

# Welcome to Brightling

This information is mainly aimed at newcomers to Brightling.

We hope you find it useful. The parish councillor responsible for welcoming newcomers is Dianne Mower, who can be contacted on 01424 838170, or by email at [contact@diannemower.co.uk](mailto:contact@diannemower.co.uk). Another useful contact is the clerk to the Parish Council, Gilly Lowe, who can be contacted on [clerk@brightling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brightling-pc.gov.uk)

In some places this leaflet points you to the internet for further information, but if you don't have access to the internet, please ask Dianne, and we will arrange to provide you with the information in some other way. Also, do give Dianne some feedback on whether you found this guide helpful, any mistakes, and anything you would like to see added.

This document is regularly updated. To see the very latest version, visit <https://brightling.community/welcome/>. The on-line version also has the advantage that it has live links to other information.

## How to find out what's going on in Brightling?

The two best ways of finding out what's going on in Brightling are: the village website, and the Messenger magazine.

### Village website

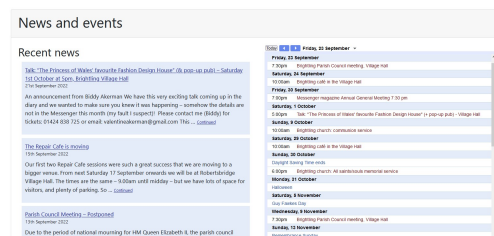
The village website is at <https://brightling.community/>. It has an up-to-date calendar of Brightling events, and news items are added regularly with details of things happening in or about Brightling.

If you want to get an email every time a fresh news item is posted to the site (average about once a week), you can "subscribe" by scrolling down the home page and entering your email address in the "Keep up to date with Brightling News" section (if you find you don't like the emails you can unsubscribe at any time; every email contains a working unsubscribe link).

The website also has a huge amount of background information on Brightling, and the various clubs and activities, as well as local information and history.

### Messenger Magazine

The Messenger magazine is published monthly (12 issues per year) and costs £10 per year. It contains loads of local information and also very useful advertisements for local services. It is hand-delivered to your door by local volunteers. If you would like to try it please email [darwell.messenger@gmail.com](mailto:darwell.messenger@gmail.com) or phone 01424 838667. We will give you a couple of issues free and then you can decide if you want to carry on getting it. Or you can buy a copy in Brightling church.



## THE MESSENGER



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM  
BRIGHTLING, DALLINGTON,  
MOUNTFIELD AND NETHERFIELD

June 2022

## Other social media

There is a Facebook group “Dallington, Woods Corner and Brightling Community” at <https://en-gb.facebook.com/groups/816245905444291/>

You can also sometimes see relevant messages by signing up to Nextdoor at <https://nextdoor.co.uk/>

## Regular events

**Brightling Cafe** is held in the village hall 10am-noon on the last Saturday of the month March-November (except August). It is a great opportunity to meet friends and have a chat over a cup of coffee and a piece of cake.

**Monthly Wednesday lunch in the Village Hall.** The lunches are popular, and use locally-sourced ingredients. They usually occur on the second Wednesday of the month. The lunches are run by Beverley Quinn (07762 415683 [bevalanq@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bevalanq@yahoo.co.uk)) and Joanna Coleman (07711 944232 [colemanjj@btinternet.com](mailto:colemanjj@btinternet.com)).

**Yoga** classes take place in the village hall on Mondays 7pm-8.15pm and possibly other days. For more details contact Francesca at [slowflowyogawithfrancesca@gmail.com](mailto:slowflowyogawithfrancesca@gmail.com) or phone 01424 111222

The annual Brightling **Flower Show** is a quintessentially English summer tradition that has been held for over 100 years. It takes place in Tower Field (at the top of Rectory Hill) from 2.30pm on a Saturday in late July/early August. Entries include flowers, plants, vegetables, baking, preserves and crafts. There are attractions for all the family, including a dog show, childrens' games, tea and cake, a bar and there is often live music in the evening. Contact: Joanna Foy: [brightlingflowershow@gmail.com](mailto:brightlingflowershow@gmail.com) or phone 01424 838123

**Dog Training Classes** – Beginners and Improvers Sundays 9am-11.15am (2 classes) Mutts about Manners Dog Training offer instruction-led courses, in the village hall, run by Toni and her team of helpers For more information, email [Trainer@maboutm.co.uk](mailto:Trainer@maboutm.co.uk)

**Cricket** The cricket pitch is located in Brightling Park - go down the lane that runs through Ox Lodge. Friendly matches take place on Sundays from May to mid September. Spectators are welcome to come along. Tea is usually served around 4.45pm and visitors are welcome to a beverage or food after the players have eaten for a donation to club funds. The fixtures for the season are listed on the village website: [www.brightling.community/cricket-club](http://www.brightling.community/cricket-club) If you would like to join the cricket team contact: Ricci Kent: [ricci@kendalecatering.co.uk](mailto:ricci@kendalecatering.co.uk) 07919 035394

**The Church** There is a service every week at 10am in one of the three churches in the united benefice of Mountfield, Netherfield & Brightling [guaranteed not to last longer than 60 minutes], plus occasional evening services. Services are advertised in the Messenger, the Brightling Calendar and on the Church notice board. . You can be assured of a warm welcome and lusty singing. Our vicar is Revd Ann-Marie Crosse, who lives at Brightling Rectory, Rectory Hill, Brightling TN32 5HE. All enquiries about weddings, baptisms and funerals should be addressed to her: [revannmarie@gmail.com](mailto:revannmarie@gmail.com) 01424 838504 or 07769 803122



The **Village Hall** is available to hire at very reasonable rates (reduced rates for Brightling residents). Contact Donna French: [brightlingvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:brightlingvillagehall@gmail.com)

**Veg club:** Once a month a group of enthusiastic gardeners meets in Brightling (at a different house each time) to discuss gardening, receive and pass on advice, swap seeds, and occasionally to have a professional talk or demonstration. If you are interested in joining Veg Club contact Cynthia Donald: Email: [cynthia@johndonald.com](mailto:cynthia@johndonald.com) Telephone: 01424 838287

**Stoolball Club** Stoolball is a sport that dates back to at least the 15th century, originating in Sussex. Brightling has a ladies team – newcomers welcome, contact Joanna Pennels via <https://www.stoolball.org.uk/teams/brightling-ladies> (which also has fascinating information about the history of the game).

The **Brightling Village Trust** is a charity set up in 1987. It exists to support charitable purposes in Brightling and can make grants to individuals and to relieve hardship. This gives the trustees discretion to support a wide range of activities which will benefit people in Brightling and which are not otherwise supported. Most recently, the Trust has purchased a new set of bell ropes for the Church at a cost of around £1,500. They put on various activities from time to time – for example, a quiz in the autumn of 2018 raised over £800. They always welcome suggestions for grants that the Trust should consider making, and indeed donations or proposals for raising funds. Please contact one of the trustees for further information.



## Volunteering & Community Involvement

Most of the village organisations and events are run by volunteers. We appreciate that you might not have much spare time but if you'd like to get involved, even in a small way, it's a great way to get to know your village and to make local friends. These are the areas where we currently need volunteers:

**Church flowers** Providing a flower arrangement for the altar once a year and a windowsill arrangement for Easter, Harvest and Christmas festivals. Contact: Jane Oxenford [jane@brightling.plus.com](mailto:jane@brightling.plus.com) 01424 838679

**Flower Show – Late July/Early August** Muscle needed to help set up tables etc in the field on the day before and to help take it all down at 10am on Sunday. Helpers needed on the day for all sorts of jobs. Contact: Joanna Foy: [brightlingflowershow@gmail.com](mailto:brightlingflowershow@gmail.com)

**Village Hall** People to go on the monthly village hall cleaning rota Contact: Judy Petty [judyp123@btinternet.com](mailto:judyp123@btinternet.com) 01424 838868

**Website** Volunteers to help maintain interesting and up-to-date content. Contact: Andrew Wedmore [andrew@wedmore.com](mailto:andrew@wedmore.com) 01424 838667

**Brightling Tree Group** Our Tree Warden, Doug Edworthy, is carrying out a survey of the tree stock of the parish to discover what we currently have and also its ecological and cultural value. He will then use this valuable information to create a tree management plan to guide future decisions affecting trees in the parish. If you would like to be involved with the survey contact Doug: [treewarden@dallington.org.uk](mailto:treewarden@dallington.org.uk)

**Bell ringers.** Brightling Church has an active group of bell ringers.



## Local suppliers

As well as the suppliers listed below, many local business advertise in the Messenger magazine.

Homestead Farm **Meat** produced on a local farm in Netherfield. Email to arrange purchase [jo@homestead-farm.co.uk](mailto:jo@homestead-farm.co.uk) <http://www.homestead-farm.co.uk/>

Brightling's **local pub** is The Swan at Woods Corner, Dallington TN21 9LB.  
[enquiries@swaninndallington.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@swaninndallington.co.uk) 01424 838242



The Swan at Woods Corner

**Newspaper Delivery** Yes you can get newspapers delivered to your door in Brightling. Contact Graham White (also sells eggs) on 01424 838518

**Logs** We have two suppliers in Brightling: Chris French (01424 838271) and Stan & Archie Quinn (07716 530594)

The **Bowen Technique** is a gentle remedial therapy for treating a variety of conditions including back, neck and shoulder pain and sports injuries. Contact Nicole Livingstone-Smith at the Bowen Clinic, Swallowfield Farm, Brightling Road, TN32 5HB  
[www.bowensussex.co.uk](http://www.bowensussex.co.uk) 07958 325441

Kendra McConnell **Brightling Road Fitness** [www.kkhealthstyles.co.uk](http://www.kkhealthstyles.co.uk)  
[brightlingroadfitness@gmail.com](mailto:brightlingroadfitness@gmail.com) 07777 674 535 Personal & small group training for fitness, weight management, injury/surgery rehab, flexibility, strength & balance. Gym equipment, pilates, yoga and nutritional advice available.

Adrian Forsdyke provides an **Executive Car Service** that must be pre-booked.  
[www.brightlingexecutivecarservice.co.uk/](http://www.brightlingexecutivecarservice.co.uk/) 07774 488664.

## Parish council, local government and national government

Brightling has an active Parish Council, which meets every two months. All meetings are open to members of the public, and are publicized on the village website and the noticeboard outside the church. For details about the work of the parish council, and contact details for the parish councillors, see <https://brightling.community/parish-council/> or contact the parish clerk at [brightlingclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightlingclerk@gmail.com).

The county council for Brightling is East Sussex County Council, based in Lewes. Among other things, the county council is responsible for social care, local authority schools, and highway maintenance.

To find out the names and contact details of your county councillors, see <https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx> Brightling is in the "Rother North" division

The district council for Brightling is Rother District Council, based in Bexhill-on-Sea. Among other things, the district council is responsible for bin emptying and almost all planning decisions.



To find out the names and contact details of your district councillors, see <https://rother.moderngov.co.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx> Brightling is in the “Burwash and the Weald” ward.

At national level, Brightling is in the Bexhill and Battle constituency. To find the name and contact details for the MP, see <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons>

## Schools

The local primary school for Brightling is at Dallington. See <https://www.dallington.e-sussex.sch.uk/>

Vinehall School is an independent (fee-paying) co-educational day, boarding school and nursery for children between the ages of 2 and 13, located near Robertsbridge. See [www.vinehallschool.com](http://www.vinehallschool.com)

## Planning

The local authority for planning is Rother District Council. The parish council reviews planning applications and may send in comments to RDC planning committee, who decide on the application (subject to appeal).

## Emergencies and local resilience

### Emergency plan

The Parish Council maintains an Emergency Plan for the village. It can be viewed and/or downloaded at <https://brightling.community/emergency-response-plan/> It is a good idea to read it now, in advance of any emergency as this may be difficult after an emergency occurs (eg power cut). Print off and keep a copy for reference.

### Defibrillators

There are two defibrillators in Brightling. One is mounted on the wall of the Village Hall. The other one is at the bottom of Cackle Street just before you get to the crossroads for the B2096 at Darwell Hole. It is mounted on a post almost opposite to the entrance to the Forestry Commission car park.

A defibrillator is portable and can be removed from its box and taken to the person who needs it. It does not require training to use it – it talks to you and tells you what to do. It cannot cause harm if used on someone who does not need it.

If you have any problems or if you have had occasion to use it, please let someone know, preferably the Parish Clerk, Gilly Lowe – email [brightlingclerk@gmail.com](mailto:brightlingclerk@gmail.com).

### Priority help during power cuts

UK Power networks operate a “priority services register”. If you get on this register you qualify for extra help during power cuts. Many households in Brightling will meet the criteria for inclusion on the register. See <https://brightling.community/power-cuts-priority/> for details and sign up now if you are eligible.

## Issues and problems

### Potholes and drains

Highways maintenance, including mending potholes and clearing drains, is the responsibility of East Sussex Highways, an agency of East Sussex County Council. In the first place, report any problems using their website at <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem>. If that doesn't produce a result in a reasonable timeframe, contact the Parish Council (via the clerk, contact details above) who will escalate the issue.

### Bin emptying

Bin emptying is the responsibility of Rother District Council. The green (recycling) and black (other waste) bins are emptied on alternate weeks. Bins have to be put at the roadside first thing in the morning, or the night before, on bin-emptying day. See <https://www.rother.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/> for further information, to find out when your bin emptying day is, or if there are any problems with bin emptying.

Rother District Council also offers a paid-for service for garden waste (brown bins).

To preserve the appearance of the village, you are requested not to leave your bin at the roadside the whole time, only on bin-emptying day.

### Hedge trimming

If you have roadside hedges, you are responsible for keeping them trimmed so that they don't obstruct motorists' view. Roadside hedges can legally be trimmed at any time of year, but are normally done during the winter to minimize the harm to wildlife. If the parish council receives reports of untrimmed hedges, we contact the landowner. If this does not produce a reaction, we report the matter to East Sussex County Council, who have the power to take enforcement action.

### Dark skies policy

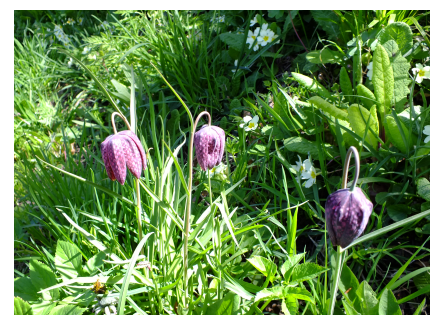
Brightling Parish Council supports the dark skies movement (see <https://www.highweald.org/look-after/dark-skies.html>) and discourages the use of external lighting including so-called security lighting. Planning permissions for extensions and new buildings normally come with a condition of "no external lighting". If your property has external lighting, please consider disabling or not using it.

### Fly tipping

Fly-tipping on privately owned land is, unfortunately, the responsibility of the landowner to clear up (it can be reported to the police at <https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/>). Roadside fly-tipping can be reported to Rother District Council at <https://www.rother.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling/fly-tipping/> and they do have a good track record in clearing it up, normally within a few days.

### Verge mowing

Verge mowing is the responsibility of East Sussex County Council. Brightling is part of a pilot study during which the verges are not mown during the summer months, in order to protect wildlife and improve bio-diversity (in most villages, verges are mown regularly during the summer). Exceptions to this "no mow" policy are made (a) for road junctions and other



Verge mowing policy

places where mowing is necessary for visibility, and (b) so called “urban cuts”, which in Brightling’s case means the centre of the village around The Street.

## Entertainments

The **Robertsbridge Arts Partnership (RAP)** organise high quality affordable events, including theatre, music, dance, quiz nights and a literature festival. Membership is £15 p.a. and entitles 4 discounted tickets where offered. You don’t have to be a RAP member to buy tickets [www.rap.org.uk](http://www.rap.org.uk)

**Robertsbridge Jazz Club** presents live jazz on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at Robertsbridge Village Hall. [www.robertsbridgejazzclub.com](http://www.robertsbridgejazzclub.com)

The **Sussex Bonfire Societies** organise a series of bonfire festivals in central and east Sussex. The celebrations mark both Guy Fawkes Night and the burning of 17 Protestant martyrs in Lewes High Street from 1955-57 during the reign of Mary Tudor. The Robertsbridge event is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of November and starts with a procession of bonfire society members from Robertsbridge and other villages, dressed in costume and wielding lighted torches. The evening ends with a bonfire and fireworks display in the recreation ground.

[www.robertsbridgebonfiresociety.com](http://www.robertsbridgebonfiresociety.com)

## History of Brightling

For a short history of Brightling see <https://brightling.community/history/>

There is also much information at <https://brightling.community/information/> covering The War Memorial, Brightling in two world wars, notable historical figures, and a large collection of old photographs.



The 1995 BBC adaptation of *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons was filmed in Brightling, including Great Worge Farm and Brightling church.

Brightling is famous for its collection of follies that were all built by John ‘Mad Jack’ Fuller in the early 19th century. Most of them can be viewed from public footpaths. There is more information on the website at <https://brightling.community/the-follies/>

## Geography and statistics

Brightling consists of 154 households with a population of 371 (in 2011). The parish covers approximately 4,000 acres/ 1619 hectares and includes the hamlets of Cackle Street, Hollingrove, Oxleys Green and Twelve Oaks. Brightling is within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.