

Edition 26 - 21st February, 2026



Hi,

Welcome to this week's edition of **The Dean Scene**, where its all about our ocean and beautiful coastline!

From the exciting launch of the **Rock Pool Project** to the inspiring "**Ebb & Flow: Wild Waters**" exhibition at **The Grange Gallery**, there's plenty happening that celebrates life by the sea.

We also take a gentle dip into the past in this week's **History Corner**, as we explore the story behind **Brighton Marina**.

And if you're looking to lend a hand locally, the **Deans Repair Café** is on the lookout for **volunteers**—full details below.

Best Wishes,

Lisa Staples

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

The Deans Repair Cafe Needs Volunteers!

Have you got electrical skills? Do you eye up a toaster that doesn't pop up or a vacuum cleaner that doesn't vacuum or a lamp that doesn't light - and think 'I'll have a go at fixing that'?

If the answer is 'yes' please offer yourself to the **Deans Repair Cafe** for an occasional sociable gathering of Saltdean locals who bring wonky household items for fix-helper volunteers to ponder over, advise and often fix.

(The next Repair Cafe is Saturday March 21, 10.30-12.30, at 29 Chichester Drive West.)

Feeling more mechanical than electrical? Our Trevor would appreciate some help, too. His eyes light up when presented with a stubborn sewing machine or a label maker that won't make labels. The events are fun - no obligation to 'get it right' and if we can keep items out of landfill so much the better. You won't be alone, Bertie is one of our regular stalwarts (with John) and also our PAT tester.

Phone Gill on 07860515217 if you'd like to chat first.

Or email [saltdeancan@gmail.com]

The Repair Cafe is part of **SCAN, Saltdean Climate Action Network.**

You will be welcomed with open arms (and possibly cake!).

**Friends of Beacon Hill
Friday 27th February
10am at the Beacon Hub**



We are a group of people who value and appreciate our local **Beacon Hill Nature Reserve** and give a little time and practical help to maintain and develop it.

We carry out tasks agreed by Brighton City Council and Rottingdean Parish Council who are responsible for the nature reserve.

Meet at 10:00am at the Beacon Hub on Beacon Hill.

We ask people to bring secateurs if they have them, to wear sturdy footwear and have good gardening gloves.

We provide tools for scrub removal.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 **01273 977330**  Reception@brightonvetclinic.co.uk

Visit us behind Hollingbury ASDA to **meet our friendly team!**



[Visit Our Website](#)

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Woodingdean, Rottingdean,
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Holy Cross Church
Saturday 28th February at 3pm
Baroque Masterpieces



Baroque masterpieces

featuring music by Francoeur, Bach and Purcell

BREMF 415 Workshop Orchestra
directed by Julia Bishop

François Francoeur (1698-1787)
Symphonie du Festin Royal de Monseigneur Le Comte d'Artois

J S Bach (1685-1750)
Orchestral Suite No. 3

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)
Overture and Chaconne from *King Arthur*

Saturday 28 February 2026 3pm
Tickets £10.00 from bremf.org.uk

The Church of the Holy Cross
2 Downsway Woodingdean BN2 6BD



Book Tickets

Inspirational Talks
Rottingdean Whiteway Centre
Saturday 28th February
10.30 - 12.30

**“Inspirational Talks from Inspirational
People in Sussex”**



The Wildlife of Sussex

Michael Blencowe Saturday 28 February 2026 at 10.30 - 12.30

The diverse habitats of Sussex support a wide range of amazing species. Local naturalist Michael Blencowe will take us on a virtual tour of our county from the rockpools of our coastline, through the dark woodlands of the Weald, around the hot heaths and high up onto the South Downs. Along the way we'll learn all about the incredible wildlife that lives in Sussex.

£10 including a refreshment. Book on www.rwc.org.uk

We are simply thrilled to invite you to meet our celebrated local naturalist **Michael Blencowe**, well known for his TV appearances on Countryfile and Spring Watch!

Michael is highly sought after for his relaxed and easy to understand presentation style and will describe to us **‘The Wildlife of Sussex’ on 28th February**. This will be a real eye opener for all of us to our surroundings, whether it be rockpools on the beach to the chalk grasslands of the South Downs!

Tickets are selling fast, and... we have kept our prices at £10 per person for 2026 which also includes a free refreshment!

Book Tickets Here

The Rock Pool Project

Saturday 28 February at 1.30pm

Explore Ovingdean's rock-pools, discover marine life, meet like-minded people, and contribute to vital citizen science. Join us for a free monthly 'bioblitz battle' on **Saturday 28 February, 1.30pm**. The Rock Pool Project launched in Ovingdean in October 2025, becoming one of seven new hubs across the country.

With flagship hubs in Devon and Cornwall, **The Rock Pool Project** has built a strong reputation for combining education, conservation, and fun through its monthly **Big Rock Pool Challenge** events where participants race against time to identify local marine wildlife and score points for the variety of species they discover and log. Its hands-on approach encourages people to get involved in recording marine wildlife while fostering a deeper connection with the ocean.

Sophie Crocker, volunteer hub leader, said: "There's something magical about discovering the tiny creatures living in our rock pools. These events are a brilliant way to connect with nature, learn something new, and help protect our coastline. I'm so excited to be leading the Ovingdean hub and can't wait to welcome volunteers and participants to build a community of like-minded people to share the experience with."

For more information and to sign up visit: <https://www.therockpoolproject.co.uk/hubs/ovingdean>
You can also find us on Instagram and Facebook.



[More Info Here!](#)



The Grange Gallery Ebb & Flow: Wild Waters by Laura Callaghan

Alongside Laura's solo exhibition **Ebb & Flow: Wild Waters** she is hosting a small programme of talks and events that explore the ideas behind her work — from seaweed and coastal ecology to caring for our local shoreline.

ALL FREE. Simply turn up.



What's on:



Sunday 22 Feb · 2pm



**Beach Clean to Gallery: Shore-to-Show Session
with The Deans Beach & Environment Volunteers**



Sunday 1 March · 11.30am–1.30pm

**Bring a piece of beach cleaned marine plastic into the gallery —
one chosen piece will be transformed into art, and the finder will
win an original painting.**

@thedeansvolunteers



The Grange Art Gallery, Rottingdean



Exhibition runs until 1st Mar 2026

With many thanks to:

Seaweed Guy @seaweed.guy

Friends of Rottingdean Coastal Environment (FORCE)

Deans Volunteers @thedeansvolunteers





Ovingdean Arts Club Party
Ovingdean Village Hall
Saturday 28th February
7.30pm



Buy Tickets Here!



Calling All Local Business Owners!

With over **1,500 engaged local subscribers** across Rottingdean, Saltdean, Ovingdean, Woodingdean and beyond, the Dean Scene newsletter lands directly in the inboxes of your ideal customers every week — people who actively support independent, local businesses.

Advertising with *The Dean Scene* is simple, affordable, and effective. There's no long-term commitment, no complicated packages, and no wasted spend. Just clear visibility, genuine local reach, and real results.

Prices start from just **£20.83 + VAT per week**, making it one of the most cost-effective ways to promote your business locally. Whether you're launching something new, promoting an offer, or simply staying front-of-mind within the community, this is your opportunity to be seen.

👉 Interested? Email lisa@deanscene.co.uk or visit deanscene.co.uk/business to secure your spot and put your business in front of the Deans audience, where local really matters.

[Email Lisa Today!](#)



Brighton Marina...



(The Marina was opened by Queen Elizabeth II on 31st May 1979)

Today, Brighton Marina is a lively waterfront filled with cafés, boats, shops and visitors from across the region. But its creation was one of the most ambitious and controversial engineering projects ever undertaken on this stretch of coast.

A Vision from the 1960s

In the early 1960s, Brighton was searching for new ways to attract visitors and investment. The traditional seaside trade was changing, and town planners began looking beyond the pier and promenade for the future of tourism. The idea emerged: why not build a **modern marina carved directly out of the sea?**

The proposal was bold. Instead of simply adding new facilities along the shoreline, engineers planned to **reclaim land from the English Channel** and create a vast artificial harbour. It would provide moorings for hundreds of boats, along with shops, restaurants, leisure attractions and new housing.

Construction Begins

Work began in **1971**, and the scale of the project was extraordinary. Massive concrete blocks were sunk into the sea to form protective breakwaters. Thousands of tonnes of rock were transported to the site, and huge areas of seabed were dredged and reshaped.

For several years, the coastline east of Brighton looked more like an industrial zone than a seaside resort. Cranes, barges and construction crews worked day and night, gradually building the new harbour that would become Brighton Marina.

Opening a New Chapter for the Coast

By **1978**, the first phase of the marina was complete, and it officially opened to the public. It was, at the time, **the largest marina in Europe**, capable of accommodating around 1,600 boats.

The opening marked a turning point for the eastern side of Brighton.

- New jobs were created in hospitality and retail.
- The area became a new leisure destination for locals and tourists.
- Property development followed, with apartments and waterfront living becoming increasingly popular.

For nearby communities such as **Rottingdean, Ovingdean, Saltdean and Woodingdean**, the marina brought increased visitor numbers, improved transport links and a stronger connection to Brighton's growing leisure economy.

Controversy and Change

Not everyone welcomed the project. Some locals and conservationists worried about its environmental impact and the loss of natural coastline. Others feared it would change the character of the area forever.

In many ways, they were right. The marina did transform the coastline—visually, economically and socially. But over time, it became an accepted and much-loved part of the Brighton landscape.

A Landmark of Modern Brighton

More than four decades after its opening, Brighton Marina remains a symbol of the city's willingness to reinvent itself. Where there was once open sea, there now stands a thriving harbour community—proof that even the coastline itself can be reshaped by vision, engineering and ambition.



Later This Month In The Deans...

Beach Clean Advice!



Don't forget, you don't need to do a full **beach clean** every time you head to the sea!

Simply pick up three pieces of litter whenever you go outside - after all, 80% of what ends up in the sea starts on the land - whether that's on the beach, in your street, in the countryside, anywhere! And dispose of it safely in a bin.

If we all did this, and got our friends and family to do so too, we'd soon make a dent in the amount of rubbish that is lurking in our environment. And would change the way that everyone behaves when they are outside.

From little acorns and all that! And we bet you can't stop at just three!

Why not try it and see?



Tropicana Nights 70s Party Friday 6th March



Tropicana Nights is the ultimate 70s party night! Come and join us for an amazing party in the Ballroom and indulge yourselves. Step back into the era of disco, funk, and nonstop dancing with **Tropicana Nights** — the ultimate 70s party experience for the over 18s!

Whether it's a birthday, celebration, or just a night out with friends, we've got everything you need for an unforgettable evening of **pure 70s music, energy, and fun.**

Lose yourself in the beats of classic disco, funky grooves, and timeless hits that defined a generation. Dance the night away under dazzling lights, show off your best moves, and soak up the vibrant, retro atmosphere of **Tropicana Nights.**

Important: All seats and tables are **unallocated** and available on a **first-come, first-served basis**, so make sure you arrive early to grab your spot on the dance floor!

[Book Tickets Here!](#)

**Helping Paws
" Music Bingo"
Sunday March 8th
5pm-8pm
Brighton Yacht Club**

HELPING PAWS PRESENTS
KATH 'N' PENS MUSIC BINGO

**1970'S/80'S
THEME** **PRIZES**

STALLS **TOMBOLA**

RAFFLE **£18
ENTRY**



Guaranteed to be bonkers

OPTIONAL FANCY DRESS

SUNDAY MARCH 8TH 5PM-8PM
BRIGHTON YACHT CLUB, WESTERN CONCOURSE
BRIGHTON MARINA

Every Penny raised goes to animals in need



**HELPING
PAWS**



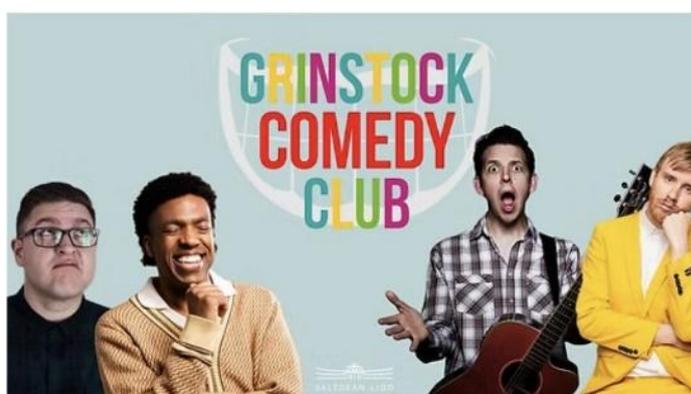
Join us for a fun time at what promises to be one of our most crazy fundraisers yet!

It is a 1970's/80's themed music bingo event with some wacky prizes. There will be stalls, a raffle and our world famous tombola. All money raised will go to animals in need in the UK and across the world.



[Book Now!](#)

Grinstock Comedy Club
Thursday 12th March
Saltdean Lido
Doors Open at 7pm



After a few years away from the South Coast, **Grinstock Comedy Club** returns, in what could be seen as Comedy meets coastline, when we launch a brand new comedy night at the iconic **Saltdean Lido**.

Expect a true comedy club experience that includes -

- Four incredible comedians, one as your MC for the evening.
- Table seating for the perfect social night out. Because comedy should be a social affair
- Amazing food on each night from the fantastic team at the onsite **Deco Restaurant**

With **doors opening at 7 pm**, you'll have time to grab food, enjoy a drink, and settle in before the **comedy starts at 8 pm**.

[Book Tickets](#)

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