

# Rottingdean

There is plenty to do and see in Rottingdean with its beach and seafront, picturesque village green, gardens and pond as well as the famous windmill. There is also a thriving High Street with many new businesses, shops and cafés, restaurants and pubs. [www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk](http://www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk)

## Village history

The village developed in the Saxon Age around the pond opposite the church. A small farming community, its name translates as 'the valley of Rota's people'. After the Battle of Hastings, Rottingdean was given to William de Warenne, the Lord of Lewes, as a reward for his support of William the Conqueror.

## Famous residents

At the end of the 19th century, writers, artists and public figures began to settle here.

Residents have included Rudyard Kipling, Enid Bagnold, Sir William Nicholson,

Angela Thirkell, Lord Carson,

William Black, Sir Edward Burne-Jones, poet Alfred Noyes, Fred Perry, Lady Baldwin and Sir Roderick Jones as well as the Copper family, farmers famed for their folk singing.



## 1 The Windmill

The windmill is situated to the west of the village on Beacon Hill. It is open to the public on National Mill days and every 3rd Sunday from May-September between 2.00-4.30pm. The Windmill is maintained by the Rottingdean Preservation Society.

[www.rottingdeanpreservationsociety.org.uk](http://www.rottingdeanpreservationsociety.org.uk)

## 2 Beacon Hill Nature Reserve

Adjacent to the Windmill is a Neolithic long barrow dating back to at least 4000 years BC (model in The Grange) discovered in 1995 by an aerial survey. The Local Nature Reserve on Beacon Hill is looked after by a Working Group to preserve the flora, fauna and ecology of the Downs. Beacon Hill Nature Reserve offers wonderful views of the South Downs, village and sea.

[www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk/beacon.php](http://www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk/beacon.php)

## 3 The Elms & 'Kipling Gardens'

Rudyard Kipling wrote some of his most famous works whilst living at The Elms between 1897 and 1902. Formerly within the grounds of The Elms, Kipling Gardens are open every day to the public and contain a walled rose garden, an area of ornamental grasses, a chalkland wild area and a croquet lawn. The gardens have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag award for six consecutive years. [www.rottingdeanpreservationsociety.org.uk](http://www.rottingdeanpreservationsociety.org.uk)



## 4 The Green & village pond



The Green, in front of St Margaret's Church, has been the focus of village activities since the Stone Age. The pond, once fed by a spring, provided the only source of drinking water during Neolithic and Saxon times both for humans and livestock. It was recently relined and replanted and is now a

place for calm reflection and enjoyment.



## 5 North End House

A blue plaque designates the former holiday home of Sir Edward Burne-Jones. Later residents included the author of National Velvet, Enid Bagnold and her husband, head of Reuters, Sir Roderick Jones. [www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk](http://www.mybrightonandhove.org.uk)



## 6 St Margaret's Church

The Parish Church was originally built during the Saxon era with a tower being added by the Normans. In 1377 villagers sought refuge from French pirates and some died when the church was torched. It contains many stained glass windows from the 19th century including 7 designed by Burne-Jones and made by the firm Morris & Co. [www.stmargaret.org.uk](http://www.stmargaret.org.uk)



## 7 Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, consecrated in 1958, is situated in Whiteway Lane. Although it is a relatively modern construction, its flint facades help it fit into the local environment. The Catholic presence in the village began with the arrival of the dispossessed Sisters of St. Martha from France in 1903 who established the convent of Our Lady of Lourdes, now situated on the west side of the Green. [www.ourladyoflourdesandstpatricks.co.uk](http://www.ourladyoflourdesandstpatricks.co.uk)



## 8 The Grange Gallery, Museum & Library

Originally the Vicarage, renamed by Sir William Nicholson, The Grange now contains a Public Library and an Art Gallery. There is a permanent Museum of the history of Rottingdean and its famous residents and a café in its Lutyens designed courtyard and garden. [www.rottingdeanpreservationsociety.org.uk](http://www.rottingdeanpreservationsociety.org.uk)



## 9 The Whiteway Centre

The Centre is a registered charity, self-funding Community Centre run by an elected committee of volunteers. It provides a range of daytime and evening Adult Education and Leisure classes including a new computer club. All rooms are available for hire. For information on: courses 01273 304180 or 305292, lettings 078 4008 8575 or visit [www.rwc.org.uk](http://www.rwc.org.uk)



## 10 The Old Customs House

During the heyday of smuggling in the 17th and 18th centuries the Rottingdean Gang was active. The customs house in the high street was established in 1760 to help prevent further smuggling.



## 11 Rottingdean Terraces

Rottingdean Terraces, situated between the White Horse Hotel and the seafront, have recently been converted into a multi-purpose outdoor performance space. For forthcoming performances see [www.rottingdeanarts.org.uk](http://www.rottingdeanarts.org.uk)



## 12 The Gap, Cliffs & Undercliff

The long undercliff walk from Black Rock to Saltdean was built between 1930 and 1935 as part of the sea defences to reduce the erosion of the chalk cliffs. The Gap is a natural valley break in the cliffs allowing access to the village.



## 13 Beach & Sea

The beach is backed by chalk cliffs and a life guard service operates in summer. There are rock pools to explore and the remains of tracks for Magnus Volk's extraordinary 'Daddy Longlegs' Railway can be seen. The only train ever to have a lifeboat attached ran from 1896-1901. There is a model of the Daddy Longlegs in the Grange Museum.

[www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/around-about/history-environment](http://www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/around-about/history-environment)



## Places to stay in Rottingdean

Visitors have a choice of places to stay in the village, from the many cottages and apartments to rent, bed & breakfast establishments and an hotel. A list of places to stay in Rottingdean is at

[www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/accommodation](http://www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/accommodation)

## Eating & drinking

There are numerous places to eat & drink in the village, including 6 cafés, 7 restaurants, 4 pubs, an hotel and a licensed village club. There are also many beautiful spots to picnic on The Downs, cliff top or beaches. For a complete list of places to eat and drink in the village please visit

[www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/eating-drinking](http://www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/eating-drinking)

## Shopping

A wide range of shops serve locals and visitors with antiques, bakery, butchery, charity shop, children's toys, fashion, floristry, greengrocery, gifts & cards, hardware, pet supplies, jewellery & accessories, pharmacy, picture framing, shoes, sweets, tv & radio, surf gear, tailoring & alterations and wedding wear.

There are also galleries, hairdressers, a health club and gym, veterinary and natural health clinics and even undertakers.

The complete list of shops in the village can be found at

[www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/shopping](http://www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/shopping)

## Professional services

The village can provide the business visitor with a range of professional services including accountants, ATMs, banks, doctors, dentists, estate agents, graphic design, website design and internet hosting, motor services, solicitors and a Post Office. A list of professional services available, at

[www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/directory/professional-services-musical-tuition](http://www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/directory/professional-services-musical-tuition)

## The arts

Rottingdean has long been associated with the arts and still has a thriving and vibrant artistic community. Venues include The Terraces, a new performance area, the Village Hall, Grange Gallery, St. Margaret's Church, Whiteway Centre and the White Horse Hotel. For information on music, performing and visual arts in the area, please visit

[www.rottingdeanarts.org.uk](http://www.rottingdeanarts.org.uk),  
[www.rwc.org.uk](http://www.rwc.org.uk), [www.rottingdeandramasociety.co.uk](http://www.rottingdeandramasociety.co.uk) and  
[www.rottingdeandownartists.co.uk](http://www.rottingdeandownartists.co.uk)

## Local charities

Rottingdean Preservation Society looks after the Windmill, The Grange, Kipling Gardens and general preservation of the village.

PARC Children's Charity provides recreational activities for children and young people locally. It has funded play areas, an outreach bus and supports youth work. **For more information call 01273 308886**

Rottingdean & Saltdean Lions Club was chartered in April 1973 and covers Woodingdean, Falmer, Rottingdean, Saltdean and Ovingdean. The club organises many fundraising events and donates £15-20,000 each year to local worthy causes

[www.rottingdeanandsaltdeanlions.org.uk](http://www.rottingdeanandsaltdeanlions.org.uk)

## Rottingdean Parish Council

Rottingdean is the only area within the City of Brighton & Hove to have its own Parish Council which meets on the 1st Monday of the month. [www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk](http://www.rottingdean-pc.gov.uk)

## Events in Rottingdean

<b>January</b>	Rottingdean Drama Society - Pantomime.
<b>February</b>	Rottingdean Arts Spring Music Festival.
<b>March</b>	Rottingdean Arts Spring Music Festival.
<b>April</b>	Brighton Marathon.
<b>April</b>	Brighton Festival Artists' Open Houses.
<b>May</b>	St. Margaret's Church Spring Fayre.
	Rottingdean Windmill open ( <i>National Mill days and every 3rd Sunday from May-September</i> ).
<b>June</b>	Our Lady of Lourdes Summer Fair.
	Rottingdean & Saltdean Lions Club Fayre ( <i>Saturday after Second Monday</i> ).
<b>July</b>	Rottingdean Terraces Concerts.
<b>August</b>	Rottingdean Village Fair - first Saturday.
	Rottingdean Terraces Concerts.
<b>September</b>	Antiques Fairs, White Horse Hotel.
<b>October</b>	Vintage Clothes fashion event.
<b>November</b>	Christmas Crafts & Gift Fair.
<b>December</b>	Smugglers Night & Torchlighthouse Parade.
	Late night shopping.
	Inter Pub Sporting Trophy ( <i>Boxing Day</i> ).

*These activities are subject to addition and change.*

## Further information

For up to date information on village events and activities visit [www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/diary](http://www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk/diary)



For more information scan this QR code into your handheld device to go directly to the Rottingdean Village website.



## Location

Rottingdean is situated in Sussex on the south coast of England, bordering the South Downs National Park between Brighton and Newhaven.

**HOW TO FIND US** - A few minutes from Brighton city centre, just over 45 minutes from Gatwick Airport and 90 minutes from London by road.

**BUSES** - Frequent buses along the A259 coast road from Brighton, Newhaven, Seaford and Eastbourne serve Rottingdean. The Coaster 12 route runs up to every 10 minutes between Brighton and Eastbourne. Routes 12/12A, 13X, 14/14C, 27 and 47 link Rottingdean with Brighton Station. The 2/2A take a scenic route from the city over The Downs at Brighton's Race Course and Woodingdean terminating in Rottingdean.

[www.buses.co.uk/travel/services](http://www.buses.co.uk/travel/services)

**BY TRAIN** - Brighton Station has regular trains to London and all other major towns in the region [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

**CARS** - From Brighton follow the coast road east past the Marina and Roedean. From the A23, take the A27 towards Lewes, exit at Sussex University for Falmer following B2123 south towards the A259. There are 3 Pay & Display Car Parks (see map).

**CYCLISTS & WALKERS** - Access Rottingdean from the coast on the undercliff or the picturesque cliff top path, which is Route 2 of the National Cycle Network [www.southdownsway.co.uk](http://www.southdownsway.co.uk), [www.sustrans.org.uk/what-we-do/national-cycle-network](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/what-we-do/national-cycle-network)

MANICH DESIGN: 01273 301213 BOB CURTIS PHOTOGRAPHY: 01273 303311 ONE DIGITAL PRINTING: 01273 887575

Welcome to historic

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A beautiful Sussex village



Near Brighton by the sea  
Once visited - never forgotten

[www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk](http://www.rottingdeanvillage.org.uk)

