

BURWASH VILLAGES & ETCHINGHAM

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The Thirsty Eight



ST BARTHOLOMEW,
BURWASH



ST PHILIP,
BURWASH WEALD



THE ASSUMPTION
OF BLESSED MARY
AND ST NICHOLAS,
ETCHINGHAM

MAY 2026

THE MUSIC
EDITION

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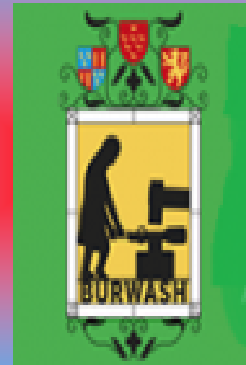
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Open in the Parish Room in Burwash
Every Monday and Wednesday from 10.00 to 12.00 noon

Sponsored by Burwash Parish Council

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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 **01892 240162**

Richard Harden **01435 882556**

The deadline for Burwash Villages and Etchingham June Magazine is Sunday, 10th May. The theme will be Dance.

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!

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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

Rector	Revd. Thomas Pelham	07856 256174	revthomaspelham@gmail.com
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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 – NTR

**March 2026 Rainfall Figures Collected by
Beryl Swift: 38.4 mm in Burwash Common!**

MASS AT CHRIST THE KING

Roman Catholic Church, Burwash

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

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



RECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Sometimes an event stands so large in the church year that it dominates the view ahead, like a mountain blocking the horizon. Easter is such a time. We welcome many into our services and community to celebrate the triumphant risen Lord together.

We mark Easter not merely because a man rose from the dead, remarkable though that is. Jesus' resurrection confirms that his promises hold true. Through him we can share in that risen life and discover what it means to be fully human as God intended. The victory of the cross and empty tomb opens the way for every person to know forgiveness, purpose and hope.

The church keeps the Easter season for fifty days, right through to Pentecost. During this time we journey with the first disciples as they grasped the extraordinary new reality that had broken into their lives. The risen Christ calls us to live as his followers in a radically different way: generous, truthful, servant-hearted and anchored in his strength rather than our own. It is not always easy. Daily pressures, personal failings and the pull of old habits test us. Yet the rewards run deep - peace that lasts, relationships renewed and the quiet joy of walking with the one who conquered death.

If you would like to explore the claims of Christianity further, we are running the 3-2-1 course in May, beginning on 6th May. This short, video-based series presents the heart of the faith clearly and invites honest discussion. It is suitable for those new to the subject or simply wanting to think things through.

For those already convinced and keen to grow as disciples, look out for the next Discipleship Explored groups, likely running from mid-June to August. These eight sessions draw on Paul's letter to the Philippians and help believers deepen their walk with Christ, learning practical wisdom for joy, unity and perseverance in everyday life.

I also want to highlight a special milestone in our benefice. **Etchingham Church, dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Nicholas, reaches its 650th anniversary this year.**

Sir William de Etchingham built the present church in the 1360s as a collegiate foundation and much of what we see today dates from that time: fine brasses, misericords and the distinctive tower. On Sunday, 14th June we invite everyone to a celebratory service at Etchingham Church led by Bishop Will. Lunch will follow, provided by us. It will be a joyful occasion to give thanks for a remarkable building and the faithful Christian community it has served across more than six centuries.

Whether you join us regularly or are visiting for the first time, you are welcome at all these events. Easter faith is not private; it is meant to be shared and lived out together.

Also, to remind you:

- * **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!

Every Blessing,

REVD. TOM

Rector of Burwash, Burwash Weald and Etchingham



THE SOUND OF MUSIC AND WINE

The thought of wine triggers many thoughts in the drinker. The taste, the after taste, the bouquet, the smell of the cork, the glug glug of the initial pouring, the pop of the cork from a sparkling wine or champagne. All these things go to make the experience special to the drinker. The industry has spawned so many experts extolling the virtues of different wines using a vast vocabulary to define the taste of the fermented grape juice.

Now think about the sound of music and musical instruments. What satisfies and what doesn't, what emotions are brought to the fore by the different sounds and what are the ingredients that make up those sounds?

During the 1990s I was involved in a fascinating project in the Czech Republic to try to understand the link between sound and verbal emotional response. The project was centred around the desire to predict and reproduce the sound of violins, violas, cellos and double basses in accordance with the eventual user's oral prediction of what they wanted their new instrument to sound like. In order to establish a base line to work from, the project started by inviting, over a period of two years, people to listen to many sounds and answer on a multiple choice paper which word best described the sound they heard. There were control questions to eliminate false answers. There was no right or wrong as we were simply trying to understand broad categories of tone that matched human response. One man's bright sound might be another's sharp sound and so on. As we understood the harmonic structure of each sound that was played we were able to build up a clear, if broad, picture of which sound gave rise to particular verbal and emotional responses.

Armed with this data the next stage in the project was to look at how this could be translated into the production of stringed instruments. The aim was to be able to customise instruments using three key criteria. First the sound it would make, second the type of wood grain pattern used in the construction and thirdly the pattern of the outline and shaping of the back and front of the instrument. If someone liked a particular shape of instrument and a particular sound, which would be the best timber to use? Likewise if someone wanted a particular design and timber type, what sound would it make?

To help achieve this, we were lucky enough to be given sophisticated laser scanning equipment. This allowed the team to look at surface movement of instruments that had vibrations of different frequencies induced into them so the thickness of different parts of the instrument could be adjusted to get particular tonal characteristics enabling designs for different sounds to be made. The results meant there was greater predictability of tonal character in the productions of our stringed instruments.

We then went on to try to understand a long term mystery of the violin. Players, especially professionals, choosing from a selection of instruments would often favour a particular instrument over another yet, when it came to playing to an audience, the audience often didn't find the sound as pleasing as the player. If the player then went to another instrument, the audience was happy but the player less so. This was a matter of projection. Did the sound carry with some rather than others? Was what the player heard the same as the audience, making the reaction to the sound a simple subjective preference? To look into this we used a sound proof room known as an anechoic chamber. I would enter with a violin and play surrounded by microphones to look at the various directions the sound went and at what level. This work also tied in nicely with our attempts at creating predictability in manufacture. A soloist would require a more projected sound than an amateur quartet player, for example.

The results of all this work were then put to the test in the manufacturing process, creating designs that were modelled on the results and incorporated into programmes for computerised (CNC) routing machines to produce the basic outlines and thicknesses. These were then finished by hand to get the required tonal response from each of the sound generating components. Old fashioned methods were employed to get to the optimal vibrating pattern. The front and back of the instruments were clamped into a vibrating plate set at the frequency we wanted the component to resonate at when finished. Iron filings were then put into the concave surface which showed any irregularities in the harmonic lines.

To test the results, I would take the finished instrument to the Dvorak Hall in Prague (*see Stonegate Choir poster below*) and from the stage, play to members of the Czech Philharmonic to seek their confirmation that the results were as we had predicted. The result, not exactly wine, but all the complex notes of a fine violin. No honey, no blackberry - just a lovely rich sound as required by the player and audience alike.

ANDREW COLLINS
*Local resident and proprietor of
 Brittens Music, Tunbridge Wells*



STONEGATE CHOIR
presents
DVORAK
 MASS IN D MAJOR

Conductor
 James Aburn
Organist
 Lucy Piercy

Sunday 17th May
6.00pm
St Peter's Church
Stonegate

*Tickets £15 includes wine
 stonegatechoir@gmail.com
 or pay at the door*

HEATHFIELD & DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER

**Invites you to join with us for a
 UNITED SERVICE HOSTED BY
 St. Philip's Church Burwash Weald**

**'PRAISE@THE
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Worship for Everybody
 at
Burwash Common Pavilion
 on
Sunday 14th June 2026
at 6.00pm

**We meet Jesus in joyful song, prayerful
 reflection, and sincere thanksgiving.**

Located just on the right after turning onto the
 road going to Stonegate. TN19 7NA

Large car park

Community Arts and Crafts Exhibition
 at
St Philips Church Burwash Common
Saturday 20th June 2026 12pm - 4pm
Sunday 21st June 2026 12pm - 4pm



Open to all Local Artists

Please book with Kerry Fieldwick on 07703 565919
 or Keith Lloyd on 07710 820987
 - keithalloyd1@gmail.com

Entry is FREE, plus refreshments available.

If you wish to sell your items we would request a donation.

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- Dreaming the Healer - 3yr Shamanic Practitioner Training - 9 x Immersive weekends - Starts 17th July
- Monthly Shamanic Journey Circles - Second Tuesdays
- Full Moon Fire Ceremonies - Bi-Yearly
- Plant Medicine Dieta - Bi Yearly

Brightling, Robertsbridge TN32 5HB

Tongwood Chamber Choir

Conductor - Martin Bruce

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVE

British folk-songs and part-songs



Saturday 27th. June 2026
at 6.30 p.m.

St. Bartholomew's, Burwash

Tickets £16 from
tongwoodchamberchoir.org.uk/tickets
and at the door

In aid of the Friends of St. Bartholomew's, Burwash
Charity No. 1134556



Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June 2026

2pm to 6pm

Raising funds for Carillon Cottage

Spend a Summer afternoon exploring behind the hedges of 13 gardens in and around the village of Wadhurst

Large and small, with views, woodland and water. Gardens to inspire, relax in and enjoy.

Refreshments available at Wadhurst Parish Church and

Bardown Oast, Stonegate

Plant stall at Carillon Cottage

Weekend Early Bird Ticket £10.00 available 5th May - 30th May

Standard Weekend Ticket £12.00

Day Tickets £7.00



Available at Carillon Cottage
High St, Wadhurst, TN5 6AA
Tel: 01892 785658

Email: info@carillon-cottage.org.uk

Assistance dogs only. Wheelchair access difficult in some gardens.
FB @ Wadhurst Open Gardens

MAY SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

Taken by the Rector unless otherwise marked.

May 2026	Burwash	Etchingham	Burwash Weald
Sun 3	10.30 Parish Communion - Rev Sally Epps 6.00 Evensong	9.30 Family Communion	8.00 Matins - Penny Button 10.30 Morning Prayer - Lay led
Thur 7	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 10	9.30 Morning Prayer	10.30 UB service of Holy Communion at St. Philip's with Sunday School 6.00 Compline	10.30 UB service of Holy Communion with Sunday School
Thur 14	10.00 Holy Communion Ascension Day	-	-
Sun 17	9.30 Said Holy Communion BCP 10.30 Matins TBC 6.00 Evening Prayer	10.30 Parish Communion - Rev Liz France	10.30 Parish Communion - Rev Jim Smith
Thur 21	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 24	10.30 UB Service of Family Communion - Pentecost with Sunday School	9.30 Said Matins 10.30 UB service of Family Communion at Burwash - Pentecost with Sunday School	10.30 UB service of Family Communion at Burwash 6.00 Evening Prayer BCP
Thur 28	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 31	10.30 UB Service of Parish Communion - Trinity Sunday	10.30 Service of Parish Communion at Burwash - Trinity Sunday 6.00 Compline	9.30 Morning Prayer - Lay led 10.30 Service of Parish Communion at Burwash - Trinity Sunday
Sun 7	10.30 Parish Communion 6.00 Evensong	9.30 Family Communion	8.00 Matins – Lay led 10.30 Morning Prayer – Lay led

Please remember that, if you wish to check service times, you can refer to the Church Near You websites:
<http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4828/> for St. Bartholomew's and
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4827/> for St. Philip's.

Etchingham E-Bulletin also posts events very successfully.

WHAT'S ON: MAY

- Saturday, 2nd Tipi Yoga at 8 a.m. in Parker Hall, Etchingham. (Every Saturday.)
 Saturday, 2nd Burwash Community Farmers' Market at Swan Meadow, Burwash 9 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.
- Sunday, 3rd Wellbeing Workshop, 2.30 - 5 p.m. Etchingham Village Hall, with booking required.
- Monday, 4th 3Cs at St. Bartholomew's, 10 a.m. - Noon. (Most Mondays, except Bank Holidays.)
 Monday, 4th Etchingham Church Baby & Toddler Group, Parker Hall, Etchingham, 11 a.m. - 12 Noon. (Every Monday.)
- Tuesday, 5th Burwash Village Playgroup. Tuesday Mornings from 10 a.m. - Noon at Eddie Workman Pavilion.
 (Every Tuesday.) Contact: Emma Pantry on 07810 043022.
- Tuesday, 5th Community Dementia Cafe at Dudwell St Mary Care Home, Burwash, 2 - 4 p.m.
 Tuesday, 5th Music For The Memory at Etchingham Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. (Every Tuesday.)
- Wednesday, 6th Walks for Strollers meeting at the Burwash Common Pavilion car park at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, 7th Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group 10 a.m. - Noon, at Burwash Common Pavilion.
 (Every Thursday.)
- Thursday, 7th Wild About Etchingham & Hurst Green, AGM and Social, Etchingham Club from 6.30 p.m.
- Saturday, 9th Farmers' & Makers' Market at King John's Nursery, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
 Saturday, 9th Burwash Horticultural Society Plant Sale at Mount House, High St., Burwash from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Sunday, 10th Burwash PTFA present Happy's Circus at Swan Meadow, Burwash. Pre-show from 12.30 p.m.
 Performance starts at 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, 12th Arts Society Wealden Heathfield monthly meeting at the Community Centre Sheepsetting Lane,
 Heathfield at 2.15 p.m. Subject: 'In Pursuit of Colour'. Speaker: Colin Pink.
- Wednesday, 13th Burwash Creative Writers' Group meeting at 2.30 p.m. at The Bear in Burwash.
- Saturday, 16th Burwash Common & Weald Residents' Association, 'An Evening of Bingo' at The Pavilion from 7 p.m.
- Sunday, 17th Stonegate Choir presents 'Dvorak' at St. Peter's Church, Stonegate at 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, 19th Bereavement Friendship Group on third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at Petals Nursery,
 Burwash Road, Broad Oak, TN21 8XG.
- Wednesday, 20th Etchingham Residents' Coffee & Cake Morning at The Bistro from 11 a.m.
- Thursday, 21st Not So Young Club Meeting in Burwash Village Hall, at 2.15 p.m. Speaker: Ian Everest.
 Subject: 'Sussex Farming During the 1950's.'
- Thursday, 21st Mayfield & Five Ashes U3A Meeting at Five Ashes Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Teri Sayers Cooper.
 Subject: 'Marianne North - Adventurer, Botanist & Artist''.
- Thursday, 21st The annual Parish Assembly will be held at 7 p.m. in Burwash Village Hall.
- Wednesday, 3rd **June** St. Barts Wednesday Club, Children & Carers in the Church, 3.30 - 4.30 p.m.

ETCHINGHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026

AT ETCHINGHAM CHURCH ON: 27TH JUNE TO 5TH JULY

PO Box 100
ETCHINGHAM
EAST SUSSEX
TN19 7US
TELEPHONE
01580 819384

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE, 7.30PM: HASTINGS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT HASTINGS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA WILL OPEN THE FESTIVAL WITH BEETHOVEN'S EROICA SYMPHONY, TSCHEREPNIN'S KAMMERKONZERT AND CONCERTO IN D MINOR BY CPE BACH, CONDUCTED BY MARCIA DA SILVA AND FEATURING ALEKSANDRA AND PASHA MANSUROV.

SUNDAY 28TH JUNE 4PM: TRINITY MUSIC ACADEMY

RICHARD EVANS FROM THE TRINITY MUSIC ACADEMY WILL BRING HIS MOST TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS. ALWAYS A JOY.

TUESDAY 30TH JUNE, 7.30PM: THOMAS KELLY

WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE A RECITAL BY THOMAS KELLY, ONE OF BRITAIN'S FOREMOST YOUNG PIANISTS AND RECENTLY A RUNNER UP IN THE UTRECHT INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION. THOMAS WILL PLAY BEETHOVEN'S WALDSTEIN SONATA AND ANDANTE FAVORI AND MORE.

THURSDAY 2ND JULY 7.30PM: THE SACCONI STRING QUARTET

WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME BACK THE SACCONI STRING QUARTET WHO WILL PLAY HAYDN'S BIRD QUARTET OPUS 33, WALEY-COHEN DANCES AND BEETHOVEN'S QUARTET IN A MINOR OPUS 132.

SATURDAY 4TH JULY 7.30PM: DIME NOTES JAZZ WITH SUPPER

JAZZ SUPPER WITH DIME NOTES FOR AN EVENING OF SWINGING BLUES IN MEMORY OF LUCKY SHEPHERD, OUR LONG STANDING FRIEND AND SUPPORTER. SUPPER BY ADAM NEWINGTON.

SUNDAY 5TH JULY, 4PM: DAN TONG & SARA TRICKEY

WE WELCOME DAN TONG (ON PIANO) AND SARA TRICKEY (VIOLINIST) WHO WILL EXPLORE HOW BRAHMS AND SCHUMANN WERE INSPIRED BY BEETHOVEN, PLAYING BEETHOVEN'S SONATAS IN A MINOR OPUS 23 AND IN G OPUS 78 FOLLOWED BY SCHUMAN'S SONATA IN A MINOR OPUS 23 AND BRAHMS SONATA IN G OPUS 78.



Saturday 27th June	Hastings Philharmonic Orchestra	Number of standard tickets: <input type="checkbox"/>	Number of concession* tickets: <input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 28th June	Trinity Music Academy	Free concert with donations at the door	
Tuesday 30th June	Thomas Kelly	Number of standard tickets: <input type="checkbox"/>	Number of concession* tickets: <input type="checkbox"/>
Thursday 2nd July	Sacconi String Quartet	Number of standard tickets: <input type="checkbox"/>	Number of concession* tickets: <input type="checkbox"/>
Saturday 4th July	Dime Notes Jazz with Supper	Number of tickets: <input type="checkbox"/>	all Jazz Supper tickets £30
Sunday 5th July	Piano and Violin Recital	Number of standard tickets: <input type="checkbox"/>	Number of concession* tickets: <input type="checkbox"/>

Standard ticket £24.00, all Jazz Supper tickets £30 - Concessions* Friends of EMF and Seniors £20.00. Under 21s free.

TOTAL enclosed: £..... (cheque payable to Etchingham Music Festival, post to PO Box 100, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7US)

Name: Address:

Telephone number: e-mail:

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope and advise us of any dietary requirements for the Supper Concert..

Tickets may also be purchased on line from: www.wegotickets.com. Bank transfers can be arranged.



Family-run specialists with decades of experience in caravan and motorhome sales, servicing, repairs, and mobile support across the South East.



Set within 4 acres of beautifully landscaped Gardens in East Sussex, Merriments Café and Gardens is your perfect countryside escape.

Explore vibrant, accessible gardens filled with breathtaking floral displays, calming water features, and a wealth of year-round seasonal beauty. Relax in our Café where you can find homemade food, Sunday roasts, delicious cakes, and signature shakes. All the vegetables come from our kitchen garden.

We are dog-friendly in both the Café and Gardens, offering a welcoming space for all. With ample free parking and a peaceful setting, you could spend a whole day at Merriments.



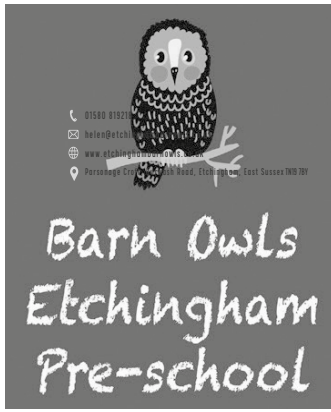
For bookings email merriments@caravantech.co.uk or give us a call on 01580 860666



Hawkhurst Road, Hurst Green, Etchingam TN19 7RA



www.caravantech.co.uk/merriments



BARN OWLS - ETCHINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL

At the time of writing we are all off for the Easter break.

Prior to this we have had topics about oral health and set up the home corner as a dentist.

Tooth decay and extraction is the main reason why under 5's require surgery: hence the importance of this topic.

We also talked about Comic Relief and other people in the world.

Our tadpoles are thriving and we are hoping for great success, as we had last year. They thrive on cucumber until they have back legs and then they need protein - very fascinating!

On the last day of term, the children that had made Easter Bonnets joined the primary school for a parade and reaped Easter eggs as rewards.

The children had made Easter cards to take home and also had made Easter biscuits with Liz, who is brilliant with all our cooking activities.

We are looking forward to returning to wonderful weather, so we can get on with gardening and planting.

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

NICKY MENZIES

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this Music themed edition! Our cover photograph features the Thirsty Eight, and many readers will be related to those in the 'snap'. I could write a whole magazine about their antics, from my research carried out over several years but they were all talented local musicians, long before Roger Daltrey moved into our little bit of East Sussex. If the Thirsty Eight were still playing, they would most certainly have made their way to Lakedown, from what I have heard.

Etchingham Music Festival is gearing up once more (see page 11), Stonegate Choir are offering us Dvorak Mass in D Minor (page 7) and we have Music For A Summer Evening to look forward to in June (page 8).

Etchingham Club, The Rose & Crown and The Bear all have regular music events, and Lakedown have kindly sent us a list of their upcoming events (page 55). Our villages have music to suit all ages and all tastes: all genres seem to be covered - perhaps this stems from a tradition of working hard and playing hard? The antics at the Kicking Donkey seem to be legendary, and as for The Wheel

Music lifts our spirits, be it opera or bird song (see page 26 & 29), or even the sound of a saw (see page 18). Floribunda has raised the bar again (see pages 17 & 31). If you wish to try another genre of music, Palestinian Music is on offer at King John's Nursery (see page 18). Meanwhile, don't forget the Church Bell-ringers, who practise hard, or our Church Choirs (new singers always needed). Singing in a choir is sociable and a marvellous way for young singers to learn new skills and to gain confidence Whitney Houston, Luther Vandross and many more all started their singing careers while singing in church choirs. **C.H.**

Brian Everall, Benefice Organist playing

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FLORIBUNDA -

COME INTO MY GARDEN MAUDE

When I think of music and gardening, I think of the Elephant and Castle where jollity was to be had at the old music halls and public houses. This was where my ancestors lived in the 19th Century, moving between the Elephant, Peckham, the Deptford Docks and Woolwich. They were low in the social strata and did not have a garden so would walk to the public parks. The ones they visited were in Deptford and Greenwich: not too far away.

There are many commons and parks throughout London, a much greater number than other capital cities have. London was polluted by industrial processes – including the manufacture of matches, leather tanning and coal gas production to light streets and houses. More pollution was caused by people burning coal fires at home.

Many of these parks were funded by Victorian philanthropists who gave donations and land to help improve London's appearance, encourage health and welfare, and improve air quality. Angela Burdett-Coutts was one of these wealthy patrons. She gave the land for Victoria Park, which borders on Tower Hamlets and Hackney. It has an ornate fountain dedicated to Queen Victoria. In the late 1970s this fountain was covered in graffiti, but the 2012 Olympics kick started improvements, thanks to David Beckham and others who helped East London become a great place to live in rather than a place to pollute.

Centuries earlier, there was a beautiful garden in Deptford which was trashed by Peter the Great and his house guests. He had come to London on some pretext or other to learn about our advanced technology. I imagine drink was involved and that does not help learning or good gardening. Many lessons can be learnt from bad behaviour.



Now to return to gardening and music. When gardening I stick to drinking tap water not wine, focus on the area I want to improve and go inside to listen to music when I am too tired to go on. Then I have a bath to relax my tired body and look forward to the sound of great music.

We have excellent access to classical music in Etchingham and nearby. The annual series of concerts in Etchingham Church help support the church and village, and bring everyone together to hear the soaring sound of music. The church has excellent acoustics and hires a grand piano each year. There is also a salad supper served at one of the concerts, which is always delicious. The churchyard is not really a garden but it is well looked after and leads into the Etchingham park with play equipment, daffodils and a village fête once a year: but not a fête worse than death. It really is great fun.

Vinehall School has a programme of classical concerts, most of which are held in the afternoon, so people do not have to drive home after dark. Vinehall has striking views of the Wealden landscape from its garden and playing fields. What this garden demonstrates is the relationship between the garden, the building and the view beyond. The school's main building is of a similar design to Queen Victoria's retreat, Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight.

Fashions change so much in gardening – from the geometric designs of Hampton Court to the Ha Ha's and romantic lakes at Chatsworth. Designers of the past have ranged from Tradescant to Capability Brown to Gertrude Jekyll, to name but a few.

I must end here as I feel overwhelmed by technology and the many tasks I need to do. It is time for a nice snack of ice cream once I have stopped typing and put my trowel down. At least that is low tech. Or did I mean to say put my towel down? I have been playing a lot of Scrabble but I am losing to my husband. Hence, I am also losing the plot.

FLORIBUNDA

See Poem on Page 31 also.

PALESTINIAN CULTURAL EVENING

Thursday, 21st May between 7 – 9.30 p.m.
at King John's Nursery, Sheepstreet Lane,
Ticehurst

Join us for a gathering celebrating Palestinian culture. Experience traditional music, delicious food and vibrant stories that bring the spirit of Palestine alive. Whether you're already connected or just curious, this evening promises warmth, laughter and new friendships.

Food - Tastes of Gaza

Film screening: 'Untold Revolution: Food Sovereignty in Palestine'

Poetry - voices from Palestine

Sounds of the Levant

Bar organised by King John's.

**Tickets are £15 from Eventbrite -
search Palestinian Cultural Evening.**

If you'd like to purchase drinks from Harry's bar, or Zeytoun products from Palestinian farmers, then please remember to bring some cash.

All proceeds from the evening will go via our dedicated friends at the Palestinian Agroecological Forum to support the restoration of irrigation pipes in Beit Lahia for food production.

GEORGINA McALLISTER PhD
Coordinator for the Institute of Agroecology



ONE MAN'S MUSIC

MY FRIEND'S FIRST POME (sic)

We say -

Seated at ease one day in his home
came an unusual thought: 'I'll write a pome'.
Was he surprised? None more than he,
except perhaps for you and for me.

Not that sort of chap, we all concurred,
not very good with rythm or word.
He likes to paint walls, or wire up a Scart;
give him Browning or Hardy – can't tell 'em apart.

He says -

But tools have a beauty, machines sing a song,
you think them mundane, but p'rhaps you are wrong:
the strokes of a saw – to me they speak words
that blend in my head and out comes a verse.

The curl of a cornice, the joy of design,
are sisters of music and cousins of rhyme;
the grain of a timber, joints just as you wish
can please you as much as old Percy Bysshe.

I say -

How did he do, was there a smile?
Or did you deplore his terrible style?
You're starting to think this sounds a bit sly:
you've just worked it out – my friend, he is I.

DIX

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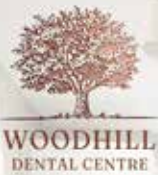
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Councillors:

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Simon (Sid) Barrow 07989 065702 cllr.barrow@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Adrian Hanstock cllr.hanstock@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

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.

Parish Council Website Admin – admin@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

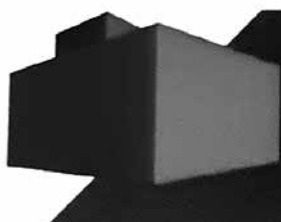


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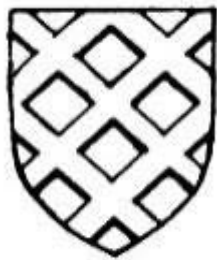
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ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL



PARISH PEARLS

Firstly a big ‘thank you’ to those of you that were able to come to the Public Forum on 28th February to give the Council your views about the sites chosen in our village by Rother District Council to be development sites for housing. Your Councillors listened and the Council did its best to represent those views when it posted its response to the Local Plan Consultation on the RDC website. Additional thanks to those of you that were also able to post your own personal responses: it’s a bit of a ‘numbers game’ so every response really does count.

In other news, may I welcome and introduce Richard Beeson, your new Executive Officer, Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer. We are able to have a three-month handover period and during that time will try to get out and about to meet residents and get to know the parish itself as much as possible, along with all the ‘in-the-office’ duties he is taking on.

As highways issues are very much in mind right now, the issues up in Hurst Green at the A265/A21 junction and the continuing efforts of our own Road Safety group (TESAG) negotiating with ESCC Highways on plans to improve road safety for all road users in our village, for example, not to mention potholes (but then, of course, they are not unique to Etchingham), we thought it appropriate to go into a bit of detail regarding our Speedwatch team, a dedicated group whose efforts show real results in moderating speeding through the village.

ETCHINGHAM COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

The first thing to point out is that Community Speedwatch (CSW) is **NOT** about getting people fined, it is an educational tool designed to remind drivers to drive at appropriate speeds in speed limit areas, for the safety of pedestrians and all road users, by regular deployment of CSW operators with speed detection devices.

However, vehicles recorded over the speed limit by more than the margin in the ACPO guidelines are referred to the Police, the registered keepers of the vehicles receive a Police warning letter, persistent offenders may also get a visit from a Police Officer and possible further action, and potential prosecution, may be taken. The highest speed recorded by the group in the 30 mph limit during the last twelve months was 58 mph. During the same period the group sessions have recorded 1,263 speeding vehicles.

The Etchingham group has now been operating since January 2014. Unfortunately, due to illness, personal issues and volunteers moving away, the number of volunteers available has dropped to a fairly low level, reducing the sessions that can be run. We always need more people to join the group: this can be done on the national CSW website, see below. Just follow the instructions to register. When your registration is complete, you will be contacted by the co-ordinator to arrange joining sessions. You do not need to commit to a large amount of time, if you can only be available for half an hour a month, it is just as useful as someone who is available several times a week. Occasionally our sessions are supported by the attendance of a PC or PCSO.

We now deploy Body Worn Video (BWV) on our sessions. The BWV is Police issued and used in accordance with the Police policy for BWV use. Any footage recorded is deleted after each session, if no incidents have occurred. The camera is used to gather evidence if an aggressive or abusive situation arises. Such incidents are rare, but they do occur occasionally.

REMINDER – The speed on the road signs is the LIMIT *not* the TARGET!

etchinghamspeedwatch@gmail.com
https://www.communityspeedwatch.org

CLLR. COLIN BOYLETT
Portfolio holder for Community Safety and
Speedwatch Co-ordinator

01580 819532 07483 211838

ETCHINGHAM NATURE NOTES

As I write, towards the end of March, Spring is coming fast, not to say here already. The bluebells in our woods are growing fast, and I saw the first one in flower on the 9th March, which is really early. We remember that, some years ago, now, we used to open the woods for people to walk through and admire the carpet of blue, usually on May Day. Come that day this year, they might be well and truly over.

We also have lots of primroses in flower, again somewhat earlier than usual, and it is a pleasure to see them.

We are still seeing what we now regard as our “regular” three deer in the wood, not every day, but we do see them quite often. On the 22nd March, however, I saw 5 deer in the wood, as I walked our dog. They were not our usual ones, which are roe deer: these are bigger and darker coloured (fallow deer) and, unlike what we now regard as our friendly ones, that just stand fairly still and watch us, these ran away fast.

In my notes at the end of last year I wrote about the holly bushes in the wood being in flower in December. I had learned how the female has small black seed-like raised spots along the stems, which if fertilised, by bees carrying the nectar from the flowers of the male tree, will turn into berries. This, we read, usually happens between May and July, and I wondered what might happen this year. Coming through the woods one morning, towards the end of March, however, we saw the seeds, on one of the bushes, coming out as one would have hoped, so all seems well in that regard.

Having had very little cold weather during the Winter, and many signs of an early Spring, another sign has been the number of birds apparently nesting early. We have certainly seen numbers going into nest boxes, and others flying around trees in which we have seen them nest in previous years.

Sadly, I have had no reports of anything worth mentioning this time, but if anybody has anything to report I am, of course, always interested in what other people see in the environment, and am happy to include words about it in my notes.

As ever, please do not hesitate to report anything you feel worthy of mention in our notes to either Frank Smith (01580) 819326 or Mary Newington (01580) 819498.

FRANK H. SMITH

ETCHINGHAM NATURE NOTES LATE NEWS

Mary Newington sent in a report she received of a Black Redstart via Richard Farran.

“I thought you might like to know about an interesting local sighting - a Black Redstart just over the road from you at Wild Haven Farm on 20th March. Kim the owner messaged me at 8.30 a.m. to say she was watching a Black Redstart hawking insects from her window. I went up there a couple of hours later to try and find it and managed to get a reasonable view. It's not often these days that I get a new bird for the local list.”

Lovely to have a positive sighting!

I have moved north to rural Wadhurst, but saw my first house martin of the year yesterday: just one solitary bird on the 18th April. (Ed.)



The poster features a stylized illustration of a church building in the background. The word "ETCHINGHAM" is written in large, bold, orange letters across the middle of the church. Below it, the number "650" is written in a smaller, orange, handwritten-style font. The date "14th June 1030" is printed in bold black text below the church illustration. The main text of the poster is in a clean, black, sans-serif font, inviting the community to a special service and a community lunch.

14th June 1030

Etchingam Church warmly invites you to a special service to commemorate our **650th** year since the church was completed, with Bishop Will presiding and preaching

Please join us afterwards for a community lunch in the Queen's Gardens

GETTING INFORMATION INTO YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Get publicity for your special event in the village columns of the local newspaper,

The Bexhill and Battle Observer.

I want to hear about all your special events, fund-raisers, fêtes, coffee mornings, jumble sales, boot fairs and any other special and important celebrations which would be of interest to our readers.

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

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

2 Park Farm Close, Etchingam
Telephone: 01580 819532 or 07483 211838
E-mail: colin.boylett@googlemail.com

The Burwash & Burwash Common correspondent is Mr Tom Travers.
Tom can be contacted at:
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Wild about Burwash

It's May and nature is moving full steam ahead with everything growing at full speed and the music of the bird song reaching its peak. What a great time for us to get out there and listen to it. It's also the start of No Mow May, where we can let our lawns or window boxes grow and bloom. Many of us do this a little longer with Let it Bloom in June. Even just leaving part of your lawn will provide vital food for bees and butterflies.

May is also the International Compost Awareness Week (5-11th May). Our very own Soil Craft can help you with this. If you'd like to see what's in your soil or compost, take a sample along to the Burwash Community Market on the first Saturday of every month and they can show you what's living there. They can also give you details about the food waste system that they run. Those of you who are lucky enough to get an early copy of the magazine, may be able to join us for our Spring drinks on 29th April (venue tbc) where Julia and Sylvie will be talking us through the importance of soil health and the work of Soil Craft.

As bird song (and the dawn chorus) is reaching its peak, if you're up early enough, you could join in with the International Dawn Chorus Day (3rd May), which reminds us about the importance of natural habitats for birds. If you have a mobile phone, you can also download Merlin, a free app which is simple to use. It can help you to identify birdsong and it also adds to the database of birdsong around the UK.

The other free app which we encourage people to use is iRecord. Recording flora and fauna is a real benefit for protecting local green spaces as the records are checked by the Sussex Botanical Recording Centre and added to the national database. We will be running some walks over the coming months to show you how to use iRecord.

We have just taken delivery of another batch of our 2025 apple juice from Ringdens. This has a two year shelf-life and not only is it delicious, but the sales help us raise funds to undertake projects around the parish. We also have more of our beautiful Sussex Moth tea towels in stock (£8.50 each or £8 for two or more). Let us know if you'd like to place an order.

Just as a reminder, it is good practice NOT to feed the birds from feeders over the Summer months, as there are some very nasty bird viruses about. Please ensure that any bird feeders are thoroughly cleaned and washed out. It is better to plant seed bearing plants for the birds and to leave them berries on the bushes.

We are always updating our 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

Our photos of spring flowers are on page 28.



BURWASH AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

Making Foliage Focal - 8th April 2026

We enjoyed a delightful and inspiring afternoon with Hayley from The Flower House in Burwash, exploring the art of foliage-led design.

Focusing on sustainable techniques, we learned how to use chicken wire as a reusable alternative to floral foam, creating a sturdy base for our arrangements.

Hazel twigs formed the elegant focal structure, complemented by sculpted aspidistra leaves and layers of textured foliage such as fatsia and other greenery.

We finished with carefully placed flowers (or some stunning orchids) for that perfect final touch.

Such a relaxing and creative session - thank you, Hayley!

Hayley at work in Burwash Village Hall during her demonstration

Hazel twigs as focal structure below



Foliage Focal



BURWASH & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB Continued

Summer Outing to Chichester Festival of Flowers on Thursday, 4th June 2026

Tickets for the coach will be £21 for members and £25 for non members. The entry ticket for the Flower Show is £21. Members and friends are welcomed to go to Chichester without going to the Flower Show.

SAVE THE DATE

65th Anniversary Celebrations & BBQ on Friday, 3rd July 2026

The Jolly Boys will be invited for this event.

JAN MACFARLAND

Marsh Marigold above and Coralroot below. Greater Stickwort is abundant in the hedgerows this year.



I left the Jolly Boys out of the Editorial, sorry!

THE EDITOR



BURWASH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

PLANT SALE

on **SATURDAY 9th MAY 2026**

at

MOUNT HOUSE, HIGH STREET, BURWASH

10.00am to 1pm

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‘YOU’VE GOT A FRIEND:WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER OR FALL’

‘*Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall*’: one of my favourite songs from my youth, but for some reason I prefer it being sung by James Taylor rather than Carol King. As my deafness gets worse, I find it easier to hear male voices but I suppose eventually even this will fail. However, the prospect of not being able to hear bird song fills me with dread: it is my favourite music by far and marks memorable days in my life.

Living in the countryside, walking and listening to bird song defines who I am. I started bird watching as a tiny tot, encouraged by my father, who would take me off into Epping Forest to spot Woodpeckers (all varieties). As we lived close to the forest, with scrub opposite our house, tits of all sorts abounded and an early memory was the chirruping of blue tits as they swooped to the front door to steal the cream from the milk bottles on the doorstep, pecking through the foil lids no matter how early we got up (they have lost that treat now). Later in the day coal tits, great tits and blue tits would battle it out on the home-made half coconut bird feeders or sound the alarm while swinging on strings of peanuts, if one of the local cats was on the prowl. The alarm call of tits cannot be ignored.

If we returned from London late a solitary black bird would sing next to an old-fashioned lantern lamp long into the night, same bird, same lamp post with the moonlight shining down. In the long Summer evenings thrushes would compete across the suburban gardens until the sun slipped down over the horizon. Trills, calls, long serenades made those summer evenings special. At first light we were woken by the calls of swallows and house martins, the latter setting up home next to our bedroom windows every year under the mock Tudor eaves. If we were lucky, we could hear the squeaks of the chicks calling for food.

A blackbird with one leg lived in our kitchen for two years, hiding behind the ironing basket under the kitchen table People were always turning up with injured birds for us to nurse back to health or fledglings for us to feed. We spent hours feeding baby blackbirds with tweezers.

My father had a friendly robin, who would perch on his fork waiting for worms from the tough Essex clay. Eventually we could feed the robin from our hands in return, he would sit on the fence and sing to us as we struggled to design a garden, lay paths and plant fruit trees. A family of wrens lived under the red hot poker bushes in the sunniest part of the garden. Sometimes a flock of starlings would arrive to pull insects from the lawn, but in those days we saw them as pests almost and scared them off with tea towels because they would raid all the food on the bird table above the huge concrete coal bunker (another bird haunt that is no more, where grubs could be found in the dark recesses).

Chaffinches, bullfinches, greenfinches and goldfinches would fly in to de-bug the fruit trees. Hot summer afternoons on the lawn with mugs of tea and far too many Digestive biscuits meant being serenaded till dusk from the roof tops by the goldfinches.

Owls offered up the night-time chorus from the trees across the road. ‘*Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall*’ were all punctuated by bird song, bird behaviours or rare visitors which needed to be looked up from a book in the shelf of bird books (no popping on line for an instant identification).

By the time I went to Grammar School I could identify most bird song without needing to see the bird, but I still stop in my tracks even now to try to find the performer. What can be better than a sky lark high up over the fields in the Rother Valley? Such a tiny bird producing so much sound!

To my delight a pair of house sparrows are nest building under the eaves, flying in with beaks full, here in rural Sussex: once so common but now sadly not the case. The decline in bird numbers generally has been even faster than my hearing loss. Imagine life without the dawn chorus? Imagine February without rooks fighting over twigs in the tree tops? Worse still, no robins popping out of the holly on to the garden gateor no geese honking as they migrate*Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall* birds are always music to my ears. You don’t need Netflix or a Smartphone for entertainment, Mother Nature provides a free changing programme in every Season, you just need to listen and look, and take some time out!

CAROLINE HUBAND

BURWASH PARISH MATTERS

Following the Parish Council Meeting On 14th April

Footpaths and Rights of Way

The Parish Council were delighted to welcome John Harmer, the Burwash Local Footpath Warden on his work in the parish keeping the footpaths, bridleways and rights of way suitable for use, and clearly signposted. John's knowledge of all footpaths and rights of way in the parish means his work with the ESCC rights of way team is delivered directly to the source for the community. If you have any concerns about rights of way in the parish, please use the online rights of way map that allows you to report a problem: [Online rights of way map](#) | East Sussex County Council or contact Emma, the Clerk who will be able to help.

New Parish Councillor

The Parish Council welcome Cllr. Crawford Patterson to the Parish Council. Crawford has a wealth of business experience to use in this role as Councillor, as well as having been a Burwash resident for more than 20 years. Councillors are volunteer roles, so we are always grateful for those who give their time to improve the community in which they live. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor or would like more information, please contact Emma, the Clerk.

Grants

The Parish Council have granted £1,000 to the Burwash Girl Guides to purchase tents to support them to attend a Summer event and for future use.

The Parish Council also granted £500 to Burwash Short Mat Bowls as a partial payment towards replacing their bowls mats. The group meet in Burwash Village Hall and play competitively within a league.

Parish Assembly

The annual Parish Assembly is taking place on Thursday, 21st May at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall and we are delighted to announce that Dr Kieran Mullan MP will be speaking at the event. Those organisations that have had parish council grants are invited to update everyone on how the funding has impacted their organisation. All Burwash residents are welcome to attend. There are refreshments and a light buffet available. For more information, please contact Emma, the Clerk.

Parish Priorities

The first meeting of the working party tasked with looking at parish priorities is taking place on Monday, 27th April at 7 p.m. This group will be looking at the funding available to improve infrastructure in the community and will recommend actions to Full Council for decisions to be made.

Residents are welcome to be part of this group. If you are interested, please contact Emma, the Clerk.

Equestrian Road Safety Meeting

On 16th May, our local PSCO and members of the British Equestrian Society will be meeting with interested parties to discuss awareness of equestrian road safety and to talk through initiatives that might increase safety for horses and riders in Burwash and the surrounding parishes. If you would like to attend, please contact Emma, the Clerk for more information.



The next meeting of the Parish Council is the Annual Parish Meeting, where the Chair and Vice Chair are voted on for another year. The meeting is on Tuesday, 12th May at 7 p.m. at Burwash Common, Pavilion.

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

THE BURWASH HAMPER RAFFLE

We were excited to be doing another hamper raffle in our garden at Violet Cottage. We were up early and had got everything set up when it started to drizzle, so we quickly moved everything back into the house and set up in our kitchen. This wasn't the best scenario as we didn't get passers by popping in.

I would like to thank those that did make the effort to come round: all locals. We had two grocery hampers and a chicken dinner hamper, two simnel cakes, some bottles of wine and two large Easter eggs.

The hampers were won by Ben Sherwood, Jazz Botting and Lynda Maude-Roxby. With your support we raised £135: half our normal takings due to being inside.

PRIZE BINGO - KEEP THIS DATE FREE

Our next event for the Get Togethers is on 14th June, when we will be holding a prize bingo. If anyone would like to donate prizes, we would be very grateful.

EASTER SIMNEL CAKES

Thank you to everyone who ordered an Easter simnel cake. I made 20 in all, plus a carrot cake. Three of these were for the raffle, the rest were sold to those who ordered. After I had worked out expenses, including the boards and boxes, we made another £39 for the Get Togethers.

MARY TAYLOR BEM

LATE NEWS

Kerry has just informed me that The Wheel re-opened on the 17th April. Please go and check this out, as I have only heard this on the grapevinenot via the hop poles pictured by The Strollers in this Magazine.

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES
PLEASE (Ed.)**

MUSIC IN THE GARDEN

**FROM MAUD (Part I)
BY ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON
A Monodrama**

Come into the garden, Maud,

For the black bat, night, has flown,
Come into the garden, Maud,
I am here at the gate alone;
And the woodbine spices are wafted abroad,
And the musk of the rose is blown.

For a breeze of morning moves,
And the planet of Love is on high,
Beginning to faint in the light that she loves
In a bed of daffodil sky,
To faint in the light of the sun she loves,
To faint in his light, and to die.

All night have the roses heard
The flute, violin, bassoon;
All night has the casement jessamine stirr'd
To the dancers dancing in tune;
Till a silence fell with the waking bird,
And a hush with the setting moon.

I said to the lily, "There is but one
With whom she has heart to be gay.
When will the dancers leave her alone?
She is weary of dance and play."
Now half to the setting moon are gone,
And half to the rising day;
Low on the sand and loud on the stone
The last wheel echoes away.

I said to the rose, "The brief night goes
In babble and revel and wine.
O young lord-lover, what sighs are those,
For one that will never be thine?
But mine, but mine," so I sware to the rose,
"For ever and ever, mine."





BURWASH PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

Bookings for stallholders and events can 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 April including:

- The Community Farmers' Market - next column.
- Tuesday Village Playgroup - 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.

100 PLUS CLUB APRIL DRAW

The draw took place on the 12th April at the Rose and Crown, picked by Lily Seymour once more. There were 242 balls in the draw.

Congratulations to the Winners!

1st Ball Number	12	Mrs Mary Chadburn	£60
2nd Ball Number	32	Miss Kim Caldecott	£30
3rd Ball Number	95	Mr Peter Angove	£20

STEVE BENNETT

01435 882526 or 07917 164578

THE NEXT BURWASH COMMUNITY MARKET IS ON SATURDAY, 2ND MAY 2026



The April Community Farmers' Market was in the middle of Easter weekend, and, as expected, many people were away or spending time with family elsewhere. As Mary Taylor reports, the weather descended upon us as horrid fine rain, so we too saw less footfall, but what we lacked in numbers we made up for in community spirit.

Venison sales were good, eggs were popular, hand-made toiletries steadily disappeared, honey was as sought after as ever and I had no Filo pastry delights left over for my lunch.

Everyone seems to know everybody, so quite apart from buying or selling, the community atmosphere is lovely.

We look forward to the May Community Farmers' Market on the 2nd May, so do please come and have some fun.

THE EDITOR



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BURWASH OVER 50'S WALKING FOOTBALLERS

In honour of our Gardening edition last month, I was pleased to see that when I returned from holiday in mid-March the garden was full of daffodils and forsythia blooms, winter aconites and hellebores: there was a distinct feeling that spring was on its way, if it wasn't here already. Since then we have been invaded by rabbits, who have cleared the primroses and irises, and are munching their way through the hellebores.....

I was also inspired by my peers' submissions concerning the exploits of Burwash FC and Brighton & Hove Albion. Simon Forster always writes in a very engaging and playful style even though, compared to myself, he seems a bit shy over the use of double-spacing and paragraphs. My writing approach has been far more 'staccato', utilising short and sharp paragraphs to create an almost 'Bullet-point' layout. This has mainly been based on an awareness that magazine space is limited and I shouldn't try and hog the magazine or risk boring the pants (or knickers) off the reader.

Our previously reported goal-keeping problems were partially resolved when John Lee declared himself fit enough and took position between the sticks for our second round League Cup game against a strong Eastbourne side. Unlike the exploits of our younger cousins - Burwash FC - we are purring along in the cup rolling over Eastbourne at home 1-0 to progress to our first ever third round appearance. I also took inspiration from the 'merch' offered by Burwash FC and thought 'well if they can do it - so can we'.

So here's a photo of the Burwash Walking Footballers rain-jacket.



I don't have a dog but have been told that, in all the rain we've had this winter, it's great for taking the little mutt for a countryside stroll. It's available through our Club Shop provided by Pendle, who are our supplier. They offer match kit, thermal and base layers, and much more, at very reasonable prices. The customised rain jackets work out at around £27 although if, like me, you can squeeze into a youth size you get to save the VAT and keep yourself dry for £22!

It's not been going so well in the league with an away 0-1 reverse against..... You've guessed it - Eastbourne again! Our final league game was mired in controversy around a game-changing refereeing decision. Surely, if the referee is talking to our player about a foul, effectively taking him out of the game, he can't allow the opposing team to take a free kick 5 yards ahead of where it should have been taken and let their player run (don't forget this is WALKING football) on to it and score whilst the rest of us are standing round the ref?

With our dip in our league form, so our attendances have dropped as well: the last two games attracting just a solitary spectator each game. Compare this to last season's league-winning campaign, where we were attracting ten-times that number. Looks like our followers may be a fickle 'glory-seeking' bunch. I bet there will be a queue round the block to get in if/when we reach the League Cup Final.

We have entered an over 65's team into the Tonbridge Angels FC tournament at the end of May. Readers with good memories may remember that we won the Plate competition there two seasons ago and we will be looking to go one better this time around.

For all you overweight couch-potatoes that think the whole idea of a bunch of grey-haired blokes chasing a ball around at walking pace is anathema, then I suggest you come along one Tuesday evening, watch for half an hour and when you feel ready, join in. We play outdoors on the all-weather pitch at Heathfield Community College during the summer before switching to indoors at Robertsbridge for the winter. Yes, we are competitive - but not on a Tuesday.

It's not all about the football as there is a strong social side too. We have around 35 players and serve all the surrounding villages. We always pop to the pub afterwards. We have a trip to Berlin booked in September and organise more mundane events like archery, curry nights, curling, bowls sessions and billiards evenings. We even have a trip planned to see a 78 year old body-builder! I may be dull, but it never is at Burwash Walking Footballers.

On another matter the club supported Prostate Cancer Awareness week during January by participating in 'No snacks January'. Quite a tough challenge for some of our crisp and nut addicts. The result was, after allowing for Gift Aid, over £560 being raised. Not bad for a small club (with big ambitions...).

As two of our players have just been diagnosed with the disease, it's a timely reminder to get yourself checked out asap.

So, what do you think of the new reporting style?

Stop press, stop press. Hold the front page! We have made it through to the semi-finals of the Sussex County League Cup, where we will play Hurstpierpoint at home – go Burwash go!

**For more information contact Steve Mintram
on 01435 882444**

www.burwashwalkingfootballers.co.uk

East Sussex League Champions 2025

LAURENCE WORTON



CREATIVE WRITERS' GROUP

Do you like writing fiction, non-fiction, poetry or prose for pleasure?

If so, why not join our Creative Writers' Group which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2.30 p.m. at The Bear in Burwash.

No fees, just a friendly group of aspiring writers meeting together to listen, discuss, offer constructive support and exchange ideas.

Each month we decide between us on a topic of around 500 words in any genre. Topics we have covered so far include The Countryside, A Misunderstanding, My Earliest Recollection, A Book Review, Boredom and Safeguarding. It has been amazing how many different angles a topic can be approached from drawing from personal experience, research and our own imagination. For example, "Safeguarding" from a real-life safeguarding concern, to safeguarding against witches from 1400 - 1800 and then turning the subject on its head with guarding a safe.

If you are interested in or intrigued by the CWG, please come along and meet us as we share our different approaches to our monthly topic. There is never any obligation to write on a chosen topic. Everyone is welcome to just come along and listen to what other members of the group have written.

If you would like to find out more, please contact:

Val Stevens on stevensval85@gmail.com

VAL STEVENS

***For our musical theme - a photograph from
an earlier edition***

***The Over 50's Burwash Walking Footballers
at Lakedown
with Sir Roger Daltrey***



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“Sweet April showers do spring May flowers.”
Thomas Tusser (1557)

Or for Star Wars fans, *“May the 4th be with you!”*

The bowls season will now be well underway, having started in April with the annual drive as mentioned in last month’s article. The members have been given the fixtures lists and just need to sign up to the matches they want to play. These are both friendlies and league games, and Wadhurst is hoping to have another unbeaten season in the Horam League. Also, there will be matches between the club’s members, who will be vying to win the trophies for ladies’ or mens’ singles, triples, drawn pairs, Australian pairs, handicap singles, restricted singles, two woods singles, the list goes on. And you just thought it was a group of people lobbing a round object along a perfectly manicured lawn while admiring the spectacular view across the valley.

In fact, why don’t you come and see for yourself what happens as we are holding an Open Day on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May from 2 p.m.? This is a fun afternoon meeting the regular players and having an opportunity to try out some bowling for yourselves. If you are driving, then we are situated behind the cricket ground, towards the end of Washwell Lane, or you can walk across the green from Wadhurst High Street. Just turn off beside the Memorial Hall.

If you want to come and watch, these are the home games for May, which as it happens are all in the Horam League, apart from the match on 31st May:

Wednesday 6th	Horam 2 p.m.
Sunday 24th	Deanland 2 p.m.
Tuesday 26th	Uckfield 6 p.m.
Friday 29th	Herstmonceux 2 p.m.
Sunday 31st	County 2 Wood – all day

Results of matches will follow in forthcoming editions.

In the meantime, I can advise you about two forms of outdoor bowls that are played. One is lawn (flat) green bowls, and the other is called crown green bowls. Both are played on grass, or a synthetic surface. The most significant difference is right there in the name: the green itself.

Flat Green Bowls: This is the version of the sport played internationally and is the most common format across most of the UK. The playing surface, or ‘rink’, is a perfectly level, rectangular strip. Play is typically up and down the same straight line for the duration of a match. The challenge comes from delivering the bowl with the correct weight and line to account for the bias.

Crown Green Bowls: This format is most popular in the North of England and parts of Wales. The playing surface is a large square green that features a ‘crown’ or hump in the middle, which can be up to 12-15 inches higher than the edges. The game is played all over the green, from corner to corner, and the jack can be sent anywhere. Players must contend not only with the bias of their bowl but also with the undulations of the green, making it a game of constant tactical adjustment.

The different playing surfaces demand very different types of bowls. You cannot use a set of flat green bowls for a competitive crown green game, and vice versa.

Flat Green bowls have a bias tested and approved by World Bowls, and are designed for precision and consistency on a level surface.

Crown Green bowls, on the other hand, have a more pronounced bias, which is necessary to navigate the contours of the green as the bowl has to go uphill and hold its line on the way down.

So, there you have it in a nutshell.

JANE GILBERT

WALKS FOR STROLLERS

Six Strollers left the car park turning left along the High Street and then right on to the footpath past the Catholic Church.

The footpath took us past Mottynsden Manor Farm up to Franchise Manor, where there is a beautiful display of daffodils along the driveway.

Going straight over, the footpath took us through fields where we disturbed a flock of Canada geese who took to the skies.

Walking through the Hop Farm on the footpath, we exited near Witherenden Bridge.

The bridleway took us through fields of ewes with their lambs, down to the woods at the rear of Bearhurst.



Here we crossed back over the railway line on the bridleway to Wreckery Bridge, where the River Rother was running clear.

Crossing the river Rother, which was orange in colour as shown in the photograph below, we headed up on the grass verge towards Stonegate Station.



Turning right on to the bridleway before the station, we crossed the railway line on the bridge looking down on to Stonegate Station.

We finally headed back to Burwash on the footpath through the woods and up to Ham Lane.

This was an enjoyable 5 mile walk in good company.

Our next walk is on Wednesday, 6th May meeting at Burwash Common Pavilion car park at 9 a.m.

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

PETER AND KAREN FARLEY
01435 883141

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WORLD HYPERTENSION DAY

World Hypertension Day is on 17th May 2026, promoting awareness of high blood pressure - a leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

Adopt a heart healthy lifestyle by reducing salt intake, taking regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight and limiting alcohol: oh yes, and quitting smoking!

Check your blood pressure using the monitor in the surgery waiting room: it only takes a few minutes and the machine issues a slip with the reading for you. Hand it in at the reception with your details, so the nurse/doctor can review.

On a lighter note,

NATIONAL SMILE MONTH runs from 11th May 2026 to 11th June 2026, marking its 50th Anniversary.

The objective is to “Feed Your Smile” by encouraging healthy eating habits.

The key messages are; brush for 2 minutes twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, clean between teeth daily, reduce sugary foods and drink, visit the dentist regularly and don't forget the dog, they carry mouth bacteria the same way humans do!

To help you keep smiling, Sussex residents needing urgent help can call the Sussex Dental Helpline on 0300 123 1663 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) Monday to Friday. Outside these hours call NHS 111.

Appointments are available for;

Severe toothache not relieved by painkillers;
Dental abscess;
Broken or knocked out tooth;
Painful fractures, loose or displaced fillings.

More information on urgent dental conditions covered can be found at [NHS.uk/urgentdentalcare](https://www.nhs.uk/urgentdentalcare)

COVID VACCINATIONS

Covid vaccinations are available at Ticehurst Pharmacy during opening hours for over 75s and immunosuppressed patients.

Vaccinations will not be available at Woodlands this time.

*St. Bartholomew's Organist & Music Director,
Brian Everall*



BURWASH NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

AN AFTERNOON WITH VIEW CRAFT

On the 18th March over three dozen folk gathered in Burwash Village Hall, full of delight, for a wonderful afternoon with a plan to discover all things 'Craft'.

Firstly the business part of the afternoon was conducted by our Chair, Isabella, with birthday greetings, arrangements for cake providers (there is no pressure to hand bake as shop bought cakes are just as acceptable) and news of our members.

Mary is sadly still in Eastbourne Hospital and our former excellent Secretary, Liz, had eventually succumbed to illness after a long and really hard fought illness handled very bravely. We will miss her and all her valuable work for the Group. She found such interesting speakers, making hers the 'Gold Standard', with many of us struggling to learn from her example. She was kind and highly organised so fortunately she left notes and, somehow, we are following in her footsteps. With thanks to those who have followed afterwards.

It was lovely to see such a full Village Hall for today's speakers. There were five of them (and an adorable dog - photograph below in the next column). They called themselves **View Craft**. **The name was chosen for Visually Impaired Eastbourne and Wealden Craft.**

This is an independent voluntary organisation enabling people who are blind and partially sighted to participate in and enjoy art and craft activities. They meet weekly on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. at Herstmonceux Village Hall and provide a range of creative activities. These Crafts include mosaic work, chair caning and basket weaving, wood carving, working with fabrics and textiles, peg-loom weaving, knitting, crochet and macrame, papier mache and painting.

Sight often deteriorates with age so many of the members are elderly and, living life in rural areas, they often suffer isolation, so there is very much a community spirit enjoyed weekly.

Art work is of a high standard, giving members a sense of achievement and self esteem. It is a friendly, supportive experience with tutors and volunteers. Free transport to and from the venue can be provided by voluntary drivers, if in an area they are able to reach. Members are helped in groups or individually with only Health and Safety Rules to master and simple guidelines like always sit in the same chair in case of fire, etc., where all can be accounted for.

If you would like more information or are interested to join or be a volunteer or just see the group in action please contact:

Jean Wilson (Secretary) 07932 785557 or
Tina Wray (Chairman) 01892 661212

Tina provided such an enjoyable presentation and can be reached at: tinawray@googlemail.com

Stretched out on the tables in front of us were samples of all the Craft produced by the group and, in honesty, much was better than I could achieve!

Questions were taken, including "Could the lovely dog be bought?" What a great Group!

At our meeting on 16th April we will learn all about the 'History of Morris Dancing'. Another new hobby perhaps?

Our next meeting is on 21st May when Ian Everest will talk about Sussex Farming During the 1950's.

See you soon.

VERONICA FARLEY



SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH

Highs and Lows, Albion Alumni and Maypoles

A few weeks ago, Brighton and Hove Albion and the Seagulls' supporters endured a torrid afternoon at the Amex Stadium when the Albion slumped to a 1-0 defeat to Crystal Palace. This was followed a few days later by an equally drab 1-0 defeat away at Aston Villa following an 86th minute Jack Hinshelwood own goal. After a dreadful run of just one win in 13 games, Brighton had dropped from being early season Champions League qualification contenders to 14th place, looking nervously over their shoulder at the relegation zone. Questions were being asked over whether head coach, Fabian Hurzeler, was 'out of his depth' and whether he should be sacked before the team get dragged into a relegation battle.

Since then, the club has won four out of five Premier League matches, the most recent being a humbling of reigning champions Liverpool, has risen to 10th position and just five points from the Champions League qualification places. What's more, Hurzeler is once again being lauded as a great manager and is being linked with potential moves to other big European clubs, including Bayer Leverkusen, in the summer. This all demonstrates two absolute constants in football. Firstly, supporting Brighton and Hove Albion is never dull or predictable and is a relentless roller coaster of highs and lows. Secondly, football supporters and the sporting press are incredibly fickle and any player, coach or club is only as good as its last result. Now, since I wrote this missive, the Albion will have played Burnley, Spurs and Chelsea, with matches against Newcastle, Wolves, Leeds and, finally, Manchester United to go until the end of the season. I sincerely hope that the club and its supporters have continued to ride the crest of a 'high' and that Fabian Hurzeler remains a football genius in the eyes of the press and leads Brighton into European competition next season!

Brighton and Hove Albion is often perceived as a stepping stone club, a club that players and coaches join to progress their careers before leaving to join bigger and, supposedly, better clubs. To a certain extent, this is correct.

In order to compete with the riches of the Premier League's top clubs, Brighton intentionally recruits up and coming players and coaches and, when the time is right for the club and player/coach, they negotiate deals that benefit both parties. This usually entails another club paying Brighton a lot of money and, more often than not, that club is Chelsea. It is always interesting to see how the ex-Brighton alumni are getting on and whether the grass really is greener away from the Amex. Recently, it has not been just the former players that have made the back page headlines, a couple of former managers have re-emerged into the spotlight.....

Graham Potter arrived at Brighton having had managerial success in Sweden and in Wales with Swansea. At the time, he was considered an odd choice for an ambitious Premier League club as he had no experience of top flight football. However, his possession-based, attacking style of football was seen as a progression from the more pragmatic approach of Chris Hughton who had kept Brighton in the Premier League for the first three seasons after promotion. In Potter's third season the club achieved its highest league position so far, finishing 9th, and did so playing entertaining football.

The following season started very well and, after six games, Brighton were 4th in the table. It was then that Chelsea sacked their manager, Thomas Tuchel (the current England boss), and poached Potter and his entire coaching team from the Albion. So, was Potter's grass greener in West London than Sussex? Financially, definitely yes! He signed a 5 year contract on a salary of £200,000 per week (£10.4 million per annum!). The football pitch grass was also very green when he started and he commenced his tenure with three wins, followed by two draws. Then he brought his Chelsea team to Brighton..... and was humiliated. Despite the success Potter had brought the club, he was given a torrid 'welcome' by the Albion supporters who had not forgiven him for abandoning the Albion just six games into the season. After four minutes Trossard scored and by half time it was 3-0 to the Seagulls. A final score of 4-1 was the catalyst for Potter's Chelsea reign to unravel and, after just 7 months in charge at Stamford Bridge, Potter was sacked. His bank manager didn't shed too many tears as he was given £13 million severance pay and Chelsea paid his salary in full until October 2024.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH CONTD.

After taking 18 months out of football (he could afford to have a break), he was appointed head coach of West Ham in January 2025. Again, this did not work out and, after a dreadful start to the 2025 - 2026 campaign, he was relieved of his duties by the Hammers' hierarchy. From the perspective of building on his reputation as a great manager, leaving the Albion backfired hugely for Potter. He has since retreated back to Sweden where he has taken charge of their national team. Here, he has quietly reignited his managerial career and has hit the headlines again recently by guiding Sweden to World Cup qualification. Will this summer's World Cup be his managerial redemption?

Potter was succeeded at Brighton by the Italian, Roberto De Zerbi. Previously, De Zerbi was manager of Ukrainian club, Shakhtar Donetsk, however, his tenure there was rudely interrupted by Vladimir Putin in 2022. De Zerbi won none of his first 5 games in charge at the Amex until the aforementioned stuffing of Potter's Chelsea. He then led the Albion to their highest ever league position, finishing 6th and qualifying for the Europa League. Despite relative success in Europe, the following season was frustrating for De Zerbi as the club did not sign the big names and established top level players that De Zerbi wanted. This, together with his fiery temperament and regular bans for touchline tantrums, caused him to leave the club by 'mutual consent' at the end of the season. He then had a successful season leading Marseille to a second place finish in the French top flight until his belligerence and temperament precipitated his sacking in February this year. Now, he is back in the English sporting headline because he has been appointed permanent head coach at Tottenham Hotspur. At a point when it seems the chaos at Spurs could not get any worse and they are looking down the barrel of relegation from the Premier League, they appoint the hot-headed, fire-brand that is De Zerbi. What could possibly go wrong? He is considered more controversial now following his integration of ex-Manchester United player Mason Greenwood into his Marseille team following his arrest for attempted rape and assault, charges that were subsequently dropped. For this reason, a significant proportion of Spurs supporters are opposed to his appointment and do not appear to agree with De Zerbi's adherence to the 'innocent until proven guilty' philosophy.

It will be interesting to see how this particular former Seagull gets on with his unenviable, albeit well paid, task of dragging Spurs back from the brink.

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

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

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

This month is one of Teskey's favourites and he holds May Day traditions in great esteem. For years he has led the Burwash Over 70s Maypole Dancing Troupe with great gusto. Last year, his enthusiasm was such that he decided to get in some last minute practice and popped down to the pole on his own at first light to run through his moves. Unfortunately, without other dancers, the unmanned ribbons were unrestrained and, as Teskey whirled and spun, they wrapped around his limbs and torso tightening gradually as he valiantly persisted with his routine. It was four hours later the rest of the troupe arrived to find him dangling helplessly from the pole, trussed up like an oven-ready chicken. However, the experience didn't put him off and we look forward to him dazzling us all in a frenzy of blue and white ribbons once again this year.

SIMON FORSTER

The Theme for next month (June) is Dancing, so I am expecting a report on Teskey's efforts, as well as a report on The 'History of Morris Dancing' from the Not So Young Club.

I would also like all the local Dance and Musical Theatre Groups to tell us a little bit about when they meet up and what they are currently doing, please.

THE EDITOR

BURWASH FC REPORT



THE ICKLESHAM TEN

Just the two games to update you all on this month, in the season that never seems to end. Up first was an away trip to Hawkhurst in the Hastings & District Cup. It would genuinely be quicker to list out players who didn't score or assist, such was the rampant nature of the team in an immensely satisfying 1-7 win. This has setup a reunion with everyone's favourites, Tackleway.

The league match was away to Icklesham Casuals, the site of one of the finest days of recent Burwash FC history, where Burwash clinched the league title back in 2024. To be precise we won that final game of the season on the sixth of April 2024. This tracks back to what I was saying about this being the season that never seems to end, as of the sixth of April this year we will still have four league games and one cup game still to play. I don't know about everyone else, but I ask my wife to not book anything in for Saturdays during the season, but there reaches an understandable point at which the in-laws must be visited. Such a situation is what the club faced for the weekend game against Icklesham, with only ten players available for the game.



We put a poll out and the players voted that they'd rather play and likely lose with 10 rather than forfeit, so that's exactly what we did. We fought and dug in, and when a player needed to go off injured, we fought and dug in with 9. Then when another player went off injured, we kept going even with 8. We lost 3-0 but the management team couldn't be prouder.

If you remember a few months ago, club bobble hats went on sale. Below we can see some happy customers, finding a way to reconnect with the village now they've moved abroad. So, make sure you let potentially home sick ex-Burwashers know to get in touch to get their own!

ALEX ROXON
BURWASH FC CHAIRMAN
burwashfc1890@gmail.com



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Please contact me for more information or to book a place





Burwash, Burwash Common, Burwash Weald and the Surrounding Areas

Recent Incidents:

Apparently, a number of cars in the Rother View, Shrub Lane and Strand Meadow area of Burwash have been scratched, probably with keys or similar metal objects, in the last week or so of March. Is this because someone thought they were badly parked? Or just because someone has got nothing better to do? Either way it's worth a criminal record!

At the time of writing, it hasn't happened locally as far as I know, but with the massive hikes in the cost of heating oil and red diesel storage tanks could now be targeted for fuel theft by criminals as it used to be regularly 20 odd years ago. Vehicles could also be siphoned. If you can, conceal and secure oil tanks and consider surveillance cameras.

Scams:

Concerned members have asked me to highlight a number of types of scam they have encountered recently:

Helping Police Enquiries – The Police will **NEVER** ask you to hand over cash or property to try to catch criminals. It's a scam that has cost victims who thought they were helping £1,000,000's and the criminals keep using what works!

Parcel deliveries – You should never be asked to top up postage!

Friends emails – if you get an email saying '*Did you get my email?*' or '*I've got a sore throat and can't talk*' don't respond by email!

If you feel the need to contact the person, do it by phone and they will probably already know their email has been compromised.

Please warn anyone you think might be extra vulnerable.

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

Messages are sent Bcc so addresses aren't shared.

Contacting the Police:

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

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

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

STEVE MINTRAM

Bereavement Friendship Group

For anyone who has suffered a bereavement

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.

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

MUSICAL SILLINESS

There was a young lady whose chin,
Resembled the point of a pin.
So she had it made sharp,
And purchased a harp,
And played several tunes with her chin.

The Power of Song: "I love to sing. And I love to
drink scotch. Most people would rather hear me
drink scotch."

George Burns

Modern Wisdom: "Talking about music is like
dancing about architecture."

**Often attributed to Steve Martin or Elvis
Costello**

"I don't know anything about music. In my line you
don't have to."

Elvis Presley

When I was a little boy, I told my dad, 'When I grow
up, I want to be a musician.' My dad said: 'You can't
do both, Son'.

Chet Atkins

"I'm a concert pianist. That's a pretentious way of
saying I'm unemployed."

Oscar Levant

In order to compose, all you need to do is remember
a tune that nobody else has thought of.

Robert Schumann

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



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LIVE MUSIC - 5PM SUNDAY



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MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES U3A

On the 21st May at 2.30 p.m. Teri Sayers Cooper will be giving us a talk about ‘Marianne North - Adventurer, Botanist and Artist’ at Five Ashes Village Hall.

Teri Sayers Cooper “has been living and breathing Marianne North’s story for a long time”, surely a quote that suggests this talk will be a good one.

A director of the East Sussex-based Arts charity Creative Force, and also of the Exploring Marianne North Project, Teri Sayers Cooper will be telling us all about this extraordinary Victorian woman who literally travelled from continent to continent, painting flora and fauna in their natural surroundings, and documenting what is becoming a rapidly disappearing world. This went completely against the accepted norm of her time, which was to show plants in a much more formal setting. She must truly have been an adventurer, botanist and artist!

830 of her oil paintings are on permanent display at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. From the images available on the website, the gallery of her work is truly amazing, and blends her artistic skills and scientific knowledge in a wealth of colour and detail.

Our branch members are always welcome to bring friends to our meetings, for a small charge of £3.00. It’s also possible for those visitors to join us on a more permanent basis on the spot, for a very good value subscription fee of £15 for one, or £27.50 for two.

Plenty of information is available on our website, which is:

mayfield.u3asite.uk

ANNA THOMPSON

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.

In contrast, on Tuesday, 9th June 2026 Marie Conte-Holm is guiding us on ‘Travellers Amongst Mountains and Streams: Masterpieces of Chinese Landscape Painting’. This lecture explores Chinese landscape painting through the ages to convey the development and evolution of this important tradition. While the title, ‘Travellers Among Mountains and Streams’, is based on that of an 11th Century work by the great Northern Song master, Fan Kuan, its key elements, mountains and water, or ‘shan sui’, represent the essence of all Chinese landscape painting. Using ink and brush and a variety of techniques and formats, the artist’s response to the natural landscape and to man’s place within it, has been said to evoke ‘landscapes of the mind’.

Our 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.theartssocietywealden.org.uk

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LAKEDOWN BREWERY, FISHERY & TAPROOM, TN21 8UX

Lovely Lakedown, nestled in the valley between Mayfield, Burwash and Stonegate is the Daltrey family fishery (trout), brewery (beer and cider) and taproom (fun). *(Thus it was that this Magazine started to have themes, because a silly article appeared in either Country Life or Sussex Life about Roger Daltrey and Kipling, as if they were our only claim to fame, but that isn't the case as we have been trying to show you.)*

The taproom is a small venue with a focus on community and sociability. As well as the regular opening hours, there's a huge range of events going on, from brewery tours to live music, poetry, comedy, fishing, pop up food events and more. They host community events and fundraisers too: Swife Lane Book Club (next column) meets here, but beware because I think Burwash Over 50's Walking Footballers are rather fond of the venue too!

There are street food pop ups every Saturday and Sunday – and over the summer months Fridays too. There is ALWAYS cheese and charcuterie available, and fresh bar snacks until they run out.

Music Events

Live music from Sadie Jemmett – 7 p.m. on Thursday, 7th May - a free event with collection.

Live music from Benita Johnson – 7 p.m. on Thursday, 14th May - a free event with collection.

Live music from Big Joe Bone – 7 p.m. on Thursday, 21st May - a free event with collection.

On Thursday, 4th June Luke Wright navigates his audience through a warm and honest hour of poems and stand-up with the wit, pathos, and silliness that has made him one of the most popular live poets in England. This is a ticketed event: book at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/luke-wright-later-life-letter-tickets-1983442938221>

For other events please look them up on Facebook or Instagram.

You can also drop helen@lakedownbrewing.com a line to book a table/discuss an event.

THE EDITOR

SWIFE LANE BOOK CLUB

Swife Lane Book Club has been running for about eight months now. We meet at Lakedown Taproom on the last Thursday of the month at 12.00. New members are most welcome, in person or remotely!

Our Book Club Choice this month was 'The Women' by Kristin Hannah.

In 1965 Frankie McGrath a naïve and sheltered Californian girl joins the Army Nurse Corps and is sent to Vietnam. The horror, devastation, chaos and deprivation surround and at times overwhelm her. However, she is befriended and supported by two brave nurses who are to become lifelong friends.

When Frankie returns to America the ignorance and treatment she receives as she grapples with all that she experienced and witnessed in Vietnam, combined with her turbulent love life, almost destroy her. She suffers with what we now understand as PTSD with little support and understanding, apart from that provided by the women who served with her in Vietnam.

Our thoughts were that this is a book of two halves. However, throughout there is an excellent sense of time and place. The ugliness, devastation and horrors of the Vietnam War resonate throughout the first part of the book with a soundtrack, which vibrates in the background. It is the ugly side of 'Mash' (hit T.V series) which was hinted at but never fully realised on screen. The continuity of the social scene in the California of the 1960's was maintained throughout the book.

We were all stunned by the message that reverberated through the second half of the book that these women and their service were denied and forgotten: 'There were no women in Vietnam', despite the fact there were approximately 10,000 American military women stationed in Vietnam during the 20-year war.

Whilst at times the book was considered repetitive and the love element lacking in credibility, the book is easy to read and the story moves at a pace. At times, it is compelling. The friendships between the nurses forged in Vietnam were sustained on their return to America but sometimes we felt this was at the cost of their own family life and therefore didn't always ring true. The propaganda, draft dodging and lack of support for all those returning to America from Vietnam shocked all of us who read the book.

We considered it 'a good read' which we would recommend: 'A book that needed to be written and needs to be read.'

AFTER EIGHTS PROGRAMME 2026-2027

Date	Activity	Organiser	Tea/coffees
Wednesday 22 nd April 2026	Talk: 'Australia Adventures' Travelling Solo around Australia in a tent.... Speaker: Helena Griffiths Held at Burwash Common Pavilion 7.00pm	Kate Scagell	
Wednesday 13 th May 2026	Talk: 'Barbara Leigh Smith' Speaker: Leslie Abdela Held at Burwash Common Pavilion 7.30pm	Halina Keep	
Wednesday 10 th June 2026	Walk All details to be confirmed	Karol Richardson Alison Hayes	
Saturday 13 th June 2026	Coffee Morning at Burwash Common Pavilion, 10am – 12pm	ALL	ALL
Wednesday 15 th July 2026	Garden Party at Burwash Common Pavilion, 6.00pm	Betty McBride Mavis Beeston	ALL
Thursday 6 th August 2026	Trip to Eastbourne Congress Theatre to see 'Operation Mincemeat' All details to follow soon.	Alison Hayes	
Wednesday 9 th September 2026	Speaker: Lady Crabtree Subject: 'You're Never Too Old' Burwash Common Pavilion at 2.30pm	Carla Hallgren	
Saturday 12 th September 2026	Burwash Common Fete Cake Stall	Mavis Beeston Dorothy Russell	
Thursday 1st October 2026	Quiz with Rotherfield Club, Taking place at Rotherfield, 2pm for 2.30pm		
Wednesday 28th October 2026	Talk: Metropolitan Police Speaker: Katie Lilburn, Police Officer, also Cherry's Daughter! Burwash Common Pavilion at 7.00pm	Cherry Redhead	Jacky
Wednesday 9th December 2026	Christmas Dinner at The Rose and Crown Pub, Burwash.	Claudette Neville	
Wednesday 13 th January 2027	Cinema Outing to be arranged	Mavis Beeston	
Wednesday 10 th February 2027	Talk – Stories of Kipling and Burwash Speaker – Claudette Neville Burwash Common Pavilion at 2.30pm	Claudette Neville	
Wednesday 10 th March 2027	AGM Burwash Common Pavilion 7.30pm	ALL	
Wednesday 14th April 2027	Games Afternoon Burwash Common Pavilion, 2.30pm.		

THE AFTER EIGHT CLUB BURWASH COMMON

The most recent meeting for the After Eight Club has been our Annual General Meeting. Please see the attached itinerary for the rest of 2026 to April 2027. I do hope something in our plans for the year will be of interest and that we will see you at one of our get togethers.

We are a friendly group of ladies of all ages, who meet up once a month to share experiences. Over the last year we have had speakers, walks, pub meals and organised a coffee morning to raise money for local charities.

We are always pleased to welcome potential new members!

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

JACKY WOODLAND

Email: tjwoodland142@btinternet.com

Tel: 01435 883389

Mob: 07770 489490

ST PHILIP'S ORGAN

As part of this Music Edition of our Magazine, we urge you to have a look at the magnificent organ pipes at St. Philip's.



BURWASH COMMON PAVILION NEWS

The 2026 Pavilion and Playing Field AGM is on 18th May at 7.30 p.m.

You are all welcome to come along with thoughts and ideas for the future of our fantastic community facility.

We always need new committee members, bar staff, mowers and working party volunteers. The bar will be open.

THE COMMITTEE
07813273977

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Invites you to join with us for a
UNITED SERVICE HOSTED BY
St. Philip's Church Burwash Weald

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Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group

Thursday Mornings 10-12

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

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

£2.00 per family per session.

Jane Lloyd - 01435 883264



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

BURWASH

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

BURWASH COMMON

Outside Burwash Common Pavilion, left of front door.

ETCHINGHAM

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

**MONTHLY COLLECTORS' FAIR
IN ETCHINGHAM VILLAGE HALL**

SATURDAY

23rd MAY 10 a.m - 1.30 p.m.

***WITH SOUP MAKERS' MARKET
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TEA AND COFFEE ALSO SERVED



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.

Londis



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