

## Village Community Report – June 2017

*This report for the website highlights community activity & items where residents & agencies have contacted RPC with concerns/ contributions to the wellbeing & facilities for the locality.*



**1.RPC Information:** As well as ongoing work to take advantage of website [www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk](http://www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk) and increasing social media opportunities for communication with residents and partners too, the Parish Council has invested in a larger Notice board now installed on the Snooker Hall in the High Street. This allows for double the space for key information to be displayed on the work of the Parish Council

### 2. Entry to Village of the Year 2017

This month has seen the Village enter for the Channel 4 TV 2017 award with a prize of £10k. See overleaf for extracts from the entry made by Cllr Wilson, who highlights that £10k could go some way to helping us make Rottingdean an even nicer place for visitors & residents alike.

**3. RPC Conservation area street lighting project:** the first of the new light columns was put in on Monday 8 May by the Denes.

**4. Vandalism:** the extent of graffiti appearing on 19<sup>th</sup> May is captured in a video on YouTube for people to share in the hope that the tags can be recognised and the culprits caught.

<https://youtu.be/IJTK7LIPSu0>

### 5. Blocking the pavement by parking in front of Lloyds Pharmacy on West Street.

The BHCC parking team have said that as there are double yellow lines they can issue Penalty Charge notices, they will increase the patrols of their civil enforcement officers in that area and any vehicle that they see parked on the pavement will be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice. Cars that are parked overhanging the pavement can also be issued with a Penalty Charge Notice if a third of the vehicle is on the pavement. **Anyone can report vehicles that are blocking the pavement by calling 0345 603 5469.**

**6. Police and Community Safety Local Action Team (LAT)** The next meeting of the LAT (Chaired by Mary Mears) is on June 21st, 7pm at Saltdean Community Hall.

**7. The South Downs National Park is looking for volunteers** see:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/your-time-is-precious-volunteers-week/>

## Extract from Rottingdean's C4TV entry to 'Village of the Year' 2017

*Rottingdean is the perfect village. On the sea, nestled within the South Downs National Park, but part of Brighton, one of England's most vibrant cities. The picture-perfect mix of seaside life, country walks, history, culture, character, and a strong sense of community, and 12 minutes by bus from the city centre! Saxon at heart, Rottingdean mixes grand houses with fishermen's cottages. The wonderfully picturesque village green is flanked by the home where Edward Burne Jones created his masterpieces, the house where Rudyard Kipling wrote some of his best work, and a glorious church with some of William Morris's finest stained glass. Five minutes' walk takes us into the protected landscapes of the National Park.*

*One of Rottingdean's greatest strengths is our strong village identity and close-knit, warm, and welcoming community. Still popular with artists and creatives, Rottingdean echoes Brighton's bohemian vibe. We have social groups galore, fantastic volunteer groups, and thriving independent businesses.*

**Appearance:** *Rottingdean is a classic Sussex Dean – a linear village running down a dry valley in the Downs to the sea. The picturesque core is a mix of tiny 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century flint cottages and grand Georgian houses, combined with some remarkably good mock tudor! We're flanked on one side by geologically significant cliffs and scientifically important rockpools, and nestled between the rolling hills of the National Park – itself dotted with Neolithic remains.*

**History and Heritage:** *Rottingdean's name isn't perhaps its best asset. It's Saxon, but no one really knows what it means – best guess is Rottyng's Dean – or the Valley owned by Rottyng. Crucially, the village is at one of the few gaps in the cliff along this stretch of shore. This means that, alongside farming, the village profited from both fishing and smuggling - Kipling's Smuggler's Song was written about Rottingdean.*

*The Copper Family lived in the village for generations, keeping a rare record of the lives of ordinary farming people. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Rottingdean was a fashionable destination, and became home to Edward Burne Jones, and the summer home of Rudyard Kipling. Their mutual friend, William Morris was a regular visitor, & Burne Jones & Morris worked together to refurbish the church. Edith Bagnold used the village as the setting for, National Velvet.*

**Activities:** *Surfing, kite-surfing, and fantastic rock pooling on the beach, antiques in our antiques shops, great shopping in our independent traders, and no less than five pubs with something for everyone. We've an active WI Royal British Legion, and Lions Club. A particularly good drama society makes good use of our handsome village hall, and we have a well-supported community centre with an excellent educational programme. We have some of the best walks in the country on our doorstep.*

**Visitor experience:** *Rottingdean is a popular tourist destination as we're the archetypal Sussex coastal village combining fantastic landscape, dramatic coastline, & a chocolate-box streetscape. We've managed to stay a proper working village that has a butcher, baker, grocer and a proper hardware store, alongside antiques, gifts, and couture clothing meaning we still feel 'real' rather than some Disney-does-village-life. The five pubs & good restaurants make us a hub for the surrounding villages, & mean there's a rather better night-life than you might expect for a village of our size. And, of course, the nuns at the convent cook a mean breakfast for their B&B guests!*