

Edition 28 - 7th March, 2026



Hi,

Welcome to this week's bumper edition of **The Dean Scene!** There's a fantastic event taking place **tomorrow** at **Brighton Yacht Club**, where **Helping Paws** will be hosting a lively **Music Bingo** evening - definitely one not to be missed! It's not too late to book your tickets here: [Music Bingo | helpingpaws](#) .

With Easter approaching, local fairs and community events will soon be taking place across the Deans. If you're organising an Easter event locally, please do get in touch so we can help spread the word to our readers. This week's **History Corner** features the first instalment of a fascinating three-part series on **Black Rock**, written by **Douglas d'Enno**.

And a quick call-out to all our **local sports clubs**: would you like to be featured in our **History Corner**? It's a great opportunity to showcase your club's story, achievements and plans for the year ahead. If you'd like to take part, just contact us here at **The Dean Scene** - we'd love to hear from you!

Best Wishes,

Lisa Staples

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

**Longhill High School
Dance Show
Thursday 12th March
Doors at 6.30pm**



Longhill High School is excited to present its Dance Show on **Thursday 12th March 2026**.

Doors open at **6.30pm** with the performance beginning at **7pm**. Tickets are available now on ParentPay and will also be sold on the door, priced at £5 for adults and £3 for students and concessions. This annual showcase is always popular, so booking early is strongly recommended to avoid missing out.

**Longhill High School
Falmer Rd,
Rottingdean,
BN2 7FR**

Saltdean Lido Sauna



Hello to all our neighbours in **The Deans!**

As we've recently taken over management at **Saltdean Lido Sauna**, we wanted to share a little local love and invite both **residents and businesses** to make the most of the sauna as a community space to unwind, reset and connect. If you've not visited for a while, we've had a full refurb and are now open from **830am till late Wednesday to Sunday**, so let us know what you think of the "Glow Up"!

Regular sauna and cold plunge sessions can help ease muscle tension, support recovery, improve circulation and - just as importantly - give you a calm moment to switch off from busy routines. It's amazing what an hour of heat, cold and good conversation can do for your mood and energy levels.

To say hello properly, we're offering an exclusive **Deans Scene Readers Discount**.

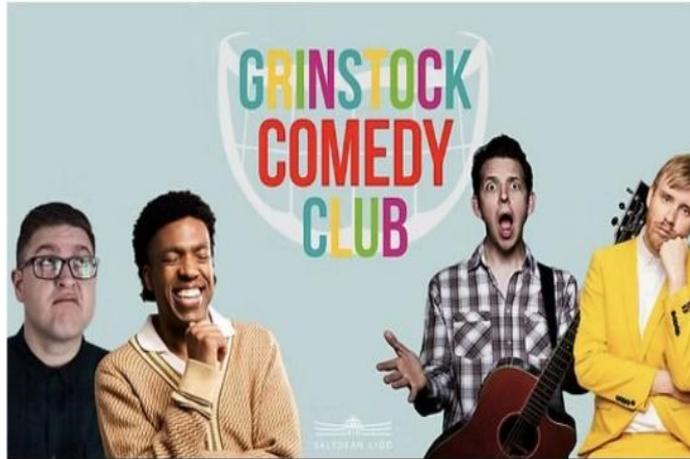
Use code **FIRSTFIFTY** when booking to enjoy a reduced rate — perfect if you've been meaning to try us or want to make it part of your weekly routine.

If you run a local business or group, we'd also love to chat about team sessions or regular wellness meetups.

Nick & Fay

[**Book Now!**](#)

Grinstock Comedy Club
Saltdean Lido
Thursday 12th March



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**](#)

**Saltdean Beach Chalet
is Open for
Summer 2026!**



The Beach chalet is now open for booking for **Saltdean Residents** and **Community Association Members** and will open on **8 March for non members**. The lead booker must live in Saltdean and only one booking per household please. (Check your spam folder if email confirmation not received within 72 hours).

If you aren't already a member join us at www.saltdeanonline.org.uk



[Book Here](#)

South Coast Taxis
01273 301111



[Book Now](#)

"Ceilidh"
St Patrick's Church,
Woodingdean
Saturday 14th March
From 6pm



Come and join us for an evening of great fun, and lively dancing with experienced caller!!

£10 adults including supper (family tickets available)

BYO alcohol

Tickets from Bernadette 01273 309118 or Irene 07960567544

Or after 9am mass at St.Patrick's.

**The Open Art Cafe
Every Friday Afternoon**



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01273 977330**

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Contact Us Now

Business of The Week...

The Open Art Cafe - Rottingdean



Tucked away in the heart of Rottingdean village is a real hidden gem — **The Open Art Café**, a welcoming spot where great food and community spirit come together.

Owned by Aaron and run alongside his friendly and dedicated team, the café has gone from strength to strength since he took over in December 2024. After many years working in hospitality and catering, Aaron fulfilled his ambition of running his own café and has created a warm, relaxed place where everyone feels at home. **The Open Art Café** serves a delicious full English breakfast until midday, followed by freshly prepared hot lunches through to 2.30pm.

There's also a wide choice of drinks and an irresistible selection of homemade cakes — perfect for a catch-up over coffee. More than just a café, it's a true community hub supporting local creativity, with artwork and gifts from local artists including **Billy Brighton**, **Gifted by Colette** and **Shirley Veater** on display and available to buy.

Whether you're stopping by for breakfast, brunch or lunch, you can enjoy good food while browsing unique locally made cards and gifts. The café is also available for private functions and can seat up to 35 people.

Every Friday from 2–4pm is Senior Citizens Afternoon, a friendly opportunity to meet new people and enjoy tea and cake for just £5. Drop in, say hello to Aaron and his team, and experience the warm welcome and great food **The Open Art Café** is known for.

Opening Hours are:

Monday - Friday 8.30am - 4pm

Saturday 8.30am - 3.30pm

Every other Sunday 10.30am - 2pm

All coffees are only £2.50 between 8.30 - 9.30 Mon-Fri







Black Rock.... By Douglas d'Enno



Black Rock in Pictures

Black Rock, which until 1928 marked the boundary between Rottingdean parish and Brighton, may have acquired its name from the dark rocks that once lay at the foot of the cliffs.

The site was chosen for the establishment of the works, in 1818-1819, of the Brighton Gas Light and Coke Company, whose output would thus not be subject to the tax levied by Brighton

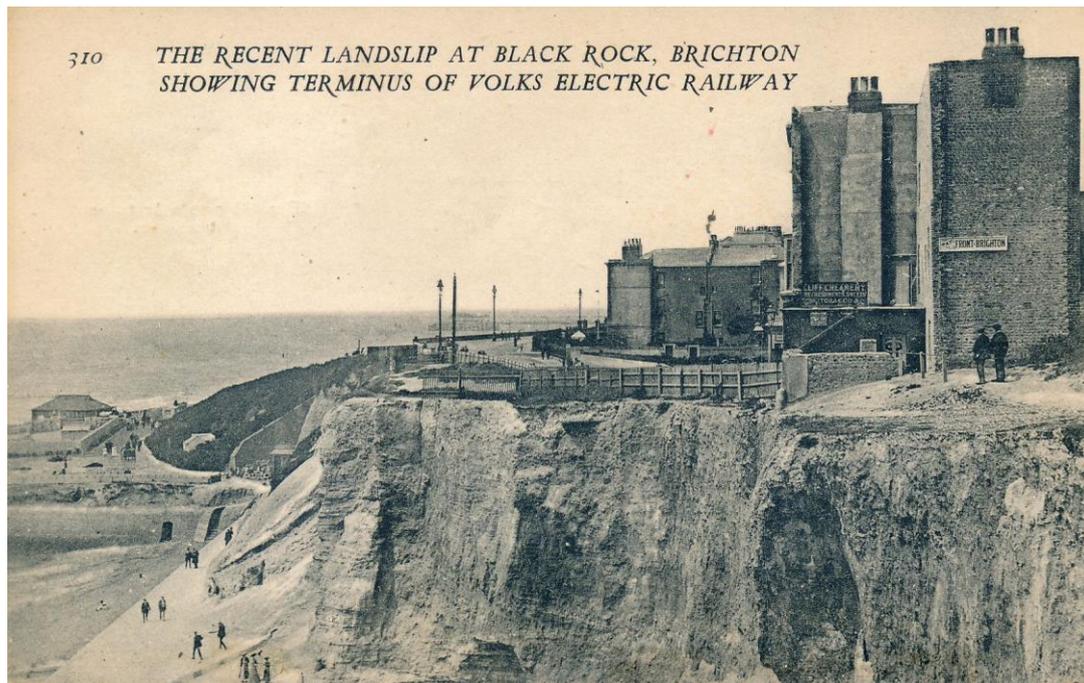


In 1824 a tunnel was constructed from the eastern end of the Kemp Town esplanade to the gasworks to facilitate the carting of coal, but it fell into disuse once coal started to be landed at Aldrington Basin, and was blocked at both ends by the town commissioners in 1850 after it had collapsed in the middle (in January 1906, Magnus Volk rented the southern entrance and, describing it falsely as a smugglers' cave, used it briefly as a tourist attraction for his railway extension to Black Rock. The entrance disappeared completely when the corporation constructed public conveniences at the location in the 1930s).

On the clifftop, a number of private buildings were constructed in the early 19th century. A terrace of housing to the east (Sea View Terrace) was followed, by 1828, by the Abergavenny Arms Inn. Adjacent to it were located the Cliff Creamery and Black Rock House.



(The Abergavenny Arms Inn and Sea View Terrace in the late 19th century, with Roedean School and a ventilation shaft in the distance)

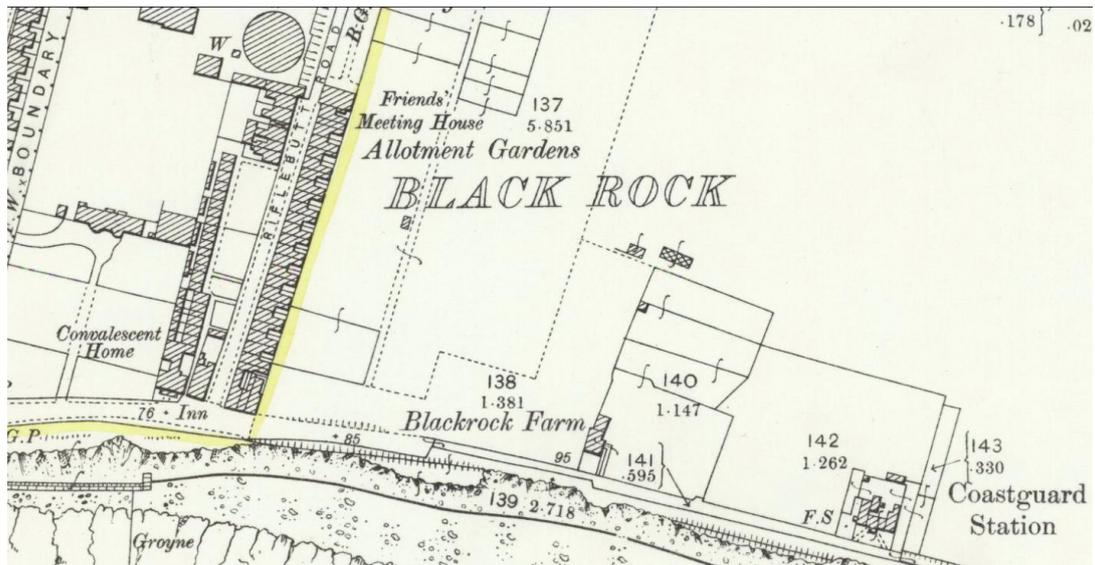


(The cliffs were prone to landslips, making the buildings vulnerable. In this view, the backs of Sea View Terrace (their fronts having already been demolished) are supporting the Creamery, which was itself demolished in approximately 1929–1935 due to coastal erosion).

Also in the Black Rock area during the 19th century stood the coastguard station and Black Rock Farm.



(The Cowley family, captured here in a splendid family photograph taken in the 1860s, successfully farmed Black Rock Farm between 1839 or earlier and 1899. (Bob Cowley). The severe landslip of January 1891 at this unstable location endangered the farm buildings and the coastguard station, resulting in the eventual abandonment of the former and the relocation of the latter).



This 1898 map shows the location of the farm, the coastguard station, the Abergavenny Arms Inn, the gasometer, the French Convalescent Home and Boundary Road. Also shown is Rifle Butt Road, which will be looked at in our next instalment.

Later This Month In The Deans...

Saltdean Jazz Band



Are you a musician, or do you have an instrument gathering dust in the loft that you've been meaning to pick up again? If so, why not join the Saltdean Jazz Band?

Originally set up two weeks before lockdown with a handful of enthusiasts, the band has now built a strong and friendly group that welcomes a diverse range of musicians - and are very happy to welcome more. It meets every Thursday from 7:30 PM to around 9:30 PM at St Martin's Church on Longridge Avenue, Saltdean.

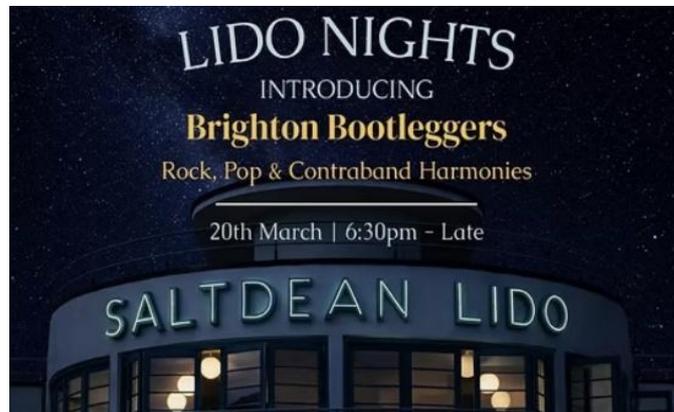
Founder, Janet Kelly, said: 'There are no auditions, plus we offer plenty of support for nervous or new musicians. Our emphasis is on having fun and bringing the community together through music, including supporting local events and venues with our live performances.'

She added that all levels of players are welcome. 'Whether you play keyboard, trumpet, trombone, guitar, clarinet, sax, violin, harmonica, flute, washboard, triangle or simply want to come along and enjoy the music, we would love to have you.'

For more information about joining or booking the band for a gig, please contact saltdeanjazzband@gmail.com, or feel free to drop by on a Thursday night to join in the fun!

[Email for more info](#)

**Spring Equinox
Saltdean Lido
Friday 20th March
6.30pm - 9.30pm**



Celebrate the arrival of spring at **Lido Nights**, a vibrant live music evening showcasing the very best of local talent in the iconic surroundings of Saltdean Lido. Marking the Spring Equinox — a time of renewal, longer days and fresh beginnings — this special edition welcomes the new season with uplifting live performances and great company.

Headlining the evening are **Brighton Bootleggers** — delivering eclectic rock, pop and contraband harmonies, blending powerful female and male vocals with a seriously “on-it” live band. Expect brilliant covers spanning generations, including Bowie, The Beatles, Radiohead, Jamiroquai, Eagles, Beach Boys, Dusty Springfield, Queen, T Rex, Elvis, Human League, Blondie, Fleetwood Mac and more. It’s a crowd-pleasing set packed with energy, nostalgia and sing-along moments.

Set within our stunning Art Deco venue, guests can enjoy live music alongside a relaxed bar menu offering drinks and light bites — with the option to **pre-order food in advance** to make the evening even more seamless. Simply order ahead and have everything ready to enjoy on the night.

Important: All seats and tables are **unallocated** and available on a **first-come, first-served basis**

[Book Now!](#)

Quiz Night
Saltdean Lido
Thursday 26th March
7pm - 9.30pm



Join us at Saltdean Lido for a fun, relaxed Quiz Night – great vibes, tricky questions, and good company!

Join us **in person** for a night packed with brain teasers, laughter, and friendly competition. Whether you're a trivia whiz or just in it for a good time, this event is perfect for everyone who loves a little challenge and a lot of fun!

Bring your friends, form a team of up to **6 players**, and see if you've got what it takes to claim the **fantastic prizes** up for grabs. Beyond the trivia, it's a perfect opportunity to **make new friends, enjoy the lively atmosphere, and unwind in great company.**

Whether you're a seasoned quiz master or a casual participant, this is your chance to **test your knowledge, enjoy some laughs, and be part of a fantastic local gathering.** Don't miss out on this exciting inaugural event — **get your team together and join us for a night to remember!**

Set within our stunning Art Deco venue, guests can enjoy a relaxed bar menu offering drinks and light bites — with the option to **pre-order food in advance** to make the evening even more seamless. Simply order ahead and have everything ready to enjoy on the night.

[Book Now!](#)

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Prostate Cancer Awareness Month



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Prostate Cancer AWARENESS MONTH

Mr Andrew Symes
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 Nuffield Health Brighton

 Wednesday 18th March 6pm

01273 627007



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