

Edition 14 - 29th November, 2025



Hi,

Hello and welcome to your latest edition of *The Dean Scene*!

Every weekend, we round up the very best of life across the Deans — from local news and events to inspiring people, fascinating history, and the little stories that make our corner of Sussex so special.

Please note a correction to the timing of the Brighton Male Voice Choir Concert today - it is at 3pm (not 8pm as stated last week).

As always, thank you for reading, sharing, and supporting your local newsletter — we couldn't do it without you!

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...

Today!

**Brighton Male Voice Choir
Woodingdean Methodist
Church
Saturday 29th November
3pm**



Today!

**Ovingdean Christmas Fair
Ovingdean Village Hall
Saturday 29th November
11am - 2.30pm**



Today!

**Rottingdean & Saltdean
Lions Club
Christmas Fair
Rottingdean Village Hall
11am - 3pm**

**Visit Amazon Black
Friday Deals**

**Black Friday has landed
and Amazon have some
fantastic offers from gifts
and gadgets to home
essentials and early
Christmas ideas!**

**These offers won't last
long. Click below and start
saving while the bargains
are hot!**



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



CHRISTMAS FAIR

VILLAGE HALL ROTTINGDEAN

29 NOVEMBER 2025

11AM—3PM

Admission Free

* Craft Stalls	* Christmas Goods	* Cakes
* Raffle	* Refreshments	* Mulled Wine



* FATHER CHRISTMAS
and much more

All proceeds will be used to
help people in our area





BLACK FRIDAY WEEK

CHRISTMAS GIFTS



[CLICK HERE](#)


[Visit Amazon Black
Friday Deals](#)

The Grange Gallery
19-30 November 2025



**There is still time to view the Vibrant Gouache Collection
by Sophia Murphy.**

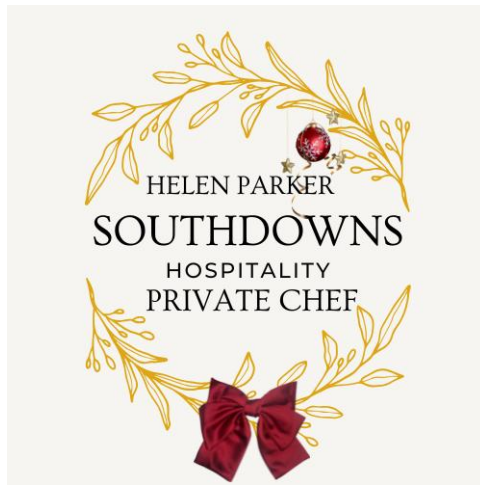
Sophia's exhibition '**Vibrant Gouache Collection**' finishes this **Sunday 30th November** and we'd love to welcome you to The Grange Gallery, Rottingdean.

The artist is from Dutch origin and a watercolour artist painting in 'vivacious colours in a wide range of subjects'. She's been painting since she was 16 years old and has developed from oils into watercolours, gouache and alcohol inks.

She has set up various art clubs and groups and is very active with art events in Sussex.

Gallery opening hours are:
Wednesday to Saturday - 10.00am to 4.00pm
Sunday - 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm.
Admission Free

**Helen Parker
Private Chef**



Let Me Introduce Myself...
I'm Helen, a private chef based here in the community. As we head into the busy run-up to Christmas, many of us crave delicious, comforting food but don't always have the time—or the desire—to be in the kitchen. That's where I come in!

Whether you're looking for a cosy meal for two, an elegant dinner party, or festive canapés for a gathering, no cook is too small or too big. I also offer midweek meals delivered straight to your door: well-balanced, seasonal dishes tailored to your tastes.

If you'd love good food without the stress, I'd be delighted to cook for you.

[Email Helen](#)

**Christmas Craft Workshop
Friday 5th December
7-8.30pm
St Margaret's Hall
Whiteway Lane
Rottingdean**

Make your own woollen angel!
Serving mince pies & mulled wine & pear juice
Carols and Singing!

£10 - All proceeds go to St Margaret's School



Ovingdean Choral Society



Ovingdean Choral Society - come and hear us, maybe join us!

The Ovingdean Choral Society draws its members from all of the Deans, the same area as covered by the Dean Scene . We have been going for 25 years, and have about forty members. We sing a range of music - classical that you can learn, Christmas music at this time of the year, and songs from the shows and spirituals in the summer.

We have three concerts a year - Christmas, Spring and Summer, and we currently perform in St Wulfran's Ovingdean, the Village Hall in Ovingdean and at St Margaret's, Rottingdean.

We are a quality **Community Choir with a complete range of abilities**. We do not require auditions. Our subscriptions are about the cost of a cup of Costa Coffee for each rehearsal- and you get free coffee! Why not come to hear us at our **Christmas Concert on Sunday 7 December at 7.30pm at St Wulfran's Ovingdean**.

Or just come along and try us out - no commitment - on **Monday nights at 7.15pm in Ovingdean Village Hall from January 5th**.

Helping Paws Christmas Quiz & Raffle

9th December 2025 Plough Inn, Rottingdean



Ben at Deco Dogs is selling raffle tickets for a fabulous hamper.
The raffle will be drawn at
The Helping Paws 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



Sea Swimming...



When Brighton Took the Plunge!

The story of the sea swimming pools that once lined our coast ...

Before the Lido craze and fancy health clubs, Brighton's seaside was the ultimate natural gym — and for over a century, people flocked here not just to paddle, but to *bathe for their health*.

The Birth of Seaside Bathing

Sea bathing began in Brighton in the **mid-1700s**, long before swimming was seen as fun. Back then, doctors prescribed “taking to the waters” as a cure for everything from gout to melancholy. Patients were wheeled into the surf in horse-drawn bathing machines, gasping as the icy waves hit. The Prince Regent (later George IV) was a fan — he even built the **Royal Sea Bathing Hospital** on Eastern Road to help others share in the watery “therapy.”

Brighton's First Seawater Baths

By the 1820s, Brighton's popularity exploded, and enclosed **seawater swimming pools** began appearing along the coast. The first notable one was **Brill's Baths**, which opened in 1823 on Pool Valley — fed directly from the sea via wooden pipes. Imagine swimming indoors with genuine Channel water sloshing around you! There were separate pools for ladies and gentlemen, of course, complete with curtained cubicles and a faint smell of salt.

A few decades later came the grander **Royal Swimming Baths** on King's Road, featuring plunge pools, private baths, and even a Turkish steam room — Brighton's answer to a modern spa day.

The Volk's Era and Cliffside Pools

By the early 1900s, Brighton had gone pool-mad. Alongside the beach, the ever-inventive **Magnus Volk** (of Electric Railway fame) proposed elaborate plans for floating and cliff-side pools — some half-built, others only in sketches. None quite matched the boldness of **Saltdean Lido**, though, which opened in **1938** as the Art









Deco jewel of coastal leisure: a sweeping, sun-soaked lagoon of turquoise and chrome, hailed as “the most beautiful pool in Britain.”

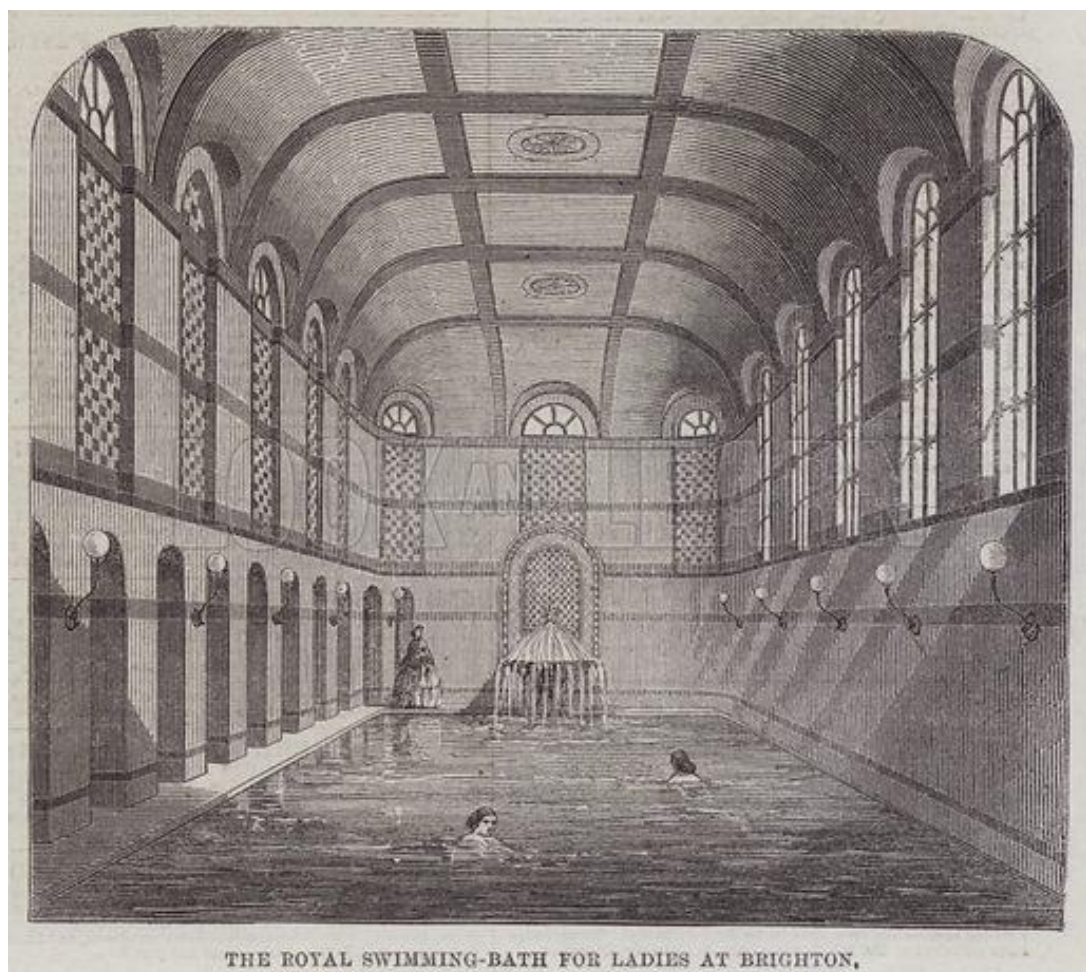
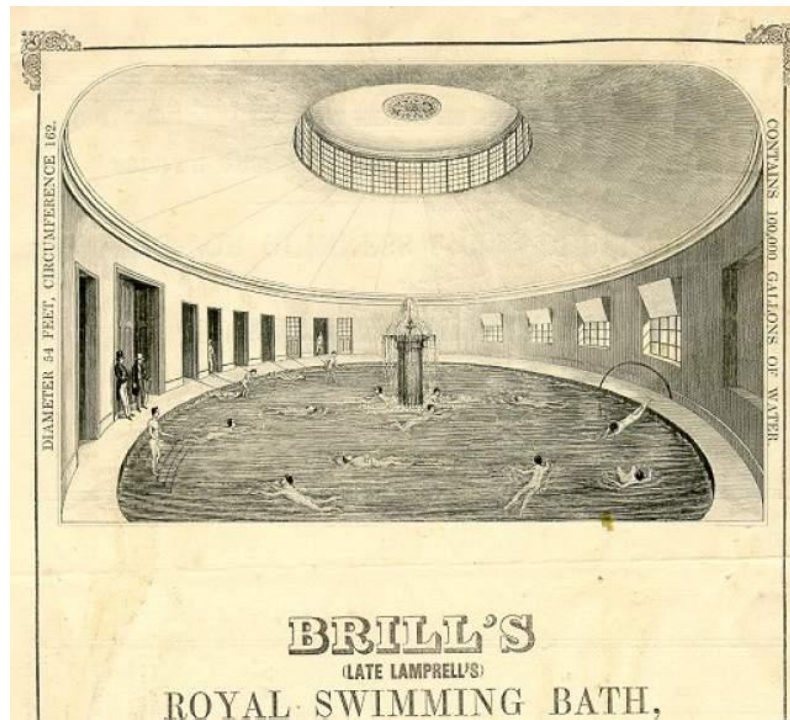
Post-war Decline and Legacy

After World War II, Brighton’s open-air bathing culture began to fade. Indoor leisure centres took over, and many of the old seawater pools were filled in or demolished. By the 1970s, only Saltdean Lido survived — and even that narrowly escaped closure in the 1990s before being triumphantly restored by volunteers.

Today, Brighton’s swimmers are back where it all began — plunging straight into the sea, winter or summer, keeping alive a tradition more than **250 years old**. From Georgian bathers in bonnets to modern “sea dippers” in bobble hats, the spirit of seaside swimming never really left.

Did You Know? – Brighton’s Seaside Swims

-  **Bathing machines** – wooden huts on wheels – were first introduced in Brighton around **1750**. They were rolled into the waves so bathers could slip into the sea unseen!
-  Georgian swimmers wore full **linen gowns and bonnets**; men, meanwhile, were advised to “cover modestly from navel to knee.”
-  The first Brighton bathing attendant, **Old Smoaker (Samuel Foot)**, became a local celebrity. The Prince Regent insisted on having “*Smoaker himself*” push his bathing machine into the surf!
-  **Brill’s Baths (1823)** drew seawater through pipes and boasted “a temperature suited to the English constitution.” Admission: **one shilling**.
-  **Royal Swimming Baths**, built in 1853, offered seawater, freshwater, and even “tepid medicinal baths” for delicate visitors.
-  Brighton once had **several open-air sea-fed pools**, including ones near Madeira Drive and the Banjo Groyne — long lost to redevelopment.
-  In the 1930s, **Saltdean Lido** made headlines for employing some of the **first female lifeguards** in Britain.
-  Winter sea swimming isn’t new: Brighton newspapers from the **1850s** reported “frost-defying gentlemen” plunging into the waves on Christmas morning.



Next Month In The Deans...

**Saltdean Lido
Kids Gingerbread
Decorating
06 December 2025
11:00 – 12:30**



A kids gingerbread decorating workshop is a festive, hands-on event designed to spark creativity and holiday cheer. Each child gets their own decorating station with pre-baked gingerbread shapes, icing and decorations.

[Book Here!](#)

**Longhill School
Christmas Fair
Saturday 6th
December 11am – 2pm
in the Main School Hall.**



Ovingdean Choral Society

The Tone Rangers Choir

Christmas Concert
Sunday 7th December
7.30pm
St Wulfran's Church



Ovingdean Choral Society
Christmas Concert
Sunday 7 December
7.30pm
St Wulfran's Church

Programme features:
Haydn's "Little Organ Mass"
and Bob Chilcott's "On Christmas Night"

Tickets £15 including mulled wine from:
Ewart Wooldridge 07584 496190
Ailsa Sleigh 07432 618776



Christmas Concert
Sunday 14th December at
3pm
St Martins Church,
Saltdean



The Tone Rangers Choir present :
SONGS ON THE HILL

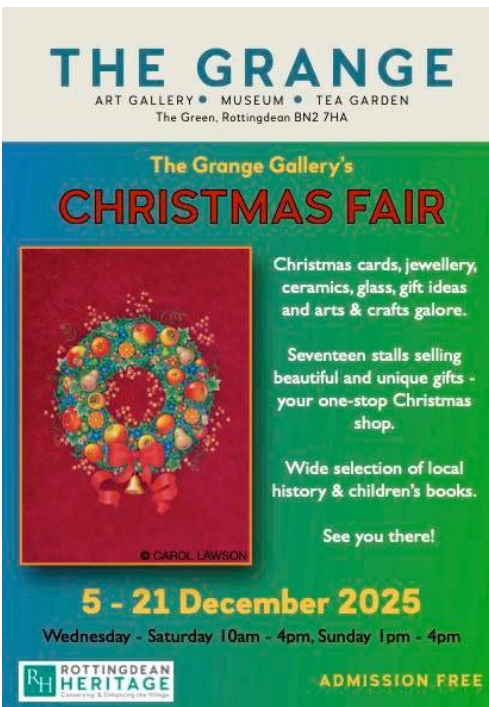
Christmas Concert
Sunday 14th December, 3pm
St Martins Church, Longridge Avenue
Saltdean, BN2 8RB

Enjoy an afternoon of Pop Classics, Festive songs and sing alongs with **The Tone Rangers Choir**. Bring your favourite drink (alcoholic or not) and let's get into the Christmas spirit together.

Supporting **The Deans Senior Tea Club** and the local food bank. Please bring a tin!

Tickets £5, Book now!
Scan the QR code above to book your tickets
www.thetonerangerschoir.com

The Grange Gallery's
Christmas Fair
5th - 21st December 2025



THE GRANGE
ART GALLERY • MUSEUM • TEA GARDEN
The Green, Rottingdean BN2 7HA

The Grange Gallery's
CHRISTMAS FAIR


Christmas cards, jewellery, ceramics, glass, gift ideas and arts & crafts galore.

Seventeen stalls selling beautiful and unique gifts - your one-stop Christmas shop.

Wide selection of local history & children's books.

See you there!

5 - 21 December 2025
Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm, Sunday 1pm - 4pm

 **ADMISSION FREE**

**Inspirational Talks
Whiteways Centre, Rottingdean
6th December 2025**

Have we got a special Christmas treat in store for you! The Royal Pavilion is the iconic building in Brighton, and we are so privileged to have its curator talk to us on **December 6th**. Packed with completely new insights and perspectives, Alexandra Loske will take us on a fascinating journey regarding a gem in our city.

Please come along, but be quick! Tickets are selling fast!

“Inspirational Talks from Inspirational People in Sussex”

New Insights on the Royal Pavilion
– a Regency Palace of colour and sensation



Dr Alexandra Loske Saturday 6 December 2025

The Royal Pavilion in Brighton is often considered the most impressive architectural expression of the Romantic imagination and a hallmark of Regency style. Created between 1787 and 1823 by George IV, the Royal Pavilion is perhaps the most daring and enchanting example of a building that expresses the European fascination with what in the early nineteenth century was considered the “Orient,” in particular China and India. The building, with its Indian-inspired exterior, was the work of the renowned architect John Nash, who with the contributions of several other gifted and inventive architects, artists and designers, created a building that draws you in, takes you on a journey and plays with your senses.

Drawing on recent research and conservation projects, this talk by curator Dr Alexandra Loske, celebrates the colours and sensual beauty of the interiors while situating this iconic building in the context of the time of its creation and development under royal ownership, from its beginning in the wake of the French Revolution, through its transformation and extension during and just after the Napoleonic Wars, to its fate and legacy in the early Victorian era.

£10 includes a cup of tea/coffee. To book go to www.rwc.org.uk

[Book Here](#)

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