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Welcome to the Fair!



The organising committee of the Rottingdean Village Fair would like to extend their most cordial welcome to you today! Thank you for coming to support this uniquely special, one-off centenary event!

Our annual Fair is a much loved celebration that brings villagers and visitors together for a day of fun and festivities. Held every year on The Green beside our famous duck pond, in the heart of our historic little village, this delightfully nostalgic event offers something for everyone in a day packed with joy and merriment.

As you explore the Fair, you'll discover a rich kaleidoscope of stalls which brim with treasures. There are handicrafts and artworks, bric-a-brac and vintage clothes, and a variety of other treats waiting to be discovered!

All of our most important local organisations are also here too, raising money in various inventive and amusing ways. You can test your skills at whimsical games, or try your luck in the hope of taking home a prize.

You can also eat, drink and be merry at one

of our fantastic food and beverage stalls - or just sit back and enjoy some of the diverse and vibrant array of entertainment on offer at this uniquely traditional celebration. It's a truly special day that's guaranteed to spark joy in the hearts of young and old alike.

Beyond the laughter and the lively banter, lies a deeper purpose too. The profits of the Fair are a vital support for an array of local charities and good causes. Each year, the beneficiaries change, but our commitment to nurturing the community remains steadfast.

This year, we are supporting the following organisations and initiatives:

- The Whiteway Centre
- The Sussex Heart Charity
- Brighton & Hove Wildlife Rescue

We invite you to step back in time today and experience all the charm and eccentricity of a traditional English fête at this uniquely special incarnation of Rottingdean Village Fair; a beloved annual celebration that's been a local favourite since 1925.

100 Years of Festivities & Fun

The village of Rottingdean has held public festivities for as long as anyone can remember, with royal celebrations being a favourite.

The earliest recorded event was a jubilant affair held in 1789 that marked King George III's recovery from insanity, complete with dazzling illuminations and fireworks that lit up the village in joy!

Another memorable event was Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. Villagers gathered for a grand lunch, followed by a lively sports day on Beacon Hill. Aside from the usual sack and flat races, the real star of the show was an animal race which was somewhat bizarrely won by a parrot!

In 1911, King George V's Coronation provided another excuse for a magnificent pageant, vividly described in Colonel Moens' book "The Story of a Village." Later celebrations such as the 1935 Jubilee and King George VI's Coronation were somewhat more modest, but they still held a special place in village history.

The Ancient Order of Foresters also hosted an annual Fete Day that drew considerable crowds, and the Victorians held an annual event in November where a certain Miss Matilda Beard would distribute pennies to crowds of local children.

The first charity fair as we know it today was held in 1925 on 'The Green' - and the following year at 'The Elms', with the Prime Minister's wife, Mrs. Stanley Baldwin, doing the honours by opening the proceedings. Raising £392, the event supported both the Church and School. By the 1930s, the Fair had moved back to The Green, paused during WWII, and was later revived by a determined Miss Jessie Seymour and her sister.

Over the years, a star-studded lineup has opened the Fair, including Arthur Lowe, Lawrence Olivier, Vera Lynn and Fred Perry; famous faces of the time who added a touch of glamour to a beloved tradition.

Beyond all the fun, the modern Fair has always been about supporting the community. Funds raised have been a crucial lifeline for local projects, helping the church and our schools, many local charities, and even helping to restore our iconic windmill when it's sails almost fell off again back in 1935!

A special tribute must also go to the late Miss Winifred Hoyle, who devised and managed the 'Opening Cavalcade' - a spectacular opening feature of the Rottingdean Village Fair for many glorious years. We also pay tribute to the recently departed Valerie Toft, who organised countless joyful maypole and other dances to entertain us.



Things to do and see



THE GREEN

Once again this year on The Green there are a host of intriguing stalls to explore, fabulous food outlets to sample and fun games to play.

There's also a diverse range of entertainment on the banks of the pond - where one of our two stages is situated. It's the perfect location to sit back and relax with a drink and enjoy the pot-pourri of talented local performers and entertainers who are listed overleaf.



KIPLING GARDENS

Be sure not to miss out on visiting these truly beautiful walled gardens to discover even more stalls and other things to do and see - including the opportunity to try your hand at bowling, croquet or a bit of wacky golf!

To entertain you is a second stage to the rear of the gardens with lots of fabulous music and entertainment throughout the entire day and listed overleaf.



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCHYARD

This year we've created a new and special area for the kids to the front of St. Margaret's Church where you can enjoy a variety of fun stalls - and we are most grateful to the Church Wardens for enabling this. We've even laid on a 'Lollipop Person' to help ensure everyone's safety when crossing the road to get there!

Kazam Parties will also be located there too, to delight and entertain the youngsters with mini magic shows, balloon modelling, bubbles and more; half past the hour, every hour!



There'll also be special performances at 12.00 and 14.00 of the amazing Punch and Judy show from the talented Troubadour Tales, who proved to be so very popular last year.

On the other side of The Green, the bouncy castles and slides are also back - and you can grab yourselves a delicious ice cream from the van on your way there!

Food and Drink

THE VILLAGE FAIR BBQ

In conjunction with The Plough Inn, our fantastic sizzling barbecue is serving tasty flame-grilled burgers and hot dogs, and is conveniently located right next to the bar.



THE VILLAGE FAIR BAR

Ice cold draft lager, chilled cans, wines, and soft drinks are available throughout the day at the central bar on the Green.



THE WHITEWAY CENTRE TEA TENT

Also on The Green, this popular stall serves tea, coffee, and a tempting selection of sandwiches and cakes. If you're lucky, you can find a seat around the nearby Memorial to relax and enjoy.



PIMMS TENT

If you fancy an even more 'summery' and thirst-quenching tippie, why not treat yourselves to a Pimms' or two at our dedicated bar in Kipling Gardens? Yum!



THE MANGO CHUTNEY TENT

We're also delighted to once again welcome back to The Green those talented local curry chefs from 'Mango Chutney'.



OTHER FOOD OPTIONS

As you wander around today, keep your eyes peeled for other exciting options too! We're hoping that at least one other vendor will be confirming their attendance after this programme had to go to print last week.



The Stage on the Green

Our Master of Ceremonies today is Maurice Thorogood

10.00	The Rock Choir	A wonderful choral opening with a twist
10.45	The Salvation Army Band	A traditional foot-tapping favourite
11.30	LCAS School of Theatre Dance	The youngsters are here to entertain!
12.00	The Mewes Dog Show	- Perfect Pedigree - Cutest Crossbreed - Loveliest Lady - Marvellous Male
13.00	Hurly Burly	From Saltdean, and fresh from Brighton Fringe, original folk laced with a pinch of punk...!
13.45	The Together Choir	Uplifting, heart-warming songs
14.15	Zumba Fitness	Burn calories whilst having some fun!
14.45	Hurly Burly	Final set - and last chance to let your hair down
15.30	Sussex Swing and Ovingdean Ballroom Group	A joyful collection of music and dance reflecting the last one hundred years
16.00	THE FAIR CLOSSES	The car park closes at 17.00



The Stage in Kipling Gardens

11.00	The Doo Wop Dolls	Singing modern songs in classic wartime style!
11.45	The Possible Chicken String Band	American Appalachian dance music and songs
12.45	Stephen Leppard	A fabulous medley of all-time favourites
13.45	The Possible Chicken String Band	Traditional and contemporary folk music
14.45	The Safecrackers	A fresh spin on classics from the 70's & 80's!
16.00	THE FAIR CLOSSES	The car park in Hilder's Field closes at 17.00

Highlights of the Fair



THE ENTERTAINMENT

This year we're delighted to present more entertainment than ever before on our two stages. A diverse mix of professional and amateur performers are here to entertain you throughout the entire day!

THE MEWS DOG SHOW

The ever-popular dog show is back, so if you want your treasured pooch to have a chance of winning a rosette for themselves, please go to the Mewes Stall and enter them now!

BRIGHTON MORRIS

Continuing in the spirit of local tradition we welcome this delightfully eccentric band of dancers to the Fair as a 'pop-up' attraction today. If you would like to perhaps join them, they would definitely welcome your enquiry!

FARMYARD PETTING AREA

Jessica Carr from High Barn Farm returns once again with her wonderful menagerie of adorable farmyard animals - another favourite for children and adults alike!

It's Bloody Murder in Kipling Gardens!



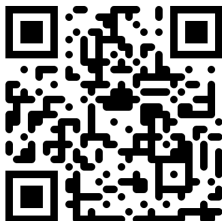
Back in the 1940's, two travelling entertainers used to host murder mystery games at Tudor Court Hotel, which is just around the corner from here. Their games were so successful that it was picked up by Waddingtons in 1949 and marketed as Cluedo.

By way of homage to this remarkable success story, we are delighted to host The Rottingdean Drama Society's fabulous new Murder Mystery devised by David Rumelle; an interactive game where you are the detectives who have to track down and interview the suspects and unravel the mystery before the end of the day!

It's all completely free of charge and anyone can join in the fun.

If you and your family or friends would like to form a team, all you have to do is scan the QR code below with your mobile cameras to open the website which we've created especially for you today.

You'll find everything you need to guide you through the adventure including clues and handy tips - and when you've finished your investigation you can go ahead and submit your findings online, there and then.



The team who cracks the case and also best describes the motive will be announced at the end of the day and they will receive a prize of local treats which they can share!

Good luck with your investigations!

Friends of the Fair 2025

'The Friends of the Fair' is a uniquely important group comprised of passionate villagers and other supporters who are dedicated to preserving

and enhancing the Fair for many generations to come - and we thank each and every one of them for their generosity and support:

Afshin and Maggie Taraz
Andrew & Helen Clark
Bevely and David Lawrence
Charly & Jamie Robertson
Chrissy Whyte
Christine Wales
Councillor Bridget Fishleigh
Corinne and Rick
Colin & Penny Alexander
Cynth Howe
David Bull QAM
David Hall and David Currie
Fr Anthony Moore
Gail Woodcock
Heather Butler
Helen and Richard Aston
John and Jackie
Jo Newman
Kate Hill
Kieran & Rob
Liberty Gallery (Patsy Dixon)

Lynda Hyde
Mag & Mark Storey
Matthew and Sonja Palmer
Mike and Christa Sexton
Mike and Janet Nixon
Mike Laslett
Nadine Fox
Neil & Carol Robertson
Nick Baynes
Paul and Brenda Griffiths
Peter Harrow
Peter Litten and Gary Fitzpatrick
Rowena & Mike Bennett
Ruth Reed (BG)
Sarah Maywood
Terry Ashdown
Tina Hilder
Victoria Harris Art (victoriaharrisart.com)

We would also like to thank all those Friends who chose to remain anonymous today.

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Rottingdean Village Fair 2024



Last year, the Rottingdean Village Fair welcomed some 4,000 visitors on the day and the village, and its shops, restaurants and bars were all buzzing with life. Equally importantly, our stalls also reported unprecedented takings.

Highlights of the 2024 Fair included sixty-six highly diverse community, charity and commercial stalls, an extended food and beverage offering of three food stalls and two bars, two entertainment stages featuring a host of local talent and performers, and the ever-popular dog show!

The feedback we received from visitors and stallholders alike was extremely rewarding, and we are delighted to report the following headlines:

- £8,000 raised by community and charity groups
- £7,000 raised on the gates and at the bars

Our Lady of Lourdes School was able to purchase two balance bikes and St Margaret's School bought some much-needed sensory equipment.

Other contributions were made towards a youth outreach initiative for PARC and the memorial restoration for the Royal British Legion.

With our financial reserves thus restored, we were able to afford the additional expense of this year's special celebrations as well as helping to secure our future thereafter.

The Rottingdean Twiddlers!

The Rottingdean Village Fair is delighted to be able to announce the launch of an exciting new local initiative which has been fully funded by ourselves in conjunction with Rottingdean Arts and the Parish Council.

'The Rottingdean Twiddlers' is a newly-formed group of professional sound technicians who are coming together to provide public address sound services and equipment, free of charge, to the organisers of local events for registered charities and non-profit making organisations.

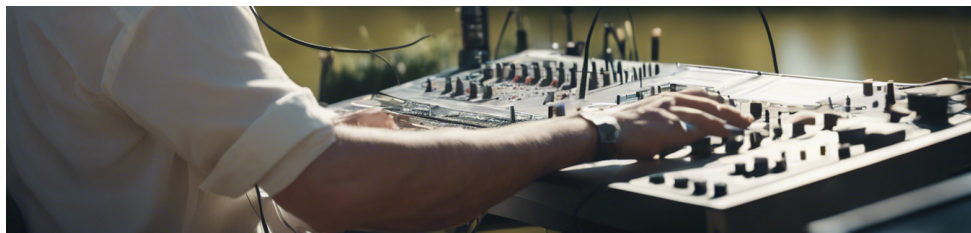
The idea is to save these worthy organisations many thousands of pounds in the long term, as hiring in these services otherwise is an increas-

ingly expensive burden for groups with limited funds and resources. Going forward, we are also hopeful that our initiative will encourage organisers to stage some entirely new local events too; yet to be imagined!

The sound you are hearing today, and the people that are operating it (Colin, Nick, Kieron and Rowland), are all part of 'The Twiddlers' and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for their time and contribution.

Qualifying local organisations can apply for sound services for their event by contacting:

twiddlers@rottingdeanvillagefair.co.uk



Unfair Weather!

The weather in the UK is becoming increasingly unpredictable, so we now have to make contingency plans in case of the worst. If a deluge or storm is forecast prior to the event we may have to take the regrettable decision to move the entire Fair under cover to three alternative indoor locations - and we are most grateful to these venues for their generous support by holding their spaces on standby:

St. Margaret's Church	-	Commercial and Community Stalls
The Village Hall	-	Entertainment, Food & Beverage
The Whiteway Centre	-	Commercial Stalls & Cafe

Moving the Fair indoors would not only be disappointing for everyone concerned, but also rather challenging too as there simply isn't enough room to accommodate all the planned stalls and activities. But at least the Fair would still happen 'come hell or high water' - as was proven in 2023.

Let us hope for the best and keep our fingers crossed!

Other Information

- In case of emergency, there is a qualified paramedic and ambulance on standby
- Toilet facilities are located in The Grange (immediately opposite The Plough Inn), The Whiteway Centre and in the purpose-built block to the side of the Village Hall
- Please take all your rubbish and recycling home with you as we have limited capacity
- Any help to clear up at the end of the day would be very much appreciated!
- Please note we have a professional photographer on-site today taking photos for our website
- The car park in Hilder's Field will close at 5PM



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Acknowledgements

'Visit Rottingdean' for their generous donation
Rottingdean Parish Council for their financial and other support
Amanda Rosenstein Davidson for her lovely poster design
Bob Webzell for providing professional photography services
The owners of Hilder's Field for allowing parking on their land
The Rottingdean Bowling Club for organising the car parking
Rottingdean Arts & St. Margaret's Church for lending their chairs
Lynda Hyde for her generous sponsorship of the new entrance flags
Charly, Jamie, George and Alice for supporting the Pimm's Bar
Andrew & Helen Clark for their sponsorship of the Fair in Kipling Gardens
Prizes generously donated by Devesons, The Black Horse & Paws with a Cause

All the many people who have helped to organise the Rottingdean Village Fair over the past one hundred years - including the previous committee: Jonathan Sharp (Chairman), Graham and Stephanie Shepherd (Organisers), Steven Grantham (Treasurer), Dianne Jones (Secretary) and the Late Mick Bensley who designed so many beautiful posters for the Fair over the years.

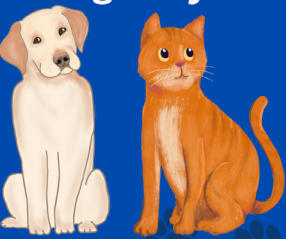
And last, but not least, the many volunteers who have given their valuable time!

The Committee

Lynda Hyde - Honorary President
Gary Fitzpatrick - Chair
Peter Mackenzie Litten - Design & Production
Denise Penn - Stalls & Marketing

Charly Robertson - Entertainment
Nadine Fox - Social Media
David Currie - Friends of the Fair
Jo Newman - Secretary

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