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BURWASH**



**ST PHILIP,
BURWASH WEALD**



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OF BLESSED MARY
AND ST NICHOLAS,
ETCHINGHAM**

JUNE 2026

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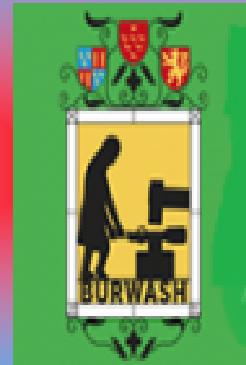
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Open in the Parish Room in Burwash
Every Monday and Wednesday from 10.00 to 12.00 noon

Sponsored by Burwash Parish Council

Run by volunteers

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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 July Magazine is Friday, 10th June. The theme will be Scents.

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

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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

INTERMENT OF ASHES

13th April 2026

Rosemary Ann Colvin

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,

Spring brings signs of new life all around us -fresh green shoots, longer days, and the promise of renewal. In the middle of this season, a new album by British singer RAYE has caught my attention. Titled *This Music May Contain Hope*, it is a powerful concept album blending jazz, funk, soul and R&B. What carries it is RAYE's remarkable voice and honest storytelling.

The record follows her personal journey of rediscovering faith. It opens with a breakdown in rainy Paris and moves through darkness toward light. It ends with an extraordinary song called "Joy", which weaves in lines from Psalm 91—"cover me with your wings"—and Psalm 30—"I may cry for a night but joy comes in the morning." The album has sold strongly, with several tracks reaching number one. Many will have heard "Where is my Husband?" on Radio 2.

Recent news from the Bible Society reminded us how careful we must be with statistics. Their 2025 report on a supposed "quiet revival" was retracted after errors in the survey data. The figures were not as encouraging as first thought. Yet I still sense a real interest in faith stirring in our culture. An album this open about failure, brokenness and redemption in Christ would have struggled to reach the mainstream even five years ago. Today it is being widely played and discussed.

There is a growing thirst for something that breaks the limits of a purely material world. Money, fame, success, drink and drugs cannot satisfy what it truly means to be human. RAYE found her way back to God from her lowest point. The good news is that the rest of us do not need to reach rock bottom first. We can simply begin to seek. "Seek and you will find," Jesus said.

This spring, as nature bursts into life, perhaps you might look for new life within. The first step is to seek. The next is to come and see. Our churches offer a warm welcome, good company, and plenty of cups of tea. Here you will find people who know their own need of grace and are learning day by day what it means to walk with the risen Christ.

Whether you are exploring for the first time or returning after a long while, you will be made welcome. God's joy is not reserved for the perfect; it is offered to all who turn to him.

Also, to remind you:

* **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

**Morning Coffee
& Cakes**

**Books & Jigsaws
for Sale**

In aid of church funds

**Saturday, 6th June
10 a.m. until noon**

in

St Bartholomew's Church

St Bartholomew's Church, Charity No: 1133028

EDITORIAL

Well, I just don't know where to begin this month because you have all sent in so many responses to the theme of 'Dance'. At the same time, local football teams had matches still to play because of the rain in the Spring and then it became apparent that there is an undertone of "cars", with the Burwash Common Car Show on the distant horizon.

I'm going backwards a month first to 'Music', because JUNE sees Etchingham Music Festival, live music evenings in the Rose and Crown and also in the evening following the Etchingham Summer Fête on the 13th June and at The Etchingham Club, so we really should be ready to dance for joy (much better than reading about Politics). There is SO MUCH going on in our villages this month, that I can only urge you to look carefully on every page, or you will miss something.

I'm sorry if I have left anything out, but I couldn't see the wood for the trees. The front cover is StageBuds dancing in Etchingham, but my favourite photo of the month has to be of the Strollers looking so very joyous against the backdrop of greenery/trees (below right), so I got distracted by the natural beauty of our part of East Sussex.

Also, not to be left in the shadows: Burwash F.C. have had a marvellous, even if 'wet', season and are shown below being gracious in defeat in the Final. It really is not the winning but the taking part with them! Determination is sometimes better than fancy footwork.

Anyway, back to the real subject: Dance. We have far more going on than you would imagine: for all ages and many different types: Morris Dancing being explained on page 45, Salsa on offer in Etchingham (page 8), Folk Dancing on pages 22 & 32 in Heathfield, but with a local contingent



clearly taking part, ballet in Burwash Village Hall as well as Musical Theatre: oh the list goes on and on.

Wild About Burwash have alluded to dance in Nature on page 27, as has The Editor on page 31 (dancing adders in photo below) and Floribunda tells us more about 'Strictly' than we knew before (page 28).

Have a marvellous, action packed June! Music, Fêtes, Flower Shows or Demonstrations, Art Shows, Cricket - please study the posters or you might miss a treat.

If you end up exhausted, try a sedate classical performance at the Etchingham Music Festival (page 11) or Music for a Summer's Eve at St. Bartholomew's Church (page 46).

CAROLINE HUBAND





HEATHFIELD & DISTRICT CHURCHES TOGETHER

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

'PRAISE@THE PAVILION'

Worship for Everybody
at
Burwash Common Pavilion
on
Sunday 14th June 2026
at 6.00.pm

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

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**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN HEATHFIELD & DISTRICT**

SUMMER SOCIAL EVENING
Thursday, 9th July
6 p.m. for 7 p.m.
At Horam Park Golf Club
Two course meal £26.00

Speaker: Barbarann Smith on
"Working holidays in Africa"

Please book with your CTH & D Representative
or with Sue Mumford on 01580 819415

*You will be asked to choose your menu
when booking*

*(Bookings and payments not later than
Sunday, 28th June, please.)*

STREET PASTORS

Help us keep the Heathfield area
safe for our young and vulnerable

Come and meet our Pastors and hear what our Street, School and Prayer Pastors do to help our community.

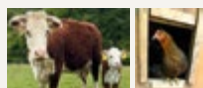
Join us for a fun evening with musical entertainment including the Cake and Wine Choir and light refreshments at State Hall, Station Road Heathfield on

Friday 26th June at 7pm.

Please do join us, especially if you are a parent or carer, and let us know if you can attend at
heathfield@schoolpastors.org.uk

Street Pastors, School Pastors and Prayer Pastors are supported by Churches Together in Heathfield & District and are part of the Ascension Trust.

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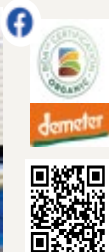
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Standard Weekend Ticket £12.00

Day Tickets £7.00



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Tel: 01892 785658

Email: info@carillon-cottage.org.uk

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

JUNE SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

Taken by the Rector unless otherwise marked.

June 2026	Burwash	Etchingham	Burwash Weald
Thurs 4	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 7	10.30 Parish Communion 6.00 Choral Evensong	9.30 Said Holy Communion BCP	8.00 Matins – Lay led
Thur 11	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 14	9.30 Morning Prayer 10.30 UB service of Holy Communion at Etchingham with Sunday School	10.30 UB service of Holy Communion with Sunday School	8.00 Matins – Lay led 10.30 UB service of Holy Communion at Etchingham with Sunday School 6.00 Praise at the Pavilion
Thur 18	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 21	9.30 Said Holy Communion BCP 6.00 Evening Prayer	10.30 Parish Communion - Rev Liz France	10.30 Parish Communion - Rev Jim Smith
Thur 25	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 28	10.30 UB Service of Family Communion with Sunday School	9.30 Said Matins 10.30 UB service of Family Communion with Sunday School at Burwash	10.30 UB service of Family Communion with Sunday School at Burwash 6.00 Evening Prayer BCP
Sun July 5	10.30 Parish Communion 6.00 Choral Evensong	9.30 Family Communion	8.00 Said Matins – Lay led 10.30 Morning Prayer – Lay led

If you wish to check service times, there is a Facebook group for St Philips Church Burwash Weald.

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: JUNE

Monday, 1st	3Cs at St. Bartholomew's, 10 a.m. - Noon. (Most Mondays, except Bank Holidays.)
Monday, 1st	Etchingham Church Baby & Toddler Group, Parker Hall, Etchingham, 11 a.m. - 12 Noon. (Every Monday.)
Tuesday, 2nd	Burwash Village Playgroup. Tuesday Mornings from 10 a.m. - Noon at Eddie Workman Pavilion. (Every Tuesday.) Contact: Emma Pantry on 07810 043022.
Tuesday, 2nd	Community Dementia Cafe at Dudwell St Mary Care Home, Burwash, 2 - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, 2nd	Music For The Memory at Etchingham Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. (Every Tuesday.)
Tuesday, 2nd	Heathfield Folk Dance Group at St. Richard's Church Hall, Park Road, Heathfield at 7.30 p.m. weekly.
Wednesday, 3rd	Walks for Strollers meeting at the The Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.
Wednesday, 3rd	St. Bart's Wednesday Club, Children & Carers in the Church, 3.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 3rd	Etchingham Tuesday Club meeting at Quiz at Etchingham Club at 8 p.m.
Thursday, 4th	Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group 10 a.m. - Noon, at Burwash Common Pavilion. (Every Thursday.)
Saturday, 6th	Tipi Yoga at 8 a.m. in Parker Hall, Etchingham. (Every Saturday.)
Saturday, 6th	Burwash Community Farmers' Market at Swan Meadow, Burwash 9 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Saturday, 6th	Morning Coffee & Cakes 10 a.m. - Noon at St. Bartholomew's Church. Book & Jigsaw Sale.
Saturday, 6th	Wadhurst Open Gardens from 2 - 6 p.m. Also on Sunday 7th. Same time.
Sunday, 7th	Wellbeing Workshop, 2.30 - 5 p.m. Etchingham Village Hall, with booking required.
Monday, 8th	Burwash & District Flower Club Demonstration by Graham King at 2.15 p.m. in Burwash Village Hall.
Tuesday, 9th	Arts Society Wealden Heathfield monthly meeting at the Community Centre Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield at 2.15 p.m. Subject: 'Travellers Amongst Mountains & Streams'. Speaker: Marie Conte-Holm.
Wednesday, 10th	Burwash Creative Writers' Group meeting at 2.30 p.m. at The Bear in Burwash.
Saturday, 13th	Farmers' & Makers' Market at King John's Nursery, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Saturday, 13th	Etchingham Summer Fete at Queen's Garden, 2 - 5 p.m., followed by live music 5 - 7 p.m.
Sunday, 14th	Commemorative Service at 10.30 p.m. - 650 years of Etchingham Church.
Sunday, 14th	Charity Prize Bingo at Burwash Village Hall from 2 p.m.
Sunday, 14th	Praise at The Pavilion at Burwash Common at 6 p.m.
Tuesday, 16th	Bereavement Friendship Group on third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at The Wheel Inn, Burwash Weald.
Wednesday, 17th	WAB Social Evening at The Wheel Inn, Burwash Weald from 7 p.m.
Thursday, 18th	Not So Young Group meeting at Burwash Village Hall at 2.15 p.m. with Barbara Varney talking about 'Riding for the Disabled'.
Saturday, 20th	Community Arts & Crafts Exhibition at St. Philip's Church, Burwash Common from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, 20th	Burwash Horticultural Soc., Rose & Sweet Pea Show, Sports Pavilion, Ham Lane, Burwash, 2.15 - 4 p.m.
Sunday, 21st	Community Arts & Crafts Exhibition Continues at St. Philip's but from 11.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Thursday, 25th	Swife Lane Book Club meeting at The Taprom, Lakedown at 12 Noon (last Thursday of month).
Thursday, 18th	Mayfield & Five Ashes U3A Meeting at Five Ashes Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Dee Larcombe. Subject: 'Living and Nursing in India'.
Friday, 26th	Street Pastors meeting at State Hall, Station Road, Heathfield at 7 p.m.
Saturday, 27th	Etchingham Soup & Collectors Market, Etchingham Village Hall, 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.
Saturday, 27th	Music for a Summer's Eve at 6.30 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's, Burwash - Tongswood Chamber Choir.
Saturday, 27th	Etchingham Festival begins, continuing until 5th July.

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:	Number of concession* tickets:
Sunday 28th June	Trinity Music Academy	Free concert with donations at the door	
Tuesday 30th June	Thomas Kelly	Number of standard tickets:	Number of concession* tickets:
Thursday 2nd July	Sacconi String Quartet	Number of standard tickets:	Number of concession* tickets:
Saturday 4th July	Dime Notes Jazz with Supper	Number of tickets:	all Jazz Supper tickets £30
Sunday 5th July	Piano and Violin Recital	Number of standard tickets:	Number of concession* tickets:

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

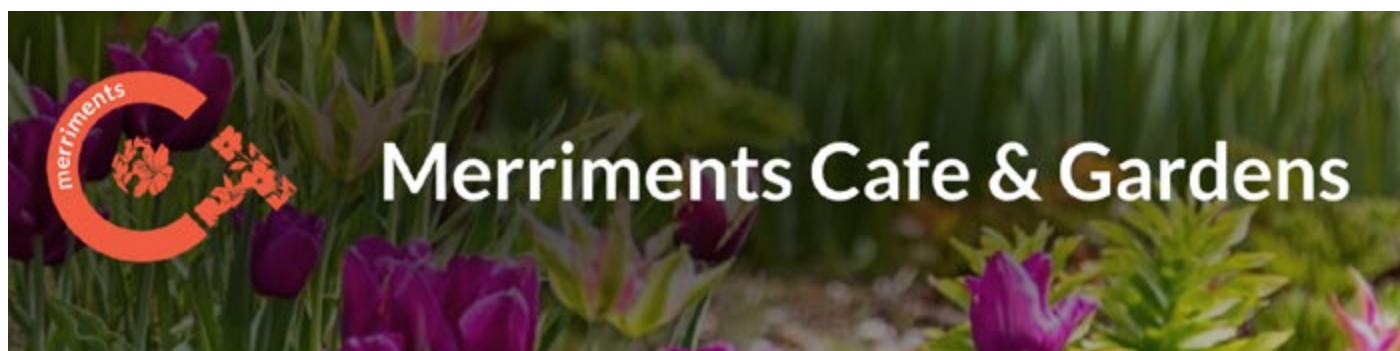
TOTAL enclosed: £..... (cheque payable to Etchingham Music Festival, post to PO Box 100, Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7US)

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.wegottickets.com. Bank transfers can be arranged.



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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.



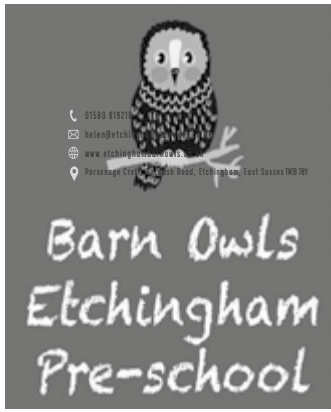
For bookings email merriments@caravantech.co.uk or give us a call on 01580 860666



Hawkhurst Road, Hurst Green, Etchingham TN19 7RA



www.caravantech.co.uk/merriments



BARN OWLS - ETCHINGHAM PRE-SCHOOL

Now we start the summer term, the children are taking advantage of the warmer weather and the garden is open and available to enjoy most of the time.

The bikes have been out and within a couple of sessions we have some children able to ride a pedal bike on their own - a wonderful life skill to have.

Planting season is upon us - the children are planting vegetables with their key person - so far the carrots are in and are already showing above the ground. The runner beans and courgettes are in and the cucumbers are sprouting quickly inside, ready for when they are big enough to go outside.

We have used 'Tina's manure' for some of the beds so we are grateful for that.

The tadpoles have got much bigger and fatter but at time of writing have not yet developed their legs ... it's a lesson in patience.

Since we have returned have been looking at mini-beasts: we have a bee hotel, which is positively swarming on a warmer day - the children are fascinated and know not to interfere and just let them be. As we have some wood piles, we have been able to find millipedes and woodlouse and the odd worm.

The story of the Hungry Caterpillar is also a chance to talk about other metamorphosis and we are enjoying activities based around this.

We had a fundraiser for a quiet area, and the Etchingham Club were kind enough to let us use their premises - there was face-painting, hook the duck and other activities to enjoy. Many thanks go to our fund raising team!

The children have all been allocated their primary school places so now we start to prepare them for the transition - it won't be long until they are visiting their respective schools and the teachers visit us.

Finally we welcome Pippa, Renn and William G to the setting.

To contact Barn Owls, please email:

**helen@etchinghambarnowls.co.uk
or ring Helen on: 01580 819218 Ext. 5.**

NICKY MENZIES

ETCHINGHAM TUESDAY CLUB

On the 30th April eight of us went to the Bistro at the Station, having previously ordered our menu choice of either pizza or lasagne. Both meals were delicious! We also had desserts – mainly chosen from their lovely range of ice creams. During our time there we started to decide on different venues to which we might go for the rest of this year.

This month we are going to a quiz, being held at the Etchingham Club on the 3rd June at 8 p.m. We have met there many times over the years. It would be lovely if others would like to join the Tuesday Club for that evening. Naturally the quiz is on a Wednesday, because that is one of the nights when the Club is open. We are looking forward to this!

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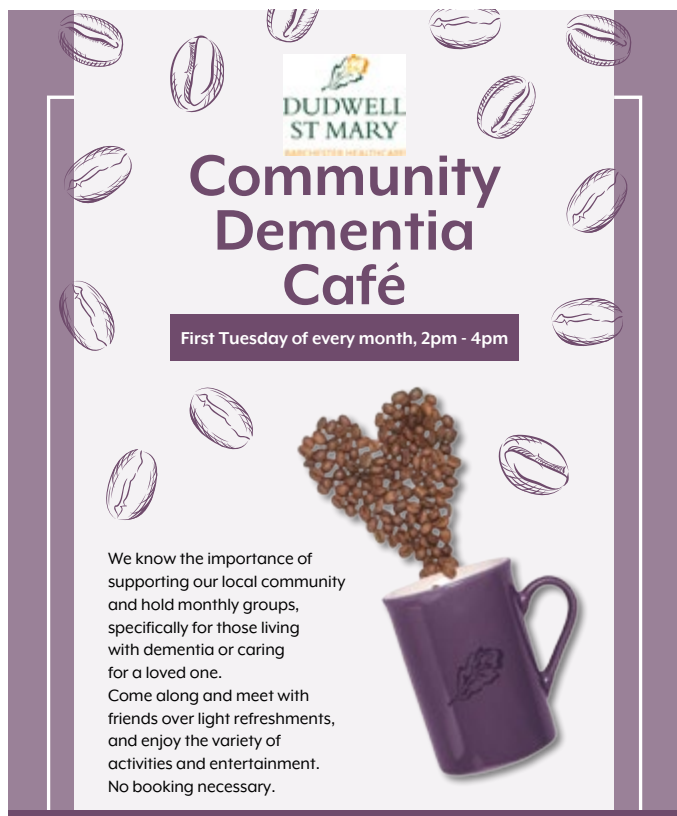
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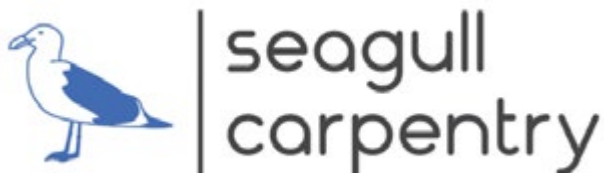
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BURWASH SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Burwash Short Mat Bowls Club is now taking its summer break to enable the members to take to the greens for outdoor play.

The Short Mat Bowls Club has just celebrated its 35th birthday. We celebrated with our annual Memorial Tournament to which we invite ex-members as well. This year four came. The players enjoyed a round robin of games and a delicious hot lunch. We were also joined by Clare from Waterhouse Funeral directors, who had kindly sponsored us for two brand new score boards, for which we are extremely grateful. We are also very grateful to the Burwash Parish Council who have given us a grant towards buying two new mats as our old ones are over twenty-five years old and beginning to fall apart.

Our cup matches this year have all been played in good spirit with some exciting finishes. The President's Cup, ladies singles, donated by our first president Douglas Moat was won by Brenda Hyde who beat Jenny Smith. The Mary Groombridge Trophy, given by yours truly as the first secretary, Men's singles, was won by Rob Swaine who beat Wayne Reed. The Pegeric Cup, Triples, given by Eric Godley our first Chairman and Captain, was won by Mike Ashdown, Callum Swaine and Del Smith who beat Beverley Green, Tom Travers and Wayne Reed. The Memorial Cup, which was from legacies from Ron Surplice and John Pope was won by Martyn Casey who narrowly beat Callum Swaine by just one point. The Mixed Pairs Shield, bought by the club, was won by John Larkin and Martyn Casey who beat joint runners up Mary Taylor and Del Smith and Alison Casey and Rob Swaine. Finally, The Gavin Wood Salver, which was from the first youngest member of the club, just 13 when he started back in 1991. This is played for over the whole season and was won this year by Rob Swaine, who beat his 11 year old daughter into second place. The club are still busy behind the scenes getting thoughts and things ready for the Annual Summer Fair.

Next month I will tell you how the club first began, as several people have asked me recently.

CHARITY PRIZE BINGO

There will be another of our very popular prize bingo afternoons this month on Sunday, 14th June, at the Burwash Village Hall. The doors will open at 2 p.m. for eyes down at 2.30 p.m. Entry is free. Main books are £1 with 12 games and twenty-four chances to win a prize. There will also be two flyers and a large raffle. Refreshments at half time will include freshly baked home made cakes.

We usually have some great prizes to win and as always would be very grateful for any donations of prizes and items for the hampers. The money we raise will be given to The Get Together Lunch for the senior members of our three lovely villages.

Please contact Mary on 01435 882107 or just call in at Violet Cottage. I will be pleased to see you.

DONATIONS

Some of you will know that Barry and I have just celebrated our Silver Wedding Anniversary. It was predicted that our marriage would probably only last six months! I think we proved them wrong. To celebrate I did a Sunday lunch at Burwash Village Hall for about 60 friends and family. It was a lovely event, seeing people who we hadn't seen for a while.

We asked our guests not to give us presents but, if they wished to, they could donate to our charity, which of course is the Get Together Lunch. We left the donation pot on the table and were delighted to say there was £405 in it. Thank you to all those who donated.

I would just like to say a big thank you to my lovely volunteers who were amazing both in the kitchen and in setting up the hall. Lorraine Tasker, Lorraine's friend Vicky, Michelle Gaines, Wendy Woolgar, Charlie Bloom, John Ryan and youngsters Theo Gaines, Callum Swaine, Louis Cialfi and Jasmin Bloom. You made the day such a success. Thank you all!

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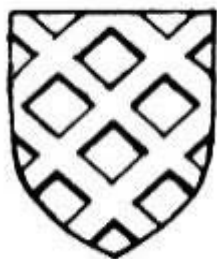
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ETCHINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH PEARLS



There is not a report from Etchingham Parish Council this month as they have been beavering away and the Pearl of the Office is handing over to the new Clerk, Richard Beeson.

Watch this space next month! Meanwhile, please note the new Etchingham Parish Council Contacts on page 21.

THE EDITOR

HEATHFIELD FOLK DANCE CLUB

We are a sociable folk dance club offering a friendly welcome and relaxed atmosphere. Our dancing is intended to be light-hearted and fun. We are an affiliated member of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. Anyone interested in seeing what the Club has to offer is welcome to come along on a Tuesday evening. Come on your own or bring a partner or friend, or both. We have about thirty members of all genders.

We have a varied programme that embraces traditional and modern country dances, predominantly in the English and American styles with occasional excursions into dances of other nationalities. All dances are walked through and called. We cater for dancers of all abilities from new to experienced. Several Club members are experienced callers and we regularly invite visiting callers.

We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 10 p.m. in St. Richard's Church Hall, Park Road, Heathfield, TN21 8DS. The hall is adjacent to the church. The first night is free and, after that, it costs £3 a night including refreshments.

What could you lose? Come along and get exercise in an enjoyable way. All Club members will help you, if you need it, and you will quickly pick it up.

For further details, contact Marjorie on 01323 370341.

ETCHINGHAM TRUST FOR SPORTS AND RECREATION

This June Magazine issue has the theme of 'dance', which got me thinking of the many and varied 'dance' events that our Community Halls have seen since they opened some 11 years ago.

For starters, Parker Hall. How many of you realise that this has a properly sprung floor? OK, not quite up to Blackpool Tower Ballroom standard. 'Strictly' fans will know what I'm on about, if no one else does, but it is a real rarity in a village hall and a real boon to dance, of whatever genre. Then the Ahrens Hall with its bleacher seating makes it ideal for performance, enabling the audience to see everything that would be impossible using rows of seating on the same level. It also boasts professional lighting and sound facilities.

Just some of the local dance studios which have taken advantage over the years for their special events include the Jane Coleman School of Dancing from Cranbrook, the Sjaan Dance Academy from Hailsham and most recently, Cygnets To Swans from Wadhurst.

We also have some regular classes on offer that are proving very popular. There is a weekly evening class for Jazz Salsa (see poster on page 8 *Ed.*). On warm evenings when the doors are open I imagine feet tapping way beyond Parker Hall itself.

In addition we're delighted to welcome StageBuds - "Where young stars bloom" - twice a week.



Led by a professional West End performer, the classes are designed to help children develop stage confidence, creativity, imagination and performance skills, all while having lots of fun and making new friends! Each 45-minute class combines: Singing, Dancing and Acting, perfect for children who love to perform, as well as those who may need a little encouragement to build confidence and express themselves.

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For more information or to book a trial class, contact:

Camilla – Stagebuds@outlook.com

PAULETTE BARTON

Stage Buds (left) dancing but they made it to the front cover in colour!

ETSR Contact:

Email: admin@etchinghamtrust.org.uk

RUFUS' RURAL RAMBLES

I have enjoyed a great many walks as David and Matthew often take me out with them. I have been over the fields and several times I have been allowed 'off my lead'. We went into Gigmore Wood and then Socknersh Manor where they buy eggs, which the family enjoy.

Sometimes we finish at Borders Farm and there are some cows about as well. Mum and Dad also take me on lovely walks; sometimes to Burgh Hill and the other side of the road where I spot lots of sheep. Thankfully they are still safe because in the winter when it was flooded, it nearly drowned them.

Recently we walked over the fields all the way to Forge House, where we often see other doggies going on their walks. Then we walk up the drive towards the main road. The fields on this journey have all been mown and look amazing! We then walk down to the Queen's Gardens where we have met several people: one day there was a family from Holland whom Mum spoke to. By the Church pond there are several birds' nests, but we are not sure whether they are crows, rooks or jackdaws' nests. Near there, for some time, there has been left a bicycle leaning on one of the benches before the kissing gate. The Church pond has still had nothing done to look after it by Gray Nicholls and no work has been done on the ditch there either.

Indoors I love sliding along on the carpet and also out on the lawn, when Dad has mown it: the family laugh at me. I still love being on sentry duty sitting on the top of the settee! We still have not heard a cuckoo this year but I'll keep listening!

A few weeks ago I was taken off to Hurst Green to have my coat trimmed and when I came home I was wearing a bow tie!

The other day while looking out of the sitting room window I spotted five little birds on the telephone wire, according to Mum they were either swallows, swifts or house martins. Apparently she never saw any last year, so let's hope we have a lovely summer to look forward to!

RUFUS

ETCHINGHAM RAILWAYMAN HONOURED WITH A BLUE PLAQUE

Joseph Weston – Etchingham Plate-layer

On Saturday, 18th April, family members, local Councillors and railway representatives gathered in the Bistro garden at Etchingham Railway Station for the unveiling of a Blue Plaque in honour of a former railway worker, Joseph Weston.

The plaque is one of 200 organised by The Southeastern Communities Rail Partnership to mark two centuries of railway history in the South East. The blue plaques highlight people, places and even animals with a connection to the development of the railways. 100 plaques show past links to train lines and a further 100 illustrate modern jobs of railway staff.

Joseph Weston joined the railway company in the early 1900's, as a plate-layer at Etchingham and was the Ganger. Joseph's gang included some family members, Ernest Wells, his son-in-law, and two nephews, his sister's sons. Joseph was in charge of the track from Etchingham Station to Ticehurst Road Station, which we now know as Stonegate Station.

In October 1909, one of Joseph's jobs would have been to help with getting the line operational again following the derailment of a goods train, caused by heavy flooding in the area. The train derailed near Forge House, spilling a variety of goods from the wagons.

Linda Neve receiving her replica plaque



Later, Joseph's only son, Albert, also joined the railway and was eventually an inspector at Hastings.

The story continued in 1970 when Nigel, the husband of Joseph's Granddaughter, Linda Neve, joined British Rail on track maintenance between Robertsbridge and Wadhurst tunnel, later becoming a patrolman inspecting the track between Robertsbridge and Etchingham, before retiring in 2007.

Linda and Nigel still live in the same house that Joseph occupied.

Following the unveiling of the plaque, Linda was presented with her own plaque as a family keepsake. All the guests enjoyed a lovely Buffet Lunch prepared by the Bistro.

This came about because David and Linda Neve met Andy Pope in January 2025 and he asked them whether they knew anyone in Etchingham who used to work on the Southern Railways and Linda told him that she could most certainly name someone!

A selection of photos of the event can be viewed online <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ttelyob/albums/72177720333179949/>

COLIN BOYLETT & LINDA NEVE

ETCHINGHAM NATURE NOTES

We are no longer seeing the three Roe Deer that we regarded as residents in our wood, but had one that was even more residential in our garden, for some two weeks in late April. We understand that Roe Deer don't like to be in herds, but keep together as families, until the female is due for another birth. Then the male goes off until the baby is a lot more mature, and they abandon the young from the previous year. Thus, we think the three that we had quite regularly were father, mother and son, and the one we had semi-permanently was the father, as he was full-grown, with quite large antlers. He ate lots of the plants in our garden, and obviously enjoyed them. At the time of writing (mid-May) we have not seen him, or any other deer now, for some ten days.

At the beginning of April we noticed that the moss, and some of the bark, had been stripped off the bottom of a tree in the woods. I looked it up, in a book about animal tracks and signs, and found a description of what is referred to as "**Barking**". It refers to the eating of bark, by deer, notably in early Spring. When the sap is rising in trees, i.e. when they are growing, the bark is loose. The animal, most usually Fallow Deer (though Roe also do it) presses its incisors into the bark at the bottom of the trunk, grasps the freed edge firmly with its teeth and pulls, tearing the bark off in long strips and exposing the wood. It normally only occurs on one side of a tree, so - thankfully - it doesn't kill the tree, but might retard its growth.

At the bottom of our wood we have a Little Owl box, attached to a tree. For some two to three weeks in April every time we passed it (walking the dog every morning) a pigeon flew out of the box, so it was presumably sitting on a nest inside. The box has been there for many years but, as far as we know, it has never been used by an owl. We have, however, had a number of other birds in it, including a Mandarin Duck one year.

On the 1st May my wife (Barbarann) heard her first nightingale, at 4 a.m., from our bedroom window. Unfortunately (or perhaps indeed fortunately, given the time!), I did not hear it. She has not heard it again, and we have not heard any others. Last year we heard about 6 in the woods, as we walked the dog down the road last thing at night and from the bedroom window at night.

It is really sad that we have not heard any this year, apart from the one, and then only once.

Another "first" - also on the bedroom window - was a May Bug on the 5th May, and it has been banging on the window for several nights. This is a common cockchafer, a large (up to 3.5cm) native UK beetle, recognizable by its rusty-brown wing cases, fan-like antennae, and noisy, clumsy flight. Appearing from April to July, they are harmless to humans but attracted to lights, often landing around windows. They spend the first 3-5 years of their lives as larvae underground, eating plant roots, then they emerge as adult beetles, eating plants and searching for a mate. Females lay their eggs in the soil and then after six weeks they die.

I have had several interesting sightings reported to me recently, as listed below:

Date	Sighting/hearing	Reported by
16th April	First swallow of the year (Various) Raven, Lesser-spotted woodpecker Long-tailed tits at bedroom window, Red Kites. (Uncertain) Large hare, fox-coloured.	John Barnes Neville Dunmore
19th April	White deer (in herd of about 10)	Naomi Mansfield

The bluebells are now well and truly over, very early, but they were lovely, as always, and we have a small number of white ones among them. Some years ago we found a couple of wreaths, on a wood pile, at the end of our woods, and the bluebells had been rather trampled down. As we looked more closely at what had happened, we discovered that some ashes had been scattered. For several years then we found a bouquet of the same flowers as the wreaths, in the same spot each year, at the height of the bluebell season. This had not happened for two or three years, but this year there was another bouquet there. We would be most interested to know whose the ashes were, and then perhaps we could make the spot a bit special.

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

FRANK H. SMITH

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, Etchingham

Telephone: 01580 819532 or 07483 211838

E-mail: colin.boylett@goolemail.com

The Burwash & Burwash Common correspondent is Mr Tom Travers.

Tom can be contacted at:

Thomastravers@btinternet.com

or on 07529829825 or (01435) 882828

COLIN BOYLETT



14th June 1030

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

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Wild about Burwash

As we write our newsletter, searching for some dance inspiration, the weather has whipped up an unexpected storm of high winds turning trees and late spring flowers into whirling dervishes. The nest-building and egg-hatching is a sign that the varied dance efforts of our bird population - from the stately, somewhat comical fandango of the cock-pheasant to the head shaking and wing-flapping duet by the storks who have moved in from Wadhurst Park - have worked their magic. It's a lovely time of the year to enjoy nature whether from your garden or on a walk.

For those who have left their lawns to No Mow May the low-growing wild flowers and grasses provide not just colour and vital food for pollinators but the gentle swaying of plant-life and movement of insects. Many of us are continuing this for the rest of the summer by just cutting paths through parts of the lawn in order to extend the wild flower season as well as the insect habitat - you'll be amazed what flowers from the seed bank in the soil below might pop up.

You might like to listen to Radio 4 BBC Sounds from 30th April about roadside verges around Wadhurst. Wild flower verges are a really important resource which, if added up nationally, represent an area the size of Dorset. Also, just a reminder that to protect nesting birds, hedges, including those in our gardens, cannot legally be cut from 1st March to 31st August.

Over the past weeks we have helped St. Philip's with their churchyard spring clear up. This is something that we have been involved with for several years now and the results are beginning to show.

A Demoiselle below



Around 20 members were treated to a Spring walk around Bateman's estate under the expert guidance of their Ranger Kev.



Our Whatsapp group has reported Coralroot, Painted Ladies, Carder Bees, Dark Sailor Beetles, Inchworms, Beautiful Demoiselles (see below) and Swifts and also puzzled over how a 7 inch carp appeared in woodlands (dropped by a bird of prey perhaps?). If you would like to join in the exchanges just ask to sign up. Volunteers continue to monitor the River Dudwell for river and bankside health and the project is being extended to parts of the Rother with the help of members of Wild About Etchingham and Hurst Green. We have just completed a study of the invertebrates in the Dudwell. The results are being professionally analysed down to species level, but the team who did the kick sampling found a really good number and variety of invertebrates. If you would like to know more about the project or help out, please let us know.

We had a busy May so had to postpone our informal Social Evening to Wednesday, 17th June. We warmly welcome everyone - member or not - to come along to the recently re-opened Wheel Inn, Burwash Weald from 7 p.m.

If you'd like details about forthcoming events, or if you'd like to join our mailing list / Whatsapp, please contact us on wildaboutburwash@gmail.com

JULIAN KENNY / ANNE NEWSON

FLORIBUNDA - KEEP DANCING!

Once upon a time, “Strictly” was created, after an Australian film called ‘Strictly Ballroom’ revived interest in what had fallen out of fashion. In the film, dancers and their coaches wear outrageous wigs and are as camp as a row of tents. A few years passed and the BBC launched ‘Strictly Come Dancing’, compered by Bruce Forsyth. He could sing, he could dance, he kept control - he was a game show wizard. He also had a relative, William Forsyth (1737 – 25th July 1804) who was a Scottish botanist. He was a royal head gardener and a founding member of the Royal Horticultural Society. A genus of flowering plants, Forsythia, is named in his honour. His great-grandson was the gardener and landscape architect Joseph Forsyth Johnson (1840–1906). Johnson was in turn the great-grandfather of the entertainer Bruce Forsyth (1928–2017).

The plant sharing Bruce’s surname is the lovely acid yellow flowered Forsythia. This flowers early in the year when other trees and climbers are bare, so it is what is known as a good doer (see picture in next column).

So how does this background relate to the wonderful world of my garden? Admittedly a scene of much dance and drama, my garden can be highly theatrical and a tad camp. I am fortunate in living in the Weald, which has a number of gardens created by gay gardeners. There are the gardens at Pashley Manor which Anthony du Gard Pashley designed to be full of tulips at this time of year. There is Sissinghurst, Vita Sackville West and Harold Nicolson’s house near Cranbrook. Another notable garden is Christopher Lloyd’s ‘Great Dixter’ near Northiam, now a Trust headed by Fergus Garrett.

Vita Sackville West was made a Companion of Honour for her services to literature in 1947. She wrote a weekly column in The Observer called, “In Your Garden”. She had to move from Knole, the family home in Sevenoaks, due to the ancient law of primogeniture which stopped women from inheriting property. Vita and her husband, Harold Nicolson, moved to Sissinghurst and created an English garden in which you can dance to your heart’s content - as long as your visit is out of season. I believe it is the National Trust’s most visited garden.

Forsythia in bloom (next column)
Bruce Forsyth on Strictly

Fortunately, my garden is not visited quite so often by grown-ups, but it is a place of interest for blue tits, sparrows, robins, starlings and the occasional rat. We also like children to look in, and our open drive is as welcoming as it can be. I bought a book called “My Garden is a Car park” and, armed with this helpful guide, set out to make it greener. A local firm, called Frogheath just beyond Burwash got a digger and created new paths between beds, and improved the soil so that I had the kind of flower beds I had seen at Beth Chatto’s garden in Essex, where she also has garden beds attached to her car park. Beth has moved up to heaven, but her garden books can still be read.

She specialised in growing plants for difficult places – from stony to claggy to sandy.

Beth Chatto has helped me keep going despite having very heavy clay soil. Over the years I have thrown on and dug in wheelbarrows full of gravel, horse manure and compost from our three bins. These were created by my long suffering husband, and so far I haven’t been tempted to throw him in. It does take two to tango I have discovered. I owe so much to ‘Strictly’ it seems. Thank you Bruce.

FLORIBUNDA



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Sunday 21st June 2026 11:30 am – 4 pm



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BURWASH & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

SAVE THE DATE

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

The Jolly Boys will be invited for this event.

MEANWHILE

Please do come to the next demonstration on Monday, 8th June, (see the next column).

JAN MACFARLAND

Burwash & District Flower Club



A demonstration by Graham King
NAFAS demonstrator

Monday 8th June at 2.15pm
Burwash Village Hall, TN19 7HA

Entry is free for members; £7.50 for non-members - includes refreshments



For further details, please contact:

Peta Highton (Chairman) – 01435 882 626
Jan Macfarland (Secretary) – 07792 929 523

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DANCING FOR JOY

Well, I'm dancing for joy because the thick morning mist has lifted, my bedroom window is open and not a sound other than melodic bird song can be heard. The sky is pure blue as I look out over the High Weald and the smell of blossom and freshly mown grass wafts through the open window. I wasn't planning to move again, but I had to. However, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise as I have escaped the traffic of the A265 and have a whole new set of marvellous walks to explore with the Sussex Border Path passing my front door.

AI informs me that *"Dancing for joy is an expressive, often spontaneous movement to music that boosts mental and physical well-being by reducing stress, increasing serotonin, and improving brain health. It represents a celebration of life, personal, or communal expression, and can be practised to foster creativity and inner peace."*

Well, there you go. As a child I longed to be a ballerina and I danced every night around the kitchen floor. My grandmother crushed my ambition by telling me I would be too tall (probably because she was worried this would cost my widowed mother too much in dance class fees). Now, I still dance with joy but I have injured feet from all that dancing on points on a tiled floor. Dancing makes my spirits lift, but what about dancing in nature?

Even in the UK nature appears to 'dance': boxing March hares, sparring cock pheasants rising up off the ground. Then, as it warms up our native male newts grow crests and curl up their tails when they find a prospective mate, whipping the unravelled tail in her direction. This movement is actually used to waft pheromones towards the female behind him. Our pond in Burwash was always full of newts in the Spring and I would hang over the raised edges to watch the newt antics on the pond floor. It clearly worked wonders as newts abounded every year.

Between Etchingham and Stonegate besides the railway line there are a few nice open ponds, well away from us lot, and I have seen shelducks bobbing and calling there, as they 'dance' to try to mate. It is a spectacular display by these large, flashy ducks. These birds were in the Rother Valley, while hidden away in an inaccessible part of the Dudwell Valley I was fortunate enough to see a pair of cranes doing their exotic wing flapping and leaping up into the air on the edge of a lake. This was a once in a lifetime treat!

Now I can see dancing dunnocks (hedge sparrows) in the hedge opposite the open window. The females dance around trying to attract more than one mate. For a brown sombre coloured bird, they put on quite a display in Spring and early Summer.

Again in the Dudwell Valley a few years ago we had numerous adders coming up from under the ancient stone patio, through the gaps, in June, males and females but I never got to see adders dancing, when two males wrap around each other and reach for the sky (see page 6). This is actually not dancing, but fighting, for the right to breed with an available female. We had babies all that Summer but we never got to see a 'dancing' fight! There are some magnificent short videos of this on-line (probably a safer option).

Last but certainly not least, we have the starling dances, the magnificent murmurations one can see at sundown around both Brighton and Eastbourne Piers: a wonder of nature and of precision flying. Murmurations always form over the birds' communal roosting site (see page 5). As the number of starlings reaches its peak and the last of the daylight begins to fade, an unspoken signal seems to tell the group to funnel towards the ground with one last sweeping motion and calming whoosh of wings as they finally settle under the pier. I once saw a dancing murmuration on a smaller scale at the bottom of Ham Lane in Burwash, as Burwash actually has an increasing starling population, when most areas are seeing a decline in numbers.

I nearly forgot the beauty of swooping swallows, aerial acrobatics with dancing precision, part of warm Summer evenings in the U. From the window I can see five swallows swirling over the sheep field next to the stables, where I assume they are nesting. Tiny bats will dive bomb us when we walk down the lane before bedtime - Swan lake, the Firebird: we can only mimic the artistry of Nature.

On the subject of dance, I am being led a very merry dance by my dogs because I have cooked some sausages in the oven, so I had better bring this to an abrupt close and go and deal with their requirements before the clever one opens the oven door (new house, different design but he worked it out in two days).

CAROLINE HUBAND



JOINING THE HEATHFIELD FOLK DANCE CLUB

Back in the last century, this then, almost complete stranger Mrs Peta Highton knocked on my door and asked if I would like to join a folk-dance group.

Well, I thought about it for a nano second and thought, why not. So, on the next Tuesday she picked me up and off we went. It was quite a small group, so despite having no idea of the terminology or who any of these people were, there was no sitting and watching.

The minimum number of people needed for a dance was 6 (3 couples) 8 (4 couples) longways, whatever that was, or a square. ALL THIS WAS VERY CONFUSING, BUT as I said, there weren't many members.

Well, that first night I wasn't that keen, I didn't like the caller (he was very bombastic), the music was dreary and I definitely was not going again. Then I had second thoughts, thinking I was being a bit hasty and what else was I going to do on a Tuesday evening anyway. So Peta picked me up the following week and well all I can say was at the end of the evening I had had a great time, everything was so different from the first week, the caller was lovely and very understanding that I knew nothing and the music was so catchy and foot tapping that 26/27 years on – where do I spend my Tuesday evenings FOLK DANCING OF COURSE!!

JEAN CRAWLEY

HEATHFIELD FOLK DANCE CLUB We've Been Together Now for Forty-Nine Years (taken from Sussex Pie)

Heathfield Folk Dance Group are celebrating forty years. Christopher and Phyllis Gifford formed the group, initially at Heathfield Further Education Centre on 19th September 1977. With Chris playing and Phyllis teaching, musicians and dancers were attracted to both dance and play folk music.

This continued until July 1978 when, due to falling attendances, the classes closed. After the classes closed, April Cottage, Chris and Phyllis's home, was used to practise dance and music. As the group attracted new members, they moved to Waldron Church Hall in Heathfield in January 1979. The Club was officially formed on 30th January 1979.

During this time, we had a very successful sixteen couple display team, who amongst other things, danced at the first Chiddingfold Festival. A very successful Eighteenth Century Ball was held at the Boship Farm Hotel in November 1979.

Phyllis and Chris moved away, and the Club carried on under the leadership of Janet Nuttall and the band, (we were lucky to have live music every week at that time) being led by Gill Howell.

On the Tenth Anniversary of the group in 1987 Chris and Phyllis were invited to a party as guests of honour. A plaque was presented to Phyllis on this occasion.

The display team continued, and the Group took part in many community events. We always took part in the annual pancake race and had a float in many Heathfield Carnival processions. They always had a quirky touch and the 'Mary Mary quite contrary' theme had the pansies mincing along with handbags. Mrs Beeton's Cookbook had a real wood burning stove complete with chimney. We were threatened with banning by the organizers for too much water being squirted at all and sundry. We usually arranged transport for the Eastbourne International Folk Festival.

Over the years we have seen many celebrities teaching and calling and we thank them all for their time, good humour and dedication. Folk customs such as Jumping over the Fire, Maypole, Morris and Sword dancing have been tried, some on a regular basis. We were inducted into the mysteries of circle dancing on one memorable evening. On one evening a year, for some years, we opened our doors to disabled people and they gave us as much pleasure as I hope we gave them.

We would like to thank all who have participated in the 40 years of making the Heathfield Folk Dance Club a great success. A warm welcome awaits you should you have a free Tuesday evening. Here's to the fiftieth anniversary, (which they will reach next year with ease)!

from SUSSEX PIE

BURWASH PARISH MATTERS

Following the Annual Parish Meeting On Tuesday, 12th May

Vote for the Chair

The Annual Parish meeting is the first official meeting of the Council's calendar year and the first business on the agenda is always the election of the Chair of Council for the next year. Councillor Keith Lloyd was voted into the Chair again this year by a unanimous vote. Cllr. Lloyd thanked everyone for their support and accepted the position immediately.

County Councillor Elections

Burwash Parish Council now has a new County Councillor, Mr Mark Ashdown. The outgoing Councillor, Eleanor Kirby-Green was thanked at the Annual Parish Meeting by the Chair for her work and commitment to the Parish of Burwash. Eleanor remains the District Councillor for Burwash Parish.

Parish Assembly

All residents of Burwash were warmly invited to attend the annual Parish Assembly, which took place on Thursday, 21st May at 7 p.m. in Burwash Village Hall. We were delighted to welcome Dr Kieran Mullan MP as our keynote speaker.

Organisations and clubs operating in Burwash and those that have had a parish council grant within the last year were invited to update everyone on how the funding had impacted their organisation. This event was put on for you as residents. There were refreshments and a light buffet available. For more information, please contact Emma, the Clerk.

High Street Pavers

We are fortunate to have heritage pavers on the High Street which lend themselves to the overall look and feel of the village. We are less lucky that they move and shift at a rate that means maintenance is an ongoing job. It is the responsibility of the ESCC Highways team to assess their condition against a set of criteria laid out and agreed by ESCC members. The Clerk and Cllr. Chapman attended a site visit with the Highways Steward in April, and work has started to replace or reset those pavers that meet the repair criteria. The Parish Council is aware that this is an important part of the village and affects all users and they are keeping a close eye on the progress of the repairs.

At this week's meeting, Council have requested the Clerk contact the ESCC Safety Team to request that a formal risk assessment is carried out on the High Street pavers.

Council Priorities

The Parish Council have voted again to conduct the following meetings:

Committees are: Finance & Administration, Human Resources and Planning.

Working Groups are: Environment & Maintenance, Neighbourhood Plan Revision, Traffic & Transport & Parish Priorities.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact Emma, the Clerk.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council is on
Tuesday, 9th June at 7 p.m. at Burwash Parish
Rooms.**

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



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 May 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.
- Cricket Matches &
- The Happy Circus!

100 PLUS CLUB MAY DRAW

The draw took place on the 12th May at the Rose and Crown, picked by Lily Seymour once more. There were 238 balls in the draw.

Congratulations to the Winners!

1st	Ball Number	83	Brenda Woolley	£50
2nd	Ball Number	40	Wendy Woolgar	£30
3rd	Ball Number	14	Simon Fellows	£20

STEVE BENNETT
01435 882526 or 07917 164578

THE NEXT BURWASH COMMUNITY MARKET IS ON SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE 2026



The May Community Farmers' Market was during the Bank Holiday weekend, and many people were away or spending time with family elsewhere.

All the stallholders were outside on the field and the weather was amazing. The regular faithful turned up and sat chatting in the sunshine, which was lovely to see.

Do please come and support the next Community Market on Saturday, 6th June.

THE EDITOR



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"The month of June is the gateway to summer."
Jean Hersey

Throughout the Autumn/Winter, a stalwart group of members have been braving the elements diligently maintaining the green in readiness for the grand opening of the season which, as mentioned in last month's article, started in mid- April. However, before any bowls could be rolled, it was all hands on deck to get the green and club house ready for action.

The club is run entirely by volunteers, thus keeping costs to a minimum. It is a great way to share co-operation and responsibility and, judging by the number of members that turned up on a blustery showery Sunday to get the club ready for the season, it drove home how much people had missed being there for companionship and friendly competition.

I have included a photo or two of willing helpers all getting stuck in.



Saturday, 18th April was the grand opening competition for all members to take part in, (affectionately known as the Drive). There was a very good turnout. It was commented on that the weather was the best it had been for the start of the season since anyone could remember. So good in fact that some members were wearing shorts and T-shirts instead of warm weather proof attire! Having reacquainted ourselves with the bowling green and each other, we can sign up to the fixtures with opposing villages, and also get involved in the club competitions. On that note, please see how we have been doing so far:

Horam League Report

Wadhurst got their 2026 league season under way with an emphatic 105 shots to 45 shots win over Rotherfield. The match was played in glorious sunshine and everyone said how good it was to be bowling outdoors again.

However, our undefeated run in the league, which went back to July 2024 and consisted of 26 wins and 1 draw, came to an abrupt halt in our next game against old rivals Cross in Hand. The visitors running out winners by 72 shots to 59.

We have four league games in May to hopefully get back to winning ways, but our recent defeat shows we can take nothing for granted!!

Here are the home games for June:

Tuesday 2nd	Frant	2 p.m.
Sunday 14th	Ringmer	* 2 p.m.
Tuesday 16th	Pembury	2 p.m.

*Horam League



Lastly, you may recall in April's magazine that I mentioned that Wadhurst had another indoor game against The Royals in Tunbridge Wells. Well, the result of that was as follows: Six teams of players took part in a game of triples, (3 players per team), with Wadhurst winning four of the matches and achieving an overall accumulative score to beat the Royals by seven points. So, both sides won a match (The Royals won the previous game in February), which fits in very nicely with calling these types of games friendlies.

If anyone wants to come along to watch the matches and enjoy a cup of tea or something stronger, then please pop along, no need to call, just turn up.

JANE GILBERT

WALKS FOR STROLLERS

Our walk for May started from Burwash Common Pavilion on a nice sunny day.

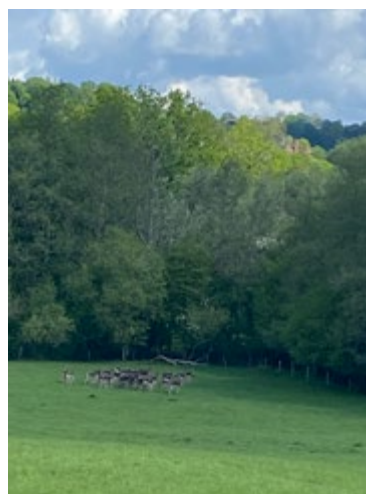
Eight Strollers (see photograph on page 6) crossed the main road and went up the footpath to Vicarage Lane. At the end of the lane we took the bridleway down through the woods, where the bluebells were finishing but there was still plenty of wild garlic.

Crossing the river Dudwell we headed up the bridleway through Green Wood. Turning left on the footpath we walked through Dallington Forest, where we spotted an unusual plant, *Purple Tooth Wort*, as shown below.



We stopped briefly on the bridge at Glaziers Forge to take photos of Willingford Stream.

Leaving Glaziers Forge on the footpath we came across a herd of deer grazing in the field, followed a little later by a large herd of cows with their calves.



We continued on the footpath back to Burwash Common.



A lovely undulating 5 mile walk.

Our next walk is on Wednesday, 3rd June meeting at the Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.

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

PETER AND KAREN FARLEY
01435 883141

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BURWASH OVER 50'S WALKING FOOTBALLERS

Walking Footballers visit World-renown body-builder, Rod Yates.

In a tiny backwater of East Sussex a famous body-builder has just decided to semi-retire and eight of the Walking Footballers decided to stroll over and have a chat with him as he worked-out in his Vines Cross 'den'. Now most of you will be expecting a weight-lifting, muscle-bound He-Man of mammoth proportions but Rod isn't that sort of body builder. Instead, we met a very humble self-deprecating Septuagenarian who has a passion - for building motorcar bodies.

Rod established a business as a coach-builder from a young age starting an apprenticeship as an auto-electrician. He was always 'fixing' cars and did a two year bodywork course at Brooklands College and bought his first Bentley aged 19. He saw a gap in the market and decided to specialise in making bodies for Austin 7's and in particular the 'Ulster' bodied Sevens.

The 'Ulsters' were primarily a sporting version of the Austin 7 with an option of a supercharger giving the streamlined lightweight aluminium bodied roadster a fair old turn of speed.

The Ulster body was much sought after by renovators and for those building replicas so Rod carved himself out a career reproducing brand new complete bodies in his tiny workshop. Over the years he has produced over 330 complete body shells along with specials and commissions - more than twice the original Ulsters the Austin factory ever produced! All the cutting, bending, shaping, crimping, welding and riveting is carried out by hand, including cutting bonnet louvres on a manual fly-press - He's a man who clearly loves his work. Failing eyesight forced him to retire very recently as he could no longer manage to gas weld the aluminium panels together. He sold all the jigs and specialist formers for a small amount which included back-orders for four vehicles.

Rod (far right) with the Walking Footballers



A Rod Yates bodied Austin 7 Ulster



Also available in blue....



Although Rod may have given up the business-side at 78, he hasn't stopped working and is now setting about re-building his own Rolls Royce - changing the body from a four seater saloon to a two seater Doctor's coupé with a rear 2-person dickey seat - all on the original chassis and with the original engine. We saw the car with the body-work that has a mirror-finish gleam and deep, deep maroon lustre paint finish. Quite breathtaking....

A very interesting guy and one of a dying breed I suspect. All produced from a tiny workshop in Vines Cross. How much does a complete Rod Yates replacement non-rust aluminium body for an Austin Seven cost? I thought you may ask that: £3900.....

Afterwards we had lunch in the Brewers Arms opposite Rod's workshop and contemplated our own, less than fulfilling, careers!

Next Up – Southern Combination Sussex League Cup semi-final vs Hurstpierpoint....



Burwash in light blue above (left of photo). At least we had matching socks. To keep it brief, we lost.... But that wasn't the whole story.

On a sunny, but cold and windy evening, Burwash bossed the early exchanges and had several chances but were unable to get shots on target. The ref helped us out with a penalty but we squirmed that wide of the post. 0-0 at half time and Hurstpierpoint will have thought they got away lightly.

In the second half we couldn't get to grips with a resurgent HPP. They were in the ascendency for the first five minutes and worked a very good opening which their striker took superbly and buried it in the far corner. In walking football the team that takes the lead is very hard to beat but we kept plugging away and gradually took control before winning another penalty – which was duly saved!

Hurstpierpoint were able to manage the game out and must have gone away thinking 'How did we win that?' Burwash had 17 shots and 2 penalties against HPP's 6 shots. But it's goals that win games! They were a good team and the game was played in a very sporting fashion. .

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

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SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH

Season Finale, Female Success, Coaches and Icarus

Once again I find myself in the awkward position of trying to write an article about events that haven't happened yet. As I sit here in front of my laptop, Brighton and Hove Albion have just beaten bottom of the table Wolverhampton Wanderers 3-0. The Seagulls are 7th in the Premier League table, two points behind Bournemouth and the race for European competition qualification is really hotting up. Usually, the top four in the Premier League qualify for the Champions' League. However, due to the success of English clubs in European competitions this season, UEFA has granted them an extra spot. Therefore, currently, the top five teams will play in next season's Champions League, the sixth placed team will be in the Europa League whilst the seventh placed team will enter the Europa Conference League. However, if Aston Villa win their Europa League final they will automatically enter the Champions League, and, if they also finish in the top five, they will leave a spare place in that competition for the team that comes sixth. Consequently, the teams that then finish seventh and eighth will join the Europa League and Europa Conference League, respectively. Are you following me so far? To further complicate matters, if Manchester City win the FA Cup, which entitles them to play in the Europa League, and finish in the top five (which is guaranteed) and qualify for the Champions league, what happens to their Europa League place? Do you know what.....I haven't a clue, my brain has overheated. Apart from demonstrating the convoluted process of qualification for European competitions, this discussion is irrelevant, as by the time you read this you will know who came where and qualified for what. So, in the absence of the advantages of foresight, I will leave any further discussion of the Albion's men's team until next month's article and, instead, concentrate on the ladies.

For the Brighton and Hove Albion Women's team, the last few weeks have been truly momentous. Not only have they been on a five-game unbeaten run in the Women's Super League while beating table-topping Manchester City and drawing with second placed Arsenal and Manchester United, they have reached the Women's FA Cup Final for the first time in the club's history.

The cup run has included wins over Nottingham Forest (2-0), West Ham (2-1) and Arsenal (2-0). Unlike the men's competition, the semi final of the Women's FA Cup is not played at a neutral ground and Brighton were drawn an away tie against Liverpool. The match couldn't have got off to a worse start as, within 22 minutes, the Albion trailed 2-0. However, a mere 105 seconds after Liverpool doubled their lead, Brighton's Manuela Vanegas halved the deficit. The Seagulls pushed hard for an equaliser and, after Fran Kirby had hit the post, Madison Haley rose highest at the far post to level the scores. With time running out and the match destined for extra time, newly introduced substitute Nadine Noordam slammed the ball into the Liverpool net leaving the home side no time to respond. The final takes place at Wembley on Sunday, 31st May and the crowd will include a coach load from Seagulls Over Burwash! The men's team have played at Wembley five times and have never won. Hopefully, the women will show them how it is done!

It is not just success on the pitch that makes the last few weeks momentous for the Albion's women's team. The club has announced plans to build a bespoke stadium for the women's team beside the Amex. Initially, the stadium will have a 10,000 capacity and will be designed through the lenses of women and girls, in order to provide facilities appropriate for female athletes as well as for the demographic of the support that the women's game attracts. This will be the first such stadium in Europe and, when complete, will be one of only three in the world. Not only will the footballers' changing and medical facilities be designed for women, but the playing surface will be created to minimise the potential for injuries that women footballers are particularly prone to, such as anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries and stress fractures.

The supporter facilities will also differ from those of stadia that host men's matches. The crowds at women's games tend to comprise more young supporters including a high proportion of girls, and are more family orientated. Therefore, the emphasis in the concourses will not be primarily pints and pies and will cater for a somewhat less Neanderthal clientele.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH *CONTD.*

The announcement of the new stadium, in addition to the women's training facilities at the Elite Football Performance Centre in Lancing, demonstrates clearly the commitment of the club to the women's game. Currently, the women's 'home' matches are played at the Crawley Town ground, a 45 minute drive from Brighton. Having the games played in the city will no doubt increase the attendances hugely. Furthermore, with such world-leading facilities on offer for the women's team, the club will be able to attract the best youngsters as well as established top class players. So, on all fronts, the future of the Brighton and Hove Albion Women's team looks very bright indeed.

As soon as one season concludes, Seagulls Over Burwash starts organising travel arrangements for the next. We have agreed prices with Hams Travel to supply a double decker and a standard coach again for next season. Due to increased fuel costs and other inflationary pressures, we have had to raise our fares slightly for next season but coach travel is still the cheapest and easiest way to get to the matches at the Amex. Most of our coach season ticket holders have renewed for next season and we only have a few spare seats. If you are interested in joining SOB and travelling to the games on our coaches next season, please contact us as soon as possible.

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 esteemed and revered Chairman, Mr Teskey O'Neil, on 01435 884344 or tesbar80@btinternet.com. The end of the football season sees poor old Teskey somewhat bereft as there is a barren, Albion-free two and a half months for him to navigate. In previous years, he has been seen wandering, lonely as a cloud, through the pastures and over the hills of Burwash, with a lost, vacant expression on his face (no change there then, some may say!).

This year, however, it will be different as he has a new summertime hobby to occupy his time.... hang gliding. Not being one who frivolously wastes money on expensive equipment, Teskey found his old scout tent and some unused bean poles in his potting shed and, with the aid of baler twine and copious lengths of gaffer tape, built himself a very impressive glider for no cost whatsoever.

He is planning to launch his maiden flight from his garage roof, whence he will catch the thermals and soar like a majestic bird in the skies above Burwash. That's his plan..... however, if you live near him, I would suggest you move your car to the next street. It will take more than a bucket of water and a sponge to clear up the mess if that particular seagull lands on your bonnet!

SIMON FORSTER

FORWARD PLANNING BELOW



BURWASH NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

The History of Morris Dancing – a talk by Melanie Gibson-Barton BSc (Hons)

Melanie's talk entitled 'The History of Morris Dancing' began with an assurance that Morris Dancing is 'not just hanky waving'. For Melanie the three attractions of Morris Dancing that encouraged her to become a dancer were 'Fitness, Fun and Free Beer', followed by an enjoyable social life that the Morris community offers. She joined St Clement's Clogs, a North West Clog side, based in Gravesend.



Her colourfully illustrated talk described Melanie's beliefs about the history of the style of dance so often seen performed outside country pubs during the summer. The fun and informative talk provided the story of the many and varied styles of Morris dancing, the story of the costumes and accessories used by the dancers and the musical instruments that accompany the dance.



Melanie was keen to assure the audience that the 'black face' tradition has its roots in facial disguise so that performers in previous centuries could supplement their meagre wages by Morris Dancing and is not connected with racism. Today Morris Dancers 'pass the hat' to collect for their chosen charities.

Melanie told the audience that Morris Dancing is particularly popular in Kent and talked of the Sweeps Festival in Rochester in May, Broadstairs Folk Festival in August and the Hop Festival in Faversham in September. There are hopes of a revival of the October Tenterden Folk Festival. Audience members in Burwash told of experiencing the annual Jack in the Green event (this year: Friday 1st May - Monday, 4th May) in the historic seaside town of Hastings. The talk did indeed convince the audience that it is 'not just hanky waving' and Melanie encouraged audience members keen to see Morris Dancing for themselves to seek out the Morris Federation website for local venues:

www.morrisfed.org.uk

Melanie has been giving talks for several years to the National Trust, U3A, history groups, church groups, Women's Institutes, Soroptimists and retirement social groups such as Rotary, CSMA, ARAs and PROBUS – and during Lockdown via Zoom.us - and tells us she has the privilege of meeting new audiences to entertain and inform every day. Her range of currently seventeen talks can be viewed at www.toonstelling.com.

Melanie Gibson-Barton BSc (Hons)
www.toonstelling.com

At our meeting on 21st May Ian Everest talked about 'Sussex Farming During the 1950's'.

This month on the 18th June Barbara Varney, known to many of us, will be talking about 'Riding For The Disabled'.

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BURWASH FC REPORT

THE MONTH OF BLAYDON



The league decided to give us both our games against Ticehurst over the Easter long weekend, with the home fixture on the Saturday followed by the away fixture on Easter Monday. Normally there'd be no need to play on Easter Monday, but all the rain means that going into the weekend our opponents had only played eight league games this season. For context, the season started in September so, with it being April at the time of playing them, they were only just averaging above one league game played a month.

The home game was a comfortable win for Burwash, with William Blaydon scoring a hat trick. This hot streak continued into the away fixture, with William scoring again in a 1-1 draw. The team then lost away to Bexhill Amateur Athletic Club with Sam Murrell getting on the scoresheet, but none of us were too bothered by the loss as we really wanted to avenge our controversial defeat away to Tackleway which was next up.

It was a cup game at everyone's (least) favourite pitch down in Bexhill. The month of Blaydon continued with Burwash smashing Tackleway into pulp. Will scored another two goals and nabbed three assists in a commanding 0-5 win. The tireless running and pressing from Russel Fyfe won the man of the match plaudits, sometimes football is more than just goals and assists. This took us into the cup semi-final, a home game to Icklesham Casuals First. We would have rounded off the league season with a home game against Wittersham, but they decided to fold the club with only a couple of games left to go.

This feels like the time to drop the news that Burwash F.C. is moving to the Mid Sussex football league.

This isn't like when an American sports team moves and takes the entire team to an entirely new physical location, it's a lot more mundane than that. We will still play home games on Swan Meadow: the only difference is the teams we host and the away grounds we visit will become those from other Mid Sussex football league clubs rather than the East Sussex football league. Feel free to talk to any of the members of the club's management team for the inside scoop, those kinds of details are probably best spoken rather than written or nuance may be missed.

We didn't get that warm up game before the cup semi-final, but the boys didn't seem too concerned, coming fast out of the blocks and taking a 1-0 lead courtesy of a Dan Murrell goal. Icklesham won and failed to convert a penalty before sneaking a late equaliser in to take the game to penalties. A combination of Blake Marchant goalkeeper heroics and some ice cool penalty takers gave Burwash a 3-0 win on penalties, taking us to the final! The final was played at The Pilot Field, down in Hastings and we faced off against Bexhill Amateur Athletic, a team who had beaten us twice in the league this season. Once again, we started strong, taking an immediate lead with Will Blaydon assisting Jamie Pelling. The lead was short-lived though with Bexhill pegging us back soon after. We retook the lead courtesy of a Dan Murrell header from a Drew Clifton cross but again, couldn't hold on to the lead with the game level at 2-2 at half time. I'd love to say that from there we pushed on and seized glory, but we didn't. Bexhill scored a winner in the dying embers of the game and we weren't able to recover, losing 3-2 in the end. But what I do love to say is the team acquitted themselves admirably and were extremely gracious in defeat. Each game of football has two teams, sometimes you win and sometimes things don't quite drop your way.

The messages in the group chat the following morning are what is important, everyone saying they had great time and if they had to lose, at least it was with a cracking bunch of lads (see page 6). The season is now over, a comfortable mid table finish and a cup final is a magnificent start to Willy Pugh-Jones' time in charge.

Let's see what next season holds, we'll see you then.

ALEX ROXON
BURWASH FC CHAIRMAN
burwashfc1890@gmail.com

VINTAGE

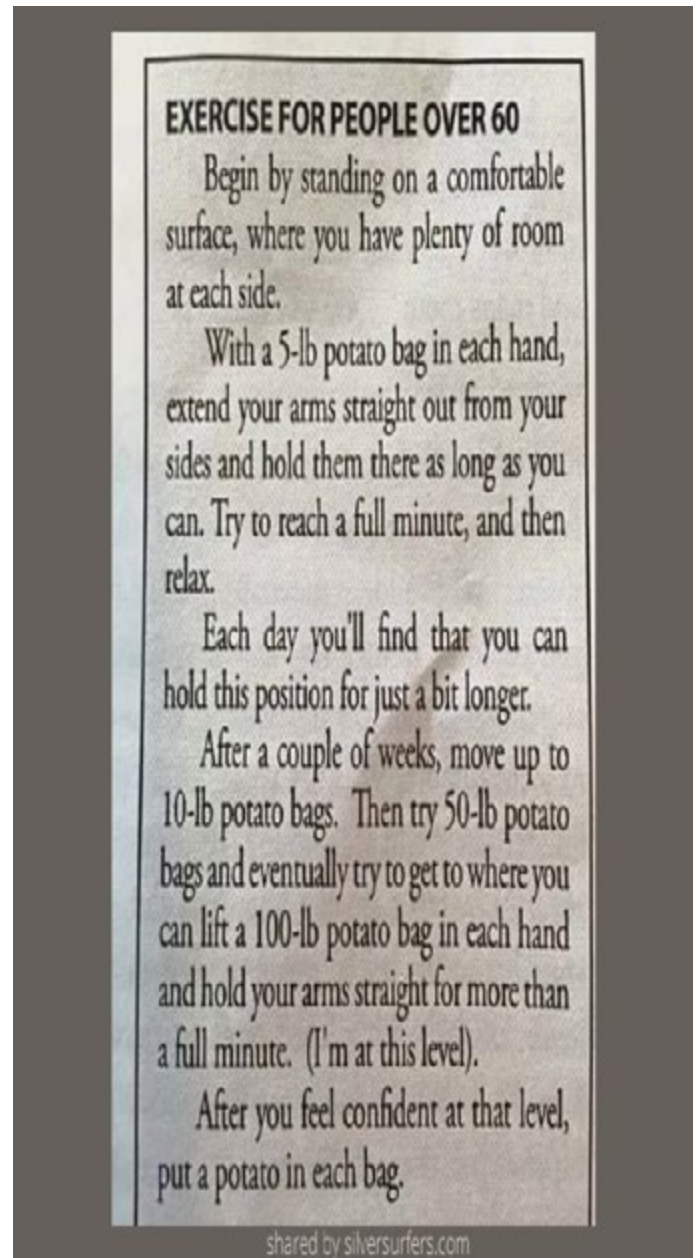
Val Stevens and I were having a chat about our age, which we both wish to defy. We do NOT intend to get old gracefully. She has an amazing selection of Doc Martens boots in bright, cheery colours (I wouldn't be able to lift my feet in them to walk the miles I do). I have conceded publicly in these pages before that I'm going very deaf and if I'm typesetting at midnight, I now acknowledge that my eyes don't think much of extra screen time and give up to restart at dawn.

We had a chat about being maturer (or not in our case) and decided we did not wish to be Pensioners or part of the Elderly, or even Seniors, so in the end Val and I decided we wanted to be known as VINTAGE (that trendy word which embraces no end of junk).

However, vintage wine is to be praised, vintage clothes help save the planet by recycling, vintage furniture is up-cycling, so VINTAGE it is, please not OAP, for now anyway!

Yesterday I met Jan MacFarland on the train by chance and we got round somehow to talking about needing some younger people to become more actively involved in village life. Then we both admitted that we have trouble with our shoulders, that we don't have the power in our arms that we once hadit sort of creeps up on you. Many of our friends have shoulder problems too either from injuries or rheumatism.

While searching for photographs on-line, which I didn't find, I did, however, find this photograph, which seemed to really sum up the situation!



My sincere thanks go to Colin Boylett of Etchingam for leading me astray to look at amazing photographs on line, where I found the above humour and below (by Degas) instead.

THE EDITOR



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BURWASH COMMON PETANQUE

TICEHURST v BURWASH COMMON – SATURDAY, 18TH APRIL 2026

Match Report

In glorious spring sunshine, a depleted Burwash Common team travelled to Ticehurst on Saturday, 18th April looking to avenge last year's narrow defeat by Ticehurst at home.

The Burwash team comprised: Alison and Peter Hayes, Liz and John Trigwell, and Halina Keep and Lindsay Green. Illness meant we were two players short and Ticehurst very kindly lent us two of theirs, Karen and Lesley, to make up the numbers.

Each pair played three games, with Alison and Peter, Liz and John, and our two Ticehurst "ringers" winning two out of their three games. Halina and Lindsay clearly needed more practice as they lost all three of their games, including a 0 – 13 rout in their third game. This meant that the match overall was drawn 6 games all, so perhaps an improvement over last year's home defeat?

Many thanks to the Ticehurst players: Kim and Les, John and Trevor, Andy and Kev, John and Mags for making this a good competitive match.

Full results:

Alison and Peter: 4 – 13; 13 – 6; 13 – 6

Liz and John: 13 – 3; 3 – 13; 13 – 2

Halina and Lindsay: 10 – 13; 9 – 13; 0 – 13

Karen and Lesley: 13 – 5; 13 – 10; N/A

Bereavement Friendship Group

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After the match, the Ticehurst players laid on a splendid lunch in the village hall which was much enjoyed by all.

Burwash Common Petanque needs more players. Petanque is easy to learn as it has few rules, and we can easily teach beginners the basics. You certainly do not need to be an expert (none of us is!) and you do not have to commit to playing regularly, if you do not want to. Players can compete on an equal basis regardless of gender or age. Importantly, you do not have to pay to play. Interested? If so, contact Lindsay Green (07775 862846, lindsaygreen777@yahoo.com) to register your interest.

LINDSAY GREEN



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MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

15th-21st June is Men's Health Awareness Week. Led by the Men's Health Forum, it aims to raise awareness of preventable health issues and encourage men and boys to seek professional advice for health-related problems.

Check out the Men's Health Hub at www.nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk/health-and-wellbeing/helpful-links/mens-health-hub/.

Try their DIY MAN MOT, which shows a quick and easy health check you can do at home.

COVID VACCINATIONS

Covid vaccinations are available at Ticehurst Pharmacy with or without an appointment until 30th June. You can book via www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/ or just walk in during open hours. Eligible patients are those over 75 or immunosuppressed.

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In April the doctors and nurses saw 1,667 patients, with nearly 70% of those being face to face; the rest were home visits or telephone conversations. Out of those 1,667 appointments 52% were booked on the day. Unfortunately, 1 out of 31 missed their appointments resulting in 15 hours which could have been used by other patients.

If you can't make an appointment, then a quick call to the surgery will ensure that our doctors' and nurses' time is not wasted. The surgery is open until 8 p.m. on Wednesdays (enhanced access) and 41 patients were seen during those extended opening hours. Take a look at the surgery website:

fairfieldsurgery.co.uk

where you will find lots of useful information about appointments, prescriptions and services provided.

We have had a lovely few weeks after the Easter holidays. The weather has been fairly kind to us and we endeavour to get out with the young people in all of our sections.

Beavers have been to what we know as Westdown Woods, courtesy of a general local Burwash resident. We had certain activities planned but they wanted to play games, build dens and climb trees (safely of course!). We had a hike, North of the village in beautiful weather and practised putting up tents once again in the garden of another generous resident.

You may have seen Cubs 'orienteering' in the village a few weeks ago working together. Cubs also had a 'Cubs takeover' where the leaders sit back and let a pack of Cubs takeover the running of the session. I'm sure there was a lot of noise but also a lot of fun.

Both the Beavers and Cubs have just finished a camp, a lovely weekend with no rain. A carousel of activities throughout the day, including Archery.

We had some of our Explorer Group also attend, a great hit with the younger members and with leaders. It gave a different dynamic to the camp and there is nothing like trying to find an Explorer in the woods in the dark!

Scouts have been putting their compass and map skills to the test on a hike from Leggetts Wood back to the hut. We are hoping to do a 'Ready Steady Cook' challenge next week all in the hope of doing a survival camp later on in the year.

Finally, if you have any children within your families who might be interested in becoming part of the Scouting community, we do have spaces within all sections.

Please contact me on
bandescoutgroup@gmail.com

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Burwash, Burwash Common, Burwash Weald and the Surrounding Areas

Recent Incidents:

Overnight Sunday, 3rd May to Bank Holiday Monday, 4th offenders cut their way through high wire fencing at a property in Lynden Lane, Stonegate to steal a John Deere Gator utility vehicle.

On Bank Holiday Monday, 4th to Tuesday, 5th May a grey Isuzu pick up truck, part index GU62, loaded with fence posts was stolen from a location at Brightling at about 11 p.m. or just after.

Also, overnight a generator that needed towing and a Kawasaki Mule utility vehicle with a part index GU23 were stolen from the Stonegate/Wadhurst area too.

Scams:

There is no let up in the number of attempted scams being reported and to be honest, while people know they are being targeted and they're just attempts, that's great in my book, so let's keep it that way!

There hasn't been any let up in the number of reports where someone known to the intended victim has a sore throat or laryngitis and can't talk over the phone but needs help! The help usually comes in the form of buying a 'Gift Token' for them and it is of course a scam!

Even when you recognise someone's name and email address it might not be them!

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

NHW by Email:

There was a sudden influx of new members last month mainly in the village.

If you wish to sign up, 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

MAYFIELD AND FIVE ASHES U3A

Thursday, 18th June at 2.30 p.m.

Living and Nursing in India
by our speaker **Dee Larcombe**

The title of this talk sounds relatively innocuous, but oh what a life Dee Larcombe has led!

She has had an extraordinary journey that started in Hong Kong in 1941 and then, via 3 years in an Internment camp and a childhood spent in a children's' home, she found herself working in India in a Leprosy Hospital and later running a girls' orphanage with her husband. Slightly less dramatically, she has also worked as a Family Planning Nurse in Tooting, London. There was, of course, much adventure and hardship along the way and I expect we will be told some of it.

Dee has written a book called 'The Girl in the Drawer', which documents her life, and I'm sure many of us will want to read it. Some of the reviews I have read mention the way she has found a way to forgive those who ill treated her, and perhaps that quality has been part of the reason she has been able to survive those hardships so successfully.

Tea and cakes are available after all our talks, once members have been given the opportunity to ask questions of our speaker. Visitors are always welcome to come, perhaps just for that particular talk, or perhaps to see whether or not Mayfield and District U3A is worth joining. Which, of course, it is! A single talk is £3.00, while a whole year's membership is only £15.00, or £27.50 for a couple.

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

mayfield.u3asite.uk

ANNA THOMPSON

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'. This fascinating talk completes our programme for the Season and we then we have a break for two months.

We look forward to continuing our exciting programme of 10 monthly lectures from September 2026 - June 2027. We restart on Tuesday, 8th September when the speaker will be Vivienne Lawes. She will be talking about Africa in Western Imagery & African Art.

Try us out: come to your first lecture free of charge! The annual subscription is £55.00 and you can bring a guest to one lecture free of charge. Also, for £8.50 a time, guests are welcome to attend up to two lectures a year. Our meetings are held at the Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield, TN21 0XG at 2.15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. If you wish to apply for membership, please email our Membership Secretary, John Larum: email at johnlarum@hotmail.com For queries, please contact Penny Spurrell on 07876565696.

We hope to see you in September!

www.theartsocietywealden.org.uk

PENNY SPURRELL - CHAIR

BURWASH COMMON PAVILION NEWS

The Burwash Weald Cricket Club played their first match of the season, after their promotion, at home on 9th May against The Bexhill Strikers. It was the first time this all Indian team have played on our beautiful playing field which David Elmslie, Henry and Monty Hadow had worked hard to prepare. It was well worth it as the Weald had a great win - The Strikers, batting first, were all out for 79 with Weald reaching 80 with 5 wickets remaining. Excellent play and great camaraderie under Monty Hadow's leadership as skipper.

There was also a working party who worked their socks off smartening up the facility after the long, wet winter.

The bottom exit/entrance gate to Goodsoal Lane has recently been resurfaced and new drainage installed making it safer for pedestrians and vehicles.

We have a Car Show on Sunday 2nd August 2026, 10am - 4pm. Entry is free although donations would be welcome on the day.

(see page)

If you wish to show your car or motor bike, it's free. Please apply for an application form via email to, burwashcommoncarclub@gmail.com BBQ, BAR and LIVE MUSIC also!

The boule pitch is being used more now it has stopped raining and a return match was played against Ticehurst, ending in a draw. If you'd like to play in boule matches please contact Lindsay on lindsaygreen777@yahoo.com. You will be very welcome. (See Lindsay's article on page 50.)

Look out for the new bench that we were lucky enough to have donated by the Channel 5 programme The Yorkshire Vet in memory of our loyal pets.

If you are interested in joining cricket, boule, snooker or volunteering to put a bit back into maintaining our great community field and pavilion, contact us on the number below.

THE COMMITTEE
07813273977



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or email steve_cannings@hotmail.co.uk



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.

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SWIFE LANE BOOK CLUB

We meet at the Tap Room at Lakedown on the last Thursday of the month at 12 Noon. New members are most welcome, in person or remotely.

Our Book Club Choice this month was 'Ceremony' by Leslie Marmon Silko.

Following on from the book 'The Women' by Kirsten Hannah reviewed last month; Ceremony is a further contrasting American response to the debilitating trauma brought on by active war experiences.

Tayo is a Second World War veteran of mixed parentage who, on returning from the war to the Laguna Pueblo Reservation in New Mexico, suffers from PTSD. His own people further reject him. Spiralling into days when he can barely get out of bed, followed by drunkenness and violence, Tayo eventually pursues the oral traditions and ceremonial practices of his people to find inner peace and acceptance.

The author began writing the book in 1973 eventually finishing the novel in 1977. The story is multi-layered dealing with many themes and issues that beset the Native American. Considered by many to be a classic of Native American literature, it continues to be widely taught and studied in America.

Most of the novel is written in prose whilst the rest is written in poetry. The poetry tells the legend of when the Pueblo people were threatened by drought as punishment for listening to a practitioner of 'witchery.' In order to redeem the nation, Hummingbird and Green Bottle Fly must journey to the fourth world to find the Reed Woman.

The meandering and complex style made this a challenging read for the entire group, with some choosing not to finish the novel. It was acknowledged that the iconic desert landscape of New Mexico was vividly evoked through descriptions of the rocks and mountains, the weather, plants, colours and smells. The complexities and symptoms of PTSD were ever present throughout the novel. The legend of the parallel poetry was thought provoking and intriguing, if difficult to reconcile with the prose.

Most of the group acknowledged that this was an enigmatic text with moments of magical realism. A few members thought that the novel warranted a second reading.

The book ultimately sparked a wider and pertinent discussion amongst the group about the historical and modern treatment and struggles of not only the Native Americans but also the indigenous people of other countries.

In conclusion, although a difficult read, the majority of the group was keen to explore and read further around the important issues raised by the novel.

JULIE UPTON

For further information, please contact Kerry on 07703 565919.

THE AFTER EIGHT CLUB BURWASH COMMON

Our most recent meeting was a talk by speaker, Helena Griffiths, who gave us a super talk on her solo travels through the Australian Outback. She had many tales and kept us all highly entertained.

The Annual After Eight Club Coffee Morning is on Saturday, 13th June 2026 at the Burwash Common Pavilion from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon. It is always a fun morning with homemade cakes, coffee and tea as well as stalls including cakes, books and puzzles, a raffle, tombola and bric a brac. Put the date in your diary!

Please see the amended itinerary for the rest of 2026 to April 2027. I do hope something in our plans for the year will be of interest and 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! Do ring or email me for information.

JACKY WOODLAND

Email: tjwoodland142@btinternet.com

Tel: 01435 883389

Mob: 07770 489490

UPDATED AFTER EIGHT CLUB ITINERARY 2026-2027

We are always pleased to welcome potential new members! If you would like to find out more, please ring or email me!

JACKY WOODLAND

Date	Activity	Organiser	Tea/coffees
Wednesday 13 th May 2026	Talk: 'Barbara Leigh Smith' Speaker: Leslie Abdela Held at Burwash Common Pavilion AFTERNOON MEETING, 2.30pm	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 OPEN TO ALL.	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'	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.		

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BURWASH

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

BURWASH COMMON

Outside Burwash Common Pavilion, left of front door.

ETCHINGHAM

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

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