

Edition 05 - 26th September, 2025



Hi,

Welcome to the fifth edition of The Dean Scene and thank you so much for being part of our growing community of subscribers.

This weekend is all about the Macmillan Coffee Mornings - please show your support and head down to St Martins Church, St Nicholas Church & Ovingdean Village Hall and anywhere else that we haven't featured!

Our subscriber numbers are continuing to grow at a fantastic pace—but we'd love your help to spread the word even further. If you know friends, family or neighbours who'd enjoy keeping in touch with what's happening locally, please invite them to join us.

And don't forget!!! 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!

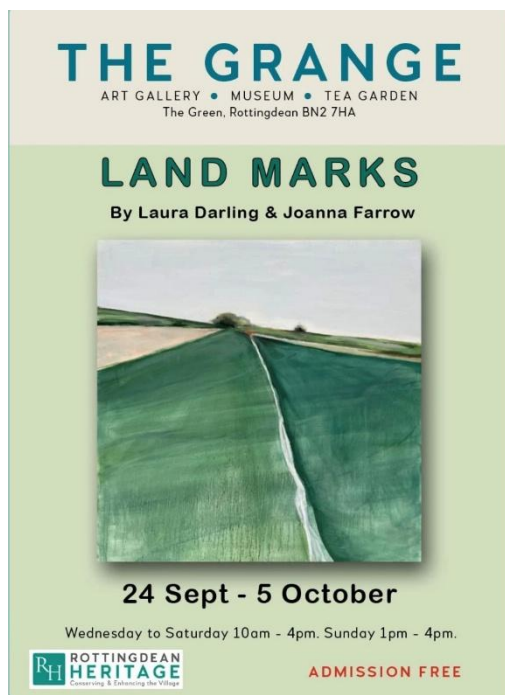
Thank you once again for your support—it means the world to us as we shape this new local newsletter together.

Best wishes,
Lisa Staples

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

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

The Grange Land Marks Exhibition



The Grange Welcome you to an exhibition of paintings by Laura Darling and Joanna Farrow.
"We seek anchors in the landscape; building webs of familiarity. Tree become friends, light hooks the eye, rocks marks the path. We know the land, we're part of it."

Laura Darling

I'm an artist and writer living in Brighton. As a landscape painter, I aim to capture atmosphere, space and silence. I'm interested in how our history is woven into the landscape in the paths we've made and the walls we've built. How geology has formed the structure of the land, how the weather shapes our experience of being outside. I want those who view my work to feel like they could step into the landscape and be part of it.

Joanna Farrow

I am a landscape artist, living and working in East Sussex, very close to the beautiful and captivating Ashdown Forest. My rural surroundings combine farmland with lakes and

Saltdean Lido Tea Dance with Paralympic Champion Will Bayley!



Saltdean Lido is delighted to announce the return of the Tea Dance to the iconic Ballroom! This time with a special talk from Strictly Star, Will Bayley MBE. You are invited to spend an afternoon dancing Ballroom & Latin in the stunning surroundings of the Art Deco Ballroom.

Captivating music featuring classic dance numbers from Tony Bennett, Peggy Lee to Della Reese and The Empress Orchestra will keep you on your toes as you twirl across the Ballroom to all your favourite styles – from the Foxtrot and Waltz to the Tango and Rumba. You will receive a warm welcome whether you're a total beginner or regular dancer. Our very own Ballroom & Latin teacher, Jo Hunt will be on hand to lead an opening session and host throughout the social dancing.

woods, heathland and wilderness, and the Sussex coast not too far away. I take daily walks in these places, often with sketchbook in hand to explore and take inspiration from the wonderful landscape that surrounds me. From the muted stillness of winter to the vibrant, lushness of summer, I love the different palettes and moods that seasonal changes bring to the environment and hence to my work.

[Learn More](#)

Delicious Tea & Cake will be provided by Deco Café (included in your ticket price).

It promises to be an afternoon to remember!

Thursday 2nd October

Running Time

2pm – 2:15pm: Intro dance lesson

2:45pm: Tea & Cake served

3pm - 3:30pm: Talk from Will Bayley MBE

3:30 – 4:30pm: One hour of Social Dancing

[Book Here](#)

**An Art Exhibition of Children's Posters at
St Margaret's Church. 24th September - 3rd October**





After BHCC removed children's artwork, the **Save Rottingdean Library** campaign has proudly supported local children in creating a powerful new art exhibition. Through colourful posters, they share what the library means to them — and why it must be saved.

Judging Day: Monday 29th – with the winners announced by local illustrator Ulrike Mieke at 3:30pm.

Exhibition & Voting: Drop in anytime between 24th September and 3rd October to enjoy the artwork on display and cast your vote for the People's Choice winner. People's Choice Award: Join us again on Thursday 2nd October at 3:30pm for the announcement of the public's choice, following the community votes.

Come along, see their amazing work, vote for your favourite, and stand with us. Together, we WILL Save Rottingdean Library!

[More Information](#)



Volk's "Daddy Long Legs"



How it all began.....

By the 1890s, Brighton inventor Magnus Volk was already something of a local legend. His **Volk's Electric Railway** — the oldest working electric railway in the world — had captured imaginations along the seafront. But when he wanted to extend it east beyond Paston Place, the cliffs and awkward terrain posed a problem. Volk's solution? Forget going *around* the obstacles — he'd go through the sea itself!

And so began the Brighton & Rottingdean Seashore Electric Railway, a line that waded through the Channel from Paston Place to Rottingdean. It even shared the site with Volk's experimental Seaplane Station, later used by his son George.

The railway was a marvel of eccentric engineering. Two parallel 2 ft 8½ in tracks were laid directly into the seabed, spread an impressive 18 ft apart. Running on them was *Pioneer* — a gigantic, pier-like carriage measuring 45 by 22 ft and standing on four spindly 23 ft legs. Weighing in at 45 tons, it was powered by two 25-horsepower General Electric motors, while overhead wires fed electricity from a steam-driven generator hidden under the pier at Rottingdean.

On board, passengers lounged in a saloon with skylight, or strolled the upper promenade deck where the controls sat. Regulations insisted a qualified sea captain was always present, and lifeboats dangled at the ready. It was officially known as "Pioneer" but to the public it was known as the **"Daddy Long Legs"** — a tram on stilts that offered what adverts proudly called a *"Sea Voyage on Wheels."*

After two years of construction, the line opened on **28 November 1896**. Within a week, disaster struck — a fierce storm toppled Pioneer on its side. Unshaken, Volk rebuilt it taller, adding two feet to its legs. By July 1897 it was back in service, and that year alone carried **44,282 passengers**.

Despite its popularity, problems piled up. At high tide the lumbering car slowed to a crawl, and Volk never had funds to upgrade its motors. In

1900, new groynes caused erosion under the sleepers, forcing summer closures. Worse still, the council soon ordered a new sea barrier that cut directly across his route. Unable to afford a costly diversion, Volk had no choice but to shut the line down.

By 1901 the rails were ripped up and sold for scrap. One last attempt to fund a grand viaduct came to nothing, and the Daddy Long Legs vanished into history.

All is not lost, though. At very low tide, sharp-eyed walkers can still spot concrete sleepers embedded in the seabed — ghostly remains of Volk's seaside dream. And if you want a closer look, a charming model of Pioneer (alongside an original poster) is proudly displayed at the Brighton Toy and Model Museum.

Quirky, impractical, and gloriously ambitious, the Daddy Long Legs may not have lasted long — but it remains one of the strangest, most brilliant seaside experiments Brighton has ever seen.



Coming Soon In The Deans...

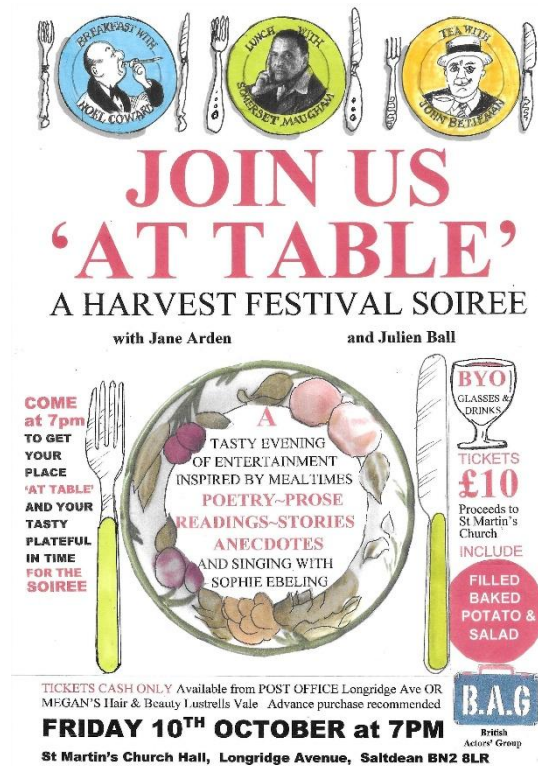
A Harvest Festival Soiree

Come and join a Harvest Supper entertainment called
“At Table” presented by Jane Arden and Julien Ball
on Friday 10th October at 7pm

at St Martins Church, Longridge Avenue, Saltdean

The evening will start with a simple jacket potato supper (bring your own bottle), followed by a fun menu of poems, prose and songs on the subject of meal times.

Tickets are £10 and can be purchased from Saltdean Post Office or
Megan's Hair and Beauty on Lustrells Vale.
All proceeds go to St Martins church funds!



[More Info](#)

garden**trends**

CHARLES
BENTLEY
EST. 1860

Garden Trends is your go-to UK destination for transforming outdoor living. With over a decade of experience, this family-driven retailer offers one of Britain's largest selections of garden furniture, outdoor kitchens, BBQs, pergolas, lighting, festive Christmas goods and more – both online and at their expansive showrooms.

Charles Bentley are a family run global supplier of stylish and quality home, garden, and leisure products. Through six generations of manufacturing excellence, we recognise what it takes to deliver excellence in garden, home and brushware manufacturing.

Garden Trends pride themselves on style, quality and value. Their own premium brands like Bracken Outdoors and Draco Grills are crafted to exacting standards, offering durability, comfort, generous warranties, and aesthetic appeal.

Our friendly, knowledgeable staff take the stress out of choosing the perfect garden setup. With free UK delivery, 30-day returns, and a strong reputation backed by Trustpilot reviews, Garden Trends makes outdoor living not just desirable, but accessible.

Visit our website today to view our range of products.

Garden Trends is
rated **Excellent**

Based on 9,280 reviews



★ Trustpilot

[Visit Garden Trends](#)

Effortlessly create a sophisticated and coordinated space with our collection of elegant outdoor dining and timeless garden furniture to home interiors like occasion chairs, sideboards, kitchen appliances and home décor accessories. With Charles Bentley, you'll find everything a modern home needs combining traditional style with a modern elegant touch.

Whether you're making light decorative enhancements or a full home transformation, choose Charles Bentley with confidence, knowing we're an award-winning British manufacturer trusted by millions of proud homes since 1860.



[Visit Charles Bentley](#)

Free HealthTalks at The Nuffield Hospital



Nuffield Health Brighton

MEET OUR EXPERTS EVENTS

FREE HEALTH TALKS

✉ Brighton.enquiries@nuffieldhealth.com

OCT 1	Feeling Tired All the Time - Let's Talk About Fatigue - Dr Richard Webb
OCT 16	All you need to know about Menopause & Perimenopause - Dr Olivia Hum
NOV 5	Everything you need to know about foot & ankle problems - Mr Adam Ajis
NOV 13	Men's Health Awareness - Mr Ruairidh Crawford
DEC 1	Ask the expert about your headache, neck pain & back pain - Mr Prasanna Epaliyangage

📞 01273 627007

Due to popular demand, our free health talks continue!
Hosted at Nuffield Health Brighton Hospital, we're thrilled to announce our remaining FREE Health Talks for 2025!

These sessions are open to the public and cover a range of important health topics, delivered by expert consultants in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

- > Free to attend
- > Free parking
- > Light refreshments provided

Booking is essential to avoid disappointment!

To book your place, please email:
brighton.enquiries@nuffieldhealth.com

Or call: **01273 627007**

Helping Paws Quiz Tuesday 14th October



The Plough Inn
MONTHLY FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT

SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

£20 A TEAM | 8:00 PM START | MAX 6 PER TEAM

HELPING PAWS FUN QUIZ & RAFFLE
PROCEEDS TO ANIMALS IN THE UK & OVERSEAS

PRIZE FOR WINNING & LOSING TEAMS

To book please call
07818 402771
Or email
helpingpawsters@gmail.com

HELPING PAWS

Vicarage Lane
Rottingdean
BN2 7HD

Join us for our Spookilicious Halloween Quiz at The Plough Inn!

Teams of 2 to 6 people, an amazing raffle, some spooky silliness and if you feel like dressing up there will be a prize for the best costume.

There are prizes for winners and losers!

You just need to think of a suitable team name and either:

Call 07818 402771 or email

helpingpawsters@gmail.com

Please come along and support Helping Paws!

For further information about the great work Helping Paws do, please head over to our website

www.helpingpaws.co.uk

Come along, learn something new,
and get your questions answered by
our specialists!

[Get Your Tickets
Here](#)

[Email Us](#)

Volunteers wanted at Rottingdean Whiteway Centre



Volunteers wanted

The Whiteway Centre Bursar

Responsible for the day-to-day running of the
Centre, including the day-to-day activities of the
Caretakers and Cleaner. Should ideally live in the
Rottingdean area.

Website Administrator

The Website Administrator is a member of the
Management Committee and helps keep our
website up-to-date and resolves any issues.
Working with other members of the management
team, and the web developer as needed, this is a key
role supporting our course and Special Event
programme.



For more information or to discuss,
please contact Bill@rwc.org.uk

Brighton i360 Resident Discount



If you live in BN1, BN2, BN3 or BN41, you are eligible for the local ticket price, just £5 for adults and £2.50 for children. Simply book your local tickets online and bring proof of address, such as a driving licence or utility bill when you visit.

[Book Here](#)

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