

Edition 04 - Friday 19th September, 2025



Hi,

Welcome to another edition of the Dean Scene! We're so pleased to have you with us, and grateful for the continued support from our growing community of readers across the Deans!

Please come and show your support for Save Rottingdean Library this week at St Margaret's Church. After BHCC removed children's artwork, the Save Rottingdean Library campaign has proudly supported local children in creating a powerful new art exhibition. Pop along and see their amazing work from 24th September.

If you have an upcoming event, story, or photo you'd like us to feature do send it over to hello@deanscene.co.uk—we'd love to hear from you!

If you've missed any of our previous editions, you can catch up anytime at deanscene.co.uk/archive.

Our readership is climbing every week, but we'd love your help to spread the word. If you know a neighbour, friend or colleague who'd enjoy a weekly burst of local news and community spirit, please do point them to www.deanscene.co.uk.

Thanks again for being part of this journey — your support is what makes **the Dean Scene** thrive.

Best wishes,
Lisa Staples

P.S. Local business owner? We're still offering our special early opening rates—email me directly or visit <https://deanscene.co.uk/business>

What's On This Week In The Deans ...

Music at St Margaret's Church



The Parish Church of Rottingdean

Music @
St Margaret's

AUTUMN PROGRAMME 2025

Saturday 20th September 3-3.30pm Free Entry	PALESTRINA 'CHURCH CRAWL' To celebrate 500 years of the wonderful music of Palestrina, this group of singers travel from church to church singing. Come and hear some sublime singing. Only 30mins
Saturday 20th September 7.30pm £29 includes supper	HARVEST SUPPER and FOLK The Copper family in concert with local folk groups singing traditional Sussex songs. Harvest supper included in price. <i>PART OF ROTTINGDEAN ARTS PROGRAMME</i>
Saturday 27th September 6.30pm £5 on door	MASSIMO REDAELLI & LISA DE SIMONE Baroque Violins Programme of Baroque and Renaissance music from Italy France and Germany
Saturday 4th October 7.30pm £25	ARMONICO CONSORT <i>Stabat Mater and Dido and Aeneas</i> Renowned Armonico Consort play Renaissance and Baroque music on period instruments, featuring some of the country's finest singers. <i>PART OF ROTTINGDEAN ARTS PROGRAMME</i>

Rottingdean & Saltdean Lions Quiz



Rottingdean & Saltdean Lions Club
 Also serving Woodingdean, Ovingdean and Falmer
Rottingdean & Saltdean Lions Club Charitable Trust Fund N° 1001889



QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday 25th September 2025
 Rottingdean Village Hall
 Park Road, Rottingdean, BN2 7HL
 Quiz starts 7.30pm Doors open 7.00pm
Licensed Bar



Teams of up to 6—£5 per person
Cash prize for the winning team

To enter your team
 Call 07526 907102 or see our website
 or pay on the door subject to availability







All proceeds will be used to help people in our area



Featured Business Of The Week!

Discover The Windmill – Your Local Bakery, Coffee Shop & Gift Haven



For over 10 years, **The Windmill** has grown from a cosy deli and bakery into a vibrant coffee shop with a stunning gift department. We're passionate about supporting local producers, and most of our delicious bakes are freshly made on site each day.

Pop inside and relax in our comfy restaurant area, or, when the sun shines, escape to our beautiful "*secret*" *garden* — a real hidden gem. Our gift department, **Desirable Things**, is constantly refreshed with unique finds, perfect for treating yourself or someone special. New stock is arriving shortly for the autumn/winter season.

Looking for something extra? We provide outside catering, and our restaurant area is available to hire for private events.

Open Monday–Friday 8am–3:30pm, and Saturdays 8:30am–3pm.

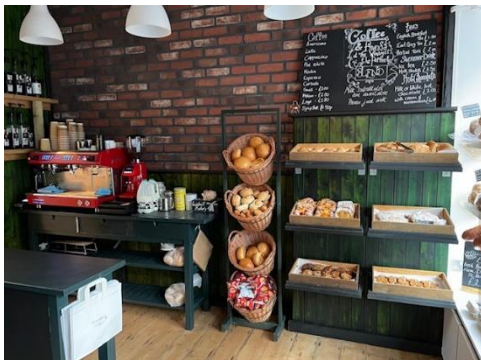
Friendly staff, great coffee, freshly baked treats, and thoughtful gifts await.

As a thank-you to our loyal community, mention **“The Dean Scene”** and enjoy **10% off your purchase!**

The Windmill Bakery

61 High Street,
Rottingdean,
BN2 7HE

Tel: 07388 095949



Our beautiful Garden

David Wilson - Making a Difference!



Congratulations to West Saltdean resident David Wilson who is one of four finalists (out of the hundreds nominated) to be shortlisted in the Great Neighbour category of the BBC's Make A Difference Awards.

Across our area there are lots of volunteers who give up their time and energy to improve the look and feel of where we live and work as well as run sports and social groups. And we would like to thank them all for their hard work and dedication.

Amongst our merry band of volunteers, one person stands out and that is David Wilson.

You might have seen him recently running the BBQ at Saltdean Swims. He's out and about every day opening and closing the community beach chalet (which he and his wife decorated and refurbished) and the two

blocks of public toilets in Saltdean so they can be open for longer. He paints, litter picks, scrubs off graffiti, sweeps and gardens.

He spots problems before and as soon as they happen and is out there fixing them, with much of his hard work going unseen.

David is a valued and vital member of various community groups including the Saltdean Residents' Association, Saltdean Community Charity (of which he is a trustee) and the West Saltdean Neighbourhood Forum. In other words, the world needs more David Wilsons!

Congratulations on this recognition David, you deserve it! We wish you the best of luck at the awards ceremony on 22 September!

If you would like to tell us about a local unsung hero, whether that be a charity fundraiser or volunteer doing great work in the community, please contact lisa@deanscene.co.uk



History Corner - This week, a brief history of Grand Ocean!

The Grand Ocean was designed by architect RWH Jones — who also created Saltdean Lido — and opened its golden doors in July 1938. Built in the glamorous Streamline Moderne style, it was the epitome of seaside Art Deco luxury. Guests enjoyed a sweeping spiral staircase, a grand ballroom, roof gardens, an outdoor pool and even an American-style cocktail bar. Stars such as Bette Davis and ballerina Margot Fonteyn swished through its doors, while royalty and high society made it the place to be seen.

This glittering era was short-lived. In 1941, the hotel was requisitioned by the Auxiliary Fire Service as a wartime training college. With over 370,000 fire personnel, 80,000 of which were women, satellite training was needed across the country.

The priority at the hotel was to train instructors who could then go out and teach all around the country. There could be anything up to 300 officers training at the hotel at any given time. Though spared bombing, the building's elegance faded under heavy use. The building was pivotal in providing the fire service with training which allowed them to cope with the Blitz and remained a training college until 1948.

A revival came in 1953, when Billy Butlin bought the near-derelict site for £250,000 — later stating it was “the best investment I ever made!” Reopened as part of the Butlin's empire, it became known as the “Honeymoon Hotel.” Guests flocked for affordable holidays packed with talent contests, knobbly knees competitions and lively Redcoat entertainment. Future stars such as Des O'Connor and Jimmy Tarbuck cut their teeth here, while resident organist Jimmy Noon played for nearly forty years.

It remained with Butlin's until 1972 when the company was taken over by Rank Organisation. There was one last glimpse of its past in 1993 when the hotel became a TV star when it was used in an episode of Poirot. It was the perfect backdrop to this story of Agatha Christie's detective Hercule Poirot who, while on vacation in Brighton, solved the mystery of stolen jewels.

The Ocean Garage, where patrons used to park their cars in the early days, with staff quarters on the first floor, is now occupied by Homeridge House, a retirement complex.

In 1998 it was bought by the Grand Leisure Hotel Group and acquired the "Grand" in its name. Story has it that more than a few confused guests arriving at Brighton Station would hail a taxi telling the cabbie that they were staying at The Grand Hotel. However, they would very soon be in for a shock when a rather snooty concierge informed them, there was only one 'Grand Hotel' in Brighton, and their accommodation was some five miles out of town at what used to be a Butlin's holiday hotel.

In 2004 the hotel closed its doors forever. When the developer, Explore Living bought the Grade II listed building in 2005, it looked less than grand. The windows were smashed, and vandals and vermin had got in. Most of the 4-acre sloping site was cleared and the swimming pool was demolished.

The Old Hotel Building was restored retaining many original features; the entrance with its fountain, the reception desk, stunning staircase, lift,

golden doors and beautiful garden with fountains and ponds reflecting the bow of the Queen Mary Liner.

Today the Grand Ocean Estate houses the Grade II listed Grand Ocean Hotel building and 5 other modern buildings made up of 235 apartments plus two doctors surgeries.

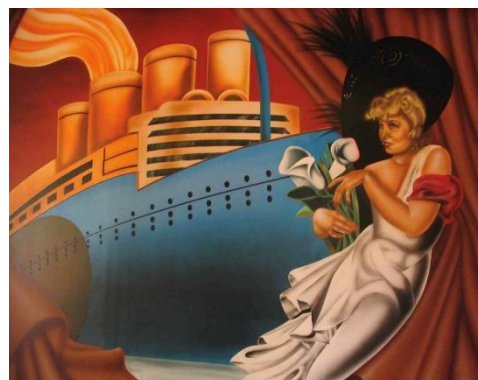
On the 29th August this year, residents, local dignitaries and architectural heritage organisations were invited to a reopening ceremony of the splendid, historic Grade II-listed Grand Ocean Building, followed by a garden soirée, after a major two-year renovation.

From Art Deco glamour to holiday camp fun, the Grand Ocean remains one of Saltdean's most fascinating landmarks.

(Many thanks to Douglas d'Enno for images and input)



The Ocean Garage now occupied by Homeridge House.



Murals seen here from inside the Grand Ocean Hotel.





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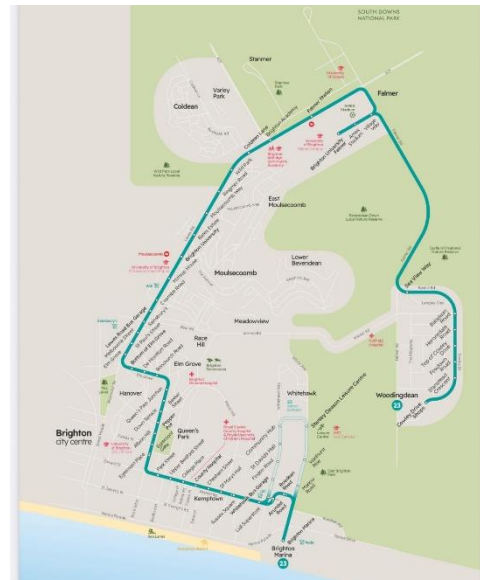
The History of Brighton Male Voice Choir



The Brighton Male Voice Choir has roots reaching back to 1926, a time of hardship when unemployment was high, workhouses still existed, and daily survival was tough. To provide jobs, a project was launched to build the undercliff walk from Brighton to Rottingdean.

Many of the men who came to work were Welsh miners, skilled in rock work and steeped in a strong choral tradition. They brought with them a deep love of music, and soon the *Brighton and Hove Harmonic Society* was formed. The choir flourished, even being regularly featured by the BBC on *Friday Night is Music Night*.

23 Bus Service Extended to Woodingdean!



Residents of Woodingdean will soon benefit from bus services linking the community directly with Falmer.

Brighton and Hove Buses has confirmed that from September 28th it will extend its 23 bus service to Woodingdean, providing new links to Falmer, Lewes Road, Queens Park and Brighton Marina.

Nearly a century later, the choir continues under the name *Brighton Male Voice Choir*, now drawing members from across Brighton and East Sussex.

Over the years, it has been led by a succession of inspiring Musical Directors; today, Pat White from Seaford guides the choir on its ongoing journey of learning and enjoyment.

The choir remains open to all men who enjoy singing—whether experienced musicians or complete beginners. No audition is required, and there is no need to read music.

Rehearsals take place every Thursday evening at 7.00pm at Woodingdean Methodist Church. The focus is simple but powerful: singing for pleasure and sharing that joy with audiences.

If you'd like to experience a taster session, you'll receive a warm welcome. For more details, please contact Jeff White on **01273 309604** or **07544 903027**.

At school times, journeys on route 23 will be diverted via Wilson Avenue, Vines Cross Road, Swanborough Drive, Swanborough Place (AM only), Whitehawk Way and Whitehawk Road. This is to provide a new school link between Whitehawk and Brighton Aldridge Community Academy (BACA). Journeys from Woodingdean to Lewes and beyond can be made by changing to routes 28, 29, 29A & 29B at Falmer Station, running up to every 10 minutes.

Route 23 will serve Brighton University and Falmer Station and will no longer serve University of Sussex campus. A much more frequent service will operate to Northfield Crescent and East Slope on the revised route 25.

This improvement is supported by funding from the Brighton & Hove Bus Service Improvement Plan.

[Learn More](#)

Rottingdean Whiteway Centre

WE ARE LIVE with our Whiteway Centre Talks under the theme of ***'Inspirational Talks from Inspirational People in Sussex'***.

Your committee at Rottingdean Whiteway Centre have put together an exciting winter programme from local people who have a great story to tell.

And the even better news is we have reduced the price of the tickets to just £10 including a glass of wine!

So, whether you are interested in vaccines, back to nature, regional farming or the Royal Pavilion we have planned the very best speakers for you, with even more to come in the New Year!

So please check out our ebsite, https://www.rwc.org.uk/special_events, and come along – we guarantee you a stimulating, interesting and fun event 😊

[Learn More](#)

Local Attractions with Discounts for The Deans Residents!



Sightseeing Tour Brighton Resident Discounts!

Residents in the BN postcode area get a 10% discount on City Sightseeing Brighton tickets with proof of residency, while networkSAVER and Metrovoyager ticket holders receive a 50% discount.

City Sightseeing passengers can also enjoy exclusive discounts at other attractions:

30% off entry to **Sea Life Centre** <https://www.buses.co.uk/sea-life-brighton>

Over 25% off one journey at **Volks Electric Railway**
<https://www.buses.co.uk/volks-railways>

25% off one round of crazy golf (per ticket purchased) at **Globalis**
<https://www.buses.co.uk/globalis>

20% off a Sailing Experience or a Power Boat Adventure at **Brighton Boating**
<https://www.buses.co.uk/brightonboating>

15% off entry to **Preston Manor** <https://www.buses.co.uk/preston-manor-gardens>

20% off at **Sixes at Sussex Cricket** <https://www.buses.co.uk/cricket-ground>

Pro Tip for Residents

Don't forget your proof of address (like a utility bill or driving licence) when visiting—it's needed to unlock these great offers!

[Learn More](#)

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