



Hi

**Hello and welcome to issue eight of The Dean Scene!**

It's fantastic to see our little community of readers growing every week — thank you for being part of it. We love shining a light on all the stories, events, and people that make life in Rottingdean, Saltdean, Ovingdean, Woodingdean and Roedean so unique.

Huge congratulations to **Helping Paws** who hosted their Halloween quiz at The Plough Inn and made a spooktacular **£503.12!** The next quiz will be at back at **The Plough Inn on Tuesday 11th November.**

**Halloween is fast approaching and there are lots of local events happening near you! Please let us know if we can promote your event!**

If you've only just joined us, you can catch up on earlier editions anytime at

🔗 [deanscene.co.uk/archive](https://deanscene.co.uk/archive).

Each Friday, we round up what's happening across the Deans — from live music in local pubs and community projects that make a difference, to hidden history, family events and neighbourhood gems you might otherwise miss.

Got something coming up? A fundraiser, fair, or gig you'd like to shout about? We'd love to hear from you and include it in a future edition.

Thanks again for reading — your support and enthusiasm are what make *The Dean Scene* buzz!

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>

**Halloween Party Fundraiser  
For Bevendean Gymnastics  
Club  
Rottingdean Village Hall  
Sunday 19th October**



Come and join Evie and Daisy and a whole host of other friends and volunteers who have organised a Halloween Party to raise funds for **Bevendean Gymnastics Club!**

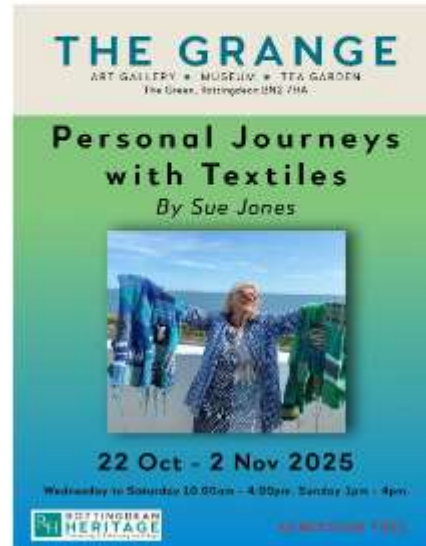
The party is for nursery & primary school aged children and is just £3 entry!

Nearly all of the games are included, with a few light-hearted fundraising extras like cakes and a lucky dip to add to the fun!

**Rottingdean Village Hall  
Sunday 19th October  
13:30 - 15:30**

T

**The Grange  
"Personal Journeys With  
Textiles"  
22nd Oct -2 Nov 2025**



Sue Jones is concerned with showing how Textile Knitting is an Art as well as a Craft.

For this, the final exhibition in her series, she has produced a series of handmade waistcoats as patchwork samplers, presented alongside the worldwide textiles whose patterns inspired them and with a group of 'thank you' waistcoats, showing how people could easily make their own patchwork waistcoats.

There will also be opportunities to get involved. Add your own memories of favourite textiles!

**More Info**



## Pomegranate Coffee



We're delighted to introduce **Pomegranate Coffee**, our family-run coffee cafe now open in the heart of Rottingdean village. Since opening our doors, we've been truly touched by the warm welcome and support from our wonderful community — thank you for making us feel so at home.

At Pomegranate Coffee, you'll find **freshly made speciality coffee, homemade cake tapas, and a cosy space** to relax, chat and feel part of something local.

**Comina soon...** We're excited

## Woodingdean Wilderness Group

**Woodingdean Wilderness Group**  
**Autumn program 2025**

Volunteer sessions monthly on Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm

**27<sup>th</sup> Sept**  
**Wildflower plug planting**  
**Habitat management**  
*What3words location / apples shade fans*

**18<sup>th</sup> Oct**  
**Bee bank care**  
**with B&H wildflower guardians**  
*Location / snow stone penny*

**29<sup>th</sup> Nov**  
**Pond restoration event at Bexhill park**  
**with Sussex Wildlife Trust & City parks**  
*Location / sleeper gate stub*

Usual meet up @ WWG nature site, outside the Lawn memorial park west entrance, Warren road. what3words: <http://w3w.co/apples-shade-fans>  
For more info email: [info.woodingdeanwilderness@gmail.com](mailto:info.woodingdeanwilderness@gmail.com)  
Supported by BHCC city park ranger team: 01273 292929

We are a resident-led community conservation group.

Our focus is practical wildlife conservation activities, community engagement and nature recovery projects

We are active members of Brighton & Hove Wildlife Forum, supported by BHCC City Parks Ranger team and trust for developing communities.

**Coming soon...** We're excited to be launching our **permanent jewellery and bespoke jewellery design service and repairs**, offering meaningful, personal pieces created right here in our little shop. As a family business, every coffee poured, every cake enjoyed and every piece of jewellery made means the world to us, and we can't wait to continue growing alongside this lovely village community.

Pop in, say hello, and make yourself at home. **Mention "the Dean Scene" for the next 7 days and you will receive an extra loyalty card stamp!**

With heartfelt thanks,  
**The Pomegranate Coffee Family**  
**Steve, Ev, Max and Libby**

100, High Street.  
Rottingdean  
Opening hours:  
Mon - Fri 8.00-4.00  
Saturday 8.30-3.30  
Sunday & Bank Holidays 9-3.30  
Instagram:  
@pomegranatecoffee



**Pomegranate Are On  
Instagram**

**Developing community...**

Activities include monthly group sessions in local green spaces, seasonal conservation tasks and habitat management, tree and wildflower planting, scything and grass management, Bee-Bank maintenance, fruit tree care, tree and woodland management, litter picking, citizen science and wildlife surveying, outreach at community events and meetings, social media engagement and education.

Join us for a morning of Bee Bank TLC!



Our next session is happening **Saturday 18th October, 10am–1pm**, and we'd love to see you there!

Bee Bank Care with the Brighton & Hove Wildflower Guardians

**Lawn Memorial Cemetery,  
Warren Road, BN2 6DD**

**What3Words:**  
**/snow.store.penny**

We'll be tending the bee bank together—supporting pollinators, connecting with nature, and enjoying good company. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or just curious, all are welcome!

Please wear enclosed footwear and dress for the weather. Bring your own gloves. Don't forget drinks and snacks for our mid-morning break.

**Email For More  
Info**



## Nautical Training Corps Open Evening



**Recruiting NOW!!**

**TS VALIANT**

**Nautical Training Corps**

A uniformed charitable youth organisation open to young people aged 7-16 in the Woodingdean Area since 1955.

Our aim is to develop & nurture important life skills whilst also having a great time.

Activities on offer: Camping, Rifle Shooting, Repairing, Climbing, Back night bus, plus lots more!

**OPEN EVENING**

**22nd October 2025**

**7:00 - 8:15pm**

**Woodingdean Primary School**

Contact Keith Larsson - 01273 676784  
Website: [www.ntc.org.uk/valiant](http://www.ntc.org.uk/valiant)  
Charity No. 300084

The Nautical Training Corps - TS Valiant is a long standing youth organisation based in Woodingdean. We are currently looking for new recruits, boys and girls between the ages of 8 to 16 to join a fun and exciting youth group. If your reading this and think that this is exactly for you or your children then please contact us. We offer challenging, exciting activities for all ages so please come and see what we're all about.

**Woodingdean Primary School**  
**22nd October 2025**  
**7pm - 8:15pm**  
**Contact Keith Larsson**  
**01273 676784**

[Learn More](#)



### Why Choose Starlight Beds?

At Starlight Beds, we believe quality sleep shouldn't come at a premium.

As a proud UK manufacturer, we cut out the middleman to bring you factory-direct prices on durable, comfortable mattresses designed for every type of sleeper.

Our "mattress in a box" options make delivery and setup quick and easy, while our British craftsmanship ensures every product meets strict quality standards.

By buying from us, you support local industry, reduce carbon footprint, and enjoy unbeatable value. With hassle-free ordering, fast delivery, and transparent pricing, Starlight Beds makes better sleep affordable for all.

Visit our website to discover our range of mattresses today!

[Visit Starlight Beds](#)



## Balsdean...



(Tanks move into Balsdean, shortly after May 1942. Photo: Holland Mercer Collection.)

### Origins & ancient echoes

- Balsdean is recorded back to around the 1100s. It was, for centuries, a rather remote hamlet tucked away in a downland valley east of Brighton.
- Underneath its peaceful fields lie echoes of deeper pasts. On the nearby hill known as **The Bostle**, archaeologists have identified Bronze Age barrows, and Anglo-Saxon burial mounds.
- In the 18th century, a treasure trove was unearthed in Balsdean: a Roman urn filled with over a thousand copper coins dating from the mid-3rd century (emperors such as Valerian, Gallienus, Claudius, and more).



## Medieval chapel turned barn

- Balsdean once had its **own Norman (or early medieval) chapel**, established somewhere between **1147 and 1169**.
- Up until 1579, this chapel saw regular services. But over time, it fell into disuse, and from the 18th century onward it was converted into a barn or stable.
- By the 1700s, the chancel was already in ruins, and the nave (the main body) was adapted with extra doors, windows, and a thatched roof to serve farm purposes.
- Excavations in the 1950s revealed evidence of earlier pottery and graves around the chapel foundations.

## Two farms, then silence

- For much of its later life, the hamlet of Balsdean was made up of two principal farms: **Norton Farm** (in Balsdean Bottom) and **Sutton or “manorial” Balsdean Farm** (with its farmhouse dating from about 1790).
- Around the early 19th century, Norton Farm was even used as a **lunatic asylum** for a time, before becoming deserted by the 20th century.

## War, target practice, and disappearance

- The dramatic turn came in **World War II**. In 1942, the military (notably Canadian artillery units) requisitioned the Balsdean valley and used the buildings — farmhouse, cottages, and even the medieval chapel — as **target practice**.
- By the end of the war, the buildings were largely reduced to rubble and were **never rebuilt**.
- Some locals note that in dry spells, the ghostly outlines (the foundations) of the long-lost houses can still be traced on the ground.
- After the war, a new farm was built on higher ground (High Hill) to replace the lost Sutton Farm, and much of the ancient farmland is still in use under that name.

## Nature, birds & ruins

- The Balsdean valley is now largely deserted, with only a few derelict barn remains (especially of Norton Farm) and a water-pumping station from 1936.
  - From a wildlife angle, Balsdean also has significance: its flinty fields are among the most reliable **stopover habitats in Sussex** for the rare **dotterel** (a high-mountain / Arctic wader).
-



(The area of where Balsdean once stood is still made useful with this pumping station supplying water to Rottingdean.)

## Later This Month In The Deans...



Come in and enjoy a look around Newhaven Lifeboat Station!

Established in 1803, Newhaven Lifeboat Station covers from Beachy Head to Brighton. It's a modern afloat station and operates an all-weather Severn class lifeboat. The crews have been awarded 19 medals for gallantry.



This is a fantastic opportunity to take a tour of our lifeboat and the station and to chat with our brave volunteer crew.

Come and enjoy some delicious refreshments and find out more about the vital work of Newhaven RNLI

Bring the family and learn what it takes to save lives at sea. All are welcome!

**Newhaven Lifeboat Station**  
**West Quay**  
**Newhaven**  
**BN9 9BX**  
**Sunday 26th October,**  
**11am-3pm**

## **Be Halloween Ready at Saltdean Lido!**



**Tuesday 28th October 2025**  
**10:00 - 12:00**

### **Halloween Lantern Decorating for Kids – A Spooky & Sparkly Craft Adventure!**

Halloween lantern decorating is a delightful hands-on activity that lets kids unleash their creativity while getting into the spooky spirit.

Decorate your own Light up Lantern to take out with you when you go Trick or Treating to keep the Ghouls and Ghosts away

**Book Tickets**



**Wednesday 29th October 2025**  
**10:00 – 12:00**

### **Decorate your own Canvas Bag to take Trick or Treating with you!**

Get ready for a spooktacular crafting session where creativity meets treats! This Halloween Trick or Treat Bag Decorating activity is a hands-on, kid-friendly craft designed to spark imagination and spooky fun.

**Book Tickets**

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