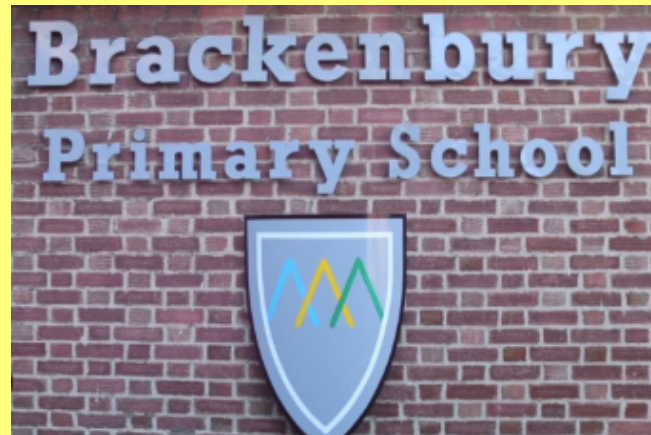


*This day in October in
Portslade History...*

October 2nd 1793 James Brackenbury was born. He made vast fortunes in the railway industry, before his death aged just 50. Eventually his millions were inherited by his sister, Hannah Brackenbury, who built a school in Portslade.



OCTOBER 4TH 1904 St Marye's laundry - situated at what is now Emmaus - was registered as a factory. The laundry was run by the nuns at the convent and helped to support them financially. Running laundries was a common occupation. It was a big business in Portslade with major privately run laundry businesses dotted around what is now Foredown Drive area.



October 6th 1945 Reverend Ernest Holmes dies. He was the vicar of St Nicolas during the recession years of the Thirties and WW2. During the war, he kept the church open during the day so local people could use it as an emergency air raid shelter.



October 10th 1940

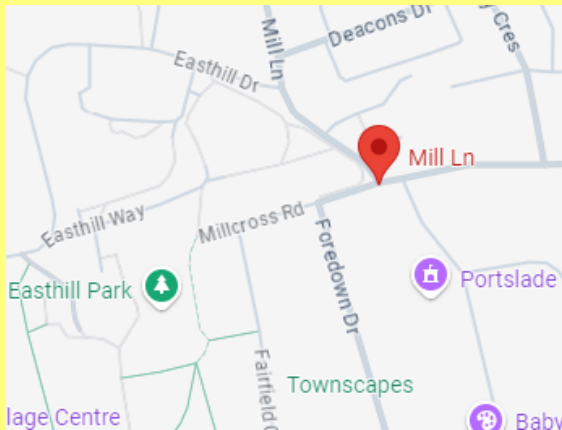
During a German air raid, two spitfires of 92 squadron collided over Portslade, near Easthill Park.

<https://www.portsladehistory.co.uk/park-tour>



October 11th 1931

Sunday whippet racing came to an end in Portslade (after just a year of starting). The racing took place where Mill Lane is. It stopped following complaints about the noise of the dogs and on religious grounds.



October 13th 1945

Over 3,000 people assembled in Victoria Park for the opening ceremony of 'Thanksgiving Week'. The event was in thanks for winning the war and the sacrifices made. Similar events happened throughout the U.K.



October 14th 1066

Portslade's future was sealed 20 miles down the coast at the Battle of Hastings. 14,000 fighting men were reduced to just 4000 by the end of the battle. The victorious Normans quickly spread across the South East. 90% of land suddenly belonged to the Normans.



A scene from the Bayeux Tapestry shows English soldiers with axes fighting the Norman cavalry (horsemen) at the Battle of Hastings.

Giraudon/Art Resource, New York

October 15-17th 1987

'The Great Storm' ravaged through Portslade and much of the U.K. Wind gusts were up to 100mph, 15 million trees were blown down and 18 people were killed.



October 19th 1719

The Portslade Manor Court laid down the rules for common land usage. Tenants could graze sheep on Foredown only between August to February. Failure to comply would result in heavy fines from the Lord of the Manor.



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An Edwardian view (now partly covered by woods, allotments, housing and Brighton By-Pass Link road) of the arable land on the east side of Foredown Hill and the view across the valley to Hangleton, in the distance is the route of the former *Devil's Dyke* railway

With thanks to Mr G. Osborne for granting permission for the reproduction of the above photograph from his private collection.

[Portslade in the Past: Foredown Hill, Portslade](#)

October 21st 1805

The Battle of Trafalgar took place, where Lord Nelson defeated the French and Spanish navies. During the 1800s, many pubs were built and named after this battle including our very own in Trafalgar Road in 1860.



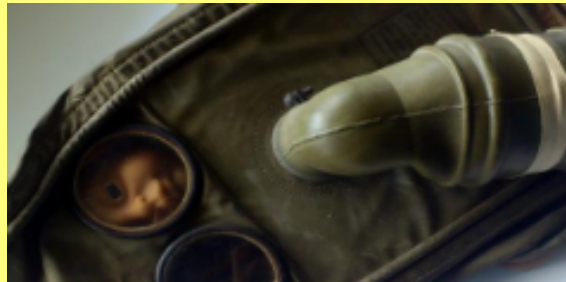
October 22nd 1895

An auction took place. Lot 1: Robin's Row. Five substantial flint built and tiled cottages in Portslade Old Village. Rental income of two shillings and two pence a week, per cottage. Accommodation comprises of two up and two down plus an attic and outside space. Sold for £440!



October 23rd 1938

Mothers and children lined up at Portslade hall to be fitted with gas masks. The British government gave these out to protect people in case the Germans dropped poisonous gas bombs on Britain. It was also advised to tape all windows shut. Post and telephones boxes were painted with a special red paint that would turn green on exposure to gas.



October 27th 1918

A measles outbreak at St Nicolas School rampaged through the children. The school decided to close down until the outbreak subsided. The school was shut until December 2nd, featuring the first Portslade lockdown 101 years before the covid pandemic!



October 28th 1967

The newly built church of The Good Shepherd in Mile Oak was dedicated (made official for its purpose). It cost £25,000 to build. A typical house in Portslade at this time cost £3,500. The original church, which was named 'The Tin Hut', was built in 1936.



The Good Shepherd "Tin Hut", Mile Oak in 1936