

# 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 Katrina Blench who can be contacted on 07841866824, or by email at [cllr.katrina.blench@brightling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.katrina.blench@brightling-pc.gov.uk). Another useful contact is the clerk to the Parish Council, Sam Dugan, 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 Katrina, and we will arrange to provide you with the information in some other way. Also, do give Katrina 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 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 (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 (10 issues per year, two months combined in December and August) 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 . You will get 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. [darwell.messenger@gmail.com](mailto:darwell.messenger@gmail.com). We will give you a couple of issues free and then you can decide if you want to carry on having it. Or you can buy a copy in Brightling Church.

## *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 or make them over a cup of coffee and a piece of cake.

**Bi-monthly Thursday lunch in the Village Hall.** The lunches are popular and use locally-sourced ingredients. They usually occur on the second Thursday 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)). Everyone is welcome.

**Yoga classes** take place in the village hall with: Francesca  
at [slowflowyogawithfrancesca@gmail.com](mailto:slowflowyogawithfrancesca@gmail.com) or phone 01424 111222 on Mondays 7pm-8.15pm  
and Sundays 10.15am - 11.30am.

Brenda at [brendaboothkent@aol.com](mailto:brendaboothkent@aol.com) Iyengar Yoga on Wednesdays 9.45am-11 am.

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 1.30pm 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, children's 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 07917163357.

**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.



Brightling **Church** is currently undergoing an interregnum. Information when services resume will be advertised in the Messenger, the Brightling Calendar and on the Church notice board. All enquiries for weddings, baptisms and funerals please contact Henry Grissell on 07748 725902.

The **Village Hall** is available to hire at very reasonable rates (special rates for regular users and residents). Please email: [bookings.bvhes@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.bvhes@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) 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 Joanne Pennells via <https://www.stoolball.org.uk/teams/brightling-ladies> or email [joanne.pennells@outlook.com](mailto:joanne.pennells@outlook.com) There is also fascinating information about the history of the game on the website.

**The Brightling Village Trust**, which was established in 1987, exists to support charitable purposes in Brightling and can also make grants to help individuals and relieve hardship. The

Trustees have discretion to support a wide range of activities which will benefit people in Brightling and which are not otherwise supported. The Trust has recently incorporated four very small village charities which had become increasingly unsustainable as separate entities. These were the Mary Herbert Educational Foundation (set up in 1728 to support girls' education), the Catherine Stone Bequest (to support the welfare of Sunday School children), the Jesse Gregson Charity (to provide bread to needy Brightling parishioners) and the FH Scott Charity (to support the poor of the parish including through the provision of coal). Over the years, the Trust has supported many of the village activities in Brightling with small grants, including for example paying for new bell ropes in the Church. The Brightling Village Trust belongs to all who live in Brightling. The trustees, who are Mark Bridge, Charles Everett, Louise Dando, Henry Grissell, Brian Holliday and Nicola Magill welcome suggestions for future grants and activities. Contact [cwveverett@gmail.com](mailto:cwveverett@gmail.com)

## 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:

**Brightening Cafe** always needs volunteers to help one or two Saturday mornings a year. Contact [Katrinablench@hotmail.com](mailto:Katrinablench@hotmail.com)

**Church Flowers** Providing a flower arrangement for the altar once or twice 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, has organised a survey of the tree stock of the parish to discover what we currently have and also its ecological and cultural value. He can use this valuable information to create a tree management plan to guide future decisions affecting trees in the parish. If you would like more information contact Doug: [treewarden@dallington.org.uk](mailto:treewarden@dallington.org.uk)

**Brightling Environmental Group** is interested in local biodiversity, reducing energy use and our carbon footprint. Bi-monthly meetings at members houses and annual events organised. [brightling.environment.group@gmail.com](mailto:brightling.environment.group@gmail.com)

**Bell ringers.** Brightling Church has an active group of bell ringers. Contact Mark Bridge 07872 507147.

## Local suppliers

As well as the suppliers listed below, many local businesses 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.

**Newspaper Delivery** Yes you can get newspapers delivered to your door in Brightling. Contact Graham White (also sells eggs) [graham.pontsgreen@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:graham.pontsgreen@hotmail.co.uk) 01424 838518.

**Logs** We have two suppliers in Brightling: Chris French 01424 838271 and Archie Quinn [quinntreecare@yahoo.com](mailto:quinntreecare@yahoo.com) 07716 530594.

Kendra McConnell **Spinal Happiness** Exercise Physiologist. Primarily assist clients with injury/surgery rehab, flexibility, strength & balance training. I have also assisted clients with general fitness and weight management since 1994. Gym equipment, pilates, yoga and nutritional advice available. [www.kkhealthstyles.co.uk](http://www.kkhealthstyles.co.uk) 07777 674 535.

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 [nlsbowen@gmail.com](mailto:nlsbowen@gmail.com) 07958 325441

Joanna Gore at **Roots to the Moon** offering Shamanic healings, workshops, ceremonies and retreats. In summer also offers organic and biodynamic veg plants, pork, sausages, bacon, hams and lamb. [www.rootstothemoon.co.uk](http://www.rootstothemoon.co.uk)

**Carpentry** Paul Rushworth offers bespoke carpentry, joinery for all of the house and home <https://rushworthcarpentryandjoinery.com> 07773 315526.

## 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 publicised 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 [clerk@brightling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brightling-pc.gov.uk)

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/>

Secondary schools are Robertsbridge Community College 11-16 years and Heathfield Community College 11-18 years. <https://www.robertsbridge.org.uk> <https://heathfieldcc.co.uk>

Vinehall School is an independent (fee-paying) co-educational day, boarding school and nursery for children between the ages of 2 and 13 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, Sam Dugan [clerk@brightling-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@brightling-pc.gov.uk)

### Priority help during power cuts

UK Power networks operates 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 minimise the harm to wildlife. If the parish council receives reports of untrimmed hedges, it contacts the landowner. If this does not produce a reaction, the matter is reported 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 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 biodiversity (in most villages, verges are mown regularly during the summer). Exceptions to this “no mow” policy are made for road junctions and other places where mowing is necessary for visibility.

### Entertainment

The **Robertsbridge Arts Partnership** (RAP) organises 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 1555-57 during the reign of Mary Tudor. The Robertsbridge event is on the second 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/>

Also see <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 156 households with a population of 357 (2021). 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.