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ART EDITION



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BURWASH**



**ST PHILIP,
BURWASH WEALD**



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AND ST NICHOLAS,
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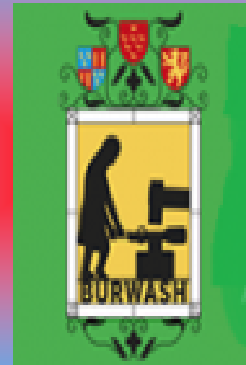
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GETTING IN TOUCH

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 April Magazine is Tuesday, 10th March.

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! We are trying to cover every village fully!

Contacts:

Richard Harden (Burwash) Tel.: 01435 882556.

Susan Mumford (Etchingham) Tel.: 01580 819415.

Leslie Elmslie (Burwash Common) Tel.: 07818648038.

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

Rector	Revd. Thomas Pelham	07856 256174	revthomaspelham@gmail.com
Associate Minister	Revd. Jim Smith		jimsmithghana@yahoo.co.uk
Churchwarden (Burwash)	Vacant		
Assistant Churchwardens (Burwash Churchyard)	B. & J. Macfarland	07792 929 523	
Assistant Churchwarden (Burwash Church Building)	Richard Harden	01435 882556	rh@richardharden.co.uk
Assistant (Admin. & Rotas)	Vicky Patterson	07769205174	thymeplace@gmail.com
Churchwardens (Etchingham)	Caroline Moore	01580 819272	
	Mary Barnes	01580 819142	
Churchwardens (Bur. Common)	Keith Lloyd		keithalloyd@yahoo.co.uk
	Dr Jane Woodgate		dr.jane.woodgate@btinternet.com
Treasurer (B)	Chris Woodburn	01435 883196	woodburnjes@btinternet.com
Sacristan (B)	Linda Young	01435 882748	
Tower Captain (Bell Ringers) (B)	Nigel Jarvis	01580 819462	Njarvis2@aol.com
Planned Giving Secretary (B)	Sally Gomer	01435 882793	sally.gomer@btinternet.com
Church Flower Guild (B)	Diana Workman	01435 882528	
Friends of St Bartholomew's Burwash & Etchingham	Chris Woodburn	01435 883196	woodburnjes@btinternet.com
	Richard Harden	01435 882556	burwashetchinghammag@gmail.com
Magazine Editorial Group	Caroline Huband	01580 493554	Carolinehuband@outlook.com
Burwash Common Rep.	Leslie Elmslie	07818648038	
BV & E Advertising Manager	Richard Harden	01435 882556	rh@richardharden.co.uk
CTHD Representative	Susan Mumford	01580 819415	susanmumford43@gmail.com
Hon. Dir. of Music & Organist	Brian Overall	07841 000117	holbans@yahoo.co.uk

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

Service of Thanksgiving

7th January 2026 Caroline Berger

Baptism

25th January 2026 Wilfred Waters

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.

**January 2026 Rainfall Figures Collected by
Beryl Swift: 208 mm in Burwash Common!**

**Watch for February's figures next month.
Any guesses?**

Dear Friends,

I've had a few conversations lately about "the 100 million." It's a figure that has been in the headlines quite a bit recently, specifically regarding Project Spire. I know that when the national Church starts talking about sums of money with that many zeros, it can feel very distant from the reality of life here in Burwash, Burwash Weald and Etchingham.

For those who haven't followed the story, Project Spire is an initiative by the Church Commissioners to address the historic links between their investment fund and the transatlantic slave trade. To be neutral: the aim is reparative justice - using a portion of their endowment to support communities still impacted by the legacy of slavery.

Critics have raised significant points. Some argue this isn't within the Commissioners' charitable aims, which were originally designed to support ministry in English parishes. Others point out that the investments in South Sea Bonds were, at the time, an early way to invest in government debt - a safe harbour for money rather than an active attempt to support the trade. Indeed, the Church was also the place where the anti-slavery movement, led by figures like William Wilberforce, actually began.

There is space for all sides in this debate, and I don't intend to get into the politics of it here. But there is one very practical question I keep being asked: "If the Church has 100 million pounds, why are you asking us for money?"

The answer is simple, if a little frustrating:

1. It isn't "our" money: The Church Commissioners' pot is entirely separate from our local bank accounts. We don't get a cut of their investment fund. By law and design, our local churches must be self-funding.
2. A big number, but a big Church: 100 million pounds sounds like an astronomical sum, but if spread across all 12500 parishes equally it would be £8000 each. This would be helpful, but hardly life changing!

3. Where your money actually goes: your giving pays for our buildings and the Parish Share. That share covers costs relating to local ministry and the essential central bureaucracy that keeps a parish legal and safe. We don't see a penny of that 100 million.

4. Making your voice heard: while I'm always happy to listen, I have no more say in these national decisions than you do. If you feel strongly about how this money is being spent, the most effective route is to write to the Second Church Estates Commissioner at the House of Commons. They are the MP appointed to represent the Commissioners and answer for their decisions.

Moving from the boardroom back to the pews, we are now entering Lent. It is a time for us to refocus on our own discipleship rather than the headlines.

We began with our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, 18th February. I'm also looking forward to our Lent Group, meeting at the Rectory on Thursdays at 7.30 p.m. We'll be using the *Discipleship Explored* course - a low-pressure way to look at what it actually means to follow Christ in the "mess and muddle" of the modern world.

Whether you're frustrated by the headlines or just looking for a bit of peace, you'd be very welcome.

With every blessing,

REVD. TOM

Rector of Burwash, Burwash Weald and Etchingham



Floods At Lewes by Eric Ravilious

EDITORIAL

Mention Burwash and everyone thinks of Kipling, Roger Daltrey of The Who or Robert Smith of the Cure as notable residents, when we have gifted artists, sculptors, designers and potters resident in the vicinity. Art in its broadest sense is very much part of our villages.

We always have an article about The Arts Society Wealden Heathfield as a fair number of our residents are members. They have been considering William Morris of late but their March speaker is addressing the question "Banksy - Fraud or Genius"?

Meanwhile, the Burwash Monday Painters continue to meet in their low key manner, never featuring in our pages, but involving so many residents. ***They have an excellent website and I urge you to view it!*** We have our fair share of Open Studios and Art Shows, not to mention sculptures in the woods, Kipling in bronze on the High Street and landscape 'art' photographed by the Strollers this month.

Wild About Burwash have found *Art* in Nature and even the Scouts have been working on soap stone. Burwash FC have been trying their hand at Commercial Art and have come up with a classic: a Burwash FC bobble hat (see page 45). All the Playgroups and Barn Owls are encouraging the next generation of budding artists.

As you may have gathered, I love the work of Eric Ravilious, but I am also a fan of the Great Bardfield artists as a whole, especially Edward Bawden. However, with Art, what one person likes another dislikes: beauty really is in the eye of the beholder.

Our cover features Kipling captured by Edward Burne-Jones (his uncle by marriage) and sent in by Floribunda, despite losing her column in cyberspace.

In April we will be featuring gardens, in the hope that it stops raining and that we can all catch up on lost time outdoors. I will be writing an article on Burwash Common Rainfall, as somehow the last Rainfall Figures turned on their side. (My apologies to the Swifts.) Meanwhile, Barbarann explains what Art means for her: with examples of her paintings scattered on various pages (colour pages overflowing). Over to you, the residents, to send in articles, features and photographs for April.

THE EDITOR

WATERCOLOURS OF THE WORLD

For the last 65 years I have been a professional painter, the arty kind not house painter (although I have done a fair share of that!). For the first 20 years it was alongside the day job, but now it is the day job.

My by-line is "*You name it and I will paint it*", and that is exactly what I have done. I will paint in any medium, any subject, on any surface, any size: from miniature to murals.

It has been very exciting, and I have been asked to paint many things. Of course, some of what I am asked to paint is what you might expect - portraits of children, family members, pets, horses, watercolours of favourite scenes, etc., but sometimes it is most unusual: large Japanese Edo style paintings, copies of roman tomb paintings, wall paintings in African churches, paintings on cars and caravans, icons, murals, painting floors, illustrating books, designing tattoos. Think of a subject and I have probably painted it!

Some years ago I painted large icons on the walls of churches in Kenya, and a mural on the wall of a school, and later designed a large mural for the wall of a school in Malawi and then helped (with the aid of friends and teachers) the children at the school to paint it themselves.

For many years my husband and I travelled all over Eastern and Western Europe with a tent in the boot of the car, and every day I painted small watercolours of all the places we visited, as I have as we visited countries all over the world. I now have more than 100 watercolour books full of watercolour memories! Some pictures were sold on the spot as I painted them, but mainly they are our memories, as for many years we did not have a camera! In Moscow in the snow the paint froze on the paper as I was painting - just looking at it now brings back memories of how cold it was!

LANG

This is signed "*Lang*" as that is the name under which I paint, but if anybody wishes to contact me, my full name is Barbarann Lang-Smith and I live locally. My telephone number is 07778 532420, and my e-mail address langsmith_@hotmail.com

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 14th March
10.00 a.m. to 12.00
in Union Church Hall,
Heathfield

Supporting the work of
Churches Together
in our community and in our schools

Coffee, cake, raffle and other stalls

Everyone is welcome!

Christ the King, Burwash
Friday, 6th March 2026 2.00 pm



World Day of Prayer

Ecumenical Service, Friday 6 March 2026



"I Will Give You Rest: Come"

A service prepared by WDP Nigeria

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HEATHFIELD & DISTRICT



Heathfield

Walk of Witness

Friday April 3rd 2026

9.30 a.m.

Starting at Heathfield Fire Station

and joining the service at

Union Church at 10.00 a.m.

Coffee and hot cross buns in the church hall afterwards

Everyone is welcome!

Later distribution of buns to people in streets and shops.

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BURWASH AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

By the time you read this we will have had our AGM and will be launched into our 65th year.

We have two events in April. Firstly, a workshop run by Hayley from The Flower Shop on Wednesday, 8th April from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. in Burwash Village Hall. The Title of the workshop is 'Make Foliage Focal': church flowers with a twist.

The cost for members is £10.00, £12.00 for non-members. To book and for more details please contact petahighton@hotmail.com

The second event is our first demonstration of the year on Monday, 13th April in Burwash Village Hall at 2.15 p.m., when Michelle King will be entertaining us with her floral displays. Do please come and join us.

PETA HIGHTON



BURWASH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

SPRING SHOW

With Floral Art Classes

Saturday 21st March

at the Eddie Workman MBE Pavilion,
Ham Lane, Burwash

2:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Staging between **9:00 am and 10.45 am**

ENTRY FORMS & FEES to be handed into

The Flower House by Mid-Day on

THURSDAY 19th March

Schedules available from The Flower House and online
Burwashhorticulturalsociety.co.uk

RAFFLE, TEA and CAKES



MARCH SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

Taken by the Rector unless otherwise marked.

CC = Christo Corfield.

March 2026	Burwash	Etchingam	Burwash Weald
Sun 1	10.30 Parish Communion 4.30 Evensong	9.30 Family Communion	8.00 Matins – Penny Button 10.30 Morning Prayer – Lay led
Thurs 5	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 8	9.30 Said Morning Prayer	10.30 UB service Holy Communion at St. Philip's - Visiting Priest 4.30 Compline TBC	10.30 UB service Holy Communion at St. Philip's - Visiting Priest
Thurs 12	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Friday 13	3.30 Blessing of Mothering Sunday flower posies	-	-
Sun 15	9.30 Said Holy Communion BCP 10.30 Choral Matins - CC 4.30 Mothering Sunday Family Service	10.30 Parish Communion - Rev Liz France	10.30 Parish Communion
Thurs 19	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 22	10.30 UB Service of Family Communion	9.30 Said Matins 10.30 UB service of Family Communion at Burwash	10.30 UB service of Family Communion at Burwash 4.30 Evening Prayer BCP
Thur 26	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 29	10.15 Procession from Bear Car Park followed by 10.30 UB Parish Communion Palm Sunday	10.30 UB Parish Communion Palm Sunday at St. Bartholomew's	9.30 Said Matins 10.30 UB Parish Communion Palm Sunday at St. Bartholomew's
Thur 2 April	6.00pm Maundy Thursday UB Communion Service	6.00pm Maundy Thursday UB Communion Service at St. Bartholomew's 8.00pm Maundy Thursday UB Tenebrae Service	6.00pm Maundy Thursday UB Communion Service at St. Bartholomew's 8.00pm Maundy Thursday UB Tenebrae Service
Fri 3 April	2.00 Hour before the Cross	-	10.30 Reflections followed by Hot Cross Buns – Penny Button
Sat 4	8.00pm UB Easter Eve Vigil	8.00pm UB Easter Eve Vigil at St. Bartholomew's	8.00pm UB Easter Eve Vigil at St. Bartholomew's
Easter Day 5	10.30 Easter Sung Eucharist	9.30 Easter Family Communion	10.30 Family Communion - Visiting Priest

Please note that throughout Lent on Wednesdays there will be a 7.00pm service of Compline at St. Bartholomew's

WHAT'S ON: MARCH

- Saturday, 28th FEB. Open Forum run by Etchingham Parish Council at Ahrens Hall from 11 - 3 p.m.
- Sunday, 1st 'Dorothy's adventures in Oz' presented by Burwash Amateur Pantomime Society at 2.30 p.m. in Burwash Village Hall.
- Monday, 2nd 3Cs at St. Bartholomew's, 10 a.m. - Noon. (Most Mondays, except Bank Holidays.)
- Monday, 2nd Etchingham Church Baby & Toddler Group, Parker Hall, Etchingham, 11 a.m. - 12 Noon. (Every Monday.)
- Monday, 2nd Burwash Weald Cricket Club AGM at Burwash Common Pavilion at 7.30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 3rd Burwash Village Playgroup. Tuesday Mornings from 10 a.m. - Noon at Eddie Workman Pavilion. (Every Tuesday.) New contact: Emma Pantry on 07810 043022.
- Tuesday, 3rd Community Dementia Cafe at Dudwell St Mary Care Home, Burwash, 2 - 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, 3rd Music For The Memory at Etchingham Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. (Every Tuesday.)
- Wednesday, 4th Walks for Strollers meeting at The Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, 5th Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group 10 a.m. - Noon, at Burwash Common Pavilion. (Every Thursday.)
- Friday, 6th World Day of Prayer at Christ the King, Burwash at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, 7th Tipi Yoga at 8 a.m. in Parker Hall, Etchingham. (Every Saturday.)
- Saturday, 7th Burwash Community Farmers' Market/ Seed Swap at Swan Meadow, Burwash 9 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
- Saturday, 7th 'Dorothy's adventures in Oz' presented by Burwash Amateur Pantomime Society. Performances at 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. in Burwash Village Hall.
- Sunday, 8th Wellbeing Workshop, 2.30 - 5 p.m. Etchingham Village Hall, with booking required.
- Monday, 9th Burwash Common & Weald Residents' Association AGM at 7.15 p.m. Followed by Speaker: Julian Kenny & Members of WAB.
- Tuesday, 10th Arts Society Wealden Heathfield monthly meeting at the Community Centre Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield at 2.15 p.m. Subject: 'Banksy - Fraud or Genius'. Speaker: Pepe Martinex.
- Wednesday, 11th After Eight Club AGM at Burwash Common Pavilion at 7 p.m.
- Thursday, 12th Christ The King & St. Barts Lenten Lunch at Burwash Village Hall, 12.30 - 2 p.m.
- Saturday, 14th Farmers' & Makers' Market at King John's Nursery, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
- Saturday, 14th Morning Coffee & Cake + Jigsaws Sale, 10 a.m. - Noon at St. Bartholomew's.
- Saturday, 14th Churches Together HD Coffee Morning 10 a.m. - Noon in Union Church Hall, Heathfield.
- Sunday, 15th Mothering Sunday Service at 10.30 a.m. at St. Philip's, Burwash Weald.
- Tuesday, 17th Bereavement Friendship Group on third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at Petals Nursery, Burwash Road, Broad Oak, TN21 8XG. **NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE.**
- Wednesday, 18th Etchingham Residents' Coffee & Cake Morning at The Bistro from 11 a.m.
- Thursday, 19th Not So Young Club Meeting in Burwash Village Hall, at 2.15 p.m. Speaker: Tina Wray. Subject: 'View Craft'.
- Thursday, 19th Mayfield & District U3A Meeting at Five Ashes Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Ian Currie. Subject: 'Weather Lore - Fact or Fiction?'
- Saturday, 21st Burwash Horticultural Society Spring Show from 2.15 - 4 p.m. at Eddie Workman Pavilion, Ham Lane, Burwash.
- Wednesday, 25th St. Barts Wednesday Club, Children & Carers in the Church, 3.30 - 4.30 p.m.


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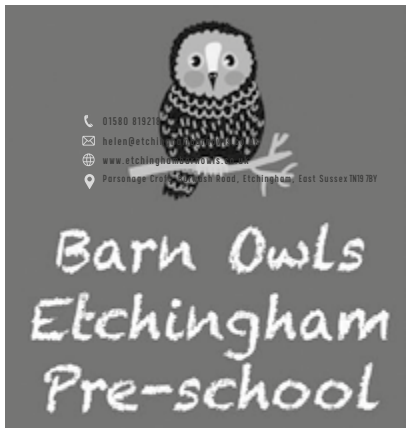
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BARN OWLS - ETCHINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL

We are hopefully heading to Spring, but while we are waiting the children have enjoyed ice that we have had, and certainly the splashing in wellies!

Despite wearing waterproofs , we are finding out that, in fact, many are not actually waterproof - luckily a requirement of coming to Barn Owls is lots of spare clothes.

Since we have come back from Christmas we have also spent time listening out for Birdsong and looking out for birds (the Bird Count was on that week). Amazingly, we have a solitary Red Kite that tends to circle the area in the afternoons, we often see Buzzards and the odd Heron flying past so the children are getting good at their identification, but everyone's favourite is the Robin.

The children have been acting out some of our favourite stories for National Literacy Week: the classics never disappoint like the Gingerbread Man, Billy Goat's Gruff, Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Our different areas have been devoted to these stories - along with of course - The Gruffalo!

We have also been making a giant Barn Owl 'nest' and decorating individual eggs to put inside it, to show that we are one big family and that we all belong.



Our main news for this part of the term is that Chloe has returned from maternity leave and the children are thrilled to have her back.

We also had a student from Uplands who came to do a placement with us - Lucy - the children adored her. Many of the staff remember looking after Lucy themselves so that did make us feel a bit old!

**To contact Barn Owls, please email:
helen@etchinghambarnowls.co.uk
or Helen on 01580 819218 Ext. 5**

NICKY MENZIES

ETCHINGHAM TUESDAY CLUB, JANUARY 2026

On the 20th January, five of us journeyed to The Bear in Burwash to take part in The Quiz. We had pre-ordered a meal for 7 p.m. We all enjoyed our meals and by 8.30 p.m. the three other teams had appeared.

The Quiz Master gave us all the questions for the evening which had been set on a printed sheet ready for us to fill in our answers.

Before we knew it, it was time to find out how many questions we had answered correctly. We came third. The winning team collected their prize. It was nearly 10.30 p.m. by then. Before that I got to see two of the contestants that I knew, who used to live in Ivydene in Etchingham just across from the old Village Hall. Their maiden names were Jasmine and Marigold Brown. Marigold was in the Etchingham Guides and so was I at that time.

We thanked the Quiz Master for calling for us before we left. As we departed The Bear and made for Diane's car it was raining like stair rods. Coming back to Etchingham down the Straight Mile it was like a river! We had, nevertheless, enjoyed our evening.

This article was too late to go into the February Magazine, so it just remains for me to wish you all a Belated Happy New Year.

**LINDA NEVE
GROUP LEADER**

R G Dale

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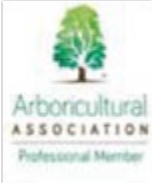
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FLORIBUNDA - NOT LOST AND GONE FOREVER

I am fed up as I have just lost my entire March Floribunda column, when it disappeared suddenly. I blame Bill Gates and Elon Musk.

My original article mentioned the time I spent studying for a diploma in Museum Studies at the British Museum. During those studies I met a fellow student who told me about the time he lived in Gaza with his boyfriend, but that is another story.

One of the courses focused on Japanese art and its impact on Western culture. In the late 19th Century, exotic arts and crafts became very popular. Liberty of London and the Victoria and Albert Museum held collections of furniture in the artistic style and garden design was influenced as well. Many lakes and oriental style features were installed, for example, the bridge at Giverny where Monet's garden was created.

I cannot claim to be walking in the steps of Monet but once upon a time I lived in Hastings a short distance from the old town. A few doors down lived an artist who was obsessed by Van Gogh and she encouraged me to buy a copy of his letters in two volumes. She also asked me to re-design her garden for easy maintenance.

The new design had a patio with steps down to four or five rectangular and triangular beds with low wooden edges, and a long straight path of stepping stones set in pebbles leading to the existing shed. To give height near the shed there was a holly tree and a hawthorn tree with red flowers in Spring.

My friend hated gardening so much that I incorporated a lawn of artificial turf over a large area instead of real grass. This looked pretty dreadful as it rucked up and was entirely the wrong shade of green. It did mean that if someone moved in that did like gardening it would provide a large area of weed free soil once they had removed the artificial layer.

Maybe Van Gogh and Monet turned in their graves but she eventually sold the house at a profit and moved to her ideal house, so all was well.

The 19th Century was an era of expanding empires, and the western world was keen on adopting Japanese, Indian and Chinese ideas in homes and gardens. Hence Japanese prints were of great interest.

I have been to Giverny and it is every bit as beautiful as in Monet's lifetime. Monet had many Japanese prints on the walls of his house.

My father was very fond of Cézanne who kept painting the Montagne St Victoire mountain over and over again. He had a copy of one of these pictures on the stairs of our house in Surrey which I hated.

Some of the French Impressionists came to London during the late 1870s, during the Franco Prussian War, for example Pissarro, who lived in Upper Norwood, and Claude Monet who visited Pissarro.

My article disappeared without trace when I started delving further into the life of Rudyard Kipling, who was an artist as well as a writer, and was Burne-Jones' nephew by marriage. *The cover art is a Portrait of Kipling executed by Burne-Jones. (Ed.)*

Kipling wrote 'Captains Courageous', 'Mandalay' and 'Gunga Din' and will be associated forever more with the British Raj, although he was born in India. His father was working at the Bombay School of Art and Rudyard seems to have loved India far more than England.

He and his sister were sent to board with a stranger during their early childhood as happened in those days to children with parents living in India. They were worried about the effect that extreme heat, tropical diseases and "foreign" culture might have on them.

Kipling must have loved India a great deal as he went back to work there as a journalist from his teenage years and wrote much about India and Imperialism.

When he returned to England, Kipling lived in Villiers Street off the Strand, not far from a Music Hall called Gatti's under the arches near Embankment Station. Kipling must have walked in the Embankment Gardens nearby.

Despite his love of India, he lived for some time in America, married an American, and then settled in East Sussex. He first rented then bought and renovated a large house at Burwash (Bateman's), where he and his family lived for many years. It had been an ironmaster's house (an ironmaster was someone who refined local iron to make guns, ploughs, fireguards and other items).

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

FLORIBUNDA - CONTINUED

Kipling spent the money he received in 1907 for the Nobel Peace Prize for Literature to design and build a new garden at Burwash. This is at the back of the house, where there are two avenues of pleached trees and a lily pond.

Kipling was always keen on innovation and his large chauffeur driven car is on display in a garage near the tea room at Burwash.

Kipling's wife, Carrie, bequeathed the house to the National Trust when she died. Kipling had purchased the fields around it so they too belong in perpetuity to the National Trust.

FLORIBUNDA

RUFUS' RURAL RAMBLES

Over the past few weeks I haven't been able to walk over the fields as some have been flooded. Several weeks ago the sheep in the field opposite disappeared to stay on Lunsford fields closer to the farm. I have missed them as they used to be always following the leader to the other field close to my home.

The rain has been very heavy and our road has been flooded, as well as our vegetable garden down from the house. One night Highways came to block the road as the flooding was coming even nearer to our home and that of our neighbours. Thankfully the flood water didn't come as badly as it did in 2000 when Quinces, No.6 and No.5, my family's home, were flooded out and it took nine months before all the work was done to make it more habitable. Naturally I wasn't there at that time but Mum told me that their first dog called Floyd was sleeping in a washing basket, as his basket had to be removed.

I have had several nice walks with David and Matthew along the lanes. David and I walked up to Church Hill and he met one of his friends. At the top of the hill there were two men in the field where they have grapes for wine, to harvest in the Autumn. On another walk with Matthew, there was flooding in the fields near the Rother once more and across the other side of the road. Further along the road the field was very flooded and unfortunately the poor sheep were still in the flood. I hope they were rescued!

We then walked up to School Hill, where Matthew and his three brothers went to Primary School, but now it is looking very sad. We walked on up into Fysie Lane past Burgh Wood but when we got to the bridge there, it was flooded so we had to turn back.

On the 3rd February I went to Hurst Green to have my coat clipped by a lovely lady called Wendy and at the moment I look a little bit different. My family love what she did for me and I even came home with a little bow tie around my neck! With all this rain we have had lately I rather like drinking from the puddles it makes. At the moment we have only had one day with snow but I did enjoy rolling in it.

It won't be long before primroses and daffodils appear, according to Mum. In the churchyard the large holly tree has lost all its lovely red berries, whereas in other years the birds have not often eaten them all. Let's hope we do not have any more flooding and that Spring will soon appear so that I can strut around Etchingham with my bow tie on!

RUFUS

View of Rouen by Pissarro



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1ST BURWASH & ETCHINGHAM SCOUT GROUP

Beavers have been working together on team building games; they have looked at health and safety in the kitchen and why it's important to keep themselves and the kitchen clean when cooking. We currently have slices of bread growing mould in the hope it will show them that we all need to wash our hands really well. Worryingly, there doesn't seem to be much difference in dirty and washed hands!

Cubs have gone on a night hike which, by all accounts, was well received. They have started on their Fire Safety, Personal Challenge along with the Skills Challenge badges. The future holds some fire lighting, pioneering and the all-important Easter hunt.

Scouts have been taking part in physical activities over the last 4-5 weeks with the aim of showing improvement in their abilities, an element of their Skills Challenge badge. They have also been doing different activities for their Creative Challenge badge, including tie dying and making their own woggles from soapstone.



The Explorer Scouts, young people aged 14 to 18 years old, have started the year thinking about what they would like to achieve as an Explorer group. A route has been planned for a day hike, taking in Bewl Water, during the February half term, with an evening hike prior to this to help brush up on our navigation skills.

To help us think about the international community, Explorers prepared foods from a nominated country for us all to try. Among others, we enjoyed the delights of Farikal, a traditional Norwegian lamb and cabbage stew and Anzac biscuits.

We hope to spend some time on the Scout yacht based in Shoreham. Updates to follow!

Both the Scouts and the Beavers have had a go with working with soapstone. A fellow Scout leader in Broad Oak set up the charity, Harambee for Kenya, in 2007 after they had been helping Kenya Scouts to look after street children. The founders felt compelled to set up a safe house to help the street children and were asked to concentrate on boys as they were harder to house with families. Every penny that is raised goes directly to the charity. If you can donate, please look on their website <https://harambeeforkenya.org>

Finally, if you have any children within your families that might be interested in becoming part of the Scouting community, we do have spaces within all sections. Please contact me on: bandescoutgroup@gmail.com

BERNADETTE SPENCER



Etchingam Parish Council 2025

<https://etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

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Parish Clerk:

Paulette Barton 01580 819048 paulette.etchinghampc@gmail.com

{Office hours; 10.30 – 12.30 Monday, Wednesday and Friday.}

Parish Council updates – to receive email information updates from the Council enter your name and email address at the bottom of any page on the Council website. Emails are all sent Bcc and are in addition to information sent on the village e-bulletin.

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ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL



The single most important decision affecting the future of Etchingam and its inhabitants to be taken in the next half century

“Build, baby, build” or houses of the right size and design, but *only* in the right places.

Many readers will already be aware that Rother District Council is consulting afresh on the development sites to be included in the Local Plan for the area which was originally intended to cover the years 2025 to 2042 and which will replace the Core Strategy adopted in 2014 and the Development and Sites Allocation adopted in 2019. Local Plans under current legislation are supposed to be revised every five years so our current Local Plan is regarded as being out of date and has only limited weight in planning decisions and, more important, appeals made against Rother’s planning decisions. The Draft Local Plan was consulted upon in the early summer of 2024 and the obvious question is why the final consultation upon it (known as the Regulation 19 consultation) has been delayed and there is to be this partial reiteration of a consultation that has already taken place. The answer is that we have a new Government elected with a mandate to “build, baby, build”. Not only are major changes being made to the planning system, but new housing targets have been set for every planning authority. Rother is now required to build some 910 houses a year or to demonstrate why that cannot be achieved and a lesser total set.

It might seem that the answer is obvious: 83 per cent of the area governed by Rother falls within the High Weald National Landscape which it is bound by statute to conserve and enhance, and a further 7 per cent is protected by other designations. Etchingam in common with Burwash and Burwash Weald is entirely within the High Weald. However, that does not absolve it from taking an appropriate share of the agreed housing total, rightly so since no one wants to see our villages frozen in time.

Our young people need somewhere to live and the mantra has to be “houses of the right size and design, but only in the right places”. It is worth noting that in the last quarter of a century Etchingam has seen the building of Church Farm Close, The Orchard and Parsonage Croft, together with the conversion of Bracons. With Parsonage Croft came the new school, nursery school and village halls. Nor has the village ceased to look for further small sites where development would do little or no damage to the landscape. In the draft Neighbourhood Plan four further sites, all small, were identified as acceptable locations for further housing.

It is important to note that the draft annual housing target is the plan on which the District Council is more than 300 houses short of the Government’s figure of 910 and that the lesser figure will have to be justified when the plan goes for Inspection, most probably in the spring of 2027. Nor is the District Council committed to take forward all the sites on which it is consulting. It would even be open to the identification of further sites if any come to light. What it is looking for, where local endorsement is withheld, is a soundly argued planning case for rejection which can be put before the Inspector with a reasonable hope of success. It is important that as many people as possible use their local knowledge to assess these proposals and make their views known by taking part in the consultation.

To that end the Parish Council is not only drawing your attention to the consultation, but is looking to stage an **open forum in the Ahrens Hall on Saturday, 28 February (11 a.m. – 3 p.m.)** at which plans of the sites will be on display and where your questions can be addressed.

The consultation itself does not close until 23 March.

Clearly most people will access the consultation online – it is easily accessed by using a search engine to reach Rother Draft Local Plan <https://www.rother.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/emerging-local-plan/local-plan-review/>

ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Of the sites identified for Etchingham some will be familiar because they figured in the draft Neighbourhood Plan, but what is termed the Croft Field is both new and large. It is understood that the owners, while ready to see some development there, are angry about any suggestion that a large development, let alone 55 houses, is right for that site. It lies beyond the copse planted to celebrate the Jubilee, which was intended to foreclose any further erosion of the green gap between Etchingham and Burwash. However, it should be noted that proponents of this site can point to existing housing on the south side of the Straight Mile. Curiously two of the sites in the draft Neighbourhood Plan do not figure in Rother's latest draft. The Parish Council finds it incomprehensible that the idea of replacing the Lambing Shed (situated on the wide footpath next to the new School) with starter homes has been ignored, but accepts that the difficult access to the land behind Ladyfield (on the High Street virtually opposite the junction with Oxenbridge Lane) provides some grounds for its exclusion.

However, the Council has not yet discussed, let alone reached any decisions about its own response and would like to seek the views of the village before it does so.

Almost certainly this will be the single most important decision affecting the future of the village and its inhabitants to be taken in the next half century, even more important than that taken in the 2005 Local Plan and at least as important as those taken to secure a new school and village halls. ***Please take the time to come to the Village Forum on 28th February and, even more importantly, take part in the consultation.***

<https://www.rother.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/emerging-local-plan/local-plan-review/>

If you are unable to use the online consultation portal, you can view the Draft Local Plan as a pdf on the Rother website and use the Consultation Form (docx).

This information can be made available in large print, audio or in another language upon request. Please telephone 01424 787668 or email planning.strategy@rother.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE THAT COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE CONSULTATION DEADLINE (23RD MARCH 2026) CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

PAULETTE BARTON

CLERK TO ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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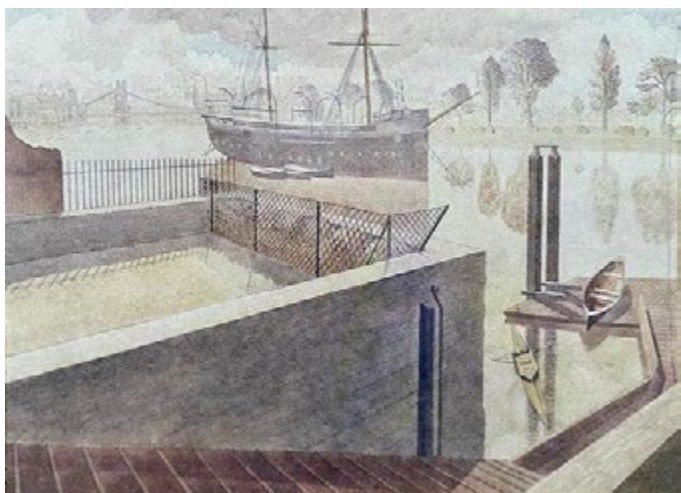
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FORGOTTEN VEGETABLES

Plodding around in the mud (and water) of the Dudwell Valley/Rother Valley with various dogs, one started to wonder if Spring would ever come. The Hazel catkins are here with their fluffy yellow lamb's tails, (see photo on page 28 taken by Peter Farley) but the dull, wet, grey-sky gloom has made it seem as if Spring is still a long way off.

Walking along the Dudwell behind Bateman's, I slipped on some rocks and ended up flat out in the mud, but with the first sprouting of bluebell leaves poking me in the eye already, so it may be wet, but the extending light has prompted nature to get to work. A tiny tip of some wild garlic was also struggling to come up through the thick mud and the flotsam left by the floods. Spring free food was on the horizon after all! The Rother Valley, while less muddy on the ridges, had become a mass of 'lakes' with geese, ducks and gulls taking over the valley floor. Despite the flooding, it looked stunningly beautiful and dramatic, even if making life hard for farmers and threatening floods for valley residents (*see article on page 18 by Linda Neve*).

My mind wandered: how did Medieval villagers feed themselves in that lean period between the tail end of Winter and the blossoming of Spring? I'm longing to make wild garlic pesto but I can nip to a supermarket and buy a packet of mixed oriental vegetables, if I so please. Sussex Medieval villagers had to have something stored from the season before or have crops which could withstand frost and dampness.

One vegetable they had, which we have forgotten, is Skirret, (see picture on page 28) a readily multiplying, low maintenance crop. This was a precursor to carrots: the white roots being very sweet, could be boiled, mashed, added to potage or fried with butter. This was a comfort food for the poor but was also adored by the nobility. It is recorded that Henry VIII loved it, so it was still being harvested in Tudor times. It was time consuming to harvest and fiddly to prepare, so potatoes soon overtook it as a crop when they arrived, as did improved larger carrots.

Parsnips, although not forgotten, were far more highly regarded in the Middle Ages and were used to make sweet pies as well as savoury dishes. They were a natural sweetener, but lost out to potatoes and sugar in the Industrial Age. Parsnip soup has to be the best pick me up - just as good as hot chocolate surely?

Then there were Alexanders, introduced by the Romans, with every part of the plant having a use, young leaves being eaten like spinach or as salad leaves, the seeds being ground as a substitute for pepper, and the roots being eaten like small parsnips. It was almost an emergency food in Medieval times, when all else failed. It is still plentiful in the Dudwell Valley, but make sure you know what you are eating, because similar plants are poisonous! When celery arrived as a cultivated plant, Alexanders were cast aside as tastes changed.

Another lost vegetable is Good King Henry, now regarded as a weed, which sprouts annually but was once regarded as a go-to green when little else was available. It is slightly bitter, almost earthy, but actually provides more iron per serving than spinach and is high in Vitamin C. Cultivated spinach took over when it was introduced as it was faster growing and easier to harvest.

Another forgotten goody is Salsify, (see page 28) both the black and white varieties, which grow as long straight roots with thick skin. They grow slowly but provide a fresh vegetable in the coldest months. Once the thick skin is removed, a pearly white flesh appears, which can be boiled and then fried in butter as a distinctive, stand alone vegetable. They were often grown in monastic gardens to be served in place of fish on Fridays, as they are substantial and almost nutty in taste. My favourite vegetable by far! As a student I would get up before dawn to go to Brighton Open Market to buy an entire box, if they had them, but they were always imported from Belgium or Africa.

Their cousin, Scorzonera, is another lost vegetable with black, tough skin. They are delicious and nutritious, with a milder, sweeter taste than Salsify and were again popular in monastery gardens as they could be stored in sand through the winter once lifted. These were introduced from Italy and Spain. If anyone wants to re-introduce them to the High Weald, I'll be your first wholesale customer!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Wild about Burwash

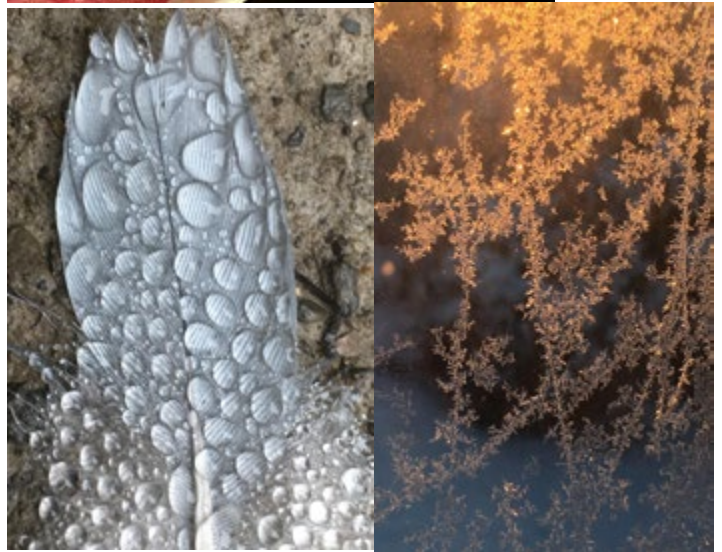
Every now and then our WhatsApp chat follows a flight of fancy. In between practical exchanges on extra Phosphate Sachets for river testing, offers of potting trays and plant stakes or plans for a walk or an event, suddenly something catches the ear or eye and we're off!

It might be a shared recording of a song thrush that recalls Thomas Hardy's 'Darkling Thrush', or a photo that captures the genius of Art and Design in nature. We've seen moth wings that could be the sketch for a 1950's Dior gown, delicate frost patterns, the structural complexities of a spider's web and water drops on a feather. The daily changes of the local landscapes shared in the group from walks, back gardens or windows show nature's arts and crafts, architecture and design in every form.



In the hope that March brings an end to the grey, dismal and wet weather of February and that Spring is on the way, here's a lovely verse from Thomas Carew's 'The Spring' (1640):

*Now that the winter's gone, the earth hath lost
Her snow-white robes, and now no more the frost
Candies the grass, or casts an icy cream
Upon the silver lake or crystal stream;
But the warm sun thaws the benumbed earth,
And makes it tender; gives a sacred birth
To the dead swallow; wakes in hollow tree
The drowsy cuckoo and the humble-bee.*



In the next column: Still Life and 'Feather', 'Frost', A Trunk' and the compilation of Moth photos for our posters and tea towels.

For all things practical or whimsical you are very welcome to join us : wildaboutburwash@gmail.com

ANNE NEWSON / JULIAN KENNY
wildaboutburwash@gmail.com



If you'd like any more information about anything WAB, please email us on wildaboutburwash@gmail.com

PICTURE PAGE



***Hazel catkins taken by Peter Farley
(Strollers) near Bearhurst***



Skirret



Salsify



Corn Salad



Burne-Jones and William Morris



Works by Lang



FORGOTTEN VEGETABLES Contd.

Yet another cherished food was Chickweed, which provided tender leaves all year round. Like many of these 'lost' vegetables, it has amazing medicinal properties as well, being marvellous for curing skin irritations, including ringworm. This was a free food, but was eaten by noble households as well: it has seven times more Vitamin C than oranges!

Fat Hen is an edible 'weed' to us, but to Medieval villagers, it was a vegetable which could be boiled like spinach. It has more Protein than cabbage and more Iron than spinach, so it was a Medieval superfood in fact. Peasants had realised that hens which fed on it were fatter and laid more eggs! It was seen as a nutritious plant. It grows around field margins behind Burwash and in the Rother Valley on the higher slopes. Make sure you wash it well, with so many residents with dogs nearby! Again, cultivated cabbages, spinach and other green vegetables were easier to 'farm' so we forgot it as a vegetable, although now fashionable with foragers.

One of my favourites is Corn Salad (See p. 28), which still pops up in grain fields after the harvest - nothing to do with Sweet Corn. This can be eaten as a salad leaf and is not bitter. It is high in Omega 3, Iron and Vitamin C. It is still grown in many vegetable gardens in Normandy in France but we seem to have forgotten about it. I grew it in my garden on the South Coast but, beware, it self-seeds everywhere!

Not evident around us here, but plentiful on the East Sussex shingle coastline, is Sea Kale. The young leaves would be blanched and the more mature leaves cooked like cabbage. It is very high in Vitamin C and is an excellent food source. Delicious, but needs careful washing these days because of our four-legged friends once more.

Overlooked now but once adored by all, both as a flavouring and for its medicinal uses to aid digestion: Lovage. Introduced by the Romans, it became a staple of monastic kitchen gardens as all parts of the plant can be used, giving intense flavour. It can live for up to 20 years and flourishes on the ridges of the Rother Valley. A plant we should never have forgotten but not suitable for commercial growth, so dumped for celery and parsley in the modern world.

Perhaps I should mention Welsh Onions, which have nothing to do with Wales and were probably introduced from East Asia in about 1200. These provided fresh green onion tops to liven up turnip stew or potage made from legumes. They are reasonably hardy and grow into clumps as they multiply annually, coming up each year as a perennial. The arrival of large cultivated brown onions meant that these were gradually forgotten, which is a shame for cottage gardeners.

Turnip stew was Medieval beans on toast, bland, boring but available when all else failed. We seem to have forgotten that the leaves are edible and contain Vitamin A, Calcium and Protein, although we do feed them to sheep.

Medieval nobles would feed the leaves to their best horses and give the roots to the peasants. Today we seem to only throw turnips into stew now and again, but small turnips fried in butter with black pepper are delicious. I once had them served to me as part of a 'plat du jour' in Arles and I've been eating them ever since, parboiled and then slowly fried in butter. Turnips, along with beans (both fresh and dried), were staples of the Medieval diet. Turnips would grow in soil where other vegetables could not survive and could be stored in the ground for that lean period we are in now. Turnips were food for the masses, providing Vitamin C in winter, Potassium and valuable fibre. We did not overlook beans, presumably because they could be grown commercially and provided protein when meat was scarce.

The list could go on: Woad, Tansy, Dandelions, etc. The vegetables which we 'forgot' are fiddly to prepare, not suitable for mono-culture agriculture and are time-consuming to pick and process, but highly nutritious. Perhaps I was launched into the mud for a reason: to make me realise how detached we have become from the very earth which feeds us. Anyone planning on growing salsify? Please contact me urgently if you are!

CAROLINE HUBAND



***Tunncliffe Etching
of A Rook Displaying***

ETCHINGHAM NATURE NOTES

On the 24th January, we took part, again, in the RSPB “Big Garden Birdwatch”. In the one hour we saw 48 birds in total; 18 different species.

The total number was very similar to last year, but somewhat less varied than we have seen in previous years. We did, however, see one or two species that we have not seen before, when doing the Birdwatch, and the following day we saw several that we had not seen, but which we normally see quite often.

I have only had one report of interesting sightings in the past month:

Date	Sighting/hearing	Reported to me by
16th Jan	Little Egret	John Barnes

John also mentioned that, driving along Sheepstreet Lane, he had twice seen what looked like a Peregrine Falcon, but he was not sure that was what it was. My wife, Barbarann, had however seen one, also in the Lane, a few weeks earlier, so it probably was what John thought. It is not something one would expect to see every day, so good to have seen it.

As I write, on the 30th January, we have only had one really cold spell this winter, which lasted only a few days. Perhaps this is why the bluebells in the wood are already beginning to come up. They are only green at this stage, of course, but some are already three or four inches tall. On the subject of weather, we have had a lot of rain, in late January, and the woodland floor is very wet. There are several streams running, on the downhill slope, that only run in the winter, but this year they are deeper and faster-running than ever.

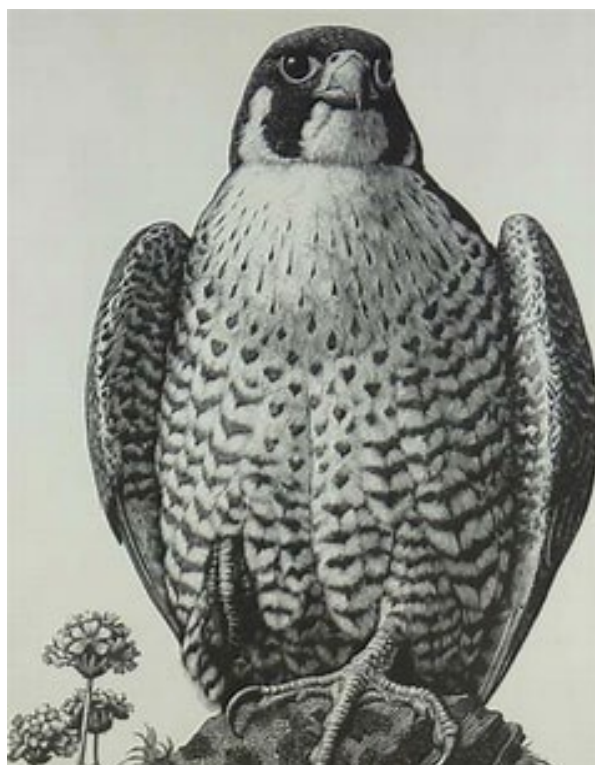
We are still seeing the three deer in the woods, that we have often seen, but not every day (as was the case when I first reported this).

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

FRANK H. SMITH



More works by Tunnickliffe



MORE BIRDS

On Valentine’s Day, 14th February, the sun appeared briefly and there was even some blue sky, at last. While waiting for the bus from Etchingham to Burwash I was totally distracted by the local Kite, which was circling so very high, as if to celebrate the fact that it wasn’t raining! I was so busy looking upwards that the bus nearly sailed by, but the driver spotted the bird watcher and, in turn tried to see what I was looking at. Don’t forget that we have the Saturday bus servicenot as fast as a falcon but increasingly reliable.

CAROLINE HUBAND



Burwash Parish Matters February 2026

Following the Parish Council Meeting on 10th February

Public Meeting – Rother Local Plan

The Parish Council are holding a public meeting on Saturday 21st February to inform residents of the planning sites that Rother have identified in the draft local plan. The sessions are taking place as follows:

9am to 12 noon – Burwash Pavilion, Burwash Common

1pm to 3pm – Burwash Village Hall, High Street

These sessions are an opportunity for residents to view and assess the sites being identified by Rother. For more information, please contact the Clerk on

parishclerk@burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk or 07375809660. The consultation on the new local plan is now open for residents to complete until 23rd March 2026. For more detail and to answer the consultation on sites please visit [Draft Local Plan 2025-2042 – Rother District Council](#)

Grants

The Parish Council have granted £600 to Wealden Works for their work with two young adults who are Burwash residents over the last 12 months. Wealden Works supports young people to find employment in positions that suit their skills. Work and training covers extending qualifications, support for interviews and the provision of targeted programmes delivered by fully trained staff. The programme is a not-for-profit enterprise and relies heavily on donation and grants.

Community Build Project

The Steering Committee tasked with exploring a new Community building in Burwash is continuing to move the project forward and is looking at the potential floorplan and spaces required. The next meeting is being held on Wednesday 18th February and is open for any members of the public to attend. Further updates will be in matters and are also available on the parish website.

Telephone Box - Highfields

At the Full Council meeting held on 10th February, the Parish Council agreed to move forward with opening the telephone box as a book exchange and seed swap. This project has been held up by the continuing vandalism of the telephone box which is disappointing. However, the Council hopes that once the project is up and running, residents will do their very best to support the project. Our thanks go to everyone who has come forward with offers of help to run the box, we will be in touch shortly to move it forward.

Devolution of Community Assets

Discussions on what assets will be devolved to the Parish Council are still ongoing. Currently the Council have expressed an interest in and submitted a business case for taking over the car park and public toilets on a freehold basis. Discussions are ongoing with the land on the corner of Shrub Lane and Strand Meadow as well as the smaller square car park by Prospect Cottages.

The next full council meeting is on Tuesday 10th March at 7pm at Burwash Parish Room.

The Parish Clerk is Emma Neil and can be contacted on 07375 809660 or Email: parishclerk@burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk

BURWASH SOUP LUNCH

A final reminder that there is a Soup Lunch on Thursday, 26th February in Burwash Village Hall at 12.30 p.m. for 1 p.m. Entry is £10 per person, for which you can try as many of the delicious homemade soups as you like, plus the naughty but nice desserts.

There will be a raffle. Proceeds will be given, as usual, to the Get Together Lunch for our seniors.

Please contact Mary on 01435 882107 or email marybarrytaylor@hotmail.co.uk to book places. I look forward to seeing you all again.

FORWARD PLANNING:-

HAMPER RAFFLE

On Saturday, 4th April, Barry and I will be holding another Easter Raffle in our garden at Violet Cottage, High Street, Burwash. If it is a wet day, we will have the Raffle in the house. As always, we are raising money for the Get Together Christmas Lunch for our seniors. We would be very grateful to anyone who has items to donate for the hampers. Please call Mary on (01435) 882107 or call at the house. Thank you.

EASTER CAKE

As Easter approaches, it's time to get your order in for an Easter Simnel cake. They will be the same price as last year: £12.50. I will have them ready for you to collect from Thursday, 2nd of April in time for Easter. All profits from the cakes will go to the Get Together Lunch.

BINGO

The next bingo has been booked for Sunday, 14th June, so keep this date free.

MARY TAYLOR BEM

MORE FORWARD PLANNING

Don't complain that the deadline for this month's magazine was so early: we are trying to advertise the discussions required to assist our Parish Councils in dealing with the demands sent down from central Government. Both Burwash and Etchingham Parish Councils are asking you to participate in this discussion.

In a similar approach, there is no intention to feature one village more than another within this Magazine. I had hoped that it was clear that we were urging you to dissolve the Parish boundaries a little and participate in the events held by neighbouring villages.

If you want more coverage for your events, just send in copy early!

As I have pointed out in the Editorial, **April will focus on Gardening and Easter, of course.**

May will be a 'Music Edition'. We have many famous musicians in our midst from various genres, but we also have a whole new generation of up and coming musicians who started their careers in our villages, largely encouraged by our local churches initially. Jack is off to work in Hamburg, Alice is set to study in Cardiff, Yasmeim is performing in Fat Tuesday in Hastings as I write thisyoung people launching into professional music careers. Watch this space

Please send in all your music related articles for the May edition. Mary Newington will, I know, have sent me even more details about the 2026 Etchingham Music Festival but all genres are most welcome, as are details of performances by local choirs.

If you want a month to feature a particular topic, please let me know! This is your village magazine and all input is most gratefully received.

THE EDITOR



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 February, including:

- The Community Farmers' Market - next column.
- Tuesday Village Playgroup - New contact: Emma Pantry on 07810 043022.
- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu classes - contact Daniel on burwashbjj@gmail.com
- Music and Movement classes - contact Dianne on dianne@seated-exercise.co.uk (see page 15).
- Football Training and Burwash FC in full swing.

To Book for the Summer Fair, please use our website address.

100 PLUS CLUB FEBRUARY DRAW

The Draw took place on the 11th February at the Rose and Crown and was conducted by Lily Seymour. There were a mere 244 balls in the draw, so if you need to renew, or wish to join, please contact me directly on the numbers below.

Congratulations to the Winners!

1st Ball Number	272	Charlotte Bennett	£60
2nd Ball Number	202	L. Maude-Roxby	£30
3rd Ball Number	252	Dorothy Palmer	£20

STEVE BENNETT
01435 882526 or 07917 164578

THE NEXT BURWASH COMMUNITY MARKET IS ON SATURDAY, 7TH MARCH 2026



THE MONTHLY COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKET

As I write this the February Community Farmers' Market is only a day away and it is still dull, grey and decidedly wet, but we will still all turn up! I've invested in some different single estate coffees all from different continents and various teas as well, to ring the changes.

In the event, it managed to pour with rain yet again, but both the stall holders and **YOU** turned up, plus some very wet dogs. The atmosphere was crazy, with so much chatter and enthusiasm. Val and I went home and collapsed on our respective sofas, much to the annoyance of our own dogs.

By the time you read this we will have reached March and surely Spring will be in the air. Those of you who are gardeners will, hopefully, have started to spring into action, so please note the **Seed Swap** below. Your support is so very much appreciated, especially when you brave nasty weather! (Ed.)

JOIN THE SEED SWAP Burwash Village Market - 7th March

What to do, when we order more seed than we need in any given year, or when we save seed we'd just love to share? If you're interested in diversifying in 2026 or in growing something new, then why not bring your (in date) veg and /or flower seed to swap with others.

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BURWASH WALKING FOOTBALL



Last Month I eulogised about our rock solid defence, which is always a bad thing to do. Our next game was against probable League favourites Hastings United, where we promptly conceded two second half goals without reply, which put paid to any chance we may have had of retaining our league crown!

However, we are still the reigning Over 60's Champions until April so let's make the most of it.

In a fairly tight first half Burwash were pinned in their own half early on but, as the game progressed, we grew in confidence and restricted Hastings to just one good shot at goal and had one of our own from Clive - both well saved. 0-0 at half time but probably Hastings edged it in terms of possession.

The second half had barely started when a Hastings man, with his back to goal, executed a surprise turn and shot, with the ball evading the diving Burwash keeper and nestling into the far corner.

Hastings were able to sit back and let Burwash come on to them and, although we tried, we weren't really fashioning any decent openings. Hastings were able to loose-off another shot from an angle high into the roof of the net to make it 2-0 and take it beyond our reach.



William Morris Reading Poetry to Burne-Jones

Laurence went off, having landed heavily trying vainly to keep out the first goal, to be replaced in goal by Chris who made a very good save to keep the deficit down to two. We now have all three goal-keepers out due to injuries.

There were a couple of suspect refereeing decisions but we really couldn't argue with the result. You've gotta shoot to score and if you do shoot you want to be on target!



Peter Henly of Burwash tries to fashion an opening

If you think you could make half a fist of keeping goal, why not come along? Every Thursday evening 6.30 – 8 p.m. at The Robertsbridge Community College. Call me, Laurence on 07714 935915 or contact Steve Mintram on 01435 882444 for more information.

**01435 882444 for more information.
www.burwashwalkingfootballers.co.uk**

**Burwash Walking Footballers -
Over 60's East Sussex League Champions - 2025**

LAURENCE WORTON

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**Wadhurst Bowls - steeped in tradition not stuck in the past.
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Hello again. Now we are in the month of March - how time is racing by. A quote for you about March:

March 4th, the only day that is also a sentence -
(John Green)

Hopefully winter is becoming but a distant memory, and we can focus on looking forward to getting out and about with lighter evenings.

To pass the time in the gloomy month of February, Wadhurst Bowls members gathered together for a first – a jigsaw puzzle contest.

This was arranged by Heather and Laurence in Sparrows Green Village Hall. Seven teams, comprising four contestants per puzzle, were drawn out of a hat, the aim being to complete a 500 piece jigsaw puzzle in the fastest possible time allocated.

The puzzles were exactly the same to avoid any allegations of some being harder or easier, and prizes were on offer as an extra incentive: not that anyone needed encouragement. The whistle was blown and twenty-eight pairs of eyes set to with gusto. We had three hours to complete as much of the puzzle as possible. Amazingly, one team managed to finish it in just over two hours! At the appointed time, the whistle blew again, the adjudicators checked the status of the remaining puzzles and awarded prizes and certificates for first, second and third position. It looks like it might be an annual event, and for your information, a person keen on doing jigsaw puzzles is called a dissectologist!

Thanks again to Heather and Laurence for organising such a fun evening.

By the way, I hope some of you have been watching the World Indoor Bowls Championships on BBC 2.

They were televised from 19th January at the Potters Resort near Great Yarmouth. The fundamental rules of the game are the same as outdoor bowls. However, the environment creates different tactical and technical approaches due to variations in green speed, surface and size. One advantage is that it is played while being warmly undercover, and can be played all year round. Quite a few outdoor bowls players take advantage of keeping their hand in by playing indoors in winter. In fact, Wadhurst have a couple of matches coming up against the Royals in Tunbridge Wells. Watch this space!

JANE GILBERT

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

**Morning Coffee
& Cakes**

in aid of church funds

Saturday, 14th March
10 a.m. until noon
in St Bartholomew's Church

Any queries to Shirley Viney 01435 882497 please
St Bartholomew's Church, Charity No: 1133028

Jigsaws Sale

**Don't let it be you
that's the missing piece!
EVERYONE
most welcome!**

WALKS FOR STROLLERS

Six Strollers set off in their wellies in the sunshine for our February stroll.

We went down Ham Lane, taking the footpath on the left towards the River Rother: the fields were flooded in places. Crossing Wreckery Bridge, we headed on the bridle path to the railway line. Passing Old Bearhurst, we continued on the footpath to Bearhurst Farm.

Here there is an amazing display of interesting types of transport as illustrated by the photographs below.



Turning right we went down Battenhurst Lane and then, taking the footpath on the right we passed Battenhurst Farm, continuing on the footpath through Upper Collington Wood, passing the sculptures, which we photographed for you before.

Crossing back over the railway line we headed back to Burwash on the footpath passing the Catholic Church. The total distance was 6 miles.

Our next walk is on Wednesday, 4th March 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

Just how did they manage to walk on the one day when it didn't rain? Just look at that blue sky!

EDITOR

MARCH 26



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FAIRFIELD SURGERY PPG NEWSLETTER ISSUE 3

Nutrition and Hydration

Nutrition and Hydration Week which takes place between 16th and 22nd March 2026 is an annual event to promote the value of food and drink in maintaining health and wellbeing.

With that in mind, have a go at our nutrition and hydration quiz (answers below).

1. How many drinks should I have each day?
2. True or false: tea and coffee count towards your daily fluid intake?
3. What's the best way to check if you are hydrated?
4. True or false: your sense of thirst can decrease as you get older?
5. What nut is found in marzipan?
6. True or false: the Caesar Salad was named after Julius Caesar?

New Appointment Signposting by Angela Saunders, Practice Manager

I'd like to explain our new system set up to help our reception staff guide you to the right care, quickly and efficiently. You will have heard it referred to as Triage. It is a digital system to assist our reception team with the management of calls and enquiries to the practice. It is called The GP Practice Telephone Signposting Toolkit and will help our reception team by providing them with clear information in order to direct you to the best healthcare professional to deal with your specific needs.

The toolkit has been set up by our GP Partners with a directory of medical issues along with a signpost to the most appropriate course of action to be taken for that issue, whether that be a face to face appointment, a telephone call or signposting to one of the many other healthcare resources available for you to self-refer to (physiotherapy, pharmacy, Health In Mind, etc.). When you call, our trained staff will ask a few brief questions to understand your needs. It ensures you get the right help, at the right time, from the right person. All information you share is confidential. This approach will help to reduce wait times, improve access for everyone in our community and ensure you get the most appropriate care.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations (until 31st March 2026) continue to be available to eligible patients at Ticehurst Pharmacy during opening hours. Call 01580 200294 to book an appointment.

Answers to quiz

1. 6-8 glasses, 2. True, 3. The colour of your urine is a good indicator: aim for pale or straw coloured, 4. Almonds, 5. False - it was named after Caesar Cardini.

BURWASH NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On the 22nd January a warm welcome was extended to all who braved the weather to attend the AGM: such a generous membership as such meetings are not always everyone's favourite way of spending an afternoon.

Isabella our long serving Chair, Marion our Hon. Secretary and Mike our Hon. Treasurer sat out front to run through last year's events (all extremely good and enjoyable), the new programme for 2026, our financial situation, election of our Committee and arrangements for our next meeting.

Marion had put together an interesting programme for 2026 and we were all given a copy. It is listed at the end to invite any new members who might like to come along and enjoy our meetings with us. They are usually on the third Thursday afternoon monthly.

Mike handed out account slips and there was general discussion about the balance of costs for the use of the Hall with Speakers' Charges and annual Insurance Costs. Like so many things the costs are spiralling upwards and we only take a £3 entrance fee, which also supplies a delicious tea. We hope the well supported raffle might adjust the discrepancy between the two but it is beginning to fail.

Membership was sympathetic and after discussion it was decided the Committee would discuss a way of solving this dilemma with unanimous support. What a lovely bunch of folk they are.

We have lost several key and loved members this year and they were mentioned by name.

Thanks was given to our hard working Committee, our 'tea angels' Jazz Botting and her team - the two Sues Leonard and Fowler, Janice Gooch and anyone who might drop in to lend a hand.

I try to submit information from the Club to the Magazine and Sue Fowler runs the raffle beautifully.

Apart from Isabella who continues to run the club so well, we are gifted the invisible help of two lovely 'young' men who put up tables and chairs, Eric Botting and Bev. Gooch.

With much thanks to each and everyone for valuable contributions to charm such an efficient organisation. Also appreciation for firm financial control and Marion for her secretarial duties.

How the Club works! Meetings are at 2 p.m. for a 2.15 p.m. start, except the Garden Party. We ask members to volunteer to be a 'cake provider' once or twice a year (for our delicious teas - the Committee provide bread). A small raffle prize would also be much appreciated.

Why not come along and join in the fun. We are really friendly and very young at heart!

VERONICA FARLEY

THE NOT SO YOUNG PROGRAMME FOR 2026

19th February	The Jolly Boys,	Local Chap's Choir	Burwash Village Hall
19th March	All Things Craft	Tina Wray	Burwash Village Hall
16th April	History of Morris Dancing	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Burwash Village Hall
21st May	Sussex Farming During 1950s	Ian Everest	Burwash Village Hall
18th June	Riding for the Disabled	Barbara Varney	Burwash Village Hall
16th July	Simple Burwash	Ijon Jenner	Burwash Village Hall
20th August	Annual Garden Party	Details to follow	Local lovely garden
17th September	Retiring with Rhyme	Clare Baldry	Burwash Village Hall
15th October	Valley of the Incas – Machu Picchu	Ray Young	Burwash Village Hall
19th November	Prelude to Christmas	Heathfield Choral Society	Burwash Village Hall
14th December	Annual Christmas Lunch		Location not decided

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH

Profits and Losses, Cup Scalps and Irish Enthusiasm

Brighton and Hove Albion is often referred to as 'the best run club in the country'. Obviously, I would wholeheartedly agree with that sentiment, but, then again, I would wouldn't I.... my allegiance makes me biased. Nevertheless, it is hard to argue against the establishment of the Albion as an established Premier League club whilst maintaining a healthy balance sheet. In the 2022 – 2023 season, Brighton recorded a record Premier League profit of £122.8 million whilst achieving their highest ever league finish and reached European competition for the first time in their history. The following season saw a £73.9 million profit, finishing in a respectable 11th position in the league. Most of these profits were due to the club's player recruitment and sales policy, whereby they buy talented young players, develop them into top class and occasionally world class performers and sell them to 'big' clubs for huge profits. In the light of this, the £54.4 million loss the club reported recently for the 2024 – 2025 season appears to dent their reputation of shrewd business and financial sustainability. However, the summer of 2024 was very unusual for the Seagulls; they spent big! Owner and chairman, Tony Bloom, relaxed his firm grip on the purse strings and Brighton spent more in that transfer window than any other club in the world (whey-hey, we've finally won something!). The club spent £193 million on nine new players, including £40 million on Georginio Rutter from Leeds, £30 million on Yankuba Minteh from Newcastle and £25 million each for Matt O'Riley, Brajan Gruda, Ferdi Kadioglu and Mats Weiffer from Celtic, Mainz 05, Fenerbahce and Feyenoord, respectively. This was, ostensibly, to give the then new head coach, Fabian Hurzeler, players that would enable him to develop a squad capable of challenging consistently in the Premier League and to deepen the squad strength by utilising the profits of previous, more parsimonious seasons. Most of these purchases maintained the policy of buying young players with a view to the future, whilst some were considered 'Premier League ready'. So, over the last year and a half, how successful was Mr Bloom's big shopping spree?

Well, the 2024-25 season was as good as could be expected. With a new coach and a host of new

players settling in, the 8th place finish was very respectable, despite the disappointment of marginally missing out on qualifying for this season's European competitions.

The current season has, so far, been a model of inconsistency. After 13 games, Brighton were in fifth position with 22 points and had recorded notable victories over Manchester City, Chelsea and Newcastle. However, since the beginning of December, they have recorded only one Premier League win, 2-0 at home to seemingly doomed Burnley, and have dropped to 14th position after 25 matches with a total of 31 points. The frustration of these results and the habit of conceding 'last kick of the game' goals has fermented disgruntled chuntering in the stands. The recent dismal performance against traditional rivals Crystal Palace (a 0-1 home defeat; the least said, the better!) was greeted by boos from elements in the crowd and chants of "you're getting sacked in the morning" aimed at head coach Hurzeler. Whilst I suspect most of the hecklers are 'new' fans, who do not recall where the club was 30 years ago and feel entitled to watching Premier League and European football, the current form of the squad suggests that Mr Bloom's big injection of players has yet to pay dividends. But us old timers still keep the faith and are still relishing watching top flight football in a world class stadium rather than sitting in the rain at Gillingham watching the Seagulls battle for survival at the bottom of the football league. Given time, I am sure Hurzeler and the kids will come good!

Whilst the Premier League has been challenging of late, the FA Cup has provided much needed relief. Premier League clubs join the competition at the third round stage and Brighton got drawn away against thirteen-times winners, Manchester United. A nice easy start then? The game was played at 4.30 pm on a Sunday afternoon, not great for supporters travelling up from the south coast. To add insult to injury for the Albion faithful, the billionaire Sir Jim Ratcliffe and the Manchester United hierarchy decided to crank the away supporter ticket prices from the usual £30 to £55. Consequently, only 800 Brighton die-hards witnessed what turned out to be a famous 2-1 victory for the Seagulls. The result ensured that United were dumped out of the Cup at the first opportunity and that no other club will help pay recently sacked United manager Ruben Amorin severance fee by being fleeced on ticket prices for the fourth round tie. **CONTINUED OVERLEAF**

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH

Continued

Knocking Manchester United out of the FA Cup helped erase the scars of the 1983 FA Cup final defeat (I told you I was an old timer) and the more recent semi-final when we played them off the park only to lose on penalties. The reward for progressing past United was another 'easy' fourth round tie with eight-times winners (and current Premier League champions) Liverpool at their Anfield home. As it happens, Brighton and Hove Albion do have a reasonable record against Liverpool in this competition having knocked them out in 1983 and 1984. Before the latter game, football pundit Jimmy Greaves stated that if Brighton knocked Liverpool out for a second successive year, he would jump off Brighton pier. Sadly he reneged on his promise! More recently, in 2023, Brighton again eliminated Liverpool from the Cup when Kaoru Mitoma scored a late winner at the Amex. I am not going to make a prediction of the score of the forthcoming match as, by the time you read this, it will have been played, rendering me at a distinct disadvantage.

Despite the dip in form of the Albion team, the Seagulls Over Burwash coaches have been sold out for all home games. We do hold a few seats back for game-by-game supporters and spaces become available when season ticket holders can't attend. So, if you fancy catching a game at the Amex and want to get there in the easiest way possible, drop us a line or call and we will try and fit you on board.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EASTER LILIES



For further information on joining Seagulls Over Burwash and details of forthcoming events, meetings or coach travel, please visit our soon to be revitalised website at

www.seagullsoverburwash.co.uk or email me at simon.forster@seagullsoverburwash.co.uk.

Alternatively, please feel free to contact our beloved and revered Chairman, **Mr Teskey O'Neil, on 01435 884344 or tesbar80@btinternet.com.**

As you may guess from his name, March is an important month for Teskey as he celebrates St. Patrick's Day with gusto! A couple of years ago, St. Patrick's Day coincided with a home game and, killing two birds with one stone, Teskey boarded the coach in his finest fluorescent green leprechaun outfit. At half time he deemed it appropriate to demonstrate his traditional Irish dancing prowess. Surrounded by enthralled spectators, he was performing his finest step dance until disaster struck; he slipped a jig, started to reel and landed heavily on his hornpipe. Fortunately, the only thing bruised was his dignity and that was soon cured by another barrel of Guinness.

SIMON FORSTER

St. Bartholomew's Easter Lilies

We will be decorating our Church for Easter
on Saturday, 4th April 2026

As always we would like as many Lilies as possible, to beautify our lovely Church especially after Lent.

If you would like to make a donation for them, in memory of a loved one or just to help with the cost, we are always very grateful.

We are also really pleased with any foliage or spring flowers from the garden that you can share with us.

If anyone would like to come along and join us to decorate our beautiful Church please let me know. You would be most welcome.

Donations can be given to myself or Celia.
Thank-you so very much.

Church Flower Guild
Diana Workman (01435 882528)
Celia Merchant (01435 882360)



SLAB, STODGE AND STUG

Just as the Eskimos supposedly have a multitude of words for different types of snow, the people of Sussex have a multitude of words for mud. A Sussex folklore book I read said there are more than thirty words for mud in the Sussex dialect, and even that isn't anywhere near enough to describe all the mud we've seen across January. My favourite of those Sussex mud words is "clodgy", which you can kind of picture just by looking at the word: that quite sticky mud that risks pulling your wellington boot clean off.

Unless you were born and then lived your whole life in a weatherproof barn, it has been raining rather a lot recently. So much so, in fact, that Burwash FC didn't have a game between the 13th of December all the way to the 30th of January. As good a job as the infamous Swan Meadow Slope does, even it could not stand up to the deluge we've been facing. You know things are bad when head groundsman Rob Swaine says the pitch isn't playable, as that man is always desperate for an excuse to be shouted at by ten out of shape men & boys.

We did play one game in January, managing to rekindle the old Burwash FC ways by losing 2-1 in a cup game away to Little Common FC. Then we played the same team again in a different cup competition a week later and lost 4-0. Like Burwash mud, Burwash FC cup exits have many names. As ever, I am always thinking a few months ahead and starting to put the foundations into place for the club's annual Seven-A-Side Tournament to take place on the 11th of July.

Christ the King and
St. Bartholomew's

LENTEN LUNCH

At Burwash Village Hall
Thursday, 12th March
12.30 to 2 p.m.
£6

Come and enjoy delicious homemade
soups and tasty bread.
Have a Go on the Raffle!

In fun news, as promised, we've launched a line of Burwash FC Merchandise in the form of a sophisticated bobble hat to keep the cold air off your ears. Available for £15: pictured below. Please drop the club an email, if you are interested in purchasing one for yourself!



Burwash FC Merchandise - Bobble Hat

ALEX ROXON (CHAIRMAN)
burwashfc1890@gmail.com

AGM

Monday 9th March 2026 at The Pavilion
Doors open 7.15pm Meeting Starts 7.30 pm - Bar Open

Speakers

Julian Kenny and other members of the Wild About Burwash group talking about the many interesting and varied projects in and around the local area

Non-members as well as members are welcome to attend our General Meetings, so if you are not already a member, come along and meet us.

Contact us by email at bcwra2017@gmail.com

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Burwash, Burwash Common, Burwash Weald and the Surrounding Areas

Recent Incidents:

Apologies if these reports seem to be similar to previous ones but it's likely criminals return to areas where they don't think they will be caught and consequently there have been more reports of attempted thefts during the hours of darkness. Once again farm outbuildings, sheds, garages and storage containers have been targeted.

Vans have also been targeted, the offenders probably hoping to find power tools, etc. and one was actually stolen just off our area at Broad Oak, Heathfield overnight Wednesday 4th to Thursday, 5th February.

I welcome reports from members and non-members that might help protect our area.

Scams:

I get more reports about scams than anything else: 37 since the last report.

The positive thing about that is that all 37 have failed, because the people targeted were switched on.

The most frequent ones lately have been the 'shortage of postage' and 'can you buy something for me'

With the postage one it is important to remember that your contract is usually with the seller not the delivery service, so if there were a problem it's not your responsibility. This scam relies on the idea that most of us are expecting a delivery of some sort and the scammers are obviously still catching people out or they wouldn't continue to use it.

The 'can you buy something for me' scam usually appears to be from a family member or contact and may appear quite plausible, but take a moment to think and then contact the person involved by your usual contact method. This scam relies on us being nice, helpful people, but sadly we have to be suspicious too!

To report cyber crime and fraud:
<http://www.reportfraud.police.uk>

NHW by Email:

Burwash and surrounding areas - new to the area or want to know more, then contact:

steve.mintram@btinternet.com

Contacting the Police:

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

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

Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired with textphone can **text 18001 101**, or BSL users can use SignVideo to provide a Video Relay Service <http://signvideo.co.uk/>, to report crime through a live online interpreter, who will contact the Police on your behalf, when you do not require an urgent response.

STEVE MINTRAM



Bereavement Friendship Group

For anyone who has suffered a bereavement

CHANGE OF VENUE

The Bereavement Friendship Group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at Petals Nursery, Burwash Road, Broad Oak, TN21 8XG.

Lots of parking.
Sponsored by Waterhouse & Sons funeral service for hot drinks.

Please contact Jan Wright
Email: laurenandjan@gmail.com
Tel.: 01435 883748 or 07444 482634 for the latest information.

ODD FACTS

Kipling was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907. He was 41 years old and is still the youngest person ever to have received it.

Stanley Baldwin was Kipling's cousin on his maternal line and visited Bateman's. Kipling had also spent time with him in Rottingdean.

In 1902 the Dudwell flooded right up to the back door of Bateman's.

In 1913 Kipling built the cottage 'Keylands' on the estate for his journalist friend Perceval Landon, who wrote for the Telegraph.

It is worth taking a look at 'Kipling's Sussex, A Chronology' by Michael Smith on-line as it outlines his multiple interests (including his love of his Sussex cattle), his motor cars and his relentless travel itineraries.

Within the family literature, politics and art were intertwined, in a life-style lost today except for the fortunate few.

THE EDITOR

THE AFTER EIGHT CLUB BURWASH COMMON

Our next After Eight Club Meeting will be our Annual General Meeting. This will be held on Wednesday, 11th March 2026 at 7 p.m. at the Burwash Common Pavilion. It would be great to see as many of you as possible to help plan our events for 2026 and early 2027.

It all sounds very formal but it really isn't! We are a friendly group of ladies of all ages, who meet up once a month to share experiences. Over the last year we have had speakers, walks, pub meals and organised a coffee morning to raise money for local charities.

We are always pleased to welcome potential new members!

If you would like to find out more, please ring or email me!

JACKY WOODLAND

Email: tjwoodland142@btinternet.com

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MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

On the 19th March at 2.30 p.m. Ian Currie will be speaking about 'Weather Lore - Fact or Fiction?' at Five Ashes Village Hall.

Why should we move to Eastbourne? Avoid Oak trees in a storm? How many weather related sayings are based on reality?

Ian Currie, this month's speaker, is a professional weatherman, broadcaster, author, columnist and speaker. He is also the editor of Weather Eye. Perhaps he is even a man who keeps a 'weather eye' out for pink skies and cloud formations? Perhaps we should ask him.....

Unlike some others in his profession, Ian correctly forecast the 1987 storm, so as well as his talks being beautifully illustrated, helped of course by many of his photographs being of our lovely county, they are informative and entertaining. We will learn a lot and be able to amaze friends and family with our new found knowledge. Take an umbrella! No, you'll be fine in just a T-shirt, and so on.

As always, all are welcome to these talks, members and non-members alike. The latter can always join us at the time, in which case the fee of £3.00 is deducted from their first subscription, which makes it a really good deal. Just in case anyone had forgotten, tea and cakes are also part of the afternoon.

Our website, mayfield.u3asite.uk is full of information and recent news, so do take the time to look at it, and see if there's a group you hadn't joined but might like to try.

ANNA THOMPSON



On Tuesday, 10th March Pepe Martinex will be addressing us on 'Banksy – Fraud or Genius'.

The lecture will trace the story of Banksy's humble beginnings as a tagger on the streets of Bristol in the 1980's to one of the most recognisable names in the art world. We will examine the reasons behind his incredible rise, looking at some of his famous stunts and discuss what his influence has been on the art market today and look at what his legacy, if any, might be.

In total contrast on Tuesday, 14th April Mark Wilson is coming to talk to us about 'The Greatest love story in Art History: Japan and Europe'.

The lecture is plotted around this love affair, describing an initial awkward introduction and mutual curiosity in the Sixteenth Century, followed by a special separation defined by the period of Japanese isolation in 1639 (although there was clearly some residual attraction behind the scenes). Then, the relationship blossomed into full-on passion after Japanese Art and Japanese artists eagerly drank into the culture of the West.

The annual subscription is £50 for our exciting programme of 10 monthly lectures. We welcome guests to individual lectures for £7.50. If you would like to try us, you can come to your first lecture free of charge. Our meetings are held at the Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield, TN21 0XG 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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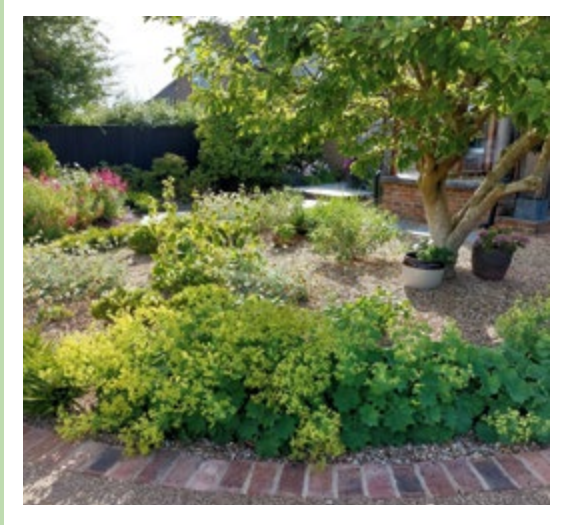
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BURWASH COMMON PAVILION NEWS

The Playing Field continues to be saturated (for obvious reasons) but the Jubilee Path saves the day and is constantly used by dog walkers, Oakdown residents and children on bikes. Perfect for a bit of fresh air without getting covered in mud.

The Pavilion is always busy being used by regular hirers for Pilates, Yoga, Mothers and Toddlers, Bridge Club, Snooker, After 8's, parties, AGM's, wakes and religious services. A diverse and wide spectrum of activities which so many enjoy.

There was a Working Party morning in January and attention was paid to getting the play areas ready for inspection. The swings have been replaced and all the surfaces made safe. The play equipment will be updated some time this year and, although a plea was sent out for suggestions for this refit, few replies were forthcoming. It's not too late!

We are delighted to report that the snooker room is used up to three times a week now, but there's still opportunities to hire it on other days.

The Burwash Weald Cricket Club AGM is on 2nd March at 7.30 p.m., the Residents Association AGM is on 9th March also at 7.30 p.m. and The After Eight Club AGM is on 11th March at 7 p.m. and everyone is welcome.

Once the weather improves our brilliant, hard working Playing Field Volunteer Working Party will be active again with crucial general maintenance, thus ensuring the appearance of the Pavilion and Playing Field are kept in great shape for everyone to enjoy.

THE COMMITTEE
07813273977

BURNE-JONES AND SUSSEX

Kipling was Burne-Jones' nephew by marriage. Burne-Jones painted our cover painting. Kipling had stayed with the Burne-Jones family in Rottingdean. Rudyard Kipling subsequently rented 'The Elms' in Rottingdean between 1897 and 1902. Kipling wrote many of his 'Just So' stories in the house.

Edward Burne-Jones, the celebrated Pre-Raphaelite artist, spent his later years in Rottingdean. He moved there in the 1880s, seeking peace. Burne-Jones purchased North End House on the village green, where he lived with his family and welcomed frequent visitors, including his close friend William Morris. Burne-Jones also worked with William Morris as a founding partner in Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co in the design of decorative arts.

Rottingdean offered Burne-Jones peace as well as artistic inspiration. The surrounding South Downs, the sea, and the secluded village life appealed to his romantic sensibilities. While living there, he continued to work on major commissions, including stained-glass designs for Morris & Co., as well as drawings and paintings filled with mythological and medieval themes.

Among the works he produced during his time in Rottingdean was *The Flower Book*, a private project that he began in the 1880s and worked on intermittently until his death. Contrary to its name, the book is not a botanical study, but a collection of 38 exquisite watercolours inspired by the names of flowers, each reimagined through myth, legend, or personal fantasy. These miniature paintings reflect Burne-Jones's lifelong love of storytelling and his unique visual imagination. Though created for his own enjoyment and not intended for public display, the work is now recognised as one of his most intimate and inventive creations. His time in Rottingdean was marked by community involvement and a love for the local landscape. He was known to take long walks on the Downs and maintained a deep affection for the Sussex coast. His legacy remains in the village today—particularly in St. Margaret's Church, where his stained-glass windows and memorials honour both his artistic achievements and his personal connection to Rottingdean.

Burne-Jones died in 1898 and is buried in the churchyard of St. Margaret's, Rottingdean. **(Ed)**

A STARRY AFTERNOON FOR DARK SKIES AT THE BELL

There was standing room only at The Bell in Ticehurst for what turned out to be a lively and inspiring discussion about something many of us treasure: our dark skies.

The meeting in January brought together local councillors, campaigners, residents, and our MP Dr Kieran Mullan, with a clear aim: to show Kieran just how strong local support is for protecting and restoring dark skies across our villages, and to encourage that support to be championed in Westminster.

We were delighted to hear that Kieran has already joined the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Dark Skies, where he will be able to exert personal influence at national level. A promising start.

Local dark skies campaigner David Field opened the discussion by outlining why dark skies matter. Not just for stargazers, but for human health, wildlife and nocturnal creatures, as well as for reducing carbon emissions and saving money.

The conversation quickly gathered pace, with contributions from eight local parishes and interest groups. East Sussex County Councillor Eleanor Kirby-Green explained that ESCC is planning a review of its lighting policy this Spring, and that local communities will be consulted as part of that process.

Georgina Nunney and Caroline Donegan from Wild About Ticehurst told Kieran about the hugely popular Dark Sky Festivals held over the last three years: all sell-outs. They shared the scale of local backing, with hundreds of residents having signed pledges supporting dark sky principles, and a growing number of letters of support from local businesses.

Cllr. Serena Gadd, Chair of Wadhurst Parish Council, confirmed the depth of parish-level enthusiasm, with residents even turning up to Saturday morning meetings to voice their support.

Robertsbridge and Salehurst offered a striking example. Cllr David Todd explained how the parish has reduced its street lighting costs by an impressive 75% by becoming dark sky compliant. Proof that doing the right thing environmentally can also make financial sense – a rare win/win.

Cllr Ben Sutch, Chair of Etchingham Parish Council, noted that while they have no streetlights, the main challenge is the railway station. This sparked a useful discussion about parishes joining forces to engage with railway stations at a regional level. Safety must always come first, but car parks don't need to be brightly lit all night. Stonegate Station was highlighted as an excellent example of how sensitive, effective lighting can be done well.

Fiona Mordaunt spoke about the recent launch of Wild About Etchingham and Hurst Green, and the establishment of a new working group focusing on waterways and dark skies. She highlighted the need for on-going education, such as the benefit of being able to call Sussex a “dark sky community” so that newcomers are immediately curious and know there is something special about that.

From Brightling, Cllr. Isabel Lloyd and Caroline Hodge described the Sky Quality Meter (SQM) surveys they have been running, and Kieran was even persuaded to have a go with an SQM meter himself. Brightling's biggest challenge is the Gypsum Mine, which emits more light pollution than Battle and creates a visible sky glow that can be seen all the way from Ticehurst.

Antonia Stapylton and Cllr Julian Kenny reminded us how fortunate some villages are. Burwash has no streetlights at all, and residents are keen to protect their beautiful dark skies for future generations.

Cllr. Sonia Plato from Crowhurst Parish Council explained their challenges include both the station and a floodlit church. The parish has seen a dramatic decline in bat numbers, though they still have glow worms, much to everyone else's envy.

Closer to home, Ticehurst Cllr. Tony Lloyd spoke about light pollution issues identified by the Friends of Bewl Water and outlined the results of a recent survey showing overwhelming local support for dark skies. By the time you read this, you may well have seen a press release about the survey. Tony can provide more information.

The meeting also heard from Doug Edworthy, who spoke eloquently on behalf of astronomers. He reminded us that the dark sky is slowly disappearing. This is not just a loss of beauty, but a loss of opportunity for our children and grandchildren, for whom gazing up at the universe can be a powerful gateway into Science and Engineering.

Finally, Corinne Stuart, Chair of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Sussex, explained why dark skies are such an important part of CPRE's work. CPRE has published research on light pollution, run citizen science surveys, and delivered projects for children. Dark skies, she said, are not only good for the environment, but also for the local economy. Dark sky destinations attract off-season visitors, bringing welcome business to pubs, cafés, B&Bs and other rural enterprises, helping to build economic resilience.

In response to this overwhelming enthusiasm, Kieran readily agreed to provide a personal letter of endorsement to support our application to become an International Dark Sky Community. He also offered personal help in approaching railway stations collectively, and in engaging with Southern Water regarding Bewl. In return, we offered to share our on-the-ground experience with dark sky initiatives with the Dark Skies APPG.

Kieran added: *"This meeting brought together local partners, experts, and community voices who all share the same goal: reducing light pollution and ensuring that future generations can continue to experience the wonder of a star-filled sky. It was great to learn that so much can be done in a way that doesn't leave communities any worse off and might actually save money. Simple things like the colour, strength and direction for streetlamps can make a huge difference. I was encouraged by the collaboration and commitment shown and look forward to working with this group in the future to support my work with the Dark Skies APPG."*

It was an encouraging and energising afternoon, and a reminder that when communities come together, even the future of our night skies looks brighter. A highly successful meeting. I'll finish with a lovely quote shared by Doug:

"The light from distant stars and galaxies takes hundreds, thousands, even millions of years to reach us – what a tragedy to lose it in the last millisecond of its journey."



Representatives meeting at The Bell for Dark Skies Discussions

David Field
Nature Recovery Network
naturerecoverynetwork@gmail.com

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and embody the spirits @*

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Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group

Thursday Mornings 10-12

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

Turn up anytime from 10.00. Search for Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers for latest news.

£2.00 per family per session.

Jane Lloyd - 01435 883264



**DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR NEAREST
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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.

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25th March

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Parents or guardians must
remain on site throughout

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: on-line.

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: Joanne Murrells (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: Kate Riches 07724849880 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.

Burwash Village Playgroup:

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

Contact: Emma Pantry on 07810 043022.

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.

Etchingham Village Playgroup:

Meet every Monday in the Parker Hall, Parsonnage Croft from 11 - Noon.

ND OTHER CONTACTS

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 b882243.

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 meets on third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at Petals Nursery, Burwash Road, Broad Oak, TN21 8XG.

Contact: Jan Wright on 01435 883748 or 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: Kate Riches 07724849880 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

Etchingam 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/batemans 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 Etchingam & 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 Etchingam 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 Etchingam School:

Contact: The School on 01580 819218.

Etchingam Music Festival:

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

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