

ROOKLEY VILLAGE NEWS

Christmas 2025

Diary Dates

'Light up a Life' Carols with Guitar accompaniment	Monday 8th December at 18.30 on the Village Green
Rookley Village Association – open to the public	Second Monday in the month at 18.00 in the Village Hall, Highwood Lane
Parish Council meetings – open to the public	First Wednesday in the month (except August and January) at 19.30 in the Village Hall
Rookley WI	Second Thursday each month

Parish Council Update

Christmas Light up a Life Carol Service on the Green last year, was extremely well attended, despite the cold and muddy conditions. The collection raised £87.47 in aid of Earl Mountbatten Hospice, with the Council donating a further £150.

Thanks to Revd John Izzard for carrying out the service, Cllr Mike Jones for arranging the 'Men in Sheds' guitar group, to accompany the carols, and Graham Filler for providing a generator to light the way.

If a resident or local business would like to sponsor the trees lights next year please contact the Parish Clerk.

Parish Councillors: We are pleased to welcome Cllrs Rob Jones and Chris Hollingshead to the Parish Council. We now have just the one vacancy, please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in joining us. Councillors have undertaken training and workshops to increase their knowledge. In May Cllr Colin Willis was elected as Chairman and Cllr Ian Leah as Vice-Chair.

Environment Officer: The village are fortunate to have a proactive Environment Officer. Recently, she fixed dog fouling signs around, to remind dog owners to pick up. The Parish Council pay for this worthwhile service.



Rookley Post Office:

A large number of village residents gathered on 8th June to say a very big thank you and farewell, to Janita who had been the village Postmistress for the past 35 years. Also, to Sandra, who had been her assistant. They were presented with bouquets and vouchers, gifted by the Parish Council.

Rookley Post Office closed on 13th June. Cllr Caroline Gladwin, our Ward Councillor, has been working to try and get this re-opened.

Skate Park: We would like to thank John Cattle of Wight Trash for his continued support and work on the Skate Park – a well used facility.

Speeding: This continues to be a major concern in the village. The Parish Council chased Island Roads and had the defective Speed Reactive Sign replaced.

Planning/Housing: The Island Planning Strategy has yet to be signed off, meaning the old Island Plan is used when planning applications are considered by the Isle of Wight Council.

Highwood Grove: A positive meeting was recently held with Captiva, and it is hoped the completion of the footpath to link Highwood Grove with the rest of the village, and other works, will take place in the first quarter of 2026.

Land at The Lodge: A Planning meeting was held in October, when residents were given the chance to comment on the outline application submitted for this site. The Parish Council commented and objected to the application on the grounds of flooding concerns, access, narrow pavement, speeding and the need for a zebra crossing.

Village Green: The Green continues to be well maintained in the capable hands of Eddie Read. Cllrs kindly refurbished the noticeboard and gave it a much needed coat of paint. Work has been taken to tidy trees, and a memorial plaque was installed in the flower bed in memory of the late Paul Smith. Big thanks to Sue Willis for continuing to maintain the flower beds.

Central Rural Liaison Group: Cllr Leah is the Parish Council representative on this new group, which is formed with members from Arreton, Godshill and Chillerton and Gatcombe, (as well as Rookley,) working together for the benefit of all the Parish Councils in the Ward.

Parish Councillors:

Colin Willis - Chair Email: colin_j_willis@hotmail.co.uk
Ian Leah - Vice-Chair Email: ianleah@icloud.com
Robert Jones Email: rjjones14@sky.com
Chris Hollingshead Email: parishclerk@rookley.org
Ian RigaudBarrett Email: ianrigaud@icloud.com
Liz Willis Email: cawills@gmail.com
Parish Clerk: Sally Woods Email: parishclerk@rookley.org
IW Councillor: Caroline Gladwin Email: caroline.gladwin@iow.gov.uk

Rookley Village Association (Reg Charity No. 1136814)

We are a charity that owns and operates The Rookley Village Association (RVA) pavilion and field on the corner of Highwood Lane and A3020 Blackwater Road. Our activities and maintenance of the hall are operated by a small committee consisting of Trustees, and other committee members:

Chair: Tim Marshall **Vice Chair:** Colin Willis **Secretary:** Vacant
Treasurer: Ian Leah

Bookings Clerk: Sue Willis Anyone who wants to hire the hall should use our online system at www.Rookley.org or telephone [07831 790506](tel:07831790506)

A new recruit this year is Claire Penfold-Collis, a well-known figure around Rookley, often see being dragged along the roads by her faithful companion Max and last but not least Sue Denham who attends in her cross-over role as joint RVA and WI member.

We are having to say sad goodbyes to Karen Lloyd who has been an asset in her role as Treasurer for several years, (fortunately **Ian Leah** has accepted the role) and to our Secretary, Terry Caws, so if there is anyone good at taking notes, we would love to hear from you if you think you may be interested in this post.

We hold one meeting per month, for 10 months of the year. These are held on the 2nd Monday in the pavilion at 6.00pm and usually last for an hour or so. We are a friendly bunch, concerned with making sure the field, hall, skate park and swings are available for all Rookley villagers to enjoy.

Our main income comes from the regular groups which are run by specialists from around the island: Pilates, Keep Fit and Aerobics for all levels, Rookley WI, Rookley Parish Council, Weavers and Quilters and Belly dancing all of which are open to the public. Other hirers are 2 bands who practice, various meetings and coffee mornings take place throughout the year. Youth football training during the Spring and Summer school holidays. Outside hirers fill the gaps, usually for celebrations of any kind. Please visit our website for more information. (www.rookley.org) or telephone [07831 790506](tel:07831790506)

We also raise funds by running The 100 Club. Each ticket costs £10.00 a year and each month we draw 2 tickets, and the lucky winner receives either their £10.00 back or second prize of £5.00. The forms for this are enclosed. Please return through the letterbox in ‘Oakdene’ on Main Road, Rookley. You can pay by cash, cheque or electronically. The details will be on the form.

Our ever-popular, well attended, Gardening Galore is held in May each year (look out for the posters nearer the time) As well as all things garden our teas and cakes are a big draw, run by the wonderful Rookley WI. We also rely on our lovely volunteers to help on this day. Parking and entry are free, BUT we do ask people as they leave to donate any change left over to support our charity!

We are always desperate for more villagers to volunteer their services to help out either as a committee member or to help out at Gardening Galore – all offers are gratefully received!

Rookley Women’s Institute

Angela Johnson	President	Tel: (01983) 721393
----------------	-----------	---------------------

Postbox Topper – A thank you is again due to the kind person who continues to decorate the Village Green postbox – always looks great!



This newsletter is prepared and distributed jointly by Rookley Parish Council and Rookley Village Association (RVA). The RVA website at www.rookley.org is also used by the Parish Council to meet its statutory disclosure obligations and provides details on upcoming Parish Council meetings and the Minutes of same. The RVA Facebook page provides regular updates on news and events which may be of interest to residents – and, according to the number of ‘views’ it gets, to a much wider community.