way of getting to know other members!

We do not have a resident coach - but we still provide coaching opportunities for juniors and adults during the summer months. Contact us as below if you would like further information.

The committee are always happy to welcome new members. Please visit: [www.rctc.co.uk](http://www.rctc.co.uk)

*Members pose after one of the American Tournaments last summer.*



# Junior Open Morning

with Forensic Science Trail

.....  
**Saturday 9 June**  
**10am to 12 noon**  
.....

This event is suitable for children from 3 to 11 years.



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[www.portsmouthhigh.co.uk/open-days](http://www.portsmouthhigh.co.uk/open-days)  
023 9282 6714 [admissions@por.gdst.net](mailto:admissions@por.gdst.net)

A school minibus service runs from Rowlands Castle every day

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[www.jigsawplayschool.co.uk](http://www.jigsawplayschool.co.uk)

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## FURTHER AFIELD

### **Poppies: Wave installation**

13 Apr 2018 - 24 June

Fort Nelson  
PO17 6AN

Wave is from the installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red'. Poppies and original concept by artist Paul Cummins and installation designed by Tom Piper. By Paul Cummins Ceramics Limited in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces, originally at HM Tower of London 2014. Free admission.

### **Beltain Festival**

Saturday 5 May

Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Chalton,  
PO8 0BG

Belgian is the ancient Celtic celebration to mark the beginning of summer, with music, dancing and the burning of the giant wickerman. Visitors can expect a fantastic afternoon/evening of entertainment and refreshments included Roman cooking, real ale bar, Celtic mead and hot food available. Maypole, storytelling, Anglo-Saxon re-enactors, various stalls and traditional skills demonstrating metalwork, leathercraft, hurdlemaking, flint knapping, willow weaving, spinning and weaving.

Advance tickets are available online, or at the event.

<http://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk>



*Horseboarding at Hampshire Country Fair*

### **Living Heritage Hampshire Country Fair**

Bank Holiday Sunday & Monday, 6-7 May

Netley Marsh Showground, Netley Marsh, Hants  
SO40 7GY

Hampshire's leading Country Show – back for the twenty-sixth year! With THREE main arenas, supported by a host of smaller country sports arenas and workshops, and the very best in countryside activities and entertainment, we can offer you an unbeatable family day out.

Advance tickets available up to five days before the fair for £11.50 and available on the gate on the day for \$14. For children and concession ticket prices, please look online.

<http://hampshirecountryfair.co.uk>

### **Just Walk**

Saturday 12 May

Goodwood Racecourse  
PO18 0PS

This is a unique charity challenge where you can walk to raise money for any charity of your choice or take on a personal challenge. Choose a walking distance to suit your fitness level or goal – 10km, 25km, 35km, 45km or the BIG 60km! There really is something for everyone.

You can also do the walk as training preparation for another event or as a challenge to tie in perfectly with National Walking Month 2018 – it's up to you!

Sign up online at <https://www.just-walk.co.uk>

### **Common People Southampton**

Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 May

Southampton Common

From the same creators as Bestival, Common People is returning to Southampton for another year and expect some of the newest and well known acts in the country. Celebrating music, arts and community in the heart of the city, the festival wonderland will take place on Southampton Common on spring bank holiday weekend.

This year's festival is guaranteed to be yet another incredible year of music and cheer, don't miss the glorious blockbuster of brilliant family entertainment, delicious food and a line-up that can't fail to keep you dancing all day long. Common People is the very essence of community spirit.

### **Alresford Watercress Festival**

Sunday 20 May

SO24 9JG

This nationally acclaimed annual festival will attract thousands of visitors to New Alresford in Hampshire. Over 80 stalls showcase the very best local food and drink producers. Others sell arts, crafts, jewellery and clothing, items for house, garden and much else besides.

A large cavalcade of musicians, dancers and children accompany the Watercress King and Queen up Broad Street as they distribute freshly cut bunches of watercress to festival goers. Well-known chefs will demonstrate delicious watercress-inspired dishes. And more adventurous visitors can take up the challenge of the World Watercress Eating Championships – now in the Guinness Book of World Records. A free festival for all the family.



## / GREAT DAYS OUT *continued*

### **The Overlord Show**

26th – 28th May  
The Lawns, Denmead  
PO7 6HS

The Overlord Show is the south coast's premier military spectacular. Proudly organised by Solent Overlord Executive Military Collectors Club in support of military charities!

With hundreds of military vehicles and re-enactors from the Great War all the way through to modern day, accompanied by militaria traders from all over the country, it is a great day out for vehicle enthusiasts and history buffs alike. Enjoy a great selection of food stands and our onsite beer tent while you enjoy the arena events and professionally re-enacted battles.

### **West Dean Arts and Craft Festival**

1 - 3 June  
10:00 - 5:00pm  
West Dean  
PO18 ORX

Contemporary arts and craft at the UK's most unique arts destination

Watch live craft demonstrations, buy quality arts and craft and get hands-on in creative workshops and drop-in sessions. Explore the historic state rooms in West Dean House and view installations from current students.

Book online at: [www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk)

*Opposite: Lighting the Wicker Man at Beltain Festival*

### **South Hants Vehicle Preservation Society**

3 Jun  
10:00 am  
Gravel Hill, Horndean  
PO8 0QE

This is a family day out at Queen Elizabeth Country Park with something to interest everyone. Over 250 cars, commercials, motorcycles, and military vehicles of all shapes, sizes and make dating from the early 1900s to 1993 on display. Refreshments and varied catering facilities, licensed bar, live band, free family entertainment, toilets and first aid facilities. Over 160 auto jumble stalls selling vehicle parts and accessories, as well as some general stalls and garden plants etc.

### **The Great British Gin Festival**

Saturday 9 June  
1 - 10 pm  
Priory Park, Chichester  
PO19 1BL

Prepare to have your taste buds tantalised by over 100 different gins from around the world! Tickets available online, include entry, Gin Bible, The Great British Gin Festival Glass, live entertainment, talks, demos and more. Exchange cash for tokens to get your drinks. Tokens are £5 each with one token paying for a single measure of gin, garnish and a mixer.

Tickets at: <https://www.fatsoma.com/gin-festival-uk>



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[www.t-eight.co.uk](http://www.t-eight.co.uk)

**/ GREAT DAYS OUT**  
*continued*

**Garden Show 2018**

8 - 10 June  
10am - 5pm Daily  
Stansted Park

The perfect event to find all you need to make your garden (and home!) grow. A great opportunity to explore what's on the doorstep; source new talent, designers and artisans. Browse affordable and handpicked stands showcasing the latest specialist plants, garden accessories, art, design, sculpture, fashion, gifts and then treat your taste buds to tempting foods and wines. Tickets at the gate or online in advance at:

[www.thegardenshowonline.com](http://www.thegardenshowonline.com)

**Kitesurfing Armada**

22 - 24 June  
Hayling Island

The Kitesurfing Armada is a unique festival bringing the kitesurfing community together for one fantastic weekend of kiting, music, fundraising and record breaking. This event is the biggest kitesurfing and live music event of the year, broken 5 GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ and raised over £180,000 for charity.

The festival is free to attend, with just a charity donation on the door requested from anyone not kiting in the event.

<http://www.armadaevents.co.uk/events/kitesurfingarmadauk/>

**The Nostalgia Show**

30 Jun - 1 Jul  
Standsted Park

A new event is coming to Stansted Park this summer, bringing with it whimsical charm and British eccentricity. Experience a magical step back in time, view an incredible selection of classic cars, shop vintage style, dine on British street food and dance the day away all in one glorious setting.

For full information, FAQs and to buy tickets visit: [www.thenostalgiashow.com](http://www.thenostalgiashow.com)



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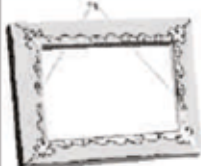


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This notice is provided as a public service announcement.

Content sourced from East Hampshire District Council



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*continued*

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### East Hants District Council

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### Hampshire County Council,

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### Rowlands Castle Parish Council

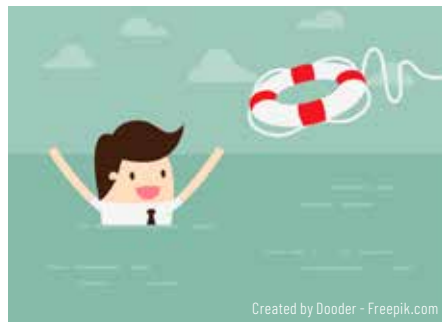
The Parish Office is open to the public between 10am and on 12 Noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other times by appointment.

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