

Village & Valley

SPRING 2021

The magazine of the
Rowlands Castle Association



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SPRING 2021

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Rowlands Castle Association

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DISCLAIMER: Comments and opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the RCA or the editor. Disputes against any claim or comment must be addressed to the contributor in question, not the editor.

The village magazine is published three times a year by the RCA. The aim of the Association is to conserve the character of Rowlands Castle, to provide a channel of communication on matters of local interest and to enhance the life of the village.

CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

The village magazine depends upon your contributions. If you wish to submit material for a future issue please follow the guidelines as set out below:

- Contributions should be between 200-300 words and if possible please provide at least one image (max 10MB) to accompany your article.
- Please send your image(s) as email attachments, NOT as part of a Word doc.
- Please send your copy/text as a 'Word' file or by email.
- Please DO NOT paste photos into a Word doc.
- Please DO NOT 'design' your contribution in Word or any other software.

PLEASE NOTE the deadlines below:

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

PLEASE BE AWARE:

Late submissions might not be included.

/ ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE

The village magazine is funded entirely by advertising. If you would like to promote your business or services and advertise on these pages please contact Mark Dombey on the address: ads@rowlandscastle.com

/ THE GRAPEVINE

Grapevine is the village messaging service that sends out emails about events and important information connected to the village. To sign up, send a blank email to: grapevine@rowlandscastle.com

To post a message to the Grapevine send your email to info@rowlandscastle.com

/ COVER PICTURE

Crossing the RC golf course

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ksprophoto.co.uk

/ RCA CHAIR REPORT

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Helen Penfold
Chair RCA



As spring comes, and we are enjoying the celandines and primroses, the trees in blossom and the birdsong, many of us have been vaccinated and we are mostly feeling a bit more confident that there might be an end to all the Covid restrictions and a return to some sort of normality over the next few months. Let us hope that this will be the case.

The RCA committee wants to say a huge thank you to Alan Drinkwater, who has been president of the RCA for the last twenty years, until he stepped down from this post at our recent AGM in February. Alan did a great job as president, being a wise and kindly figurehead, giving impartial and helpful advice and support, whenever it was needed. To say thank you to Alan, we gave him a gift token and champagne and we have planted a lime tree, 'Green Spire' for him, at the top of the recreation ground. Actually it was Michael Prior, head forester at Stansted, who planted the tree, while a few of us watched and enjoyed the excellent lesson in tree planting. The tree will grow to 80 feet in time.

As Alan Drinkwater has stepped down from the role of president, so Alan Evers has taken over this role, and we look forward to working together over the next few years.



Michael Prior has also given us advice on a small 'rewilding project' at the top east corner of the recreation ground, which we hope to start in the autumn, with the permission of the Parish Council. And speaking of trees- the RCA committee has been helped by our East Hants District Councillor, Malcolm Johnson, to secure a grant of £1,000.00 from the 'environment enhancing fund' of EHDC, to pay for trees to be planted in Stansted Forest in the autumn, as part of their tree planting programme, after the devastation of the ash dieback. We know that many residents of the village and close by, love to walk in Stansted Forest and we are pleased to be able to help with the replanting programme.

Please do think about joining the committee if you have a few hours to spare. It really is not onerous, and it is a great way to feel a bit more involved with what goes on in the village. Do contact me if you would like to know more about being on the committee.

Enjoy the springtime.

chairman@rowlandscastle.com
07557276242

A CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC SPRINGTIME

Lisa Walker
Clerk to Rowlands Castle Parish Council

In March, the Parish Council was very saddened to hear of the death of former Cllr Andy Lee, who had only resigned from the Council in January this year due to his increasing ill health. Tribute is paid to his tremendous contribution to the community in a separate article in this Magazine (see page 15).

General

In February, we welcomed Hank Schneider, who joined the Council under its Co-option Policy to represent Finchdean and the surrounding areas. We still have one vacancy on the Council which we hope to fill soon. We are also recruiting for a new role of Facilities Officer to the Council, which will focus on the Recreation Ground and Parish Hall, and work with their respective management committees.

The Council has continued to meet via Zoom and as ever residents are welcome to observe and/or make representations at these meetings. There is some debate over whether we can continue to meet virtually after 7 May, due to the expiry of some specific Government legislation, but efforts are taking place at national level to reach a firm conclusion on this.

The Council's precept was increased slightly for this new financial year although development means the sum is apportioned over a larger number of properties meaning many households will have seen a decrease in the Parish Council's share of their overall council tax.

Easing of Pandemic Lockdown Restrictions

With the easing of Lockdown, the tennis courts and

outdoor gym equipment have re-opened at the Rec and we're welcoming back members of the RC Tennis Club as well as the resident local football teams and cricket club. We also hope to re-open the Pavilion as and when Government regulations allow. There seems to have been an increase in anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the Rec which is not only disappointing but has incurred additional resources in terms of both finances and staff time.

During Lockdown we took the chance to review some aspects of the Parish Hall. We are working with the Hall Management Committee to ensure all child protection and other safety measures are in place ready for the when the Hall can re-open to all users.

Flora and Fauna

Local organisations have been doing their bit for the environment by seeking permission for planting schemes on land for which the Council is responsible. The Gardening Club planted a range of small trees and other plants opposite the Church on The Green and the RCA has planted a lime at the Rec, to be dedicated to a former RCA President, and will be planting shrubs nearby later in the year to compliment the mature trees in the area.

The Council plans to continue its practice of leaving some grassed areas uncut to encourage wildlife. It is also pressing EHDC to formalise the cutting of Finchdean Green by our contractor after concern was expressed at the quality of service from EHDC's. The pandemic has delayed some planned biodiversity projects by the Council which we hope now to address in the next few months. These include



increasing biodiversity in Rowlands Copse and encouraging more tree planting and monitoring within the Parish. We continue to urge residents to value our existing trees and the contribution they make to our environment, only felling them when it is necessary i.e. if dying and/or diseased. The Council will be commissioning its regular professional survey of the trees for which it is responsible this summer.

Planning and Parking Issues

There has been a flood of planning applications over the last 5 months, with the Parish Council reviewing 26 of them ranging from very small extensions to Portsmouth Water's plans for the Havant Reservoir. The Council has also expressed grave concerns over various suspected or confirmed planning breaches and has pressed EHDC, as the local planning authority, to take firm and decisive action to uphold planning regulations.

The Council has continued to lobby Hants Highways and has now received assurances that the overly-wide bellmouth at the junction of Deerleap Lane and Redhill Road will be narrowed, probably towards the end of 2021. The Council has asked that it be consulted on any plans given its extensive research. After seeing the popularity of the link between the Montague Green development and Bridleway 24, the Council continues to press for a similar link from Oaklands Avenue to the bridleway. After Council raised concerns at the major shortcomings of the Traffic Regulation Order published last Autumn, we worked with our local district and county councillors and EHDC officers to reach a satisfactory conclusion and we look forward to the agreed measures being implemented.

What else has been happening?

We've installed a 'Tommy' soldier on The Green, offering a chance for remembrance and reflection for current and future generations. We've repaired some benches, replaced one entirely, and several more are in the process of being dedicated to past loved ones under the Council's 'Adopt a Bench' scheme.

After a delay due to wet/cold weather, the installation of the spiral stone 'snake' on Deerleap Verge is due shortly as a permanent commemoration of the efforts of key workers and volunteers during the pandemic. We anticipate the arrival of a new Village Lectern/Interpretation Panel for The Green later this spring. We are also looking to replace the bus shelter near The Green, incorporating facilities for a community library and noticeboard.

A Regular Plea!

Finally, 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.

www.rowlandscastlepc.org.uk

NOTES FROM EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Malcolm Johnson

Ward Councillor for all residents of Rowlands Castle, Finchdean and Idsworth

As I write my notes for this the first issue of 2021 of Village and Valley magazine I'm heartened by the early signs of spring as buds are appearing and the weather is a degree or so warmer. All of which is so important for everyone after the past twelve months that we've all endured. With infection numbers tumbling and hospital cases also reducing coupled with the amazing success of the vaccination programme I believe at last we can see hope for everyone. Yes, I know there have been sad losses in the community and people have lost jobs but we must not lose sight of the fact that as a country we've turned a corner and 2021 offers hope for all. As you would expect EHDC has continued with its various community and business support programmes throughout the winter period and remains one of the most successful district councils in being able to distribute financial support provided by central government to our local community and businesses quickly and efficiently.

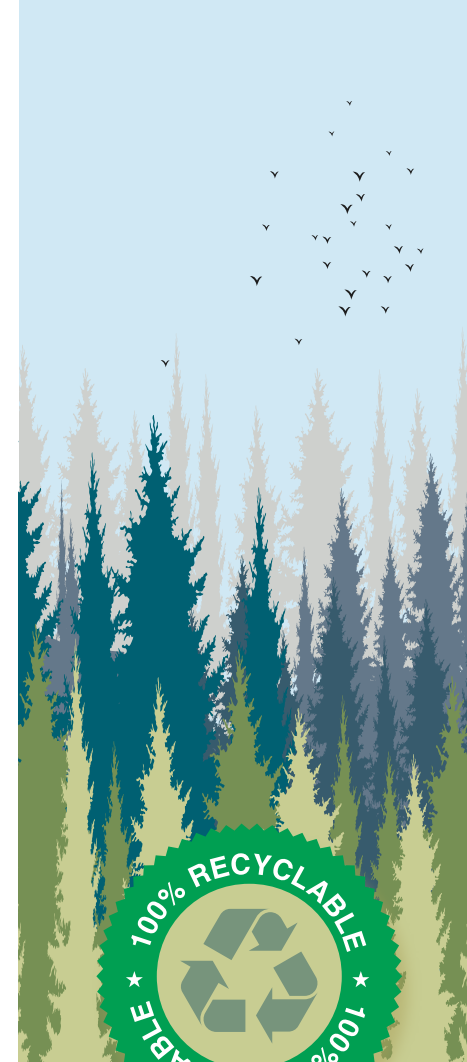
During the winter you may well have seen press reports of a most unsatisfactory situation that was exposed within the workings of the council at the beginning of that year. An internal complaint by an elected councillor against a senior member of the officer staff led to the chief executive in conjunction with the council leader, initiating an independent governance review of the working relationship between elected councillors and the officer staff within the council. Sadly, this review exposed a catalogue of bullying of staff and other totally unacceptable behaviours by councillors

towards staff over a period of years. The review made seventeen recommendations which the council and the executive has now accepted. And under the direction of the chief executive and endorsed by the council leader, a programme of change, and were required, training of both councillors and officers has been initiated. A new more positive and harmonious atmosphere now pervades throughout the council's work to the benefit of both councillors and officer staff. Last year also saw a major piece of work undertaken on the re-working of the council's constitution to make it fit for purpose in the light of the new corporate strategy that was also agreed by the council in 2020. So EHDC is glad to have seen the back of 2020, not just because of the improving Covid situation but also the major internal transformations that have been achieved.

By the time you are reading this issue of Village and Valley you will have received your annual council tax demand for the new financial year. I am sure you will be pleased to note that while there has been the inevitable overall increase, the East Hampshire element of the increase has been held at 2%. At the Full Council meeting in February the cabinet member for finance presented the budget for the coming year in which he was able to demonstrate that in spite of the financial pressures brought on by the Covid virus and all that entailed, he was able to keep the annual council tax increase to just 2% without reducing any of East Hampshire's services to the community as well as putting funds into reserves for future needs.

You will recall from my previous notes that following the government's white paper last year on future changes to the planning system, very strong representation was made to the relevant government department by many organisations, not least East Hampshire, on the problems that the proposals would create. Prominent was the proposed method of calculating future housing numbers. Well, the good news is the government, as a result of the representations it received, has now changed the formula for calculating housing numbers which is comforting for rural areas like East Hampshire. The Local Plan team will now continue with their work preparing the new Plan but take into account the changes that were mooted in the white paper and prepare what is known as a hybrid plan that embraces the original way of working together with elements that are proposed in the new style of plan making. This will alter the timetable somewhat, but at least East Hampshire will have a new Local Plan and be able to resist developers when they come knocking. Neighbourhood Plans will still have a relevance, so the work that is being done locally within Rowlands Castle on a Neighbourhood Plan will remain very important for the future of the village and will form part of the new Local Plan when both are adopted in due course. Still on the subject of planning, Portsmouth Water has now submitted what's called a hybrid application for the new reservoir which is yet to be determined by both East Hampshire District Council and Havant Borough Council planning committees. Details of their proposals can be seen on both councils' web sites.

And finally, as I always end my notes, 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, Covid restrictions permitting. 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 or by phone 02392 412096.



RECYCLE YOUR MAGAZINE

This magazine is printed on FSC (FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL) approved paper stock which is sustainably sourced and fully recyclable.

ACTIVITY UPDATE

Marge Harvey

I hope that you are all safe and well and my sympathy goes to all who have lost loved ones during this awful period.

I thought that it would be a good idea to report to you where your money is being spent at HCC. The budget was approved at the last full Council at £2.1 billion pounds to be spent on local services in 21/22.

Plans focus on the county's work with the pandemic, support for vulnerable children and adults, investments in Hampshire roads and infrastructure, to support economic recovery as well as climate change mitigation.

The council tax charge is increased by 4.99 percent of which 3 percent is for adult social care, which is a government request.

The proposed capital programme includes £68 million for new and extended schools to ensure there is a place for every child.

£118 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges over 3 years.

£91 million for integrated transport schemes, including over £18 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements.

£141 million for major improvements of school and other County Council holdings over the next 3 years.

£35 million for decarbonisation schemes covering solarPV, single to double glazing window replacements, transition from oil to gas and implementation of heating controls.

HCC has agreed in excess of 1 million for voluntary groups and charitable organisations across the county, to support them in providing short break activities for children with disabilities and/or additional needs.

HCC are asking residents to report fly tipping which will help reduce the activity of criminal gangs fly tipping in the county. Please ensure that you use a licensed company to take away any waste. Locally I have reported the fly tipping on the B2149 from Rowlands Castle to Horndean, which is quite bad.

HCC have reported that the Chief Executive will retire this year after quite a difficult year handling the pandemic. He has said that this was always his plan, and has moved the date so that he can continue until after the end of the lockdown.

I still report pot holes and any other issues to HCC on a regular basis and have requested that parking enforcement comes to the village on a more regular basis.

As far as parking is concerned, I have requested that we have 2 new disabled parking spaces in the centre of the village, one outside the surgery and another outside the shops.

As soon as I am allowed, I will begin my surgery again on the first Thursday of every month with kind permission of the Bumblebee cafe at 11am - noon.

Until then I can be contacted by e mail at: marge.harvey@hants.gov.uk or by telephone or by letter to my home. I look forward to hearing from you with any issues you may have that you think I can help with, or at the very least signpost you to the right place.

I am still working with Portsmouth Water via our officers on issues with entrance and road speeds and will report back anything that I hear to you.

Take care and keep safe.

ROWLANDS CASTLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Ian Young
Steering Group Chairman

The Rowlands Castle Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (RCNP SG) has continued to develop the Parish Neighbourhood Plan (NP) draft policies, taking account of various inputs, with the aim of conserving the much-valued attractive nature and character of the Parish.

A Settlement (or Townscape) Character Assessment for differing built areas of the Parish, was completed last November by a consultant working with the SG. The content has drawn on the excellent documents produced previously in Rowlands Castle - the Village Design Statement (2000), the Parish Plan (2008-2018), the Local Landscape Character Assessment (2012), and also the recently proposed Development Guidelines. This Settlement Assessment describes the characteristics of the various built areas, to inform and guide any future developments within the Parish. It is available for viewing on the RC Parish Council website under Rowlands Castle/Current Projects/Neighbourhood Plan.

The SG continues to develop the NP in advance of adoption of the East Hampshire District Council Local Plan (EHDC LP) as it progresses, along with the South Downs National Park Authority Local Plan adopted in 2019. Adoption of the EHDC LP 2017-2038 will now be delayed to complete by the end of 2023, as a result of the Government's 'Planning for the Future' White Paper (August 2020).

Further online 'Zoom' consultations are continuing with Parish organisations and businesses to seek views on future development over the period until 2038. The SG is very grateful for all the helpful comments and observations made, which provide the necessary evidence for NP content. With meeting restrictions



ROWLANDS CASTLE
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Our agreed vision for the
Neighbourhood Plan is:

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

still in force, it is intended to seek further views from residents on their preferred considerations for future developments in the Parish. This will be achieved through an online questionnaire, which we will invite you to complete when available.

If you would like to contribute in any way, or if you would like further information on development of the Neighbourhood Plan, or to forward comments on future development needs, please contact Gill Whatley at the Parish Office - by phone (02392 413044) or email (projects@rowlandscastlepc.org.uk).

RCWI

All WI meetings and activities have been temporarily suspended.

Members will be kept in touch via our Newsletter.

Potential new members are encouraged to contact our secretary Cathy Craggs on 07494 901075 or 02392 410123 or email: rowlandscastlesec@hampshirewi.org.uk

1ST ROWLANDS CASTLE SCOUT GROUP ST GEORGES DAY RAFFLE

The cut-off date for tickets will be Friday 16th April. The raffle tickets are £1 each or £5 for a book of 5 tickets.

Prizes include:

• £25 Cash - Merrid Fencing • £40 Meal Voucher - The Castle Inn • Afternoon Tea for Two - Stansted Pavilion Tearoom • GoKarting for 2 - TeamSport • Nail Voucher - May Tree Salon • Fever Tree Tonic Set - The Robin Hood Inn • Food Thermometer - Home Hardware • Compost - Dobbies • Teasmaid • Kirstie Allsopp Book Duo

Please contact Alison Eastman for more information and tickets: alison@1strcsg.co.uk

MAYDAY PICNIC & BBQ ON THE GREEN

Monday 3rd May 2021

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Fun for all, including music by the Blendworth Brass Band. BBQ on the forecourt of the Fountain Inn. Collection in aid of the Rowan's Hospice.

Contact: secretary@rowlandscastle.com

RCA QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 16th OCTOBER 2021
Parish Hall

Always popular, come for the fun, food and prizes
Contact: secretary@rowlandscastle.com

RCA EVENTS 2021

Stay in touch on the Grapevine for more up-to-date information on these events.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday 12th DECEMBER 2021
Parish Hall

The annual RCA Children's Christmas Party in the Rowlands Castle Parish Hall. For children 0-6 yrs (with an adult). £1 per child and a wrapped and labelled present for Father Christmas to give. Only open to children of the residents of Rowlands Castle.

Please contact secretary@rowlandscastle.com for more information

REMEMBER:
WASH YOUR HANDS
THOROUGHLY

ROWLANDS CASTLE MYSTERY EASTER EGG HUNT

Friday 2nd - Sunday 18th April 2021
(9am-6pm each day)

A community event, brought to you by the St John's Primary School PTA

PLEASE SEE PAGES 50-51 FOR MORE INFORMATION

ANNUAL FIREWORKS

SATURDAY 6th November 2021
Gates open 5:50 pm
Fireworks 7:00 pm

Refreshments, children's rides and the spectacular firework display.

Confirmation of this event to be confirmed nearer the date

FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE VILLAGE

SIGN UP TO THE GRAPEVINE

Grapevine is the village messaging service that sends out emails to those that have signed up about events and important information connected to the village.

To sign up, send a blank email to: grapevine@rowlandscastle.com

THE ROADMAP OUT OF
LOCKDOWN HAS BEGUN.
TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU
CAN AND CANNOT DO
PLEASE GO TO:

www.gov.uk/coronavirus



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Alan Eyers
President RCA

'ZOOM' – a lens on a camera to bring people and things closer! 'ZOOM' – a caption on a cartoon picture of a car driving off quickly! 'ZOOM' – an App/program to bring family, friends, work colleagues, committee members together over the Internet from anywhere in the World. (other programs are available)

Who of us would have thought that 12 months or so plus, so many of us would rely on this technology to communicate with each other? In February last year all of the Associations and Organisations held a Meet & Greet in St. Johns Church hall, little knowing what lay ahead for all of us, the restrictions and for some, the sadness's, the Pandemic would bring. We like to think that the Village as a whole rose to the challenges we all had to endure. Still plenty to be done, not a time to relax just yet. We need to keep up this Community Spirit for a little longer and maintain it into the future, during 'better' times.

At the RCA AGM, held this February, Zoom came into play for us, as it had throughout last year for the committee's meetings. At the AGM, Alan Drinkwater stood down after 20 years as President, he and his family have been in the Village since 1983, so a long-standing resident with many years' experience as a County Councillor and member of other important committees in and around our area.

So, when the current RCA Committee and Alan asked me to step in as his replacement, I did so with some reservations! Big Shoes to fill, as it were. I had been vice-president for several years previously as well as a Committee member and former Chair. So there had been 2 Alans, (I was the 'other Alan') for several years. Further complicated by the fact that we both, under

Alan's guidance, started the Rowlands Castle Heritage Centre, (RCHC) along with others in the village, some 4 years ago. Of which I am now the Chair, having taken over from Alan some 18 months ago. Alan is now the Editor of the RCHC website, which he has, with help of the 'WEB Team', expanded with content and new technology. We would like to thank the RCA for early funding which enabled the RCHC to get off the ground. This will always be much appreciated.

The Committee have had a tree planted in Alan's honour, top left-hand corner of the Recreation Ground, a Lime Tree, which Michael Prior, head forester up at Stanstead House organised and had planted for us, our grateful thanks to him for his assistance and help, very much appreciated.

The RCA has during lockdown continued, despite no new income this year, to support Village as when they could with donations and grants, from our reserves. We gave £1,000 to the Rowans Hospice, in May, even though we did not have the usual Mayday BBQ. Some of this came from the saved printing costs when the magazine was only online. We also gave £620.00 to the Rowans after the Zoom, quiz night.

Well, a tough year behind us, further challenges ahead this year, the vaccinations bring hope of a 'New Norm'. Now incumbent on us all to play our part, keep each other safe, help those who need it. So why not think of joining the RCA Committee, we always need new members, a rewarding and enjoyable activity to be involved in. Please think about it and contact us through the website.

Thank you, Stay Safe

A TRIBUTE TO ANDY LEE 1957 – 2021

Lisa Walker with contributions from Alex Finch

Rarely has the phrase "he had so much more to give" been truer than in the case of Andy Lee, who died in March having lived with cancer for more than three years.

Andy's interest in his local community of Finchdean, his concern for others and love for the wider environment of the South Downs led to a very active retirement after working in the financial services sector for many years.

He joined and later chaired the local Flood Action Group, which sought to alleviate flooding in the area and help those residents most affected. The Group developed a very efficient operation to ensure all ditches were cleared before and during the flooding season to allow any flood waters to flow on unimpeded. Never afraid to muck in, Andy was often to be found in his waders removing blockages from ditches and culverts as the water swirled around him. His role involved regular liaison with officers from EHDC, HCC and the Environment Agency. The Group was held in high regard, so much so that Andy's advice was sought by other communities with similar flooding issues.

In his wish to contribute further to the community, Andy was elected to Rowlands Castle Parish Council in May 2015 and remained a stalwart member until his resignation in January this year. As well as championing the interests of residents of Finchdean and beyond, he took the lead on environmental, conservation and transport issues. His balanced and dedicated approach to all aspects of the Council



work was greatly valued, particularly his ability to identify the nub of any issue and give a concise and considered response.

On a broader front, Andy served as a Trustee for FitzRoy, a national charity supporting adults with learning difficulties, a role he found deeply rewarding.

At home, he and his partner Alex were often to be seen trundling round the village with wheelbarrows as they tended their sheep, ducks, chickens and horse on their small-holding. He was an enthusiastic cook, a real ale aficionado, a keen gardener and a Crystal Palace supporter. He also had a lifelong interest in the railways, and enjoyed both rail travel and history as well as possessing an encyclopaedic knowledge of railway timetables!

His innate kindness meant that even as his illness progressed, he was still more interested in how others were feeling and kept regular contact with so many even though personal visits were cruelly limited due to the pandemic. His knowledge, enthusiasm, compassion and downright decency were admired by so many, as is clear from the many condolence messages received. He will be sorely missed.

SOUNDTRACK TO LOCKDOWN

Lawrence Wright

I am very fortunate that my job has not been affected during the pandemic but I have had to sustain my mental health whilst home-schooling and being "locked down". One way in which I have achieved this is by broadcasting live DJ shows on the internet from home.

I have been an amateur "Bedroom DJ" since the age of 16 and was honoured to be asked to play at the Village Fair in 2019; a really great night. Unfortunately COVID prevented me from reprising this role in 2020, so instead I decided to recreate and record my 2019 set and make it available on the internet for all to enjoy in this challenging time.

This was so successfully received that I decided to develop this idea further and perform a live broadcast: 4½ hours of late nineties classics from my university days, with 100+ viewers tuning in. Since then I've hosted five shows covering a variety of musical styles from Indie to Trance. Village residents may spot me walking around the village with headphones on, selecting tracks for the next broadcast; I have three more broadcasts planned!

My daughters have got involved too: Zara DJing Indie/Rock music and Natalie acting as lighting desk operator.

I've also become a regular viewer of live DJ shows from artists such as Solarstone and The Thrillseekers, meeting a wonderful community of like-minded people in the accompanying chat rooms - a great way of "virtually socialising" from home.

Professional musicians, DJs and the wider live music industry are really suffering in the current situation, so if you have the means I would encourage you to



Photo: Lawrence Wright

Zara Wright DJing live to the world!

support your favourite artists directly by purchasing CDs/vinyl, merchandise/T-shirts, or subscribing to their online live-streams. Let's ensure that when the pandemic ends, the music can keep playing!

I'd like to emphasise that I get zero monetary income from this, it's just a hobby and has no benefit to me other than boosting my mental health and giving me something to do in lockdown!

Recordings: <https://mixcloud.com/lawrence-wright2>
Live shows: https://twitch.tv/lwright_twitch

LOCKDOWN LEARNINGS

Vicki Matthews



Lockdown coping is a well-trodden and too familiar path. It is exactly a year since we moved to Rowlands Castle. Lockdown learning as a recent resident is a new track full of surprise, innovation and revelation! Here are some of the things I have learnt about our village and its environs. The sense of community and shared experience is incredibly special. Decorating my window at Christmas for everyone to enjoy was a completely new experience, as was walking through the village to look at scarecrows or seeing a life size nativity on the green!

As a left leaning, feisty feminist, joining the RC WI is something I never thought I would do. I am so glad I have! It has taught me that these women are a wonderful source of wisdom, friendship and support. I have learnt that I could not be without them.

As a new member of the Parish Council, I have learnt

that a lot of hard work takes place to protect and preserve the village. There are many unsung heroes who invest much time, effort and knowledge on behalf of us all. This might be providing improvements to the village and its environs, fighting to prevent intrusive developments and ensuring protection of flora and fauna. Did you know that Whichers Gate Road is a bat commuter route? Or that to plant a wildflower garden requires huge effort and skill.

I have learnt that my garden turns into its own version of the Lake District in the winter, but I have been taught by long term residents not to get too worried about it!

Learning is life long, yet our time is finite. We have all learnt that over this last year. Life is precious. We are precious. Hope springs eternal. It is nearly spring.

LOCKDOWN 1-2-1 PE LESSONS

Katie Rowley
PE Teacher

While our children have been home schooled this term, it has been very difficult to use the "zoom" classroom to enthuse and inspire Physical Education for children. Joe Wicks has been fantastic at getting our kids to "work out" in the front room, sadly however our games and social elements of the PE lesson have been very hard to recreate online and it is the love and fun of playing games with their friends that we all know is so important to our children's wellbeing, both physical and mental.

As an alternative to my junior tennis classes I have been offering 1-2-1 PE lessons in the outdoors. Rowlands Castle Recreation ground has been the perfect venue to teach and every lunch time I have run sessions (one at a time!); teaching netball, hockey, tennis and ball skills. These 30 minutes sessions are planned to include cardio, footwork skills and a chosen sport. We even expanded to orienteering and 'geocaching', to include the outdoor education curriculum, and to add a little extra fun (these often included taking along my dogs which helped to motivate and stimulate the children.)

Sport teaches children so many important life skills, as well as the physical benefit to exercising the body, working in a team, learning how to cope with winning and losing, etiquette on the pitch, patience.... Having spent my teaching career in PE and bringing up 4 children, sport has always played such a big role in our family life. Fortunately my children are old enough to take themselves off for a run, do a yoga session online, or walk the dogs alone, so their fitness has not suffered, but the social impact of no team sports has been a real loss. It is a priority for all, from toddlers to those like our hero Captain Sir Tom Moore; keeping fit, active and healthy is a life skill for all of us. In the meantime, for those who need most support in this



Lily, aged 7, taking part in a PE lesson at the rec

journey, especially our youngest children, we must all do our best to try and encourage them to get out, kick or throw a ball or frisbee in the park, ride their bike, or scooter, or skateboard or even rediscover the fun of "playing tig" again.

As soon as the government allows tennis to be played again I will be offering junior coaching (group and individual) at Rowlands Castle Tennis Club. Please do look at our tennis club website for more details or contact me directly at krowley@btinternet.com. While we are still in this lockdown situation, I am licensed as an accredited coach and allowed to offer 1-2-1 personal fitness sessions outdoors for children. Please do contact me if you would like to book up some sessions after half term.

But most of all, get outside with your children, take a ball or frisbee to the park, walk around looking for signs of nature, try geocaching in your local area (it's free!), and let's get our kids happy and healthy again!

Katie is the tennis coach at Rowlands Castle, where she lives locally with her husband Andy and 4 children, and has been a PE teacher for the past 25 years.

Dear Editor, LAZY
LOCK-DOWN?
Monday's here, I really must
Get from my cosy chair, and dust,
Tuesday's time to mop the floors,
And Wednesdays I should wash the doors,
Thursday, I will cut the grass,
Friday, need to shine the brass.
The weekend's here! A lick of paint?
No chance of that - I'm not a Saint!
Sincerely,
Maureen Jones

30 days hath September, April, June,
and November, all the rest have 31,
except for March which was infinite.

After years of wanting to thoroughly
clean my house but lacking the time, this
week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

Airlines have been sending me a lot of "we're in this
together" emails. But when my suitcase weighed 52
pounds, I was on my own.

Two grandmothers were bragging about their
precious darlings. One of them says to the other,
"Mine are so good at social distancing, they won't
even call me."

All yoga instructors are still under nama-stay-at-home orders.

If there's a baby boom nine months from now, when we get to 2033
there will be a whole bunch of quaranteens.

I finished Netflix today.

In Germany, they are preparing for the crisis by stocking up with
sausage and cheese. That's the wurst kase scenario.

The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them.
All that's left is de brie.

So many coronavirus jokes out there,
it must be a pundemic.

Humour can lighten our mood and strengthen our ability to cope. The humour on this page is focused on our changing daily habits, the same kind of communal behaviour that comedians mine for observational jokes.

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ROWLANDS GOT TALENT!

Martyn Butcher

Heidi Butcher, 14, from Rowlands Castle is a finalist in a recently launched fundraising competition called "Rowans' Got Talent", hosted by the Rowans Hospice. She made it through to the Finals with her rendition of "E Pui Ti Penso" which translates to "and the more I think of you"

To date, Heidi has raised over £1,200 for this treasured charity and she is so excited that this figure could go higher. You can read her story and view her performance via The Rowans' website here (Act 10): <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/rgtfinal>

Alternatively her performance can be found on YouTube : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5QaYskUPlw>

Whatever the competition outcome, Heidi is rightly very proud of her achievements. Should you wish to make a direct donation via Heidi's Just Giving page for the Rowans please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Heidi-Butcher>

Heidi attended the local primary school, St Johns, where she first started singing and playing the piano. In her last year there, Heidi won the annual school talent show with her rendition of "Somewhere over the rainbow"

Since primary school, Heidi has been taught by Simon Long from Fine Voice Academy in Portsmouth (www.finevoice.co.uk) and she has blossomed into an accomplished mezzo-soprano. This is not the first time she has sung for charity, regularly performing live at many local charitable events and raising money for great causes. She has sung live at Remembrance Services at the Portsmouth Guildhall, events organised



by the Royal British Legion HQ London, The Elizabeth Foundation at QA hospital, along with the Rowans Hospice which is a charity very dear to her heart. One of her highlights to date was performing with the classical group Blake at the New Theatre Royal, where she also had solo lines singing acapella.

Heidi is currently in Year 10 at Horndean Technical College and her ambition is to go on and study music overseas.

Heidi's Story – which accompanied her performance for the Rowans' Got Talent competition is as follows:

Some 5 years ago, at 9 years old, I first sang at the Rowans Hospice with Finevoice Academy. My mum explained what the hospice was for and why it means so much to residents and patients to sing there.

I remember meeting an elderly resident, called Brian, who won prizes in the afternoon raffle. He gave his prizes in appreciation of my singing and kept chatting with me. Sadly, mum had to explain to me why he wasn't there the next time I visited. Now, at 14 years old, I have still those prizes, a limited edition print of a painting of polar bears and a candle holder, as a special reminder of my performance that day. Another lady had tears of emotion, holding my hand, as she could no longer play the piano due to her illness, and I had brought her some music that day. My love of music continues, I now also play the piano and have since sung many times for the Rowans.

I want to share my singing and performing bringing happiness to others as I like to care for and help people.

Sadly, like most people, some of my family and a dear family friend have used the hospice, so I am keen to have this opportunity to continue to support this charity and bring some entertainment to people during these current, difficult times.

I chose this song as it challenges me and I feel it connects with your charity and the work you do. It translates to – "and the more I think of you".

Stay safe and thank you!

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

All content for this magazine is provided by readers like you. If you think your story is worth telling please share it with us.

CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

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

Please note the deadline dates:

SPRING issue: 18th March

SUMMER issue: 18th June

AUTUMN issue: 18th October

Send your contribution to:
editor@rowlandscastle.com



Illustration by pch.vector / Freepik

HIKING FOR SSAFA

Robin Moriarty

I moved to Rowland's Castle in March 2020, following my retirement as a heavy goods driver in August 2019.

Three years ago, I climbed Ben Nevis in Scotland (for the third time). Ben Nevis is the highest Munro at 1,345 metres or 4,412 feet (a Munro in Scotland is anything over 3,000 feet) and is also the highest mountain in Britain. I completed that climb for charity and raised over £670 for Help for Heroes.

I decided that during my early retirement years I would climb all the Munros (there are another 281) and raise some much-needed funds for charity. On this occasion I have chosen SSAFA, (Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen and Families Association). The reason for choosing this charity and Help for Heroes in my last climb was my admiration for the commitment and sacrifice the forces make to keep our country free and safe. There is also a personal connection - my uncle (my mother's brother) was a flight engineer on a Lancaster in WW2 and was killed at just 18 years old. His father was a chief stoker in the Royal Navy during both World Wars and my brother served in the RAF for twenty-two years. It has been pleasing to see how much the Rowland's Castle community is aware of, and supports, our armed forces. The recent sizeable Poppy street collection being the most recent example.

I had planned to start this project this year but unfortunately Covid-19 has delayed the start, a blessing in some ways as it has given me more time to plan and prepare. Since moving here in March, just prior to lockdown, I have been walking on average 6-10 miles a day, mainly through Stansted woods and along many local footpath routes, losing nearly two stones in the process!



THE MOUNTAINS ARE CALLING
AND I MUST GO...

Illustration: Freepik

My aim is to reach the summit of all of the Munros over a period of 5-6 years. I will only be climbing during the summer months to avoid encountering any severe weather conditions. My first climb, Ben Lomond, will be on 6th June 2021.

If any local residents are planning, or thinking of planning, a walking/climbing holiday in Scotland over the next few years and would like to accompany me on one or more climbs, then please email me on robin.moriarty@mail.com

I will be more than happy to have company. For anyone wishing to donate, I have a Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/robin-moriarty1>

SSAFA are aware of the administration fees incurred in using Just Giving, but if you would like to donate directly you can do so here: <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/donate>

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/ COMMUNITY

AMBULANCE TRAINED COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Peter Morgenroth and Denise Purton

Rowlands Castle now have Peter and Denise as Ambulance Trained Community First Responders (CFRs) living in the village. We have been trained and supported by the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). As Volunteer First Responders we respond to the most urgent emergencies with patients affected by cardiac arrest, heart attack, breathing difficulties, strokes, and a wide variety of other medical emergencies.

We operate from home and are often on scene before the ambulance crews arrive. It has been a real pleasure and privilege to be able to make a real difference to help patients and their families in their hour of need especially during the Covid-19 pandemic which has put a tremendous pressure on the NHS and ambulance crews.

Peter is undertaking his 6-month re-qualification and undertaking additional falls and welfare training.

All our CFR equipment, clothing and vehicles are wholly funded through the SCAS charity and they receive no national funding. We see there are several automatic electronic defibrillators situated in the village. When lockdown ends, we would be delighted to arrange a talk, for interested residents, on our work and the role you can all play saving lives in the event of a cardiac arrest. Recognising the signs, calling for help and starting CPR are key first essential elements in the chain of recovery.

For more information on volunteering and or supporting the SCAS Charity go to www.scas.

charity. If you purchase goods online, you can make donations using Amazon Smile and Amazon donate at no cost to you.



PLANTING ON THE GREEN

Fiona Charlesworth
Gardening Club Member

You may have seen the new planting over the road from the Church on The Green, on Deerleap verge. Rowlands Castle Gardening Club were given some money by the RCA to plant trees in the village and these (plus some shrubs, underplanting and bulbs) are the first to be planted. RCPC kindly donated half the cost of the planting.

The three trees are *Betula utilis* var *jacquemontii* (Himalayan birch- different to silver birch in that their trunk is very white and their habit is upright, not pendulous). We applied mycorrhizal fungi to their roots and put in root irrigation. The six shrubs are *Cornus* 'Midwinterfire' (a variety of dogwood displaying orange, red and yellow winter stems) and the underplanting is *Bergenia* 'Abendglocken' (*Bergenia* 'Evening Bells' / Elephant's ears). The *Bergenia* are evergreen with green summer leaves changing to red-purple in the winter, bearing pink spring flowers.

We planted snowdrops at the front edge and covered the whole area with a thick layer of composted stable manure to improve moisture retention, prevent weed growth and improve the soil structure. In a couple of years all will have grown, improved and completely covered the soil! There will be no room for weeds! Watch the space.....



SPRING 2021 UPDATE

David Mitchell
Chairman

Well 2021 is here, and lockdowns have steadily eased.

November Gardening club hosted the first of our free, monthly, open to all Zoom presentations. Our guest for November was Jacquie Felix-Mitchell, a garden designer from Cornwall. **December** was a garden biased Christmas Quiz with raffle. Ray Broughton advised on wildflower gardening in **January** and Dr Ian Bedford helped sort the good bugs from bad in **February**. For **March** David

Mitchell described his growing journey from the Festival of Britain to Rowlands Castle.

Monthly Zoom will continue until better alternatives are possible. So for **April** Sally Morgan is going to talk about 'The Climate Change Garden' And for **May** Ben Cross is going to talk about "British *Alstromeria* and the UK Cut flower industry".

For the future we are hoping to have a show, date, format and venue will be decided when we have a better idea what is possible.

Watch (or sign up to) Grapevine for news of coming guests and events. In the mean time visit the new planting on Deer Leap verge. Planned and installed by Fiona & Gordon Charlesworth on behalf of the Gardening Club funded by Adrian Winnicott, RCA, & Parish Council. Further details David Mitchell (Chairman) david@mtchl.com or visit the RCA website www.rowlandscastle.com/- social & cultural, or Grapevine.



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/ COUNTRYSIDE HEALTH ALERT



As Spring comes and the weather gets warmer, lots of us will be enjoying walking in our lovely countryside, but please be aware of the ticks, tiny spider-like creatures, which live in long grass, and the small risk of Lyme Disease if you get bitten by them. Ticks are present throughout the year but are most active in the spring and the autumn.

Caught early, Lyme Disease is easily treated, but if it is not treated early it can lead to a debilitating long term illness which is difficult to diagnose and treat.

We can reduce the risks of being bitten by following some simple advice when out walking and cycling:

- Stick to recognised rights of way. (footpaths etc.)
- Avoid long grass.
- Wear trousers tucked into socks and long-sleeved tops.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin.
- Check yourself and your pet daily for ticks, especially after walks.

If you're a regular walker, you could buy your own tick remover tool; these are inexpensive and available online or from pet shops and some pharmacies.

SDNPA's tick awareness page offers helpful information at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/be-tick-aware>, and you can read more about symptoms and treatment on the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Lyme-disease/>

Remember that only a small number of ticks are infected so we shouldn't worry about getting out and enjoying the beautiful countryside, but please be aware and take some simple steps to stay safe.

Dr Helen Penfold
Chair of the Rowlands Castle Association

Illustrations: Vecteezy

/ THE CENTRE SPREAD

The spring equinox sunset on Redhill Road and surroundings



THE WASHROOM POP-UP PRESS

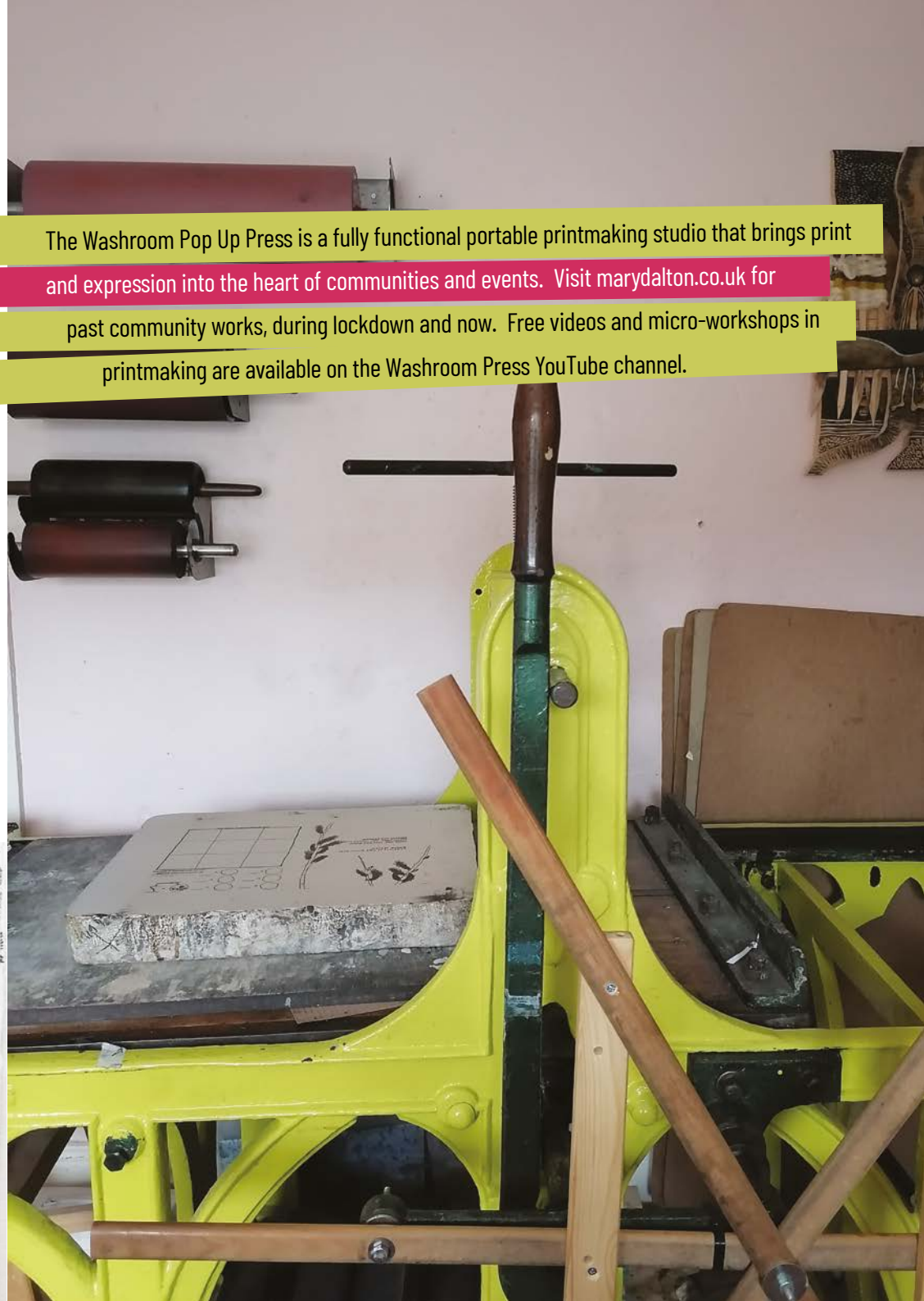
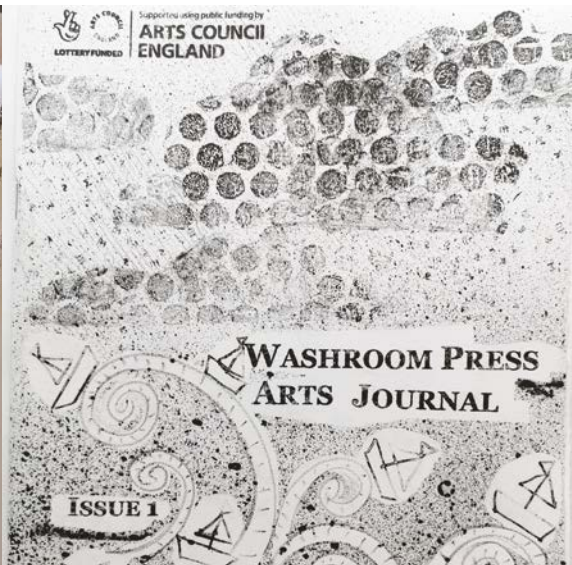
In 2014, local artist Mary Dalton took over the outbuilding of a late 19th Century house to continue creatively exploring and fulfilling a series of commissioned works based upon her professional artistic practice as a printmaker. This space was named the Washroom Press. Here Mary was able to investigate her concern at the lack of Art's accessibility to the public, leading her to launch the Washroom Pop-Up Press, a fully mobile community printmaking studio.

Armed with little more than a crate of inks, rollers and oddments, Mary and her awesome printing press were awarded the Pushing Print Bursary in 2015 to further her drive in making print accessible. A series of further awards from the Oppenheim-John Downes Memorial Trust, Artists Newsletter, the Arts Council England and Wales and a successful Crowd Funding campaign, supported by BBC Make A Difference, has seen Mary and the Washroom Press develop arts in the community as a key part of her artistic practice.

Since the first lockdown, Mary has been hanging free original prints outside her home studio for members of the Rowlands Castle community to collect and colour in. Over 60 different lino cut designs have been so far created, specifically for the Free Art project. In winter 2020, Mary received an Arts Council National Lottery Grant to enable her to design and hand-print a bi-monthly Arts Journal, the first three issues of which are completely free to the community. Each journal has been printed on a traditional stone lithographic press. The press, named Colin, is over 100 years old, has been fully restored and re-painted lime green by Mary and it has already printed well over 1000 journal pages, as issue 2 is hot off the press.

The Free Art projects are set to continue into the future and now form part of Mary's daily artistic practice. To keep up to date with Mary's work and community events, please follow her instagram page [@m_dalton_print](#). She also has a Washroom Press YouTube channel, where you can find many free micro-workshops of traditional and alternative printmaking techniques. This can be found via www.marydalton.co.uk.

The Washroom Pop Up Press is a fully functional portable printmaking studio that brings print and expression into the heart of communities and events. Visit marydalton.co.uk for past community works, during lockdown and now. Free videos and micro-workshops in printmaking are available on the Washroom Press YouTube channel.





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/ WOMANS INSTITUTE

RCWI UPDATE

President: Emily Olson

rowlandscastlepres@hampshirewi.org.uk

Secretary: Cathy Craggs

rowlandscastlesec@hampshirewi.org.uk

Rowlands Castle WI celebrate their 75th birthday this year. Celebrations may be somewhat curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic but there is a sense of hope and optimism amongst our members. Whilst we look forward to a time when we are all vaccinated and can meet face to face once again, we have had a timely reminder that life goes on whatever difficulties we may face. Our new President, Emily Olson, gave birth to her first child, a daughter, on 25 November 2020. This is a first for us, we believe Persephone Beatrice is the first child to be born to a serving President in our WI's history.

In true WI style, Emily, who has lived in the village most of her life, attended a (Zoom) committee meeting the night before Persephone was induced. Arriving home shortly after the birth Emily was greatly touched by the avalanche of cards, toys and clothes which were sent to her and Persephone by Rowlands Castle WI members, many hand-knitted or crocheted. Coronavirus may be affecting all our lives, but our wonderful members are using the enforced 'down time' to think of others. In addition to crafting Persephone's wonderful gifts, our members have been busy making masks, volunteering to help anyone shielding or self-isolating and collecting food for our local food bank. Commenting on giving birth in such challenging times Emily said, "Finding out as we entered a pandemic I was pregnant was pretty mind-blowing, but the support from the members was fantastic. I can't wait for them to be able to meet her face to face".

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Photo: Jennifer Sinclair

As we look forward to a time when we can meet again with friends and family, we are keeping ourselves busy with a packed programme of online activities from afternoon teas to quizzes and guest speakers. Planned topics include 'Britain's First Railway Murder' and 'The Ghosts of Hampton Court'.

We welcome enquiries from prospective new members. For further information please contact the Secretary.

Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
hampshirewi.org.uk

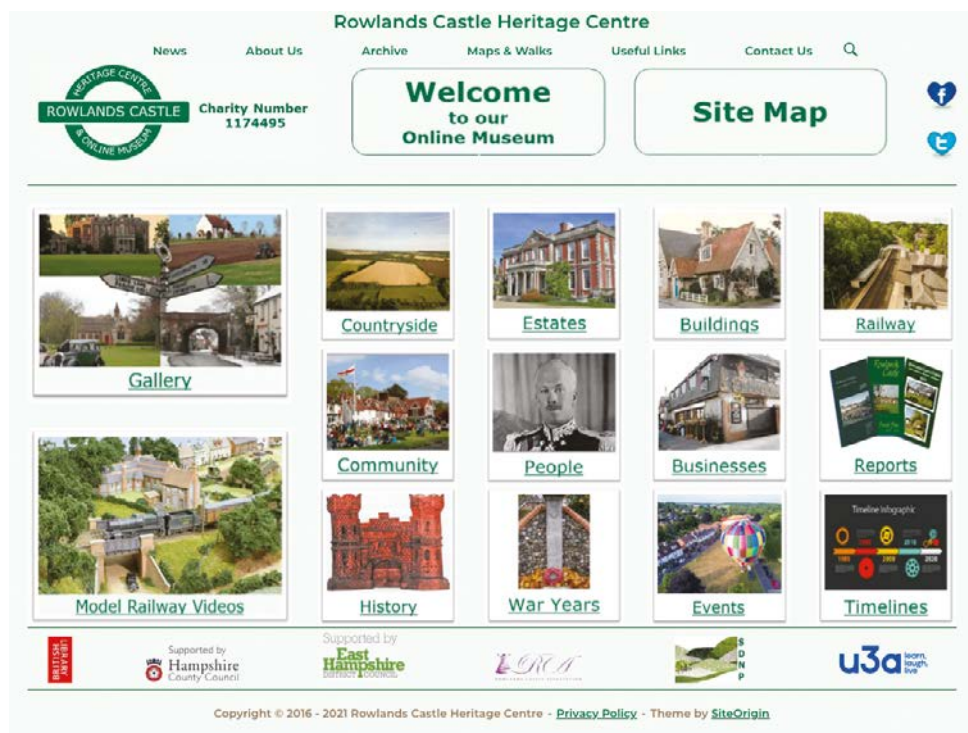
HERITAGE CENTRE WEBSITE RELAUNCH

Alan Drinkwater
Editor RCHC

The Rowlands Castle Heritage Centre is delighted to announce that it has now relaunched its website: rowlandscastleheritagecentre.org.uk

Our Village lies in an interesting area surrounded by attractive countryside and having a dynamic community. To capture and interpret these features, the Centre has adopted for its Mission Statement to 'Protect, Record and Prepare'. So, by cherishing its historic artefacts and archives, while noting and measuring aspects of today, the community

can respond to continual changes – beneficial and challenging – in a more positive way. The website achieves this Mission Statement by introducing a wealth of fascinating information and details about the village. It includes articles on the 'Three Estates', the surrounding countryside, the village's history, old and new businesses, buildings, and notable residents. There are videos of our Model Railway – showing the village during WWII – paintings of the village from the Victorian era, audio recordings of local villagers' about WWII, and



snapshots of the village in 1991, with many more articles for you to peruse.

Navigation of the site has now been improved using images or photos to guide your exploration of the site, together with the usual 'search' function and a new Site Map. There are cross-references to other related articles within the site, and with access to other external websites for information.

The Heritage Centre is seeking additional archive material to add to the website – old documents, photos, paintings, audio recordings or maps. You may already have drafted an article on a relevant research topic that you would like to be publish. To help or contribute to this website, please contact:

Alan Eyers:
chair@rowlandscastleheritagecentre.org.uk
or Alan Drinkwater:
editor@rowlandscastleheritagecentre.org.uk

Mini Zoom-briefings about the website are available on request

The new interpretation panel installed at St Huberts



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SEASONS

Jace
Student Pastor

Recently we had a Sunday morning service on seasons and as we know, this can mean so much. Obviously we have the four seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter, in which the song reminds us that 'The Lord God Made Them All' but we also have the seasons of life.....and we have certainly had our fair share of those over the past year haven't we?

One of the titles in a previous entry that we put in was 'Light at the end of the tunnel' and I think it

really is true to say that with the rollout of millions of Covid-19 vaccinations and restrictions starting to lift, this coupled with the beautiful Spring flowers, brighter skies and lighter evenings, maybe 2021 will be a year to remember and not forget, like last year! It really has been tough for us all and without writing endless things that we have all missed, one thing that I think all of us will agree on is the sad fact that we haven't been able to see and meet up with our family and friends and as the saying goes.....you don't realise how much you miss something until it has been taken away and with the lockdowns, restrictions and rules and measures put into place, although for obvious reasons they are needed and we should abide by what the Government has laid out for us, nevertheless, it doesn't mean to say that we don't find any of it easy.....and being totally honest, we haven't!

You know, seasons pass, flowers wither and we get older, that is fact.....In effect, nothing lasts

forever.....well, almost nothing.....We are told in the Bible that God's love endures forever and He is always the same!

Easter is upon us and we look forward to our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. We also continue to meet for our Sunday morning service and midweek Prayer meeting on ZOOM and we now have an added new venture in the way of a Bible Course, currently held on a two on two off basis on a Wednesday evening and also to mention a pre-recorded babies and toddlers Music Makers session that is put out on our Music Makers Facebook page every Friday. We do look forward to the day when we can meet in person in the actual Church building, which may not be too far away now but please do keep an eye on our outside notice boards, The Grapevine and our Church on the Green website page for further times, details and updates or why not phone our Church number or drop us an email (Details below) Please don't hesitate to contact us

for whatever reason and please know that we are here for you and we will try to help in any way that we are able, we'd love to hear from you.

It just remains to say, on behalf of us all at Church on the Green, do continue to stay safe and well, remembering that whatever circumstances we find ourselves in that God loves us, cares for us and is always interested in our every need, worry or uncertainty.....At any time we can call on Him, trust in Him, knowing too that we have a Saviour who is Christ the Lord, who died on a cross for our sins, because He loved us so much, all we have to do is to believe in Him.

Take care, God bless and do stay safe.

Phone No: 07751 986453

Email: everyone@church-on-the-green.org.uk

Website: www.church-on-the-green.org.uk

ZOOM Login: 781 844 9611 (No password needed)



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/ RC HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE LITTLE KNOWN CONNECTION BETWEEN STANSTED AND EDWARDIAN YACHTING

Tim Cowin

Chairman, Historical Society

In 1903 Stansted House was rebuilt, following the fire of 1900, by the owner George Wilder. In 1912 George Wilder sold the estate to Major George Cecil Whitaker. Cecil Whitaker, originally from Lymington, had made his fortune importing Marsala wine from Sicily. From 1902, following an education at Eton and Oxford, he had served as a cavalry officer in the Coldstream Guards and later the Imperial Yeomanry, a regiment which primarily saw service in South Africa. He moved to the Officer Reserve in 1907.

In 1912 he married Margaret Emma Maitland. The couple had three children Rosemary (1913), Anthony (1915) and Daphne (1919).

Cecil Whitaker was a major participant in yacht racing during its Edwardian heyday, a period which coincided with the hosting of the 1908 Olympics yacht races in Ryde. He was a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron in Cowes, along with multiple other Sailing clubs around the country including Harwich. He owned, in rapid succession, three of the most beautiful yachts of the time, the equivalent of the superyachts of today.

1908	Cicely	263 tons gross
1911	Waterwitch	352 tons gross
1913	Marguerite	380 tons gross

He raced internationally, regularly competing against Germany and America. In 1908 he won races at Harwich against both the Prince of Wales and Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm.

Yacht racing was suspended in 1914 with the outbreak of the First world war. In 1916 Major Whitaker returned



to the Coldstream guards, serving at the Somme with the 4th battalion before transferring in 1917 to the Machine Gun Corps.

After the war Cecil Whitaker returned to Stansted and returned to yachting. He was instrumental in the foundation of Emsworth Sailing Club, holding the initial meetings in a farm on the Stansted estate before purchasing Bath House in Emsworth and serving as the commodore of the club during the early 1920's

In 1924 Cecil Whitaker sold Stansted to the 9th Earl of Bessborough and moved to Oxfordshire. He became high sheriff of Oxfordshire and died in 1959.

Due to Covid precautions the normal activities of the Rowlands Castle Historical Society are currently suspended. It is hoped to restart activities in late spring and to run a full programme from October.



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/ PARISH HALL

A YEAR OF EMPTYNESS

Kath Molloy
(on behalf of RCPHMC)

Two major re-furbishments have taken place. Late 2019 the roof was expertly cleaned by Moss Off and in May 2020 a new boiler was fitted paid from S106 Developers funds. People will notice in the large Hall a new gas supply pipe. This was required as the old pipe was found to be leaking.

Also, in 2020 the Hall floor was re-lacquered to a much higher standard and the internal wall above the double doors re-decorated after water damage from the repaired portico. The portico still needs further remedial work. The Hall was given a good clean in the Summer in advance of hopefully re-opening but to no avail.

A local father and son team have carried out an excellent job painting the front exterior of the Hall

and external doors. During the summer they also redecorated the Small Hall for the Nursery at its own expense, It really is bright and beautiful. They are a highly recommended.

Since the pandemic the Nursery has remained open taking in children of key workers and keeping the Hall aired and frost free.

Jon Law and Mike Stafford have kept on top of the office and Lottery admin and the Lottery Scheme is now fully subscribed. Robin Reucroft and Bill Wilson have left the committee. Co-opted Parish Councillors Frank Ball and Jonathan Edwards have joined the rather elderly volunteers who have run the Hall very successfully over recent years. New committee members are welcome and needed.

Plans are in place to use the Hall as a polling station on 6th May.

At the time of writing there is no date for an official re-opening. The decision will be made by the Parish Council in conjunction with the Management Committee.

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/ LOCAL ARTS

RC PAINTING SOCIETY

Jan Roblin

Valued members Julie Anderson, Yvonne Bromley and Joyce Quinn have worked hard for RCPS. After a request from the Doctors surgery they organised members paintings and submitted them for the waiting room display.

Julie joined RCPS in 2012 moving here from The Lake District where she regularly exhibited and sold her work in Keswick. A self taught watercolour artist who has always enjoyed sketching and painting. Julie said "I have attended numerous courses and workshops and have enjoyed sharing techniques with fellow artists. I enjoy painting landscapes, seascapes and boats. I am fascinated by light and cloud formations. I particularly enjoy the challenge of painting horses and am inspired by wildlife, birds and flowers. My current project is a series of watercolour studies of British garden birds. My field pallet, brushes and paper accompany me whenever travelling and if something inspires me I will take an opportunity to capture it on paper."

Yvonne, a member for 7 years, is self taught and enjoys using pastels. She gets most pleasure from painting wildlife and domestic animals. A friend asked her to paint a pet portrait for a gift, this progressed into commissions for friends and family.



Yvonne said "My hobby has stood me in good stead throughout lockdown and I was lucky enough to secure a few commissions early in the year of 2020 from friends in the village, which kept me sane and occupied. Although my main subjects are dogs and cats, I have also had requests for cows, a llama and even a pair of polar bears! The latest subject on my easel is a beautiful white horse - another first, but I enjoy the challenge."

Joyce and John Richards run Art Mart for the group and Joyce has been a committed member of RCPS for many years.

rowlandscastlepaintingsociety.co.uk

HOPING FOR SUMMER CAMPING

Rita Pethick
Group Scout Leader/Group Manager



How lovely it was to see a picture of the Scout Group on the village calendar for November 2020, Remembrance Sunday was just one of the many village events we missed during a very strange and challenging year

Before the lockdown Scouts had their Frost Bite Camp in February and we had our Group Beetle Drive with fish and chip supper great fun was enjoyed by all, we had many plans for the rest of the year, but we were unable to meet and our leaders became front line workers or working from home and home schooling we have missed camps and exciting activities at the weekly meetings

Thanks to District Councillor Malcolm Johnson who gave us a grant for essential PPE we were able to meet again face to face in a Covid safe way with approved risk assessments for a few weeks before half term before the November lockdown and then

again in December. We are looking forward to the time when we can all meet again and thank District Councillor Malcolm Johnson again for the grant for new art and craft stationary.

We are hoping that if PM Boris Johnson's plans work out, we will soon be having our weekly section meetings again and camping in the Summer Holidays staying local using our lovely facilities.

You would be very welcome to join us young people girls and boys Beavers 6 to 8 years Mondays 17.45 to 18.45, Cubs 8 to 10.5 years Mondays 19.00 to 20.30, Scouts 10.5 to 14 years Fridays 19.00 to 21.00, Explorers 14 to 18 years Tuesdays 19.00 to 20.30. Adult volunteers We look forward to hearing from you and meeting soon. Stay safe.

Email leaders@1strcsg.co.uk
Website <http://www.1strowlandscastle.co.uk>

1st Rowlands Castle Scout Group

Beaver, Cub, Scout, and Explorer Sections.
Leaders and Helpers

BEAVERS

6-8 years
Make friends and try new indoor and outdoor activities Monday 5.45pm - 6.45pm

cubs

8-10½ years
Learn practical skills while having adventures with friends Monday 7.00pm - 8.30pm

SCOUTS

10½-14 years
Build confidence, resilience and a sense of adventure Friday 7.00pm - 9.00pm.

EXPLORERS

14-18 years
Take the lead, work together, and embrace new experiences meeting Tuesday 7.00pm-8:30pm



1st RCSG Leaders
18 plus years
Support group and run the sections

Join our group and be part of something great


Scouts

For more info phone 02392413359
visit www.1strowlandscastle.co.uk
or email gslrita@1strcsg.co.uk



ROWLANDS CASTLE MYSTERY EASTER EGG HUNT

Friday 2nd – Sunday 18th April 2021
(9am-6pm each day)

To celebrate the arrival of Spring and the Easter period, we've devised an outdoor mystery hunt for all the family! A community event, brought to you by the St John's Primary School PTA.

This is a lovely activity for families, couples and friends to walk/cycle around the village. Not only will this promote exercise and all the physical benefits that brings, it also aims to help people's mental wellbeing after such a tough winter period.

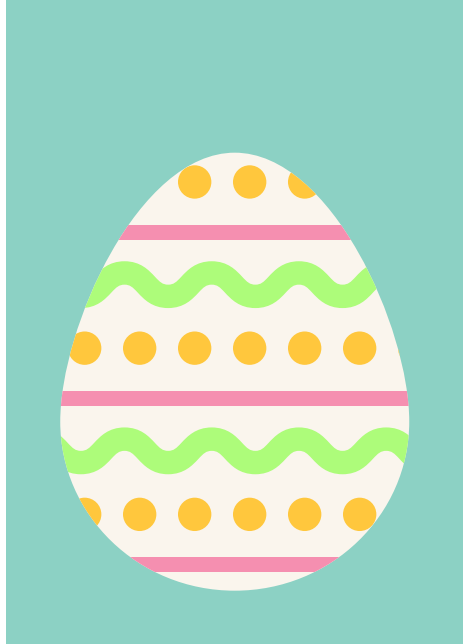
Calling all bunny detectives!

A robbery has taken place in Rowlands Castle and there's a dozen bunny suspects on the hop! BUT, we need your help finding out whodunnit, what they've stolen and the fictional place where they've hidden it! (A bit like Cluedo!)

You'll eliminate them one by one as you find them around the trail marked on the map until you're left with the missing guilty culprit, the stolen item and mystery secret location!

You can buy your map online for £3.50 at
pta-events.com/stjohnsrowlandscastle

We have some fabulous Easter hampers with an array of goodies, very kindly donated by businesses from the local community. These includes Pavillon Tearoom at Stansted, The Crafty Chocolatier, Morrisons Horndean, Castle Shines Window Cleaners, Sweet Lotus, High Sewciety Crafts, Let's Melt and many, many more! The hampers are aimed at both children & adults, very eggciting!



For a chance to win one of these hampers, please send in the following to easter@stjohnspta.com

- 'Who, What & Where'
- Booking Reference (in your confirmation email)
- Your name, contact email and/or phone number

Entry deadline is 7pm on Sunday 18th April.

All correct entries will be put into an 'Easter basket' and winners will be pulled out at random. Winners announced by Wednesday 21st April 2021.

For more information, updates, prize hampers etc

Follow
[@rowlandscastlemystereasterhunt](https://www.facebook.com/rowlandscastlemystereasterhunt) on Facebook
Visit pta-events.com/stjohnsrowlandscastle
Email easter@stjohnspta.com

All proceeds to go towards the St John's Primary School PTA.

Please adhere to social distancing and current Government guidelines in terms of meeting outside

Happy hunting!

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9am - 6pm

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/ SEEN LOCALLY



PHOTO: Chris Major



PHOTO: Kelvin Schäfli



PHOTO: Chris Major

LOCKDOWN CREATURE FEATURE

seen in around the village



PHOTO: Kelvin Schäfli



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PHOTO: Chris Major



PHOTO: Chris Major



PHOTO: Kelvin Schäfli

ROWLANDS CASTLE GRAPEVINE

- Grapevine is an email list intended for sending urgent or important messages to everyone in the Village, such as dates of public meetings, road closures and events.
- You may join the list by sending a completely blank email with a blank subject to:
grapevine@rowlandscastle.com
- Anyone who has joined the list can send out a Grapevine to the village, by sending the Grapevine to:
info@rowlandscastle.com
- Email addresses will never be disclosed to anyone else, you will not receive spam and you will receive only important, infrequent messages.
- To unsubscribe if you don't want to receive these Grapevines anymore send a completely blank email, blank subject to: **info-unsubscribe@rowlandscastle.com**

Important notes

- For maximum effect, keep it short, simple and to the point.
- Do not send attachments, photographs or use different fonts/type face.
- The Grapevine does not support attachments, photographs or different fonts.
- Send your message in plain text.
- Choose a good title for the subject line.
- Test how it looks by sending your Grapevine to yourself or a friend first, to check your spelling, grammar and most importantly, dates, times and contact details.
- Whatever you send will be seen by everyone, so do not include any message unless you intend it to be read by everyone.

All Grapevines must have a point of contact, telephone number or email or link to further information on the event or subject.

Grapevine is an email list intended for sending urgent or important messages to everyone in the Village, such as dates of public meetings or road closures.

Political messages, conversations, blogs, discussions, commercial advertising, fundraising or selling/giving away items is not permitted on the grapevine.

The Rowlands Castle Village Grapevine is run by the Rowlands Castle Association

RC TENNIS CLUB

Robin Thompson

With much of the social activities having been cancelled or curtailed last year at Rowlands Castle Tennis Club, we can count ourselves lucky that we have at least been able to play some tennis and get on the court for much of the summer.

The good news is we can start playing tennis again from 29 March, when the courts will be open for singles and doubles (in a covid secure environment) – if you aren't a member and are interested then visit our website for details.

Our popular Club Nights start again on Monday 12 April and run on Mondays and Fridays from 6-8pm. It is a great way to meet new people in the village and

when allowed enjoy some socializing afterwards! We are located in the Recreational Ground and hope this year to run a full programme of social tournaments, team matches, club tournaments and regular coaching sessions (for both Juniors and Adults). Hopefully this year with the tea and cakes to accompany the competitions!

We managed to hold our club tournaments (and a finals day) which always produce a good standard of tennis and normally large crowds.

One of our most popular tennis groups has been our Silver Squad (70yrs +) who met regularly over the summer months to play a restricted form of the game, with low compression balls and a smaller court.

Please visit our new website (www.rowlandscastletennis.org) for more information about joining the club, the activities we run and the coaching programmes.

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www.rowlandscastletennisclub.org



TIPS FOR PAIN FREE GARDENING

Natalie March

Tips and exercises from Award Winning Physio Natalie March from Physio-logical, a chartered physiotherapist based in Rowlands Castle, Stansted Park and Horndean.

At last the weather has started to warm up and there is a glimmer of sunshine around! Many of us will be thinking about our gardens and starting to prepare pots and beds ready for the spring. We forget just how strenuous a spot of gardening can be on our bodies, so we thought we'd share some of our top tips and exercises to keep you strong and healthy and enjoying your gardens!

It is important to do a few stretches before and after gardening. No-one would consider running a marathon or going to the gym without doing a warm-up. You are going to do some moderate exercise so it is important to prepare your body.

Top Gardening Tips

- **Plan your workload** – it is important to have a few tasks on the go at the same time, but work a little on each every time you go into the garden, your body will much prefer the variety of tasks.
- **Pace yourself** – do not try and dig the whole vegetable patch in one morning, your back and muscles will find it very strenuous.
- **Pruning** – do this in moderation it puts a lot of strain on your forearm muscles which can lead to tennis elbow, try and use two hands for tough pruning, also stretching out your forearm muscles will help to reduce muscle Soreness.
- **Consider your equipment** – use long handled tools if you have problems with your hips, knees or your back
- **Use a kneeler** – this will reduce the pressure through the knees
- **Don't overfill the wheelbarrow** – it is better to make a few extra journeys with a lighter load
- **Maintain good posture** – squat down and bend at the knees, kneel whilst planting or weeding, don't just bend at your back.
- **Set a timer** to tell you when to have a break, or you may lose track of time and just keep going.

Here are some strengthening exercises to do three times a week. You should work the muscles to fatigue (until they are aching). You'll get stronger by doing the above exercises and hopefully those garden activities will be easier and more enjoyable. And don't forget to stretch too!

If you want to make sure you are gardening fit or are struggling with back ache, neck, shoulder, hip or knee aches or pains which are preventing you from enjoying your gardening then please get in contact with us via enquiries@physio-logical.net or 07835 712306. We have physiotherapy clinics in Stansted Park, Rowlands Castle and Horndean.

Happy gardening!

Newsletters:

If you would like to subscribe to our monthly newsletter where we share self help tips and exercises then please email us at enquiries@physio-logical.net
For more tips and guidance please visit www.physio-logical.net

Squats

- In standing, with feet hip width apart
- Slowly bend at your hips until your knees are at about 90 degrees
- Make sure your back is kept straight and your knees are in line with your second toe
- This should be slow and controlled, so down for a count of 3 seconds and up for 3 seconds
- Repeat until fatigue



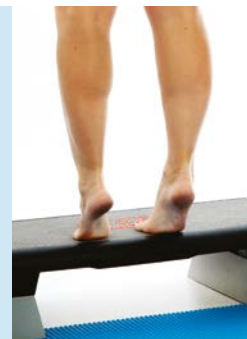
Lunges

- Stand with your legs in a lunge position
- Go down and up keeping your weight evenly distributed through your legs
- Make sure you keep your knees in line with your second toes and your back up straight
- Hold for 10 seconds then repeat. This should be slow and controlled, so down for a count of 3 seconds and up for 3 seconds
- Repeat until fatigue



Calf raises

- Standing balance yourself on both feet
- Straighten your legs and raise your body so that you're supported by the balls of your feet, with feet hip-distance apart
- Go down and up keeping your weight evenly distributed through your legs
- You can use a chair for stability or do this exercise on the edge of a step to work harder
- Repeat until fatigue



Wall Push-ups

- Face a wall, standing a little farther than arm's length away, feet shoulder-width apart
- Lean your body forward and put your palms flat against the wall at shoulder height and shoulder-width apart
- Bend your elbows and lower your upper body towards the wall slowly and controlled
- Keep your feet flat on the floor
- Then slowly push yourself back until your arms are straight
- Repeat until fatigue



THE ROWLANDS CASTLE ASSOCIATION



The Rowlands Castle Website

The Rowlands Castle website has been running for some years now and is moderated by the Rowlands Castle Association. Here you will find information about all aspects of the village from the churches and shops to the various clubs and points of interest. We welcome photographs about the village and the events held in the village that we can post on the website. This is the link to the Rowlands Castle Website www.rowlandscastle.com

The website is currently being updated and if you have any up to date information or changes to add please email: - webmaster@rowlandscastle.com

The Grapevine

The Grapevine email system is run by the Rowlands Castle Association committee. It is a channel of communication for the village of Rowlands Castle. It is an automated system and is moderated by two members of the committee to make sure that the items posted are of value and interest to the villagers. The Grapevine posts important notices, messages, events and news. Items of a commercial or fundraising nature are not accepted. There are approximately 750 villagers that view or post on the RCA Grapevine. To date many villagers have found this to be a reliable and useful tool for reminders of events around the village.

To find out how to receive Grapevine postings go to this link: www.rowlandscastle.com

The Rowlands Castle Facebook page

The Rowlands Castle Facebook page is run by members of the committee and anyone can send in articles, events, news and photographs to be moderated and posted by the RCA. The RCA would appreciate any new photos of the village, so please send them by private message so they can be moderated and added. One of the highest numbers of audience hits to this page happened in March 2018 when we posted a picture of the snow at St. Huberts church. The photograph was taken by the RCA Magazine Editor Kelvin Shafli and received 2.6 thousand views in one day!

RCA Facebook page: [@rowlandscastleassociation](https://www.facebook.com/rowlandscastleassociation)



The Village Noticeboard

The Rowlands Castle Association notice board has recently been renewed and is located outside the Londis shop in the village. Here the RCA post notices about events that they organise, the May Day Picnic on the Green, annual fundraising Quiz Night, Fireworks event and Rowlands Castle Children's Christmas Party. The minutes of the committee meetings are also posted here for everyone to view.

To contact the RCA about anything go to: www.rowlandscastle.com



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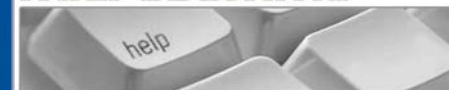
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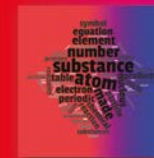
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Castlechemistry.com
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T. 02392413442
M. 07787772108

KEY FACTS ON VACCINES



SAFE - ✓
EFFECTIVE - ✓
IMPORTANT - ✓

Any vaccine used in the UK is monitored by Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

*Source: NHS

KEY FACTS ON VACCINES



SAFE - ✓
EFFECTIVE - ✓
IMPORTANT - ✓

Vaccines teach your immune system how to create antibodies that protect you from disease.

*Source: NHS

/ NUMBERS TO KNOW

EMERGENCY	999
NON EMERGENCY POLICE	101
NON EMERGENCY MEDICAL	111
ELECTRIC POWER CUT	105
GAS EMERGENCY	0800 111 999

Rowlands Castle Pharmacy

12 The Green
Rowlands Castle
PO9 6BN
T 02392 413952

Rowlands Castle Surgery

12 The Green
Rowlands Castle
PO9 6BN
T 02392412846

Practice in the Park (Dentist)

4 Basing Road
Leigh Park, Havant
PO9 5AG
T 02392 486660

Recycling Centres

Location: **Behind Castle Inn, Rowlands Castle**
Waste Accepted: Glass, Textiles
Location: **Household Waste Recycling Centre, Harts Farm Way, Havant, PO9 1HS**
Waste Accepted: Go to www.hants.gov.uk for full details or call 0300 555 1389

East Hants District Council

T 01730 266551, 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Hampshire County Council,

T 0300 555 1375
www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/contact
Open 8:30am to 5pm

Rowlands Castle Parish Council

Open to the public between 10am and on 12 Noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other times by appointment.

Rowlands Castle Parish Council,
11 The Green, Rowlands Castle

T 02392 413044
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