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GETTING IN TOUCH

If you know of any activity or event in or around the Burwash Villages or Etchingham, which you feel we should be publicising, please get in touch with a member of the Editorial Group:

Caroline Huband	01580 493554
Richard Harden	01435 882556
Val Stevens	07875 854 709

The deadline for Burwash Villages and Etchingham August/September Magazine is Thursday, 10th July.

DO send articles in on time to:

burwashetchinghammag@gmail.com and

Carolinehuband@outlook.com

All contributions may be edited slightly for clarity and accuracy.

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DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION

Please take out an annual subscription and get your copy delivered every month!

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If you wish to advertise, please contact Tamara on 07714005178 or email

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Please supply camera ready artwork, at the size you have ordered, as it saves considerable time. Do send posters in ¼ and ½ page sizes, if possible, rather than A4 full pages because space is precious and we wish to include as many societies/clubs and local events as we can.

Published jointly by Burwash, Burwash Weald and Etchingham Parochial Church Councils.

WHO'S WHO

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HOME VISITS BY THE RECTOR

If you need a home visit or just a chat,
please phone Rev Tom on 07856 256174.
Please avoid Fridays except in emergencies.

FROM THE REGISTERS – BURWASH

Burials of Ashes

24th May	Sir Henry Feilden, Bt
24th May	Mary Amelia Woolley

Burials

20th June	Terence William Noon
-----------	----------------------

MASS AT CHRIST THE KING

Roman Catholic Church, Burwash

Mass	9 a.m. Sunday
Mass	10 a.m. Tuesday
Mass	10 a.m. Friday

Please contact Father Brian Lowden, St Catherine's Flat,
Holy Cross Priory, Lewes Road, Cross In Hand, TN21 0ST, or
telephone 01435 862191.

RECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

We've just celebrated Pentecost—the day the Church was born in fire, breath, and boldness. The Holy Spirit came upon the disciples not just to comfort them, but to send them out with power. It can feel a long way from our quiet Sussex lanes to the rushing wind and tongues of flame in Acts 2, but the same Spirit is still at work today - guiding, challenging and equipping us to be the Church.

We've seen that clearly in the life of our benefice this month. On 9th June, six candidates from our parishes were confirmed by Bishop Will in a joyful deanery service at St Bartholomew's Church, Burwash - sixteen candidates in total, with 118 people gathered to support and worship. It was a truly Spirit-filled evening. Bishop Will spoke powerfully on the Beatitudes and the upside-down values of God's Kingdom. Please do pray for those who were confirmed as they continue their journey of faith.

Speaking of journeys - have you tried the *Restoration Trail* yet? It starts just outside the church gate and follows the ridge path - a chance to walk, pray and reflect in the beauty of God's creation. We've installed five boards along the way, each with Scripture and prayers to guide your reflections. It's not long, and it's not strenuous, but it offers a quiet way to reconnect with God. If you're feeling weary or spiritually dry, it's well worth the time.

Some of you have also asked about the *Restoration Partnership*. Let me put it plainly: it's not a cult (!), but a new worship service - Spirit-led, fully within the Church of England, and under my authorisation. It's a bit more contemporary in style - guitars, space for prayer, a more informal feel - but it's rooted in Anglican theology and open to everyone. If you're curious, come and see. It's just one more way we're trying to reach out and offer different styles of worship for different people.

So where is the Spirit leading you this season? We often think of the Holy Spirit as showing up in dramatic moments - flames, visions, power. But more often He comes quietly: comforting, teaching, nudging us toward lives of deeper love, truth and faithfulness. Jesus said, "*It is to your advantage that I go away... so that the Advocate may come to you.*" That same Advocate is with us now. Let's not miss His presence - or His prompting.

With every blessing,

REVD TOM

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HEATHFIELD & DISTRICT SUMMER SOCIAL EVENING

**Thursday, 10th July
6 p.m. for 7 p.m.
at
Horam Park Golf Club**

**Two course meal costing £24.00
Speakers: Chris and Denise Arthey**

**Please book with your CTH & D
Representative or with
Sue Mumford on 01580 819415
as soon as possible.**

EDITORIAL

The unpredictable English Summer has played havoc with our social calendar once again. The Etchingham Village Fête decided to decamp to the Village Halls when they heard the weather forecast, but a marvellous event went ahead as you will see from the photographs scattered in this issue!

The wind and rain have probably put paid to me having any entries to put in the Burwash Rose and Sweet Pea show, but you never know if the sun comes out this week..... Even if it stays dull, at least you can look at amazing flowers in this July edition, from the demonstration in June, given by Hayley at the Burwash Flower Shop. (A burst of brightness on the cover to bring joy to the eyes.) Hopefully, you all have tired feet anyway from walking around the Burwash Open Gardens event, but if not, why not join the Strollers on their monthly walks around our parishes (see page 26).

Please get your diaries at the ready for THE SAVE THE DATE features in this issue: Burwash Fair in August, Burwash Common Fête, Etchingham Crafters Fair and The Auction of Promises in September.

On page 27 I have tried to tackle the issue of ultra-processed food. Solutions? If you have the time, nip off to the Farmers' Markets, have some fun at Pick Your Own, order meat from local farmers or your local butcher, and failing that even Londis (see page 32) now have a better 'Cook' alternative for when we are feeling lazy or the Aga is being serviced

In fact, looking at the number of tea and cake events after our Clubs, it is probably pointless to even try and resist temptation not to mention the marvellous Bistro, the Old Orchard and Merriments (now open once more - see page 16). We are all spoilt for choice.

Lastly, thanks must go to all the locals who work so hard to organise our Festivals, Fêtes, Fairs, Concerts, Commemorations and Shows. They don't just happen volunteers are always essential and it is a great way to participate in village life and make new friends. **THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF THEM!**

Have a marvellous Summer, whatever the weather.

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MEET THE TEAM

Ben Taylor - Ben took over ownership of Planters in Summer last year. Ben is our visionary; steadily improving the fantastic offering whilst opening the Plant Centre. Ben has already invested in green technologies installing solar panels to reflect a strong focus on sustainability.

Issy Brown - Farm Shop Manager - Issy has been at Planters A21 for 4 years and takes care of selecting the products we sell, making sure the shelves are full and taking care of our wonderful, friendly team and of course, our customers.

Emma Davies - Emma is well known within the local garden community having previously run The Walled Nursery in Hawkhurst for many years. Emma along with several members of the recently closed Merriments team will be growing the plants we sell as well as offering inspiration, advice and assistance for all of your garden queries.



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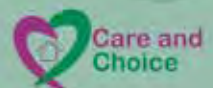


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JULY SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

Taken by the Rector unless otherwise marked.

July 2025	Burwash	Etchingham	Burwash Weald
Sun 6 th	8.30 Holy Communion BCP 10.00 Family Communion 6 p.m. Evensong TBC	11.00 Holy Communion	8.00 Matins BCP – Penny Button 10.30 Morning Service - Dr Jane Woodgate
Thurs 10 th	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 13 th	10.00 UB Service of Parish Communion	10.00 UB Service of Parish Communion at Burwash 4.30pm Evensong	10.00 UB Service of Parish Communion at Burwash 6.00pm Evening Prayer BCP
Thurs 17 th	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 20 th	10.00 Sung Matins - Christo Corfield	11.00 Family Communion	9.30 Holy Communion BCP
Thurs 24 th	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 27 th	10.00 Parish Communion	11.00 Holy Communion - Rev. Liz France	10.30am Morning Prayer Sea Sunday - Keith Lloyd & Mission to Seafarers speaker
Thurs 31 st	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 3 rd	8.30 Holy Communion BCP 10.00 Family Service 6 p.m. Evensong	11.00 Holy Communion	8.00 Matins – Penny Button 10.30 Morning Service – Anne Everall

**SAVE THE DATE
20TH SEPTEMBER
AUCTION OF PROMISES
BURWASH VILLAGE HALL**

WHAT'S ON: JULY

ETCHINGHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL CONTINUES - SEE POSTER FOR DETAILS ON PAGE 23.

- Tuesday, 1st** Burwash Village Playgroup. Tuesday Mornings from 10 a.m. - Noon at Eddie Workman Pavilion. (Every Tuesday.)
- Tuesday, 1st** Community Dementia Cafe at Dudwell St Mary Care Home, Burwash, 2 - 4 p.m. (see p. 54).
- Wednesday, 2nd** Walks for Strollers meeting at The Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, 2nd** Etchingham Church Baby & Toddler Group, Parker Hall, Etchingham, 10 - 11 a.m. (Every Wednesday.)
- Wednesday, 2nd** Movement to Music Classes, Edward Workman Pavilion, 10 a.m. (Every Wednesday.)
- Thursday, 3rd** Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group 10 a.m. - Noon, at Burwash Common Pavilion. (Every Thursday.)
- Friday, 4th** BCW Residents' Association Summer Quiz Nite at Burwash Common Pavilion. Doors open at 7 p.m. (See p. 46.)
- Saturday, 5th** Burwash Community Farmers' Market at Swan Meadow, Burwash 9 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
- Sunday, 6th** Prize Bingo Afternoon in Burwash Village Hall. Doors open at 2 p.m.
- Monday, 7th** 3Cs at St. Bartholomew's, 10 a.m. - Noon. (Most Mondays, except Bank Holidays.)
- Tuesday, 8th** Etchingham Tuesday Club Meeting at the Bistro, Etchingham.
- Thursday, 10th** CT Heathfield & District, Summer Social Evening at 6 p.m., Horam Park Golf Club (see page xx).
- Saturday, 12th** Farmers' & Makers' Market at King John's Nursery, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 15th** Bereavement Friendship Group at Old Orchard Cafe, Burwash Common, at 10.30 a.m.
- Tuesday, 15th** The Friends of Burwash Surgery AGM, in the Surgery at 6.30 p.m.
- Wed., 16th** Etchingham Residents' Coffee & Cake Morning at The Bistro from 11 a.m.
- Wed., 16th** After Eight Club Garden Party at Burwash Common Pavilion at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, 17th** Burwash Not So Young, Burwash Village Hall, at 2.15 p.m. Subject: 'Author', Speaker: Chris McCooley.
- Thursday, 17th** Mayfield & District U3A Meeting at Five Ashes Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Andy Thomas. Subject: 'Lewes and Bonfire Night'.
- Saturday, 19th** Burwash F.C. Annual 7 A Side Football Tournament.
- Saturday, 19th** Alumnae - Songs for A Summer Afternoon, sung by a Ladies' Choir. St. Bartholomew's Church, Burwash at 5.30 p.m. To be followed by wine and nibbles. For Tickets - see page 11.
- Saturday, 26th** Kipling on Film Event run by Burwash Parish Council at Burwash Common Pavilion. (See Bulletin for further details.)
- Saturday, 26th** Cross In Hand Tennis Club, Open Afternoon, 2 - 5 p.m.
- Sunday, 27th** As part of the Kipling on Film Event a talk is being given by the Kipling Society at Burwash Village Hall.

Touch the sky Alumnae

Conducted by Hilary Pell
Accompanist: Derrick Thompson

Saturday 19th July at 5.30pm
St Bartholomew's Church, Burwash

Programme includes:

Children will Listen, from 'Into the Woods' Steven Sondheim

Blue Skies, Irving Berlin. Beautiful, Carol King,

Sing Gently, Eric Whitacre Count the Stars, Andy Beck
and many more songs for a summer afternoon

Tickets: £10 includes a glass of wine and nibbles from
The Flower Shop and The Blacksmith's Tea and Coffee Shop, High Street
Members of the choir and St Bartholomew's Church
or online at wegottickets.com/event/658706



Burwash Community Food Composting Scheme



A big thank you to Harry from King John Nursery for being
our compost turner this month. We really appreciate your
generous loan of venue for the 'Six Inches of Soil' film night
and for your excellent plants,
lovely garden and of course, great tea and cake!



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BURWASH & DISTRICT FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLUB - A FLORAL AFTERNOON WITH HAYLEY



We had the pleasure of welcoming Hayley from the Flower Shop in Burwash on Monday, 9th June. She shared her beautiful floral designs using charming yellow hat boxes - available in sets of three from her shop. If you're ever passing by, do pop in! Visitors are warmly welcomed for a chat or some advice - there's no need to make a purchase.

Hayley's first demonstration featured an elegant pedestal arrangement. She offered a great tip: to keep flowers stable, secure the floral foam (oasis) by taping it across the container in both directions, and then around the edge to hold it firmly in place. Start at the back and cover the foam with leafy branches to keep the weight down. This arrangement showcased striking yellow calla lilies, antirrhinum and delicate ferns.

Next, Hayley designed a lovely hat box display using folded aspidistra leaves and white dahlias, and pink astilbe. She even re-purposed a wreath from last Christmas for another creative arrangement - covered with moss and fitted with water tubes to hold fresh blooms.

A further hat box was adorned with elegant white roses paired with rich red hellebores and yellow mollis offering a beautiful contrast. The final arrangement, which was won by our Treasurer, used a ball of crumpled chicken wire as a base inside the container, with astilbe, veronica, rose buds and asparagus fern creating a stunning airy effect.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BBQ Afternoon - Friday, 4th July, 2 - 5 p.m.

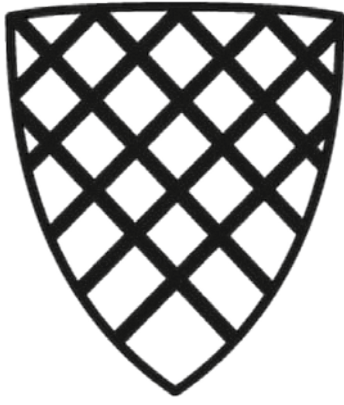
Join us at Shrub Lane for a relaxed summer BBQ! Friends and spouses are most welcome. A £5 donation helps cover costs.

Summer Outing to Hatchlands Park, Guildford - Monday, 14th July

Enjoy a lovely day out with us! Tickets are £22 for members and £25 for non-members. Do invite your friends and partners for what promises to be a delightful trip. The coach will leave the Burwash Car Park at 9 a.m.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer - full of sunshine, flowers and friendship!

**JAN MACFARLAND
07792 929523 SECRETARY**



ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH PEARLS

Last month saw the Annual (Statutory) General Meeting of Etchingham Parish Council. This is the meeting when the Annual Report is presented – we still have a few printed copies available, so if you would like one, please let me know. They are free! So for those of you who were unable to attend and don't want the full publication, I have copied the Chairman's Report overleaf to give you his overview of the year.



John Barnes presenting Steve Millea with the Emma Beeney Award for Outstanding Service to the Parish of Etchingham

This meeting was followed by the Annual Parish Meeting, which concluded with the happy task of presenting the 2025 Emma Beeney Award for Outstanding Service to the Parish of Etchingham.

Steve Millea (on the right in the photo) receiving the 2025 Emma Beeney Award for Outstanding Service to the Parish of Etchingham; voted for by the residents for his help and advice across many different village activities – the Social Club, the Village Fête, the Community Halls, the Village Bonfire and much more. The award was presented by Cllr John Barnes on behalf of Etchingham Parish Council at its meeting in May.

PAULETTE BARTON

The Chairman's Report is overleaf.

Etchingham Baby and Toddler Group

Come and join our Etchingham Playgroup, every Wednesday 10-11 a.m. in the Parker Village Hall.

There are plenty of toys for the children, so take a coffee-break and meet up with other parents.

(£2 towards the cost of hiring the Halls)



EPC CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025

This is my very first report as Chairman of EPC since I took the role over from the very capable hands of John Barnes early last year.

This report covers the period from the Chairman's Report and AGM in May 2024 until today's AGM. This is a report which highlights the current economic climate, its impact upon the village income and expenditure, and it measures the enormous effort displayed by the Councillors you placed your trust in to manage the affairs of the village on your behalf.

With the above in mind, I must firstly thank all my fellow councillors and trusty admin team for their dedication, support and experience in ensuring that my baptism into leading this Parish Council is as pain free as possible. Without my peers I would be wallowing in despair and floundering in the abyss of ignorance and solitude.

As a team, we have enjoyed regular monthly meetings with lively discussion, debate and informative input from various members of the public, usually linked to matters of Planning, Highways, Village Safety, etc.

Having taken over the day to day running of the ETSR we also manage and promote the letting of the School Halls and the associated finances linked to the school, together with attempting to promote the above to ensure future financial stability and enhancement of services provided by this wonderful charity.

In the past year we have said our farewells to Roma Turner who has relocated to spend valuable time with her family. Her input was an important part of village life especially as her role in School Liaison. As every cloud has a silver lining, after a rigorous, selective process we welcomed Ben Sutch on to the Council. Ben has brought a breath of fresh air to proceedings and his demeanour combined with his business acumen and communication skills have ensured 2024-2025 has been both eventful and driven. He has been responsible for the development of the new ETSR Website (watch this space) and has taken on the role of Dark Skies representative – Welcome Ben !

The sale of the Village Shop has again been dogged by delays mainly due to the Environment Agency's bureaucracy and pre-forma processes: this combined with the strict weather window we have, to engage in the repairs to the rear perimeter wall, has meant that the sale has had to be put on hold until all the repairs have been completed. This procedure has already involved the instruction of a registered Structural Engineer, Health and Safety Specialist and multiple permits from the EA, tendering (which is still a work in progress). EPC will of course keep all of the village up to date on any future developments, etc.

With many councils in the UK facing bankruptcy EPC is very mindful of our obligation to ring fence our village income to ensure we can continue to support all of our cherished organisations and events through our generous grant system as well as provide the essential on-going services we all enjoy.

As always, we welcome all members of the public to partake in lively discussion at our monthly meeting on any relevant issues, challenges and ideas you feel will benefit our village.

Collectively we are so lucky to live in such a wonderful part of East Sussex and I as your Chairman would suggest that as present custodians, we preserve and develop it for future generation to embellish and enjoy.

My door, on behalf of EPC, is always open.

Have a great summer!

TREVOR McGREGOR



ETCHINGHAM VILLAGE FETE

One can plan everything about a Village Fête down to the last detail - except the weather. For the previous week, the weathermen were forecasting high winds and thunderstorms on 7th June. Consequently, on the Wednesday before the Fête, the decision was taken, reluctantly, to transfer all the attractions from the Queen's Gardens to the Village Halls.



This involved a big rethink of all that had been previously planned. We knew that certain elements such as the Tea Tent, the Etchingham Club Bar and the Pimms Stall could easily be relocated. There was plenty of space to rehouse all the favourite stalls and the outside traders in the two excellent and much-admired village halls. We managed to squeeze the traditional Punch and Judy Show into the Parker Hall. This was a new attraction to the Fête and was much loved by children, both big and small!



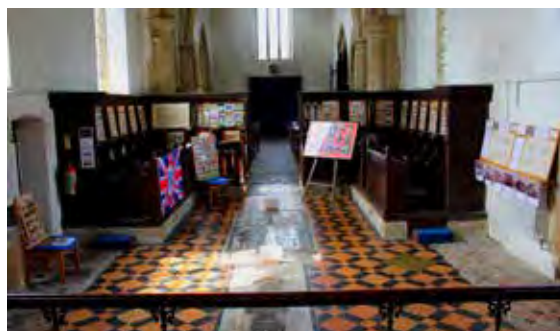
However, the 24 strong Wadhurst Brass Band, posed a bit of a problem. Fortunately, the helpers from the Improvements Committee were able to erect a small marquee at the rear of the halls to provide shelter for them and their audience.



The Dog Show, a very important element of the Fête, was able to take place on the Village Square during a very brief sunny interval. This attraction always has a big following and this year was no exception.



The Photo Competition was able to transfer to the reception area of the halls for people to select their favourite photo, but sadly the Flower Competition was a bit neglected as was Colin Boylett's superb archive exhibition in the Church.



In the end, all was well. The wind didn't blow away Reverend Tom and his team on the BBQ and the thunderstorm was kind enough to hold off until all the clearing up had been completed.

A big thank you to all the helpers and to the villagers and those from further afield, who gave their support at the Fête, to raise money for the Church Fabric Fund and the Etchingham Improvements Group.



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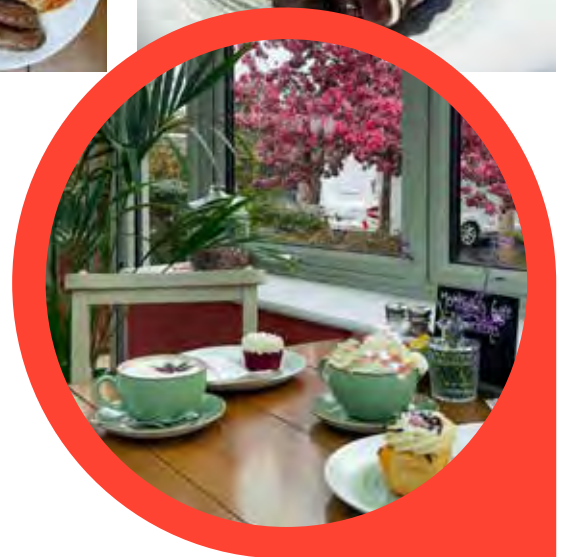
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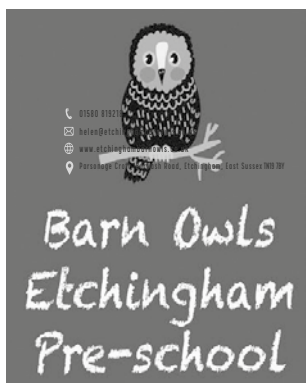
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There was also a week dedicated to the services that help us - all the emergency services and we had a hospital and dentist set up in the home corner.

For the rest of the term we have topics based around 'Under the Sea', holidays, beaches, and of course getting ready for school.

We welcome Bea, Jacob, Lucy and Ralph to the setting.

NICKY MENZIES

The last term is suddenly upon us and thoughts turn to going to 'Big' School!

Transition days start soon - we cover a few of the local primary schools and it is very exciting to see the children when they come back from these visits with all their thoughts and stories.

Of course, it is even easier if they go to Etchingham School as we just open the gate between us! The children are also used to being in the big hall where we have lunch with the school children.

We have recently returned from half term and have found that all of our vegetables have really grown - hopefully we will be able to harvest some soon and use them in cooking. Meanwhile, our chives, fennel and mint continue to spread and are being used daily in the mud kitchen. The children enjoy using the pestle and mortar to release all the scents.

We found that our tadpoles have got much larger but as yet have not grown any legs - when they do, their diet will change from eating plants, to being carnivorous - we have the fish food ready for them.

Our bee hotel is also nearly full - it is fascinating for us all watching the bees go in and out, then sealing up the holes.

Hard to believe there is so much wildlife to see in our little area!

We covered a few topics before half-term - the children enjoyed VE day with all the bunting, and learned 'We'll meet again', which we sang every morning for a week. Many of the children talked about events that they had been to in their own villages.

ETCHINGHAM TUESDAY CLUB, MAY 2025

It was lovely to be able to walk to the Etchingham Club in daylight. Unfortunately several members were unable to join us to play bingo.

Corrina kindly manned the bar for us and the equipment for bingo was set up. Food for our supper was on the bar as usual. Naturally there wasn't going to be a raffle, but prizes for the bingo were put in the pillowcase so anyone who won a round could pull one out. Sue Westbrook called the bingo as she does on a Wednesday night. Everyone managed to get at least one prize and seemed to enjoy themselves.

I thanked Sue for manning it for us and we then had supper. Everyone enjoyed just having a chat with friends. Time flew by very quickly and before we knew it, it was time to go home.

A big thank-you to Sue and also to Corrina for manning the bar, as well as for all the extra work of being our Secretary. It helps so much.

Our June meeting was held at The Bear, Burwash, and our July meeting will be held at The Bistro in Etchingham. We are making the most of the light evenings to snack and chat.

**LINDA NEVE
GROUP LEADER**



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FIRST BURWASH & ETCHINGHAM SCOUT GROUP



I cannot believe that by the time you read this that we will nearly be at the end of another Scouting year. As the saying goes, time flies when you're having fun or perhaps because I'm getting old time flies no matter what you do or how you feel! Anyway, to our fabulous group....

Beavers have been out and away from the hut most of this term: activities have been wide ranging from mini-beast hunts; air activities; a hike in our lovely countryside and a very popular event of fire lighting. Still to come in the next few weeks will be a visit to the Fire station, pond dipping and a bit of kayaking and paddleboarding.

Cubs have also been busy with their naturalist badge, athletics badge and a bit of fire lighting, as in photograph below. We have a Beaver/Cub camp shortly and they have chosen the food they will be cooking in their Sixes for the camp. Cubs and Scouts also have a Raft building session at the end of term, something that not many of them will have done.

Scouts have been busy in the woods we use doing some team building exercises, rope work, map work and fire lighting – nothing like the smell of smoke! They have a hike to do and the raft building to look forward to.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to say a quick thank you to Peter Tapsfield and Richard Maude-Roxby who allow the Scout Group to use their land.



It is a huge benefit to have these open spaces for the young people to run around in and for the adults of the Group to get away from the din in the confines of our hut.

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PARKING

RUFUS' RURAL RAMBLES

On Easter Monday morning we walked up the village and it was lovely, sunny weather. Later Mum had a phone call from her son David from Hooe, where he and Matthew were watching a cricket match. The weather was completely different in Hooe: it was overcast with some mist and the lights had to be put on for the match. We walked into Oxenbridge Lane, went over the two river bridges and on to the second field on the left hand side where many years ago Etchingham Football Club used to play their home matches. A week ago when Matthew took Mum and Dad to Robertsbridge they spotted a tractor in the opposite field, ploughing it up as well as the other field below Brookside Farm. In Mum's lifetime she had never seen that. When we got there it had been rolled and there was manure on part of the road, from the field. We wonder what will grow there? The last bridge before going towards Oxenbridge Hill was cordoned off as some of the wall had fallen away into the river. Along the hedge opposite the old football field there were apparently some hop gardens many years ago. We spotted some hop vines growing in the hedge and in the past Mum has found hops there for her decorations in the Flower Show. We then walked back home past the Church Pond, which still needs some work doing to it.

I do love my walks, going to Squibs Farm and by the River Rother where you can go across the bridge into one of the long fields near the railway line. Matthew spotted a pair of Canada Geese with their four chicks swimming in the river. He couldn't see where their nest was. Another day Mum got to see them as well. At last the bluebells in Gimore Wood have come out and look quite amazing! Incidentally, I look a bit different as I have been to Wendy in Hurst Green to have my coat cut as it was getting very thick. Thankfully we are now having more hot days so I feel much better.

On one evening walk with Mum and Matthew we went into Marsh Field and I met another dog. Both of us were off our leads, but we got on all right. We then went into the top field and luckily I was not off my lead at the time as suddenly we spotted a deer! It soon ran down into the lower wood. On the way home we went into the Etchingham Club where both Matthew and Mum had a drink. Olga was there to serve drinks and she gave me a nice little bowl of water to drink.

Another day I had a lovely walk over the fields to Robertsbridge and I enjoyed being off my lead in the first large field; but I had to be put back on my lead in the next field because the railway fence isn't very safe there. We eventually reached Robertsbridge Cricket Ground, where there was a game of cricket for senior cricketers from Sussex and a team from another county. We didn't want to walk all the way home. Matthew found out that it would be best to get a bus to Hurst Green as otherwise it meant waiting much longer for the train. It was a double decker bus: I had never been on one before. Mum said she had not ridden on one for many years. We then walked back to Etchingham down School Hill and Mum was sad to see the state of the old village primary school. It had meant so much to her family as four generations of her family went there: her sisters and brothers, Mum and her three brothers, her four sons and her two grandsons.

What we have not heard or seen this year are the cuckoos, the house martins, swallows and swifts coming to build their nests. Let's hope we will see them soon.

Best wishes for the Summer,

RUFUS

CHURCH POND, THE WILLOW SITE AND CHURCH LANE

Recently the footpath from the kissing gate to the entrance to Church Lane has been strimmed. This has not been done by Gray Nicholls but by Paul from the Bistro as the footpath was in a terrible state, full of brambles and stinging nettles. Personally, I feel it's about time Gray Nicholls looked after the site. The ditches belonging to them have not been touched for many years, as I have said before.

Many years ago the Parish Council looked after the pond and it looked so much better! It even had a duck house. At one time there was a bench nearby where people could sit to enjoy the wildlife. How nice it would be to see it back as it used to be.

Another disgrace: the run-outs from the road in Church Lane. There are three run-outs from the road into Barnfield's ditch to help with any road flooding. These should be maintained by Highways apparently, but this is not happening either!

LINDA NEVE



AT ETCHINGHAM CHURCH: 28TH JUNE - 6TH JULY

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SATURDAY 28TH JUNE, 19.30: HASTINGS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

We are delighted to be opening the Festival with a performance of Beethoven's Septet in E flat major and Schubert's Octet in F major - two wonderful pieces for winds and strings.

SUNDAY 29TH JUNE 4PM: TRINITY MUSIC ACADEMY

Richard Evans will be bringing more of his extremely talented young musicians many of whom go on to have illustrious careers (check out Amiri Harewood who first played in Etchingam aged 10).

TUESDAY 1ST JULY, 19.30: PAUL ROBERTS

Our new Patron Paul Roberts will give one of his amazing lecture-recitals playing Scarlatti sonatas, Chopin's Ballade no. 4 in F minor and Ravel's Le Tombeau de Couperin and more.

THURSDAY 3RD JULY

Today will be set aside for musicians from Hastings Philharmonic to give a tutorial and concert to pupils from Etchingam, Burwash and Stonegate Primary Schools.

SATURDAY 5TH JULY 19.30: OPERA SUPPER

We welcome back Arran Keith and Mark Bromley on piano with 4 young opera stars all of whom have sung at Glyndebourne: Charlotte Shaw, Adam Marsden, Charlotte Wicks and Rhys Batt singing pieces from operas by Verdi, Puccini, Mozart and Donizetti. Supper by Adam Newington.

SUNDAY 6TH JULY, 4PM: THE ATEA WIND QUINTET WITH FLORIAN MITREA

We celebrate the return of the Atea Wind Quintet with Florian Mitrea. They will play Gershwin's American in Paris, Henry Wood's Fantasia on British Sea Songs, Dukas's The Sorcerer's Apprentice and Rachmaninov's 2nd Suite opus 17 rearranged for piano and wind.



Saturday 28th June	Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra	Number of standard tickets: <input type="text"/>	Number of concession* tickets: <input type="text"/>
Sunday 29th June	Trinity Music Academy	Free concert with donations at the door	
Tuesday 1st July	Paul Roberts	Number of standard tickets: <input type="text"/>	Number of concession* tickets: <input type="text"/>
Thursday 3rd July	HPO schools tutorial		
Saturday 5th July	Opera Supper	Number of tickets: (£30) <input type="text"/>	
Sunday 6th July	Atea Wind Quintet & Florian Mitrea	Number of standard tickets: <input type="text"/>	Number of concession* tickets: <input type="text"/>

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Please do not wait until the event is about to happen, send your information as soon as you have it available. The sooner it arrives, the more publicity I can give your event. Please also remember to send a report of your event for inclusion the following week.

Your information needs to arrive by 10 p.m. on the Monday prior to the Friday publication date. The preferred method is by email to minimise any risk of errors during copying, but you can use any of the methods below to get the details to me by hand, or post them to:

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E-mail: colin.boylett@googlemail.com

The Burwash & Burwash Common correspondent is Mr Tom Travers.

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ETCHINGHAM NATURE NOTES

On the 18th May we heard a Turtle Dove in the woods. During the following days we heard two. We don't hear them very often, so were very pleased to hear them again. They are now quite rare, and becoming even more so. It was good to know there are still some around locally.

At the time of writing, the birds are feeding voraciously, it being the time when they are obviously feeding their young. On that subject, we have been watching a Woodpecker flying to a branch in a tree that is right opposite our dining room window and, eating our dinner on the 4th June, we saw a baby fly to the same branch, and its parent follow closely behind, and then feed it.

I have been putting out suet balls and dried meal worms daily, for the birds, and have had flocks of Starlings coming to the feeders, fighting to get to the attractive food. There have also been lots of Jackdaws competing with the Starlings, again in numbers,

We have had roe deer in the garden recently. I had been given a cherry tree, as a birthday present, in early April, and we planted it in the garden. We watered it regularly and it was growing nicely. Then, one morning, we found it had been eaten down to half its previous height. There were deer droppings in the garden, so it was quite obvious what had done the damage. We have covered the remainder of the tree with netting, so hopefully it will be left to re-grow!

Following the very dry weather in May and early June, we have had a lot of dried moss, not only coming off the roof of the house, but on the woodland floor too, where it is obviously coming off the trees.

As ever, please do not hesitate to report anything you feel worthy of mention in my notes either by telephone on (01580) 819326 or e-mail: langsmith_@hotmail.com, or contact Mary Newington on (01580) 819498.

FRANK H. SMITH



WALKS FOR STROLLERS

For our June walk five Strollers set out in the drizzle and took the footpath to Bateman's. Passing Bateman's we headed up through Park Wood to King's Hill Road, turning right on the lane and right again into Leggett's Wood.

Thankfully the sun came out as we walked through High Wood and headed down to cross the River Dudwell.

We then took the footpath through Bog Wood up towards Burnt House Farm before turning right and heading back to Bateman's on the footpath. From there we returned to Burwash.

The total distance was 5.4 miles, walked mainly in sunshine with plenty of foxgloves on the way.

Our next walk is on Wednesday, 2nd July meeting at the Bear Car Park at 9 a.m.

Any new Strollers are most welcome to join us. Please ring if you have any questions.

PETER AND KAREN FARLEY
01435 883141

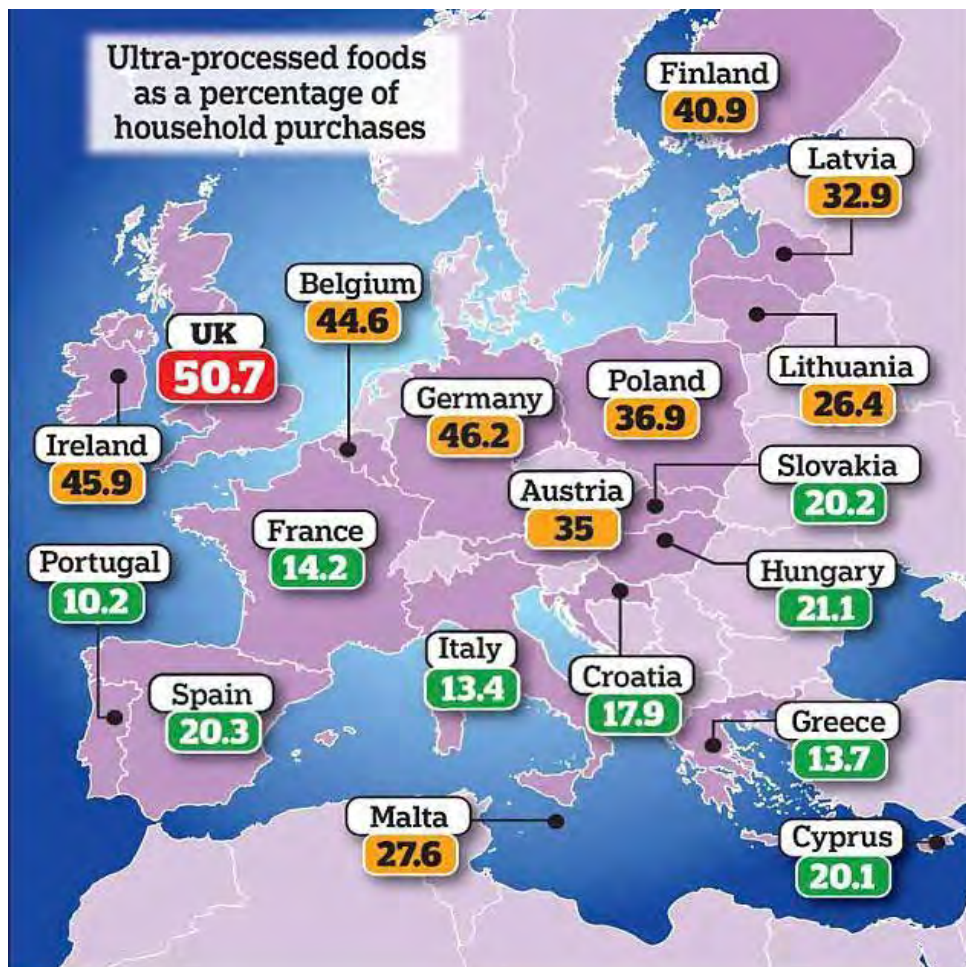
TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

During my free time I was playing on Facebook, hunting for recipes to make multi-coloured pasta from scratch, when I happened to find the post below. It seemed like the perfect conclusion to our mini dive into innovative farming in East Sussex.

It had been posted by Farming UK, urging us to buy real produce from British farmers. I'm trying to encourage you to buy from Regenerative, innovative farmers in your local East Sussex area to help them, to aid our local economy and to improve our health at the same time.

This was an eye-opener to the Government and to many health practitioners. Overall, we have come a long way in raising awareness of how we can improve our health by changing our diet!

In our defence again, I feel that there is a history behind our lack of interest in our dietary intake. Our rural populations left the land en masse during and after the Industrial Revolution and, in essence, became the urban poor, living in basic housing with no gardens - with extremely low pay. Bread and jam became the order of the day. How to feed the urban poor?



So here we have it: 50.7% of food purchased by UK households is ultra-processed. This is a really shocking statistic, but, in our defence, we have a far shorter growing season than the Mediterranean countries or even southern France, so we import much of our fresh produce, which increases the cost. It is even more shocking that the poorest members of our society purchase the largest proportion of ultra-processed food, because it is industrially produced to serve the masses, with little consideration of the health implications until recently. Do you remember Jamie Oliver's campaign to get ultra-processed Turkey Twizzlers removed from the school lunch menu?

Cheap bread, potatoes, porridge was one affordable solution. Our 'early' Industrial Revolution, along with Germany and Belgium, was our un-doing as generally the population moved from the country to urban areas where industry was then located. We left the land and that had repercussions for our diet. In France, Italy and Spain, for example, the surge from the countryside to urban areas did not take place until the 1960s, so fresh food was available. Even today most French families retain a country property owned by one member of the family, to which they will make an annual 'pilgrimage', be it to help with the cherry harvest or to collect chestnuts in the Aveyron. The link between land and food was not severed in the same way in

France and Italy. Local produce was still revered, even by the peasants, and foraging traditions were upheld, partly to make ends meet and in order to feed hungry mouths.

By the 1890s the British urbanites had also fallen prey to 'marketing', of mass produced food products. The man in the street was seen as a potential customer with logos, branding and costings gradually becoming more important than the actual food product being sold. The UK's food consumption is still largely controlled by 'business interests' rather than 'nutritional merit'. Just consider all the hoocha about the 'Sugar Tax', MacDonalds or the actual fish content of Fish Fingers (only about 33%). Captain Birdseye puts a whole list of other ingredients in his Fingers.

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***Rain and wind was not
going to stop the band
at Etchingam Fete.***



ON THE WILD SIDE - *Contd.*

What I am trying to say is that the odds were stacked against us because of the early movement of the majority of our population to conurbations, because that was where employment was available. The same applied in other rapidly industrialising locations in Europe and, later, in the USA. Our population became distanced from personal landholdings, however small. We had to buy our food, rather than grow it or raise it, be it potatoes or chickens. Portugal, Greece, Italy and France still had 'farming' populations on small acreage until the 1960s - think of the small Normandy dairy farmer, the family olive grove in Portugal, fruit growers in Italy or goat herders in Greece.

The Second World War actually briefly improved our diet, incredibly because we were encouraged to 'Dig for Victory' - the weekly ration, shown below, did not stretch to industrially produced food items. Industry was too busy supporting the War Effort! The Government actually encouraged us to cook from scratch and to grow our own food once again, so that we could be more self-sufficient in food.



With rationing still in place for years after the Second World War and a Post-War Baby Boom, we somehow forgot all we had achieved and turned to tin favourites, like Heinz Spaghetti and canned vegetable soup, oh and Spam! I am old enough to remember Spam Fritters - when Spam was something you ate when the money ran out - not something blocking up your In-Box.

Sadly, in the Fifties and Sixties America did not just make us want a 'fitted' kitchen, that we saw in the movies, it wanted us to become 'consumers' of Coca Cola and sliced white loaves. I can even remember friends eating sugar sandwiches as a young child!

I strongly feel that we are not individually to blame for these terrible statistics. I really feel that British eaters were targeted by the marketing men

influenced by the American Marketing Gurus of the Sixties: it was okay to lie. They focused on a slogan rather than what was actually in what we were being sold. We were stupid enough to swallow it, literally!

Nevertheless, we have arrived now at a situation, where time for meal preparation is short with most households needing two incomes to pay the mortgage, so convenience food has won through, but perhaps laziness too. The slippery slope between convenience food and ultra-processed food has been descended rapidly.

What is ultra-processed food - basically some say, anything beigeindustrially produced cakes, biscuits, reconstituted French fries, margarines, cheap industrially baked bread, tin ravioli, low grade pizza bases, instant noodlesthe list goes on and on. I don't say anything beige: I say anything produced by an industrial process with ingredients which have nothing to do with the product being made: corn starch, flour improver, soya flour, thickener, gum paste, preservatives, flavour enhancers, antioxidants, Monosodium Glutamate, Palm Oil, etc., for example, in packet instant noodles - when noodles should be flour, egg, water and salt.

We should really be aiming to eat a rainbow mixture of foods, with differing requirements at different stages in our life. It isn't true that you can eat what you like when you are old: you need to take even more care to get older as healthily as possible, to help protect brain and heart function.

So '*Take A Walk on the Wild Side*' - I only really just started to listen to the lyrics - I simply liked the tune. I'm NOT advocating that! What I am urging you to try is having some fun, mixing up some wild, foraged food, with some locally grown 'real' vegetables from the Farmers' Market, with a moderate amount of nuts, seeds, pulses, fresh fish and grass-fed meat. Try to cook from scratch at least three times a week, make family dining fun, make all the family prepare part of the meal - young children love shelling peas or broad beans, and grating carrots. If you hate cooking, well then make salads, but with every colour you can muster: orange peppers, red lettuce, bright pink radishes, home-grown cress, electric green spring onions, a few brown chopped dates, a handful of red beansoh just have some fun with food, rather than heading for the fast food freezer cabinet where industrial lasagne, garlic bread and reformed potato chips will bloat you with junk filler but give you very few nutrients. Censor the lyrics you download meanwhile, should the kids be helping!

CAROLINE HUBAND

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH

Summer, Long Haul Travel, Injuries and Sapphires

We are in the midst of the long, hot, football-less summer, when football club supporters can forget fixtures, scores and league positions and turn their minds to picking runner beans, smoking out the neighbours with barbecues and sipping Pimm's on the lawn. Well, it may or may not be a hot summer, and you may or may not grow beans but the close season is not that long and there is plenty of footie-related activity to keep the avid supporters glued to their sport news websites. During the twelve weeks between the Champions League final and the resumption of the Premier League, not only are there numerous international World Cup qualifying matches and pre-season friendlies, there is the annual pantomime of the summer transfer window. The rumour-mill goes into overdrive and we wait with bated breath to see who will be donning the team's colours next season.

Over the past few years, Brighton and Hove Albion have earned deserved accolades for their shrewd transfer business. Rather than chase the established, proven Premier League players who will cost huge sums of money in terms of both purchase cost and salaries, the club tends to identify young talent from around the globe and develop them into top players at the Amex. This way they benefit from the players while they are at Brighton and, if they are sold on to other, more high profile, clubs, they make a significant profit. However, this does mean that the first team is truly multinational. The current Albion men's senior squad represents 23 countries, including five north and south American countries, six African countries, seven European countries, Japan and, oh yes, England. Given the standard of football Brighton are playing these days, it is not surprising that a large proportion of these players represent their national teams. In fact, Brighton has more long-distance (beyond Europe) internationals than any other Premier League club. Whilst this is a feather in the club's cap, it does mean the preparation for league games is disrupted following international breaks and players need time to recover from the inevitable jet-lag before they can perform at their best. Such was the case with the FA Cup quarter final this year when Brighton faced Nottingham Forest following the international break in March.

A number of first team regulars were not in the starting line-up and Brighton lost on penalties after a gruelling, if uninspiring, 0-0 draw following 120 minutes of football. Had players not been playing half way around the world a few days beforehand would they have won? Who knows, but the jet-lag would not have helped their cause.

Not only did The Albion top the 'overseas internationals league', they also finished the season at the top of the 'time lost due to injury' table. Yep, the total amount of days lost with players being unable to train or play was a mammoth 1,407!! So much for the appointment of Professor Doctor Florian Pfab as the head of medicine at the beginning of the season! This contrasts with the injuries incurred by Nottingham Forest who lost only 475 days to players being on the treatment table. Why was there such a gulf in the susceptibility of Forest and Albion players to injuries? I have no idea....that's what Professor Doctor Pfab needs to work out, but the absenteeism from the first team inevitably affected the performances and, hence, the results. Without such an abysmal injury record, would the Seagulls have qualified for Europe rather than missing out tantalisingly on the final day of the season? Again, who knows?

For further information on joining Seagulls Over Burwash and details of forthcoming events, meetings or coach travel, please visit our website at www.seagullsoverburwash.co.uk or email me at simon.forster@seagullsoverburwash.co.uk. Alternatively, please feel free to contact our beloved and much respected Chairman, Mr Teskey O'Neil, on 01435 884344 or tesbar80@btinternet.com. This month, Teskey and his dearly beloved, Barbara, celebrate their Sapphire wedding anniversary. That means for 45 years, Barbara has had to put up with Teskey's Albion obsession and his travelling to matches all over the country, not to mention the vast array of blue and white memorabilia that fills his house. For most couples, such a passion for something other than a wife would be grounds for divorce but this is where our Teskey has got lucky. Barbara is as football mad as he is! It's a match (home and away) made in heaven! Congratulations to you both!

SIMON FORSTER

BURWASH PARISH MATTERS

Following the Parish Council meeting on 10th June

Fibre Broadband Campaign

We are aware that many residents in Burwash are without Fibre Broadband which is the key to improving speeds of connectivity and streaming service. The government has launched Project Gigabit and CityFibre have won the contract to put in the infrastructure for East Sussex. It is hoped that Burwash will be included in the plan either later this year or early 2026. So that we can ensure we are top of the priority list when it comes to installation, we need your help. If you are interested, it is important that you register to **BOTH** CityFibre **AND** your current broadband provider. This is because CityFibre install to the nearest pole or cabinet and then your broadband supplier connects to your property. To register with CityFibre click the following link:

<https://cityfibre.com/about-us/rollout/projectgigabit>

Special thanks to Charlie Rose for pushing this project forward for Burwash residents.

Kipling On Film

The Parish Council are capitalising on the very successful centenary celebration of Kipling last year and are launching a Kipling On Film event. Taking place over the weekend of 26th & 27th July, the Parish Council are screening The Jungle Book for children and My Boy Jack for adults at the Pavilion in Burwash Common, followed by an interesting talk from the Kipling Society on Sunday 27th July at Burwash Village Hall. More details to follow but if you would like to register your interest in attending, please contact the Clerk on parishclerk@burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07375809660.

Parish Assembly

Thank you to all residents, organisations and clubs who attended the annual parish assembly on 22nd May at the Village Hall. It was a great turn out and an interesting evening for all. Special thanks to Cllr. Kirby-Green who spoke on Devolution and the Local Government Reorganisation.

Consultation on a Single Authority

Rother District Council have launched a consultation on East Sussex becoming a single unitary authority and want your thoughts on the matter. The consultation is open to all until 23rd June 2025. To have your say visit www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/EastSussexLGR/

Grants

The Parish Council have awarded two grants this month, £500 to the Kent & Sussex Air Ambulance Charity and £900 to Burwash Village Hall to cover some maintenance of the community spaces.

Telephone Box

The broken glass in the newly refurbished telephone box is due to be replaced shortly. Once that has been completed, bookshelves will be placed into the box, and we will be requesting donations of old books to launch the village book swap. Thank you to the volunteers who have already come forward from Highfields to look after the book swap, we hope it will be a valuable resource for all residents.

The next full council meeting is on Tuesday 8th July at 7pm at the Pavilion, Burwash Common and you would be very welcome to attend. The Parish Clerk is Emma Neil, and she can be contacted at the Council Office, High Street, Burwash TN19 7EU or call: 07375 809660. Email: parishclerk@burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk

BURWASH VILLAGE STORE

Some of you may have already seen that we have moved 'Cook' into its very own room recently and added more freezers to expand the range. **Our new 'Cook' room is now open!**

This change around means we can stock Puddings, Pies and low calorie Pots for One in addition to the ever popular Meals for 1, 2, and 4!



ANTHONY COULSON - SOME MEMORIES FORGED WITH BURWASH FC



Pop in and take a look....

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our business by shopping locally!

THE MANAGER



BURWASH FC - BREAKING NEWS

As many will know, our manager and the man behind the reforming of Burwash FC, Anthony Coulson, is stepping down from his role with the club over the summer. So, in this edition, I'll just give you some reminders of key upcoming dates and then hand over to Ant for his farewell letter. I'll save introducing the new faces behind the scenes for the next entry.

- 28th June: Our end of season party at the Rose and Crown, starting around 1 p.m.
- **19th July:** The annual 7 A Side Football Tournament
- **16th August:** Civil War, the Burwash vs Burwash inter-squad friendly.

Burwash Football Club & the Community

As I step down from my role as Manager, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you. Over the past four years, we've shared incredible moments, from overcoming challenges to celebrating our victories and winning the league.

Watching the club grow and achieve success has been an honour. Not just the football but seeing you and your families grow and relationships blossom, celebrating births, weddings and being that support arm if ever needed when times are tough.

The reforming of the club was more than just playing football, but to help individuals grow both on and off the pitch with support, if ever needed.

I want to thank all the players for your dedication and hard work. Your passion and commitment have been truly inspiring. To the supporters, sponsors and the entire community, thank you for standing by us and cheering us on through every match and putting up with our antics and door knocking, asking for the many balls that sailed over your fence, I did try and improve the shooting.

I'm confident that the club will continue to thrive and achieve great things. I'll be eagerly following the progress and celebrating all the future wins and I may even lace up the boots to help out, if ever needed. See you soon!

A few memories are pictured on pages 32 and 33.

Anthony aka "Coach"
ANTHONY COULSON (MR BURWASH)
burwashfc1890@gmail.com

The 19th of July will see our annual Seven A Side Tournament once again. If you are interested in entering a team, feel free to drop us an email, but be quick, please.





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FAIRFIELD SURGERY - PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Missed appointments (DNAs) were a little better in May, down to 45 – this is a national problem but it is disappointing that Fairfield patients are part of the number. Let's prove that we can do better than the rest of the country! According to the Surgery the majority of missed appointments are blood tests and nurse appointments. Most days they will have at least 3 missed nurse/HCA appointments. I was quite shocked at that. Can anyone suggest why that would be and how we can persuade patients to attend, **or at least cancel if they can't make it. Someone else could really use the wasted slot.**

CLAUDETTE NEVILLE
PPG SECRETARY 01435 883 043
ppg.fairfield@gmail.com

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR NEAREST DEFIBRILLATOR IS? THIS COULD SAVE A LIFE!

BURWASH

Outside the Burwash Village Hall, left of the entrance.
Primary School, outside kitchen on the wall.
Batemans, at Visitor Reception (when open).
Corner of Burwash Park & Fontridge Lane.
Eddie Workman Pavilion, Swan Meadow, by main entrance door.

BURWASH COMMON

Outside Burwash Common Pavilion, left of front door.

ETCHINGHAM

In telephone box on Market Square, next to the school.
At the Station on the wall outside the gate to the Bistro.
On the wall at the Post Office.

FRIENDS OF BURWASH SURGERY - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of Burwash Surgery, Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th July at 6.30 p.m. in the Surgery Waiting room. All our drivers and the Surgery's patients are welcome to attend.

SUE MUMFORD



BURWASH PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

Bookings for stallholders and events can now be made directly through our website:
www.bpfa.org.uk 01435 583039
Email: bpfaswanmeadow@gmail.com

Swan Meadow Playing Fields and the Eddie Workman MBE Pavilion have continued to host a range of diverse activities and events throughout June including:

- The Community Farmers' Market
- Tuesday Village Playgroup - contact Jo Murrells
- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu classes - contact Daniel on burwashbjj@gmail.com (see page 57)
- Music and Movement classes - contact Dianne on dianne@seated-exercise.co.uk
- Cricket matches
- Football Training.

100 PLUS CLUB JUNE DRAW

We conducted the Draw on Tuesday, 10th June at The Bear after the Quiz. It was drawn by Sue Fowler with some assistance from Maddy Ashby. There were **ONLY 273 balls** in the draw this month, so **please renew your subscriptions.**

Congratulations to the Winners!

1st Ball – Number 82
Nigel Waterhouse – £60

2nd Ball – Number 313
Karen O' Keefe – £40

3rd Ball – Number 24
Simon Fellows – £20

STEVE BENNETT

THE NEXT BURWASH COMMUNITY MARKET IS ON SATURDAY, 5TH JULY 2025.



THE MONTHLY COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKET

On the day of the June Market the forecast was terrible. However, the intrepid die-hards were outside and us softies took shelter inside. In the end the weather was not anywhere as bad as it was supposed to be and we all had a great deal of fun.

There were amazing local strawberries, sweet lettuces, the usual delicious bread and pastries, exotic eats, great fish and vegetables, deli items, toiletries and candles and so much more.

Tea and coffee sales were brisk, with a queue. As well as our regulars, newcomers joined us. Much fun and laughter was the order of the day.

Refreshments are available so you can buy from the stalls, sit and eat something at a table while chatting to your friends (or make new ones). Just coming for a gossip and a coffee is worth the effort. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate is served inside, but tables are available outside too if you prefer. Come to the hatch and place your order.

Please support this event! Dogs are most welcome and water bowls are provided. Grumpy humans are tolerated and, hopefully, cheered up by the lovely atmosphere.

Supporting local businesses - see the article about Soil Craft on page 41.



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Heathfield Road, Burwash Common

BURWASH WALKING FOOTBALL



With the magnificent backdrop of a rolling Sussex hillside, trout lakes in the middle distance and a rendering of 'We are the Champions' accompanied by our very own Rock God - Tim - on guitar the Club could not have asked for a better evening.

The League Squad were:

Peter Manning
Chris Jones
Laurence Worton
Kevin Clark
Andrew Wallace
Doc Thody

Clive Branford
Peter Henley
John Lee
David Kersse
Tim Fudge
Nigel Gethins

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS! OVER 60s EAST SUSSEX LEAGUE WINNERS 2024-25

The Burwash Walking Footballers were officially crowned Over 60s East Sussex Champions at the Sussex FA Presentation Day at Lancing last week but the real celebrations got underway with an immediate visit to the Lakedown Brewery Taproom in Burwash Common.

Presentations were made to the twelve-man squad by the Club sponsor Dave Kuhler of Archway Builders before the final Trophy presentation to Club Captain, Peter Manning, by **SIR Roger Daltrey**.

(We do appreciate Sir Roger Daltrey's contribution to the local area and his hard work for young people who are ill. We congratulate him.)

LAURENCE WORTON

Contact Steve Mintram on
01435 882444 for more information.
www.burwashwalkingfootballers.co.uk

**Sponsored by
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Wild about Burwash

PLUS HURST GREEN AND ETCHINGHAM

With high hopes for plenty of bird song, the 24 members who joined the May walk, guided by James Duncan of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, were not disappointed.



At our starting point of King John's Nursery car park we were greeted by a tuneful song thrush and the chatter of black caps. On the walk, we heard Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Wren, Blackbird and a magnificent Nightingale duet, the recording of which was shared in our WhatsApp group, along with the many finds of wildlife thriving in Kim and Paul's "Wild Haven". James has suggested we visit him at Rye Harbour next time for a walk around the nature reserve there; if you are interested in this, or a return visit to Wild Haven, please email us on wildaboutburwash@gmail.com



We are seeing a lot of the highly invasive plant "Himalayan Balsam" around the parishes, especially along the river banks. *(See photo above.)*

It can and should be pulled out and left to rot down **BEFORE** the seed has set which can be from around mid-July. Once the seeds pop the dispersal is exponential and highly damaging to the river banks and native wildflowers.

WAB volunteers have just completed a fifth month of water quality testing at six sites along the Dudwell. Thankfully the results continue to be encouraging with tests showing that the water is of "good quality". Over the coming weeks and months we will be performing some pond dipping sessions with the Beavers and Scouts and we will also be doing some electrofishing to evaluate fish stocks in the river. With the continued support of volunteers, we plan to continue testing on a monthly basis with the aim of setting a baseline level for water quality and we will be noting any changes to the riverbanks. The project lead, Dr Simon Forster, will be talking about our work in late June to the Love our Ouse group. They were the first group to get a British charter of rights to protect the river Ouse. The charter sets out a renewed relationship between people and nature in which the river's essential rights are clearly articulated alongside the duty of care and responsibility of humans to uphold these rights.

St. Philip's Church tells us that the orchids in the churchyard have been flourishing especially well this year and have asked us to pass on their thanks to all those who are helping protect and promote the abundance of wildflowers by careful, well-timed maintenance.

Wild About Etchingham and Hurst Green

This new group is gathering members, so if you would like to join, please do email wildaboutetchingham@gmail.com. There is a WhatsApp group sharing local wildlife photos, and a monthly newsletter via email; where you can find out about bat walks and other events taking place in your local area.

ANNE NEWSON/JULIAN KENNY - WAB

FIONA MORDAUNT - WILD ABOUT ETCHINGHAM & HURST GREEN

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Burwash Community Composting

Buckets of Potential, How Our Community Turns Food Scraps into Soil.

It is shocking to learn that UK households throw away a staggering **6.4 million tonnes** of food, every year. That means each of us, on average wastes 95kg of food annually. Some of us are very careful, thoughtfully planning meals, not over shopping and will happily waste very little. Sadly, we are not all so organised. As families get busier, life gets more complicated and food waste can happen. From browning bananas to leftover pasta, we toss it out, maybe with a guilty thought but away it goes. Unfortunately, it all adds up—to wasted money, lost resources, and rising greenhouse gas emissions.

According to WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme), the average UK household throws away **£730 worth of food per year**. Nationally, that's over **£14 billion** straight into the bin. Worse still, when this food waste ends up in landfill, it breaks down anaerobically and releases **methane**—a greenhouse gas **over 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide**.

Councils are beginning to collect household food waste, and by March 2026 all councils will be required to collect it separately. The good news is that it will no longer end up in land fill, the bad news is that it will be trucked considerable distances to huge processing plants. Here it is heat treated for long periods of time to become a plastic ridden, hydrophobic substance that should never be called compost.

It's easy to assume the problem is “too big” to solve—but not so. If every household in villages like Burwash, Etchingham, Hurst Green and Brightling diverted just a single bucket of food waste each month, we could keep over **110 tonnes of waste** out of

landfill in a single year. That's the weight of about 220 cows turned into living compost rather than harmful gas or plastic contaminated, green waste ‘compost’. The benefits are huge, less carbon emissions from transporting waste away to a central location, all our organic material is kept local and the resulting bio-diverse, living compost will benefit all our soils.

Why It Matters

Healthy soils aren't just good for gardeners—they're essential for climate resilience, biodiversity, and food security. By composting, we're not just reducing waste—we're **healing the land beneath our feet** and keeping resources circulating locally.

Through Soil Craft, we're building a local response to this global problem. Our **Burwash Community Composting Scheme** is already helping households turn cooked and raw food scraps into living compost. Once a month we swap buckets full of food waste for empty ones and will process the collected material through our in-vessel, Ridan composter. All the material gets to a temperature high enough to ensure any weed seeds or pathogens are killed off. Once it has passed through the mixing and heating phase it will cool down, the worms will arrive and it will begin the six to twelve month maturation stage.

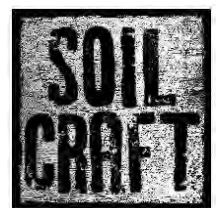
If you are interested in joining our scheme or just learning more, please find us at the Burwash Community Market or email

hello@soilcraft.co.uk

We would love to hear from you!

JULIA & SYLVIE

Healthy Soil, Healthy Plants, Healthy People



BURWASH NOT SO YOUNG GROUP 'MADRIGALS & MUSICALS - PASSION & PANTOMIME'

Burwash Village Hall was full of happy hubbub when Madam Chair called us to order. Sadly there were many apologies for absence, which meant that some of our faithful members were going to miss a wonderful meeting. The business of the afternoon was dealt with swiftly – cake providers for our next meeting arranged and birthday greetings dispensed. It was then that Isabella introduced our two speakers for the afternoon. We had no idea what a delight their individual talks would be.

Brian Newman surprised us all with his tongue in cheek introduction about standing up straight and breathing in deeply – the way he has started many choral works in his role as Musical Director and Conductor. Incidentally, he still loves to sing! His musical associations go way back: he can clearly remember singing with his father, one Tenor the other Bass when he was 15 or 16 years old. Over the years he later found himself in a large London choir who went to Shropshire on a singing weekend when the Conductor dropped out. Brian kindly agreed to step up for the The Grove Inn Colebrookdale Singers: the Grove Inn being a rehearsal space. The rest is history, so they say. Although works like Brahms' Requiem are lovingly repeated, new material is also included in performance. He told us of trips to St. Mark's in Venice, France, Italy, Spain and St. James's in Piccadilly where the traffic noise is a consideration. The Choirs have all consisted of pleasant singers - able to ignore the odd car horn. St. Mary's Cathedral at Erfurt in former East Germany is one of his favourite performing places despite the scaffold used to refurbish such a beautiful place. A rather funny anecdote was added here about a lady serving, single-handedly, the entire choir supper afterwards – forty singers with the first to eat at 10 p.m. and the last at 4 a.m. from a single hot plate. Although rare, there has been the odd 'no attendees' (in Monaco) but two cleaning ladies enjoyed their performance - it was the day after the Grand Prix. Once there was a transport failure and the choir 'mucked in' changing on the coach whilst travelling up a mountain much to the amusement of cyclists coming down!

Closer to home Brahms' Requiem was sung in Heathfield in 1990: the whole Heathfield Choral Society turned up en masse and as it was sung so well Brian was asked to be the Musical Director. Howard Goodall contacted the Society after performing 'Eternal Light' as he so approved. It is believed that they were the first choir in the south of England to perform the piece – Brian described it as magical. Eventually this was repeated in the Carnegie Hall in New York. We were so inspired by Brian who for a while was Director of two eminent choirs - the other being The Grove Singers of London. Being modest by nature, he felt that although he still sang and helped out musically a great deal, he was too old to be a Director (disputed by some in the audience). He handed the reins of The Grove Singers to Tim Rhys-Morgan. The Grove Singers have sung in Burwash twice now and have been enjoyed by so many. It is a disservice to have been forced to precis Brian's talk but space forces my hand. Most important point: to say how very much it was enjoyed.

Seamlessly, Terry Parsons took up the reins and told us about all things theatrical. There was a display of many Theatrical Posters of many well known stars, dressed in Terry's wonderful costumes. Terry's work with design and Brian's with Heathfield Choral Society overlapped at a performance of Tosca (in Heathfield) and so began an excellent collaboration. Aida was performed at the State Hall with one hundred performers and choir - quite an occasion. Terry hypothetically asked us 'so what do I do?' It has been 57 years of ALL things connected with Theatre – he has made a living from working hard in many avenues: designing sets, props., furniture and costume. He had always wanted to do it, which will have contributed perhaps to why he is so successful.

He begins all tasks with a model 1 cm. = 1 metre. His shows vary in size from a 1½ mile stage front in a new Dubai Palace (oval) for a Sheik followed with a Banquet for 20,000 people. There it was necessary to direct a team but at Stonegate Amateur Dramatic Society (SADs) he paints theatrical stages and makes it all single-handedly. He had a file of all the beautiful costumes which he let us look at - all designed by him right down to every last sequin.

Continued/

NOT SO YOUNG CLUB *CONTINUED*

He loves going out to choose the fabrics himself often to Shepherd's Bush or Walthamstow markets - wonderful for materials he says. Occasionally, he has borrowed costumes from Glyndebourne. He had samples of sparkly fabric which he held up to illustrate the difference between the quality for the star against a similar (but not quite the same) material made up for the understudy 'just in case.' If you have ever seen a beautiful Swan (propelled by five male dancers) appear on a stage, it will be exactly the sort of thing Terry does. Everything is written down by him from the technical design of how it moves to the lovely costumes and wonderful feathers. He shyly admitted to particularly having a fondness for pretty girls, feathers and marabou. I once dyed some feathers and gosh it is the most difficult of tasks.

Terry did his first interview at 12 or 13 years of age with 17 folders of work to show. He got into the Central School of Art in Holborn (1964) studying for his degree and often performed the dual roles of 'work' for College and helping out at shows. In 1967 he won the prestigious design prize against stiff opposition. From all this talent he went to Belgrade as a 'Bucket Boy.' His work was literally very hands on going in at 7 a.m. to mix the powder paint with animal glue which had to be boiled together. The designer (who was diabetic) became ill and left so a new one was required. Terry took over, but it was only after 7 years that he was eventually appointed 'Resident Designer.' After about 5 years 'management' realised it was a cheaper option to re-use work and do it in provincial regional theatres. Several projects transferred to the West End, including work with Eartha Kit and David Kossof.

His display of posters on the table (including him and Barbara Windsor sharing a hug) was an index of famous stars, especially those who wore elaborate costumes, including the likes of Noel Gordon, Danny La Rue, Les Dawson and Sian Phillips in her role of Marlene Dietrich sparkles and also when she appeared at the Lyric Theatre. This is an abbreviated list of those stars.

His lists of involvements are extensive and not just in the UK. He went freelance and had offers of work for two years.

Space is my enemy so I will just mention his long (and continuing) association with Denmark.

Work there developed into 30 years of projects which continue to this day on a regular occasional basis, his most recent being 'Treasure Island.' The extent of the detail written and modelled takes on average 8 months, so he is trying to restrict it to one a year. He feels at 80+ that he is too old, (difficult to believe) and does not like being away for too long. His list of venues went on with the excitement of pantomime stages/costumes. I am reluctant to just create a list. He even continued to work through Covid on Zoom.

Burwash is so lucky to have these talented chaps who probably are able to bounce ideas and creativity off each other. They are both genuinely quiet about their huge achievements and also do many other helpful things for Burwash, which discretion prevents me from mentioning. Just to say that we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, being impressed by their phenomenal talent. We so appreciated them sharing it with us. Certainly a hard act to follow. To conclude, "Thank you from the Not So Young Club".

Our next meeting is on the 17th July in Burwash Village Hall once more. The topic 'Author' by Chris McCooey. Please do come along and join us.

VERONICA FARLEY

BINGO IN BURWASH VILLAGE HALL

**Prize Bingo Afternoon on Sunday,
6th of July, in Burwash Village Hall**

The doors will open at 2 p.m. ready for eyes down at 2.30 p.m. We already have some lovely prizes but need a few more, if possible.

We will be giving the money to the Get Together Lunch again. The cost of holding this lovely event, which has been going on for over 30 years, has risen considerably, and this is my way of ensuring it can continue to be held.

If you have anything you would like to donate or questions about the event, please ring Mary on 01435 882107.

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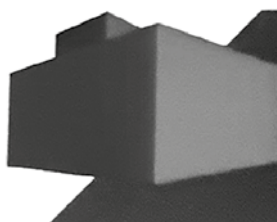


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Wadhurst Bowls - steeped in tradition not stuck in the past.

First off, a report from our Horam League Captain – Mr Dave Hacker.....

‘The new League season is well under way with seven League games already played, it would have been eight but for some extreme intervention by the weather. So, with a third of our League games played in the first month of the season, we can report that we sit on top of the League with seven wins - one better than the same time last season.

We have several new players this year who have already contributed to our excellent start and we hope this may long continue. The availability for team selection has been brilliant with 27 different members playing in the seven matches.

With four more League games to come in June, let’s hope our winning streak continues.’



July is a very busy month with 15 games scheduled, including another five Horam League games.

Upcoming home games are detailed below:

Wednesday 2nd – The Grove 6 p.m.
 Saturday 5th – Groombridge *
 Tuesday 8th – Staplecross
 Saturday 12th – Hailsham *
 Sunday 13th – Tonbridge
 Saturday 19th – President v Chair
 Sunday 20th – Crowborough Wolfe *
 Wednesday 23rd – Hawkhurst §
 Saturday 26th – Marden
 Tuesday 29th - Hastings

Games start at 2 p.m., unless specified otherwise.

* indicate League games.

§ indicates the second, and deciding leg, of the Border Cup.

Support and spectators always welcome, particularly for the Border Cup match, where the presentation of the Trophy will be made by Clare Waterhouse of club sponsors C. Waterhouse & Sons. Will the Cup be coming home to Sussex or staying in Kent?

**Laurence 07714 935915 or
 hlworton@btinternet.com**

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 Washwell Lane, Wadhurst, TN5 6BN.**

LAURENCE WORTON

Look at this lawn. Might not be as good as the Wadhurst Bowling Green, but this does give me lawn envy! Actually Holkham in Norfolk.

***Can anyone sell me an old-fashioned roller?
 One wanted urgently: contact the Editor.***

BURWASH COMMON PAVILION NEWS

At the last meeting at the Pavilion the Chairman, David Elmslie, was pleased to announce that the amount donated from our VE Day hot dogs was £270 and that it has been sent to Help for Heroes. We would like to thank Butchers Hook for giving us a good deal on the sausages.

The committee are keen to run with the idea of a possible Car Show in 2026 and plans are being made.

The Parish Council have generously given us £6,000 towards the pétanque pitch, for which we are delighted, and Coxdown Construction will start work on it shortly.

We are hoping to find some people who would like to play Snooker or Billiards so that our two wonderful tables get more use. Interested? Ring the number below. Also, if anyone would like to start a regular or even one off Open Mic night, we are keen to see it return.

We are pleased to still have the historic Sussex game of Stool Ball played on the playing field and long may it last.

Solar panels and better field drainage are two projects that are also being discussed and grants for these would be ideal.

Our Burwash Weald cricket team have had a winning run - played five - won five. Maybe Lakedown, their new sponsor, is bringing them luck. Good luck guys!

The Pavilion is hired for many events because it is such a clean, smart venue with modern facilities, a well stocked bar all at a favourable price. This is excellent but, to continue to keep the high standard, we do need more bar staff. Volunteers are quickly trained, so why not give it a go.



The After Eight Club held their annual Coffee Morning in mid-June and it was another resounding success with proceeds going to Street Pastors and Hospice in the Weald.

We are already planning the Fête. All sponsors and donations are gratefully received to help cover the £275 for the children's assault course and £250 for the band, so we're not starting at a loss. Please start saving your unwanted and chipped china for the Crazy Kitchen.

If you're interested in any of the ideas above ring this number.

THE COMMITTEE
01435 882117

A recruitment poster for the Burwash Weald cricket team. The background is a photo of a cricketer in white kit batting. At the top, the text 'NEW PLAYERS WANTED' is written in large, bold, blue letters. To the right of this text is a red cricket ball with white stitching. Below the main text, it says 'ANY ABILITY'. There are two columns of text: 'Burwash Weald play in the Sussex Cricket League, Division 11 North East' and 'We play matches from May through to September at the Burwash Common Pavilion'. A box on the right says 'We are a social side with a cricket tour to Porto in 2026, post match BBQ's and curry nights'. At the bottom, it lists fees: 'Adult - £25 subs / £10 match fees' and 'Juniors/Students - £10 subs / £6 match fees'. The home games are listed as 'May 10, June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19, August 2, 16 & 30'. At the very bottom, it says 'CONTACT MONTY : 07469 174666' with a WhatsApp icon.

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Burwash, Burwash Common, Burwash Weald and the Surrounding Areas

NHW by Email:

Several new residents have joined to boost numbers round the area and we have shared information across area boundaries to good effect yet again.

Contact: steve.mintram@btinternet.com
for more info.

Contacting the Police:

ALWAYS Use 999 if you think a serious offence is happening or has just happened, there is immediate danger of harm to persons, damage to property or serious public disruption.

Call 101 or visit <http://www.sussex.police.uk>
www.sussex.police.uk for non-emergency situations
(online reports are assessed in the same way as a 101 call).

Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired, use
TypeTalk on 18000 or text to 65999.

STEVE MINTRAM

Recent Incidents:

There have been two reports of possible suspects at night in the Shrub Lane area of Burwash. Noises were heard outside and, when lights were switched on, either two or three vehicles were heard to drive away. The common denominator in each incident is parked vans, which could have been being targeted for tools, etc. at both properties.

Scams:

Sussex Police continue to see reports relating to family messaging WhatsApp scams where the fraudster pretends to be a family member.

The message will come from a different number than usual and they will provide a believable explanation, such as that their phone was broken or stolen so they're messaging from a friend's phone. They may then move to a different messaging platform. Once they feel that the victim believes them, they will then request money or gift cards in payment.

A recent incident report involved a woman who received a message from someone claiming to be her daughter, stating that they were in financial hardship. Keen to help her, she sent nearly £1,000. It was only when a call was made to confirm that the payment had been received that the victim realised she had been scammed.

Obviously, these scams are not restricted to just WhatsApp, so please be very wary if asked to help family or friends and please do make more vulnerable friends and relatives aware.



AFTER EIGHT CLUB - BURWASH COMMON

On Wednesday, 16th July we will be holding our annual After Eight Club Garden Party at the Burwash Common Pavilion from 6 p.m. We normally all bring a plate of food. We can then relax, enjoying good company and the lovely surroundings.

We meet up on a monthly basis, sharing varied activities and most of all, enjoying friendship. August's activity is a 'Talk on Bees' and September is an outing, but that's wishing our Summer away.

If you have any questions, please ring or email me!

JACKY WOODLAND

Email: tjwoodland142@btinternet.com

Tel: 01435 883389

Mob: 07770 489490



Bereavement Friendship Group

For anyone who has suffered a bereavement

We meet every third Tuesday of the Month at 10:30 a.m., at the Old Orchard Café, Burwash Common.

No agenda, no talks, just a warming drink with a few people walking the same path .

**Please contact Jan Wright,
laurenandjan@gmail.com**

Tel.: 01435 883748 or 07444 482634 for the latest information.

Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group

Thursday Mornings 10-12

at the Burwash Common Pavilion, where we play, chatter, do some crafts and sing songs.

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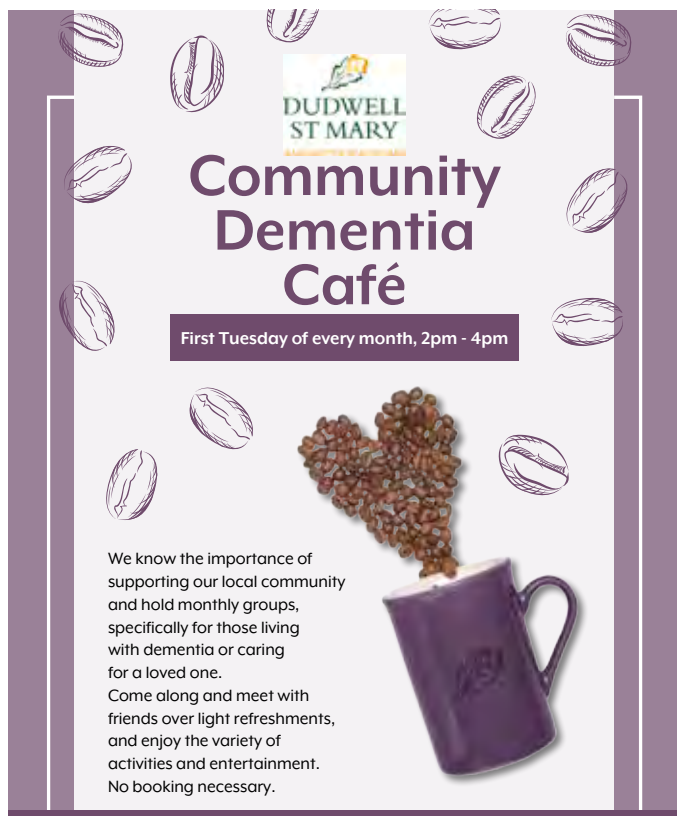
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MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

Our next talk at Five Ashes Village Hall is on 17th July at 2.30 p.m. The title is: 'LEWES AND BONFIRE NIGHT'. The speaker is Andy Thomas

'Belligerent, stubborn and full of themselves' is how Andy Thomas describes his fellow Lewesians, although he tempers that statement by saying it comes from a sense of pride in tradition. He also tells us how Lewes, the County town of East Sussex, has earned lasting fame in "the path of liberty".

His talk includes a beautifully illustrated description of the town and its history, and then moves on to the drama and symbolism of Bonfire Night, a very long-standing tradition that, apart from a few disruptions due to wars and Covid, has continued for hundreds of years.

(On a personal note - as a Lewesian born and bred, my childhood memories of Bonfire Night are those of frustration as I was never allowed to go with my older brothers. They invariably came home each year with stories of Jumping Jacks landing in their boots and other dangerous goings on, so I suppose my parents thought I might be safer at home!)

Andy Thomas obviously loves his home town, and this talk will open our eyes to some of its very colourful and fascinating history.

Our talks are free for members. Visitors are charged £3.00, which includes tea. If you visit the talk and decide to join our U3A branch, which is how many of our newer members have found us, that fee will be refunded!

Plenty of other information can be found on our new and shiny website, which is:

www.u3asites.org.uk/Mayfield.

ANNA THOMPSON



We are now on our Summer break but will restart with an exciting new programme, which is hot off the press, in September.

We will give details of the Programme in the August/September edition.

Our venue has just installed a new projector, which should improve slide quality for our talks, so we are eager to welcome new members for the 2025-2026 Season. Please do come along in September and try us out, or take the plunge and contact our Membership Secretary, as listed below. We are a friendly, welcoming group.

Our meetings are held at the Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield, TN21 OXG at 2.15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. If you wish to apply for membership, please email our Membership Secretary, John Larum: email at johnlarum@hotmail.com For queries, please contact Penny Spurrell on 07876565696.

www.theartsocietywealden.org.uk

**PENNY SPURRELL
CHAIR**

FLORIBUNDA - MY CANARY HAS GOT BAGS UNDER ITS EYES

Four times a day I stop, disinfect my hands, face, neck and spectacles, put a sterile tissue into thrice boiled water and clean round my left eye. I have been following this regime for twenty-two days. It is not just Canaries that have bags. Staring at my face four times a day is a great incentive to go out and get a branch or two stuck in my eyeballs.

I like to live dangerously. At times I have been one step away from electrocution, at other times my toe nails have been close to getting more than a trim. I have tripped over, got a fork in my foot and been covered in mud. Why do Doctors enthuse about the healthy benefits of gardening? I do not seem to get them. I have cataracts in both eyes, my balance is dodgy and I cannot hear a thing. At least this means I am not troubled by snide remarks aimed in my direction, but I had better get on with it, as my column is meant to be about gardening and seldom is.

A lot has been going on in the 'Florrie' household: a new front tyre needed due to a pot hole up Oxenbridge Lane; a memorial service to be arranged and attended; a pet to be mourned after an untimely death. So despite its dangers, gardening has been more important than ever to bring me down to earth, literally and metaphorically.

I am making more effort to visit every nook and cranny of my odd shaped garden and to weed and cut back as severely as possible. I tried to keep it well watered, but I had used up all five of my water butts by mid-June. A few late storms brought enough rain eventually to seep into the deep cracks in my clay soil and refilled the water butts a little.

There are some plants that can thrive even in drought, such as the giant orange poppies I have at the edge of my front drive. The bees love them and they lift my spirit on a bright sunny morning. They give a blast of marmalade, toning well with some paler, apricot-coloured geums, which float out on long delicate stems. One of my front borders needs some work to cull some white hydrangea bushes which are wilting in the drought. The name hydrangea comes from the Greek for water, and it seems they need damper soil to thrive.

I know what I need to do but my eyes seem so dry I cannot weep for my garden even if I do need to

prune, dig out and re-design sections of it. I could always offer a few plants to neighbours or friends to adopt.

A salsify plant which I grew a while ago has excelled itself and has many mauve flowers on stiff hollow pale green stems. I dead head it a lot to keep it flowering. I looked it up in my plant book and found out it is a biennial but in my garden it seems to have lasted a lot longer than two years. Although it needs regular deadheading, it looks graceful at the edge of my terrace on to the garden. The wild flower meadow I have toiled over is behind it, and it seems to link the view to the landscape of pasture, the river and the trees beyond in the wider landscape.

I have been reminded recently that my mother, who died in March this year, became a botanist despite living in a terraced house with no garden and no bathroom when she was a child. I find it extraordinary that she made such a leap. Her father was a train driver and her mother worked in a dentists. She studied at two universities, gained a PhD and became a teacher. She told me that when gorse is not in flower, kissing is out of fashion. Apparently gorse never stops flowering, as you can see if you go up the East Hill in Hastings where gorse bushes are available in large numbers.

I wish you the same joy of gardening that my mother brought me. Your hands will be rough, your nails ingrained with mud, but you will not be bored and will find plenty to learn. For example, that it is good practice to wear gloves and sturdy boots whenever you garden.

I have tulips from the Netherlands, roses from Isphahan, magnolias and rhododendrons from the British Empire. It may be an anachronism now, but our gardens have gained from the multiculturalism we now enjoy.

May harmony and love continue to unite us all, even when it is hard won.

FLORIBUNDA

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

There are still gardens open in July! Visit stmichaelshospice.com/event/opengardens2025 to download your free guide and start planning your garden visits today.

LOTTIE ADAMS-BROWN



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POETRY CORNER

TWO POEMS BY THOMAS HARDY

You can't get too much Thomas Hardy (1840-1928) and on that basis, there are a couple of poems this month in Poetry Corner. Hardy was one of those rare writers whose poetry is on a par with his novels, and it is these (*The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, *Far from the Madding Crowd*), for which he is best known. Some of his best and most well known poems (*The Fallow Deer at the Lonely House*, *The Darkling Thrush*, *Afterwards*) are nature poems, his work exploring an almost visionary connection with the countryside and the creatures and people that inhabit it. The lyrical *At the Railway Station*, *Upway*, with its compassionate dramatisation of the human voice, is not about nature as such, but it is set in an enchanting Dorset location that perhaps brings to mind our own picturesque Etchingham Station.

'There is not much that I can do,
For I've no money that's quite my own!'

Spoke up the pitying child –
A little boy with a violin
At the station before the train came in, -
'But I can play my fiddle to you,
And a nice one 'tis, and good in tone!'

The man in the handcuffs smiled;
The constable looked, and he smiled too,
As the fiddle began to twang;
And the man in the handcuffs suddenly sang
With grimful glee;
'This life so free

Is the thing for me!'
And the constable smiled, and said no word,
As if unconscious of what he heard;
And so they went on till the train came in –
The convict, and the boy with the violin.

The poem's emotional pull operates on two levels. On one it is a charming depiction of a West Country station platform where a boy violinist, a policeman and a criminal strike up a brief and life-affirming connection within a spontaneous musical interlude. On the other, it is a poignant and lingering portrayal of the bitter reality of life for two Victorian Age characters – a child who is hungry and a handcuffed man being accompanied on his way to prison.

Some months ago I read a contemporary poem in which the speaker mentioned how a fellow passenger on an intercity train saw none of the arresting beauty and new life of the landscape outside the train window. Reason: of course, she was head down scrolling and tapping on her smartphone screen. Hardy's *The Self-Unseeing* is a powerful little poem about taking things in life for granted. It has a spare, monosyllabic style and its tone is full of resignation and regret. In the three simply rhymed ABAB four line stanzas, the speaker recalls the family warmth and security of a long ago boyhood at the hearth with his parents, his father playing the violin. The final lines sorrowfully encapsulate the everyday tragedy of not really paying attention (or being able) to what should be cherished and will not always be there. Hardy's poem was written a century and a half before the digital age arrived to cause mass screen addiction and erosion to our attention spans. How much more likely so many now are to be 'looking away!' Whether at the family fireside, station platforms or beside train windows.

JULIE LYNN

*Here is the ancient floor
Footworn and hollowed and thin,
Here was the former door
Where the dead feet walked in.*

*She sat here in her chair,
Smiling into the fire;
He who played stood there,
Bowing it higher and higher.*

*Childlike, I danced in a dream;
Blessings emblazoned that day;
Everything glowed with a gleam;
Yet we were looking away!*

RESTORATION IN ALL SENSES

Burwash Open Gardens was held on Sunday, 15th June. Nearly 200 visitors came, some even travelled from London and a few came from “Hove Actually”. There were six very varied and beautiful gardens to visit. The weather was marvellous and everyone was exceptionally good humoured. People mingled and chatted, while over £1,000 was raised, including money from the Teas.

These were as wonderful and popular as EVER at Mount House on Burwash High Street. Huge thanks go to Lynda and Richard Maude-Roxby and their large crew of helpers who prepared the garden and marquee, as well as the delicious cakes.

Thanks, are due, of course, to Shirley Viney (and her band of assistants) who ran the whole event so smoothly.

Revd Tom reported a good flow of people to Glebe House for the *Family Restoration Day*, with a barbecue and bouncy castle provided all afternoon, followed by a well-attended, very informal service in the marquee behind The Glebe.

Thank you once again to everyone who made such an effort to *Restore* our stomachs, our senses and our Spirits.

Sometime later as I walked home from work at dusk, some very fat rabbits were running around the Churchyard and Church Fields, almost in celebration themselvesloving the grass, the warmth and the fact that we had all gone home. Two massive rabbits were sprawled on The Glebe lawn as if to declare: “This is our lawn now you lot have gone home”. It is uplifting to see the lawns mowed so beautifully once again. Closer to the Glebe Farm entrance a buck was springing around the far end of the lawn, now cleared of overgrown trees and shrubs. I have seen him on The Glebe lawn several times lately and he clearly approves of the *Restoration of the grounds*. As I strode home as fast as I could, a baby fox darted out in front of me, before it hid in the bracken, some bats dive-bombed me and then another very cream buck jumped right in front of me on Borders Lane. As I struggled down the drive to bed, bats chased me once more while two young foxes were play-fighting in the cow field. Restoration in more ways than one.

Monday, 16th Of June was Sussex Day, honouring our rich traditions and culture on St Richard’s Day, the feast day of St Richard of Chichester, Sussex’s patron saint. Perhaps we had our Sussex Day early: it was certainly a special Burwash event. Thank you! (Pictures in next month’s double edition.)

RICHARD HARDEN & CAROLINE HUBAND



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