

# SPOTLIGHT ON ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY



## THE CLERK INTERVIEWS THE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR, MIA FISHER



This summer, 10-year-old Mia Fisher made waves by winning the Rooksdown Young Photography Competition. Her stunning shot of a baby hedgehog captured the judges' attention and showcased her natural talent behind the camera.

I had the pleasure of catching up with Mia and her parents to learn how she felt about her amazing achievement and, even more exciting for aspiring photographers, to get some tips for next year's competition.

"She just loves the arts, whether it's photography, performing on stage, or learning behind the camera," her parents shared proudly.

Mia's winning photo came about unexpectedly during a family dog walk. While out, they stumbled upon a baby hedgehog. With her dad keeping their dog calm, Mia saw her opportunity. She



Rooksdown Young Photographer of Year

dashed home, grabbed her camera, and quickly captured some beautiful shots of the tiny creature. "I was so surprised when I found out I'd won!" Mia said with a big smile.

Mia's love for animals shines through in her photos—whether she's capturing her guinea pigs or snapping shots of squirrels, she enjoys finding beauty in the wildlife around her. Her talent and curiosity help her create amazing images that capture special moments in nature.

When asked if she had any tips for other kids who want to try photography, the young photographer had plenty to share. "Always have your camera with you because you never know when you might see something amazing!" she advised. Another key tip? "Be patient, especially with animals, because they can be skittish. You have to stay still and quiet to get the perfect picture."

With her creativity, passion, and dedication, Mia is truly an inspiration to other young artists. She's already thinking about entering future photography competitions, and we can't wait to see what she captures next!



# THINK BEFORE YOU PARK

Rooksdown Parish Council regularly receives complaints from residents about thoughtless, often illegal parking around the parish. Over recent months there has been an increase in comments about the parking, the blocking of paths and parking by dropped kerb crossing points.

If you wish to complain about parking matters, please contact the local Police officer by calling 101.

As Rooksdown is a residential area, roads tend to be narrow and windy, often have traffic calming measures in their design. Extra danger is created when pedestrians have to walk on the road when cars are parked on the footpath or pinch points. Children especially, cannot be seen by oncoming vehicles. Remember that if you park on the footway, or part of it, or block a dropped kerb, the Police can issue a fixed fine.

**SO, PLEASE THINK BEFORE YOU PARK!**

## Community Centre

Park Prewett Road RG24 9RG  
admin@rooksdowncommunity.uk  
Tel 01256 869626  
www.rooksdownonline.com



## ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE WEEKLY EVENTS

Weekdays 7.30 to 18.00 Blossom Day Nursery

<b>M</b>	<b>Monday</b> <b>Beavers</b> Ron Barker	<b>18.30-19.30</b> rooksdown@bwds.org.uk 01256 322172
<b>T</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Freedom Yoga</b> Kerli Hughes	<b>18.45-19.45</b> freedomyogawithkerli@gmail.com 07841 418258
<b>F</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>Cubs</b> Ron Barker	<b>18.30-20.00</b> rooksdown@bwds.org.uk 01256 322172
	<b>Scouts</b> Ron Barker	<b>19.15-21.00</b> rooksdown@bwds.org.uk 01256 322172
<b>S</b>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>Karate</b>	<b>10.30-12.00</b> lstockleykarate@hotmail.co.uk 07706 966636
<b>S</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>Basingstoke Eagles</b>	<b>10.00-12.00</b> Pentecostal Church

If you would like to book a room at the Community Centre please contact:  
[bookings@rooksdowncommunity.uk](mailto:bookings@rooksdowncommunity.uk) or call **01256 869626**

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### COMMUNITY

Rooksdown Parish Clerk	<b>07515 777060</b>
Rooksdown Community Centre	<b>01256 869626</b>

### HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Rooksdown Practice of Bramblys Grange GP	<b>01256 399710</b>
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital	<b>01256 473202</b>
Castle Hill Primary School (Rooksdown Campus)	<b>01256 350300</b>

### POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Urgent	<b>999</b>
To report a crime, suspicious incident, antisocial behaviour and when nothing to be gained from immediate response	<b>101</b>
Report a crime online (101 equivalent) <a href="http://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/howto-report-a-crime/">www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/howto-report-a-crime/</a>	
Report antisocial behaviour online <a href="http://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/reportantisocial-behaviour/">www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/reportantisocial-behaviour/</a>	
Community Safety Patrol Team	<b>01256 845700</b>
Crimestoppers	<b>0800 555 111</b>

### BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILS

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council	<b>01256 844844</b>
Report dog fouling <a href="http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling">www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-dog-fouling</a>	
Report a noise nuisance <a href="http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-noise-nuisance">www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-noise-nuisance</a>	
Information about bin collections <a href="http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections">www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections</a>	
Hampshire County Council	<b>0300 555 1375</b>
Help for households struggling with the cost of living <a href="http://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities">www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities</a>	
Links to report road issues including potholes, flooding, problems with paving, encroaching trees/hedging <a href="http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems">www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems</a>	
For problems with rights of way: <a href="http://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem">www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem</a>	

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Disclaimer: Please note that the view expressed in this magazine are contributors' personal opinions and do not necessarily represent the view of the editors.

RPC does not necessarily endorse services mentioned and all information was correct at the time of printing but may be subject to change.



# ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

www.rooksdown.org.uk | Autumn Edition | October 2024



## Inside this edition

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**20** mph

**SLOW DOWN**

Life is better at 20 mph

Credit: Photograph by Daniella Anda.

## CHAIR'S UPDATE

### WELCOME TO THE AUTUMN EDITION OF THE ROOKSDOWN REPORTER

All the members of Rooksdown Parish Council hope you are doing well and for all those who've recently moved in to our community – a very warm welcome to you.

Rooksdown Parish Council is planning a Remembrance event on Sunday 10 November and with Christmas just around the corner, supporting the Fundraising Friends Rooksdown (Castle Hill PTA) with their Christmas Fayre on Friday 13 December and organising a Christmas Lights Trail around Rooksdown on Sunday 15 December.

Further details about each event are on the facing page and watch out for more information on the Parish Council Noticeboards and Facebook pages.

### WHO ARE ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL?

The Parish Council is made up of a great group of people with a wide variety of talents and skills who have been working hard to make Rooksdown a great place to live. We meet at the Community Centre on the 4th Monday of the month, spending an average of around six hours each month advising and helping to run Rooksdown Community. We all do our best for the Community.

The names of the current Councillors are: myself, Paul Mahoney (Chair), Doug How (Vice Chair), Dave Knights, Scott Mason, Abimbola Bisiriyu and Mike Anigbo.

Rooksdown Parish Council would also like to welcome Christian Gutierrez as our newly appointed Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. This permanent appointment will provide great stability and continuity for Rooksdown. Chris hopes to meet or speak to as many of you as possible in the coming weeks and months.

Why not join one of our meetings, meet the Parish Councillors and find out about the many issues that are

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW CLERK & RFO CHRISTIAN GUTIEREZ



Christian has lived in Rooksdown since 2009, gaining a deep understanding and appreciation of the parish's diversity. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication and has over 15 years of experience in the telecommunications industry, specialising in project and programme management.

His decision to join the Parish Council was driven by a strong desire to give back to the community. With a friendly and approachable attitude, Christian is committed to making Rooksdown a thriving and welcoming place for all. As a father of two, he can often be found spending time with his children in the playground or enjoying early morning walks in the park.

His recent involvement in the local allotment project has sparked an interest in gardening.

Christian is dedicated to fostering a sense of community in Rooksdown and is always available to listen and assist parish members in any way he can.

discussed, debated and decided upon each month? This is especially important where the community is changing as fast as Rooksdown.

If you'd like to help shape our community or if you'd like us to look specifically at something that you think would be of interest or benefit to the whole Parish, why not email me at [cllr.paul.mahoney@rooksdwn.org.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.mahoney@rooksdwn.org.uk) or call me on 07973 826003.

### AND FINALLY ...

The members of Rooksdown Parish Council would like to wish all Rooksdown residents and those who are important to you a joyful season filled with peace, love, and togetherness as we celebrate a variety of special holidays from October to the end of December. Whether you're marking Diwali, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, or simply enjoying the spirit of the season, may your celebrations be bright, your hearts warm, and your homes filled with happiness. Here's to a festive season that brings us all closer in unity and joy.

Thanks for your continued co-operation & support.

Regards

*Paul Mahoney*



Chair - Paul Mahoney  
Rooksdown Parish Council



### HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

✉ [parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk)

🌐 [www.rooksdwn.org.uk](http://www.rooksdwn.org.uk)

📘 [www.facebook.com/rooksdwnparishcouncil/](https://www.facebook.com/rooksdwnparishcouncil/)

✂️ @RooksdownPC

## ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The dates of Parish Council meetings over the next 6 months are:

**November 25th 2024**  
**December – No meeting**  
**January 27th 2025**

**February 24th 2025**  
**March 24th 2025**  
**April 28th 2025**

If you have an item that you would like discussed by the Rooksdown Parish Council, please contact the Clerk with details and, if possible, your desired outcome.

The agenda for each Parish Council meeting is finalised one week in advance. Any items received with less notice will be deferred to the following month's meeting. The agenda is prominently displayed on Parish Council Noticeboards throughout the development and published on our website.

Our Parish Council website is regularly updated with information regarding Council proceedings and profiles of your Parish Councillors. Additionally, you can access minutes, agendas, and past editions of the Rooksdown Reporter newsletter. Explore Rooksdown's history, present and future through our website.



## THE ROOKSDOWN SUMMER FAYRE TOOK PLACE BACK IN JULY.

The support from the community was immense – Thank you



Over 3 hours, lots of climbing, jumping, game playing, face painting, balloon modelling, circus skills and a magnificent dog show took place.



The aerial pictures are taken from a video produced on the day by the superb Tommy Keough [www.keoughvideoproductions.com](http://www.keoughvideoproductions.com).



The full video is available on the Parish Council Website <https://rooksdwn.org.uk>

The Parish Council were supported by two super charities at the event



Fundraising Friends of Rooksdown (Castle Hill PTA)



Helping Dogs & Cats Rescue UK

### Congratulations to the 2024 Best in Show winner



'Bear'

## We are planning a bigger & better event for 2025 – ROCKSDOWN 25

Want to get involved? Email the Parish Clerk – [parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk)

We would like to share some events we have planned in Rooksdown in the next few months and wish to invite you, your family and friends:

## REMEMBRANCE

**DATE:** Sunday 10 November

**TIME:** 10.50 am – 11.10 am

**LOCATION:** Rooksdown Tommy Soldier

At the entrance between Gillies Drive and Rooksdown Avenue.

**Additional details:** Gather at the Tommy Soldier Monument; there will be a two minutes' silence at 11am followed by laying of a wreath in remembrance of all who have suffered through conflict, past and present.

Open invitation to the community for laying wreaths and items in remembrance.



## CASTLE HILL SCHOOL (ROOKSDOWN) CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**DATE:** Friday 13 December 2024

**TIME:** 3.15 pm – 6.00 pm

**LOCATION:** Castle Hill School (Rooksdown)

The Parish Council will be supporting the Fundraising Friends Rooksdown (Castle Hill PTA) with their Christmas Fayre.



### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH FUTURE PARISH COUNCIL EVENTS?

The Parish Council is made-up of voluntary members. So, we are always grateful for any helping hands. Whether it's ideas you have, or specific skills, or just wishing to be a part of the community, we would love your support! No matter how big or small - limited to what you are comfortable with - your contributions will make an impact.

If you would like to be involved as a Parish Council Event volunteer please contact [parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@rooksdwn.org.uk).

## LIGHT UP ROOKSDOWN

**DATE:** Sunday 15 December 2024

**TIME:** 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm

**Additional details:** The Parish Council is organising a Christmas Lights Trail around Rooksdown. If you would like your property to be part of the trail and in with a chance of being the 'Best Dressed Property' then scan the QR code and register.



## ROOKSDOWN FESTIVE SEASON WORDSEARCH

Search horizontally, vertically and diagonally for all 15 words. Put your skills to the test and see how many you can find. This wordsearch is themed around some events you might find around this time of year.

N	F	L	I	G	H	T	S	Y	R	O	I	E	L
T	E	I	S	I	S	W	O	T	I	N	S	E	L
V	S	E	R	O	A	I	I	E	T	M	I	N	
L	T	S	W	E	A	D	R	N	R	A	N	E	V
S	I	E	A	U	W	T	N	E	T	E	F	C	O
R	V	H	T	M	H	O	L	O	M	E	L	N	L
N	I	O	O	S	T	A	R	T	E	I	R	A	U
E	T	G	L	N	N	S	L	K	I	N	A	R	N
W	I	M	L	O	N	E	I	L	S	E	I	B	T
Y	E	A	H	W	E	M	D	R	O	M	C	M	E
E	S	N	U	R	E	C	E	M	H	W	M	E	E
A	T	A	Y	D	I	W	A	L	I	C	E	M	R
R	T	Y	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D
M	D	N	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	R	N

CHRISTMAS	FIREWORKS	REMEMBRANCE
COMMUNITY	HALLOWEEN	SNOW
DECORATIONS	HOGMANAY	TINSEL
DIWALI	LIGHTS	VOLUNTEER
FESTIVITIES	NEWYEAR	WINTER