

Edition 15 - 6th December, 2025



Hi,

Hello and welcome to this week's edition of *The Dean Scene*!

As we step further into December, we're delighted to feature a beautiful piece from local historian **Douglas d'Enno**, "*A White Blanket Over Sussex*" — a vivid look back at one of the county's most extraordinary winter days.

Every weekend, we share the very best of life across the Deans — from local news and community events to inspiring people, hidden history, and stories that celebrate where we live.

Thank you, as always, for reading and supporting your local newsletter. It means a great deal.

Warm 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...

Rottingdean & Saltdean Lions Club

Quiz Night

Thursday 11th December

7pm for 7.30pm start



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



QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday 11th December 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 pay on the door subject to availability



All proceeds will be used to
help people in our area



Come and join us at our last Quiz in 2025!

Teams of up to 6 people - £5 per person and a cash prize for the winning team!

The doors open at 7pm and the quiz starts at 7.30pm and there is a Licensed Bar!

You can enter by calling

07526 907102

or pay on the door subject to availability

Brighton Marina Lifeboat Station

Sunday 7th December

10am - 5pm



Join us for a festive day by the sea at Brighton RNLI Lifeboat Station!



Meet Father Christmas in his coastal grotto



Tour the lifeboat and meet our heroes of the sea



Enjoy arts and crafts and take part in our festive raffle



£11.55 per child – includes a grotto visit and a special gift from Santa.



All profits go directly to the RNLI, helping save lives at sea.

Bring the whole family, enjoy some festive fun by the coast, and help support your local lifeboat crew this Christmas!

BOOK NOW!

Helping Paws
Christmas Quiz
Tuesday 9th December

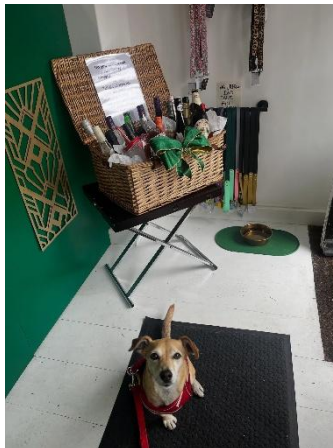


Ben at Deco Dogs is still selling raffle tickets for a fabulous hamper.

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



The Deans Beach And Environment Volunteers

Rottingdean Beach Clean



Date for the diary!

Our last beach clean for 2025 will be at **Rottingdean** on **7 December** - who's joining us?

We'll be there from 11am-12.30pm at the bottom of the ramp to the beach - look for our flag!

All equipment provided or feel free to bring your own.

Do spare a few minutes if you can at the end of the clean please to help us sort our finds - the more we can sort, the less goes to landfill or incineration.

And that's got to be a festive gift for the environment we can all get behind!

See you on the 7th - don't forget your Santa hat!

[Follow Us On Facebook](#)

Christmas Fundraising Concert

St Wulfran's Church

Ovingdean

Friday 12th December

7.30pm



St Wulfran's Church Ovingdean

**CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING
CONCERT**

Friday 12 December 7.30pm
St Wulfran's

'Naked Voices' fantastic unaccompanied
singers

'Work in Progress' traditional Jazz Band

Tickets just £5, or a donation. Licensed bar.
Contact Ewart Wooldridge 07584 496190;
ewart.wooldridge@uwclub.net and on the door

"Fund the transformed reredos over our altar"



This fundraising concert is to restore our Reredos above the altar, and it is pure fun:

The 'Work in Progress' traditional Jazz band ; and 'Naked Voices' well known Brighton unaccompanied singers - all kinds of popular music , folk and a bit of classical - mellow, tuneful, laid back, and with a beat.

Contact Ewart Wooldridge

on 07584 496190 or email

ewart.wooldridge@uwclub.net

Raffle Tickets for fabulous Xmas Hampers at Woodingdean Medical Centre

Warren Rd, Woodingdean

BN2 6BA



It's that time of year again when the **Patient Participation Group at Woodingdean Medical Centre** will be selling raffle tickets for these fabulous Christmas Hampers.

We will be at the surgery most mornings over the next few weeks and we would love to see you there.

The tickets are £1 each(cash only)

The money the PPG raised from last year's Christmas and Easter raffle bought the surgery a Feno Machine which helps diagnose Asthma more accurately and saves the patient a trip to the hospital.

This year we are hoping to raise enough money to purchase Bariatric and Geriatric weighing scales with handles.

Jazz Night

Thursday 11th December

7.30 - 11pm

Ovingdean Village Hall



Come and join our Jazz Night in Ovingdean! We are a non profit dance group learning about different music and dances from around the world.

On **Thursday 11th December** at our Christmas party, we have our annual Charleston competition, everyone is encouraged to enter and have a go.

We are incredibly lucky to have Charlotte Glasson heading the Goodtime Gannets with a mix of Swing, Latin and Jazz.

Tickets are £15 on the door, £10 in advance. From the website www.sussexswing.co.uk

[Book Here!](#)

Deans Senior Tea Club

www.thedeansseniorteclub.org registered charity no 1191298
No need to book just turn up for a warm welcome. Call 01273582333

THE DEANS SENIOR TEA CLUB

Join our Tea Clubs

Peacehaven Tea Club
Mondays 2pm to 4pm - The Immaculate Conception, 38 Horsham Ave, Peacehaven .

Telscombe Tea Club
Tuesdays 10.30am to 12.30pm - The Civic Centre, Southcoast Road, Telscombe.

Saltdean Tea Club
Fridays 2pm to 4pm - St Nicholas Church Hall, The Vale Saltdean.

Clubs are **FREE**

our new Rottingdean Tea Club, First Thursday of the Month, 10am to 12pm - The Plough Inn , Rottingdean.

Please support your only charity shop in Rottingdean Village.

All your donations go towards supporting our Local Tea Clubs, helping us to combat loneliness and isolation in our community.

find us on The High Street, opposite The Black Horse Pub.



Grange Gallery's Christmas Fair

5-21 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.

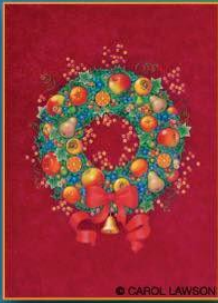
Seventeen stalls selling beautiful and unique gifts - your one-stop Christmas shop.

Wide selection of local history & children's books.

See you there!

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

ADMISSION FREE

 © CAROL LAWSON

ROTtingdean HERITAGE
Rottingdean & Littlehampton Museums



A White Blanket Over Sussex.... (By Douglas d'Enno)



The **8th of December 1967** will always be remembered as ***Snow Friday***. Towns and villages across Sussex were taken by surprise as a sudden blizzard swept through, leaving five dead and, at one stage, 50 reported missing. Sussex was one of 47 counties across England, Wales, and Scotland gripped by freak weather that paralysed transport, crippled communications, and forced the cancellation of dozens of sporting fixtures.

With **12 degrees of air frost** — that Friday night was coldest in over twenty years, and the coldest night since January 1963. Brighton's last December snowfall had been in 1964.

Roads became impassable, cars and lorries were abandoned, and many residents set off on foot through snowdrifts (myself included). Many gave up the nightmare trek home, spending hours huddled in bus shelters. Others spent the night huddled in buses, engines left running to power the heaters.

The hilly routes around Brighton were hit hardest. Bus services to **Westdene** were suspended, and Lord Shawcross, Chancellor of the University of Sussex, was snowbound and unable to reach Falmer for the annual court meeting. Several tragic deaths were recorded: a woman with a heart condition died in the university grounds, a man perished at **Devil's Dyke** while pushing a stuck car, another died in **Coldean** suffering from the effects of the cold, a woman near **Portslade Station** collapsed and died, and a 60-year-old baker's roundsman from St Leonards, succumbed to the cold in **Hastings**.

At **Black Rock**, only a narrow stretch of the coast road was passable and at the side of the road and on the verges the snow was piled several feet deep. **Ovingdean Gap** was impassably choked up with a jumble of cars.

Rottingdean and **Woodingdean** were 2 of the worst places hit and snow ploughs were needed to break through on the main roads — their roads resembling vast frozen car parks. Buses stood jammed with stranded passengers, lorries jack-knifed, and policemen with coats frozen white carried the elderly and schoolchildren on the point of collapse to nearby homes. A tractor driver **Clive Newington**, hired by Brighton Corporation for the clear up operation described the scene as *"like a battlefield."*

Further east, an ambulance was abandoned near **Saltdean Lido**, while a Land Rover ran mercy trips to **Peacehaven**, where housewives shopped on skis and towed groceries home on toboggans.

On the trains, the situation was dire. **Brighton Station** was virtually closed down and for some hours only one platform was operative for incoming and outgoing trains. Hopeful passengers slithering to Lewes Station in the middle of the afternoon hoping to reach Brighton finally got there - but it took them six hours!

It was a gloomy weekend for sports fans. No fewer than 21 football matches, including 12 first-round FA Cup ties, were called off, among them Brighton's cup match against Southend.

Not until several days of acute discomfort and widespread disorganisation had passed did the Great Thaw bring relief to those counties so severely affected by Snow Friday and its aftermath.

Later This Month In The Deans...



FUJI HEALTH



Looking to bring gym-quality cardio into your home — without sacrificing space or style?

Fuji Health's compact, foldable treadmills deliver exactly that. Their flagship **BeHealthy** model folds away neatly yet runs smoothly, with a cushioned, anti-slip belt and intelligent suspension that protects knees and joints while you run or walk.

They've also made set-up effortless: every machine arrives **fully assembled**, ready to unbox and use — no tools required.

Right now, Fuji Health is running Black Friday deals — including deep discounts on new treadmills and 0% finance.

Combine that with free UK delivery and you've got a strong, compact, modern cardio solution delivered direct to your door.

For those chasing fitness, convenience and value in one, Fuji Health treadmills are hard to beat.

Visit Fuji Health Today!

Happy Birthday

East Brighton Park Run!

13th December we are celebrating our 7th birthday!

Safe to say there will be cake!

Please dress accordingly in party gear along with other appropriate clothing to run/jog/walk/volunteer in.

Also on the 13th December, we will be collecting for Whitehawk foodbank.

Life isnt getting any easier for a lot of people . If you can bring along any of the following items they will be collected and gratefully received.

Lets support our community!!



Sign Up Here!

St Patrick's Church

Woodingdean

Monday 15th December 2pm

**All are welcome to an afternoon of Christmas films, and a delicious
Christmas Tea!**

Do join us !

No charge but donations appreciated.

All monies in aid of St. Patrick's Church.

**Contact Frances on 07816642943 for details and to put your name
down.**



Saltdean Lido

Kids Christmas Card & Gift Bag Decorating

Sunday 14th December



Each child gets a crafting station stocked with blank cards, plain gift bags, and a treasure trove of decorating supplies.

14 December 2025
11:00am – 12:30pm
Saltdean Lido

Book Tickets

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