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HISTORY EDITION

**AUGUST &
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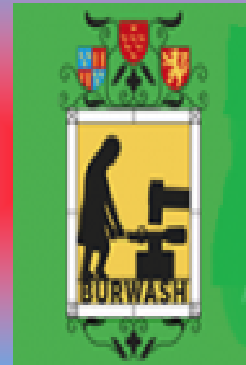
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CONTENTS

CHURCH NEWS

	PAGE
<i>Keeping in Touch</i>	3
<i>Who's Who</i>	4
<i>From the Registers - Burwash & Burwash Common</i>	4
<i>Mass At Christ The King</i>	4
<i>Rector's Corner</i>	5
<i>Churches Together Heathfield & District</i>	7
<i>August & September Service Times</i>	9

FEATURES AND REGULARS

<i>Editorial</i>	6
<i>What's On in August</i>	10
<i>Etchingham 650 Years</i>	11
<i>What's On in September</i>	13
<i>Barn Owls</i>	18
<i>Etchingham Community Market</i>	18
<i>Etchingham Parish Council Contacts List</i>	21
<i>Etchingham Village Halls</i>	22
<i>ETSR Fundraising</i>	22
<i>The Gatekeeper</i>	23
<i>Etchingham Nature Notes</i>	25
<i>Plea for Water</i>	25
<i>Christian Aid Sponsored Walk, Cycle or Run</i>	25
<i>Burwash & District Flower Club</i>	28
<i>Wild About Burwash</i>	30
<i>Floribunda - The Historical Garden</i>	31
<i>Burwash Parish Matters</i>	32
<i>Sunken Lanes & Assarts</i>	34
<i>Burwash Short Mat Bowls Club</i>	39

<i>Tea At The Ritz</i>	39
<i>Some Twentieth Century Rectors</i>	39
<i>Seagulls Over Burwash</i>	44
<i>Burwash Potato Competition</i>	46
<i>Burwash Common Car Show</i>	49
<i>The Arts Society Wealden Heathfield</i>	55
<i>Sussex</i>	60
<i>Burwash Common After Eight Club</i>	61

VILLAGE LIFE

<i>Etchingham Tuesday Club</i>	25
<i>Etchingham Club</i>	25
<i>Getting Info Into Local Papers</i>	26
<i>Walks for Strollers</i>	29
<i>Burwash Playing Fields Association</i>	33
<i>Burwash Community Farmers' Market</i>	33
<i>Wadhurst Bowls Club</i>	36
<i>Burwash Walking Football</i>	37
<i>Burwash Not So Young Group</i>	47
<i>Neighbourhood Watch</i>	48
<i>BWC Residents' Association</i>	49
<i>Fairfield Surgery PPG Newsletter</i>	51
<i>The Job Market</i>	52
<i>Creative Writers' Group</i>	55
<i>Swife Lane Book Club & Feedback</i>	56
<i>Burwash Common Pavilion News & Fete</i>	57
<i>Burwash Common Toddler Group</i>	58
<i>More Burwash Common News - Cricket</i>	61
<i>Bereavement Friendship Group</i>	62
<i>St. Bart's Wednesday Club</i>	62

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 October Magazine is Thursday, 10th September. The theme will be Transport, especially cars.

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'.

DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTION

Please take out an annual subscription and get your copy delivered every month! We are trying to cover every village fully!

Contacts:

Richard Harden (Burwash) Tel.: 01435 882556.

Susan Mumford (Etchingham) Tel.: 01580 819415.

Kerry Fieldwick (Burwash Common) Tel.: 07703 565 919.

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.

SEE OUR NEW JOB MARKET PAGE, RING FOR DETAILS.

WHO'S WHO

Rector	Revd. Thomas Pelham	07856 256174	revthomaspelham@gmail.com
Associate Minister	Revd. Jim Smith		jimsmithghana@yahoo.co.uk
Churchwarden (Burwash)	Vacant		
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Assistant Churchwarden (Burwash Church Building)	Richard Harden	01435 882556	rh@richardharden.co.uk
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Sacristan (B)	Tom Travers	01435 882828	
Tower Captain (Bell Ringers) (B)	Nigel Jarvis	01580 819462	Njarvis2@aol.com
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Church Flower Guild (B)	Diana Workman	01435 882528	
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Hon. Dir. of Music & Organist	Brian Everall	07841 000117	holbans@yahoo.co.uk

HOME VISITS BY THE RECTOR

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

FROM THE REGISTERS (BURWASH)

Interment of Ashes

9th June 2026 Margaret Mephram

Marriage

20th June 2026 Luke Simmons &
Josephine Berry

ST PHILIP'S (BURWASH WEALD) Jan-July

Marriages

16th May 2026 Andrew Stuart Fredrick Everall &
Victoria Ellen Claire Morris.
27th June 2026 Alexander Donald Smith &
Harriet Louisa Sutton.

Funerals

19th January 2026 Jessie McDonald Browning,
Aged 92.
18th May 2026 Peter Charles Peile, Aged 92.

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,

One question I am often asked is why I am called Rector rather than Vicar. The answer lies in old rules about tithes—the greater and lesser shares—which is not especially thrilling. What interests me more is what it reveals: the deep historical link between church and land. When a parish owned fields or glebe, the church's fortunes rose and fell with the soil itself.

You see this connection across our villages. Look at the fine houses along Burwash High Street, built from the iron trade's wealth. Or travel to Norfolk, where the wool boom created magnificent "wool churches" that dwarf our own in far smaller settlements. Prosperity from the land funded beauty and faith for generations.

One old tradition has faded but deserves revival: beating the boundaries. It once had a legal purpose in marking parish limits for tithes—everything, it seems, has always involved money. Yet it also carried a deeper religious meaning. People walked the edges of their land, prayed, and asked God's blessing on the fields that sustained us all.

On Sunday 9th August, after the Archdeacon leads our service, we will walk the parish boundaries in Etchingham. A picnic will follow on Queen's Gardens. I hope many will join us. It will be a gentle, joyful way to reconnect with our place and with one another.

We have already begun something similar on Mondays. A small group has been meeting to pray over the land, starting in the Glebe. You are warmly welcome to come along. No special words or experience needed—just a heart open to God's care for creation.

This ties into our Restoration service on 19th July, where we will remember God's promise to renew his world. He who raised Christ from the dead is at work restoring what is broken — in nature, in communities, and in us.

These simple acts — walking, praying, gathering— remind us that faith is not detached from daily life. The God who made the earth cares for every field and every soul within it. In Christ we find both the steady foundation of the past and the living hope of renewal.

Come and walk with us. Come and pray. You will be made welcome, and together we will seek God's blessing on the land and people he has given us.

Every Blessing,

REVD. TOM

Rector of Burwash, Burwash Weald and Etchingham

One of Jack Fuller's Follies below



EDITORIAL

To keep you occupied over August and September, we opted for the 'History Edition', but then you sent in so many posters for events from now until October that it has been a real struggle to fit everything in! Nobody dare say they were bored ... as the What's On for both August and September will give you plenty of events to participate in (see pages 10 & 13).

Our cover page features the Banner made by the pupils of Etchingham school for Etchingham Church, to celebrate 650 years of the church there. This is the children making the future history of Etchingham. How will things change in another 100 years let alone 650 years?

As Editor I have been overwhelmed by the events on offer from now until October, when our next issue will be on Cars and Transport. (I already have some articles about pot holes!)

On page 8, we have posters for the Burwash Dog Show, part of the Burwash Fair on Sunday, 30th August. The Fair has been extended this year to include live music in the evening on Swan Meadow, so no excuses for not attending part of this bumper event!

On Thursday, 20th August there is a free Pizza and Social Night for our youth, also on Swan Meadow (see poster on page 8). More about the Social Outreach van next month in the Transport issue.

We start our History theme on page 11, with marvellous photographs of the 650 Year celebration in Etchingham. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Etchingham Churchwardens for their on-going hard work and fund-raising to keep the fabric of Etchingham church together.

Meanwhile, more use should be made of Etchingham Village Halls as Eleanor explains on page 22. Do come to the new markets in August and September - have a stall and do some networking, or sell off your surplus vegetables and fruit to buy yourself a treat in return.

On pages 23 and 24 we return to the History theme with the article 'The Gatekeeper'.

On page 29 The Strollers have supplied a photograph of the memorial on Franchise Manor driveway to Flight Lieutenant Reginald Frank Rimmer. St. Philip's Church are holding a Battle of Britain and RAF Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, 13th September.

John Barnes has been further researching the former rectors of Etchingham in the not so distant past, and again mentions the war years in Etchingham (pages 39 and 40).

Floribunda also touches on war, after her visit to Great Dixter and inadvertently links us to Burwash and Kipling, so I have included his poem Sussex, which illustrates his deep passion for our county on page 60. Kipling was also, of course, a passionate local historian and refers to his research in many of his works: iron workings, old track-ways, riders in the woods, smugglers and so much more.

On page 34 we go a little further back in time to the Assarts and Sunken Lanes of the High Weald, near Wadhurst, with a taste of some of the wildlife one can see.

Seagulls Over Burwash touch on history as well, while our local sports teams are all still striving for success.

Once you have worked your way through all this, I would remind you that **Burwash Common Fête follows on the 12th September** (see page 57), and you could enter the dogs into another dog show.

As Wild About Burwash point out, history is being made on the climate front. If this issue seems disjointed, I'll blame it on the weather. Mary Newington reminds us to put water out for the birds and insects, and I'm sure many of us are secretly hoping for water for our lawns. I know the farmers are suffering and hay will be at a premium this Autumn for the horse owners of our villages.

Please use water wisely. I'm off to celebrate my month's break with a huge pot of coffee now, but we will be back in October! Please send in feedback and articles by the 10th September.

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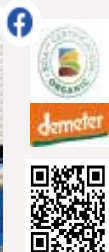
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AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

Taken by the Rector unless otherwise marked. JS = Rev Jim Smith;

LM = Canon Lucy Murdoch; LF= Rev Liz France; LL= Lay led; VP= Visiting Priest

	Burwash	Etchingham	Burwash Weald
Aug Sun 2	10.30 Parish Communion 6.00 Evening Prayer	9.30 Said Communion -	8.00 Matins - LL 10.30 Lamas (first fruit) Service - LL
Thur 6	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 9	9.30 Morning Prayer 10.30 UB service of Holy Communion with Sunday School at Etchingham	10.30 UB service of Family Communion with Sunday School and Worship band with Archdeacon Russell	8.00 Matins - LL 10.30 UB service of Holy Communion with Sunday School at Etchingham 6.00 Praise at the Pavilion
Thur 13	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 16	9.30 Parish Communion with Baptism 6.00 Evening Prayer	10.30 Parish Communion - Peter Doodes	10.30 Holy Communion - JS
Thur 20	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 23	10.30 UB Songs of Praise (Patronal festival)	9.30 Said Matins 10.30 UB Songs of Praise (Patronal festival) at Burwash	10.30 UB Songs of Praise (Patronal festival) at Burwash 6.00 Evening Prayer BCP
Thur 27	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 30	9.30 Choral Matins	10.30 Holy Communion	10.30 Parish Communion - VP
SEPT Thur 3	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 6	10.30 Parish Commun 6.00 Evensong	9.30 Said Communion	8.00 Matins - LL 10.30 Pet Service - LL
Thur 10	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 13	9.30 Morning Prayer 10.30 UB service of Parish Communion with Sunday School at St. Philip's	10.30 UB service of Parish Communion with Sunday School at St. Philip's 6.00 Compline	10.30 UB service of Parish Communion with Sunday School 3.00 Battle of Britain Service
Thur 17	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 20	9.30 Said Holy Communion BCP 6.00 Evening Prayer	10.30 Parish Communion - VP	10.30 Holy Communion - JS
Thur 24	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 27	10.30 UB Service of Family Communion with Worship band and 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

WHAT'S ON: AUGUST

Saturday, 1st	Tipi Yoga at 8 a.m. in Parker Hall, Etchingham. (Every Saturday.)
Saturday, 1st	Burwash Community Farmers' Market at Swan Meadow, Burwash 9 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.
Sunday, 2nd	Wellbeing Workshop, 2.30 - 5 p.m. Etchingham Village Hall, with booking required.
Sunday, 2nd	Burwash Common Car Show at Burwash Common Pavilion Playing Fields, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. with BBQ, Bar and Live Music.
Monday, 3rd	3Cs at St. Bartholomew's, 10 a.m. - Noon. (Most Mondays, except Bank Holidays.)
Monday, 3rd	Etchingham Church Baby & Toddler Group, Parker Hall, Etchingham, 11 a.m. - 12 Noon. (Every Monday.)
Tuesday, 4th	Burwash Village Playgroup. Tuesday Mornings from 10 a.m. - Noon at Eddie Workman Pavilion. (Every Tuesday.) Contact: Emma Pantry on 07810 043022.
Tuesday, 4th	Community Dementia Cafe at Dudwell St Mary Care Home, Burwash, 2 - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, 4th	Music For The Memory at Etchingham Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. (Every Tuesday.)
Tuesday, 4th	Heathfield Folk Dance Group at St. Richard's Church Hall, Park Road, Heathfield at 7.30 p.m. weekly.
Wednesday, 5th	Walks for Strollers meeting at the The Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.
Thursday, 6th	Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group 10 a.m. - Noon, at Burwash Common Pavilion. (Every Thursday.)
Saturday, 8th	Farmers' & Makers' Market at King John's Nursery, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Saturday, 8th	Tea at The Ritz at Burwash Village Hall at 3 p.m.
Sunday, 9th	Praise @ Pavilion at Burwash Common Pavilion at 4.30 p.m.
Wednesday, 12th	Burwash Creative Writers' Group meeting at 2.30 p.m. at The Bear in Burwash.
Tuesday, 18th	Bereavement Friendship Group meet on third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at The Wheel Inn, Burwash Weald.
Thursday, 20th	'Drop In' Session in Burwash Parish Room 10 a.m. - Noon. Need help - go and find it. (See poster.)
Thursday, 20th	Burwash Not So Young Group Garden Party.
Thursday, 20th	Youth Pizza & Social Night with fun, games and crafts at Swan Meadow, Burwash 6.30 - 8.30 p.m. run by Sussex Outreach Support.
Saturday, 22nd	Etchingham Soup & Collectors' Market, Etchingham Village Hall, 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.
Thursday, 27th	Swife Lane Book Club meeting at The Tap Room, Lakedown at 12 Noon (last Thursday of month).
Sunday, 30th	B.P.F.A. Burwash Summer Fair and Live Music Event 12 Noon - 10 p.m. at Swan Meadow, Burwash, including a Dog Show in the afternoon.
Monday, 31st	Churches Together in Heathfield & District at Le Marché - Refreshments & Ploughmans' Lunches available in the Union Church Hall, Heathfield.

ETCHINGHAM 650 YEARS

The Church of the Assumption of Blessed Mary and St Nicholas, Etchingham has witnessed centuries of worship since the building of the church in the 1360's by Sir William of Etchingham.

The Benefice came together to worship on 14th June to celebrate the 650th year since the building was completed. **We were honoured to welcome the suffragan Bishop of Lewes, Will Hazlewood, to preach and preside on this special occasion (see below with The Churchwardens).**



From the stirring opening notes of the hymn 'Jerusalem' played on the organ by Brian Everall, accompanied by the Benefice Choir, the tone was set for a splendid celebratory service.

A banner made by the Year 6 pupils at Etchingham School was presented to the church by the children and blessed by Bishop Will. It is now on display in the children's corner. **(It is history in the making, so is on the front cover of this issue.)**

We were blessed with a perfect summer's day and following the service, a buffet lunch was served in the Queen's Garden, including canapés, drinks and a BBQ.

The buffet lunch in the Queen's Garden



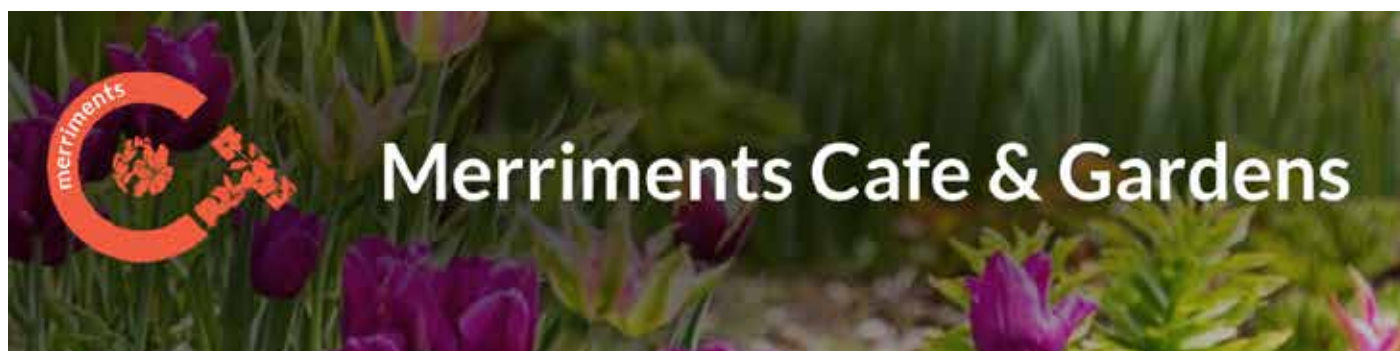
We are certain that Sir William would have approved of this celebration within this magnificent church, which is his legacy to the village.

THE CHURCHWARDENS

The Bishop of Lewes, Will Hazlewood and our own Revd. Tom Pelham



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WHAT'S ON: SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, 1st	Burwash Village Playgroup. Tuesday Mornings from 10 a.m. - Noon at Eddie Workman Pavilion. (Every Tuesday.) Contact: Emma Pantry on 07810 043022.
Tuesday, 1st	Community Dementia Cafe at Dudwell St Mary Care Home, Burwash, 2 - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, 1st	Music For The Memory at Etchingham Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. (Every Tuesday.)
Tuesday, 1st	Heathfield Folk Dance Group at St. Richard's Church Hall, Park Road, Heathfield at 7.30 p.m. weekly.
Wednesday, 2nd	Walks for Strollers meeting at the The Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.
Thursday, 3rd	Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group 10 a.m. - Noon, at Burwash Common Pavilion. (Every Thursday.)
Saturday, 5th	Tipi Yoga at 8 a.m. in Parker Hall, Etchingham. (Every Saturday.)
Saturday, 5th	Burwash Community Farmers' Market at Swan Meadow, Burwash 9 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Saturday, 5th	Christian Aid Sponsored Walk, Cycle or Run 10 a.m. - Noon on Cuckoo Trail from Heathfield.
Sunday, 6th	Wellbeing Workshop, 2.30 - 5 p.m. Etchingham Village Hall, with booking required.
Monday, 7th	3Cs at St. Bartholomew's, 10 a.m. - Noon. (Most Mondays, except Bank Holidays.)
Monday, 7th	Know Your Numbers Week Begins: Blood Pressure Readings Week.
Monday, 7th	Etchingham Church Baby & Toddler Group, Parker Hall, Etchingham, 11 a.m. - 12 Noon. (Every Monday.)
Tuesday, 8th	Arts Society Wealden Heathfield monthly meeting at the Community Centre Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield at 2 p.m. Subject: 'Africa in the Western Imagery & African Art'. Speaker: Vivienne Lawes.
Wednesday, 9th	Burwash Creative Writers' Group meeting at 2.30 p.m. at The Bear in Burwash.
Saturday, 12th	Farmers' & Makers' Market at King John's Nursery, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Saturday, 12th	Burwash Common Summer Fete at The Pavilion and grounds, including a Dog Show at 2 p.m.
Sunday, 13th	Battle of Britain & RAF Thanksgiving Service at St. Philip's Church, Burwash Weald at 3 p.m.
Monday, 14th	Burwash & District Flower Club Demonstration by Brena Bull at 2.15 p.m. at Burwash Village Hall.
Tuesday, 15th	Bereavement Friendship Group on third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at The Wheel In Burwash Weald.
Thursday, 17th	Not So Young Group at Burwash Village Hall at 2.15 p.m. Speaker: Clare Baldry. Subject: 'Retiring With Rhyme'.
Thursday, 17th	Mayfield & Five Ashes U3A Meeting at Five Ashes Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. AGM.
Wednesday, 23rd	St. Bartholomew's Wednesday Club 3.30 - 4.30 p.m. in the church.
Thursday, 24th	Swife Lane Book Club meeting at The Tap Room, Lakedown at 12 Noon (last Thursday of month).
Saturday, 26th	Etchingham Soup & Collectors' Market, Etchingham Village Hall, 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

R G Dale

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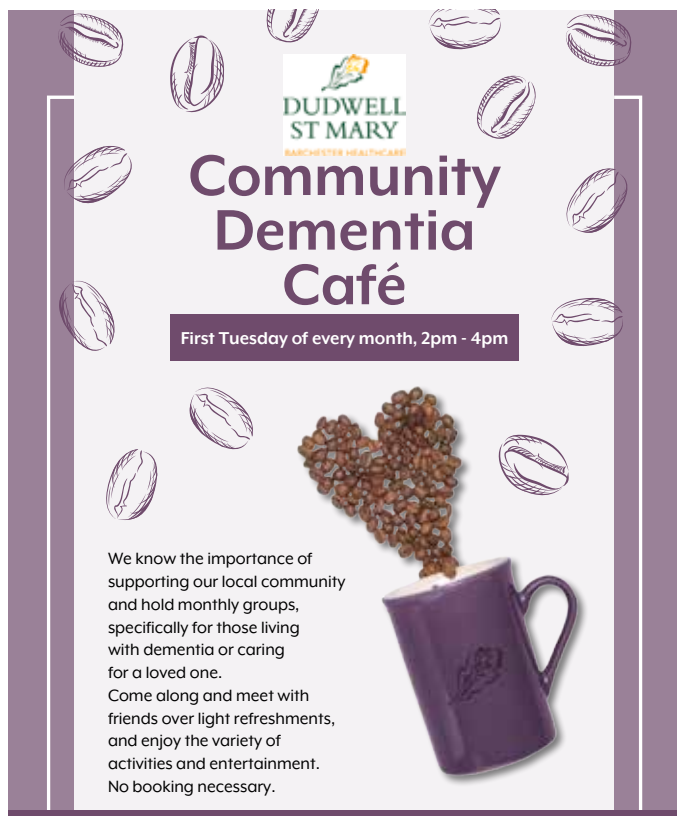
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BARN OWLS



When this comes to press, another academic year will have gone and we will all be enjoying a lovely summer break - with hopefully not such extreme temperatures!

This part of the term has had a few challenging days of extreme heat but the water has been out and children have been sitting in it, paddling in it and have remained in the shade on very hot days. Regrettably there were some closures at lunchtime but paramount for the children's safety and well being (not to mention the staff!).

On other days we have been enjoying being outside. 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. The children have also been planting vegetables with their key person: the carrots and runner beans are growing well, the courgettes are battling with the slugs as are the cucumbers.

Our tadpoles have grown legs and one by one are getting ready to leave - the children have loved watching them climb up and sit on a log. They are re-homed in a pond locally.

The Trustees organised a fund-raiser at the end of April for a 'cosy corner', 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 and we raised just shy of £400.00!

Many thanks go to our fund raising team, to Clifford Kingshott for bringing along his lorry cab full of balloons and to everyone who came along to support the setting.

During this part of the term we have concentrated on the transition to big school - there have been visits/ taster sessions and reception teachers from some schools have visited us.

On our last day of term we will have had a 'Leavers' party, where the children are presented with a gift, and certificate and the adults try not to get too emotional!

We will have had a picnic lunch and then like our tadpoles, they are ready to go on their next adventure.

We say goodbye to Amara, Canelo, Max, Mylo, Nancy, Oliver, Roman, Sophia, and William who are going to Etchingham, Frankie, Naia, Opal and Willow who are going to Burwash, Elijah who is going to Hurst Green and Juniper who is moving to Edinburgh.

When we return in September we are very excited to be opening our Breakfast and Afternoon Clubs for all children and extending our opening hours from 8 a.m. - 4.15 p.m. and look forward to making lots of new friends!

NICKY MENZIES

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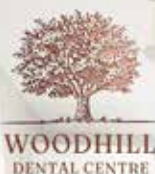


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Parish Council updates - to receive email information updates for the Council, enter your name and email address at the bottom of any page on the Council website. Emails are all sent BCC and are in addition to information sent on the village e-bulletin.

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

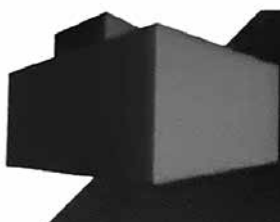


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ETCHINGHAM VILLAGE HALLS

The Etchingham Village Halls are a stunning purpose-built venue which opened in 2015. We have two halls of different sizes, which can accommodate a wide variety of activities. The halls can be hired individually or together depending upon the purpose of your event.

The halls include a fully equipped kitchen, tiered seating, wi-fi throughout and changing rooms.

There is car parking available with space for 37 cars with 3 additional disabled parking spaces.

Our outside space, known as the Village Square, can be added to any hiring arrangements.

The Etchingham Trust for Sports and Recreation administers the running of the halls. Unfortunately, at present the halls are running at a significant loss. Whilst ongoing costs have increased significantly, the halls are being under utilised.

Now more than ever we need local people to support the halls!

Please do come to the new Soup Makers' & Collectors' Fair either as a participant or as a browser.

We host a number of regular classes and groups including Crafting, Yoga and Fitness, Badminton, Mini Musical Theatre and Salsa as well as a new Soup Makers' Market & Collectors' Fair held on the fourth Saturday of every month between 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. (10 a.m. set up.)

However, we are also available for one off events. With two halls catering for 180 and 60 people the venue is ideal for holding birthday and anniversary parties (with the added bonus of china and cutlery being available) as well as business meetings and workshops.

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ELEANOR KIRBY-GREEN

THE GATEKEEPER

Standing at the gate that leads from Queen's Gardens to the churchyard of Etchingham's Parish Church of the Assumption of Blessed Mary and St Nicholas is a gravestone that sits a little more remotely placed than others around it. Perhaps those spaces represent plots that never had a stone or that at some time, for some reason, the stones had been removed. Was a wooden cross once there, now long gone? This is a simple flat stone without a kerb and situated beneath a tree canopy where it has accumulated the weathering stains of almost one hundred and forty years. It stands beside a well-used pathway, and as you will see below, the winter rains lay in the foot-worn entrance.



The position of the stone is rather close to the gateway and almost impeding entry which, from the very first time I passed through, made me wonder which came first: the wall or the grave, and if it was the wall, was that gateway a later addition? The juxtaposition is just not 'right.' But that was not the only thing that does not seem 'right.' There is only a very brief inscription on the grave stone that quite simply states beneath the 'In Memoriam' heading:

'Edmund Gosling / died November 1888 /
Age 23.'

There is no bible text, no hopes for peaceful rest or the expectation of meeting again, nor any mention of any family lost or living. This just does not look like a family inscription, and the churchyard burial records do not show any other burial under the Gosling name. So, who was Edmund, did he have a temporary home in Etchingham, or was he passing through, perhaps a temporary or itinerant worker on the farms or the railway? Did his family never know what happened after they lost contact with him? I carry

a burden of sadness with me every time I pass through the gate and wonder about his short life.

An online search of historic maps published by Ordnance Survey and covering 1820s-1970s. (<https://maps.nls.uk>) quickly established that the boundary wall existed prior to the burial, which was confirmed later by a contemporaneous photographic image on a postcard.



The O.S. Map: Sussex Sheet XXX: 1873, published in 1878 shows a wall around the church and the area beside (now Queen's Garden) to be undeveloped land.



Postcard of Etchingham Parish Church (collection of Colin Boylett) published by Frederick Woodall of Burwash (active 1903-1911)

This postcard of Etchingham Parish Church clearly shows the wall and gateway in existence and the field is mown, looking more like pasture than crops.

Our local historian Colin Boylett was able to help me complete this story with his own research, and his findings provided me with something of a surprise. From him I learned that my deepest concerns could be relieved in that young Edmund was *not* a lost soul who died a long way from home with his family despairing at having lost touch. Instead, he was indeed a local lad whose birth was registered in the Ticehurst District in the April-June Quarter of 1865 (at that time the Ticehurst District covered Ticehurst, Wadhurst, Etchingham and Hurst Green) and with the 1881 census showing that Edmund was living with his maternal grandparents, Edmund and

Elizabeth Oxenbridge in Old Burg Road (now Burgh Hill) then 16 years old and described as a Farm Servant.

Colin makes some other good points. Firstly, those burial records to which I have referred were compiled of only those graves with visible and readable headstones. Others, with no extant markings, do not appear on that list. Secondly, Why no other Goslings in the Churchyard?

Harriet Gosling (nee Oxenbridge) died in January 1867, the date suggesting that it was probably during childbirth with her second son, and is buried in Dallington. Edmund, still a young child, was taken in by his maternal grandparents, Edmund and Elizabeth Oxenbridge, at some point between 1867 and 1881 as Edmund's father is shown on the 1881 census to be living in Berkshire with his new wife and running a public house in Windsor. In 1911 he was admitted to a mental hospital in Berkshire where he died in February 1912. This would account for young Edmund being the only Gosling buried there.

Thirdly, Why no graves for Edmund's Grandparents, the Oxenbridges? Edmund Gosling's grandfather died March 1884 and was buried in Etchingham on 26th March 1884. Colin posits that he was buried to the left of where Edmund is, and the other plot beside him was reserved for his wife, Elizabeth, for when she would eventually die, and that with Elizabeth still living in 1888 when young Edmund died, she may well have requested that Edmund be buried alongside the plot reserved for her. If the gate *was* there first, which seems certainly to be the case, that would explain the close proximity to the entrance.

Elizabeth died in January 1892. The plots for Edmund and Elizabeth might not have had headstones, or they were possibly removed at some point if deteriorating to the point of being unsafe. Interestingly, the address given for Elizabeth on the burial register is Haremere Lodge, which is also the address for Edmund Gosling on the 1888 Electoral Register.

As to where his grandparents were living on Burgh Hill when young Edmund first joined them, Colin points out that the 1840 Tithe Map only shows the row of cottages on the left just before Fysie Lane, now known as Burgh Hill Cottages, with no other houses at the time on Burgh Hill. A later map, surveyed in 1874 and published 1878, shows Tollgate Cottage, the School (built in 1861) and a couple of untitled structures opposite the Burgh Hill

cottages. It seems unlikely that they would have occupied the Toll Cottage that was part of the Haremere Estate at the time, but were any of the cottages on Burgh Hill owned by the Haremere Estate and if so, were they listed under 'Haremere Lodge' for the purposes of the 1888 Electoral Register? Or does Haremere Lodge refer to the Lodge House seen today on the right going up the hill toward Hurst Green? All are questions that for now remain unanswered.

Another loose end is, of course, the cause of Edmund's death. With no record being located in the General Registry Office we are left to conclude that either the death was not officially recorded, or perhaps the record has been lost at some time prior to their digitisation; either way, it leaves us unable to finalise that last but important point.

With all this carefully garnered knowledge, I can now walk through the gate with a somewhat lighter heart. I can offer my silent greeting, or aloud if no one is close by, and I sometimes stop on the seat beyond the gate to reflect on all that has happened since Edmund's passing; of world wars and youthful companions signing up to fight for their country never to be seen again, and the mournful notes of the *Last Post* played in the churchyard with Mr Kipling standing at the fresh cut stone of the memorial; of knowing that his tiny village has grown up the hill towards Burwash, survived the bombings of another world war and grown down Oxenbridge Lane, and more recently over Church Farm, and that his old schoolhouse stands empty awaiting a developer's whim to tear it down. Perhaps it is better, and he can rest easier, if he does *not* know all this, but is content that the field beyond the gate he watches over is a happy place, carefully maintained, where he can hear children at play and the village gathering for summer fetes. All the year round he has the steady, gentle footfall of dog walkers, families and visitors to the village who pass by after first admiring the church; *his* church and through *his* gate. I want him to know that although I do not *remember* him, I am aware of him and of his constancy as our gatekeeper in all weathers and I will continue to pass the time of day as I pass through the gate, happy that he is at rest in his own village.

Our village.

**Paul Dawson, with the considerable help
of Colin Boylett in tidying up my loose ends and
turning my knot into a bow.**

ETCHINGHAM NATURE NOTES

There has been a remarkable amount of early growth in the garden and the woods this Spring and early Summer, on many plants, shrubs and trees. The most remarkable thing has been the berries on the female holly bushes in the wood. The berries are still green, but have already grown to their normal full size and, no doubt, will be red quite soon.



Green holly berries

In the middle of June we noticed several fungi growing in the wood. They were some six inches tall, with a thick white stem and a brown top, that attracted lots of flies. Having looked them up, we found they were “Stinkhorn” and, not surprisingly, they were much earlier than would have normally been expected. The next day they had all gone, presumably having been eaten.

ETCHINGHAM TUESDAY CLUB

Please do contact me for further information.

LINDA NEVE
GROUP LEADER

ETCHINGHAM CLUB

Please do refer to Etchingham E Bulletin for all the events being held at the Etchingham Club.

Walking our dog down the lane, last thing at night (as we habitually do), we have been lucky enough to see a glow-worm in the grass verge along the roadside. The term “glow-worm” is actually a misnomer: while they resemble worms, they are actually beetles. They are famous for their ability to show a tiny blue-coloured light to attract a mate.

We have many log piles in the wood, on which we stack dead wood, either small fallen, broken branches or sections of bigger ones that I have cut up. They form “habitat piles”, in which many insects and small mammals live. Walking through the wood one morning recently, I noticed that one big pile had been badly disturbed, presumably by a badger looking for a nest - containing something to eat! What looked like the remains of a bee’s nest had been dug out.

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

FRANK H. SMITH

PLEA FOR WATER

Please provide water for the birds in your garden. In these dry conditions, they are struggling to find enough moisture.

It would also be useful to provide a shallow dish of water at a higher level to enable butterflies and other insects to also take on fluids. **M.N.**

CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK, CYCLE OR RUN

Christian Aid are organising a Sponsored Walk, Cycle or Run on Saturday, 5th September 10 a.m. till Noon on The Cuckoo Trail from Heathfield to Horam (3 miles) and back.

Good place for a coffee break nearby in Horam. (For those who do not wish to walk back, a lift will be available at the Horam end) .

Sponsor money can be given in at the Heathfield end of the Trail or it may be given to Sue Mumford (phone 07596 977370), who will forward it to the local Christian Aid Committee.

SUE MUMFORD

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@gmail.com

The Burwash & Burwash Common correspondent is Mr Tom Travers.

Tom can be contacted at:

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BURWASH & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

The Flower Club marked its 65th Anniversary with a delightful summer barbecue. Members were entertained by the Jolly Boys, whose lively sea shanties created a wonderful atmosphere and had everyone singing along.

Despite the hot weather, everyone thoroughly enjoyed a delicious meal of hot dogs, chicken drumsticks and a variety of fresh salads. The celebrations concluded with a beautiful anniversary cake, made by Marion, which was cut by our President, Marianne Heathcote.



Our President, Marianne Heathcote cutting the 65th Anniversary Cake

The event raised £140 for The Hospice in the Weald.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday, 30th August 2026 - Tombola Stall at the Burwash Fair - SEE BELOW.

We will be having a bottle tombola stall at the Burwash Fair and will be seeking donations of all sorts, e.g. soft drinks or wine, sauces, shampoo, etc. All food items must be in date.

Monday, 14th September 2026 - Demonstration by Brenda Bull.

Monday, 9th November 2026 - Demonstration by Vivian Witters.

Contact Peta Highton: petahighton@hotmail.com or telephone - 01435 882 626.

JAN MACFARLAND



WALKS FOR STROLLERS



Six Strollers and Freddie the dog set off from the Bear Car Park in Burwash in the sunshine, passing the Catholic Church and taking the footpath to Mottynsden Manor House, and then up through the orchard towards Franchise Farm.



We turned left on the driveway passing the memorial to Flight Lieutenant Reginald Frank Rimmer as shown in the photograph below.



We crossed Spring Lane to the Holton Lane bridleway. Continuing to the end of the lovely shady bridleway, at Burwash Weald we crossed the A265.

We then took the footpath to Burnt House Farm and from there down through Bog Wood.

Crossing the river Dudwell, we turned left along the footpath towards Bateman's.



Passing the Mill and Bateman's we headed back to Burwash on the footpath.

The total distance walked was 5 miles: an enjoyable walk in good company.

Our next walk is on Wednesday, 5th August.

Our September walk will be on Wednesday, 2nd September.

Both walks start from The Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.

We will always welcome new Strollers. Do please join us.

Please ring, if you have any questions.

PETER AND KAREN FARLEY
01435 883141

Wild about Burwash

It's appropriate that the theme of the magazine for the summer issue is History as at the time of writing we are in our third heatwave of the summer and we are breaking historical temperature records. This is obviously having an effect on gardens and the environment both locally as well as nationally and internationally.

Many of us are finding the heat more than uncomfortable but it seems to suit the butterflies and moths as numbers seem to be high this year. One of our members reported seeing 17 different species of butterflies in their garden in just one day and reminded us of the importance of having some wilder areas in the garden left uncut as grass is the caterpillar food for eight of those butterflies seen; Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Ringlet Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood plus Large, Small and Essex Skippers. The wilder areas also provide plenty of nectar sources for the adults.



A Marbled White

It's hard to believe that WAB will be celebrating its tenth anniversary next year. From a small group working on the Environment Policies in the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan, we now have 230 members, with more than 100 actively chatting and sharing information and ideas through our various WhatsApp groups.

We have always aimed to be "grassroots" and it seems to be contagious as more local parish groups have set up to keep an eye on and enjoy their natural landscape and biodiversity. The latest to get "Wild About" are Heathfield and Mayfield.

The Burwash Neighbourhood Plan is being reviewed alongside the Rother District Local Plan and we will be looking at the environment policies to seek continuing protections for the historic landscape, biodiversity and Dark Skies with the addition of protections for the river Dudwell, Rother and tributaries. This will be supported by the evidence provided from the 18 month water quality monitoring of the Dudwell which Wild About Etchingham and Hurst Green and Wild About Mayfield will be extending to other sections of the Upper Rother.

The Love our Ouse group, who helped us to set up our monitoring on the Dudwell, were the first group in the UK to gain the Rights of Rivers charter for the River Ouse. The charter is based on the Universal Declaration of River Rights and includes eight fundamental rights, such as the right to native biodiversity, to be pollution free and to undergo restoration and regeneration. We are now exploring the possibility of working with this for the rivers in Burwash.

Over 10 years WAB volunteers have worked to produce our own local apple juice with more than 2,500 litre bottles sold to date (eat local), replanted verges (providing habitat for pollinators), set up river monitoring (tracking changes in water quality). We have also supported the Burwash Community Market (local produce) and Soil Craft (local composting). We're looking forward to the next 10 years.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions or comments, or if you have any ideas for us moving forward at

wildaboutburwash@gmail.com

JULIAN KENNY

FLORIBUNDA - THE HISTORICAL GARDEN

Great Dixter is a 15th Century manor house at Northiam, a village hidden in the High Weald, not far from Bodiam and Sissinghurst. It is only 7 miles from where I live. The old Manor House (*see old photograph on page 40*) was extended by Sir Edwin Lutyens, who designed many monuments after the First World War. The Thiepval Memorial in the Somme is one example of his work and another is the India Gate in New Delhi. He may also have designed the Menin Gate, ***which lists the names of many young men who lost their lives in Ypres. Apparently Lutyens was known as Ned to his friends.

Most of the fields that surround Great Dixter have developed into a series of meadows which change over the seasons but are particularly beautiful in early summer when the orchids are out and they are filled with spring flowers – buttercups, oxeye daisies, thistles, loosestrife, meadowsweet, and self heal to name a few. The garden design was developed by Christopher Lloyd after his mother died.

I recently went on a course at Great Dixter. Most of the people on the course were gardeners with youth and vigour and one sported natty dreadlocks to die for. We all followed Fergus round the many meadows he maintains, discussing scarifying, when to sow yellow rattle on to bare patches and when to remove thatch – a thick layer of grass clippings which stifles yellow rattle. This annual parasitic plant is vital to reduce the vigour of grasses allowing orchids and wild flowers to thrive.

Red poppies are an annual plant with historic roots. Poppies flourish in disturbed soil. During the First World War much of the Somme was the scene of battles on flat, exposed areas where millions died for so little gain. The scarlet poppy became a symbol from then on.

We are in a new era of history now but warmongering does not die.

Charles Dickens wrote in 'A Tale of Two Cities':

*'It was the best of times,
It was the worst of times,
It was the age of wisdom,
It was the age of foolishness.'*

I do not know why this came into my mind, but

*'Those who cannot remember the past are
condemned to repeat it.'* (George Santayana 1905)

**That could be my epitaph if I do not stop planting
the wrong plant in the wrong place.**

Floribunda philosophises once again.

FLORIBUNDA

The Menin Gate was in fact designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and built by the Imperial War Graves Commission, since renamed the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The Menin Gate Memorial was unveiled on 24th July 1927. The inscriptions were proposed and written by Rudyard Kipling, of course.

EDITOR



**HEDGE CUTTING AND
PADDOCK MAINTENANCE.**

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AND HARROWING • FERTILIZING • FENCING
• HAY/ STRAW FOR SALE • GROUNDWORKS

TOM GORRINGE

01435 830621 / 07706 588100

BURWASH PARISH MATTERS

Following the Full Council Meeting on Tuesday, 14th July

Grants

At the July meeting, the Parish Council awarded a grant to the Burwash Scout Group to part fund acoustic boards to be fitted within the Scout hut. Subject to some final checks to be made, including building regulations and fire safety, the Parish Council agreed a grant of £2,348.00 for the works.

Audit Objection Quashed

The Clerk reported to Council that PFK Littlejohn, the Council's external auditor, has now closed the resident query on the financial accounts for the year 2024-2025. The auditor found in the Council's favour and reported no fault with the accounts or the process followed. The full report will be discussed and publicised at the September Council meeting.

International Dark Skies

The Parish Council have voted to continue to support Wild About Burwash in their bid to register Burwash as part of the International Dark Skies initiative. This important undertaking builds on the work already supported by the Parish Council that endeavours to protect the parish from light pollution which, therefore, will help protect species of insects and wildlife that rely on the dark sky environment for their habitat and reproduction. More on this in future Parish Matters.

Bus Shelter at Burwash Common

Investigations have been made into potentially moving the bus shelter at the end of Vicarage Road forward so that users can actually see the bus when it is coming along the A265. With the help of some historical information received from the Burwash Common & Weald Residents' Association, the Council took the decision to keep the shelter where it is currently situated, which allows for the safety of the school children using the stop to board and alight the buses away from the A265.

Planning Enforcement Plan

The Parish Council have been discussing the recently developed Enforcement Plan developed by Rother. There are concerns that town and parish councils have not been consulted on the Plan and, through lobbying elected members at Rother, there is now an opportunity to give feedback on the proposed plan. Planning and enforcement of planning law is an important issue within the parish and Burwash is keen to ensure that the enforcement of planning law is upheld. The Clerk has been asked to work up an initial response before getting final approval at the next Planning Committee meeting. Watch this space for more information.

Local Government Reorganisation

It is hoped that a decision from the Government regarding boundaries and how Sussex will be divided is to be made this week (15th July at time of writing). Further information can be found on the parish council website www.burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk or speak to Emma, the Clerk for the up-to-date news.

New Planning Law

New laws that limit the ability for parishes to 'call-in' planning applications will come into effect on 31st October. Changes mean that most planning applications will now be determined by the Planning Officer at the local planning authority. Burwash Parish Council has raised concerns with the Chair of Rother's Scrutiny Committee around Rother's decision to appoint the Chair of the Planning Committee and the Head of Planning as the team responsible for assessing whether an application meets the tight criteria now introduced for a 'call in'. More news on this as it comes in.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council is on
Tuesday, 8th September at 7 p.m. at the Parish
Rooms, Burwash.**

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



THE NEXT BURWASH COMMUNITY MARKET IS ON SATURDAY, 1ST AUGUST 2026

The July Market was a delightful affair particularly as the weather was so lovely.

However, we're really looking forward to our next Burwash Community Market – our Summer Special, which includes a Car Boot Sale as well! If you are interested to come as a seller, please send a message to 07443 411677.

As well as all your favourite stalls, we'll have some lovely new ones to discover, along with a selection of interesting talks throughout the morning.

There'll also be a Community Sharing Space, where everything is free. It's all about sharing, reducing waste and helping one another.

We'd love to see you there, so come along, have a wander, enjoy a chat and be part of another lovely community morning.

9 a.m. – 12 Noon

Do please come and support the next Extended Community Market on Saturday, 1st August.

JOANNA GIRLING

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 July 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 Friday Bar

100 PLUS CLUB JULY DRAW

The draw took place at The Bear on Tuesday, 12th July and was drawn by Miss Kim Hardy. There were 229 balls in the draw.

Congratulations to the Winners!

1st Ball Number	275	Mr Malcolm Dick	£50
2nd Ball Number	9	Miss B. Russell	£20
3rd Ball Number	175	Mr N.J. Carrie	£15

100 PLUS CLUB AUGUST DRAW

The August draw took place at The Bear and was again drawn by Miss Kim Hardy. There were 204 balls in the draw.

Congratulations to the Winners!

1st Ball Number	90	Mr M. Mulholland	£45
2nd Ball Number	45	Mr Ian Workman	£20
3rd Ball Number	365	J. & J. Bridgeman	£10

SEE POSTERS FOR THE AUGUST FAIR

STEVE BENNETT
01435 882526 or 07917 164578

SUNKEN LANES & ASSARTS

Having moved just a few miles north of Wadhurst, getting to work involves taking a train once again, and somehow I always seem to be running a few minutes late, so I have investigated all the possible short-cuts.

Eventually I found the very best one, which is simply marked as a Footpath, but is in fact a magnificent sunken lane and cuts a good five minutes off my journey time from cottage to station. Far more than that, it removes all the stresses of the morning or all the misadventures of a bad day on the way home. It is not that long, taking five minutes to take one from the lower road to Whitegates Lane on the ridge of the hill (probably a lot longer in winter snow and ice). It is just like stepping back in time and is a remarkably deep sunken lane Every time I'm transported into thinking about just how many animals and men have trodden this route before me: "Where were they going, what were they doing?"

Originally I assume it was an ancient track way heading eventually north towards what is now the ruined site of Bayham Abbey. At some point it was undoubtedly a drove road to move pigs to feast on the acorns and beech mast in the High Weald and then to move other livestock, oxen and horses, once assarts had been cleared.

There are many excellent articles on line and detailed maps of medieval assarts and field systems, thanks to the work of the High Weald AONB Partnership. Recognising the pressure on fields in the High Weald for development, food, energy production and leisure use, the High Weald AONB Partnership and Historic England co-funded the 'Field Systems in the High Weald' project designed to help identify and conserve the area's most historically-significant fields, initially in 2017, but now much expanded. Type in High Weald Landscape on-line and you can access maps of fields throughout much of the AONB: beauty and history entwined.

Now what is an Assart? In simple terms, it is a field which has been cleared for agricultural use from the native woodland. The term derives from the Old French word *essart*, which in turn stems from the Latin word *exartum* - meaning to grub out tree roots. Numerous examples of the early Medieval assarts still remain in this part of East Sussex, which is one reason why the High Weald landscape is so precious. It was no mean feat to move from the populated coastal plains across the Low Weald and then into the muddy glories of the High Weald, where for much of the year the soil is unworkable. We have had so many articles with the words "muddy" over the last five years and we discussed the movement of pigs at length (pannage) in an earlier article. Needless to say the Sunken Lanes came into existence before the Assarts, but you would never have had the latter in The Weald without the Sunken Lanes.

Many of the country lanes which eventually turned into tarmac roads in this part of Sussex are actually far more efficient at linking A to B than modern roadways, which have been forced to circumnavigate property boundaries. My morning Sunken Lane is just one excellent example of a Lane that had to stay as an unmade up road as it has a very steep gradient and runs through the edge of mixed ancient woodland. Many of the hazel bushes on top of the banks have been coppiced over the years and the sunken lane is indeed now a wide natural walk way, from which pigs and oxen could not escape into the woods.

As I run down it most mornings I am half expecting a Swineherd and his herd of pigs to come towards me: nothing much has changed except a mesh fence around the edge of the forest 'proper' with notices saying "Private Property - No Admittance". Hazel, beech, sweet chestnut, holly, hawthorn, ash and elm all give me shade and join together over one's head in places. Bracken, ferns and bluebells in season cushion my feet over the sandstone bedrock. Even if it pours with rain, the canopy keeps you dry. In late Victorian times I suspect that it was also the path for local children on the lower road to make their way to the School House at Woods Green (now a residential building). Likewise farm workers would have made their way from cottages on the lower road to the large farmstead on the ridge to do their daily work.

All I ever meet now are the occasional dog walker and deer, which have jumped over the mesh fence. I regularly meet the same solitary Roe Deer, walking towards me, with its damp nose and shiny rust coat, which makes it so distinctive. Occasionally I meet a young fox, which looks at me as if I'm trespassing and refuses to run off, staring me out. Both these friends know I am just a silly, running-late human on a mission. If I'm early, a pheasant may fly nearly at me out of its night-time roost.

The soft earth banks and the mesh of exposed tree roots running across the floor of the Lane make it a haven for shrews and voles. I have seen more here in a few months than at any other time in Sussex. Sometimes I even get to see them having a drink in the gullies, if it has rained. The bird chorus is incredible, with songs and trills which I don't recognise. (No reception for Merlin here Laurence Worton). Everything changes with the seasons on the banks: snow drops, wild daffodils, primroses, violets and bluebells - many all in flower at the same time this year. Now in high summer there is wild honeysuckle, wild roses, ivy and brambles set to catch my hair as they dangle from the overhanging boughs. You have to concentrate: tree roots to trip you up below and bramble shoots to snare you, not to mention the nettles and adders.

Halfway down, or up, domesticity steps in as the stable on the real tarmac road has a flock of hens and cockerels behind the stables, backing into the woods. The cockerels are massive and very happy as they peck and cock-a-doodle regardless of the hour. If I'm on my way home, I always drift off to thinking of coq au vin as these are such fine cockerels. The foxes must have a huge food-store in the forests as I haven't found any poultry feathers yet. Wadhurst Footpath Society and the East Sussex County Council have done a very good job of up-keeping the walkways through the woods, so that you can walk through them even with a dog and not enter the woodland at all: one just follows the paths and can look in and enjoy the flora and fauna. On parts that have been cleared, the grass is short, with magnificent foxgloves standing proudly, while large numbers of chubby bunnies run around in the sunshine, knowing they are safe from dogs and humans. The foxes, buzzards and red kites look very healthy and well fed, so numbers are being controlled by Nature.

Under the hedgerow of an ancient assart field, a large Common Lizard was sunning itself in the blazing heatwave - only the second time I have seen one in East Sussex (the last time also on a very hot day but in the Low Weald near Chiddingly).

Shrew, Common Lizard (Above) & Voles (Below)



CAROLINE HUBAND





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“August - When summer gathers up her robes of glory, and like a dream of beauty glides away.”
 – Sarah Helen Whitman

Oh my goodness, where has the time gone? August is the penultimate month before the outdoor season ends in September.

As you can see on the list of home games to be played, the club members get together for the club finals. This is where the players, who successfully moved up the ranks in their respective competitions, compete for the opportunity to be crowned champion. It is a hotly contested event. You may be a county player, but it does not mean that you have won a cup or shield in the internal competitions. That is the beauty of the game, there is no guarantee of success, as there is always an element of luck.



Other matches being played in August are:

Sunday, 9th August Mixed Triples Tournament
 Wednesday, 12th Aug. Cranbrook
 Monday, 17th August Sussex VIPs
Saturday, 22nd and
Sunday, 23rd August Club Finals Weekend
 Thursday, 27th August Hellingly –
 (Horam League).

Horam League Report

Following April’s defeat, the club has bounced back with five league wins in May, results as follows:-

Home versus Horam, won 123 shots to 21.
 Away versus Hellingly, won 78 shots to 60.
 Home versus Deanland, won 74 shots to 46.
 Home versus Uckfield, won 89 shots to 46.
 Home versus Herstmonceux, won 97 shots to 46.

These wins put us back on top of the League, although we are closely followed by Ringmer and Cross in Hand. Although 24 points clear with a maximum 6 points available in each game, we have played 3 games more than our nearest rivals. But, “a bird in the hand.....”.

Away trips to Hailsham, Rotherfield and Groombridge completed the matches played in June. We played Ringmer at home and away in June. Results and a report will be in the October Magazine.

Wadhurst Guides came along to the club to participate in some bowling with the help of members and thoroughly enjoyed themselves as described in the article they published on Facebook (sadly unable to be reproduced here).

If there are any other young groups who would like to have a go, then please get in touch.

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

JANE GILBERT



BURWASH OVER 50'S WALKING FOOTBALLERS

Burwash entered a team into the Tonbridge Angels FC Over 60's Walking Football Tournament for the second time and once again ended winning the Plate Competition

The Burwash squad was Chris Jones in goal, Clive Branford, Roy Smith, Doc Thody, Dave Brett and Richard O'Dwyer with Peter Manning & Kevin Clarke sharing up front duties. Every player contributed with good performances individually and as a team.

We have now played a total of 15 matches at this tournament over the two competitions with only 1 defeat (at the hands of Snowboard Mike who is now a Burrisher – sensible chap!). A great day for our club and all credit to the squad.



Burwash before kick-off. Back – Clive, Richard, Chris, Andy, Roy & Peter. Front – Doc, Kevin & Dave

Originally the tournament was to be over 65's, but the organisers changed it to over 60's late in the day, which meant that our squad was the oldest there with an average age of 69!

The host team, Tonbridge, won the competition with Burwash contesting the Plate and running-out worthy winners.

Peter Manning scored 3 very good goals, including the winner to secure the trophy – the septuagenarian rolling back the years. The squad of players rotated to great effect despite the heat and us being the oldest squad present. Our hosts complimented the team, describing them as the best side they played on the day and extended an invitation for Burwash to join future matches v Tonbridge.



Burwash with Winners' Medals and a celebratory pint....

If you fancy having a go, the Burwash Walking Footballers will be at the Burwash Common Fête on Saturday, 12th September from 2 p.m. with an exhibition game followed by a chance for all the dads to have a go.

WARNING – Walking Football is seriously addictive!

**For more information contact Steve Mintram
on 01435 882444
www.burwashwalkingfootballers.co.uk**

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BURWASH SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Club members are still enjoying the sport they love, but in longer format outside on the greens. However, we are still thinking ahead for the short mat too. First, we will be at the Burwash Playing Fields Association Summer Fair. Once again, we will be running our bowling game, which this year is going to be run by our new younger members, but I am sure it will still be great fun. There will also be a tombola, guess the weight of the cake and number of sweets in the tin. This will help us to pay our yearly insurance for the club and members. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The club will return to their Monday evening roll up sessions on 7th September. We start at 6 p.m. and carry on until around 9 p.m. We have just acquired new mats, thanks to the generous grant from the Parish Council, so we will be practising, to find the right lines before we resume our league challenge.

On the following Monday we will be holding our AGM at 8 p.m. after half an evening of bowling. If you would like to know more about this sport, please feel free to contact me, via email at Mary Taylor on marybarrytaylor@hotmail.co.uk

TEA AT THE RITZ

Our Tea at the Ritz event will be held on Saturday, 8th August, from 3 p.m. in Burwash Village Hall. Each table will be laid with its own plates of sandwiches, savouries, scones and cream, and a selection of cakes. There will also be tea and coffee on each table and a jug of water. The event will be £10 per person with the proceeds going to the Get Together funds. We are excited that Ray has agreed to come along and entertain us again. We will also hold a raffle.

To book a place/s please call 01435 882107 or email marybarrytaylor@hotmail.co.uk

Each table can fit up to 8 people and the places are selling well. We look forward to seeing you all again.

MARY TAYLOR BEM

SOME TWENTIETH CENTURY RECTORS

While revising my history of The Assumption of Blessed Mary and St Nicholas, I discovered more details of those who served as its Rector in the 20th Century. In some ways the most interesting of these figures is Richard Hippisley Domenichetti Markham, who had adopted the surname Markham in 1916, although the change was not gazetted until 1919. Since the Italians were our allies in the First World War, it is by no means clear why he should have done so.

He was the son of a distinguished army surgeon, born at Stoke Damerel on 21st April 1863, and educated at Haileybury and Oriel College, Oxford. He went up in the autumn of 1882 and graduated three years later. In 1885 he was awarded the Newdigate Prize for his poem '*The Thames*'. After a brief conversion to Roman Catholicism, he returned to the Church of England. In 1890 he published '*The Quest of Sir Bertrand and Other Poems*'. He was ordained in 1892 and served as a curate at St. Mary Magdalene, Lincoln. In 1894 he moved to St. John the Divine, Gainsborough and from 1896-7 was regional organising secretary for the Additional Curates Society.

There were to be no further publications. Instead he became the Rector of St. Peter and St. Paul, Belchford 1897-1906 and is remembered to this day for gifting the high altar. His resignation may have been occasioned by his father's death on 12th July 1906, although he was not one of the executors of his father's will. He continued to have permission to officiate in the Diocese of Lincoln until 1909, when he moved to Hove to take on a new church, St. Thomas at Hove. The building was still under construction with only part of it used for worship. It was not dedicated until 1915 and was not finally consecrated (it was not free of debt) until 1923. By then Markham had taken up his post as Rector of Etchingham, possibly in search of a less stressful environment. He will have brought with him, if it did not already exist, a practice that was distinctly high church. Markham chose to step down in 1931 and returned to live in Hove. He died on 18th May 1935 in Kensington, possibly because he was having medical treatment in London.

Contd. Overleaf

SOME TWENTIETH CENTURY RECTORS *Continued*

Few, if any, will now remember Charles Weeks and his wife Winifred, who came to the parish in September 1938, saw the parish through the Second World War and retired in 1946. He was only twelve years younger than Markham, born on 5th May 1875. He went up to Selwyn College, Cambridge as a scholar in the Michaelmas term of 1894, graduating in the summer of 1897. It looks as though he was ordained as a Deacon in 1898 and became a priest in the following year. I have not yet traced whether he took up a curacy at that stage, but from 1903 until 1913 he taught at Epsom College. From 1905 he was the housemaster of Forest House.

In 1913 he became one of two curates at St. Peter's in St. Leonards, serving also as assistant chaplain to the Community of the Holy Family at Baldslow, but joined the Army Chaplain's Department on 4th August 1916. He relinquished his military commission on 26th September 1919 and seems briefly to have served as an assistant priest in Kensington before becoming Vicar of Hooe in 1921. He was active in the community, chairing the Parish Council for six years and representing Hooe on the Hailsham Rural District Council from 1927 until the boundaries were revised in 1934.

That was the year in which he moved to Portsdown in Hampshire, but when Charles Snell retired ill in June 1938, he was chosen to be the Rector of Etchingham. His institution took place on 6th September 1938. War came just under a year later. When the National Register was taken in 1939, Weeks, his wife and two children, Peter aged 11 and Jocelyn eleven months younger, were living at The Rectory in the High Street.

Etchingham was clearly much affected by the Second World War. Had the German forces landed in 1940, the Rother was part of the inland defensive line to be held, and throughout the War numerous troops were billeted in various houses along Sheepstreet Lane and Canadian troops at Haremere Hall.

German bombers returning from raids would also pass over the village and drop any bombs that they had failed to use on London. Later on the village was in V-bomb alley. There was a searchlight battery and at least one German plane was shot down.

There is more work to do on the war effort in Etchingham and the part the Rector and his wife played, not least in coping with evacuees. This is very much therefore an interim report.

Perhaps not surprisingly, having celebrated both VE and VJ Day, Weeks felt that it was time to retire. He left the parish in 1946, but did not go far. He moved to 7, Tilsmore Road in Heathfield and appears to have had some connection with St. Faiths. He died there on 26th December 1954.

I am conscious that for both men we have little more than the bare facts, although we do know something more of Markham's "High Church" proclivities. Many puzzles remain, not least why he ceased to write or at least publish his poetry. Particularly with Charles Weeks, there must be a chance that other villagers will have something to offer.

This publication is then something of a challenge to potential village historians and offered in that spirit.

JOHN BARNES



Old Photograph of Great Dixter

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SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH

The Beginning, a Brief History and a Retirement

The 'history' theme of the current magazine issue has come at an opportune time for this particular missive as there have been numerous football orientated anniversary celebrations taking place in Brighton recently. 125 years ago, on 24th June, 1901, in the Seven Stars pub in Ship Street, John Jackson and some other like-minded gentlemen gathered to form a semi-professional football team to represent the area. The name they settled on was..... I think you can guess..... Brighton and Hove United. United? Hang on, that doesn't sound right. Before a ball could be kicked in anger and following complaints from the amateur club, Hove F.C., the name was modified to the now familiar Brighton and Hove Albion. Why 'Albion' was chosen is not known but there are only two other Albions in the football league (West Bromwich and Burton), whereas there are 15 Uniteds, so it makes the suffix less common, if not entirely unique. Initially, during its inaugural 1901-1902 season, the club played at the Sussex County Cricket ground in Hove, in the second division of the Southern League. The following season, the club rented the nearby Goldstone Ground and ground-shared with the aforementioned Hove F.C. for two seasons. In 1930, they bought the ground outright and the Goldstone Ground remained the club's home until 1997.

Over the last 125 years, major honours for the Albion have been hard to come by. However, in 1910, seven years after promotion to the Southern League First Division, they won the league title. This entitled the club to play Aston Villa, the winners of the Football League (the other professional English football league at the time), for the Charity Shield and the moniker 'Champions of England'. The match was played at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge and the Albion won 1-0. In terms of honours, that was the highlight of the first 125 years.

Since the 1910 'Champions of England' success, the fortunes of the club have been variable to say the least. In 1915, professional football was ceased for the remaining years of the First World War and, being of service age, most of the club's players enlisted for the army.

By the time the club regrouped four years later, four players and numerous ground staff and supporters had lost their lives to the conflict. It was from then that the club's adopted anthem, 'Sussex by the Sea', a marching song written by William Ward-Higgs in 1907, gained particular poignancy. Even today, the line "You may tell them all that we stand or fall, for Sussex by the Sea" sends shivers down your spine when it is sung by a 30,000-strong choir of Sussex folk.

Immediately after the Great War, Brighton and Hove Albion were elected into the football league and joined the newly formed Third Division South. For the next 38 years, Brighton remained in the Third Division although the crowds still flocked to the Goldstone with over 32,000 attending an FA Cup tie against West Ham in 1933. Between the Second World War and 1979, Brighton fluctuated between the third and fourth tier of the league with a couple of brief flirtations in the Second Division, now the Championship. Things started to change when, in 1973, the club appointed an ambitious new Chairman, Mike Bamber. He secured the services of a hugely talented, but controversial, manager by the name of Brian Clough. Clough didn't stay long and abandoned Brighton for the glamour of Leeds United, but his assistant, Peter Taylor stayed in Sussex and started to assemble a decent team, including legendary Albion players such as Brian 'Nobby' Horton and Peter Ward. Taylor was replaced by Alan Mullery in 1976 and, in his first season, led the team to promotion to the Second Division. The next season the Seagulls missed out on promotion to the First Division (now the Premier League) on goal difference. The disappointment didn't affect the team for long and the club's first ever excursion into the top flight of English football was secured on 5th May 1979 with a final day 3-1 victory away at Newcastle. The club survived four seasons in the old Division One but finally succumbed to relegation in 1983. The end of that season was bitter-sweet for Albion fans as they also reached the FA Cup final and had a chance to finally win a major trophy (apparently the 1910 Charity Shield doesn't qualify as 'major'). In a classic 'so close but so far' scenario, Gordon Smith missed a golden chance to clinch a 3-2 win against Manchester United in the last minute of extra time. The subsequent 4-0 drubbing in the replay signalled the decline of the club. Brighton yo-yoed to the bottom of the league and reached a nadir in 1997.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH *CONTD.*

With the club 13 points adrift at the bottom of the third division, burdened by huge debts, their ground sold to a property developer by their asset-stripping chairman, nowhere to play the following season, fans protesting against the board and no manager, the club looked doomed to insolvency.

However, before they were finally ousted, the board of Bill Archer, Greg Stanley and David Bellotti appointed the virtually unknown coach, Steve Gritt, to oversee the inevitable demise of the club and be their fall guy. Remarkably, Gritt ground out a series of wins leading to Brighton catching Hereford United and, as the quirks of the schedule would have it, a final day, winner takes all showdown away at Hereford. A 1-1 draw was sufficient for Brighton to maintain their league status and survive.

The story of the Albion's subsequent rise from the ashes is well versed and I have recounted it in these missives on more than one occasion. From home games at Gillingham, playing in the converted running track at Withdean, building the Amex, to becoming an established Premier League team and competing in Europe..... you know the story. Given the roller-coaster history of the club we cannot take our position at the zenith of the football pyramid for granted and it is unlikely that there will not be more falls from grace over the next 125 years. As Albion supporters, we are not entitled to Premier League football and we should value and enjoy the experience for as long as it lasts.

The next stage of the Brighton and Hove Albion story commences on 20th August with the first game of the Europa Conference League. This is closely followed by the Premier League opener against Aston Villa at the Amex. As usual, Seagulls Over Burwash are running coaches to all home games and offer coach season tickets as well as game by game fares. If you would like to travel with us, please check out our website and get in touch.

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. While we are on the subject of history, Teskey is a genuine antique artifact of Seagulls Over Burwash, having been Chairman since our inception in 2011. However, after 15 years of dedication and incredible hard work, Teskey will be stepping down at this year's AGM and handing the club's reins to Clive Steed. Teskey has been largely responsible for the supporter's club being the success it is today with over 150 fans using the SOB coach regularly. We, as Seagulls supporters from Burwash, Heathfield and surrounding towns and villages, owe Teskey a huge debt of gratitude and we thank him for all his time, effort, blood, sweat and tears that he has given us over the last decade and a half. Thanks, mate!

SIMON FORSTER

BURWASH NOT SO YOUNG GROUP

***Barbara Varney and the Not So Young
Treasurer, Mike Farley***



BURWASH POTATO COMPETITION

The competition, which is celebrating its 32nd year, started as the 'Bell Potato Growers' Competition' in the Bell in 1994 as a fun competition between locals.

With the closure of the Bell in around 2012, the competition migrated to the Rose and Crown, where it is still based. Approximately 25 to 30 people enter each year with 4 or 5 seed potatoes being delivered in February to allow some time for them to chit before planting in early March, either in pots or in the ground: it's the individual's choice.

However, only one potato is finally dug and the winner is the one with the heaviest weight from that one seed potato. The variety varies from year to year but originally had something to do with flight, ie, Pentland Javelin, Arran Pilot, and Swift, although Arran Pilot seems to be the 'go to' variety most years. After up to 105 growing days, the contestants are visited by a digging team, with the entries being weighed the following day in the Rose and Crown.

The winner will have their name engraved on the trophy, the Potato Cup. This year's winner was Roger Thomas with 8lbs 15ozs. He has now won it a total of 5 times.

Previous winners include Alan Burton (5 times), Mike Poulter (5 times), Ian Johnson (3 times) and Tom Appleby (3 times) and various other village stalwarts who are sadly no longer with us.

To enter the 2027 competition, please contact Graham Allen on sueallen60@yahoo.co.uk

GRAHAM ALLEN

There is fun but fierce competition as the photographs below indicate so clearly.



BURWASH NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

A nice group assembled to welcome our speaker today. Madame Chair, Isabella called us to order with her familiar bell, congratulating all members who had enjoyed birthdays in June (Anne and Marianne) and took names of cake providers for the July meeting. There was a collection of photographs, framed pictures, horseshoes (each made individually for a particular horse) and the harness for a giant shire horse. The weight of the harness was astonishing.

Isabella introduced us to our speaker, Barbara Varney, (a member of NSY) (see **photograph on page 45**) and her assistant, Marianne, who helped her with all her horse related objects.

We were lucky that Barbara was able to come, considering she had three broken ribs. She also showed us scars from various injuries she has picked up over the years; but she made very light of them all. There is not much that Barbara has not achieved in her lifetime, but her love of horses dominates everything else. She thinks that most folk associate a 'horsey' life with wealth, but this is far from the truth.

She thinks her love of these understanding creatures came from her Granddad in the First World War. She was born in a 'back to back' in Birmingham but she loved horses from a schoolgirl onwards. She would shoot out past the terraces with a carrot and feed horses the crusts from her packed lunch. Her memory is clear of her determination to 'have one of these one day.' She certainly has experience with all different types: hunters, as well as both large and small ponies. She used to bus to land owned by an Archbishop just to see them. Her education was at the local Grammar School and later after three engagements she married, Michael, the love of her life and had her first carriage ride to the wedding. Birmingham was a bit of a 'rough' area by then, so they relocated to Essex.

Her many jobs included such a variety of things including judging and riding. Her latter, perhaps greatest love, has been for Shire horses, Carriage Driving and Riding for the Disabled Assoc. (RDA). She had progressed from eating dripping on toast in Birmingham to drinking Champagne in London. She has sat on committees with Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, who is not only a superb horsewoman but takes the time and trouble to speak to each and every child at RDA events. Barbara was an active member/contributor to The Chigwell Riding Trust. It was the first ever riding centre for people with special needs and has been established for over 60 years.

She has helped a whole raft of adults and children with special needs for 26 years – the first 12 at Chigwell and the rest at Stonegate with the wonderful Janet Bettell Higgins who loved her horses and helping special needs young adults - she did this for over 35 years at Stonegate with others. Time creeps by and Barbara has had to part with her greatest love, a beautiful Shire nicknamed Boss, but has managed a visit since his relocation. Her experience with Carriage Driving is impressive and she lightly mentioned how in the past everyone had a carriage of varying sorts: even Charles Dickens had his own Hansom Cab.

Such a fascinating afternoon even for us non-horse folks and Barbara is obviously quite a unique and talented lady. She answered interesting questions from the floor and the afternoon closed with our good wishes for a speedy recovery and thanks to her and Marianne for transporting us to a different place in a completely different way.

Our meeting on 16th July was also centred on the talk by another NSY member (so much talent in one Group let alone one village!), with the intriguing title 'Simple Burwash'. Report in the October Magazine.

This month we will be holding our annual Garden Party in beautiful surroundings. Please come: we will surprise you!

At our September meeting Clare Baldry will be coming to talk to us about 'Retiring With Rhyme'.

VERONICA FARLEY



Burwash, Burwash Common, Burwash Weald and the Surrounding Areas

Recent Incidents:

There have been lots of concerned and very upset reports about birds, rabbits and squirrels being injured and killed by a group of youths with catapults around Burwash village.

If you see them, please report what you see to Sussex Police at the time or as soon as possible.

A first report of possible stolen heating fuel in the area has been received.

The concealed tank in the garden of a property on Heathfield Road, Burwash Weald was $\frac{3}{4}$ full in May when last checked, and was found to be under a $\frac{1}{4}$ full in the first week of July, about nine months' worth of fuel for normal use.

Check tanks regularly and make sure security lights haven't been tampered with.

Scams:

Several members have reported receiving telephone calls thanking them for purchasing things from rail to theatre tickets. From what they have said it appears the scam works by 'worrying' the target that someone has used their bank account or credit card details. Fortunately the members have spotted the scam and hung up before it escalated to asking for their bank details!

To report cyber crime and fraud:

<https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/>

NHW by Email:

Three new members since last month.

If you wish to sign up, contact:

steve.mintram@btinternet.com

All messages, usually one or two a month, are sent Bcc, so addresses are never 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

Burwash Common and Weald Residents' Association



Open Meeting

Monday 19th October 2026 at The Pavilion

Meeting starts 7.30 pm Doors open 7.15 pm Bar open

Guest Speaker

Local Resident

Jason Caulkin

will give a talk entitled

Beyond The CV

Standing out in a crowded job market

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

Contact us by email at bcwra2017@gmail.com

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FAIRFIELD SURGERY - PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) PPG LEAFLET

CALLING ALL CARERS

On Thursday, 20th August there will be a 'Drop In' session from 10 a.m. – 12 noon in the Burwash Parish Room next to the surgery, covering the following services, giving you support, advice and guidance:

Sussex Outreach Support

Social Prescriber

Care for Carers

Blue Bird Care – 24/7 home care

Musculoskeletal Service

Power of Attorney explained

Admiral Nurses

**Dudwell St. Mary – respite and Dementia
Cafe**

Association for Carers

**Energise Sussex Coast – they help
residents to reduce the cost of utilities**

(See Poster on Page 53. Ed.)

If you need information about access to benefits, social activities, links to respite care and help at home, then come along for a chat, tea and cakes. There will be a place for confidential conversations and, if you would like someone to sit with your relative, so you can join us, please contact Claudette Neville on 01435 883043.

By now many of you will have received a copy of the new leaflet in the post, giving lots of useful information about local healthcare services. Please keep it somewhere safe, so that when you need help and don't know where to go, the leaflet will point you in the right direction.

There is also a questionnaire to fill in which we will share with the surgery. This is your opportunity to have your say. We will publish the results in due course.

If you have not received a copy of the leaflet, they will also be available to pick up from the surgery.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS! WEEK 7TH -13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

This is the UK's biggest blood pressure testing and awareness event. Every September blood pressure checks are taken by thousands to prevent heart attacks and strokes. Know Your Numbers! Week reaches those who have high blood pressure and don't know it, so they can get the treatment and support they need to bring it under control. Follow the link to register: bloodpressure.org/know-your-numbers/know-your-numbers-week. You can use the blood pressure machine in the surgery, take it yourself with your own machine at home or visit your local pharmacy who will take it for you. If you don't wish to take part in the event, simply hand your result into the surgery and they will deal with your result appropriately.

SURGERY CLOSURE

Monday 31st August (Bank Holiday)

If you need non-emergency help, call 111 and they will direct you to the best place to get that help.

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**Please contact Kerry Fieldwick in
Burwash Common on 07703 565 919
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CALLING ALL CARERS

Thursday 20th August

'Drop in' session 10am-12noon

Burwash Parish Room, by the surgery

This will be a One-stop shop giving support, advice and guidance about what is available to local carers.

There will be a variety of representatives of organisations who can provide information about access to benefits, social activities, links to respite care and help at home.

Come along for cake, a cuppa and a chat.



If you'd like someone to sit with your relative so you can join us, please contact Claudette Neville 01435 883043

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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 usually 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 penny has dropped", "One for the road" and our July topic was "A view from a window".

Who remembers the 1954 film "Rear Window" starring Cary Grant as a professional photographer with a broken leg who whiles away his time spying on his neighbours through his window and possibly witnessing a murder?

Did any of our topic writers include a murder in their "View from a window". Come along and join us at our next meeting when you can find out. It is amazing how many different angles a topic can be approached from drawing from personal experience, research and our own imagination.

If you are interested in or intrigued by the CWG, we would be delighted to see you. There is never any obligation to write on a chosen topic. Everyone is welcome to just come along and listen to what other members of the group have written.

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

Val Stevens on stevensval85@gmail.com

VAL STEVENS



We begin our new programme for 2026-2027 with a talk on Tuesday, 8th September 2026 by Vivienne Lawes, with the title 'Africa in the Western Imagery & African Art'.

For centuries, numerous artists in the West were inspired by the idea of Africa. A kind of exoticism took hold of the imaginations of artists like Rubens, Delacroix and Picasso, or designers such as Bauhaus luminaries Marcel Breuer and Gunta Stölzl. The rise of contemporary art and its international circulation has been through biennials and art fairs, while African artists themselves have hit the headlines with names including El Anatsui and Julie Mehretu becoming global contemporary art stars.

On Tuesday, 13th October 2026 Raymond Warburton will be speaking about 'Sculpture in Britain Today & Tomorrow'.

British sculpture enjoyed a renaissance in the 20th century, with the likes of Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Anthony Caro and Elizabeth Frink leading the way. Among the new generation of British-based sculptors were Rachel Whiteread, Antony Gormley, Maggi Hambling, Anish Kapoor, Richard Long and David Nash: each in their own way is innovative, inspirational and deeply human.

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

www.theartssocietywealden.org.uk

PENNY SPURRELL - CHAIR

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 welcome, in person or remotely.

Our Book Choice this month was 'Before The Coffee Gets Cold' by Toshikazu Kawaguchi.

'Before The Coffee Gets Cold' is the first book in a series of six by the internationally best selling author Toshikazu Kawaguchi. The original book, written in 2015, was adapted from the '1110 Productions Play', which won the 10th Suginami Drama Festival Grand Prize in Japan. The translation by Geoffrey Trousselot is considered direct and simple. It is a slim book, which many of the group said they would have been drawn to it, either in a bookshop or library possibly, because of its endearing cover.

In a small back alley in an unassuming Tokyo café, you will find a magical chair, which can only be accessed when vacated by the resident ghost. The new sitter who must remain seated throughout, must then follow a strange set of exacting rules to travel back in time to hopefully find emotional closure and understanding, but they must return to the present before their coffee gets cold. Within the book the three stories about regret, hope, grief and love are cleverly intertwined along with the genres of magical realism, healing fiction and contemporary fiction.

The book evoked a mixed response from the group. Several members really enjoyed the concept and the heart-warming and emotional experiences of the characters. It was felt that the time travel subject was an escape from the limited physical surroundings and it felt easy to believe it possible in that place. The enthusiasm of some has encouraged them to read further books in the series. Overall, all the group found the insight into another culture interesting with its focus on family relationships, cultural formality and politeness. The relationship map of characters found at the beginning of the book was deemed extremely useful. The role of the ghost was an intriguing device and all felt warranted further explanation.

Those members of the group who did not derive the same pleasure from reading this book instigated discussion about the quality of the translation and whether the book would have been better in the original as a play. The book evoked and provided a springboard to discuss other novels including 'The Phone Booth At The Edge Of The World' by Laura Imai Messina, 'The Time Traveller's Wife' by Audrey Niffenegger, 'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig to name but three. Our discussion ultimately ended with the age-old question: 'Who would you want to travel back to meet for one last time?'

In July we will be reading 'The Perfect Golden Circle' by Benjamin Myers.

For further information, please contact Kerry Fieldwick on 07703 565919.

JULIE UPTON

Thank you for all the feedback we are getting about Swife Lane Book Club club. Many of you are joining in with the choices after reading Julie's reviews.

If you would like to join in with the feedback, please email your comments to the magazine at carolinehuband@outlook.com

KERRY FIELDWICK

FEEDBACK

John Barnes is asking for feedback in his quest to update the history of Etchingham's former rectors. He is hoping some villagers may have additional memories. If you do have some, please let the Editorial Team know.

Of course, we have other histories unfolding over the years: such as five generations of Jarvis Butchers; a whole array of theatrical extravaganzas in Etchingham which could fill half a magazine; a tradition of Pantomime in Burwash, following on from a considerable musical legacy of instrument players, and then there are the very tall stories relating to The Wheel and The Kicking Donkey!

Another History Edition appear will in due course after Cars and Transport in October. ***Ed.***

BURWASH COMMON PAVILION NEWS

BURWASH COMMON FETE & DOG SHOW 12TH SEPTEMBER AT 2 P.M.

NOT FORGETTING THE CAR SHOW ON 2ND AUGUST

Our biggest annual fund raiser isn't far away and, as there won't be a magazine beforehand, this is your reminder to join us for a fun afternoon at a village fête that takes you back in time.

The Heathfield Silver Band will be playing while the coconuts roll, the dogs are judged and wellies are flanged. You can try to Beat the Goalie, Smash some China or try your luck with golf or bowls. There is a barbecue and teas. The bar will be open.

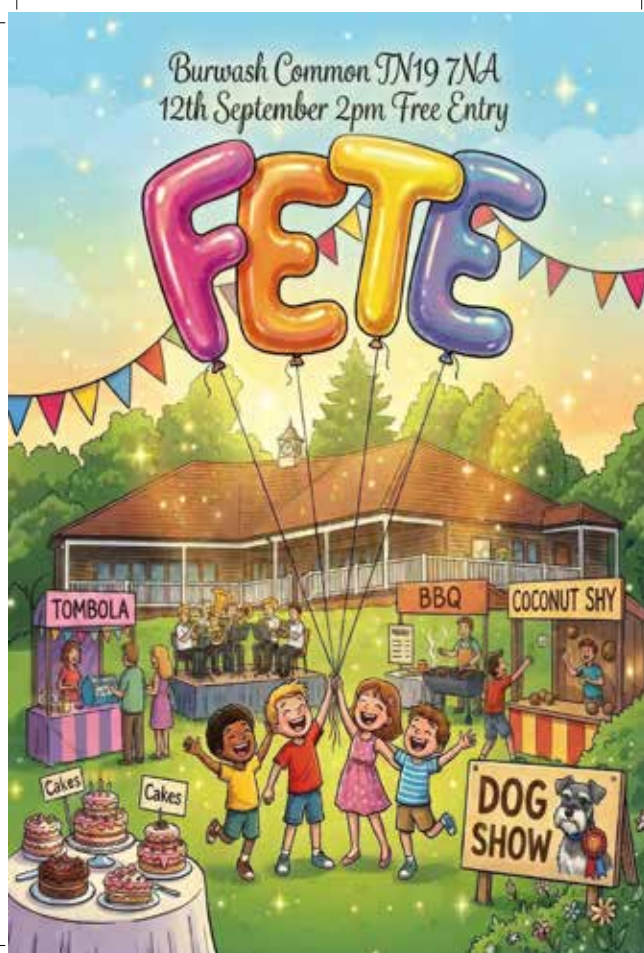
It's the quintessential village fête and always a hit with the children. This year there will be some new attractions including a demo/challenge from the Walking Footballers, the human fruit machine and a new and bigger treasure hunt.

We thank our main sponsors for their generous help: Coxdown Construction, Archway Builders and Waterhouse Funeral Directors.

Donations of plants, cakes, produce, books, bric à brac, bottles and prizes are always gratefully received. We can collect, if you ring the number below, or if you need any more info.

Is there anyone who can spare a few hours on Saturday, 12th September as we'd love some help. Otherwise just come along and enjoy all the fun in a friendly, safe environment.

THE COMMITTEE
07813273977





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Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group

Thursday Mornings 10-12

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

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

£2.00 per family per session.

Jane Lloyd - 01435 883264





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SUSSEX

*God gave all men all earth to love,
But since our hearts are small,
Ordained for each one spot should prove
Belovèd over all;
That, as He watched Creation's birth,
So we, in godlike mood,
May of our love create our earth
And see that it is good.*

*So one shall Baltic pines content,
As one some Surrey glade,
Or one the palm-grove's droned lament
Before Levuka's Trade.
Each to his choice, and I rejoice
The lot has fallen to me
In a fair ground—in a fair ground—
Yea, Sussex by the sea!*

*No tender-hearted garden crowns,
No bosomed woods adorn
Our blunt, bow-headed, whale-backed Downs,
But gnarled and writhen thorn—
Bare slopes where chasing shadows skim,
And, through the gaps revealed,
Belt upon belt, the wooded, dim,
Blue goodness of the Weald.*

*Clean of officious fence or hedge,
Half-wild and wholly tame,
The wise turf cloaks the white cliff edge
As when the Romans came.
What sign of those that fought and died
At shift of sword and sword?
The barrow and the camp abide,
The sunlight and the sward.*

*Here leaps ashore the full Sou'west
All heavy-winged with brine,
Here lies above the folded crest
The Channel's leaden line;
And here the sea-fogs lap and cling,
And here, each warning each,
The sheep-bells and the ship-bells ring
Along the hidden beach.*

*We have no waters to delight
Our broad and brookless vales—
Only the dewpond on the height
Unfed, that never fails—
Whereby no tattered herbage tells
Which way the season flies—
Only our close-bit thyme that smells
Like dawn in Paradise.*

*Here through the strong and shadeless days
The tinkling silence thrills;
Or little, lost, Down churches praise
The Lord who made the hills:
But here the Old Gods guard their round,
And, in her secret heart,
The heathen kingdom Wilfrid found
Dreams, as she dwells, apart.*

*Though all the rest were all my share,
With equal soul I'd see
Her nine-and-thirty sisters fair,
Yet none more fair than she.
Choose ye your need from Thames to Tweed,
And I will choose instead
Such lands as lie 'twixt Rake and Rye,
Black Down and Beachy Head.*

*I will go out against the sun
Where the rolled scarp retires,
And the Long Man of Wilmington
Looks naked toward the shires;
And east till doubling Rother crawls
To find the fickle tide,
By dry and sea-forgotten walls,
Our ports of stranded pride.*

*I will go north about the shaws
And the deep ghylls that breed
Huge oaks and old, the which we hold
No more than Sussex weed;
Or south where windy Piddinghoe's
Begilded dolphin veers
And red beside wide-bankèd Ouse
Lie down our Sussex steers.*

*So to the land our hearts we give
Till the sure magic strike,
And Memory, Use, and Love make live
Us and our fields alike—
That deeper than our speech and thought,
Beyond our reason's sway,
Clay of the pit whence we were wrought
Yearns to its fellow-clay.*

*God gives all men all earth to love,
But since man's heart is small,
Ordains for each one spot shall prove
Beloved over all.
Each to his choice, and I rejoice
The lot has fallen to me
In a fair ground—in a fair ground—
Yea, Sussex by the sea!*

RUDYARD KIPLING

THE AFTER EIGHT CLUB BURWASH COMMON

Wow! How wonderful has the Summer weather been thus far! Let's hope it continues....

The After Eight Club has had a busy few months! At our Annual Coffee Morning in June, which was held at the Burwash Common Pavilion (report last month), we raised just over £1,000.00 for our chosen charities this year: Kent and Sussex Air Ambulance and Dogs Medical Detection. Our members all pulled together and we had a busy and fun morning welcoming the local community! Thank you to all of you that supported us and we are proud to have given such a worthwhile donation to each of our charities.

Also in June, we had an early evening walk in Vines Cross and followed it up with an excellent meal at The Brewers Arms afterwards!



Some members of the After Eight Club on a walk near Vines Cross

In July, we had our Summer Garden Party. Always well attended, we each bring a dish to share and enjoy an evening together chatting, eating and laughing.

A trip to the Theatre awaits this month (August). We are off to the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne to see 'Operation Mincemeat'. Should be fun!

Please make a note of the Burwash Common Summer Fête too!! This year it is being held on Saturday, 12th September at the Burwash Common Pavilion and grounds. The After Eight Club will be at the Cake Stall, so please come and see us!

We are a friendly group of ladies of all ages, who meet up once a month to share experiences and friendship and are always pleased to welcome potential new members!

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

JACKY WOODLAND

Email: tjwoodland142@btinternet.com

Tel: 01435 883389

Mob: 07770 489490

MORE BURWASH COMMON PAVILION NEWS

Come to Burwash Common Playing Field and watch some cracking good cricket. The Burwash Weald CC were promoted last season and are fighting for the top position in their league right now.

Home matches in August are on the 1st, 15th and 29th. The bar will be open, of course.



THE COMMITTEE

**DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR NEAREST
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BURWASH

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

BURWASH COMMON

Outside Burwash Common Pavilion, left of front door.

ETCHINGHAM

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

Bereavement Friendship Group

For anyone who has suffered a bereavement

**The Bereavement Friendship Group meets
on the 3rd Tuesday of each month
at 10.30 a.m.**

at

**The Wheel, Heathfield Road,
Burwash Weald, TN19 7LA.
Plenty of parking available.**

**Sponsored by Waterhouse & Sons
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**Please contact Jan Wright
Email: laurenandjan@gmail.com
Tel.: 01435 883748 or 07444 482634
for the latest information.**



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LOCAL CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

SPORT AND FITNESS-RELATED

Burwash Cricket Club:

Village club playing on Sundays.

Contact: Paul Morgan-Jones on 01435 882832 or
pmorganjones@holmewoodhouse.co.uk

Burwash Lawn Tennis Club:

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

Club Secretary: Ben Mayhew
Email: burwashtennis@live.co.uk

Burwash over 50's Walking Football Group:

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

Contact: Steve Mintram on 01435 882444 for more information.

Burwash Playing Field Association:

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

Contacts: Chair: Natalie Crabtree
Treasurer: Theresa Fox

Bookings Secretary for Field and Edward Workman Pavilion: on-line.

All enquiries and bookings:
bpfaswanmeadow@gmail.com
www.bpfa.org.uk and 01435 583039.

Burwash Short Mat Bowls Club:

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

Contact: Mary Taylor on 01435 882107.

Burwash Football Club:

Playing on Swan Meadow, Burwash.

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

Email: burwashfc1890@gmail.com

Burwash Snooker Club:

Plays in Burwash Village Hall. New members welcome.

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

Kipling County Carriage Driving Group:

Carriage driving for the disabled.

Contact: kiplingcounty@aol.com.

Seagulls over Burwash:

Burwash Brighton & Hove Albion supporters club.

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

Walks for Strollers:

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

Contacts: Peter and Karen Farley on
01435 883141.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Burwash CEP School:

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

Contact: 01435 882440.

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

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

Contact: Joanne Murrells (chair)

Etchingham C.E. Primary School:
Contact: 01580 819218.

Burwash Guides and Brownies:

Meet in the Burwash Common guide hut.

Contact: Beverley Boakes on
01435 883473.

Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers:

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

Contact: Bernadette Spencer on
bandescoutgroup@gmail.com.

Musical Theatre:

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

Contact: Kate Riches 07724849880 or
burwashmusicaltheatre@hotmail.com

Wednesday Club at St. Barts:

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

Contact: Revd. Thomas Pelham on
07856 256 174.

Burwash Village Playgroup:

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

Contact: Emma Pantry on 07810
043022.

St. Bartholomew's Tuesday Drop-In:

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

Drop in or contact: Joanne Brown on
01435 830869.

St. Philip's Parent and Toddler Group:

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

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

Etchingham Village Playgroup:

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

LOCAL CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Patients of Fairfield Surgery Participation Group:

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

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

The Barnsley Foundation:

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

Contact: Joanne Brown on 830869.

FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

Not So Young Club:

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

Contact: Isabel Salmond on 01435 882452.

Burwash District Housing Association for the Elderly:

Providing homes for over 60s in our community.

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

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

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

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

Etchingham Tuesday Club:

Meets at various venues, no longer just on Tuesdays.

Contact: Linda Neve on 01580 819223.

HOBBIES

Burwash Horticultural Society:

Thriving branch of the society.

Contact: Richard Maude-Roxby on 01435 882243.

Burwash Flower Arranging Club:

A programme of demonstrations, craft clubs and outings.

Contact: Jan MacFarland on 07792 929523.

Burwash Monday Painters:

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

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

Burwash Quilters:

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

Contact: Julie Lewis on 01580 200280.

Etchingham Club:

Members Club. info@theetchingham.club

Bereavement Friendship Group meets on third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at The Wheel, Burwash Weald.

Contact: Jan Wright on 01435 883748 or email: Laurenandjan@ymail.com

Meets at the Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield, TN21 0XG on 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to April.

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

Jane Coleman School of Dancing:

Dance classes for young people in Burwash Village Hall.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Contact: Kate Riches 07724849880 or Rachel Elliott on 01580 714442, rachelelliott21@hotmail.com

The Arts Society Wealden Heathfield:

Meets at 2.00 p.m. on second Tuesday of the month at Heathfield Community Centre, Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield, TN21 0XG for talks. Visitors welcome.

Contact: Membership Secretary at Johnlarum@hotmail.com or Penny Spurrell on 07876565696 for further details.

Burwash Duplicate Bridge Club:

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

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

Heathfield and District Philatelic Society:

CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND

SUPPORT GROUPS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

British Red Cross:

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

Contact: 0800 0280 831.

Royal British Legion:

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

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

Neighbourhood Watch:

Contact: Steve Mintram on 01435 882444.

Admiral Nurses:

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

Contact: Ruth Tomkins on 01580 200743.

Burwash Parish Council:

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

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

Etchingham Parish Council:

Contact: Richard Beeson, Parish Clerk on 01580 819048 or Clerk@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Rother District Council:

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

East Sussex County Council:

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

Sussex Police (non-urgent):

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

VILLAGE LIFE

Bateman's:

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

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

Burwash Amateur Pantomime Society (BAPS):

Annual production involving all ages!

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

Burwash Bonfire Society:

Fundraising and organising the Bonfire Night firework display.

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

Burwash Common Pavilion:

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

Burwash Common After Eight Club:

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

Contact: Jacky Woodland on (01435) 883389 or 07770 489490.

Burwash Defectives:

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

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

Burwash: Save Our Fields:

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

Contact: burwashsaveourfields.org.uk

Wild About Burwash:

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

Contact: wildaboutburwash@gmail.com

Also Wild About Etchingham & Hurst Green

Burwash Village Hall:

For bookings contact: Emma Neil on 07375 809660.

Fairfield Surgery:

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

Contact: 01435 882306 (fax 882064).

Friends of Burwash Surgery:

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

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

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

Friends of Etchingham School:

Contact: The School on 01580 819218.

Etchingham Music Festival:

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