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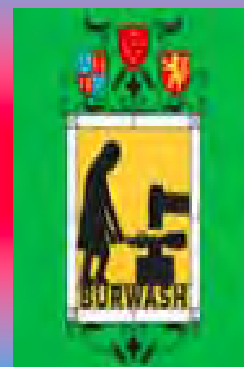


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GETTING IN TOUCH

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

The deadline for Burwash Villages and Etchingham November Magazine is Friday, 10th October.

DO send articles in on time to:

burwashetchinghammag@gmail.com and

Carolinehuband@outlook.com

All contributions may be edited slightly for clarity and accuracy. N.B. : 'Articles are a reflection of the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee'.

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DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION

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

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Susan Mumford (Etchingham) Tel.: 01580 819415.

If you wish to advertise, please contact Richard Harden on 01435 882556 or email rh@richardharden.co.uk

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 Weddings

26th July Emily Rose & Adam Cheeseman
9th August Alisha Black & Jack Nicklin

Baptisms

10th August Amelia Grace Isla Jee
7th September Rupert Eolan Coate
7th September Arlo Kevin John Clare

Funerals

20th August Philip & Anne Cutler
21st August Michael Mulholland
28th August Thomas Ashdown

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,

As I write, the rain has finally arrived - the first proper rain we've seen in months. My poor parched lawn, which has looked more like straw than grass all summer, is already beginning to green again. It's amazing what a little refreshment can do - bringing new life, fresh growth, and a sense of renewal.

Perhaps it's also a reminder that we too need refreshment: time to pause, to drink deeply of God's Spirit, and to be renewed in faith.

Autumn always brings with it a sense of preparation. The fields are gathered in, the evenings draw closer, and the rhythm of the year shifts. And then, of course, the first hints of Christmas creep into the shops. It does seem to come earlier every year, but rather than grumbling, perhaps we can smile and remember that the Church is always preparing for Christmas, not with tinsel or wrapping paper, but with prayer and discipleship: preparing room for Christ in our hearts, so that He might be born in us afresh.

With that in mind, there are a few opportunities for spiritual refreshment coming up. We'll be starting a confirmation group this term, using the excellent 3-2-1 course. It's just four evenings long, but a wonderful way to go deeper into the Gospel, whether you're preparing for confirmation yourself, or simply want to refresh your understanding of the faith.

We're also beginning a men's group, a chance for fellowship and for rolling up our sleeves with some projects together. Later in the term we'll also be running an Advent group, giving us space to slow down and reflect, as we prepare for the season of hope. Each of these is, in its own way, a chance to let God water our thirsty souls and bring fresh growth.

A practical note too: our Access and Amenities Project continues to move forward. After careful research, we're intending to combine proven, efficient systems with a new type of infra-red heating, which will give instant warmth in the North Aisle. These are important decisions, but all with the same aim: creating a space where people can be welcomed, warmed and refreshed.

And finally, a call for help! We're looking for volunteers to run and organise the Quiz Night. It's always a highlight - full of fun, laughter, and perhaps a little friendly rivalry - but it does need a team to make it happen. If you can lend a hand, even in a small way, please do get in touch.

So as the rain refreshes the ground and life stirs once again in the garden, may we also be refreshed in spirit, preparing ourselves not only for the changing season, but for Christ Himself.

With every blessing,

REVD TOM

Rector of Burwash, Burwash Weald and Etchingham

**Our cover photograph is of a Sussex vineyard
in Streat, near Ditchling.**

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EDITORIAL

Did you know that it is **GOOD FOOD EAST SUSSEX MONTH? Well you do now!** Trust me, this can also mean Good Fast Food. There are many events throughout the county and The Community Farmers Market on Swan Meadow Burwash will be participating with samples and demonstrations (see page 39).

I'm moving, so I have been driven to drink rather than food (see page 28). BT tried to disconnect our advertiser Altered Images and connect me wrong village wrong address so whether we will actually get a Magazine in November is anyone's guess. I sincerely apologise to Altered Images the country is going to the dogs (see page 22). How I wish I was Rufus and could sit on the back of the settee (and do nothing)!

Etchingham Halls urgently need more bookings (page 14), while Burwash Village Hall is hosting Dr George McAllister on the 15th October, talking about farming in Palestine (amongst other things). The photos are amazing (page 16).

For those of you in the know, you will understand why I have included the photograph of courgettes/squashes/marrows on page 16. Please do read "*The Rother View Murders*" article on pages 24/25 - there is a serious public safety message hidden within it: beware of hybrid, self-seeded squash or courgettes.

Our Councils have changed their Councillors (pages 13 and 40) as well as being forced to think about new national organisation. Etchingham are busy preparing a new Contacts Page for their Councillors: I didn't leave it out - watch that space for next month.

Burwash Common have had their famous Fête, but as I write this now, we are cloud watching and the deadline is tonight, so wait for a **full report next month**. Burwash Weald Cricket Team are winning and starting the next generation, hopefully with Geoff Cairncross approving and smiling down on proceedings (see page 59).

Perhaps we could start up an "Is Shrub Lane, Burwash, Open?" Lottery what do you think?

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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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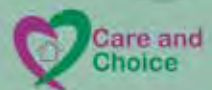


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OCTOBER SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

Taken by the Rector unless otherwise marked.

Oct 2025	Burwash	Etchingham	Burwash Weald
Thurs 2 nd	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 5 th	8.30 Holy Communion BCP 10.00 Harvest Family Service 6.00 Evensong	11.00 Harvest Service	10.30 Harvest Family Service – Visiting Priest
Thurs 9 th	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 12 th	10.30 UB Service at St. Philip's	10.30 UB Communion Service at St. Philip's 4.30 Compline	10.30 UB Communion Service at St. Philip's 8.00 Evening Prayer - Penny Button
Thurs 16 th	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 19 th	10.00 Sung Matins - Christo Corfield	11.00 Family Communion	9.30 Holy Communion BCP - Rev Jim Smith 4.00 Praise at the Pavilion
Thurs 23 rd	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 26 th	10.00 Parish Communion	11.00 Holy Communion - Canon Patrick Sales	10.30 Healthcare Service - Dr Jane Woodgate
Thurs 30 th	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 2 nd	8.30 Holy Communion BCP 10.00 Family Communion 4.30 UB Choral Evensong All Souls	11.00 Holy Communion 4.30 UB Choral Evensong St. Bartholomew's. All Souls	8.00 Matins BCP - PB 10.30 Morning Service - Anne Everall 4.30 UB Choral Evensong St. Bartholomew's. All Souls.

WHAT'S ON: OCTOBER

Wednesday, 1st	Walks for Strollers meeting at The Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.
Wednesday, 1st	Etchingham Church Baby & Toddler Group, Parker Hall, Etchingham, 10 - 11 a.m. (Every Wednesday.)
Wednesday, 1st	Movement to Music Classes, Edward Workman Pavilion, 10 a.m. (Every Wednesday - Changing to Thursday from 30th October - see contact on page 57 to confirm new time also.)
Thursday, 2nd	Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group 10 a.m. - Noon, at Burwash Common Pavilion. (Every Thursday).
Saturday, 4th	Burwash Community Farmers' Market at Swan Meadow, Burwash 9 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Saturday, 4th	CTHD Prayer Vigil at Union Church Heathfield from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (See Page 11).
Saturday, 4th	The Autumn Home & Lifestyle Fair at St. John's Nursery, Etchingham from 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Monday, 6th	3Cs at St. Bartholomew's, 10 a.m. - Noon. (Most Mondays, except Bank Holidays.)
Tuesday, 7th	Burwash Village Playgroup. Tuesday Mornings from 10 a.m. - Noon at Eddie Workman Pavilion. (Every Tuesday.)
Tuesday, 7th	Community Dementia Cafe at Dudwell St Mary Care Home, Burwash, 2 - 4 p.m. (see page 15).
Thursday, 9th	The After Eight Club versus Rotherfield Club Annual Quiz at Burwash Common Pavilion at 2 p.m.
Saturday, 11th	Farmers' & Makers' Market at King John's Nursery, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 15th	'Farming in Palestine: Focus on Gaza', Talk in Burwash Village Hall by Dr George McAllister 7 - 8.30 p.m.
Tuesday, 14th	Arts Society Wealden Heathfield monthly meeting. Subject: 'Travels with a Trowel, Adventures of an Archaeologist'. Speaker: Louise Schofield, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield at 2.15 p.m.
Wednesday, 15th	Etchingham Residents' Coffee & Cake Morning at The Bistro from 11 a.m.
Thursday, 16th	Burwash Not So Young Meeting. Subject: 'Commonwealth War Graves'. Speaker: Jane. Held at Burwash Village Hall at 2.15 p.m.
Thursday, 16th	Mayfield & District U3A Meeting at Five Ashes Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Vivian Widgery. Subject: 'Unusual MPs'.
Sunday, 19th	Churches Together Heathfield & District, Choral Evensong at St. Richard's, Heathfield at 6 p.m.
Tuesday, 21st	Bereavement Friendship Group at Old Orchard Cafe, Burwash Common, at 10.30 a.m.
Thursday, 23rd	Etchingham 'Ladies' Club Meeting, Out and About - TBC.
Saturday, 25th	Burwash Bonfire & Fireworks From 6.30 p.m. at Swan Meadow, Burwash (see page 15).
Saturday, 25th	Southeastern Railway Line closed until 2nd November (inclusive) between Tunbridge Wells and Hastings.

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Choral Evensong

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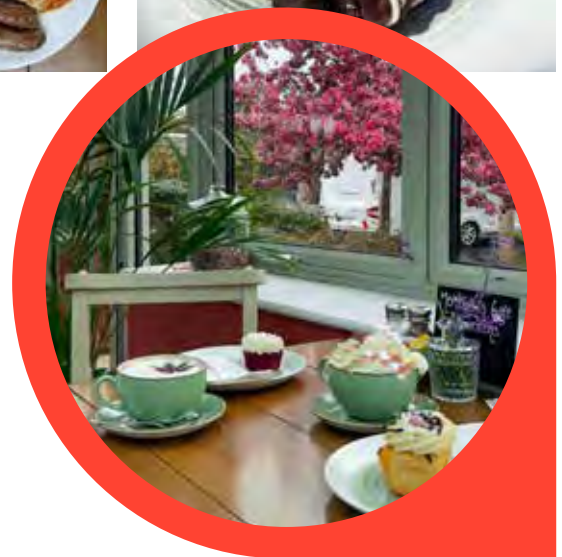
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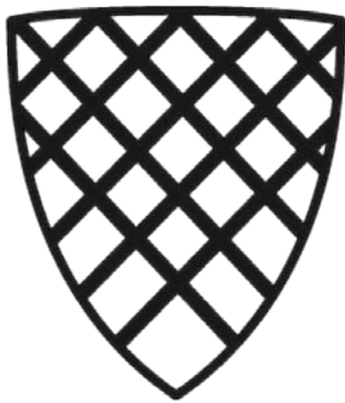
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ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH PEARLS

Hello Etchingham!

My name is Benjamin Sutch and I'm very excited to be filling the big shoes of Trevor McGregor in becoming your new Chairman of Etchingham Parish Council.

The Parish Council is tremendously grateful to Trevor for his time and service on the Parish Council, and we wish him and his family the very best as they plan to move out of the village later this year.

I was encouraged to write a short "*Who is Ben?*" to drop into our latest and greatest edition of the Burwash Villages & Etchingham magazine. Deep breath... here goes!

Along with my partner, Sara, we are relatively new to the village, moving here in 2017. Sara joined me from Boston, Massachusetts, when I returned home to the UK after living in Thailand. I am, in fact, English... although, if you have ever spoken to me, I know I don't sound like it. I was born in Brighton and raised in the surrounding villages before packing my bags along with my family to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Like many of us, the winds of travel took me here, there, and a little bit of everywhere in between before I eventually found my way back home.

Finally, together in one place, Sara and I pulled out a map, dropped a pin on my families' home in the Dickens, and drew a 15-mile ring around it.

We almost ended up in Pevensey, but a chance opportunity to view the lovely place we now call home arrived. Leaving the viewing, we knew we had found our new home and we have never looked back.

New to Etchingham, we have been delighted to meet many of our fellow villagers, forge friendships and figure out where to get the best pizza (the Bistro obviously!).

It was on a day a few years ago driving down Sheepstreet Lane that it hit me... you know that feeling when you realise you are getting a little fuzzy feeling in your belly that you are arriving home. Nothing beats that. The kettle is going to be on, the slippers are waiting and you're in your own little castle, safe and sound once more. So then, nothing to do but to get involved to ensure that I was giving back to a place that was giving me so much.

I was delighted to stand for a vacancy on the Parish Council. It was from there that I was presented with a wonderful opportunity to join the Etchingham CIC, and found a way to contribute to the village. Through the CIC I came to learn so much more about our village, its history, and how I could make a difference. I'm sure it better prepared for me for the next opportunity - to stand for a vacant Council position - early last year, and take the reins from Trevor in August this year.

I'm new to the job, but we have a great team on the Parish Council that I'm honoured to serve alongside. Paulette, John, Mary, Rob, Sid (get well soon!) and Colin are a tremendous group of dedicated villagers stepping up to do their part and I hope to make them all, and our village, proud. I'm excited to roll up my sleeves and muck in to see how I can help. I can't promise I know how, but I can promise I will give it my all. My door will always be open but I figure you will prefer email, or visiting at the Bistro for monthly Coffee & Cake meet ups.

Find me, let's chat and make it happen. Thank you Etchingham and looking forward to the adventure ahead.

Cheers,
Ben

BENJAMIN SUTCH

ETCHINGHAM TRUST FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION

The village has a magnificent facility in our two Village Halls, the larger of which we share with the School, but which is available at all times outside school hours. Broadly that means after 5 p.m. in the evening, at weekends and in the school holidays. The downside is that they are costly to run.

The buildings are managed as one and the Trust pays its fair share of the costs. Normally, as agreed in the original Lease documents, the Trust meets 28 per cent of the cost of running the building. While it is a great help to the Trust that the building is managed by the School, the Trust obviously has to manage the bookings and running of the halls (outside school hours for the larger) and there are also management costs associated with running the Trust. The result has been that in the years since 2015 the halls have only been in profit when the NHS was making use of them during Covid and have rarely broken even. The Trust itself is running at a steady annual loss. That is why it has long operated a “100 Club” and has organised a number of very successful talks, sometimes in conjunction with other charities, to help cover the deficit. However, there are other organisations in the village that have a need to raise money and not every talk can be for the Trust’s benefit.

While the halls are well used during the week, they too often stand empty at weekends and during the summer, although an ideal venue for parties, functions and conferences. The Bleacher seating and curtaining arrangements were designed to enable excellent dramatic productions as those who have attended the Christmas plays in the past will bear witness.

With our reserves dwindling, it is probably time to point out that we are now in sight of that danger point at which the challenge to the village will be “if you don’t use it, we shall either lose it or have to subsidise it collectively”.

Frankly, the best way forward is for families in the village to make more use of the halls than they do at present. Children’s parties are particularly welcome. But there are other ways in which villagers can help, not least by supporting the talks the Trust organises to raise funds. They are always well advertised in the E-bulletin and in this Magazine. Better still, buy shares in our monthly lottery, the 100 Club.

Further than that, consider if there are ongoing activities that you would like to help organise. A cinema club has been mooted, but we would need people to help organise its activities on a sustainable basis. In their turn, the Trustees are looking to organise more functions. We have had to postpone the Autumn Craft Fair through unforeseen circumstances, but have it in mind for the coming year and thereafter, if it is a success, annually.

Finally, if anyone in the village has any bright ideas as to how more funds could be raised, please contact the Trust’s administrator, Paulette Barton – Parish Office details printed in the contact section of this magazine, or any of the Trustees who are:

John Barnes, Ben Sutch, Mary Barnes, Sid Barrow,
Rob Beeney and Colin Boylett.

Their contact details are the same as for the Parish Council.

P.S. Please note that our AGM this year will be held in the evening in November – date to be advised.

JOHN BARNES
CHAIRMAN

Michael Parris - Water Engineer

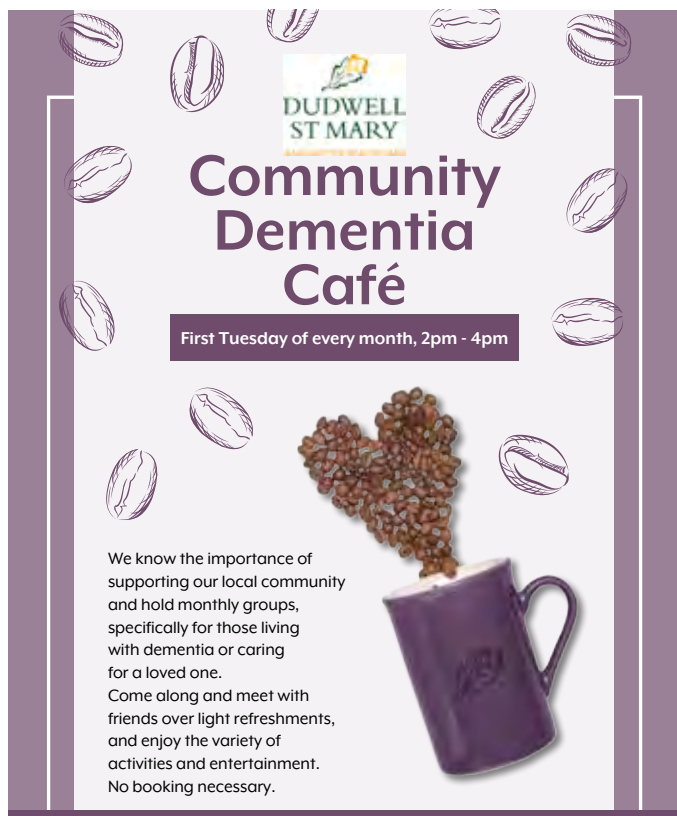
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FARMING IN PALESTINE: FOCUS ON GAZA

Over five millennia, Gaza's historic old town and port have been repeatedly occupied, besieged, destroyed and rebuilt. Farming Gaza's coastal soils has required skills honed over generations, with crop varieties adapted to cope with the saline conditions. Today, Gaza's infrastructure lies in ruins, with water severely polluted, and its soils razed, compacted and contaminated with heavy metals. Remarkably, farming continues amidst the rubble and temporary shelters.

Dr George McAllister is a researcher and Burwash resident, specialising in post-conflict food systems recovery. Since 2020, she has been working in Gaza with over 300 women producers - herders, farmers, fishers and processors - to support a shift towards food sovereignty. This talk aims to share stories of food and farming, and explore some of the history of Palestine.



15th October from 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.



ETCHINGHAM TUESDAY CLUB

A little bit of village history (written for the Annual Parish Council Report in 2023)

I am writing about the Tuesday Club as we are one of the few 'clubs' left in the village. Another is the Etchingham Military and Aviation Club, but unfortunately there are only two or three active members remaining. There is also the Etchingham Improvements Committee, which sadly has far fewer members than previously.

In a copy of the Parish Magazine for February/March 2015 there were many more groups in the village, some of which I list below: Beaver Cubs and Scouts, Brownies, Guides, Etchingham Under-Fives and Etchingham Under-Fives Baby & Toddler Group, Darby and Joan, Etchingham and Fontridge Cricket Club, The Village Choir, The Royal British Legion and Rother Valley Ladies. There was also a Mobile Library. How sad that all these have disappeared.

Many years ago, when I was a child my mother belonged to the group which was then called Ticehurst and Etchingham Young Wives. In a previous time my grandmother Weston belonged to a similar group, The Mothers' Union. Apparently during war time, to help the war effort, the Old Village Hall was used by them to can and bottle fruit and veg. A lot of jam making also went on. My mother told me that there was someone there who made sure the correct amount of jam was made for each batch.

I'm not sure where the meetings were held, maybe the Old Village Hall. I first belonged over forty years ago and at that time it was called Hurst Green and Etchingham Young Wives. Our meetings were always the second Tuesday of the month and were held at Ladyfield in the High Street. Mrs. Ransom, who lived there then, was our leader and, at the start of the meeting, she would always read something from the Bible followed by the Lord's Prayer. This was a real coming together of both villages with a printed document giving the committee names and all the events planned, together with who would be supplying the supper for each meeting.

When Mrs. Ransom moved away the meetings also moved, to the Rectory where Father Fred (Butler) and his wife Nora lived at the time.

Several other members hosted meetings after that: Greta Crane at Brookside Farm and later at Balmain, and Julia Barrow, our leader at that time, welcomed us to her home as well. Before the Old Village Hall was demolished, we held several meetings in the Annexe. Barbara Revell was a leader for many years.

In 2011 Julia stepped down and I was voted in as new leader. I am still in that role in 2023. Today our meetings are held at the Etchingham Club when we are not 'out and about'. We are very grateful to the club for allowing us to use their lovely refurbished premises.

The decision to rename ourselves 'The Tuesday Club' was made quite a while back because members were feeling they had to leave if they were widowed or their children had grown up, so it was renamed and opened up for any woman to join; single, married, divorced – it didn't matter.

My mother had also been a member of the Women's Institute, name changed to Rother Valley Ladies later, for over 70 years. She joined when she was only 14 years old. The long existing Darby and Joan Club also changed its name to The Friendship Club. Sadly, neither of these two groups survived the Covid period.

Over the years the Tuesday Club has had many varied evening meetings:- at the Cherry Tree pub with a two course meal, the landlord told us about his previous work in Forensic Investigations in the area of road traffic incidents; - a visit to Bodiam Castle, on the same evening as the local fire crew were practising using their hoses from the moat (not the usual fire hydrant) resulted in 'threats to spray us with water!' but we still made it across to the Castle pub for another lovely meal; there was an annual bowling competition in Tunbridge Wells with a small trophy to be won and yet another great meal to follow.

Pippa Dealey, who lived and went to school in Etchingham, but is now better known from Bargain Hunt and Dickinson's Real Deal on television - and now has her own local antique business - has also spoken at a meeting.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

TUESDAY CLUB *CONTINUED*

We have had Boules competitions, best decorated jubilee hat (2012), visits to local museums, the life and fears of a WW1 soldier compared to a soldier in modern Afghanistan, ghost walks, films and talks from travellers far and wide; a Slap'n'Dash evening at Hawkhurst Fish Farm, etc. Over the years since I have been leader, it is amazing how many different evenings we have enjoyed.

2022

“Normal service resumes with regular Tuesday meetings (apart from April when a restaurant night had to be changed to Thursday to accommodate Royal Oak at Whatlington), culminating in a splendid Christmas dinner featuring the traditional Secret Santa Sack, run on a ‘lucky dip’ basis - it’s so interesting to see how inventive our ladies can be within the allocated budget!

It is such a shame seeing so many clubs disappearing, but people’s lives are so very different from how they used to be and finding volunteers to run the clubs and even getting members to attend proves ever more difficult as lives are so full already.

***Tuesday Club Group Leader
May 2023***

LINDA NEVE

ETCHINGHAM TUESDAY CLUB, AUGUST 2025

On the 12th August we held our A.G.M. at the Etchingham Club. Eight members attended. There was an apology from Paulette and three members have decided to leave the Club.

As usual Corrina kindly manned the bar for us and food was put on the bar. Raffle prizes were displayed on a table and raffle tickets distributed. The eight of us sat at a round table and I read out the details of what we have done over the past year.

Over the years Corrina has been our secretary and also our bar maid when we have been at the Etchingham Club; but she has decided to step down now. Diane gave her a bouquet of flowers and we all thanked her for all the work she has done over the years.

It was then time to talk about organising different activities for the coming year and on different days of the week. We will not be using the Etchingham Club as we will probably be going out more to different venues. However, many thanks to the Club for allowing us there over the years.

A visit to the Bistro was arranged for September.

Our October meeting will be on *Thursday, 23rd* - to be confirmed.

***LINDA NEVE
GROUP LEADER***

BARN OWLS - ETCHINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Barn Owls opened its doors again after the long Summer break and it was as if nothing had happened. The older children came in very happily and were pleased to be with their friends again.

We learned all about the exciting things that people had done in their holidays (although it turned out that the trip to Australia was just in one child’s imagination)!

The staff have been out doing home visits to new starters - it makes such a difference to the children when they see a familiar face at the door.

As this goes to print we welcome Maverick, Olive, Tsea, Tommy and William H, although others are due to join us soon.

The first few weeks we are just settling in, but we then look forward to doing topics - Autumn being one of them - although it is hard to believe when the weather has been so lovely.

NICKY MENZIES

***Thank you to Nicky for Etchingham
E-Bulletin. Ed.***



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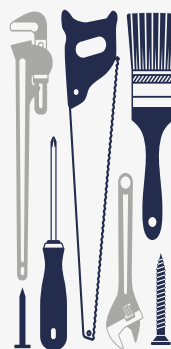
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BURWASH AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB



Helen transported us to Australia with her Down Under demonstration with five vibrant floral arrangements, featured above, inspired by the colours and spirit of the country.

Her son and grandson live there and her grandfather and father both spent time in Australia after the Second World War.

Alongside flowers, Helen shared stories of the country's culture and history; it has one of the longest beaches in the world, the vast Ninety Mile Beach and the tradition of early shop closures so people can head to the sea.

We learned that Australia's population is around 27 million, with nearly a million Indigenous Australians. Australia Day, on 26th January, marks the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788. Broome, in Western Australia, once a pearling hub, had divers risking sharks and the deadly blue-ringed octopus. Surprisingly, bees are said to cause more fatalities in Australia than any other creature!

Other curious snippets: Australia runs the world's longest train (4.57 miles long with 682 carriages and 8 locomotives); eucalyptus trees by the BBQ help deter mosquitoes; and while Perth is just 2½ hours from Bali, Sydney is five hours away.

Helen also visited the Western Australian Flower Club - one of just four clubs in the State, serving two million people, and found it shared the same warmth as ours.

A colourful afternoon, full of flowers, stories and sunshine from the other side of the world.

Our next demonstration is on Monday, 10th November and we look forward to seeing you there.

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PARKING

RUFUS' RURAL RAMBLES

What changeable weather we have been having over the last few weeks. Some days have been very hot, so I stay at home in the garden and sleep outside when I can. We have had heavy rain with thunder and lightning at times. Thankfully the vegetable garden away from the house has not been flooded, but unfortunately only runner beans and tomato plants are growing there at the moment. Mum is very happy that the two big cob nut trees have quite a few nuts growing on them. Mum loves them and makes a nut sandwich with them. Many years ago when she went to apple pick at Athena Farm, she always had nut sandwiches for her lunch. Veronica Farley also worked there and mum told me that she also writes in this magazine. I send my best wishes to her.

Back on the 17th July Mum and Dad's son Paul was getting married at the Pilgrims' Rest in Battle next to Battle Abbey School, where Paul is a teacher. Mum's best friend Pat, whom she met at Robertsbridge Secondary Modern School and Hastings Catering College, kindly came to stay and look after me that day: we both enjoyed ourselves. The other day, Tina our local vet came to give me an injection to keep me safe from anything nasty and I had a lovely fuss from her.

Mum wanted to go for a walk to see if there were any blackberries to pick to make into jam, so we went into the field near the railway bridge and down into what they call the triangle field. Unfortunately very few were on offer. Several years ago there were a lot of blackberries there and Dad, in one part of the hedge, unfortunately got stung by a wasp and had a bad reaction to it. Matthew had to take him to hospital for treatment.

We went into the marsh field and Mum spotted what could have been a house martin, swallow or swift for the first time this year. Once upon a time there were lots to be seen and one even got into their bedroom. Dad caught it and set it free. Likewise, this year there has not been a cuckoo to hear over the fields, as mum and dad tell me, used to happen.

The run-outs in front of Barnfields have had little work done on them and there has been a large piece of willow lying there since the hedges were cut. Gray Nicholls have still not cleared their ditch by Barnfields or on the way to the station. The village pond has also not been looked after. Another day we were going to walk around the field where the bottom shop was many years ago, but there were calves there so we didn't go in. Instead we walked into the Queen's Garden and Mum spotted some blackberries at the side in front of The Orchard, but on tasting one she said it was very sharp to eat. We then walked towards home and continued over the railway bridge. Just along from there workmen were rebuilding the bridge that had been hit several months ago. One of the workmen stopped his vehicle and said we could not go down to see the work, but on another day we did go and see it. Mum told the man that many years ago her mum and her sister used to play along that way and Auntie Bessy was a dare-devil and would run on top of the bridge. Thankfully she never fell into the river. That bridge has probably been there for over a hundred years.

Recently I have spotted deer in the field opposite home and I often spy several doggies there from the top of the settee in the sitting room, where I like to sit.

David and Matthew have taken me to Robertsbridge over the fields. One day I even had a ride on the train back home. I have had many lovely walks with them over the last few weeks and I'm allowed sometimes to go off lead. One day going to Little Barden I ran away into the marsh field. Thankfully, they caught me. Last week I went to Wendy's house in Hurst Green to be clipped and shampooed, so, at the moment, I look a bit different, should I decide to run away again.

The weather is now changing and Autumn has come along. The leaves are falling from the trees, forming a leaf carpet on the ground. On the 4th of September, first thing in the morning, we had very heavy rain and it looked white, but now the sun is shining. Thankfully there were no power cuts.

I wish all the best for the children going back to different schools and also the younger ones going for their first day. Thankfully, I get out of all that. Have a lovely Autumn!

RUFUS

FLORIBUNDA - MY LIFE OF CRIME

"Floribunda's results are not commensurate with her talent."

I had to look commensurate up in the dictionary to find out what that meant. That was the year I told my parents that the school had done away with reports. When I read the latest one it was such a shocker, I suppressed it immediately. It needed to be signed by them but such was my deluded 14 year old brain that I did not realise I would be found out and have to face the music.

That has been the story of my life. I took on this task and that is that. All I can think of is myself as a teenager, when gardening was another activity I despised.

I would walk home along the Ridge to avoid yells of derision from secondary modern yobs. I was in my school uniform, me being a grammar school snob. One afternoon I hid in the cemetery at the bottom of the hill, and when I eventually emerged, I was asked which grave I had come out from. So there you are. Sometimes there is no escape from a deadline, a yob or a bad report. So what is going on in my garden?

The drought has rendered it rock hard with fissures, but I have watered it from my butts. I have not at any time resorted to hosepipes. I do not want to waste water or be antisocial. Some of my plants look distinctly withered and sickly but so do I, so join the club.

My trees are surviving on a weekly bucket of water, the grass is withering but will come back from the dead. I have a lot of painting and preparation to do in the house so I have no time to worry. I am testing the survival of the fittest and the weeds are hanging on in there. My fight with the tormentil goes on, the thistles are blowing their seeds over the fence and that is that. (*Look it up: Editor.*)

How was it Gilbert White at Selborne wrote so much when he was the vicar of a parish miles away? He had cooks, cleaners and other minions: that is how! So that's it. The editor of this magazine tells me she has been poisoned by a courgette, so at least that's not happened to me this month. This has been helped by my dislike of the taste of courgettes and their relation the marrow.

I shall stop there as I have another bout of scything due. As you know I would rather have two legs, but I must hop, skip and jump to my next task of the day, namely eating my breakfast.

FLORIBUNDA

WALKS FOR STROLLERS

Seven Strollers set off in the sunshine for our August walk. We headed along the High Street to St Bartholomew's Church. We then took the footpath leading down to the river Dudwell. Crossing the river we headed up the hill passing Old Brick Farm. On reaching Fontridge Lane we turned right along the Lane.

At Woodman's we took the footpath back towards Burwash. Exiting the footpath at the bottom of King's Hill road we crossed Dudwell Bridge and turned left on to Bateman's Lane. After a short distance we turned right on to the footpath which took us back up to Burwash.

It was an enjoyable 4.5 mile walk in the sunshine.

Unfortunately we were not so lucky with the weather for our September walk. Due to the windy, rainy conditions the walk was cancelled.

Our next walk is on Wednesday, 1st October, meeting at the Bear Car Park, Burwash 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



THE ROTHER VIEW MURDERS

Sim came in from work and thrust a crinkled, brown paper bag into his mother's hand: "Dee gave me these". He paused, "But I'm making pasta and pesto".

His mother smirked to herself: "Just as well as there's not enough beef stew left for two," she thought to herself. It needed a side dish to bulk it out. Inside the bag were two squash/courgettes - fancy ones, so she de-seeded them, sliced them, covered them in olive oil and tossed garlic, rosemary and lashings of sweet paprika over them in an open French oven dish.

Sim ate his pesto pasta, mother ate her beef and chickpea stew, plus SIDE DISH. They were both hungry and tired after long working days.

By 10.30 p.m. mother was in agony on the shower room floor, holding on to the ladder radiator as if she was giving birth once more. She crawled to Sim's bedroom door and said, "If I pass out, it's the bottom left hand side of my abdomen". No reply came.

The events of the night are best 'washed over': suffice to say that mother was prostrate on the office floor by dawn, waiting to phone Dr Robertson at 8 a.m., if she could stay conscious.

"Doctor will phone you back later" a voice declared at 8.02. At 2.30 p.m. doctor listened to the above.

"You better come to the Surgery at 4.30, you sound awful," he informed her. Didn't she just know that. How was she to manage to sit in a car, or in the Surgery? She managed it somehow, before sprinting to the public loos.

Diagnosis: "Probably something you picked up in the course of your work. Would you like some Imodium tablets, take two and then one a day".

She did. A day later, still prostrate on the office floor, Sim came home and declared: "They said don't eat the courgettes, they are bitter".

Somehow her brain whirled and she struggled to type into the search engine in French, "Can courgettes be poisonous?" Answer: "Yesgo to one of the eight poison centres in France" She read like a woman possessedyes, yes, yes..... all the symptoms, lower abdomen extreme cramps, terribly upset system, unable to stand or function, agony. All caused by a toxin in the vegetable given to Sim by someone, via someone else all in neat and law abiding Rother Viewnow this block has more than its fair share of ex-policemen, did you know? Yet, lurking there are potential murderers, she thought: birds sowing hybrids!

Nearly as good as Midsomer Murdersexcept that after four days, the victim had made a full recovery, indeed she lost half a stone, which was a lot cheaper than going for a 'treatment'. Her finger nails turned shiny and her toe nails had not looked so good for years: the toxin elimination clearly also eliminated all the bacterial flotsam in her system. It felt like being 25 again! (Sadly, she didn't look it.)

On further academic internet research a medical abstract from Leiden in the Netherlands reported that an elderly couple unwittingly shared two hybrid courgettes/gourds. The wife survived but the husband died!

Weeks later another report popped up from Brighton Allotments Association, where an allotment holder ate a hybrid, felt 'deadly' and ended up at the Royal Sussex Hospital, "Who didn't have a clue" until further tests revealed the toxin: high levels of **CURBITACIN**.

What did she learn from this?

1. Keep enough good beef in the freezer!
2. Don't accept gifts from strangers.
 - 2a Especially not in brown paper bags.
 - 2b Definitely not from Rother View.
 - 2c Watch out for retired policemen en masse.
3. Go straight to a French web site if it involves anything to do with food.
 - 3a Encourage your GP to do the same.
 - 3b It's a good way to waste hours learning new things about obscure scientific subjects.
4. See the irony in telling everyone to share food and eat fresh vegetables! God thought he would shut her up (for a while).
5. There was no murderer - just Mother Nature doing her job! She was a predator. See page 25.
6. The French taught her to cook, so they taught her how to hide the bitterness - English no nonsense cooking might be safer.
7. Not the only stupid ... person, see below:

Frequent confusion

The French Poison Control Centres (CAPs) regularly receive calls regarding poisonings associated with the consumption of inedible "squash".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25
THE REAL SCIENCE

ETCHINGHAM NATURE NOTES

I am writing this on the 25th August, after one of the driest long periods on record. The effects of this are surprising in many ways, including trees, shrubs and plants either dying or at least looking like doing so. Leaves are falling very much as they normally do in Autumn, the grass is growing very slowly (not that this is entirely a bad thing - it needs mowing less often!), and we are walking on fallen acorns under every oak tree.

The most surprising thing has been the number - and variety - of fungi growing in the woods, when the ground is so dry, and I certainly expect fungi mostly in damp weather. We have had some big parasol mushrooms and various smaller ones, some very white and some quite black.

I had a very interesting report from Paul Stott, who had been watching two Green Woodpeckers feeding (on ants) on his lawn. As well as feeding, they also exhibited "anting", where they rubbed the ants into their plumage, presumably to help get rid of parasites. He also reported having had more (black?) ants than usual and several evenings worth of flying ant swarms. We have also had lots of ants, especially flying ants. Paul did also mentioned having lots of bullfinches.

We have been overrun with spiders, getting them everywhere in the house, in unprecedented numbers.

On the 14th August, as we drove along Sheepstreet Lane, my wife (Barbarann) spotted a peregrine falcon on the roadside - something we don't see at all often.

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.

FRANK H. SMITH



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THE REAL SCIENCE

"Ornamental gourds and hybrid garden squash should not be eaten. Some cucurbits are toxic and contain cucurbitacins, substances that are highly irritating and bitter. After ingestion, these can rapidly lead to digestive pain, nausea, vomiting and (sometimes bloody) diarrhoea, or even severe dehydration requiring hospitalisation. These substances, which are not destroyed by cooking, are naturally produced by wild cucurbits to repel predatory insects such as caterpillars.

This is the case with ornamental gourds such as colocynths, all of which are considered toxic, available commercially (sometimes in the fruit and vegetable section) for strictly decorative uses, and which should not be confused with edible squash.

This is also the case with certain edible squash grown in the garden vegetable patch, which become unfit for consumption as a result of wild hybridisations. This phenomenon occurs when inedible and edible varieties coexist in the same or in neighbouring vegetable patches, and the seeds are harvested and re-sown year after year. But beware! The inedible gourds that result from this hybridisation look exactly like edible squash, except that they have a bitter taste, unlike the edible varieties, which have a neutral or slightly sweet taste."

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LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE



It is 6.20 a.m. on a Bank Holiday and I was hoping to watch an old Time Team about Sutton Hoo on my lap top, cuddled up with the dog, while the dog food for the day was cooking. Alas, this part of Sussex has run out of juice: no electricity, so no internet. It's too chilly to go gardening, the iron is electric, the bedroom is still too gloomy to read so I'll have to revert to writing on my fully charged lap top: about another type of juice - grape juice!

My first taste of wine was in Cahors, France, aged seven during a seven course meal which went on way into the balmy, cricket humming night, with the smell of drying tobacco and ripe Cantaloupe melons wafting through the open windows as we worked our way through rillettes, local fish, garlic drenched French beans, local duck, orange fleshed melons and a whole array of cheeses. My guardian, a Scot from Inverness, (and a history teacher in a London comprehensive) was fed up with ordering grape juice for me and his daughter, so he gave us local Cahors wine with water - and it is still my favourite by miles (kilometres), followed by a certain Hungarian blood-red wine.

If you had told me then that I would end my days surrounded by vineyards, I wouldn't have believed you but Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey and Kent are now producing amazing wines and the French champagne houses have started buying large tracts of land in Sussex. It might be worth living to 100 after all just to celebrate with Sussex "champagne"!

The Romans were growing vines on the slopes of the South Downs behind Ditchling and now, once again, vines are back. The photo above is taken from Streat near Ditchling looking towards Queen Victoria's V on the South Downs. In 1979 I lived in Victoria Cottage below the V and the first vines were being planted: everyone thought the farmer was nuts and now look!

Vines are even being grown to supply 'crops' of grapes to supply local wine makers. We have Vines Cross just down the road, of course. Hidden Spring Vineyard is on Vines Cross Road, Horam. In 2015 the vineyard was expanded, removing the remains of the campsite and planting over 24,000 vines of 5 different varieties across 13 acres, gradually maturing into the amazing vineyard you see today. They do great tasting tours, so there's no excuse for not going to try it out!

According to my Facebook feed you could spend an entire holiday going from vineyard to vineyard, enjoying tours, tastings, wandering between the vines or enjoying gourmet hampers offered by many of the local vineyards: the original Nyetimber estate is located in West Sussex but they own vineyards across nine separate sites in the South East, including Sussex, Hampshire and Kent.

LAST OF THE SUMMER WINE CONTINUED

Chapel Down, the leading and largest English vineyard near Tenterden (only 30 minutes drive away) owns, leases and sources from over 1,000 acres of vineyards in South East England, of which 750 acres are fully productive. You could visit Sedlescombe Organic Vineyard on the way at Cripps Corner, Robertsbridge and then proceed to Bodiam Oastbrook Vineyard, or Carr Taylor in Westfield.

Otherwise, head south to Alfriston and the coast where you can visit the huge Rathfinny Estates, which boldly claim: *“Our low-intervention, traditional method, vintage Sussex Sparkling wines are a true expression of our terroir. Produced from hand-harvested grapes that are whole-bunch pressed and patiently matured.”*

The same chalky soil of which Champagne is so proud is also key to Sussex's success – the two regions are connected by a huge bedrock of chalk running under the English Channel. Many believe that this imparts a distinctive character into our wines and is part of what makes Sussex so unique. There are now almost 150 vineyards in the Sussex Winelands – the largest concentration of vineyards in any county. If you're looking to visit a Sussex vineyard for a tasting, a tour or a bite to eat, these exceptional estates are a great place to start. Red wine lovers: try Heppington Red from the Canterbury area or venture to Balfour Winery near Staplehurst who also produce a fine red wine. Going West, stop off at Roebuck Estates near Petworth via Bluebell Vineyard Estates. Want some art too? Then head for Artelium, Streat Lane, Hassocks, where they strive to combine Art, culture, outdoor dining and Sussex wine - has to be my favourite as that's where the photo above was taken from and where we first picked grapes for our Landlord Farmer turned Viticulture innovator - who was so right and ahead of his time. Ridgeview Estate Winery is nearby in Ditchling so these two could make up a day trip!

Anyway, after years of living with a Muslim, I'm drunk after even one large glasstwo glasses and I have a hangover. I did go to University in Montpellier and made a point of studying Viticulture in depth. Gris de Listel, sardines from Sete port cooked over vine cuttings, lettuces hand-picked from the garden, fresh tomato salad and cherries straight off the tree..... In the old town red wine was 1 Franc a glass, invariably with free oysters from the 'etangs' served from plastic bags, opened with a pen knife and drenched in hand squeezed lemon juicewhy did I ever come back to England? I remember now, to marry a Dutchman who had a wine cellar full of Pomerol and Gevray Chambertin.

My daughter has set up home with a trainee Sommelier I hope they are promoting Sussex wines too - wine must run in the blood.

Please drink sensibly: go for quality not quantity. Going to do a tour? Take one non-drinker to drive just in case you get carried away or better still hire a gite on site, as many of the vineyards offer accommodation too. The best enterprise : Shuttle and Vine, who will pick you up from Brighton Station and drive you to and from your vineyard(s) of choice. There's a huge boost to the Sussex economy creeping across our chalk terroirs and sandy nooks!

Lastly, **OCTOBER IS SUSSEX GOOD FOOD MONTH** Get some pairings going, please. Researching this was so difficult, I kept reading the restaurant menus have a look, but check your credit card first!

CAROLINE HUBAND



SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH

Waiting For Kick-Off, Blisters, Portacabins and Cyber Attacks

As I sit down to write the September article, we are in a sporting state of limbo. The Womens' EURO tournament has finished with a dramatic victory for the Lionesses, the Lion's rugby tour is over following the 2-1 defeat of the Wallabies and the Test match series between England and India has reached its nail-biting crescendo. Now, with the exception of a few pre-season friendlies, there is a long two weeks before the Premier League kicks off. Given that Brighton and Hove Albion got all of their transfer business done early in the summer, there is not a great deal to report. In such scenarios, I would usually resort to trailing through on-line football sites to get ideas and shamelessly plagiarise articles by proper journalists about obscure footballing facts, traditions or footballing events around the world. However, fortunately, this time you have been spared reading about bizarre pre-match rituals, outer Mongolian training methods, the price of pies at stadiums around the globe or any other such drivel dredged from the bowels of the internet.

A few weeks ago, I got chatting to one of our members, who, unbeknown to me, had first-hand, inside knowledge of the Albion, before the current glory days of the AMEX Stadium and Premier League football. Back in the 1990s, Mary worked as a chiropodist and, like so many other loyal, stoic Albion supporters, she went to the Goldstone Ground to watch the inexorable decline of our beloved old club, as it was asset-stripped and left for dead by the reviled Archer-Bellotti ownership regime. However, for Mary, one trip to the Goldstone and a spur-of-the-moment decision allowed her to be part of Brighton's rise from the ashes. Rather than me telling her story, Mary can tell you in her own words....

"Where and when it all began..... I was minding my own business in the North Stand at the Goldstone when a friend said, "There is a request in the programme for a Chiropodist as the one they had has just died".

They all said "Go on, you're a chiropodist, you can do it."

I said, "No, no, no way." But they convinced me to go and speak to Malcolm Stuart, the Albion's Head Physiotherapist, after the game. He took one look at me and said, "You're hired, but we can't pay you, we have no money. But you will get some kudos!" That started at least 15 years (and as many managers in charge) of being the club's chiropodist.

Then the dreadful day came in 1997 the end of the Goldstone Ground. The medical equipment, such as it was, was put in a shed somewhere. The University of Sussex gave us the use of a disused squash court and the weights, treatment beds, etc. were put up there...not much light, no water, no phone, but Malcolm and I did our best to raise spirits. Then three portacabins were put up near the playing fields. These were pushed together with a gap in between, a gap from which unpleasant smells wafted. The bottom field was to be the training ground, which, in my opinion, was more suited for raising sheep. However, we made the best of it and I visited there on a Monday afternoon and I also attended the lads before "home" games at Gillingham and, eventually, Withdean.

There were a lot of laughs there and I really enjoyed it. I can remember arriving at the start of the season. As I parked my car, a whistle came from nearby bushes..... "Mary, don't give us away". The lads were supposed to be doing a cross country run and, you guessed it, a little while later they came out puffing and limping looking like they had run the distance.

Another memory that makes me smile is Malcolm's rescued greyhound, named Rooney, who kept escaping and running round the fields with Malcolm in hot pursuit trying to catch him. The lads all came out and lined up cheering him on. I heard one of them say "Shall we help him?". The response was a resounding "No". I was very busy there and so many people turned up for help with foot problems - not just the players. Friends of the "Board", most of the Managers, ground staff, you name it, plus a well-known actor from The Bill, all turned up for treatment.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH CONTINUED

I was once asked to attend the club as the FA was sending someone down to check on how we were looking after the feet of the youngsters. I turned up and, to my surprise, so did Norman Whiteside (who, after retiring from football, trained as a podiatrist). He said "Do you know who I am?" I said "Yes, but I won't hold it against you!" Anyway, we got on quite well and I learnt later he gave us a glowing report on the standard of care to the FA. I understand the Board was very pleased.

And then there was Withdean..... I could write a book about that but 'what goes on in the dressing room stays in the dressing room'. However, a couple more memories: A player on loan from Ipswich, was horrified when I was wielding my scalpel and clippers on their feet before a game and exclaimed "What is she doing?" A lovely lad piped up and said "We know Mary and we trust her". That was so nice of him and our players always supported me. Another time I recall a man from Hastings on the coaching team who was notorious for believing a woman had no place in a football club. He came to me with an ingrowing toenail and a crowd of players came in surrounding the bed saying "Give him pain Mary" or words to that effect, few of which I can repeat here. I could go on.....but no names mentioned so no rules broken. As Malcolm Stuarts said all those years ago, I have received "kudos" from my work at the Albion and it's the privilege of having some part in keeping this special club going in our darkest hour. And LOOK AT THEM NOW!!!"

Speaking to Mary about her experiences at Brighton and Hove Albion, emphasises the phenomenal transformation of the club since the abyss of the late 90s. Portacabins in muddy fields, squash courts for treatment rooms, matches played in Kent or in converted athletics tracks and battling to stay in the football league is a long way from the state-of-the-art Elite Football Performance Centre, AMEX Stadium and Premier League football the Albion now enjoys. If any 'new' Brighton supporters ever get complacent or feel entitled to top 10 finishes and European football, just send them to Mary and she will remind them where the club has come from and how lucky they are to support the club in its present glory days.

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 revered Chairman, Mr Teskey O'Neil, on 01435 884344 or tesbar80@btinternet.com. Unfortunately, you will have to phone him at the moment as he has destroyed yet another computer, although, once again, he insists that it was not his fault. Not being averse to the odd conspiracy theory, he initially blamed the Chinese government for interfering with his essential SOB communications. Then Mr Putin was responsible. However, after further investigation, Teskey concluded that it was a cyber-attack from the other end of the M23 and that Crystal Palace were the guilty party. Unlikely, but, then again, just because you are paranoid, Teskey, doesn't mean that they are not out to get you!

SIMON FORSTER

*It could be the other Rother View residents Teskey!
(See Page 24)*

THE EDITOR

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE

Book your place as a Christmas Market stallholder. Calling all talented makers, creators and designers! St Michael's Hospice is inviting stallholders to join them for its brand-new Christmas Markets, held at the Hospice in St Leonards on Sea on Saturday, 15th and Sunday, 16th November 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m.

It's your chance to showcase your beautiful crafts, festive goods and handmade delights while supporting your local Hospice. Whether you knit, paint, bake or sculpt, don't miss this opportunity to be part of a wonderful weekend of festive fun for the community of Hastings and Rother.

Spaces are limited - secure your stall today and support local Hospice care this Christmas. Register your interest by emailing fundraising@stmichaels hospice.com or call 01424 445177.

LOTTIE ADAMS-BROWN



I KNOW WHAT WE DID THIS SUMMER

Hello and welcome back to the monthly catch-ups from your local semi-lovable football hooligans, here to update you on our summer escapades. The club successfully ran the third iteration of its 7 A Side Football Tournament. If I'm honest, I don't remember much about the day, I was either playing football or refereeing football: in either instance there was a fair amount of abuse coming my way. Events like that help fill the club's coffers, meaning we can go yet another season without increasing our signing on or match fees for players. We went one step further, introducing a new discounted rate for under 21s or players in full time education.

Next up was the club AGM, where we set out the rules for the season and officials. For the minute all you need to know is I continue as Chairman and Willy Pugh Jones is the first team manager, so feel free to buy either of us a pint sometime. Over the course of the season, I'll introduce the rest of our motley crew.

After a few friendlies, the next big footballing event of the summer took place, Civil War. Burwash blue beat Burwash green 5-1. The real winner of the day was hopefully the BPFA, taking in contributions from players and punters alike as a showing of support from the club to the association. If you had any pulled pork that day and enjoyed it, I made that. If you had any pulled pork that day and didn't like it, I didn't make that.

Another big summer event to call out is the very generous sponsorship the team is receiving from the Rose and Crown Inn, celebrated by them appearing on our new club kit bags!

I wasn't actually present for the opening game of the season at home to Icklesham Casuals, a stag do in Cologne meant I had to guess what was happening. Beer may have warped my imagination massively. So, as I picture it, Drew Clifton opened the scoring for Burwash with a double backflip overhead kick into the top corner. Jamie Pelling scored Burwash' second when he dribbled past every single Icklesham player, took a five-minute nap, dribbled past them again before slotting the ball into the bottom corner. The third goal was the best of the lot, with Jamie kicking the ball so hard he split an atom, propelling the ball towards the goal through the power of nuclear fission. We won 3-2.

The Italians have a saying: "*Il calcio d'agosto è bugiardo.*"

Which in essence translates as: "*Football in August is a lie.*"

Seeing as we won our only competitive game in August, let's hope the saying isn't true!



ALEX ROXON (CHAIRMAN)
burwashfc1890@gmail.com



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BURWASH WALKING FOOTBALL



Over 60's East Sussex League Championship Winners 2025

With no league matches during the summer we had been keeping up our fitness levels by playing a few friendlies at the Uckfield 3G sports facility. This involved games for league players but also some where the rest of us got to have a game against another club. Nothing too strenuous but a good run-out, and good experience for those not used to playing league matches.

We started last month with a very bad-tempered 'friendly' against a Ringmer over 60's team. It started with Burwash being hardly able to get hold of the ball whilst we adjusted to the 3G pitch and the speed of the 'grass', but then we settled down and slowly took control. The Ringmer goal-keeper pulled off a string of superb saves before eventually conceding. Contrast this with the Burwash goal-keeper who had absolutely nothing to do the entire game and who said after the match that we could have played with an extra out-field player and left the goal open, and still won 1-0.

I think it was Ringmer's frustration with being totally out-played and not being able to get the ball out of their half that led to an incident around the corner flag and a couple of players wielding hand-bags at each other. The last time we played Ringmer in a 'friendly' it ended in much the same way. Come on guys, it's supposed to be fun!

Our next friendly was against Battle who will be entering a team in the league this season. There is a very good chance that it will be a mixed team as they have a ladies' section as well, aptly called the Battle Axes. The men's team are the Battle Knights. The last time we played them was several years ago and we lost 5-1 away to a team including two women. This time we were at home at Heathfield and played out a very good 1-1 draw. It should be interesting when we meet them in the league.....

A new football has been produced specially aimed at the Walking Football scene. It's regulation size but approximately 20% lighter, with a slightly more forgiving, padded, covering. Spending much of my time in goal I can certainly appreciate the sentiment: hopefully less finger injuries and less body bruising. One player who took it full in the face can vouch that it causes a lot less pain than the standard ball!

We've had our AGM where we set new subscription rates: £100 for the year. That's 50 sessions. If you didn't get your maths CSE that's just £2 for 90 minutes of football, banter and jollity each session. What else can you get for two quid? Half a cup of coffee? Two and a half pints of petrol? Not even half a pint of beer in a pub.

Since our AGM we have been asked if we have the facility to support players who can't afford the fees and the club are looking into what resources may be available to us. If anyone has such concerns, they can contact Steve Mintram in confidence. If anyone has advice on what support may be available, please also get in touch.

We joined in with the opening of the new Petanque facility (see our photograph on page 49) at Burwash Common on August Bank Holiday entering several teams and having a great afternoon in the sunshine. Free wine and cheese gave the event a real French feel. Unfortunately, we didn't win but sometimes that doesn't matter, it's just the taking part that counts, supporting the village, your friends and your neighbours.

If you are over 50 and would like to get involved, please contact Steve Mintram on 01435 882444 for more information or www.burwashwalkingfootballers.co.uk

The month before we had a Pizza Evening at the Etchingham Bistro and it was clean platters all round and no injuries, just extra inches!

LAURENCE WORTON

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

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

Our annual Border Trophy Competition against Hawkhurst was won by Wadhurst who rattled up a 36-shot victory over our local rivals over the two legs. Clare Waterhouse of C. Waterhouse and Sons, Funeral Directors, who sponsor both clubs, was on hand to make the presentation to Captain Laurence Worton of Wadhurst after the final leg.



The bubbles fly as Clare presents the Border Cup to Laurence.

August saw the annual President vs Chair competition where five teams of three from each side battled it out to be crowned Champion 2025. With the start delayed due to heavy rain it was touch and go whether the fixture would go ahead but eventually the skies parted and the sun came out to provide ideal bowling conditions.

August was a busy month at the club, not so much for club games but we were very honoured to be asked to host a Sussex County Billingham League match and also stage a National 'Champion of Champions' area final match between Mark Strong (Sussex) and Alan Morton (Kent). These matches could have been played anywhere but they chose Wadhurst as a neutral venue for the quality of our green and the hospitality of the club.

Throw in our annual Mixed Triples Tournament where 24 teams compete for the cash prize and our Club Competition Finals weekend it's no surprise that come September we were all exhausted (but happy!)

This year it was the Chair – Linda Carless's team who ran out victors by the very narrowest of margins – just three shots. Two of the rinks having been draws.

At the end of the match all 30 contestants played in a one-wood 'spider' competition.



Valerie presents a bottle of Grants whisky to spider winner Laurence with President Bill Crittle alongside. Valerie, daughter of former, and much loved, President Basil Grant, was on hand to donate a bottle of Grant's whisky to the winner - Laurence Worton.



Valerie also stayed for cream tea and fizz, supplied by President Bill Crittle and Chair Linda Carless before presenting the winner's plaque to Linda.

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

**www.wadhurstbc.com
Washwell Lane, Wadhurst, TN5 6BN.**

LAURENCE WORTON

**See September Report
Overleaf!**

Buxted Park hit winning ways at Wadhurst!

The 27th Wadhurst Open Mixed-Triples Bowls Tournament was played-out under ideal bowling conditions. Play started at 9.30 a.m. and it took 36 games to determine the winner, with Buxted Park Bowls Club emerging worthy champions after 8 hours of intense competition.

They received their Cup and trophies from tournament sponsor Gary Tate of Tate Fencing along with £200 prize money.

In total over 100 players and spectators were in attendance with clubs from Sussex, Kent and as far afield as Southampton all wanting to play on the superb Wadhurst green.



Above - L-R: Gary Tate, Managing Director - Tate Fencing Ltd.

Linda Carless - Chair Wadhurst Bowls and the victorious Buxted Park Team of John Taylor, Susan Walter and Jason Walter

Wadhurst win the Horam League!

Once again the club have secured the League title going the whole season, playing 22 matches, and winning all of them!

Over 30 different players featured in the matches, all of them playing a part in our success and all of them marshalled by our 'Captain Extraordinaire' – Mr Dave Hacker who put in all the hard work behind the scenes to ensure we could meet our commitments and field a competitive team - Well done Dave and well done Wadhurst!

As you read this the bowls season will have finished, the green will have been put-to-bed and the water-proofs packed away for another year.

However, when we reflect on the tremendous season we have had as a Club, winning the Horam League and gaining promotion in the Tunbridge Wells League, in addition to the individual success of players, we can feel confident that the Club is in good hands.

The new green-keeping team under Ivor have done a fantastic job during a very dry summer and all members have pulled together to ensure we remain competitive but also friendly and welcoming to all – whether bowler or spectator.

We thank our sponsors too. Their support is very much appreciated - without them the outlook could be quite bleak!

LAURENCE WORTON

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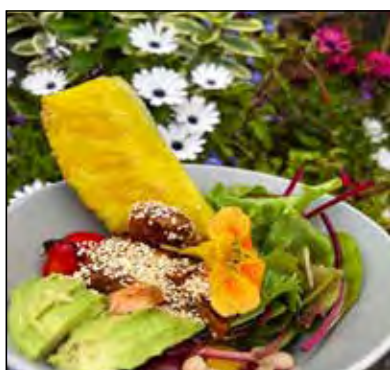
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Wild about Burwash

We have been busy picking apples for our fourth year of Wild About Burwash apple juice. Most fruit trees have fared well despite the hot, dry Summer so we're seeing a plentiful harvest. Thank you to all who offered apples from their gardens and orchards, and to volunteers who have helped pick, collect, deliver and co-ordinate the whole project. If you would like to know when the first pressing is ready and how to buy some of this delicious local juice, please email us. We sell it in packs of 6, litre bottles, with a 2 year shelf-life, with all profits helping us to do more for the environment locally.

In early August, a small group spent the morning with Helen Proctor of the Sussex Botanical Recording Society in the Bateman's "Donkey Field" orchard recording wild flowers and grasses before the annual cut. We found 70 different species which are now uploaded through iRecord to the Biodiversity Records Office which helps monitor data at both national and parish level.



Volunteers continue to monitor the River Dudwell, checking the water quality (monthly) and the state of the river bank (quarterly), noting changes to the vegetation and sightings of any wildlife. Simon Forster and Julian Kenny were on hand at the Burwash Community Market last month to share more details on the project (see page 39).

They have kindly offered to help Wild About Etchingham and Hurst Green start their own testing for both the Limden and the Rother rivers. If you would like to be one of 10 regular volunteers (once a month for about an hour), please get in touch with Fiona at: wildaboutetchingham@gmail.com

We ran another iRecord session at the annual autumn clearance of St Philip's churchyard in Burwash Common. If you'd like to learn more about how to help make sure your flora and fauna sightings throughout the year are registered, let us know.

In September, 15 lucky members attended the Ancient Tree Walk at Bateman's with Kev, their Ranger and Doug, our local Tree Warden. This enjoyable training session explained the techniques to estimate the age of a variety of trees; those which are considered ancient, veteran or notable will be added on to the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory. It proved to be a very popular event and we were oversubscribed so plan to run another one in the Spring.

**ANNE NEWSON/
FIONA MORDAUNT/JULIAN KENNY**



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 hosted an amazing range of activities and events throughout August and September including:

- The Amazing Burwash Fair. Thanks to helpers!
- The Community Farmers' Market - next column.
- Tuesday Village Playgroup - contact Jo Murrells.
- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu classes - contact Daniel on burwashbjj@gmail.com
- Music and Movement classes - contact Dianne on dianne@seated-exercise.co.uk (see page 57).
- Football Training, 7 A Side Tournament, Civil War and, of course, the start of the new Burwash FC Season (see page 32).

TO COME: The Burwash Bonfire & Fireworks on Saturday, 25th October from 6.30 p.m. (see page 15).

100 PLUS CLUB AUGUST DRAW

The August 100 Plus Club Draw was conducted at the Bear during the Quiz Night. There were 258 balls in the draw last month. It was conducted by Berry Wraight.

Congratulations to the Winners!

1st Ball	Number 6	Mr Grevel Bates £60
2nd Ball	Number 237	Mr Nick Cummins £35
3rd Ball	Number 242	Mr James Savage £20

STEVE BENNETT

NEXT BURWASH COMMUNITY MARKET IS ON SATURDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2025



THE MONTHLY COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKET

The **August Market** was held outside, except for the tea and coffee servery. The sun came out and it was glorious. The atmosphere was lovely.

Guilty Pleasures sold out once more! Business was brisk especially when it warmed up. Holiday visitors mixed with the locals and the regular customers.

We seem to have established a very loyal following.

Sadly, the **September Market** was not as busy but it was the first weekend after the return to school and the weekend for many first 'timers' to prepare for college and university. Other regulars had escaped on holiday once the 'season' was officially over, to take advantage of late deals and cheaper air fares.

Please do make the **4th October Market** a roaring success by coming for a wander round. You'll learn a lot!



**WAB
EXPLAINING
see page 38**

THE EDITOR

BURWASH PARISH MATTERS

following the Parish Council Meeting on 9th September

Councillors

Terry Johns and Julie Lynn have joined the Parish Council. Terry previously served on the Council until he had to take 'sick leave' and we are pleased that he is now able to be part of the Council, once again. There was to have been an election for the remaining position and a number of you indicated that you would welcome this but, as Julie was the only candidate, she was duly elected and we welcome her to the Council. David Appleyard has resigned from the Council and we thank him for his contribution to the work of the Council.

Community Build Project – a fresh start

The Steering Committee for the Project (formerly called "The Hub") held its first meeting in August and agreed the way forward, with a Mission Statement:

Our mission is to lead the successful planning, design, and delivery of a new community building that meets the needs of our community—today and for future generations. We are committed to working transparently, inclusively, and responsibly, ensuring our decisions reflect the shared values and aspirations of the people we serve. Through careful stewardship of resources, open collaboration with stakeholders, and a focus on long-term sustainability, we will create a welcoming, accessible, space that fosters connection, learning, and wellbeing across the community.

It was considered that the Terms of Reference needed further discussions but if you go to the 'Community Build Project' on the Burwash Parish website, you will see all the documents which relate to this project including the Communications Strategy which explains how we want to engage the Burwash community and stakeholders.

The Committee will also be establishing a Working Party of councillors, parishioners and stakeholders to address specific areas of the project.

The next full council meeting is on Tuesday, 14th October at 7 p.m. at Burwash Common Pavilion 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.
Tel.: 07375 809660.
Email: parishclerk@burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk

You can keep up to date with progress by signing up to the Council's e-bulletin, by contacting Emma, the parish clerk. If you would like to receive the information in print, a copy will be available on the Burwash Parish Notice Board, or we could send you a copy through the post.

The Neighbourhood Plan

The excellent Plan which was developed by Councillors and Parishioners now needs to be updated in the light of Government directives. A Steering Group is being formed to carry out this revision. If you would like to be part of the discussions, please contact Emma.

Traffic & Transport Working Party

There is continuing concern about traffic at the 'pinch point' outside the Hairdressers, with cars and lorries mounting the pavement, causing damage to the historic pavers and more importantly, creating a hazard for pedestrians and those living along that stretch of road. The County Safety Officer has advised that 'it is not deemed to meet the criteria' for protective bollards but the Council does not accept that nothing can be done to make this area safer and will be taking the matter further with the Safety Officer.

Stiles and Metal Gates

A resident has asked the Council to look into replacing all wooden stiles in the parish for metal gates and we will be looking at this. However these are the landowner's responsibility to maintain.

Flying the Flag

A resident has asked us to consider flying British Flags. This matter came up some time ago when we replaced the Council's flagpole from its site near Dudwell View, to the Council Rooms. It was, at that time, agreed that the Union Jack or St George's flags should be flown to mark special events, such as Remembrance Days but that the East Sussex flag would be flown at other times.

The next Council meeting is on 14th October. This will be too late for the Parish Matters - which aims to keep parishioners informed of Council decisions - to be included in the Village Magazine. You will still be able to read the Parish Matters for October, if you sign up to the Burwash e-bulletin, or pick up a copy from the Parish Office.

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BURWASH NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

Despite the humidity nearly two dozen members assembled at the Village Hall for our meeting on the 17th July with the author Chris McCooey as our guest speaker.

Three of our members rendered apologies and a fair list of birthday greetings were given. Cake providers were rapidly arranged for our next meeting. On the 21st August we held our Annual Garden Party in the beautiful garden of a local lady who befriends the club. Our September meeting was moved back a week to 25th September and we were grateful to Phyllis Stevens for sharing her first hand experiences of the Chelsea Flower Show.

Madam Chair Isabella introduced our speaker, Chris McCooey, who apologised for being a tiny bit unsteady as he was suffering from 'Peripheral Neuropathy' and with humour checked that his audience could hear him. He introduced himself with a couple of funny jokes. He was born in Tunbridge Wells in May 1949 and grew up in Kent. Since 1986 he has been a full-time non-fiction writer and had brought a selection of books with him for us to buy should we wish. He was relaxed in sharing one of his early books, 'Freelance'.

Chris is a person who excels at telling stories, in a very engaging manner. He is a skilled story teller who captivates his audience with his narrative. Raconteur/Author might be a better term for him as he possesses the knack of crafting and delivering anecdotes in a way that is both interesting and amusing. He likes to write about real people and places. His books have interesting titles like 'War, Women, and Weather' and 'Birds, Beasts and Bacchanalia'. He attended Oxford College (created in 1249) and for his dissertation wanted to submit a book on 'Smuggling', after being told it was not academic enough 'Geography of Smuggling' was not grand enough either. He found himself in the College photo standing next to Bill Clinton with whom he got on very well.

He went to Japan for a year's visit and stayed for 10 years. He returned with a wife and a Cannon Camera. He still has the Camera (!) he said, but not the wife. This illustrates his relaxed, almost casual, way of talking to his audience. He also has a son and daughter of whom he is immensely proud and he is in fact, on good terms with all his family.

Chris likes to visit local Churches where he always finds interesting historical snippets. There was one particular Church where he spotted a basket of cooking apples with a sign that said 'take only one apple God is watching' – close by were some home-made biscuits with a sign which said 'take as many as possible, God is watching the apples!' He also recounted an interview with Malcolm Muggeridge and his wife, Kitty such a lovely local couple. Malcolm was not only an early vegetarian but a really nice person. Instead of taking his usual notes at his interview Chris took a microphone and recorder. They got on well but when Chris got home he found he had failed to record anything as he had NOT turned on the microphone. When he eventually had the courage to ring Malcolm to confess - his life was made easy as Malcolm asked Chris when he would like to come again as he himself never trusted technical equipment! Chris was a 'Samaritan' for 15 years, a fact of which he is quite proud and also a Bee Keeper. He sadly no longer keeps bees as since 1990 English hives are being attacked by Varroa for instance. The Varroa Mite and tracheal mites alongside other viral disease produces chronic bee paralysis. The tiny mite attacks the bee (often their legs) and sucks the juice out of them. This devastating destruction can be dealt with by the use of hard chemicals. When the bees fly back to the hive they brush the lip of the hive and this combats the mites, etc. To Chris this is not working alongside Nature anymore so he has given up keeping bees with some sadness, although his direct neighbour has lots of hives and keeps Chris in honey.

There were many jokes and little anecdotes as he went along, so it really was a relaxed afternoon full of laughter.

Our next meeting is on the 16th October. The subject is "Commonwealth War Graves" and the speaker is Jane.

VERONICA FARLEY

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POETRY CORNER

The writing is on the wall when September comes. Summer is over. Which is why there can only be one poem for this issue: To Autumn by the Romantic poet John Keats (1795- 1821). Published in 1820, the Ode's imagery-laden three stanzas offer a sensuous description of the season in all its seductive bounty, as well as its inescapable foreshadowing of departure and endings.

Personification is the central dramatizing device in the poem's tri-partite structure. Autumn is at first represented as an intimate co-conspirator of the prime celestial mover and shaker – 'Close bosom friend of the maturing sun'. Together they 'load and bless', 'bend with apples', 'fill all fruit with ripeness', 'swell the gourd' and 'plump with hazel shells'. The direct address to the season intensifies in the second stanza; the question casts it as a harvester fatigued by agricultural labour – 'sitting careless', 'sound asleep', 'drowsed with the fume of poppies.' The final stanza opens with the speaker imagining a questioner who has a more predictable preference for springtime.

This notion of the 'songs of spring' is then gently dismissed in the encouragement to Autumn to 'Think not of them, thou hast thy music too.' The reason for this is that Autumn will strike the beautiful notes of the compellingly visual ('barrèd clouds'), colour ('rosy hue' and 'the red-breast') and touch ('light wind'). At the same time, however, there is no getting away from Autumn as a harbinger of changes that must be faced, the sounds that must be heard – 'wailful choir where the small gnats mourn', 'full-grown lambs' that 'loud bleat', 'Hedge crickets sing; and now with treble soft/The red breast whistles...'

Keats' poetic achievement in his Ode To Autumn is to dramatize an irresistible argument about why autumn is worth noticing, worth relishing. Yes, it is bittersweet as we see and hear the 'gathering swallows twitter in the skies'. What this poem invites us to do, as we reflect on the turn of the year, the slow spin of the seasons, is to savour the privilege of our own place within it.

JULIE LYNN

TO AUTUMN

*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom friend of the maturing sun,
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run:
To bend with apples the mossed cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er brimmed their clammy cells.
Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half reaped furrow sound asleep,
Drowsed with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spare the next swath and all its twined flowers;
And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,
Thou watchest the last oozings hours by hours.*

*Where are the songs of spring? Aye, where are they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too –
While barrèd clouds bloom the soft dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue.
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly bourn;
Hedge-crickets sing; and now with treble soft
The red breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.*

JOHN KEATS



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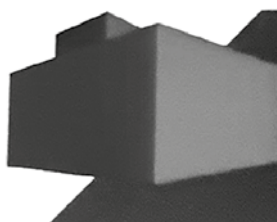


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Newsletter

The 1st edition of the PPG Newsletter was distributed at the Burwash Fair with numbered editions handed out. The winning number (66), was held by Margot Sanderson, who received a bottle of Champagne kindly donated by Betty McBride. The printing costs of this 1st edition were funded by a grant from the Parish Council, for which we thank them. If you haven't received a copy, they are available at the Surgery.

Know Your Numbers Week!

The Week, 8-14th September focused on blood pressure. It is never too late to check this. If you don't have your own BP monitor, just go to the surgery waiting room where there is a simple BP monitor you can use yourself. Then give the printed result to the Receptionist. A GP will check it and it will then go on your records. You will be contacted if there is an issue. Raised or low BP can cause all sorts of problems so this is a simple way that we can take responsibility for our own health and perhaps avoid ill health in the future.

Patient Transport

This is available via Friends of Burwash Surgery who have a list of volunteer drivers. If you need this service the only way to access it is to make the request to the Receptionist at the surgery. Do not ring me!

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.

PETANQUE (BOULES) AT BURWASH COMMON PAVILION PLAYING FIELD

The new pétanque – or boules if you prefer – pitch is now available on the Burwash Common Pavilion Playing Fields for all to use. You do not need to book the pitch in advance. Two sets of six boules are available, located in a black plastic bag tucked at the back of the pitch (Goodsoal Lane side).

We had an informal, inaugural competition on Bank Holiday Monday to open the pitch. With glorious weather, plus cheese and wine laid on by the Pavilion, it was as close as you can get to the South of France coming to Burwash. I think everyone had an enjoyable afternoon.



The competition was won by James Whitfield and Sally Hill who had the largest winning margin of seven points over their opponents. Congratulations to James and Sally.

We have set up the Burwash Common Pétanque Club to foster interest in the game, organise periodic competitions, provide training, and - hopefully - arrange friendly matches with other local teams.

The Pétanque Club is completely free to join and is open to local residents of all ages. Young people are particularly welcome. Membership of the club does not commit you to participate in any particular events or competitions, although we hope you will be tempted to have a go! For those who do not know pétanque, it is above all a family game. It can be played by people of all ages and all abilities and – other than a set of boules – does not require any special equipment. A game lasts anything from 45 minutes to an hour and a half. So, on a nice day, why not get together with the family and or friends, take a picnic and go and have a game?



If you would like me to add your name to the list of Pétanque Club members, please send me your contact details – name(s), e-mail address(es) and telephone number(s).

Let me know also if you are new to pétanque and would like some help getting started. It is really easy to learn and the rules are very simple. **Above all, please use the new pitch and enjoy it!**

LINDSAY GREEN
on behalf of the Pavilion and
Playing Fields Committee
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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BURWASH BRANCH

We recently said sad goodbyes at the passing of two very long serving and well-respected members in Philip Cutler and Michael Mulholland.

Attendances at the funerals of Philip and Anne on Wednesday, 20th August, and the service for Michael the following day, including strong RBL numbers showed just how much they will all be missed in the wider community and by the many groups they were members of and supported over so many years living in Burwash.

Philip and Michael had also been remembered on Friday, 15th at the VJ Day 80 Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, when prayers were said and two minutes silence observed.

Thank you to all who attended and to the drivers who stopped and observed the silence with us.

We Will Remember Them.

STEVE MINTRAM
(HON. SEC. BURWASH BRANCH)
(01435) 882444
steve.mintram@btinternet.com or
Burwash.Secretary@rbl.community

THE AFTER EIGHT CLUB BURWASH COMMON

The After Eight Club had a very pleasant afternoon at Rapkyns Nursery in Broad Oak near Heathfield in August. The weather was perfect and we sat in our group of 20 amongst the flowers and plants, all of which are grown at the nursery. Morag, the owner, gave us an informative talk about her career and the history of Rapkyns. We then enjoyed a tour around the nursery with lovely refreshments at the end.

A party of 14 attended Devonshire Park Theatre in Eastbourne at the end of September to see the play 'The Party Girls'. The play explores the true story of the Mitford Sisters and their family – riven by political extremes, amidst the glittering world of débutantes, dukes and country houses.

In October, our Annual Quiz, After Eight Club v Rotherfield Club will be held at the Burwash Common Pavilion on Thursday, 9th October from 2.00 p.m. Everyone brings a small plate of food which can be shared and we always have a fun afternoon with the Quiz being organised by two of our members, Jackie and Chris.

If you would be interested and would like to come along to see what we do and who we are, please contact me or perhaps come along? We meet up on a monthly basis, sharing varied activities and most of all, enjoying friendship.

JACKY WOODLAND

Email: *tjwoodland142@btinternet.com*

Tel: 01435 883389

Mob: 07770 489490



***Members of The After
Eight Club
at Rapkyns Nursery in
Broad Oak***



Burwash, Burwash Common, Burwash Weald and the Surrounding Areas

Recent Incidents:

I have been advised that a number of cars have been tampered with in different locations around the area, from windscreen wiper blades removed to fuel flaps bent and wing mirrors folded in or out, opposite to how they were left. These incidents may seem petty with relatively little damage caused, but from experience little things tend to lead to bigger things, so let's 'nip it in the bud' and report them, the offenders could be on cam!

In the last issue I reported on floral tributes being damaged in St Bartholomew's churchyard and have since had several contacts asking me to use my report to reach out to dog owners to stop dogs cocking their leg on headstones, please.

Scams:

Probably the most worrying area for scams at the moment is around what will now be known as 'Winter Fuel Payment'.

Thieves, scammers sounds too nice to me, are playing on people's concerns and using texts, emails, phone calls and letters to fool those worried people into parting with personal information and their bank account details 'so they can get their allowance.'

Please note, if you get any such contact it's 99.9% going to be a **BIG FAT lie!**

HM Government say:

If you were born before 22 September 1959 you could get between £100 and £300 to help you pay your heating bills for winter 2025 to 2026.

Most people get the Winter Fuel Payment automatically, if they're eligible.

If you're eligible, you'll get a letter in October or November saying how much you'll get. Most eligible people will be paid in November or December 2025.

Search www.gov.uk

PLEASE DON'T RESPOND TO ANY OTHER APPROACH!

NHW by Email:

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steve.mintram@btinternet.com for more info.

Contacting the Police:

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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).

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Bereavement Friendship Group

For anyone who has suffered a bereavement

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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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MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

‘Unusual MPs’

Our first monthly meeting, after our summer break and AGM, will be held at 2.30 p.m. on the 16th October in Five Ashes Village Hall. It should be a good meeting. The talk will be given by Vivian Widgery, who has had a 35 year career working with Hansard in Parliament, and in fact still works there occasionally. She continues to be fascinated by Politics, and gives talks on many different aspects of it, in particular the people and the role of the Speaker.

However, our talk is on the more unusual of our elected representatives and, without knowing any of the details, I’m sure we will be entertained, and also probably shocked, by her revelations. Maybe the more cynical amongst us won’t be shocked, but may have our worries confirmed. I’m hoping to be pleasantly surprised! Perhaps a Parliament full of odd people has to be better than no democracy at all.

As usual, our meetings are free to members (it’s been lovely to welcome some new members over the summer) while visitors are charged a nominal £3.00. This of course includes tea and cake and a chance to catch up with each other after the holidays, although as our anniversary party in July was so amazingly well attended most of us have already done that...

If you would like to join us, either at the meeting or as a member, our details can be found on our website:

www.u3asites.org.uk/mayfield

ANNA THOMPSON

On Tuesday, 14th October 2025 Louise Schofield will take us on ‘Travels with a Trowel, Adventures of an Archaeologist’.

In the year 2000, having been a Curator in the Greek and Roman Department of the British Museum for 13 years, and given a trowel with a diamond and silver casing in the handle as a leaving present, she set off on a series of extraordinary archaeological adventures. In this richly illustrated talk she will take you with her to a mysterious and atmospheric ancient city on the coast of southern Albania, to the banks of the two great rivers of Mesopotamia - the Euphrates and the Tigris - and then to the wild and wonderful mountains of northern Ethiopia.

Then on Tuesday, 11th November Barry Venning will be leading us through ‘Christmas with Giles, Grandma and the Family’.

The cartoonist Carl Giles was as much a part of the festive season as the Christmas tree, crackers and the Queen’s Speech. So popular were the Giles annuals as Christmas presents that they helped to make him Britain’s best loved, most successful and wealthiest cartoonist. The talk looks at Giles’s life and work with a particular emphasis on his seasonal cartoons, particularly those featuring Grandma and the Giles family. They include some of his funniest cartoons but, as the art historian William Feaver pointed out, they also demonstrate that he had few equals when it came to representing Britain in Winter.

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

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GEOFF CAIRNCROSS 1943 - 2025

I first met Geoff in 1970 when I started playing cricket for Burwash Weald Cricket Club. My first game was in Hastings and afterwards we went to The Cutter to have a drink on the sea front. I remember how very welcoming Geoff was to me, a new young bloke who could play a bit.

He lived at Burnt House Farm then but later, when he married Gill, he lived in his mother's old house and never moved again, or even wanted to.

Lyle, Russell & Geoff were the mainstays of the playing field and I soon started to help them by doing whatever I could. Geoff knew where all the springs and drain runs were and which ones needed rodding. He did most of the maintenance on the mowers and the tractor, with me passing him the spanners. He took on wicket preparation, including marking out, when Lyle retired and I used to help him and learnt about pitch preparation from him. He was very thorough: he would dig out individual weeds with his penknife. He also organised the picking up and burning of the annual hedge cutting.

He loved cricket but hated actually playing. He used to love listening to Test Match Special on the radio. Geoff thought 'Cricket should be played in whites' and he hated what he called 'pyjama kits' - his name for kits with too much colour.

He knew all the wild birds, their songs and where they nested, probably from his boyhood hobby of egg collecting. If he didn't know a bird, then it was an LBJ (little brown job). He was also an expert mole catcher as many of the Burwash Common locals will testify.

He worked up at the Seaview chicken factory and quite often at the weekend we would cut up a load of pallets with either his or my chain saw, usually him cutting and me holding to steady it with the saw often very close to my fingers but I had complete confidence in him and still have all my digits! This was a useful morning's work as we both had solid fuel Rayburns. We even shared a large frozen turkey one Christmas by cutting it in half with his bushman saw.

He was a very good vegetable grower, so good in fact he used to put excess crops outside the house for anybody to help themselves. Mind you, he used to say that he hated gardening.

In the '70's Geoff, Lyle, Pip, Phillip Gregory, Mike Oakley and I often used to go to watch Brighton play at the Goldstone ground. Latterly though his interest in football tailed off - too corporate I suppose!

He loved eating out, so I shall miss our midday pub lunches with good old Gill and Geoff. **RIP Geoff!**

PETER SHELTON

BURWASH WEALD CRICKET CLUB

Burwash Weald Cricket Club have won the league and will be promoted next season. The team have played a wonderful season captained by Monty Hadow who has led and inspired them with his sense of fun, competitive play and camaraderie. They are proud to be sponsored by Lakedown and happily quench their thirst at the brewery after a home match. The winning team is pictured here with proud father Jamie holding the latest addition to the club.



CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND

LOCAL CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

SPORT AND FITNESS-RELATED

Burwash Cricket Club:

Village club playing on Sundays.

Contact: Paul Morgan-Jones on 01435 882832 or

pmorganjones@holmewoodhouse.co.uk

Burwash Lawn Tennis Club:

With courts in Swan Meadow, the club encourages people of all ages to play tennis.

Club Secretary: Ben Mayhew

Email: *burwashtennis@live.co.uk*

Burwash over 50's Walking Football Group:

Meet every Tuesday evening for a kick-around. Age is no barrier as we currently range from 51-78 years of age.

Contact: Steve Mintram on 01435 882444 for more information.

Burwash Playing Field Association:

Bringing sport, fitness and well-being to the community of Burwash.

Contacts: Chair: Natalie Crabtree

Treasurer: Theresa Fox

Bookings Secretary for Field and Edward Workman Pavilion: TBC.

All enquiries and bookings:
bpfaswanmeadow@gmail.com

***www.bpfa.org.uk* and 01435 583039.**

Burwash Short Mat Bowls Club:

Informal, friendly evening at Burwash Village Hall every Monday from 6.30 p.m. If you fancy a try, come and join us. We can supply bowls to beginners.

Contact: Mary Taylor on 01435 882107.

Burwash Football Club:

Playing on Swan Meadow, Burwash.

Contacts: Will Pugh Jones, Club Manager or Alex Roxon, Club Chairman.

Email: *burwashfc1890@gmail.com*

Burwash Snooker Club:

Plays in Burwash Village Hall. New members welcome.

Contact: Mike Hill on 07518 914391 or Ron Allen on 09760 094334.

Kipling County Carriage Driving Group:

Carriage driving for the disabled.

Contact: *kiplingcounty@aol.com*.

Seagulls over Burwash:

Burwash Brighton & Hove Albion supporters club.

Contact: Simon Forster on *simon.forster@seagullsoverburwash.co.uk*.

Walks for Strollers:

Gentle walks through the countryside. Meet at 9 a.m. in the Bear Car Park on 1st Wednesday of the month.

Contacts: Peter and Karen Farley on 01435 883141.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Burwash CEP School:

With an Outstanding OFSTED rating, the head teacher is Debbie Gilbert.

Contact: 01435 882440.

Burwash CEP School Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA):

Organise social and fund-raising events to support the school.

Contact: Caroline Locke (Co-Chair) or Joanna Murrells (Co-Chair):

Etchingham C.E. Primary School:

Contact: 01580 819218.

Burwash Guides and Brownies:

Meet in the Burwash Common guide hut.

Contact: Beverley Boakes on 01435 883473.

Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers:

Meet at the scout hut, Bear Car Park, Burwash.

Contact: Bernadette Spencer on *bandescoutgroup@gmail.com*.

Musical Theatre:

Musical theatre classes from 4 -19 years, Saturdays in Burwash Village Hall.

Contact: Jonny or Sandra Ball on 882946 or *burwashmusicaltheatre@hotmail.com*

Wednesday Club at St. Barts:

After school club in church, usually on the last Wednesday of the month. A fun afternoon of craft, stories, singing and snacks from 3.30 - 5 p.m.

Contact: Revd Thomas Pelham on 07856 256 174.

Broad Oak Preschool:

Nurturing environment for children aged 2-5. Open Monday to Thursday 08.30 - 14.30 Friday 08.30 - 12.00.

Contact: 01435 864326 or email *office@broadoakpreschool.co.uk*

Burwash Village Playgroup:

Stories, singing, toys and crafts. Tuesday mornings 10 a.m. - Noon, Edward Workman Pavilion, Swan Meadow.

Contact: Jo Murrells on 07747 806 191.

St. Bartholomew's Tuesday Drop-In:

Meet in church every Tuesday in term-time from 8.30 a.m. for children to have a snack on their way to school. Mums/Dads/Carers and pre-school children come in afterwards for coffee and a chat.

Drop in or contact: Joanne Brown on 01435 830869.

St. Philip's Parent and Toddler Group:

Meet every Thursday 10 - 12 p.m. in the Burwash Common Pavilion.

Contact: Anne Everall on 01435 883247 or Jane Lloyd on 01435 883264.

LOCAL CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Patients of Fairfield Surgery

Participation Group:

Involving patients and staff to consider and improve conditions in the Practice from a patient's perspective.

Contact: Claudette Neville on 01435 883043 or nevilleclaudette@gmail.com.

The Barnsley Foundation:

A trust with limited funds to assist the education of local young people.

Contact: Joanne Brown on 830869.

FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

Not So Young Club:

Social events and guest speakers, 3rd Thursday of each month in Burwash Village Hall at 2.15 p.m.

Contact: Isabel Salmond on 01435 882452.

Burwash District Housing Association for the Elderly:

Providing homes for over 60s in our community.

Contact: Claudette Neville on 01435 883043 or nevilleclaudette@gmail.com.

Mayfield and District University of the 3rd Age (U3A):

A full programme of activities and speakers, meeting 3rd Thursday of the month at 2.30 p.m. in Five Ashes Village Hall, or Zoom, if you prefer.

Contact: Mary Brentnall on 01435 872289 or email marybrentnallu3a@gmail.com

Etchingham Tuesday Club:

Meets at various venues, no longer just on Tuesdays.

Contact: Linda Neve on 01580 819223.

HOBBIES

Burwash Horticultural Society:

Thriving branch of the society.

Contact: Richard Maude-Roxby on 01435 882243.

Burwash Flower Arranging Club:

A programme of demonstrations, craft clubs and outings.

Contact: Jan MacFarland on 07792 929523.

Burwash Monday Painters:

Meet to paint on Monday afternoons in Burwash Village Hall (Oct. to April) and at various outdoor locations May - Sept. All ages and abilities welcome.

Contact: Anne Everall on 01435 883247 or Jenny Pettman, email: petters5@aol.com

Burwash Quilters:

For all those with an interest in quilting, meet Monday mornings in Burwash Village Hall.

Contact: Julie Lewis on 01580 200280.

Etchingham Club:

Members Club. info@theetchingham.club

Bereavement Friendship Group 3rd Tuesday of month at Old Orchard Café, Burwash Common.

Contact: Jan Wright

Email: LaurenandJan@ymail.com

Heathfield and District Philatelic Society:

Meets at the Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield, TN21 OXG on 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to April.

Contact: Bob Ely on 01292 852659 or rdely@tiscali.co.uk.

Jane Coleman School of Dancing:

Dance classes for young people in Burwash Village Hall.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Contact: Katie Dahlstedt on 01580 200961 or katiedahlstedt@gmail.com

or Rachel Elliott on 01580 714442, rachelelliott21@hotmail.com

The Arts Society Wealden Heathfield:

Meets at 2.15 p.m. on second Tuesday of the month at Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield, TN21 OXG for talks. Visitors welcome.

Contact: Membership Secretary on 01435 408635 for further details.

Burwash Duplicate Bridge Club:

We are a friendly club which meets at 1.45 for 2 p.m on Fridays. in the Pavilion at Burwash Common. We welcome guests. You do not need to have played duplicate bridge before, but you do need to be able to play bridge.

Contact: Jenny Crisford on 01435 882416 or email: jenny.crisford@gmail.com

CLUBS, SOCIETIES

SUPPORT GROUPS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

British Red Cross:

British Red Cross Local Services (Red Cross Week, first aid group, equipment and wheelchair loans).

Contact: 0800 0280 831.

Royal British Legion:

The active Burwash Branch supports the Legion in helping ex-Servicemen.

Contact: Charles Merchant on 01435 882360 or Steve Mintram on 01435 882444

Neighbourhood Watch:

Contact: Steve Mintram on 01435 882444.

Admiral Nurses:

Helping to support & co-ordinate care for people with dementia and their carers.

Contact: Ruth Tomkins on 01580 200743.

Burwash Parish Council:

Meeting on 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

**Contact: Emma Neil
parishclerk@burwashpc.org.uk**

Etchingham Parish Council:

Contact Paulette Barton, Parish Clerk on 01580 819048 or paulette.etchinghampc@gmail.com

Rother District Council:

Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea, TN39 3JX. **Contact: 01323 787000.**

East Sussex County Council:

County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes. **Contact: 0345 6080190.**

Sussex Police (non-urgent):

Contact: 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk, or call 101 (101 calls cost 15p from landlines or mobiles) or online at www.sussex.police.uk/contactus.

VILLAGE LIFE

Bateman's:

Rudyard Kipling's home, run by the National Trust, with a full programme of events and activities throughout the year.

Contact: 01435 882302 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk/batemens for more details.

Burwash Amateur Pantomime Society (BAPS):

Annual production involving all ages!

Contact: Polly Richardson on 07903347340 or Jane Lloyd on 883264.

Burwash Bonfire Society:

Fundraising and organising the Bonfire Night firework display.

Contact: Natalie Crabtree at natcooper13@hotmail.co.uk.

Burwash Common Pavilion:

For bookings contact: Alison Hayes on 07763376158. or bcpavilionbar@gmail.com.

Burwash Common After Eight Club:

Meets monthly, open to all ladies for talks, outings, theatre and dining.

Contact: Jacky Woodland on 883389 or 07770 489490.

Burwash Defectives:

Murder Mystery Evenings, fund-raising events for your own cause. For details and to book a date.

Contact: Del Smith Tel 07543 665532 or email dellights@btinternet.com

Burwash: Save Our Fields:

Set up to oppose inappropriate development of new houses in Burwash Parish in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Contact: burwashsaveourfields.org.uk

Wild About Burwash:

Community group focusing on the protection and appreciation of the natural environment of the Parish.

Contact: wildaboutburwash@gmail.com

Also Wild About Etchingham & Hurst Green

Burwash Village Hall:

For bookings contact: Emma Neil on 07375 809660.

Fairfield Surgery:

Open Mon-Fri 8.30 – 6.30 p.m. (Phone 111 when surgery closed.)

Contact: 01435 882306 (fax 882064).

Friends of Burwash Surgery:

Help less mobile people travel to appointments and collect medication from the Surgery. They also deliver them to Etchingham Post Office for patients to collect.

Contact: Chairman, Frank Smith, on 01580 819326 or Secretary, Sue Mumford, on 01580 819415.

Requests for transport or delivery of prescriptions should be made via the Surgery on 01435 882306.

Friends of Etchingham School:

Contact: The School on 01580 819218.

Etchingham Music Festival:

Contact: Mary Newington, www.etchinghammusicfestival.co.uk or on 01580 819384.

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