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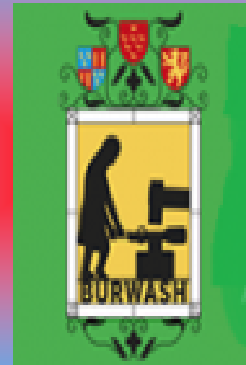
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GETTING IN TOUCH

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 May Magazine is Friday, 10th April.

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:

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Susan Mumford (Etchingham) Tel.: 01580 819415.

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

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

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

WHO'S WHO

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Churchwarden (Burwash)	Vacant		
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HOME VISITS BY THE RECTOR

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

FROM THE REGISTERS – BURWASH

Funeral

23rd March 2026 Anne Nightingale

Interment of Ashes

25th March 2026 William and Joy Tasker

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.

**February 2026 Rainfall Figures Collected by
Beryl Swift: 138 mm in Burwash Common!**

RECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

The garden has been a complete quagmire these past weeks - I've barely been able to step outside without sinking in, and I know I'm not alone. Wellies caked, tools rusting in the shed, planting dreams on hold. Yet right in the middle of it, the crocuses in the churchyard have done their thing: glorious purple and gold bursts right through the grass. Sometimes it's best to leave things alone and watch what God does!

This feels like an ancient way of thinking about ourselves. The joy of a garden is in the balance -part cultivated by us, part in the hands of God. To grow spiritually we need occasional pruning (cutting back what hinders), and other times just letting areas flourish. You never know what God might call forward in you.

Now the weather is brightening at last, and we can look forward - as always - to idyllic sun. Troubles do seem to fade in sunlight, and I always relish bringing out my hammock as the oak trees sway above in the Rectory Garden.

We have a few exciting dates this year with the 'Restoration Tent' project in its second year. We really loved worshipping outside through the summer last year - the evenings of praise and togetherness (or as our primary school will tell you, koinonia - do ask them!) in the beautiful Dudwell valley.

We start with a day of hard work!

- * **25th April:** Remedial work in Church Field after all the rain, plus putting up bird boxes and thinking together about a habitat for all God's creatures.
- * **17th May:** Restoration Tent Service
- * **21st June:** Family Restoration Day
- * **19th July:** Restoration Tent Service

All in the Glebe, as before. Let me know if you want more details!

As we approach Easter - Sunday, 5th April this year - may these weeks be a time of both pruning and flourishing. Let God water what is dry, cut back what hinders, and bring forth new life in unexpected places. Whether you're joining us for outdoor worship or simply tending your own patch, you're very welcome.

With every blessing as we head towards the empty tomb,

REVD. TOM

Rector of Burwash, Burwash Weald and Etchingham

Etchingham Church viewed from Queen's Gardens, sent in by Rufus, of course.



EDITORIAL

Easter is nearly here at last and Spring has finally come, despite the torrential rain at night. After such a grey, wet Winter the beautiful **white lilies in St. Bartholomew's** will seem even more special than usual (see page 44).

Our Easter edition is normally decorated with eggs, chicks, Spring flowers and pictures of lambs, but after all that water and soggy lawns, we have decided to feature on gardening in all its forms, to celebrate the beauty we make with Nature's help, when the weather is on our side (see quote on page 56).

Burwash Horticultural Society had their Spring Show on the 21st March and I was amazed that they actually had things to show. Our front cover features a third prize, but I feel these rather reflect all of us, trying to bloom brightly but still rather soggy around the edges. Beauty in gardening does not always have to be 'perfect': quirky can be just as good.

The response to the call for gardening articles was rather overwhelming, so articles have shuffled around a little. Please do look at the Table of Contents, if you get lost!

Poor Revd. Tom has been disconnected from the Internet as a result of a car hitting the telegraph pole as you come into the village from the Etchingham end. Hopefully, he will rejoin this century presently, in time to guide us towards Easter. (He made it!)

Floribunda did, of course, provide a gardening article, but then she sent me the photo of an oil painting (shown at the top of page 28). When I phoned her to ask if it was a picture painted by her mother, she replied, "No, it's by Marianne North." She then sent me a link, which I urge you to use. I spent a very enjoyable Sunday morning going around the world with Emilia Fox, detailing the life of Marianne, who was born in Hastings but turned out to be a trail blazer, literally, painting the flora of five continents on her travels. Why was I never taught about this amazing woman at school? You may recall that **Brian Macfarland** wrote a series of articles about Sarawak for this Magazine a few years ago. Well, Marianne North went into the wilds of Sarawak and found a large Pitcher Plant half way up a mountain. Watching Emilia Fox scaling the same

mountain was just magical and, thanks to Brian's earlier articles, I actually understood some of the history of where I was. Thank you to Floribunda and Brian for educating me and, if you follow the link, our readers too: <https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-in-the-gardens/marianne-north-gallery>

Kitty Logan has provided a marvellous resumé of **Springtime gardening tips**, written by her uncle, John Logan, and I have highlighted his advice for **Soggy Gardening!** You are challenged to see how many times the word 'soggy' appears in this Magazineget reading and counting.

Walks for Strollers should be renamed **Walks for Photographers** (see page 37) and they have overlapped with what **Wild About Burwash** have written. Great minds think alike this month!

Marvellous news on page 31 for **Soil Craft** and for all of us. John Logan suggests what to do with compost.

If it is still too soggy to garden well, we have all sorts of options on offer in this Magazine: The Bistro, Planters, Merriments, Bateman's, King John's Nursery, Petals and even Open Gardens to look forward to. When you have put on weight from eating, instead of buying plants, you can go and support Burwash FC, Seagulls Over Burwash, Bowls, Movement to Music, Walking Football or Walks for Strollers to name but a few. Meanwhile,

Did you always want to be part of the Media?

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MAGAZINE TEAM, PLEASE!**

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for the Burwash Villages
Etchingham Magazine
This is a really interesting role
and a vital part of
keeping your magazine going**

**Please step forward and call
Richard Harden on 01435 882 556**

HAPPY EASTER THE EDITOR

**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN HEATHFIELD & DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2026**

**Tuesday, 28th April at 2 p.m.
At St. Bartholomew's Cross in Hand
in Alleluia Room**

**Reports on the past year
Election of officers
and
Speaker: Doral Hayes
from the national organisation
Churches Together in England.**

*Members and friends of all churches
are welcome!*

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Heathfield

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APRIL SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

Taken by the Rector unless otherwise marked.

April 2026	Burwash	Etchingam	Burwash Weald
Thur 2	6.00pm Maundy Thursday UB Communion Service 8.00pm UB Tenebrae Service at Etchingam	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 at Etchingam
Good Friday 3	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 Easter Family Communion – Visiting Priest
Thur 9	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 12	9.30 Morning Prayer	10.30 UB service of Holy Communion at Etchingam	8.00 Matins – Lay led 10.30 UB service of Holy Communion 4.30 Praise at the Pavilion
Thur 16	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 19	9.30 Said Holy Communion BCP 10.30 Matins TBC	10.30 Parish Communion – Canon Lucy Murdoch	10.30 Parish Communion
Thur 23	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 26	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 6.00 Evening Prayer BCP
Thur 30	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
May Sun 3	10.30 Parish Communion - Rev Sally Epps 6.00 Evensong	9.30 Family Communion followed by APCM	8.00 Matins - Lay led 10.30 Morning Prayer - Lay led

WHAT'S ON: APRIL

HAPPY EASTER

- Wednesday, 1st Walks for Strollers meeting at The Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, 2nd Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group 10 a.m. - Noon, at Burwash Common Pavilion.
(Every Thursday.)
- Friday, 3rd Walk of Witness, Churches Together Heathfield & District, 9.30 a.m.starting from the Fire Station.
- Saturday, 4th Tipi Yoga at 8 a.m. in Parker Hall, Etchingham. (Every Saturday.)
- Saturday, 4th Burwash Community Farmers' Market at Swan Meadow, Burwash 9 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
- Sunday, 5th Wellbeing Workshop, 2.30 - 5 p.m. Etchingham Village Hall, with booking required.
- Tuesday, 7th Burwash Village Playgroup. Tuesday Mornings from 10 a.m. - Noon at Eddie Workman Pavilion.
(Every Tuesday.) New contact: Emma Pantry on 07810 043022.
- Tuesday, 7th Community Dementia Cafe at Dudwell St Mary Care Home, Burwash, 2 - 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, 7th Music For The Memory at Etchingham Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. (Every Tuesday.)
- Wednesday, 8th Burwash & District Flower Club Workshop in Burwash Village Hall from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.,
led by Hayley from The Flower Shop.
- Saturday, 11th Farmers' & Makers' Market at King John's Nursery, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
- Sunday, 12th Praise at The Pavilion, Burwash Common at 4.30 p.m.
- Monday, 13th 3Cs at St. Bartholomew's, 10 a.m. - Noon. (Most Mondays, except Bank Holidays.)
- Monday, 13th Etchingham Church Baby & Toddler Group, Parker Hall, Etchingham, 11 a.m. - 12 Noon.
(Every Monday.)
- Monday, 13th Burwash & District Flower Club Demonstration in Burwash Village Hall at 2.15 p.m. led by
Michelle King: theme 'Once Upon a Time'.
- Tuesday, 14th Arts Society Wealden Heathfield monthly meeting at the Community Centre Sheepsetting Lane,
Heathfield at 2.15 p.m. Subject: 'The Greatest Love story in Art History: Japan and Europe'.
Speaker: Mark Wilson.
- Wednesday, 15th Etchingham Residents' Coffee & Cake Morning at The Bistro from 11 a.m.
- Thursday, 16th Not So Young Club Meeting in Burwash Village Hall, at 2.15 p.m. Speaker: Melanie Gibson-Barton..
Subject: 'The History of Morris Dancing'.
- Thursday, 16th Mayfield & District U3A Meeting at Five Ashes Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Sarah Slater.
Subject: 'Kirtles, Corsets and Curtains: the costumes of Georgian England'.
- Tuesday, 21st Bereavement Friendship Group on third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at Petals Nursery,
Burwash Road, Broad Oak, TN21 8XG.
- Wednesday, 22nd St. Barts Wednesday Club, Children & Carers in the Church, 3.30 - 4.30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 28th Churches Together Heathfield & District AGM at 2 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand
with speaker, Doral Hayes, in Alleluia Room.


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BARN OWLS - ETCHINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL

The days are getting brighter and the children are choosing to be out in the garden more. We have started preparing the beds and hope to plant our vegetables soon. Just before half-term the children made Valentine's Day cards for their families and now we have just made Mothering Sunday cards. Next up we are celebrating Comic Relief Day and Easter.

Our main news, however, is that we had an Ofsted visit prior to half term and are now able to share the report. Here is Justin's report to the parents, which sums it up:

“Ofsted Inspection

In January, Ofsted carried out an inspection of Barn Owls and I am pleased to attach a full copy of the report. The way that Ofsted carries out its inspection has recently changed and they have introduced new categories by which various areas of the setting are graded (Exceptional/Strong Standard/Expected Standard/Needs Attention/Urgent Improvement).

I am delighted to say that we achieved Strong and Expected Standard across all six areas that are graded. Bearing in mind the Expected Standard is broadly equivalent of the old 'good' grade, that shows the setting is meeting the required standards. It is a fantastic achievement to have scored as 'strong' in half the categories, showing that we are working above the expected standard.

We, as the trustees, are extremely proud of all the staff and the work that they put in on a day-to-day basis. I was especially pleased that Ofsted were also able to see the fruits of all their hard work. I would also add that any Ofsted inspection can be a very stressful experience for all the staff members, but each and every one of them handled it extremely well and we are so grateful for all they do.

Trustees Required

Alongside our amazing staff, Barn Owls also has a Board of Trustees. Although an official sounding title, this is a group of people that provide support and oversight to the staff and ensure the setting is run properly. As a registered charity, it is a requirement that there are trustees in place to help run the charity. Without these volunteers, Barn Owls would not be able to continue.

On this note, we are always in need of new volunteers to join. No prior experience is required and the time commitment is not great – we meet three times a year on a weekday evening.

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help us keep Barn Owls going, please feel free to contact me on justinlyontaylor@gmail.com or 07973 754893.

Thank you for all your support and I will leave you with a quote from the Ofsted report below that encapsulates what we try to achieve at Barn Owls.

“Leaders and staff have created a nurturing and inclusive setting in which children’s development and learning flourishes. There is a positive focus on supporting children’s emotional needs. Staff effectively use their skills to play alongside children and offer a warm and meaningful approach, particularly for those children who are new to the setting or are struggling with transition. Children respond well to this and demonstrate that they feel safe and secure from a very early age. They behave well and have excellent attitudes to their learning.”

**JUSTIN LYON TAYLOR
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES**

To look at the report you can view the Ofsted website.

Finally, we welcome Maddison to the setting.

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

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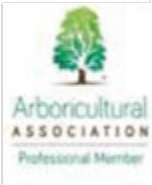
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FLORIBUNDA - COME INTO THE GARDEN MAUD

I spent the morning muck spreading, followed by an afternoon of weeding and planting out six plants delivered today. When they arrived I found they were called 'Epimedium x versicolor Sulphureum'.

Flipping idly through garden catalogues after a miserable Christmas, the first without my mother, I realised I needed urgent retail therapy. What better kind than buying plants in memory of my mother? She was 97 and 11 months when she popped her clogs in March last year. Mum was a brilliant gardener with a Doctorate in Botany who drew beautiful and meticulous sketches of plants for her thesis.

By chance her birthday was in mid April. I began to search the internet for some new perennials to enhance the spring garden in front of the house in my mother's memory. I am easily lured into getting quite unsuitable plants of all sizes and kinds – acid lovers, ones for shade and ones for full sun, those that need light soil with good drainage.

For some reason I easily forget that I have sticky, brownish-yellow clay, like brick in hot summers, cold and lumpy in January and February. Adding water to the planting hole does no favours as the water sits there, with no sign of it draining away. Over the years I have brushed the gravel from my off road parking area on to the various flower and shrub beds, so that might have improved the drainage a little, you never know. I am looking out of the window now and can see some pigs flying out over the hill as I consider this possibility.

After a day and a half of blue skies, the weather has taken a turn towards winter again maybe because February is the month of the dead dog. We have Shelley to thank for writing, "If Winter comes can Spring be far behind?" but he can be forgiven for his poor weather forecasting as he was of course a Romantic poet, not a Concrete or a War one. A further misfortune was to have the name Percy. I am unfortunate enough to have more than one Percy in my Hastings ancestral line, none of whom are alive today.

I feel I may be wandering aimlessly away from gardening. I am quite easily distracted these days, so spending two or three hours spreading composted horse manure does not have the attraction it once had, but it is a comfort to know I can still wield a spade, fill a wheelbarrow and spread muck. It is remarkable how much it improves the look of the plants to be displayed against a background of dark, well rotted muck. Farewell from your mucky Gardening Correspondent until next month.

FLORIBUNDA

THOUGHTS ON GARDENING

"Plant and your spouse plants with you; weed and you weed alone."

Jean Jacques Rousseau

"All gardeners know better than other gardeners."

Chinese Proverb

What's small, red, and whispers?

A hoarse radish!

Floribunda also took this photo of a European Green Woodpecker with its beak completely embedded in the clay in the field below her garden while searching for ants in the wet grass.



RUFUS' RURAL RAMBLES

Over the last few weeks I have spent quite a lot of time sitting on the settee looking out to the road and the field opposite in Etchingham. There are no animals in the field opposite at the moment. There have, however, been quite a lot of black birds about: Crows, Jackdaws and Rooks hunting for grubs. There are now several nests in the trees by the church pond and there is a lot of squawking going on - Rooks mainly.

In several places in the village there have been some lovely snowdrops. It was largely Frank and Helen Brophy who planted them. Unfortunately they are not able to see them, as they moved away several years ago.

I have had some lovely walks with David and Matthew. Recently I went with Matthew and I was left off my lead to run up the slope to Lunsford. There are new fences all along by the river. We went into Gimore Wood, but I was back on my lead. The wild garlic was appearing and also the primroses and bluebells. Then we carried on to Squibbs Farm, finally coming down Oxenbridge and across the fields towards the Old Etchingham Shop and onwards to home.

Mum and Dad also like taking me for a walk, passing the Queen's Gardens and the churchyard where there are some lovely daffodils. Let's hope we have a lovely Easter and Spring.

One day I was walking with David near the car parking area and a woman said, "What a beautiful dog!" as she went out. I was flattered. Over the months my coat has changed through several different colours. I do not have as much black fur as when I first came to live in Rotherview. I'm a flash Harry now. In May I will be two years old and all grown up.

Happy Easter and no eggs for us unless they are scrambled! Very best wishes to you all.

RUFUS

DEAL OR NO DEAL REVISITED

I felt I had to write again about the occasion, on Tuesday, 19th November 2024, when Matthew and I went to the Maidstone Studio to watch Deal or No Deal, hosted by Stephen Mulhern, (the time when I lost my wedding ring, although thankfully it was found).

On 13th February 2026 the show which was broadcast was the one we had attended! We saw ourselves in the audience several times. The gentleman who played the game unfortunately only won £1, I believe.

It seemed quite a long time before we finally got to see it on TV and it was the last of the series. Nevertheless, an experience we shall never forget and very strange to see yourself on the television.

LINDA NEVE

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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



It does seem that information on the planned Digital Landline Switchover is rather patchy and confusing, so one of our Councillors has offered to try and remove the confusion and worry as much as possible at this time. As matters develop further information will be circulated but for now, please read on:

Digital Landline Switchover: Important Information for Residents

By January 2027, traditional analogue landlines across the UK will be switched over to digital services that operate through broadband connections. This is a nationwide change being implemented by the telecommunications industry and overseen by Government.

Most residents will not need to take any immediate action. Your telephone or broadband provider should contact you directly before any changes are made to your service, however, this article is provided for awareness and guidance, and it is very important that residents do not rely solely on general communications. Everyone is encouraged to check directly with their broadband and telephone service providers to be absolutely certain how the move to digital services may affect them personally, and what arrangements their supplier has in place to assess and support their specific circumstances.

Digital landlines will not work during a power cut unless a suitable battery backup solution is in place and won't work at all if the broadband line fails. This is a key difference from many traditional analogue lines, which could continue to function during outages.

Providers are required to identify and support vulnerable customers, but it is important that individuals make their circumstances known.

This becomes even more vital if you rely on a telephone line for emergency or security-related equipment. This may include:

- Telecare or personal alarm systems
- Emergency call buttons
- Stair lifts or hoists connected to monitoring systems
- CCTV systems
- Burglar alarms or other alerting devices.

If you, or someone you know locally, depend on any of these systems, please contact your provider to confirm how they will continue to operate following the switchover, particularly during a power cut.

Cllr Adrian Hanstock QPM of Etchingam Parish Council said the change was significant for rural communities and those who rely on landlines for essential services.

“While many households may experience only a straightforward technical upgrade, for some residents the implications are far more serious, particularly where telecare, emergency call systems or security equipment are involved. It is essential that people contact their provider directly to understand how the switchover will affect them and to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place. No vulnerable resident should be left without reliable access to vital communications.”

He also urged residents to look out for others in the community.

“If you have neighbours, friends or relatives who may not be aware of these changes, particularly those who are not online, please take a moment to check that they have received the information and understand what they may need to do. Simply sharing the details could make a real difference.”

Further official information is available via Government guidance and Openreach's website. The Parish Council will continue to provide updates as we move closer to the 2027 deadline.

PAULETTE BARTON

CLERK TO ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

ETCHINGHAM NATURE NOTES

The late winter has been so mild, we have seen several signs of Spring, including hellebores in flower, in early February, a white Christmas rose and a red Spring rose. We saw the first primrose in flower on the 13th of February and now the woods are full of them; also in the woods there is wild garlic coming into flower, and the bluebells are growing high and fast. We also have camellias in flower, in the garden, one red and one white, which always blossom before our other camellias, but not usually so early. While so many things have begun to blossom early, some things that we would expect to see coming into bloom by now are not doing so, for example, our forsythia is only just beginning to show faint signs of yellow now.

The birds also think it is already Spring: we have seen small birds going in and out of nesting boxes, and a number of Jackdaws circling round a hole in a tree, in the woods, in which we feel sure there are nests (we have seen them in the same place in past years). I put out meal worms every morning, and we see lots of long-tailed tits queuing up to get some as soon as the starlings give them space. We have also seen a sparrow there, which is pleasing, not having seen one for some long time.

After not seeing deer in the woods, for a period of some three to four weeks, we have seen them again and, indeed, had them in the garden on the 13th February.

I have had a couple of reports of interesting sightings in the past month:

Date	Sighting/hearing	Reported to me by
1st Feb.	Green woodpecker head down, where there are ant nests: presumably eating ants. (See photograph on page 17.)	Alice Phillips
13th Feb.	Long-tailed tits, Mistle thrush & Jay	John Barnes
27th Feb.	Red Kites over the River Limden	John Barnes

On the 25th February we watched a ladybird climbing up inside our kitchen window.

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



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

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Wild about Burwash

We can now see and hear signs of Spring all over the place from the leaves on the trees and the flowers in the meadows to the increasing dawn chorus, all heralding a move into April. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we'll have left the continual rain behind us, too!

We had our annual general meeting at the Burwash Common Pavilion at the end of February. Those of us who were able to attend were treated to four great talks summarising four very different projects in Burwash:-

- We started with Revd. Tom and Sam Dowling who told us about their plans to improve the biodiversity of the fields on the south side of the Village, from the field behind The Bear to the Churchfield and on to the Glebe fields. Their aims are: to sow the field behind the Bear with a High Weald seed mix and to have more scrub borders to help make the field more wildlife friendly; to make the Church Field more of a community space with protected habitats and for the Glebe field to be managed in a more sustainable way, possibly with longhorn cattle grazing the fields.
- Kev, the Ranger from Batemans, talked us through some of the work that has been carried out on the estate to make it more wildlife-friendly. This has included removing silt from some of the ponds on the estate and cutting back trees to bring in more light and life to wetland areas, implementing hay meadow management in two fields and planting two of the meadows with Sussex variety apple trees. One of these meadows was an orchard during Rudyard Kipling's time at Bateman's.



**A cleared pond:
taken by Strollers.**

- Julia & Sylvie from Soil Craft CIC updated us on their first year of running the Burwash Community Composting scheme and explained how their food waste composting scheme works. There was lots of discussion about the new Rother Council food waste collections and how that compared to their scheme. To illustrate the difference, they had analysed samples of the green waste compost that is produced by these council schemes and showed that, sadly, it was full of micro-plastics and very few micro-organisms. Their compost, on the other hand, was full of life, plastic free and ready to go back to the subscribers. If you would like more information on their not-for-profit project, please contact them on hello@soilcraft.co.uk or find them at the Burwash Community Market on the 1st Saturday of every month.

- Simon gave us an overview of the River Project that has now been running on the Dudwell for a full year. The data collected so far has enabled us to establish a baseline against which to monitor and document any changes in water quality and habitat conditions in the future. He talked us through the results which show that the river is generally in good shape despite the regular dumping of sewage from the Burwash Common sewage treatment works located at the bottom of Willingford Lane. Simon also told us about some additional river focused projects that have happened over the year, including electrofishing surveys at three points along the river which showed that the Dudwell supports an abundant and diverse fish community and a kick sampling session with the Beavers (the children that is, not the tree-chewing, flat-tailed rodents) to raise awareness of river ecology and to show them how much life the river supports.

We are planning our Spring calendar: if you'd like details about forthcoming event, or if you'd like to join our mailing list, please contact us on:
wildaboutburwash@gmail.com

**JULIAN KENNY, REVD. TOM, SAM DOWLING,
KEV, JULIE & SYLVIE & SIMON FORSTER**
wildaboutburwash@gmail.com

RAIN & MUDDLED SEASONS

The sun is shining! Much of South-East England has had 41 days of consecutive rain so for the sun to shine is SUCH a welcome change. Yesterday I noticed two Celandine flowers popping up in the border next to the lawn: rather smaller than usual but pushing upwards in search of sunshine.

Despite all this rain and blustery conditions the Spring bulbs are endeavouring to flower, the Wild Garlic is pushing up through the leaf (and branch) debris and primroses are in bloom on the roadside banks. In the countryside, many streams are still overflowing, ditches are muddy, the earth oozes moisture with every step one takes and marshy areas are still lakes in both the Rother and Dudwell river valleys.

As a gardener I'm longing to cut the grass but I sink into the lawn at every step so this will remain a dream, which I fear may turn into a nightmare as, when the weather finally does change, the grass will go crazy and shoot up. I cannot be alone in having this fear, surely.

On the 24th February dusk in the Rother Valley was beautiful, with the trees having an almost golden hue in the last of the light. A large kite circled high over the valley, almost in a celebration of very late afternoon sunshine with no rain! Over a much smaller range a Kestrel was swooping over the fields behind Etchingham. A very dark Buzzard was perched like a sentry in an oak tree one field from the railway line and flew to a copse when disturbed by a dog on the footpath next to the railway. Hidden in the willow sprouts, marsh grass and sedge - still under water - a solitary "white" head and neck was visible. It was so still that I began to think my eyes were deceiving me and that it must be a plastic post left by the railway maintenance crew. Suddenly, the tall post took off, disturbed by the same dog, flapping off gracefully over the woodland towards Ticehurst.

White Stork



From the flight pattern, it had to be a stork. Far too early surely?

Two weeks before, however, a Little Egret was picking at the insects in the horse manure in a field in the Dudwell Valley. Wrong season and wrong country, once upon a time.

Little Egret



Turning to take my dog companion to his home on the ridge road, we disturbed two deer who jumped the copse fence nimbly and then raced off towards Burwash via Park Wood. Keeping the dog firmly by my side, we stood and watched as the sun slipped rapidly downwards as it does in the Rother Valley, vanishing all at once over the ridge in the Heathfield direction. But the spectacle wasn't over: two tiny fawns came out of the scrub and bracken and went under the copse fence to follow the adult deer. Unless they were Muntjac deer, it was the wrong month to see young fawns. Bemused, I later decided to consult the Deer Society website, where late Summer born deer births are reported as well as early Spring births, but this is too early, most being recorded in April. Is this yet another oddity because of climate changes? We certainly have had very irregular weather patterns locally and there has been grass to eat. In the early morning of the 24th February, Heathfield, at the western end of the ridge, had been enveloped in foggy rain and grey drizzle drifting up from the coast so one would never have expected this stunning sunset with the sky passing from bright blue to pale blue, to grey bands and then a bright pink at the bottom over the ridge.

As we walked back to the ridge from the valley floor, the marsh birds were still tweeting, a nuthatch twirled down a tree in front of us, the kestrel did a few more acrobatic swirls and some wayward jackdaws and crows headed off towards the woods to roost in the Ticehurst direction.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

PICTURE PAGE



The photograph of a Marianne North Oil Painting, Submitted by Floribunda



*A Folly A Day Keeps The Doctor Away:
One of Jack Fuller's Delights*



*The Next Generation of Gardeners being
Nurtured at Barn Owls
in Etchingam*



In the Rother Valley

Wishing All Our Readers A Happy Easter



RAIN & MUDDLED SEASONS Contd.

Wrens, blue tits, great tits, robins and thrushes were having a last feed before darkness came, with the trees already looking like black 3-D cut-outs against the pale grey-pink sky. Canada geese were making a final rumpus somewhere along the Rother Valley from a hidden lake before they settled for the night, with the sound echoing across the valley, drowning out the noise of a London bound train.

Temperatures at Kew Gardens in London reached 18.6 C on the afternoon of Wednesday, 24th February, making it the hottest February day since 2019.

In the Rother Valley (see photograph on previous page) in the late afternoon it was not far short of this. On Fontridge Lane which runs above the Dudwell on the south side a reading of 18 Degrees was recorded. The dog needed a drink once he reached his home and my coat was a burden rather than a protection from the now familiar rain and wind. The wildlife may be out of season, but so too are the plants in our gardens: many of the camellias along the ridge have already flowered because of mild temperatures, while in the frost pockets in the valley floor gardens the daffodils have scarcely produced buds. Blackthorn blossom has come out on bare branches, as have Japanese japonica flowers (normally flowering in March). By the time you read this, Easter will be only a week away and, hopefully, this wet winter will just be a grey memory and we will finally be mowing dry lawns (seeming increasingly unlikely now).

CAROLINE HUBAND

MARIANNE NORTH GALLERY AT KEW GARDENS

When I was writing about the temperature readings at Kew (see above), it was even more remarkable that Floribunda sent in the photo of the oil painting on page 28: telepathy?

More than 800 remarkable paintings cover the walls of the Marianne North Gallery at Kew Gardens. Marianne funded the construction of the Gallery herself.

A vivid collection of 19th Century botanical art, the gallery is a treat for both art lovers and adventurous minds. As a woman who defied convention, North travelled the world solo to record the tropical and exotic plants that captivated her. Given that she was born on the 24th October 1830, this is even more remarkable. She never married and said she was married to her painting and to her explorations. She travelled for 15 years and sadly died young, partly as a result of her travels, tropical diseases and, according to some, pure exhaustion. She died on 30th August 1890 having travelled the world.

She challenged the tradition of Victorian flower painting (white paper, clear botanical representation) and chose to paint plants in their natural settings instead, often depicting local birds or animals as well as the plants. Her work became a powerful record of the dramatic landscapes she visited and the plants that inhabit them - years ahead of the invention of colour photography.

North's vast collection of paintings is on permanent display at Kew, exhibited in geographical order for you to follow in her footsteps.

She was the daughter of a Hastings Liberal MP and he took his young daughter to Kew Gardens. She fell in love with it and with painting plants.

When her father died, she used her inheritance to travel the world and paint what she saw. Her father knew Darwin and he wrote to Marianne commenting on her paintings in Australia.

There is far more to read and marvellous videos on You Tube, if you wish to know more without leaving your sofa! My thanks to Floribunda once more, for taking me on another educational journey.

Start off at:

<https://www.kew.org/kew-gardens/whats-in-the-gardens/marianne-north-gallery>

but do please watch the You Tube Video with Emilia Fox.

CAROLINE HUBAND

Burwash Parish Matters

Following the Parish Council Meeting on 10th March 2026

Rother Local Plan

It is important for all residents to comment on the consultation that is currently running on sites being allocated for potential planning in the Rother Local Plan. The draft plan and consultation can be found on the Rother District Council website and runs until 23rd March 2026.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the public meetings held by the Parish Council. It was interesting to hear from residents about the sites, and all comments will be fed into the formal response to the consultation from the Parish Council. It is worth noting that although the sites have been identified in the proposed new local plan, they won't necessarily be converted into actual new houses for Burwash.

Grants

The Parish Council have granted £3,500 to the Burwash Playing Fields Association at Swan Meadow to help them replace the flooring in the changing rooms. The BPFA is a charity that is owned by the parish of Burwash and its residents and is run by a committee of volunteers who work to keep the facility running for the numerous sports clubs that call the Eddie Workman Pavilion their home.

The Parish Council also granted £1,450 to Friends of Oakdown House in Burwash Common as a partial payment towards the development of a new perimeter pathway to be laid for residents. Oakdown House have committed to ensuring the pathway will be open for all residents of Burwash on their open days so everyone can enjoy the landscape.

Community Build Project

At the most recent meeting, the Parish Council voted to dissolve the Steering Committee that had been tasked with developing the new community building for Burwash. In its place, a Working Party will be set up to investigate and then feedback options on potential projects to the community; for your say on what you would like to spend the money on.

Council has funds to spend specifically on infrastructure through the Community Infrastructure Levy that developers pay to the communities where building has taken place. The community build project will remain one of the options for consideration.

If you would like to be part of the Working Party, please contact the Clerk.

Dark Skies Status

At the Full Council meeting, the Parish Council committed to the pre-application stage of becoming an International Dark Sky Community. This process is the first part of a longer application that will see international recognition for the parish as being a dark sky area. Wild About Burwash has been instrumental in bringing this to the Council's attention and there is even a dark skies policy in the Burwash Neighbourhood Plan. The idea is that the status would help in protecting species that rely on the dark skies of the parish for their habitat and could help when responding to planning issues and lighting issues within the parish. Thanks go to the team at Wild About Burwash for all of the work that has gone into this so far.

Devolution of Community Assets

Work is continuing on the devolution of community assets, and we have just had confirmation that the main car park, the smaller car park by Prospect Cottages, the public toilets and the land on the corner of Shrub Lane and Strand Meadow are all being offered by Rother to the parish council. Negotiations on timescales and the legal element are now taking place, but the Council's aim is to protect these areas for the community of Burwash for the long term.

The next full council meeting is on Tuesday, 14th April at 7 p.m. at Burwash Parish Room. The Parish Clerk is Emma Neil and she can be contacted on 07375 809660 or Email: parishclerk@burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS?

You may have noticed the council has introduced separate weekly food waste collections. This change is happening across the UK as part of national waste policy designed to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill.

The policy grew out of the EU Landfill Directive, which required countries to reduce organic waste buried in landfill sites. When food waste rots in landfill it produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, so diverting it elsewhere is an important environmental step.

Most council-collected food waste is now transported to large anaerobic digestion facilities. In these industrial plants food waste is broken down in sealed tanks without oxygen. During the process microbes produce biogas (mainly methane) which can be captured and used to generate electricity.

While this system recovers some energy from food waste, it also creates new challenges. The waste must be collected and transported by lorry - sometimes many miles - to processing plants, adding transport emissions and infrastructure costs. Contamination is another issue. Food waste is often collected in plastic-lined bags or mixed with packaging, and not all plastics are fully removed during processing. The material left after digestion, known as digestate, is commonly spread on farmland as fertiliser and can sometimes contain small fragments of plastic.

A LOCAL ALTERNATIVE

At Soil Craft we believe food waste has far greater value when it is processed locally and returned directly to the soil.

Food scraps contain valuable nutrients and organic matter that help rebuild soil health. When composted locally they become living compost rich in beneficial microbes that improve soil structure, increase water retention and support healthy plant growth.

Local composting reduces long-distance transport, keeps nutrients circulating within the community, produces a biologically rich soil amendment, and reconnects people with the natural cycle between food and soil.

FROM FOOD SCRAPS TO LIVING COMPOST

We are delighted that Soil Craft is now returning beautiful, biologically rich compost to our subscribers. The compost has been carefully produced and fully matured for around one year, allowing beneficial fungi, bacteria and other soil organisms to develop.

Subscribers receive a bucket of this compost in spring, and additional compost will also be available to purchase at the Burwash Community Market. One of the best ways to use this compost is to make a simple compost extract. This liquid preparation spreads the beneficial microbes in the compost through your soil and can be used to soak seeds, water seedlings, or revitalise tired garden beds. Even a small amount of living compost can help bring soil back to life, supporting stronger plants and healthier gardens.

NEWS FROM SOIL CRAFT

Exciting news!! Soil Craft were the winners of the first Compost Championship run by Soil Ecology Lab. The competition assessed compost quality and biological activity.

By keeping food waste local and returning it to the soil, we are not just managing waste - we are closing the loop and helping rebuild the health of the land beneath our feet.

SYLVIE CORBETT & JULIA CODY
SOIL CRAFT CIC
hello@soilcraft.co.uk





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 March, 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 advert).
- Football Training and Burwash FC.

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

100 PLUS CLUB MARCH DRAW

The draw took place on the 11th March at the Rose and Crown, picked by Lily Seymour. There were 241 balls in the draw.

Congratulations to the Winners!

1st Ball Number	132	Mrs Sophie Wood	£60
2nd Ball Number	82	Mr Nigel Waterhouse	£30
3rd Ball Number	20	Mrs M. Waterhouse	£20

STEVE BENNETT
01435 882526 or 07917 164578

THE NEXT BURWASH COMMUNITY MARKET IS ON SATURDAY, 4TH APRIL 2026



THE MONTHLY COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKET

The March Farmers' Market seemed a little less joyous than normal as it was a dull, grey morning. However, most of our regular supporters did put in an appearance later on.

The new bread stall was well received. The Seed Swap stall was an additional feature. New future stallholders came to visit, so the variety on offer will increase over the Summer months.

The social aspect was amazing with groups of friends sitting chatting; it was sometimes hard to hear over the general chit-chat. Exactly what a village Farmers' Market should be: produce and a get together.

The hardy stallholders were on the Car Park and Playing Field and the Eddie Workman Pavilion was packed - even the tea and coffee table struggled to fit in. The Art Table was never without a participant and the hand massage chairs were also full of eager recipients.

Many people divided their time between the Pavilion and Save Our Fields from Concrete's information session about the proposed new housebuilding sites in The Bear.

Our doggy friends were still in attendance with the Dog Treat lady selling her wares. Rumour has it that a dog lead stall will join our melee in April.

THE EDITOR

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BURWASH WALKING FOOTBALL



This league season seems to be one full of ‘buts, maybe’s and if only’s’. In our home match against a very vibrant Eastbourne Yellows, we were by far the more accomplished and confident looking team, playing some very neat passes and generally dominating possession, but had to settle for a draw. For most of the match Nigel and Chris looked assured at the back and in the first half we worked ourselves into several good positions up front. Clive beat their keeper only to see it come straight back out - off the post. Peter also had a superb opportunity one-on-one with their keeper but fluffed his shot.

We started the second half in much the same way and, when Doc let off an Exocet from just inside the halfway line which flew into the back of the net, it seemed just reward for our dominance.

But with just ten minutes to see the game out, we seemed to fall apart. It wasn’t that Eastbourne improved suddenly rather more a collective ‘panic’ in the Burwash ranks with passes going astray and mistakes creeping in. The net result was that their bespectacled striker let loose his own missile in the dying seconds of the game to score an unlikely equaliser with the last kick of the game. It wasn’t a loss but it seemed like it.

The Man of the Match award went to Chris Jones in the Burwash defence.

Peter (in blue left) passes back to Nigel (foreground: combined age 140!), whilst the ‘vibrant’ Eastbourne players watch on. My new car is the same colour as their shirts – Ageuda Yellow – very nice!



Onto the next game.....

Bexhill Atha sat bottom of the table with just two points and having scored only four goals all season - we all know how this story will play out.....

Burwash conceded a goal almost immediately and I was tempted to shout out ‘Hang-on, we weren’t ready’ but instead laid trust in the team. That trust was rewarded with plenty of possession and a well-deserved equaliser from the cultured left foot of Peter Manning to make it 1-1 at half time.

The second half started with an incident which was to change the shape and flavour of the match. Our defender was caught ‘with his pants down’, the wrong side of the player, took a tumble and whilst on the floor tackled the guy from behind (according to the referee). All big No-Nos in the world of walking football. The result was a sending-off and a penalty for ‘Denial of a goal scoring opportunity’ - DoGSO in the trade.

David, in goal, guessed the right way but couldn’t keep the ball out. Burwash had nothing to lose so went on the attack. There was some ‘six-of-one-and-half-a dozen-of-the-other’ tussling around the Atha penalty area involving Big Kev and the Atha defender at a Burwash corner until their No. 2 decided to judo throw Big Kev backwards, who went down hard and cracked his head on the ground.

With a mass pitch invasion by all the by-standers the referee was of the ‘I didn’t see it, so I couldn’t give it’ frame of mind.

CONTINUED

BURWASH WALKING FOOTBALL Continued

With Kev star-gazing and watching birds flutter around his head, Atha went down the other end and scored their third goal, quickly followed by a fourth and then the coup-de-grace, a fifth.

The first half was a well contested affair played in the spirit of the game. The second half was a 'referee influenced' game of bad tempers and a very close shave with A & E.

Not a great advert for the Beautiful Game....

With one game left in the league season I'm off to the Caribbean for some winter sun, so you'll have to wait until next month to find out the result – I bet you can't wait!

If you have a black belt in Judo or any Martial Art for that matter, why not come and join us every Thursday evening 6.30 – 8pm? We will be outdoors at Heathfield from mid-April.

Call me, Laurence on 07714 935915 or contact Steve Mintram on 01435 882444 for more information.

www.burwashwalkingfootballers.co.uk

**Burwash Walking Footballers
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LAURENCE WORTON

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SOUP LUNCH IN BURWASH VILLAGE HALL

We had a lovely time at the latest soup lunch. We had 34 guests and 7 volunteers, who all enjoyed several helpings of the seven different soups and the ten desserts.

We also had the most amazing raffle, thanks to the generosity of the guests and Hayley at the Flower House.

My grateful thanks to Lorraine and Will Tasker, Lyanne Collins, Johanna O'Dwyer, Eleanor Kirby-Green, Wendy Hardy, Ann Rumens and Marion (I am so sorry, I've forgotten her surname) for all their hard work in the kitchen, laying up tables and selling raffle tickets. Even more thanks to everyone who helped put the tables and chairs away afterwards.

It was a very pleasant event with a lovely atmosphere. Thanks to your support everyone, after expenses we raised £361 for Burwash Village Hall.

HAMPER RAFFLE REMINDER

On Saturday, 4th April, Barry and I will be holding the 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.

MARY TAYLOR BEM

HAPPY EASTER



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

“Snow in April is abominable,” said Anne. “Like a slap in the face when you expected a kiss.” This is a quote from L.M. Montgomery who wrote Anne of Green Gables.

Well, let’s hope we get kisses, particularly as we are nearing the start of our bowls season on 18th April. This is where we get together to reacquaint ourselves with the green and each other after a long dormant period: bit like emerging from a (very wet) hibernation really. The season’s fixtures and league games are being organised as well as social events, which will hopefully promise to be exciting and fun. Please note that you can come and watch matches being played or join in the fun yourselves by becoming a member. Our address is at the end of this article.

We have **also** been getting our ducks in a row off the green too, or more accurately, getting our sponsors’ advertising boards in a row for the opening. Our returning 2026 sponsors are Specsavers Tunbridge Wells, Archway Builders, Autumn Financial Planning, Dale Hill Golf and Hotel, Lambert and Foster, Uplands Sports Centre, Tate Fencing, C. Waterhouse & Sons, Lakedown Brewing Company, Jumeria Wadhurst and Jempson’s Supermarkets.

Laurence and Heather accepting a cheque from Jempsons.



We would like to give extra thanks to our new sponsors for 2026, JJ Cates Plumbing and Heating and Parfitt Cresswell Solicitors of Tunbridge Wells.

In last month’s article I mentioned that Wadhurst were playing an indoor match against the Royals from Tunbridge Wells.

Six teams of three from Wadhurst took on the Royals. The end result was quite tight, with Wadhurst winning by three shots. Individual rinks had wildly differing results, some winning by good margins and others the reverse. However, it was all played in good spirits and we look forward to the second fixture in April, when we hope for a reversal of fortunes.

While watching the winter Olympics, a friend mentioned similarities between the curling competitions and lawn green bowls. I can see what they mean. Both games are usually played with up to four players on each team, lead, second, third/skip. The aim with bowls is to get as many of your team’s bowls nearest to the jack, and in curling, to get as many of your stones in the marked centre of the curling rink, known as the button. The bowls and stones are drawn (played) in a certain way by the player to curl towards the jack or button. As each player draws their bowls or stones, they try and dislodge the opposing players out of the way to gain maximum points in that end.

Rumour has it that bowls may become an Olympic sport in the future.

JANE GILBERT

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WALKS FOR STROLLERS

Eight Strollers left the car park in the mist and headed down the footpath to Bateman's. ***The photo below shows the giant Oak at Bateman's.***



We continued alongside the river Dudwell on the footpath and crossed over the bridge.



We then took the footpath up to the main road, exiting near the BP garage.

Walking past Park Farm we took the bridle path up through High Wood. Here we stopped to admire the ***ancient Beech Tree in High Wood as shown in the photo below.***



On reaching Willingford Lane we turned right along the lane, then at the bottom of the hill we turned right on to the footpath up to Forge Wood.



Turning right, we returned to Burwash and the sun finally decided to come out!

The total distance covered was 5 miles.

Our next walk is on Wednesday, 1st April 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**

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FAIRFIELD SURGERY PPG NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 4

STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

Stress Awareness Month has been held every April since 1992 to raise awareness of the causes and cures for our modern stress epidemic.

It's a timely reminder that we need to take care of our mental health and talk about stress, be it work related, financial concerns, or any number of personal challenges that we may face.

Small actions can make big changes;

Connecting with someone either one to one or via a community, whether it be a social group, such as a book club or support group, gives you the opportunity to talk things over. We are fortunate to have various local groups who always welcome new members. Often a problem shared can reduce the emotional burden, making it easier to handle.

Breathe deep ... Your breathing can help lower anxious stress levels. Try inhaling your breath, holding it and then exhaling it for 4 counts each to promote relaxation.

Prioritise your own wellbeing - regular exercise, a healthy diet and sufficient sleep will help to keep problems in perspective.

Remember, stress is a common and some may say a necessary part of modern life, affecting us all at various times in our lives. Let's help others as well as ourselves in this sometimes challenging world and if you feel that you are struggling to manage it, then do seek help from a professional.

YOUR PPG NEEDS YOU!

We are always looking for new ideas and suggested topics for inclusion in our Newsletter to make sure we work together as a community. In particular, we need someone to help keep our Facebook Page and Website up to date.

Contact us at ppg.fairfield@gmail.com

SURGERY CLOSURES

A reminder that the surgery will be closed over the Easter break from Good Friday, 3rd April and will re-open after Easter Monday on Tuesday, 7th April 2026.

During that period you are advised to call 111 for advice or 999 in the event of an emergency.

Please note the surgery will also be closed for staff training from 12.30 p.m. on 21st April 2026.

NEWS FROM THE SURGERY

We have two new additions to our staff: Andreia has joined as a dispenser, helping two days a week and Berrin, our new practice nurse, joined us on 16th March, as Elaine retired at the end of February.

HAPPY EASTER

BURWASH NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

On the 19th February we were entertained by 'The Jolly Boys' in Burwash Village Hall.

With delight over three dozen folk gathered in the Village Hall for a wonderful afternoon with a local 'Male Voice Singing' group.

Our Chair Isabella took apologies for absence from Ann, Mary, Diana and Rosemary. Good luck wishes were sent through the ether to Ann and a card to Mary who was stricken with a stroke aged 97, but is bright and fighting.

Isabella then progressed to listing 'cake providers' for our next meeting on the 19th March, when we shall learn about all things Craft.

The joint Church Soup Lunch was announced on the 12th March 2026 for £6. There will be a lovely raffle and if, as previously, it will be an event not to be missed. Laura was thanked for the impressive posters advertising our Not-So-Young Club: bright and attractive. We are hoping to increase take-up of the meetings. We are such good value at £3 with Speaker/Tea and an opportunity to win a smashing raffle prize, which we all contribute to.

Isabella introduced the group of 11 men from Ticehurst, Wadhurst, Burwash and Flimwell. The room rippled with excitement. Called 'The Jolly Boys', they explained how just over 3 years ago they gathered together to sing for fun and have since gone from strength to strength. Their Programme began with a series of sea shanties: the first being 'Wild Rover' (much humming), Sloop John B with some lovely harmonies and a rogue voice adding a high comedy line where appropriate.

Then they went on to perform John Kanacka and Shanty Man as well as a New Zealand shanty the 'Wellerman' about supplying whale hunters.

They then progressed to 'Old Time Musical', which we were invited to sing along with! Their spokesman thought we might not know them but, in fact, every single one was enjoyed - anything from 'Any Old Iron' to 'Daisy, Daisy', etc. Pausing for applause to die down The Shanty theme was resumed with 'Nelson's Blood'. Their last song was 'What shall we do with a drunken sailor?' and this was much enjoyed. The sound bounced off the walls. We thanked the 'Boys' and they thanked the NSY for inviting them.

The donation they received is to be spent on 'Family Support Work'.

We look forward to meeting our old friends in March and building on our relationship with our new friends.

Our title is a little inaccurate as we have much fun and laughter.

Thanks once again to our singers.

'The Jolly Boys' below



Our April meeting is on the 16th April with Melanie Gibson-Barton telling us all about the 'History of Morris Dancing'.

VERONICA FARLEY

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH

Appearance Record, 'Boring, Boring', Managerial Stability and New Website

When James Milner started for Brighton and Hove Albion in their 2-0 away victory at Brentford on 21st February he became the player with the most Premier League appearances, overtaking Gareth Barry's record of 653 appearances that was set way back in 2018. Since his debut for Leeds as a 16 year old in 2002, Milner has played for Newcastle, Aston Villa, Manchester City, Liverpool and, of course, Brighton. He also represented England at all age groups, including 61 caps for the England senior team. He has won the Premier League title three times, the FA Cup twice, the Champions League once as well as numerous other, less prestigious, European, FIFA and domestic competitions. He has played for managers born in 1933 and 1993, in Bobby Robson and Fabian Hurzeler, respectively.

Milner's remarkable longevity stems from an unusual blend of elite professionalism, relentless fitness standards and adaptability across eras. From the age of 16, he committed to meticulous self-care covering diet, sleep, gym work and even private yoga, allowing him to outlast younger teammates; he dominated Liverpool's gruelling lactate tests well into his mid-thirties. Even a severe knee injury that nearly ended his career could not halt him; his resilience and mentality carried him back to the top flight. Now, at the age of 40, he remains a valuable asset for the Seagulls both on and off the pitch. Not only does he marshal the Albion players from midfield while playing, he works closely with Head Coach Hurzeler where his experience is invaluable and is the ultimate role model for younger players embarking on their careers.

After starting in two consecutive games against Brentford and Nottingham Forest, Milner, along with fellow veteran, Danny Welbeck, was rested for the mid-week match against top-of-the-table Arsenal. Games against the top Premier League teams are always looked forward to and, whilst there is only a hope, rather than expectation, of a win, it is exciting to see the league's best players perform. Back in the early 1990s, under manager George Graham, Arsenal had a reputation for playing dull, defensive football and the chant "boring, boring Arsenal" accompanied their numerous 1-0 wins.

Whilst the defence-oriented tactic of playing a 'low block' (otherwise known as 'parking the bus') was undisputably effective and led Arsenal to win the league titles in 1991 and 1993, it was not entertaining and frustrated the opposition supporters and neutrals alike. When Arsene Wenger became manager in 1996, he completely changed the club's playing philosophy and adopted a front-footed attacking style and recruited such greats as his compatriots Patrick Vieira and Thierry Henry. Wenger's Arsenal won the League and Cup double in 1998 and 2002 and, in 2004, they won the Premier League without losing a game, earning them the moniker 'The Invincibles'. Since 2004, Arsenal have not won the Premier League although under current manager, Mikel Arteta, they have come second for the past three seasons. This year, it seems, they are determined to go one better and top the table come full time on 24th May. To achieve this, however, they have returned to the George Graham, 'boring, boring Arsenal' playbook. In recent months, Arsenal have relied heavily on set-play situations, particularly corners, from which to score and, once they have a lead, use all of the dark arts to disrupt the game, prevent any momentum and waste time to see the game out. We witnessed a classic example of this at the Amex.

Arsenal scored a fortuitous goal in the 9th minute and then attempted to kill the game by delaying restarts, feigning injuries and making little or no attempt to attack for the rest of the game. Throughout the 90 minute game, Arsenal took 30 minutes and 51 seconds to get the ball back into play following goal kicks, corners and throw-ins. If Brighton had done the same, there would have been less than half an hour of actual football played. Add to that the time lost due to Arsenal's apparent susceptibility to injuries when the Albion were attacking, falling down like they had been shot by a sniper, only to spring up like Lazarus and carry on playing once the game had been interrupted and disrupted. Whilst Arsenal supporters will describe this gamesmanship as 'pragmatic game management' and will claim that all that matters is the result, those who pay money to go to Arsenal matches at the moment are being mugged. Prior to the match, I had hoped Arsenal would win the title, to make a change from the usual suspects of Manchester City or Liverpool.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH

Continued

However, if they continue to try and win ugly rather than allowing their undoubtedly talented squad to play entertaining football, I will be rooting for any other team that can catch them!

Between the end of November and the last game of February, Brighton and Hove Albion only won one league game in thirteen attempts. During that period, they dropped from 5th in the table to 14th. The slump culminated in a dreadful performance during a 1-0 loss to Crystal Palace, after which a raucous minority of the crowds called for Albion head coach Fabian Hurzeler to be sacked. Had such a poor run of form occurred at numerous other clubs, the axe would have inevitably fallen on Hurzeler's tenure. Evangelos Marinakis, owner and chairman of Nottingham Forest, for example, is on his fourth manager of the season. Every time he feels the results are not up to his expectations, he gives his manager a P45 and an expensive pay-off. And where has that got Nottingham Forest? They are currently embroiled in a relegation battle and sit two points above the drop zone. Fortunately for Brighton and their supporters, Albion's owner/chairman Tony Bloom is not so fickle and understands that coaches need time to turn bad form around and now, after back to back wins against Brentford and Nottingham Forest, his club is comfortably mid-table and beginning to play with confidence again.

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 brand new, all singing, all dancing website at www.seagullsoverburwash.com or email me at simon.forster@seagullsoverburwash.co.uk. The new website lists all of the forthcoming fixtures and events, and provides all of the coach times for forthcoming home games. In time, we hope to be able to take bookings and payments via the website. In the meantime, however, if you want to come along to a match on one of our coaches please drop me an email or contact our Chairman, **Mr Teskey O'Neil**, on **01435 884344** or tesbar80@btinternet.com

Teskey is very much old school when it comes to technology and so we can guarantee you are speaking to a real person when you call his number. His data storage is pen and paper, he is only on line when his washing is drying, his spam is in a can and he is very apprehensive about AI as he still thinks it is a procedure used in cattle breeding.

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)



MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

It's going to have to be a quick one this month as we only played one game since you last heard from us and I used all my rain/mud material last time out.

On the pitch the club got back into the winning spirit, seeing off Hollington United 0-3. An impressive man of the match performance from William Blaydon saw him pick up two goals and the applause of his teammates.

It's been a long time since we had a home game: (22nd November) and I'm feeling a bit bad for our generous sponsors at the Rose and Crown, so I'll give them a shoutout here! (See page 50 Ed.)

We are looking forward to heading there for our end of season party, but considering we still have eight league games remaining, it feels like the season may not be finishing for quite some time!

We are away at Hawkhurst in the cup this weekend: maybe we can add to that solitary cup match win we've had in the last five years, but don't get your hopes up.

ALEX ROXON (CHAIRMAN)
burwashfc1890@gmail.com

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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, with the title 'Once Upon A Time'.

Do please come and join us.

PETA HIGHTON

Burwash Common and Weald Residents' Association

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Burwash, Burwash Common, Burwash Weald and the Surrounding Areas

Recent Incidents:

It seems to have been relatively quiet in our area since the last report.

There have been two incidents of farm stock fencing being interfered with. Obviously this can lead to livestock getting out from where they are supposed to be and could prove dangerous.

There have also been several reports of dog walkers straying from public footpaths, which can also be dangerous. Please stick to footpaths and remember that fields are used for crops and grazing for our food.

Members and non-members are encouraged to give me brief details of any incidents to share on and around our area.

Scams:

With everyone concerned about energy bills scammers are posing as major suppliers using email to tell would be victims that they are entitled to a refund on their energy bills because of a "miscalculation".

One such scam involves the criminals pretending to be E.ON and claiming people were entitled to an £85 refund, with a link to enter bank details to get the money.

Obviously, these are sent randomly and people who are not E.ON customers have flagged this up.

Please remember they don't just pretend to be E.ON so any email or text purporting to be from your energy supplier should be checked before responding.

To report cyber crime and fraud:
<https://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

St Philips Church

Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd
May 2026



History of Burwash Common and the Weald

On Saturday 10.00-14:00
and Sunday 12:00 - 15:00
Exhibition in St Philips Church



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.

Do you know about the Burwash District Housing Association?

There are not many small villages that have their own Housing Association but Burwash does. In the 1960s Nurse Jean Holland organised Burrishers to fund a housing association for local people aged over 60 years old. They started with 4 flats in Burwash: we now have 3 flats and 11 bungalows in Burwash and Burwash Common.

The Housing Association was created by and belongs to Burwash. Burwash should feel very proud that our small community continues to provide excellent housing for those who might otherwise have to leave the village. The Committee works on behalf of the community and answers to the shareholders. You can support us by becoming members at a lifetime cost of £1. This does not confer any equity, shared ownership or share of profits as we are a non-profit making body but it ensures that local people have an oversight of the function of the Association. We hold an Annual General Meeting for members every March.

For more information click on <https://burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk/housing-grants-funding/burwash-district-housing-association> or contact Claudette Neville to become a shareholder.

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MAYFIELD AND DISTRICT U3A

On the 16th April at 2.30 p.m. Sarah Slater will be speaking to us about 'Kirtles, Corsets and Curtains - the costumes of Georgian England' at Five Ashes Village Hall.

Coming from a life in retail banking, to now be an expert historian and Blue /White Badge guide, Sarah Slater will probably have us all sitting up a little straighter by the end of her talk. Corsets have that effect, as anyone who has been involved in period Amateur Dramatics will understand, so even if we will not actually be given any to try out, the idea will have been planted.

The curtains will have a place somewhere too. Perhaps it will be the fabrics, their importance for keeping out draughts, or for showing off wealth and status. Time will tell, and they may of course have some other purpose entirely.

Kirtles? Think anything from Georgian thermals to complete dresses, depending on circumstances.

Sarah's passion for History also includes Art and Architecture, but she is particularly interested in the human stories behind the headlines and the glamour of court life. Talks like these are always fascinating as it's lovely to be reminded that history is full of ordinary people, probably struggling with similar issues to ours, but with even worse potholes and more mud.

Tea and cakes will of course be provided after we've had a chance to quiz our speaker.

We really welcome visitors and only charge £3.00, which is refunded if said guest decides to join our branch.

Find out more at mayfield.u3asite.uk

ANNA THOMPSON



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.

On Tuesday, 12th May Colin Pink is our speaker on 'In Pursuit of Colour'. He discusses Patrick Heron, one of the major artists associated with the St. Ives Group, and also an important art critic.

His work is joyful, colourful and explores the space creating potential of colour and line. He was a pioneering abstract artist, anticipating some of the developments towards post-painterly abstraction in the UK before it emerged in the USA. His early work is strongly influenced by modernist French artists such as Cézanne, Braque and Matisse.

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 OXG at 2.15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. If you wish to apply for membership, please email our Membership Secretary, John Larum: email at johnlarum@hotmail.com For queries, please contact Penny Spurrell on 07876565696.

www.theartsocietywealden.org.uk

PENNY SPURRELL - CHAIR



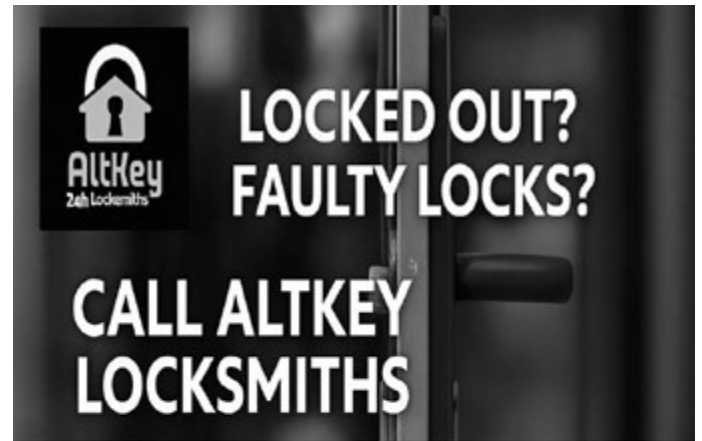
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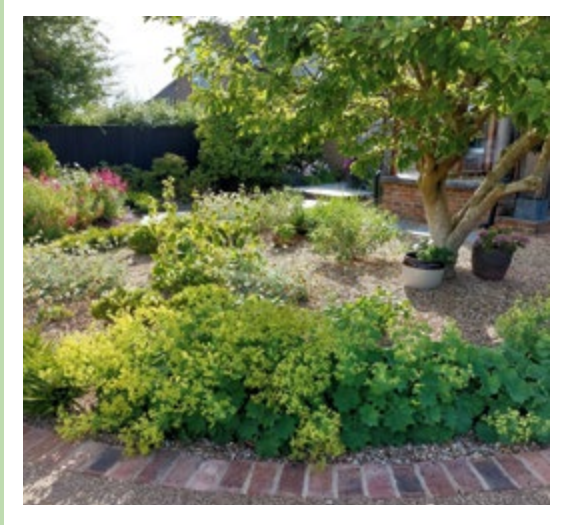
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BURWASH COMMON PAVILION NEWS

Nothing much to report this month. The Pavilion continues to be used regularly and is generally looked at as one of the best and most versatile venues around. The high standard of cleanliness is a contributing factor.

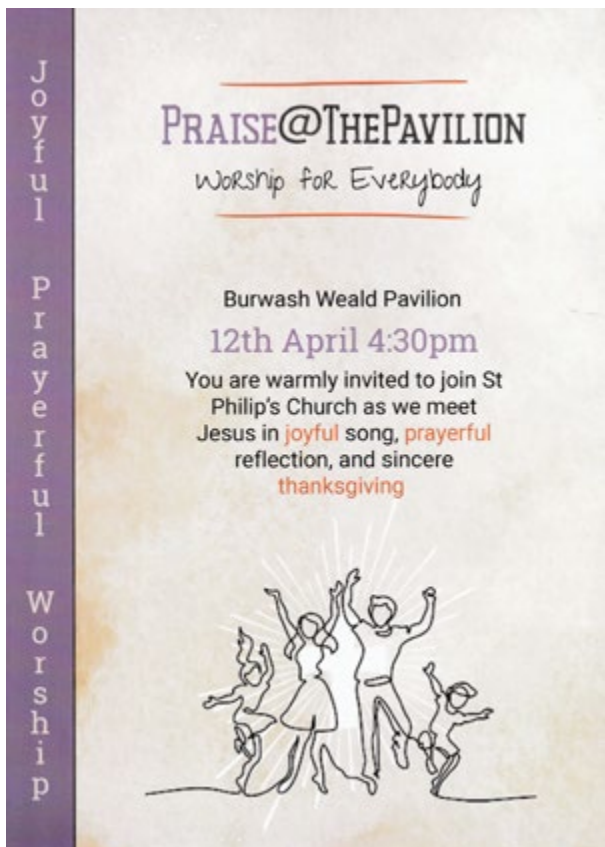
The Cricket Club held their AGM and are looking forward to another successful season with the first match at home at 1 p.m. on the 9th May. New players, aged 16-80, are always welcome.

The snooker room, with its two fine tables is having a resurgence in popularity. Every other Wednesday night it is open to anyone over 16. Check the website for details.

Sadly the pétanque pitch is not being respected by people and dogs, and the box storing boules for public use has been broken.

Now we've had a few sunny days the playing field has dried a little but no doubt there will be another deluge before David can get the mowers out.

THE COMMITTEE
07813273977



A LOOK BACK AT JOHN LOGAN'S SPRINGTIME GARDENING TIPS

As many of you know, my uncle John Logan passed away in October 2025, aged 91. An avid gardener, he contributed to the St. Philip's Burwash Weald Parish Magazine for at least 18 years, with his dedicated 'Gardeners Corner' column. He also wrote fascinating articles about agricultural history, interspersed with his personal life story as a farmer, dating back to World War Two. Remarkably, he continued writing for the magazine until he was 89 years old, despite struggling with the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease and caring for his beloved wife Joan, who had dementia.

In his final months, John could sadly no longer write, but he remained a brilliant storyteller who wanted to leave a legacy of his fascinating life story. He asked me to help him compile his memoir, which unfortunately we were unable to fully complete before he passed away. It is still a work in progress, with the help of those who knew him and kindly spoke to me about their memories of him. The copious articles he wrote for this magazine, many containing detailed, amusing anecdotes, are also proving vital to pulling the threads of his story together. We hope to publish the memoir later this year, with all proceeds going to charity.

Meanwhile, as I sift through John's old articles to search for tales from his past, he is still teaching me about gardening today.

Here is a selection of his top tips for springtime to share with you, taken from various April publications in previous years.

"I am writing this on the 18th of March [2009] after a run of glorious days and the garden is really coming alive," John wrote. "About half the daffodils are out and the peach and nectarine buds on the wall are showing pink. The hard frosts have damaged some shrubs, but I hope that many are merely scorched on the outside. One bottlebrush looks dead, but I always give dead-looking plants a few weeks grace and have often had the pleasant surprise when they start to sprout a new growth."

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Deadhead Daffodils

“There is plenty to do this month, but if you can spare a few minutes, deadhead your daffodils as soon as they have flowered and give them a light dressing of balanced fertiliser to put something back into the bulbs. A little care as they finish flowering will keep them good for another year. Leave the tops uncut for 6-8 weeks until the bulb has reabsorbed all the nourishment from the leaves.”

Feed Roses

“Feed roses regularly - they have a long flowering season ahead. If you have not yet pruned your roses don't worry. There is still time and the worst you can do is delay flowering for a day or two. However, do give them a feed of balanced fertiliser soon, as they will now be growing at great speed.”

Plant Vegetables

“Sow vegetables in batches, at intervals - not all at once. A favourite of mine and not too hard to grow is purple sprouting broccoli. It is very useful for filling the gap between the real winter vegetables finishing and the salad crops starting. I sow thinly in April and about 3 inches (7.5cm) of drill gives more plants than most people would need, so I make one packet of seed do two or three years.”

“Another good and easy-to-grow vegetable - though not to everyone's liking - is courgette. Sow two seeds in a small pot on a window ledge, or in a cool greenhouse, in mid-April. Place the seed flat in the compost and take out the weaker plant when they germinate. When they have about three full leaves, plant out on a small amount of compost or manure when the danger of frost has passed.”

Prune Buddlejas

“Another job that needs doing right away is to cut back Buddlejas, which is largely a question of cutting back last year's growth to one bud and taking out any very gnarled or rotting main stems. It is difficult to kill a Buddleja by pruning it, but occasionally one will turn up its toes for no apparent reason. So, if I have one that I am particularly fond of, I prune three or four stems - a bit later when growth has started - and cut them down to 15 inches (38cm).

Hard pruning of Buddlejas, apart from keeping them at a reasonable size, does result in better flowers.”

“It is also time to prune Hydrangeas, but a modest removal of dead heads and wood will do. Do not forget to prune shrubs that have already flowered, such as Forsythia.”

*******Working with Soggy Soil*******

“There are three main requirements for good plant growth: nutrients, water in the right quantities and oxygen in a compacted soil. It is hard for a plant to get these three [in wet conditions] because when drainage is affected, root growth gets restricted, micro-organisms in the soil are unable to get enough oxygen to flourish, and poor roots leads to poor take-up of nutrients. I find that it is most effective to dig over once to 2-3 inches (5-7 cm) deep, and after letting it dry again, to re-dig a little deeper. Otherwise, a good mulch of compost or manure will be taken down by worms and give the micro-organisms a boost.”

A final thought from US President Thomas Jefferson (1811):

“No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth and no culture comparable to that of the garden, but though an old man, I am but a young gardener.”

In addition to John's memoir, we are considering compiling a simple book of his seasonal gardening tips. He had been working on this project before he died and was passionate about publishing it for the local community. It would be wonderful to honour his wish, if there is sufficient interest, so any feedback on this idea would be welcome.

KITTY LOGAN

HAPPY GARDENING

THE AFTER EIGHT CLUB BURWASH COMMON

We have had two interesting and fun get togethers at the After Eight Club.

Jane Elson, Fashion Designer, gave us an informative talk on her career in the fashion industry and also her teaching experiences. She brought along memorabilia and also a dozen scaled down mannequins – all dressed from head to toe in couture outfits. Jane has had a most interesting career and it was a very enjoyable way to spend an afternoon.

Last month, Tina Halbren held a Paper Flower Making Workshop. After Eight Club members had a fun evening making a paper rose and all came away with a very impressive bud to display!



A Paper Rose Bouquet

Our next After Eight Club Meeting will be our Annual General Meeting. In next month's article, I shall have a new itinerary for the rest of 2026 and early 2027, so keep your eyes peeled!

Our Paper Flower Making Workshop with Tina Halbren - Indoor Gardening



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. You can see how much fun we have from the photograph above.

We are always pleased to welcome potential new members!

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

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**St Bartholomew's
Wednesday Club**

3:30 - 4:30pm

22nd April

Crafts
Snacks
Music

**Tea, Coffee and Cake for
Parents and Carers!**

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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