

Edition 12 - 15th November, 2025



Hi,

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

It's wonderful to see our community of readers continuing to grow — thank you for being part of it and for helping *The Dean Scene* thrive.

A few of you may have received the newsletter twice last week - apologies if you did! It was caused by a software glitch that sends our emails out which we didn't discover until it was too late!

The **Christmas Market season** is now in full swing! If you're organising one, do let us know — we'd love to share the details with our readers.

As the festive season draws near, there are some truly inspiring local groups doing their best to make Christmas special. This week, we're shining a light on **The Deans Senior Tea Club** and **The Rockinghorse Charity** — two fantastic organisations well worth supporting.

Each weekend, we bring you the best of life across the Deans — from community news and events to inspiring people, local history, and stories that celebrate where we live.

Thanks, as always, for reading and supporting your local newsletter!

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...

Helping Paws Online Auction

14th - 28th November



Come and join our online auction on our fundraising page on Facebook. It will run from 14th to 28th November and will end at 9pm.

There is an album called Christmas Auction on our fundraising facebook page and in that album are the various lots available with a starting bid price.

People bid whatever you want and when the auction ends on 28th November the highest bid wins. We then notify the winner and let them know the postage cost which is UK 2nd class.

There are all sorts of bargains to be had, from brand new trainers, a Nutribullet and loads of things that would make great Christmas presents; scented candles, jigsaw puzzles, gift sets and all the money raised will go to animals in need.

[Go To The Auction!](#)

Friendship Cafe St Martin's Church 17th November

Our friendship Café operates on the third Monday of the month from 2pm – 3.30pm.

**Dates for 2025 are
Monday 17 November and
Monday 15 December**

We offer a warm space, a hearty welcome and refreshments, including home made cakes. We offer a place to chat and make new friends.

We normally have a craft table and a jigsaw on the go most weeks.

We also have a selection of games to play, but if you have a game you enjoy, bring it along to share.

We do not charge for the session but there is a box for donations. Come and meet us. We look forward to welcoming you!

The Friendship Café Team
St Martin's Church,
Longridge Avenue,
Saltdean,
BN2 8RB

The Deans Senior Tea Club

The Deans Senior Tea Club was founded by Maria Davey in September 2013, driven by a simple but powerful idea — to create a warm, welcoming space where older residents could meet, chat, and enjoy good company. Her aim was to tackle loneliness in later life while ensuring everyone had a *jolly good time!* Since then, a wonderful team of volunteers has helped expand the initiative, opening clubs across Brighton and the Lewes district. The clubs have gone from strength to strength — growing in popularity and regularly attracting glowing press coverage and community support.

The Deans Senior Tea Club Donate A Christmas Dinner!

Christmas Dinner Appeal Help Us Make This Season Special for Our Elderly Community

This Christmas, we are hoping to create a truly special experience for our members by providing them with a free Christmas dinner—a warm meal shared in good company, filled with laughter and love. For some, this will be the only celebration they have, as many do not have family nearby. With your generosity, we can make sure their holiday is filled with comfort, companionship, and joy.

By donating to our Christmas Dinner Appeal, you are helping us reach our goal: to ensure that every elderly member of our community is welcomed to the table. Your contribution will allow us to cover costs for food, decorations, and all the little touches that make a gathering truly special. Most importantly, you will help bring smiles and a sense of belonging to those who need it most.



[Donate Here!](#)

Business Of The Week - Indian Summer



Indian Summer is one of Brighton's most respected Indian restaurants, known for bringing regional, home-style Indian cuisine to the city long before it became widely popular. It was founded in the early 2000's in East Street by friends who wanted to offer an alternative to the typical British curry house. Rather than focusing on heavy sauces or takeaway-style dishes, Indian Summer drew on traditional recipes from Gujarat, Kerala, Rajasthan and other regions emphasising freshness and subtle spice.

The restaurant quickly became known for its refined approach - tasting menus and slow-cooked family recipes, and a strong focus on hospitality. It attracted local recognition as well as national attention from food critics, who praised its authenticity and elegant style. Over the years, Indian Summer expanded its dining space and menu whilst maintaining its emphasis on seasonal produce and regional cooking. It remains a Brighton institution, credited with helping shift the city's Indian dining scene toward more diverse, thoughtfully prepared cuisine inspired by home kitchens rather than British-Indian curry traditions.

Dean Scene readers can enjoy a **15% discount off their food Sunday to Thursday until the end of the year** by simply quoting **"the Dean Scene"** when booking your table (see link below) or by simply informing their greeter/waiter upon arrival.



[Visit Indian Summer's Website To Book Your Table](#)

**The Deans Senior
Tea Club
Need Your Help!**



The Deans Senior Tea Club are in need of raffle prizes to help raise money for their Tea Club members Christmas Lunch. If you have any suitable small items like chocolates, smellies, and wine, etc please drop any donations to their charity shop in Rottingdean High Street.
**98 High St,
Rottingdean
BN2 7HF**

**Explore our
Christmas Shop**

Discover the Charles Bentley Christmas Shop, your one-stop destination for festive décor and gifts.

From beautifully crafted Christmas trees and twinkling lights to elegant ornaments and cosy home accessories, we have everything you need to create a magical holiday season.

Explore our wide selection of decorations, wreaths, and garden items to bring cheer to every corner of your home. Whether you're looking to transform indoors or outdoors, Charles Bentley offers amazing gifts to make your family Christmas sparkle!



**Visit Charles Bentley's
Christmas Range Here**



Brighton Palace Pier...



Birth of a Seaside Icon

Construction began in 1891 on what was then called the *Brighton Marine Palace & Pier*, designed by R. St George Moore. The site was chosen to replace the earlier Royal Suspension Chain Pier, which collapsed during a storm in 1896. The official opening date was **20 May 1899**.

Imagine the scene: a brand-new iron and wooden deck out to sea, electric lights shimmering, promenaders with parasols, and the grand promise of seaside entertainment.

Amusement and A-List Beginnings

From the get-go the Pier was built not just for strolling, but for spectacle. A 1,500-seat theatre opened in April 1901 at the seaward end, turning the deck into a hub of music, vaudeville and seaside glamour.

By 1911, the Pier's reading rooms and dining halls gave way to full-blown theatre spaces — so you could watch Charlie Chaplin and Laurel & Hardy hone their act right by the waves.

🎪 Storms, Fires & Rollercoasters

The Pier has weathered its share of drama — not least from Mother Nature. A horrific storm in 1973 saw a 70-ton barge smash into it, damaging the theatre end. Then in February 2003 a fire swept through, starting in the ghost-train ride, blew a hole in the deck — yet by the next morning it reopened to the public.

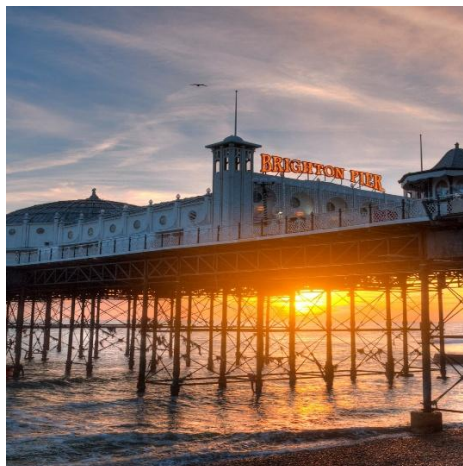
Over the decades it shifted from elegant seaside theatre to full-on funfair: dodgems, helter-skelters, roller-coasters, neon lights and the unabashed joy of a day at the seaside.

🎬 Pop Culture & the Pier's Name

It also earned its place in British pop-culture: the 1947 film adaptation of *Brighton Rock* ends with a dramatic fall from the Pier. The name “Palace Pier” may have sounded grand; ironically in 2000 the owners officially renamed it simply “Brighton Pier” — though locals still call it the Palace.

📖 Did You Know?

- 💡 **67,000 bulbs** keep the Pier sparkling at night — and it takes around **three months** each year to repaint it from end to end.
- 🏗️ Built in **1899**, the Pier used over **1,000 tons of cast iron** and **85 miles of wooden planking**.
- 🌀 The Pier's predecessor, the **Chain Pier**, was swept away in a storm just before the new one opened — pieces of it even smashed into the construction site!
- 🎭 The grand theatre at the far end once hosted early stars like **Laurel & Hardy** and **Charlie Chaplin**.
- 💧 It's survived **two major fires**, a **barge collision**, and countless Channel gales — yet somehow, it's still standing strong.
- 🎬 The final scene of **Brighton Rock (1947)** was filmed right here — a cinematic nod to its darker, dramatic side.
- 📏 At 1,722 feet long, it's the **6th longest pier in England**, and probably the one with the best view for a stick of rock.



Later This Month In The Deans...

Rockinghorse Children's Charity

Can you help children spending time in hospital over Christmas by donating gifts?

If you would like to help bring Christmas to Children in hospital this year, you can donate a gift and leave it here - and don't worry, there's no need to wrap them!

You can help make sure no child will miss out this Christmas!

**Toys can be dropped off at the collection point at
J Wagstaff Funeral Directors, Saltdean or Peacehaven Branch**



Toys can be dropped off at the collection point at J Wagstaff Funeral Directors Saltdean Or Peacehaven Branch. Thank you for all your Support.

Christmas Toy Collection

Can you help children spending time in hospital this Christmas by donating gifts?

If you would like to help bring Christmas to children in hospital this year, you can donate a gift and leave it here. And don't worry, there's no need to wrap them!

You can help make sure no child will miss out this Christmas!

Find out more at rockinghorse.org.uk

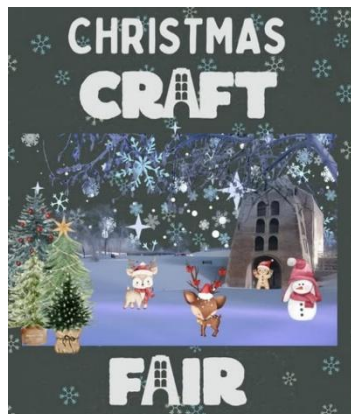
 Registered charity no: 1038759

[Learn More About Rockinghorse Children's Charity](http://rockinghorse.org.uk)

St Martin's Church

**Rottingdean & Saltdean
Lions Club**

**Children's Christmas Craft
Afternoon
22nd November 2025
2pm - 4pm**



This is one of our preparations for Christmas and has a long tradition in our church calendar. It is a free session for children aged up to 11 years, with crafts to suit all ages and abilities. There will be 5 or 6 crafts to try and adults are encouraged to join in too! Sometimes the adults have as much fun as the children! Please tell anyone you think would enjoy this special time. We will be waiting to meet you!

**Christmas Fair
29th November 2025
11am - 3pm**



**Woodingdean Primary School
Christmas Market
29th November 2025
10am - 3pm**



Helping Paws Christmas Quiz
9th December 2025
Plough Inn, Rottingdean



Ben at **Deco Dogs** is selling raffle tickets for a fabulous hamper. The raffle will be drawn at our Christmas pub quiz on 9th December at The Plough Inn, Rottingdean. Pop in and see Ben at Deco Dogs and support Helping Paws!

Deco Dogs
57 High Street
Rottingdean



Saltdean Lido

Saltdean Lido

**1920's Murder Mystery
Dinner
Friday 21st November
19:30 - 23:00**



Step back into the roaring twenties for an unforgettable evening of intrigue, glamour, and suspense.

Join us for a **1920s Murder Mystery Dinner**, where flappers, gangsters, jazz singers, and shady millionaires gather under the glittering lights of the Jazz Age. But beware—behind the sparkle of champagne and the sound of swing, a shocking crime will unfold.

Guests will dress in their best 1920s attire and step into character for an immersive night of mystery. As you enjoy a decadent dinner and prohibition-era cocktails, secrets will be revealed, alliances will be tested, and the truth will slowly come to light.

Will you uncover the culprit before the final toast? Or will the murderer slip away into the night?

[Book Tickets](#)

**Disco Inferno
Saturday 22nd November
18:30 - 22:55**



Disco Inferno is back to burn up the dancefloor at Saltdean Lido once again!

Dance the night away to the best 70's, 80's and 90's disco, funk, soul & Motown. Get glittered up for a fun, fab and feel-good night of dancing.

Clive Rayson and Ross Weeks will take you all back in time to the days of big hair, big shoulders and big, big tunes from the great days of disco.

Freak Out just the way it used to be back in the 70s and 80s and it's all taking place in the wonderful Saltdean Lido now restored to pristine art-deco glory.

[Book Tickets](#)

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