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GETTING IN TOUCH

If you know of any activity or event in or around the Burwash Villages or Etchingham, which you feel we should be publicising, please get in touch with a member of the Editorial Group:

Caroline Huband **01892 240162**

Richard Harden **01435 882556**

The deadline for Burwash Villages and Etchingham November Magazine is Thursday, 8th October. The Theme is good Sussex food.

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

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CTHD Representative	Susan Mumford	01580 819415	susanmumford43@gmail.com

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.

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.

FROM THE REGISTERS (BURWASH)

Baptism

16 August 2026 Rowan Idris Colin Brown

Burial

24 August 2026 Catherine Goodman

Marriage

12 September 2026 George Webb & Verity Napier

JOAN PAMELA HEMSLEY

The daughter of Joan Pamela Hemsley wrote in to say that her mother (1941 - 2026) had passed away recently. She was the daughter of Charles and Lillian Funnell. Prior to leaving the village, both Joan and her husband were church bell-ringers, primary school caretakers and played a big part in village life. They lived on Shrub Lane. (Ed.)

RECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

If you think it's a bit early to start talking about Christmas, let me shock you: it's only 6 months until Easter!

Three months to one, six to the other — depending which way you look, the calendar always has a festival just over the horizon. Time, at this point in the year, seems to run in both directions at once.

Autumn has a way of doing that to us. New school years begin, the weather turns uncertain overnight, and routines that felt settled in the Summer are quietly rewritten. It is a season of disruption as much as pattern — the unexpected arriving disguised as the everyday. And underneath the busyness, there's something more wistful going on: the end of summer is genuinely unsettling. Daylight gets shorter, warmth loosens its grip, and we're reminded, gently but unmistakably, that things come to an end.

Perhaps that's why so many of us start thinking about Christmas far too early, and feel faintly guilty about it. It isn't really the tinsel we're craving in September. It's the stability. Christmas holds out the promise of a fixed point in a shifting year — the next proper break, the next certainty of gathering with the people we love. In a season defined by change, we go looking for something that doesn't change.

Christianity has always had something to say to that longing, and it doesn't ask us to wait until December to hear it. At the centre of the Christian faith is a God who does not shift with the seasons: not distracted by our disruptions, not diminished by our disappointments, not moved by the things that move us. "I the Lord do not change," says the prophet Malachi — and the psalmist goes further, calling God our rock, our refuge, our strength in trouble. Whatever else alters around us — the weather, the routines, the year itself — his character does not. His love isn't seasonal. His care isn't provisional.

That's not a promise that nothing will change: Autumn will still come, and so will its ordinary griefs. It's a promise about where we can put our weight while it does. We're not asked to hold ourselves steady through the changes and chances of this fleeting world. We're invited to look through them, past the turbulence, to the one who doesn't move — and to find, in him, that we are safe after all.

So yes, it's still a long way to Christmas. But the rock we're really looking forward to isn't a date in the diary. He's already here.

Every Blessing,

REVD. TOM

Rector of Burwash, Burwash Weald and Etchingham

NOTICES

Come and Sing Evensong — Sunday, 4th October
Rehearsal 2 p.m. – 4.30 p.m., tea in the Rectory, followed by Evensong. All voices welcome. The choir is looking for new members, so do think about joining us properly.

New Discipleship Course
A new discipleship group is starting, running a new course, with two ways to join: an evening group (5th) or an afternoon group (6th). Come along to whichever suits you.

Christmas Services
Everyone is warmly invited — see the full schedule in next month's magazine.

The Travelling Crib is back!
Our much-loved Travelling Crib is relaunching this year — details to follow on how to welcome it into your home.

OCTOBER SERVICES IN THE UNITED BENEFICE

Taken by the Rector unless otherwise marked. LL= Lay led.

October 2026	Burwash	Etchingham	Burwash Weald
Thurs 1	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 4	10.30 Parish Communion HARVEST 6.00 Evensong	9.30 Said BCP Holy Communion	8.00 Matins - LL 10.30 Harvest Festival - LL
Thurs 8	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 11	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**	8.00 Matins - LL **10.30 UB service of Holy Communion with Sunday School at ETCHINGHAM** 6.00 Praise at the Pavilion
Thurs 15	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 18	9.30 Said BCP Holy Communion 6.00 Evening Prayer	10.30 Harvest Festival - Canon Lucy Murdoch	10.30 Holy Communion - Rev Jim Smith
Thurs 22	10.00 Holy Communion		
Sun 25	**10.30 UB Family Communion with Sunday School**	9.30 Said Matins **10.30 Family Communion with Sunday School at BURWASH**	**10.30 UB Family Communion with Sunday School at BURWASH** 6.00 Evening Prayer BCP
Thurs 29	10.00 Holy Communion	-	-
Sun 1 Nov.	10.30 Parish Communion **4.00pm UB Evensong - All Souls**	9.30 Said BCP Holy Communion	8.00 Matins - LL 10.30 Morning Service - LL

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

You can refer to the Church Near You websites: http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4828/ for St. Bartholomew's and https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4827/ for St. Philip's.

Etchingham E-Bulletin also posts events very successfully.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HEATHFIELD & DISTRICT

PRAYER VIGIL

For growing unity among Christians and other world issues

Saturday, 3rd October 2026

10 A.M. TO 7 P.M.

(concluding worship service at 6.40 p.m.)

VENUE: UNION CHURCH, HEATHFIELD

All Welcome for As Long As You Have

Wadhurst Runner, Clive de Vulder takes on the Berlin Marathon 2026 fundraising for

Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance



Scan the QR code below to donate – even a small amount can make a huge difference!

You can also support Clive and the incredible work of Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance by going to:

JustGiving.com and entering Clive de Vulder in search.



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HEATHFIELD & DISTRICT

We are invited to join the congregation at St. Bartholomew's Cross- in-Hand for a

United Service

on Sunday, 18th October at 4 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!

Parking at the church
or in the Surgery Car Park almost opposite

EDITORIAL

Our front cover of this Transport Edition does not depict Potholes, Diversion Signs, or Railway cancellations: although these seem to be the things which have been upsetting you the most over this long, hot and dry Summer. If you have lost your way a little bit, why not make use of Rother Rural Outreach Van, their mobile health and advice mobile facility, which might get you back on the right track.

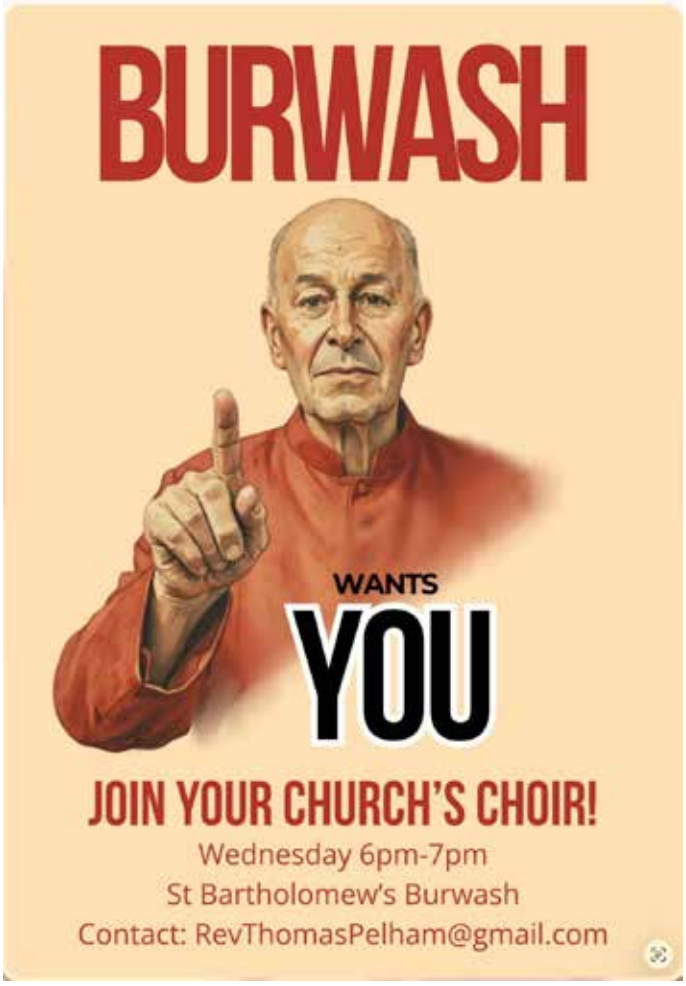
The van is seen on the cover parked up at the Bistro@The Station in Etchingham just before the Etchingham Coffee & Cake Morning. We thank The Bistro for their assistance and support of this initiative. Burwash held its first similar event on the 20th August (page 55) with a walk-in Carers' Advice Morning. "Let the van take the strain", if you can't take the train. The aim is to offer support to those who cannot travel out of their rural communities: if you are unwell or short of funds trudging off to Hastings or Tunbridge Wells is not always an easy option.

It had started to rain again as I wrote this, but not enough to end our drought conditions. By the end of August South East Water had finally got to grips with mending the immediate visible leaks around our villages but they still have much to do with regard to improving their infrastructure locally. Driving or bike riding on the roads can be a hazardous experience because of potholes and worse still, sheer edges on the sides, where the road surface just stops for a 5 inch gap. On page 7, you will see photos of Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance. Please donate to Clive's efforts: he will have completed the Berlin Marathon by then, but you can still donate - you never know when you may need this service yourself! A neighbour of mine was run over by his own tractor wheels and the Air Ambulance efficiency helped save his foot and lower leg.

Laurence Worton tells us how to report potholes on page 23. The Burwash Common Car Show was a huge success, as you can read on page 41. Richard Harden has kindly sent in some photographs of Motoring in the good old days, scattered throughout this issue. I'm sticking to my bikes but I am lobbying to get them allowed on rural buses at off-peak times: currently only fold up models are permitted. Please stay safe!

THE EDITOR





WHAT'S ON: OCTOBER

Thursday, 1st	Burwash Common Babies & Toddlers Group 10 a.m. - Noon, at Burwash Common Pavilion. (Every Thursday.)
Saturday, 3rd	Tipi Yoga at 8 a.m. in Parker Hall, Etchingham. (Every Saturday.)
Saturday, 3rd	Burwash Community Farmers' Market at Swan Meadow, Burwash 9 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.
Saturday, 3rd	Churches Together Heathfield & District Prayer Vigil from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. at Union Church, Heathfield.
Monday, 5th	3Cs at St. Bartholomew's, 10 a.m. - Noon. (Most Mondays, except Bank Holidays.)
Monday, 5th	Etchingham Church Baby & Toddler Group, Parker Hall, Etchingham, 11 a.m. - 12 Noon. (Every Monday.)
Tuesday, 6th	Burwash Village Playgroup. Tuesday Mornings from 10 a.m. - Noon at Eddie Workman Pavilion. (Every Tuesday.) Contact: Emma Pantry on 07810 043022.
Tuesday, 6th	Community Dementia Cafe at Dudwell St Mary Care Home, Burwash, 2 - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, 6th	Music For The Memory at Etchingham Village Hall at 2.30 p.m. (Every Tuesday.)
Tuesday, 6th	Heathfield Folk Dance Group at St. Richard's Church Hall, Park Road, Heathfield at 7.30 p.m. weekly.
Wednesday, 7th	Walks for Strollers meeting at the The Bear Car Park, Burwash at 9 a.m.
Saturday, 10th	Farmers' & Makers' Market at King John's Nursery, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
Tuesday, 13th	Arts Society Wealden Heathfield monthly meeting at the Community Centre Sheepsetting Lane, Heathfield at 2 p.m. Subject: 'Sculpture in Britain Today & Tomorrow'. Speaker: Raymond Warburton.
Wednesday, 14th	Burwash Creative Writers' Group meeting at 2.30 p.m. at The Bear in Burwash.
Thursday, 15th	Not So Young Group at Burwash Village Hall at 2.15 p.m. Speaker: Ray Young. Subject: 'The Valley of the Incas - the Lost City of Machu Picchu'.
Thursday, 15th	Mayfield & Five Ashes U3A Meeting at Five Ashes Village Hall at 2.30 p.m.
Saturday, 17th	Talk by John Barnes in Etchingham Church at 4 p.m. on its history.
Sunday, 18th	Churches Together Heathfield & District United Service at St. Barts Cross-in-Hand at 4 p.m.
Monday, 19th	BCW Residents' Association talk by Jason Caulkin on 'Beyond The CV' at the Pavilion, Burwash Common.
Tuesday, 20th	Bereavement Friendship Group on third Tuesday of each month at 10.30 a.m. at The Wheel In Burwash Weald.
Wednesday, 21st	St. Bartholomew's Wednesday Club 3.30 - 4.30 p.m. in the church. Harvest theme.
Saturday, 24th	Etchingham Soup & Collectors' Market, Etchingham Village Hall, 10.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.
Saturday, 24th	Burwash Bonfire Night, Swan Meadow, Ham Lane, Burwash at 6.30 p.m.
Tuesday, 27th	A talk by Emma Davies 'The Herbaceous Border All Year Round' for Burwash Horticultural Society at Burwash Village Hall, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, 28th	A talk by Claudette Neville on 'Kipling and Burwash' for the After Eight Club at Burwash Common Pavilion at 2 p.m.
Thursday, 29th	Swife Lane Book Club meeting at The Tap Room, Lakedown at 12 Noon (last Thursday of month).

A PATRONAL FEAST DAY IN ETCHINGHAM CHURCH

A Patronal Feast is the occasion on which a parish annually honours the saint who has been chosen as the Patron Saint of the parish. In the case of Etchingham, unusually, the church is dedicated to two patron unconnected saints: the Blessed Mary and St Nicholas.

The Archdeacon of Hastings, the Venerable Dr. Russell Dewhurst, presided at morning worship on Sunday, 9th August to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Blessed Mary. The Assumption refers to the Blessed Virgin Mary being assumed -body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.



The Venerable Dr. Russell Dewhurst, Revd. Tom and Etchingham Churchwardens

A community picnic followed in the Queen's Garden, where everyone was grateful for the shade provided by the mature trees; it was another very hot day!



A picnic in the Queen's Garden - just look at that grass!

After lunch, several hardy souls joined the Rector and the Archdeacon to walk the 'Bounds'. Beating the bounds is an ancient custom where the community and church leaders walk the perimeter of a parish. Before accurate maps existed, walking the land was essential so younger generations knew where their community began and ended. Traditionally, the participants offer prayers to bless the crops, ask for protection and give thanks for the local community.

On such a very hot day, it was decided to walk only a short distance of the total extent of the boundary.

A date for your diary - on Sunday, 6th December at 10.30 a.m., we shall celebrate the Feast of St Nicholas with a United Benefice Parish Communion in Etchingham Church. The very Reverend Edward Dowler will be joining us to preach and preside.

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The Herbaceous Border All Year Round

A Talk by
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AT

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Entrance : £2.00 Members
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AUGUST WEDDING IN ETCHINGHAM CHURCH

The marriage took place in Etchingham Church on Saturday, 29th August of Alex Abadjieva and Tommie Trelawny -Vernon.



Tommie and Alex on their wedding day in Etchingham Church

For the first time in ages, it was a wet day, but this did not dampen the spirits on this joyful occasion. As if by a miracle during the service, the sun started to stream in through the windows, and the bride and groom departed from the church by the West Door into the glorious afternoon sunshine.

We all wish the couple much happiness as they begin their married life together.

THE CHURCHWARDENS



A TALK ABOUT ETCHINGHAM CHURCH

To celebrate the 650th Anniversary of the completion of The Assumption of Blessed Mary and St Nicholas, Etchingham, a revised edition of John Barnes's history of the Church is about to be published.

John will be giving a talk about this mainly 14th century church in the Church at 4 p.m. on 17th October. Light refreshments will be served.

There will be no charge, but all donations to the Church Fabric Fund will be gratefully received.

2026
Christmas Tree Festival
St. Bartholomew's Church
Burwash

Join the many Groups, Societies, Clubs, Schools and Business in decorating a Christmas tree for this annual community event.

For more details email thymeplace@gmail.com or call Vicky Patterson on 07769205174

St. Bartholomew's Church Charity No 1133028

p.s. Have you thought about using Etchingham Village Hall as a reception venue - do have a look at it! See page 11.

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Come along and meet with friends over light refreshments, and enjoy the variety of activities and entertainment.
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ETCHINGHAM TODDLERS GROUP

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BARN OWLS

Barn Owls staff spent a couple of days doing very valuable home visits to new starters, before the term started.

We welcome Eliza, Erica, Carl, Elliot, Noah MP, Noah, Lorelai, Poppy and Quinn to the setting.

The older children have come in as if they have never been away, and they have been chatting to their old friends through the fence of the big school.

Despite the dryness and heat of the summer, we have been amazed to return to huge sunflowers, a few cucumbers and a lot of carrots!! The latter two are already being used for snack time and the sunflowers will be left for their seed.

Thanks to our fundraisers, we have been able to buy an arch/den for our calm corner - even though whilst erecting it the staff were not very calm! Teamwork and Allan keys sorted it.

From this year, we are now able to offer Breakfast and Afternoon Club - as ever, for more information contact Helen:

helen@etchinghambarnowls.co.uk

NICKY MENZIES

Stonegate Station taken by The Strollers from the bridge during their September walk. Don't trust the on-line timetable!



TRAIN TIMES ON-LINE

Southeastern are doing major works over the Half Term, which seems so unfair on parents with school age children, as they can't let the Train Take The Strain after all if they had planned days out for Half-Term.

I commute in a southerly direction and I always have a claim in for delays of 15 minutes or more: largely on principle.

Ironically, you can't claim for trains coming EARLY, which seems to be the latest trend. I live a fair distance from Wadhurst Station and if a delay is posted on-line, I discover on arrival at the station that: "It made up time on its way down and it left at 7.32 a.m." (should have been 7.20 and was on-line for 7.38 a.m.). I arrived at 7.33 .....**so DON'T believe Southeastern's on-line times!** When trains are only 1 an hour, this can really leave you in a mess or sitting on a hard seat waiting. (Ed.)

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https://etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Chairman:

Benjamin Sutch	07575 885585	Cllr.sutch@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Vice-Chairman:

John Barnes	01580 819142	Cllr.jbarnes@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Councillors:

Mary Barnes	01580 819142	Cllr.mbarnes@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Simon (Sid) Barrow	07989 065702	Cllr.barrow@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Adrian Hanstock		Cllr.hanstock@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk
2 x Casual Vacancies		

Parish Clerk:

Richard Beeson	01580 819048	Clerk@etchinghamparishcouncil.gov.uk

{Office hours: 10.00 – 12.00 noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment}

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

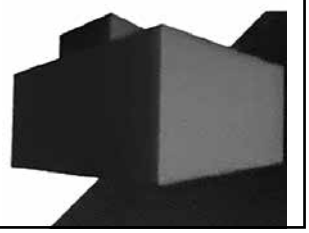


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ETCHINGHAM NATURE NOTES

We have had long dry periods in summer before, and I do not want to appear boring by writing about them again, but I must say that this summer has been quite extraordinary. Leaves were turning brown, and dropping, before the end of July this year, and the number of plants and shrubs that are dying, or looking dead, is more than ever before.

We have lots of log piles in our woods, made up mainly of fallen broken branches, but also with a few sawn-up sections of large branches/tree trunks that are too big for me to cut up for logs for the indoor winter fire. These, along with the "habitat hedges" that surround the boundaries, which consist of smaller broken branches and twigs, provide valuable habitat for insects and small animals - as I know only too well from having been stung, when disturbing the piles - by wasps, bees, etc. nesting in them. I do not cut up large tree trunks that fall because, if left on the woodland floor to rot, they also provide a good habitat for many insects.

I do, from time to time, go round tidying up the log piles. We like to walk around the woods a great deal, and - paranoid as I may be - I do like the woods to look reasonably tidy. Working on the piles in the recent heat waves (it is nice to work in the shade of the trees when it is too hot to work in the garden), I have found a remarkable number of dead logs that are not just rotten, but are dry and very light-weight, so much so that I can virtually crush them into sawdust in my bare hands.

One piece of sad news: we found (or rather our dog found for us) the remains of a dead badger in the woods in July. All that was left was a few bones and a large bunch of hair. Our daughter-in-law, who is an ecologist, deduced from the size of the skull that it was not a baby, but young - perhaps a few months or one year old.

Bartley Mill below, see page 35



Although we have not seen any deer in the garden, we have seen evidence of them coming in quite regularly at night. We have learned that deer, and several other animals, do not drink water, but get their moisture from eating leaves. That is, no doubt, what they have been doing in the garden. We have found droppings on several mornings, some really close to the house.

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

FRANK H. SMITH

ETCHINGHAM CLUB

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



POT HOLE EXASPERATION AND YOU

Do you scream with anger every time you smash into yet another pothole? Do you ask yourself what your taxes get spent on when they can't even repair a hole in the road? Do you feel our roads are worse than those in Third World countries? Do you find yourself getting to know where the potholes are and being ready to avoid them? The driver behind you may not know one is coming up.

Well, a recent Freedom of Information request for the Rother area revealed that barely one half of the potholes repaired by East Sussex Highways are as a result of their own inspections.

Now I'm not that good at Maths, but that means someone else is reporting the other half and an awful lot more are not reported or repaired at all.

How many times have you driven past and said to yourself, or out loud, 'someone should report that'?



Just one example!

It's a bit like the old voting adage - 'If you don't vote you get the Government you deserve' - and so it is with potholes. If you don't report it, you get the roads you deserve. It's down to all of us to play our part.

Reporting a pothole is an easy process (once you've done it a couple of times!).

Google search - East Sussex Highways
Tap 'Report a problem'
Tap 'Road condition'
Tap 'Pothole' – opens in a map
'Find address' – tap in road name or postcode – this will give you a map of the general area.

Use the + or – button to adjust the size of the map until you can locate the general area where the pothole is. Use a finger or mouse to drag the map to show the correct location and then tap the screen to indicate the pothole's position.

Tap 'Report a pothole'. This takes you to a new screen.

Enter any helpful information here like 'Travelling towards Heathfield - 50 yards past the fingerpost'. When done tap 'Next'.

Enter details of the pothole, i.e. 'larger than a dinner plate', 'about the height of a tin of soup', etc. NEXT.

New screen – Tick the box to indicate what type of road, where in the road the hole is and how you came across it. In the box you can type further details – 'It's on a bend and very difficult to avoid'. NEXT.

Add any photos – if you have any (not of last year's summer holiday with the kids) NEXT.

Finally add your contact details to be kept up to date.

It sounds long-winded, but once you've done it a couple of times, it only takes 2-3 minutes.

Tips:

Ensure you know roughly where the pothole is – name of road or postcode. If you know the name of the house/shop nearby, Google it to get the postcode first.

Continued Overleaf

Don't tap the screen with one finger until you are sure you have the correct location. Once you have tapped the screen to show the pothole position, it's very difficult to change it. If you make a mistake, you are better to come out of it and start again.

If you have photos, know where they are on your computer so you can easily access them. If you do take photos, try and include a tape measure to indicate the size of the problem.

Only report the more serious holes. They need to be bigger than a dinner plate 12" or 30cm in diameter and between 60 – 100mm deep (about the size of a tin of soup). If you say it is bigger than this, it will throw you out and ask you to report it on the emergency telephone line.

Don't over-exaggerate the problem. The Highway Steward has to go and inspect before sanctioning repairs – they won't sanction it unless it meets the 'Intervention Criteria'. You'll just end up wasting their time and yours. Don't bother reporting potholes smaller than the size indicated above – they won't be done.

Whether you agree or not with the intervention levels of Sussex Highways, whether you agree or not with Government priorities, local politics or you believe the moon landings were 'fake news' and that the Earth is flat, it is only by reporting the more serious potholes quickly that will we get them repaired and our local roads fit to drive along.

Why not 'adopt' a half mile section of your local road and make regular reports? Standards will improve around our village generally and the more reports and repairs that are made will help lift the road up the priority list for re-surfacing.

You will be doing a public service, helping to prevent vehicle damage and possible accidents, and get a good 'well, at least I've done something' feeling.

Or you could just moan!

LAURENCE WORTON

RUFUS' RURAL RAMBLES

I am sorry that I didn't write for the last magazine. Mum had an operation on her thumb and was not able to write for me.

This summer was the hottest I have ever known in my lifetime! Many days I spent most of my time lying outside and the family also sat out there in the garden. The lawn and the fields had gone light brown, but later the fields were cut and what we call the Weetabix bales were created. They have now gone back to the farm for feeding the cows in the winter and maybe also for their bedding.

When it was cooler in the evenings I had some lovely walks with David and Matthew. Dad and Mum also took me out with them on their walks several times. One evening we went into the field behind the bottom shop (which was originally Aldridges), and a band and singers were in one of the gardens of what was once The Etchingham Arms. Both Mum and Dad said the group were amazing! When there were some cooler days, we went up the village and into Oxenbridge Lane where Mum lived at Number 4 up until she got married. Further along, walking towards Oxenbridge Hill, the hedges had hop vines growing on them and apparently there were once hop gardens in these fields many years ago. When it was a cooler day we would go through the Queen's Garden into the churchyard and then over the railway and over the River Rother, which is now in quite a mess and needs to be looked after. There have been several cows in the field next to it, but there can't be much for them to eat, unless someone is feeding them with something different. Walking towards School Hill along the level the trees kept us in the shade and the path is good. We then went up to see the Old School where five generations of Mum's family went. We wanted to see what was happening there. Thankfully, it has not been knocked down and Mum is happy and likes what they have done to make a use for it.

Of course, when I am on the settee I am still looking out of the sitting room window to see what is going on in the field opposite. Autumn is coming. The leaves are starting to fall and the mornings and evenings are getting darker. We also have had a fair amount of rain and the roads are very wet. Mum hopes there will not be flooding on our road as there was in 2000 when the house was flooded out.

Have a lovely Autumn! ***RUFUS***

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:

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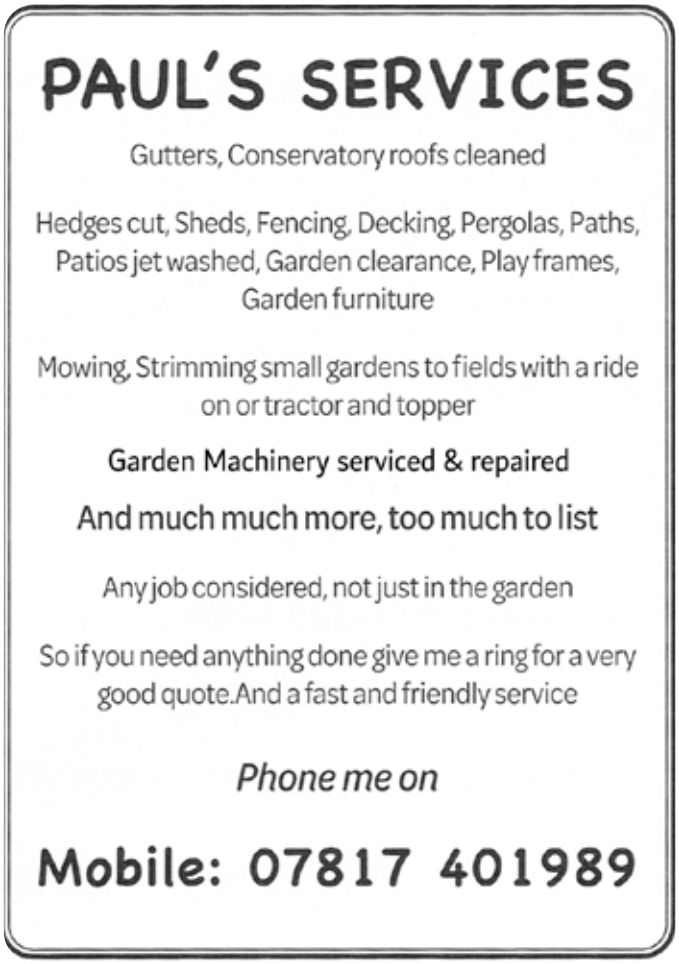
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E-mail: colin.boylett@googlemail.com

The Burwash & Burwash Common correspondent is Mr Tom Travers. Tom can be contacted at: Thomastravers@btinternet.com or on 07529829825 or (01435) 882828

COLIN BOYLETT







PAULETTE'S RETIREMENT LUNCH

On a beautiful July lunch time a lovely event was held to thank Paulette Barton for her years of service as Parish Clerk (and more).

A few words spoken at the event by Councillor Ben Sutch (Chairman of Etchingham Parish Council) are reported here.

"Thank you all for joining us today as we take a break to say thank you to Paulette.

Before I say anything else, I'd like to thank the Etchingham CIC, and particularly Mary Philips, who dreamed up this wonderful idea, put the wheels in motion, and - along with the usual brilliant execution from Paul, Julie and the Bistro team - made today possible.

As your current Chairman of the Parish Council, I've had the honour and privilege of working closely with Paulette over the last few years: first as a novice councillor and then as an even more novice Chairman. She has always been patient, calm and, if she was ever frustrated by the endless silly questions I asked, she was far too professional to let it show.

I first met Paulette at John and Mary Barnes' home, but I really got to know her through our time together on the Council. It was then that I realised just how much difference one committed person can make to a village like Etchingham. Before joining the Council, I simply had no idea. However, over the last few years, I kept stumbling across the same recurring theme. Whenever there was a discussion about how something worked in the village, or at the Village Halls, the answer was almost always the same:

"Paulette does that," or "Paulette knows who does."

Or who did or who should and definitely who should not ....

A village is a family. After all, there are about 800 of us. For more than eleven years Paulette has quietly worked away, day after day, putting in countless hours beyond those she was ever paid for, simply to make sure our home ... worked. It's often what you don't see and what you don't hear about, that makes up the biggest part of the job.

While the potholes grab all the headlines, it's the thousands of pounds in grants secured for local groups, it's steering the Village Halls through Covid, it's navigating government bureaucracy and audits that would defeat most people and then - believe it or not - taking the rubbish home herself just to make sure it was collected.

There are speeches that can sum up a career and there are speeches that can't. This is one of the latter, because it's impossible to capture more than eleven years of quiet dedication in five minutes.

So, I'll simply say what I think all of us are thinking, ***"Thank you, Paulette. Thank you for looking after our village and thank you for looking after all of us."***

Here's to Paulette - with our heartfelt thanks, our sincere appreciation, and our very best wishes for a long, happy and well-earned retirement."

COUNCILLOR BEN SUTCH & ANNETTE CHILDS



The Lovely Paulette Barton



Councillor Ben Sutch Thanking Paulette



Mary Philips Making A Presentation To Paulette



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BURWASH & DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB DEMONSTRATION -

"Ancient Routes" - by Brenda Bull on Monday, 14th September 2026

We began in China with a striking display of yellow chrysanthemums and roses set against a bamboo frame. We learned that silk was a highly valuable commodity in ancient China and was even exchanged for horses from Mongolia.



Our journey then continued to Istanbul, where white roses, delicate pink sprays and blue delphiniums created the feel of a charming little garden.



Next came the spice countries, represented by a vibrant and exotic arrangement of proteas, gerberas and sunny yellow roses.



This was followed by a classical design featuring rich red roses, germini and hypericum.



Our final destination was the Mediterranean olive-growing countries, beautifully portrayed with blue delphiniums interspersed with pink liatris and roses.



It was a colourful and enjoyable journey, with each arrangement telling its own story. Everyone had a lovely afternoon, rounded off with a delicious tea and a tempting selection of cakes.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

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

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

JAN MACFARLAND

See Burwash Horticultural Poster on page 11

WALKS FOR STROLLERS

7 Strollers left the Bear Car Park for our August walk in a light drizzle of much needed rain after the hot, sunny, dry spell. We headed down the footpath at the side of The Bear to Dudwell Farm, crossing over Dudwell Bridge and taking the footpath on the left. Passing fields of maize, we then took the footpath across the fields to Rabbit Wood and up to Woodmans Farm. We turned right on reaching Perrymans Lane and then went into Leggetts Wood.

At High Wood we turned right on the bridleway to Park Farm.

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

The total distance walked was 4.7 miles.

There were 9 Strollers and Freddie the dog for our September walk. Leaving the car park we headed past the Catholic Church and took the footpath to Mottynsden Manor Farm. We then continued through the orchard up to Franchise Manor, crossing over the driveway, and taking the footpath to the Hop Farm.



6 Strollers en route

Looking back at Burwash from Perrymans Lane



Walking through the Hop Farm we exited the footpath by Witherenden Bridge, crossing over the River Rother. We then headed up, on the grass verge, towards Stonegate Station.

Turning right on to the bridleway we crossed the railway line on the bridge looking down on to Stonegate Station (see page 18). The bridleway took us through fields to the woods to the rear of Bearhurst. Here we crossed back over the railway line on the bridleway to Wreckery Bridge, crossing back over the River Rother.

We headed back to Burwash on the footpath through the woods and fields to Ham Lane, passing the Rose and Crown pub.

The total distance walked was 5.7 miles.

Our next walk is on Wednesday, 7th October meeting at 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



9 Strollers and Freddie on the September walk



Wild about Burwash

It's been a strange year weather-wise with a sequence of heatwaves over the summer and now, at the time of writing, signs of an early autumn. Predictions are that moving forward we may have wetter, colder winters and drier, hotter summers. We don't know what this will mean for our local wildlife and the environment, but there are likely to be changes ahead, which leads us neatly on to the importance of iRecording. The more we can contribute to national and local statistics by logging local flora and fauna, the better chance we have of a) understanding what is happening to biodiversity and b) protecting, as best we can, what we have around us.

We are planning to run a few walks this autumn to show people how to use the iRecord phone app having set ourselves a target of 1,000 new records by the end of 2026. This will also help the Parish Council in updating the environment policies for the Burwash Neighbourhood Plan. Let us know if you would like to be involved or need help getting started with iRecording. If you already have photos on your phone with the location and date, you can upload these on one of the rainy days ahead and let us know when you reach a landmark (say 10 or 20).

The dry summer has combined with a quieter fruiting year after the bumper apple harvest in 2025. We are picking for the 2026 apple juice project, but yields will be much lower with apples falling from trees before they are ripe. If you can't wait, we do have a few cases left from our 2025 vintage, so let us know if you'd like to buy some.

The autumn tidy-up at St Philip's churchyard in Burwash Common is on the morning of Saturday, 10th October. We have been supporting this maintenance twice a year for 4 or 5 years now. If you can come along and help keep this beautiful wild flower meadow churchyard flourishing, it will be much appreciated; volunteers are usually rewarded with quality refreshments!

Whilst some species struggled with the extreme temperatures and lack of rain, butterflies seemed to thrive this summer. From a collection of stunning photographs taken by members of WAB and our sister group Wild About Etchingham and Hurst Green (WABe), Brian Macfarland has kindly started work on a Butterflies of East Sussex tea towel design following the runaway success of the moth version last year. Sign up for our emails, if you would like to hear when they are ready and where you can buy them.

In 2027 we celebrate ten years of WAB. If you have any suggestions on how to help us celebrate, we would love to hear.

wildaboutburwash@gmail.com

JULIAN KENNY & ANNE NEWSON

Fitting our Transport Theme - an event in Brightling (ed.)



FLORIBUNDA - TRANSPORTS OF DELIGHT

It was my birthday this week and I marked it by a day in Hastings to celebrate. I was in search of times past. Thank you Proust for inspiring me to go back. Hastings Council has lovely parks, Alexandra Park and Warrior Square, in particular. There are also flower beds along the sea front to brighten up the promenade from one end to the other.

I was keen to remember the days when my father took part in a hush hush operation known as the D Day landings. A resident of the Old Town, born about that time, was named Dee-day White in honour of this incredibly audacious battle.

My family lived in the Old Town for generations, so I should be eligible to join the winkle club. My father's family left us an old cameo portrait of a fisherman. I wonder if he drowned? In those days tattooing could help identify bodies. Not a nice thought, but drowning was an occupational hazard of fishing in small boats.

However, back to gardening. How can we use transport in the garden? Well I have a nice big wheelbarrow which makes it much easier to carry compost around to save my back and knees from the pain of lugging it. In a larger garden a ride-on mower would save a lot of effort too.



Thelma & Tracy - Bowls Champions **(See p. 37)**

As for planting, you can save time and effort by buying plants rather than growing them from seed. There are many excellent nurseries and garden centres in the Weald. A short list follows:

King John's Nursery in Etchingham, Great Dixter Nursery in Northiam, Rapkyns near Mayfield, Planters near Hurst Green, Petals in Burwash Common, The Hideaway Garden Nursery near Bodiam, Cade Street Nurseries near Heathfield, Sarah Raven near Burwash and Blackbrooks not far from Sedlescombe.

Many of these nurseries also serve cake, coffee, sandwiches and ice cream. I feel privileged to live in an area so well served for gardeners and gluttons. Or should I say gourmands?

I shall finish on a less jolly note. My butts are dry and my plants are shrivelling as the dry summer continues. I remember 1976 so I know it could be just a normal climatic hiccup. We are told it is due to global warming but it should be a global warning too!

We need better maintenance for our water pipes, fewer water leaks and more reservoirs. Water is not a commodity like petrol and we need to use it carefully: but whatever we do as gardeners and citizens, we need one reliable and conscientious water supplier based in the United Kingdom.

Floribunda deviates again, but doing rain dances every day is browning me and my garden off.

FLORIBUNDA



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Burwash Parish Matters September 2026

Following the Full Council Meeting on 8th September

Grants

At the September meeting, the Parish Council awarded a grant of £500 towards the Burwash Bonfire Society. The grant will go towards the 2026 bonfire celebrations hosted in the parish.

Local Government Reorganisation

You will probably have heard from the national news that following a legal challenge, the government has paused the plans that were underway to reorganise local government in 14 areas. This effects the Sussex reorganisation and any plans in place are now paused until further notice. The current view of the Parish Council is that the work will continue, and that plans will proceed after the legal queries have been answered. More information on these changes will be available through the Parish Council here in 'matters' and in the parish ebulletin that goes to subscribed residents on a Thursday.

Rother's Draft Local Plan

Rother's Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended the draft local plan be approved along with the increased site allocation for some parishes, including Burwash. The Parish Council were disappointed in this recommendation as detailed and comprehensive consultation answers were delivered to Rother for consideration where infrastructure and housing needs were queried on some sites. The Parish Council also highlighted sites that had previously been refused by Rother should not be included in the draft plan. The plan will now move to Rother's Full Council and then Cabinet before a final regulation 19 consultation is conducted.

East Sussex County Council Highways

ESCC Highways have launched a newsletter containing information on works being completed and including an interactive map for residents and stakeholders to use. The newsletter will be sent out monthly, and the Parish Council will include the latest edition in the ebulletin. To subscribe to the ebulletin, please email the Clerk on parishclerk@burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk

Telephone Box Book Swap - Highfields

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that shelving has now been put into the telephone box and we are ready to receive any second-hand books from residents to start the book swap. Please deliver books to the parish office (not the telephone box) during office opening hours (Mon – Wed 9am to 12 noon). Work is being completed on paving and a sign as well as other information to be included in the telephone box. For any queries, please contact the Clerk on 07375809660 or email parishclerk@burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Tuesday 13th October at 7pm at the Pavilion, Burwash Common.
The Parish Clerk is Emma Neil and can be contacted on 07375 809660 or Email: parishclerk@burwashparishcouncil.gov.uk

BURWASH PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

Bookings for stallholders and events can be made directly through our website:
www.bpfa.org.uk 01435 583039
Email: bpfaswanmeadow@gmail.com

Swan Meadow Playing Fields and the Eddie Workman MBE Pavilion have hosted an amazing range of activities and events over the Summer.

- The Community Farmers' Market and Car Boot Sale - see 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, Burwash FC and their Civil War Match.
- Cricket Matches
- The Friday Bar and, of course, the Burwash Fair.

Do be sure to attend the Bonfire Evening on Saturday, 24th October at 6.30 p.m. on Swan Meadow, Ham Lane, Burwash.

THE NEXT BURWASH COMMUNITY MARKET IS ON SATURDAY, 3RD OCTOBER 2026

The August Summer Special Market, which was extended and included a Car Boot Sale, was very well attended and was blessed with amazing weather.

The September Market was fun with squashes and pumpkins beginning to appear, and several new stalls.

Do come along to the next market (see below) from 9 - 11.30 a.m. as this is another special event, celebrating East Sussex Good Food Month which is countywide.

We shall be reporting on this event in the November Magazine, which is taking its theme from this inititative: "Good Sussex Food".



"SMOKE ON THE WATER"

It is 4.15 a.m. and my heart is beating like the riff in "Smoke on the Water" by Deep Purple because I'm too hot and fed up with all this heat and no rain.

Indeed, the last time I felt this hot was during a heat wave in April 1988 when I got heatstroke while on my way to work in Geneva, while staying in a hotel at the French end of the lake. "Smoke on the Water" was about smoke over Lake Geneva when the Casino in Montreux was set on fire by a fan at a concert firing a flare at the rattan covered ceiling and the smoke billowed out over the lake.

This month there were two options: to write about wild fires or water, and I've opted for water. Fortunately, thus far, we have averted wild fires locally but only because of the swift action of local farmers, the fire-brigade and the custodians of large estates. Before I dive into the subject of water in Sussex, may I put out a plea for people to take glass bottles home with them or dispose of them in recycling bins, rather than risk dumping them on the road side, on heathland or in the gateways to local fields. Even the verges are like tinder boxes and discarded glass could inadvertently start a fire in these exceptional conditions.

We have a hosepipe ban and water storage levels are dropping rapidly in East Sussex, tap water now tastes revolting where I live and pressure is lower than usual. However, this is hardly surprising as we have not had one drop of rain here for weeks, even when it was forecast. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have finally had some rain!

South-East Water still seem to be failing to repair leaks and I have been cycling through four leaks for weeks on my route from Wadhurst to Burwash, while Burwash High Street itself had a leak or two washing away the dust in the gutters. I am not getting into the failures of South East Water here …..except to say that the failure to invest in greater water storage facilities is a major shortfall given the huge amounts of rain we recorded in the Winter and early Spring. Old pipes are now rupturing because the earth is shrinking and collapsing around them because of drought conditions. Rather like potholes, if we don't report them, leaks will be left to waste water.

However, I can't help wondering if we are all partly responsible for the diminishing water reserves in our reservoirs and lakes. We are a generation that is used to just turning on a tap and having running water, or flushing a loo without a second thought. Perhaps we have forgotten that water is a vital resource, that what goes up does not necessarily come down! When you read that the Rhine and the Danube are at their lowest ever recorded levels in some places, then alarm bells should start to ring. We can no longer just turn on taps, hose down the car or soak in a full bath: we are all responsible for the water we have grown to take for granted. Linda Neve in Etchingham wrote that when she went to her grandparents' home you could only expect a small glass of water because drinking water had to be collected and carried to the house on a yoke from a well some distance from their home. I live in a former Sussex ale house and there is a well in the garden (still currently with some water in it). Let's not forget that our Sussex predecessors drank ale and cider because water was not safe to drink. We might do well to look at children in Africa being sent off to collect water from a distant water hole …..here we have all started to take water for granted. We have been the spoilt generation but we now all need to think about what we want for our grandchildren because rainfall patterns are changing.

In this area we have the evidence of how water was seen as a valuable resource, be it the mill pond at Bateman's, the hidden remains off Brick Yard Lane near Fontridge Lane or the magnificent mill pond at Bartley Mill (see p. 22). No water meant, no milling, no industrial processing - so iron smelting ponds were dug, mill ponds were constructed and maintained, wells were dug, dew ponds were cleaned and de-silted. Many Sussex villages grew up under the Downs because of a water source coming down through the chalk: Plumpton, Streat, Westmeston and Ditchling are all such examples.

The Mill Pond at Bateman's



Locally water was collected on the ridges in furnace ponds and then run down into the valleys to work furnaces in the valley floor, such as those at Hammerden, Etchingham or Burgham, for example. Rivers were essential, both for water, power and transport.

In Europe the transportation of goods by river and canal has remained important. Dutch and German barge owners are now having to make loads lighter and spread them over more barges because the water level is down to 25 cm in places on the Rhine. Meanwhile, in Romania naval forces had to carry out a controlled explosion of rock to divert a large volume of water to the Old Danube and the Cernavodă nuclear power plant to help with its cooling. Romania declared a nationwide state of emergency throughout August stemming from a decline in electricity production after record low Danube river levels led to the shutdown of a nuclear power reactor. The operation used 180 kg of explosives: "Smoke on the Water" indeed.

Low rainfall and a series of heatwaves Europe-wide should make us realise that all that glisters is not gold - it's water! We all need to take back control of our own water facilities, usage and daily consumption: investment is sadly required urgently because the situation has not been pre-empted correctly over the post war years either by central governments or by privatised businesses. How are our East Sussex villages supposed to build new houses, when supplies are stretched already to provide water for existing houses, industry and agriculture? This must surely be a question that we all need to consider as a matter of urgency.

When it does rain I shall have every pot, tin, urn and plastic bin I possess out in the garden to collect as much rain water as possible to save the garden plants and revive the brown dust patch which was a lawn in the early Spring.

CAROLINE HUBAND

***p.s**. Well it did rain but the lawn is still very brown in places and the rainwater evaporated so rapidly out of the pots and buckets because it has still been so warm. We need a great deal more rain to build up reserves, but rainfall will also make our roads even more hazardous. Drive carefully!*

Scouts

1ST BURWASH & ETCHINGHAM SCOUTS

With the Summer holidays well and truly over, Scouting only started back a few weeks ago but we have lots of activities planned across the sections over the next couple of months and, before we know it, it will be Christmas!

We will give you a better insight as to what we did next time.

For something completely different though…. if anyone has ever been in the Scout Hut, possibly at the Festive Evening, you will know that our hut has quite a reverberation even if it is just people talking but with young people, of any age, it can be pretty awful. So during the summer Burwash Parish Council gave us a grant towards acoustic boards to help with this. Though it hasn't been fully tested with a Beavers or Cubs meeting, it does seem to have a made a difference – so thanks to the Parish Council and hopefully Leaders can leave meetings without our ears ringing – time will tell.

Back to scouting, our numbers across the sections have declined recently so we do have spaces. If you have any young people in your family who would like to try Scouting, make friends, learn skills and have adventures, then get in contact –

email bandescoutgroup@gmail.com.

BERNADETTE SPENCER

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"October had tremendous possibility. The summer's oppressive heat was a distant memory, and the golden leaves promised a world full of beautiful adventures." – Sarah Guillory

In the summer, under some very hot and humid conditions twelve teams from Kent and East Sussex toiled away over 7 hours to compete in the Bayham & Lamberhurst Open Mixed Triples Bowls Tournament sponsored by C. Waterhouse & Sons, Funeral Directors.

The final came down to a straight shoot out between Crowborough Crows and Wadhurst with the Wadhurst triple of Laurence Worton, Linda Carless and Heather Worton running-out as the 2026 Champions, collecting the winner's tax-free cash and holding the trophy for the next twelve months. And not only that, all three players got a hotshot. A hotshot is where all the players in one team get all of their bowls in that end nearest to the jack. They will join the Hotshot hall of fame and receive a certificate signed by fifteen times world champion bowls player Tony Allcock. George Vidler from C. Waterhouse was on hand to hand over the winnings and present the cup (see photo opposite).

It has been quite a successful season for Wadhurst.

HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO THELMA HACKER AND TRACY GETHINS for WINNING 16-13. (See photograph on page 32.)

Thelma and Tracy are the first ladies to win a Sussex County Competition, and their names will go up on the Honours Board. The supporters never stopped cheering even when they were 1-9 down, and Thelma and Tracy said it made a huge difference hearing all the support.

Horam League 2026 Season

Another Horam League season game came to an end on 27th August with a home win against Hellingly. This win meant that Wadhurst won the League for a fifth successive season. Last season we went through the entire season without losing a match, this year we suffered our first defeat for 30 matches when we lost to Cross in Hand in only our second match of the season. The defeat highlighted that we were going to have a more challenging season this year and that was borne out by the fact that we lost four matches in total this season. The really sticky spell came at the end of July/early August when we lost three out of four matches, only beating Deanland by 2 shots during this period. These defeats meant that the league title went right down to the last couple of matches as Cross in Hand, Hellingly and Uckfield continued to pick up points.

Two wins in our final two matches clinched the league title. Even though our rivals still have matches to play, they cannot get enough points to catch Wadhurst. Let's see if we can continue our winning streak next year!

The end of the season is always a busy time as, along with the external competitions, the club holds its Finals Weekend. This is where the internal matches come to a head and players aim to win their final match and be awarded a prize, as well as the accolade of having their names added to the list of illustrious winners featured in the clubhouse. The weekend was well attended with family, friends and club members cheering on the competitors – well, politely clapping when a good shot was bowled: it's not the Hundred you know! The presentation of the many and varied trophies was by Mary Carless, from Parfitt Cresswell Solicitors.

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

LAURENCE, Heather Worton, Linda Carless and George Vidler below





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BURWASH OVER 50'S WALKING FOOTBALLERS

We held our AGM last month in the Burwash Common Pavilion where several items were discussed and voted upon, including an increase in our annual subs to £125. This figure gives players 48 x 1.5 hour sessions each year split between the outdoor all-weather carpet at Heathfield and the warm-and-dry sports hall at Robertsbridge during the winter. We also discussed a very generous offer of new kit from a local business and are currently looking at training tops for all 35 players with some spares for new recruits – more news on this in future editions.

Following the league ban on us playing our league games indoors at Robertsbridge, we have managed to secure slots at the new Wealden Sports Hub just this side of Hailsham. This is a £13m state-of-the-art complex with two full-sized floodlit 3G pitches, so we have gone from playing league-football on the 'worst' pitch to the best in East Sussex in one short move.

Whilst on the subject of 3G, there are many facilities and professional clubs that boast a 4G pitch or better, but there is only one industry-wide accepted minimum standard for synthetic turf and that's the 3G level. Others may say they have 4G or even 5G, but this is just the manufacturer saying that they meet the 3G standard but in their view what they offer is a bit better – but there is no standard way to measure that improvement so, as far as recognised standards are set down, we play our home league games on the best and newest facility in the County.

One problem with the 3G 'grass' is that it is weighted down with rubber crumb (shredded recycled rubber tyres) so at the end of each match you have to empty your shoes of tiny black pellets, which end up everywhere, including down the plug-hole of the shower (through the drainage system to the treatment works through the filters and out into the sea – probably!).

On the social side, ten of us are off on a three day trip to Berlin to learn more of the history of WW2. This is our third such trip, having covered battlefield sites and cemeteries of both wars previously, so this one will take us through the final days of Hitler, the fall of Berlin and the Cold War partition of the capital.

What goes on tour stays on tour, but I've heard the curried bratwurst is not to be missed….

If you fancy having a go at walking football, you know what to do: Contact Steve Mintram on 01435 882444.

www.burwashwalkingfootballers.co.uk

East Sussex League Champions 2025

LAURENCE WORTON

If coffee and cake is more your thing, the venues are endless, but Sussex Outreach Support have been out on the road recently bringing advice to your community - somehow coffee and cake always seen to be nearby! Pizza has also been available at teen-targeted events throughout our villages.

Advice for all ages "On Wheels" heading your way.

I have finally managed to get Laurence on camera, sent in by Jane Gilbert from Wadhurst Bowls, see the photograph on page 37.

THE EDITOR



The Sussex Outreach Support Van Parked up adjacent to the Bistro@The Station in Etchingham

BURWASH SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The long summer break is over and members are back at Burwash Village Hall playing the sport they love. Some of them have enjoyed the summer playing lawn green bowls, in some of the hottest weather.

We also took the time to run our games stall at the annual Burwash Village Fair. We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported us again this year. The winners of the games were Maddie Ashbee who won the cake, guessing 5lb 10oz: the cake actually weighed 5lb 9oz. The tub of sweets was won by a young lad called Alfred who guessed 89: there were 86 in there. Our usual bowls game was won by Shirley Pope, the new bowls game was a five way tie on 100 points: the name pulled out was a young girl named Paisley. Our congratulations to them all.

We made a nice little profit of £173 for club funds, mainly for our insurance.

The members will now practise bowling on our new mats, hoping to gain the knowledge of how it plays before the new season begins in the middle of August. Over the summer we learned that we were no longer to be relegated to the second division as a club had unfortunately had to pull out of the league because they are lacking enough members to be able to consistently field a full squad. I wish every one a great season playing on new mats with new score boards and new Jacks, and wearing new club tops.



Many Wadhurst Bowls players (above) opt to play short mat bowls out of season.

SOUP LUNCH

Our next fundraising event will be one of the popular soup lunches. It is being held on Thursday, 12th November, in Burwash Village Hall from 1 p.m.

Entry will again be £10 per person for which you can sample as many of the delicious freshly made soups as you like as well as the desserts. Soft drinks will be available too. We will also have a raffle and all the profits will be given to Burwash Village Hall.

To book places please call 01435 882107, or email marybarrytaylor@hotmail.co.uk

TEA AT THE RITZ

Oh my, what a wonderful time we had at the Tea At the Ritz event back in August. We gave 52 guests a delicious tea of assorted sandwiches, quiche, sausage rolls, mini sausages, scones with jam and cream, made for me by the lovely Terry Parsons and a wonderful assortment of cakes, most of which were made for me by my niece Becci Davis. It was lovely to see that so many had really made an effort to look as if they were really dining at the Ritz. Some of the ladies had beautiful dresses on and fascinators on their heads, and some of the gentlemen wore bow ties. We are very grateful to Callum Swaine and Ian Heathcote for their help with the tables and chairs, and Ray Heathcote for coming to entertain us. My very grateful thanks go to Lorraine Tasker, Wendy Woolgar, Lyanne Collins, Johanna O'Dwyer and Michelle Gaines and her children Theo and Mary for their amazing help in the kitchen, as well as Ann Rumens and Linda Jamieson for doing the raffle for me. I am delighted to say that we raised another £405 for the Get Together Lunch.

MARY TAYLOR BEM

Please think about booking Burwash Village Hall for private events - it can be dressed up to look charming ..... you know what the saying is "Use it or lose it". (Ed.)

BURWASH COMMON CAR SHOW ON 2ND AUGUST

The inaugural Burwash Common Car Show took place on the 2nd August. The chosen charity was Friends of Oakdown House.

Over 140 cars were exhibiting on the day, including a classic red Ford Fiesta which brought back memories for a lot of people!

If you saw the posters in the area or on social media you would have seen it featured a VW Beetle: a beautiful example was at the show.

We had a few groups of exhibitors who came from clubs including the Eastbourne Mini Club. They arrived together and it was like a scene out of the Italian Job!

Awards were given to:

Best presented car:
Lamborghini Uracco (1975)
Best condition car:
Ford Mustang Mach 1 (1970)
Best character car:
Triumph Roadster (1948).

Throughout the day we were entertained by two amazing local bands, Albany Anne and The Tannens, who performed a fabulous mix of music, including some of their own material. The final hour featured the wonderful Cake and Wine Club Choir, who certainly brought the party atmosphere.

If you wanted a break from cars, there was a lovely selection of craft stalls to browse from paintings, wool crafts to jewellery all made by local artisans. Plus Burwash Fire Brigade came along with the fire engine, which everyone enjoyed seeing.

Throughout the day there was a lovely relaxed atmosphere topped off with beautiful sunshine, which really helped show off the wonderful cars.

Our sponsors this year were Lite Steer, Hamilton Cars and ENN. These local businesses were at the show advertising and supporting the event. Lite Steer is based in Burwash Common . A big thank you to all these businesses who helped make this event happen.

The event raised a whopping £3,100 for Friends of Oakdown House!

Below is a heartfelt message received from Clare & Emma, Activities Co-ordinators at Oakdown House:

"The Friends of Oakdown House was founded over 30 years ago by the relatives of Oakdown House residents. The charity provides the activities team with an annual budget which enables us to have external entertainers, new sensory equipment, and fun-filled days out. Our residents benefit significantly from this and are grateful for every penny that was donated. Over the years, residents have enjoyed a variety of performances from pantos, bands, and various singers, and we also have regular visits from therapy goats, which always bring a smile to the residents' faces. We have lots of plans going forward, including a live music festival day, which wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for this amazing charity.

Without the generosity of The Friends of Oakdown House, our residents would not be able to have as many of these meaningful and engaging moments. We are incredibly grateful for all the hard work and dedication that everyone put in for the car show - it really was amazing, and we are overwhelmed with the amount of support and the donations received. The car show is the biggest fundraiser the charity has had in the last 30 years. The money raised will certainly enhance our residents' lives and enable them all to keep making fabulous memories.

Thank you all so much for giving up your time, not just on the day, but for the endless hours of planning."

Finally the Car Show organisers would like to thank everyone who came along on the day, our exhibitors and all our supporters. And last, but not least, our amazing team of volunteers: you were all incredible thank you!

We have been asked if we will do it again next year .....? Watch this space .....!

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BURWASH FC

The end of summer and the means to an end.

It feels like centuries ago that we were writing about all the different Sussex words for mud, what I wouldn't give at the time of writing for a bit of rain. Apologies you haven't heard from us in a while, but I am a strong advocate for the idea of letting things have time off. Since we last updated you, we had our end of season awards with the following winners:

Club men of the year:	Willy Pugh-Jones & Olli Taylor
Player's player of the year:	Sam Murrell & Will Blaydon
Manager's player of the year:	Sam Murrell
Golden boot (Goals):	Sam Murrell
Young player of the year:	Will Blaydon
Silver boot (Assists):	Dan Murrell



A vintage model from Burwash Common Car Show

The tears of joy were barely dry before training was back and pre-season fixtures began. We won 1-2 away to someone, honestly I forgot who, and lost 4-1 away to Battle in games that happened. Then we held our annual civil war event, an inter-squad friendly where some of the legends of Burwash past are invited to don their boots and show the whipper-snappers how it's done. A rather entertaining game played out, with Burwash blue prevailing over Burwash green 6-4 in the end. Shout-outs go to Will Blaydon for a blue hat trick, Frank Flint for a composed brace and veteran Ant Coulson for two goals and an assist. Most amazingly for Ant, he went a whole game without complaining about his back. Then another high scoring friendly happened before the season kicked off properly.

We were away to Cuckfield Rangers Development in an embodiment of why the team decided to leave the East Sussex Football League, an away game on something other than the Bluverythe or whatever that cursed place's name is. The game was played on a magnificent 3G pitch actually. The team were a bit slow and conceded a quick-fire brace before dominating large portions of the game only to concede a third. The game was pulled back to 4-2 by half time but no second half comeback was possible with Cuckfield ultimately winning out 5-2.

And with that I sign off. To be honest with you, the amount of work that goes into all of this far outweighs what comes back. So, I have decided to step down as chairman and leave all of this to someone with more fire in their bones. I'm sure they'll introduce themselves in the November edition.

ALEX ROXON (EX-CHAIRMAN)
burwashfc1890@gmail.com

Another fine vintage: Isabel, Marion and Ijon Jenner



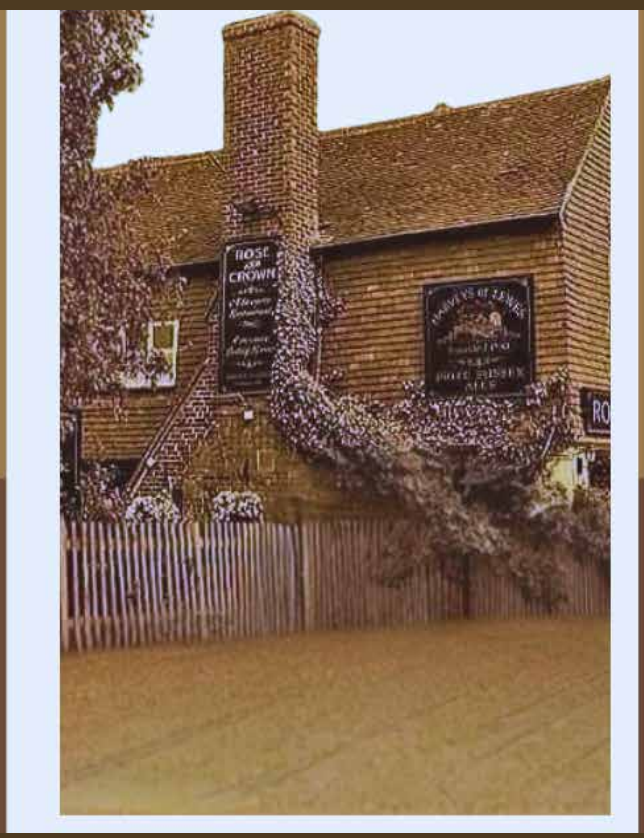
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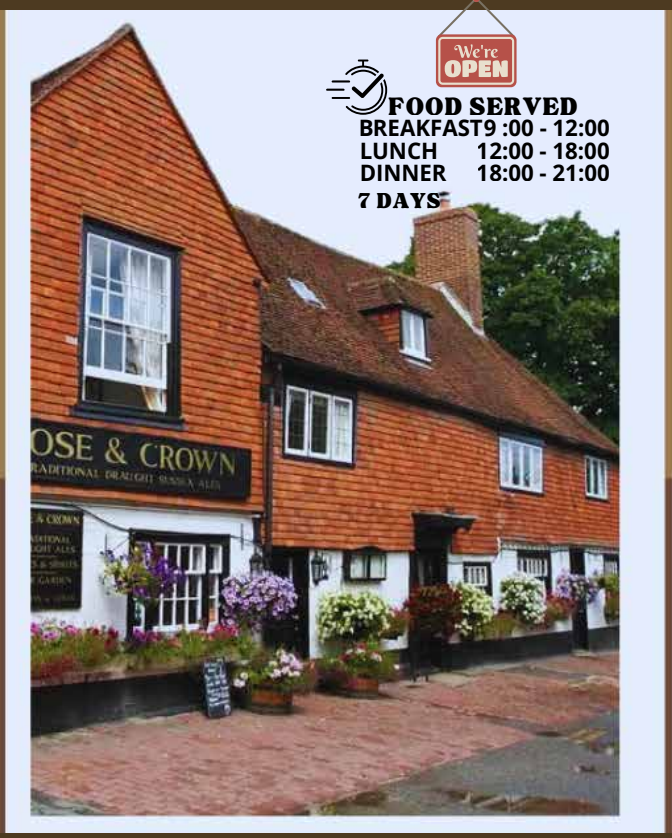
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BURWASH NOT SO YOUNG CLUB

Burwash Village Hall was positively crowded with over three dozen folk attending in the heat of the afternoon. Isabella, our Chair, rang her bell and brought us to order (please see photo to put a face to these names). It was excellent to see quite so many gentleman among us. They are most welcome. There were several apologies for absence duly recorded and six birthdays to celebrate over July. Cake Providers were arranged (our usual method of providing such a delicious tea/speaker all for £3.) Isabella reminded members that our next meeting (August 20th) was to be our annual Garden Party at our usual destination at 3 p.m.

At the introduction of our 'special speaker' applause broke out and Mr. Jon Jenner began. **(See photograph on page 45 of Isabella, Marion and Ijon Jenner - a fine vintage!)** Ijon began with a confession about sitting in front of residents in his role as Parish Council Chair for years and being able to take it all in his stride, but said he was now more nervous than on any of those occasions. Jon was born on 4th July 1939 and should not have worried as he was definitely amongst friends.

He was humorous saying 'Simple Burwash' was how he saw his life. He was born at the Lodge of Dudwell St. Mary (the Convent is now a Care Home between Burwash and Etchingham). His Aunt lived there and his first move was to 'Sunnydale' in Shrub Lane. Grandparents all insisted on input into the choice of names so, I think it was settled as Ijon Edward Jenner, although most of us simply call him Jon. He proved to be a happy little soul and endearing. In 1940 they moved to Court Barn Cottages on School Hill below the pond. He came from good farming stock. A vivid memory is him on his tricycle attached by a dog lead to his Mum down the hill and along to Park Farm to visit with Grandad Whapham who he remembers as with a stock of white hair and little moustache. It is this influence that developed John's drawing ability- he taught him to draw and whistle. He has many clear childhood memories like his visit to Chatham Dockyard in 1943 by bus when en route he saw Maidstone Zoo with no visitors but animals still living there.

Jon's Dad was a member of the Home Guard and this influenced permission at the Dockyard to go down inside a German U Boat which was being guarded by the Home Guard. The whole family squeezed down inside a confined interior and he only realised afterwards his Mum was pregnant with his brother and that is why it was so difficult for her to wriggle in and out! The U Boat, captured by the Royal Navy, was recorded as probably the only German boat used to pursue Germans!

Space will never allow me to relay some of the many sharp memories he has of his childhood. There was mention of the tightening of restrictions of the enforced blackout in 1943. Not many of us can remember rushing to our local Air Raid Shelter, but he can. It was at Russells' Corner behind what was the bakers. (He had brought Margaret Waterhouse with him, a close neighbour and friend whose memory is also as sharp as a pin and they 'played' off each other with their memories.) Some members were fascinated to find out about Burwash past and others, perhaps the majority were lost in fond nostalgia.

He told us of Doodle Bugs and described them and of mothers and children being evacuated for safety - in his case to Devon. A hilarious story of how a farmer got little ones to sleep when they were barracked in his farmhouse! There were stories of his education and musical 'career' with the hiding of a banana in his music homework only to have it rotten and obviously not disturbed when the teacher wanted to hear the music he promised faithfully to practise the week before. Tales of school were also fun and he has promised to return to continue his tales of his Air Force Days.

There was even a map of Burwash of yesteryear with all the businesses that are all now private houses – quite shocking in its way.

What a brilliant afternoon we had! This reminds us why we meet and share these occasions.

Our next meeting was our Garden Party followed in September by a last minute programme change to 'The Bayeux Tapestry' by James Dickinson BA, as Clare Baldry was sadly unable to attend.

The subject of our meeting this month, on the 15th October, is "Valley of the Incas - The Lost City of Machu Picchu". The speaker is Ray Young. Be sure to come along.

VERONICA FARLEY

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH
Meetings, Comings and Goings and European Tour

Prior to the commencement of the Premier League season, Seagulls Over Burwash held its Annual General Meeting at the Burwash Common Pavilion. Once again, we were fortunate enough to have Brighton and Hove Albion's Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman, Paul Barber with us for the evening. Following the AGM formalities, Paul took questions from the SOB members covering a wide range of football related subjects, including FIFA governance, half time pies, player recruitment, UEFA Conference League tickets, Amex modifications, rule changes and Owner/ Chairman Tony Bloom's mortality and succession plan (I kid you not!). As always, Paul answered all of the questions he could honestly, and those he did not want to answer, such as on-going transfer negotiations, he told us so. These evenings with the Albion's hierarchy, whether it be Mr Barber, Mr Bloom or other members of the club's staff, provide a fascinating insight into the running of the football club and the politics and finances of football and we are very lucky and grateful to follow a club that engages with, and values, its supporters like Brighton and Hove Albion does. How many other Premier League club chairmen or CEOs would visit a village-based supporters' club on a Wednesday evening (while missing the solar eclipse!)? Well, I can tell you. None!

The 2026 AGM was Teskey O'Neil's final AGM as SOB Chairman. Following Paul Barber's Q&A session, Teskey closed the meeting by saying a few words about the first 17 years of Seagulls Over Burwash, the fantastic membership we have and the pride he has in the way our supporters' club has grown since its establishment back in 2009. He was doing very well keeping a lid on his emotions until Paul Barber re-appeared carrying a large frame. In the frame was a Brighton and Hove Albion shirt emblazoned with 'Teskey 17', signed by the Brighton squad, with a plaque stating "Thank you for all your work as Chair of Seagulls Over Burwash". At this point, his bottom lip quivered, his eyes welled and, for the first time in the 20 years I have known him, Teskey was lost for words! It was a wonderful gesture by the football club. Again, how many other Premier League clubs would make such a gesture? I think we know the answer……

As in most years, during the summer transfer window, there were a lot of arrivals and departures as far as the Brighton players were concerned. The clubs raised a significant amount of money by selling Carlos Baleba to Manchester United for £70 million, Jan Paul Van Hecke to Spurs for £52 million and 'keeper, Carl Rushworth to Coventry for £30 million. Other additional player sales reaped approximately £40 million. Some stalwarts of the club also retired or moved on at the expiry of their contracts, such as Solly March, James Milner and Adam Webster which reduced the wage bill considerably. The incoming players were, as is the strategy of the club, mostly young players with high potential, although a few players in their mid-twenties (old for Brighton recruits) were brought in to add some experience. Overall, the club received approximately £195 million from player sales and spent £170 million on new recruits, banking a tidy £25 million profit during the transfer window.

One of the most exciting new recruits is 19 year old, six foot 4 inch, Luka Vuskovic, a Croatian centre-back, bought from Spurs to replace Van Hecke, who went the other way. He has shown remarkable composure and footballing ability and scored his first goal for the club in the 1 – 1 draw with Leeds. At only 19, he has a lot to learn yet but has the potential to be a world class defender. Spurs may yet regret letting him go! Other incoming players worth keeping an eye on are 19-year-old Nigerian winger Zadok Yohanna, Canadian striker Promise David and the deadline day signings of midfielder Chema Andres from Stuttgart and winger Femi Azeez from Millwall. In addition to the new signings, players such as midfielder Malick Yalcouye and winger Ibrahim Osman have returned to the club from being on loan elsewhere to gain first team experience last season. All in all, the Brighton first team has more talent and more depth than ever before in the club's history.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

SEAGULLS OVER BURWASH *CONTD.*

The benefit of having a large playing squad has been emphasised already this season as, after only three games, nine of the team's expected 'starters' were injured and unable to play. This includes long term injuries to key players such as Karou Mitoma, Yankubah Minteh, Georginio Rutter, Jack Hinshelwood and Mats Wieffer. The latter's injury was an odd one, caused by Mats being hit in the face and knocked over by a Chelsea shot. His face was fine, but he twisted his knee as he fell. Whilst all these injuries weaken the squad and disrupt the teams preparation, it does give the fringe players an opportunity to show that they can perform and hold their own in the cauldron of Premier League matches. For example, Malick Yalcouye has been a revelation since replacing the injured Hinshelwood and Jack will not necessarily stroll back in to the team when he has recovered.

As a result of their eighth place finish in the Premier League last season, Brighton and Hove Albion are competing in this year's UEFA Conference League. After beating Tromso of Norway in the preliminary round, the club have reached the group phase of the competition. This means they will play six of the 32 clubs involved, three at home and three away. The qualification system for further involvement is insanely complicated but, depending on the results and their position in the group table, the Albion may then progress to the knock out phase to be played in the new year. Before then, however, Brighton have home ties against FK Kauno Žalgiris (Lithuania), Universitatea Craiova (Romania) and AS Monaco (the only one you have heard of?). The away matches are at FK Jablonec (Czech Republic), Getafe (Spain) and Panathinaikos (Greece). As with all home games, Seagulls Over Burwash will be running coaches to all of the Conference League matches held at the Amex. Match tickets are great value with adult tickets starting at £15 and U18s £5 and can be purchased from the BHA website now. This is a great chance to go to a match and experience the Amex atmosphere! And, of course, if you would like to travel on our coaches, drop us a note and we will try and fit you on board.

For further information on joining Seagulls Over Burwash and details of forthcoming events, meetings or coach travel, please visit our website at www.seagullsoverburwash.com or email me at simon.forster@seagullsoverburwash co.uk.

Alternatively, you can contact our brand new Chairman, Clive Steed, at clive.m.steed@btinternet.com.

Now that Teskey has relinquished his Chairman duties and now is merely 'Coach Monitor', he seems to be under the misapprehension that I shall no longer report on his comings, goings and activities in the SOB article and that Clive will now be in my sights. Alas, he is mightily mistaken. However, this month, I'll be kind, keep my powder dry and only post the photograph of him being presented with his shirt by Paul Barber.

Paul Barber presenting Teskey with his shirt



SIMON FORSTER



Burwash Common and Weald Residents' Association

BCW

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

Frost Fair

at

Burwash Common Pavilion

Sale Arts & Crafts Gifts

Sunday 1st November 2026

10am – 4pm



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Kerry Fieldwick on kerryfieldwick@aol.com

or Keith Lloyd on keithalloyd1@gmail.com

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Burwash, Burwash Common, Burwash Weald and the Surrounding Areas

Recent Incidents:

About 1-00am on Friday 28th August cameras installed at a farm location in Witherenden Hill, Burwash Common activated an alarm and residents called Police when five persons wearing full faced balaclavas were seen at the property on screen. Switching on lights and moving about inside probably spooked the offenders who appear to have had a vehicle waiting in Witherenden Lane and who then made off.

Some small electrical tools were later found to be missing from outbuildings.

Scams:

Gmail account holders are being warned about a relatively new scam that could lead to their details being stolen and used without their permission.
It involves receiving an email from criminals posing as Google and persuading users to click links, resulting in sensitive data being stolen. Experts are urging Gmail users to be extra vigilant and look out for the warning signs on any such emails.

We are tens of times more likely to be victims of fraud than of home burglaries, so where we have made our homes secure with better locks, alarms etc. we now need to protect ourselves more and more from scams, etc. Please stay alert and be suspicious.

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

Vehicle Security:

Vehicle crime in rural areas often occurs after dark and vans are probably the most targeted vehicles with thieves looking for tools and other such equipment.
Thieves also like rural areas for four-wheel drive (4WD / 4x4) vehicles, quad bikes and similar just because there are so many of them around on our farms.
Thefts of and from such vehicles often increase around this time of year as evenings get darker so vehicle owners need to check and improve their security where possible and we should all be more aware and alert to strange activity particularly after dark.

Contacting the Police:

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

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

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

STEVE MINTRAM

MAYFIELD & FIVE ASHES

u3a

'What If?'
A talk by the Rev. Nicholas Henderson at Five Ashes Village Hall on 15th October at 2.30 p.m.

As our speaker this month was once described as "The Most Dangerous Man in Africa", we can be excused for wondering what "What If" will be about.

The Rev Dr. Nicholas Henderson has been, and still is, many things. He is an Anglican Priest with a particular love of sub-Saharan Africa, a well known speaker, a chaplain with responsibility for some major London theatres, and also a jazz musician.

Our talk 'What If' is all about counterfactual history, or those sliding door moments that intrigue us and make us wonder about our own (rather smaller scale) life choices and decisions. We will be able to ask questions, and perhaps one will be, especially as it is extremely pertinent at the moment, "What would life be like if William had not won the Battle of Hastings?".

After we have all exhausted our imaginations and historical knowledge, there will of course be tea, coffee and cake.

Free to our members, these talks are open to all, for a nominal cost of £3.00.

The Mayfield branch of the u3a is growing steadily, and we really welcome and enjoy new members. So, if you now have time for yourself and would like to develop your (perhaps rather neglected) interests or find some new ones, do go to our website, which is mayfield.u3asite.uk. The annual subscription is still £15.00 for one person, and £27.50 for a couple. However, if you belong to another u3a branch, you can join us as an associate for £10.00.

ANNA THOMPSON

THE ARTS SOCIETY WEALDEN HEATHFIELD

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.

On Tuesday, 10th November Lucrezia Walker will be discussing 'The Art Thief'.

The art thief, the art forger and the crooked art dealer are three of the fascinating bad players in the art market. In a world where art works sell for astronomical sums, those who choose to profit by illegal means spike our curiosity. We will look at thieves, forgers and dealers, and at how and why they made their choices. Was it always about money? Or something else? We focus on one particular art thief, his actions, motives and the denouement.

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 OXG 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

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FAIRFIELD SURGERY - PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

Patient Information Leaflet

These were delivered to most households in the TN19 area since our last newsletter. If you didn't receive one, they are available at the Surgery. The front and back pages are a questionnaire giving an opportunity for all of us to give feedback about the Practice. Thank you to the 53 patients who returned them, but it is a very small number out of the 2,500 delivered. This is your opportunity to have your say, so if you haven't got round to it yet, could you please take a moment to complete the questionnaire and return it to the surgery.

Carers Drop In Session

On Thursday, 20th August we opened the Parish Room at 8.30 a.m. to prepare for our Carers Drop-In Session. From 9 a.m. the professionals (see photo below) started arriving, plus the Outreach minibus (see the front cover). By 10 a.m. we were all ready (with 10 advisor groups in place) and plenty of home baked cakes for everyone. Would any Carers turn up?

Well, we are glad to say that about 15 did and they spent lots of time talking to all the advisors. We all learned something helpful, as did the advisors who did not know all of the groups represented.



All set for the Carers' Drop-In Session

Advisors and visitors agreed the 2 hours had been a great success.

You will find a list of helpful websites from the morning in the next column.

1. Care for the Carers
Offering practical help, advice and guidance through the Health and Social Care system.
Someone to talk to and they also run a programme of activities for Carers. Have you got a Carers Card? www.cftc.org.uk Call: 01323 738390.
2. DISC – Dementia Information & Support
Courses offering support to unpaid Carers of people with dementia: a formal diagnosis is not necessary. They offer talks, support groups and advice.
www.discdementiasupport.org
Call Emma 07591 250988.
3. Admiral Nurse Dementia Helpline
Offering specialist support and advice.
Email: helpline@dementiauk.org Call: 0800 888 6678.
4. East Sussex MSK Community Partnership
You can refer yourself directly to the service for physiotherapy.
Email: esht.esmskhelp@nhs.net Call: 0300 131 5225.
Fitness activities www.activerother.org.uk
5. Arthritis UK – offer tips and advice. Advice on how to live well with arthritis. www.arthritis-uk.org/signup
6. One You East Sussex
Offer Wellness programmes, e.g. Giving up smoking, losing weight.
Email; hello@oneyoueastsussex.org.uk Call: 01323 404600.
7. Dudwell St Mary (Barchester Nursing Home)
Offering respite and social activities.
Call: 01435 582 061.
www. https://www.barchester.com/home/dudwell-st-mary-care-home
8. The Good Companion Company
(private company) Offering companionship or respite whilst you have some free time.
Email: hello@thegoodcompanioncompany.com
Call: 07510 952018.
9. Gracious Care
Home care for dementia support and the elderly.
www.graciouscare.co.uk Call: 01797 223804.
10. Social Prescriber (at Fairfield Surgery weekly)
Can help connect you with services to support your health and wellbeing in areas such as finances and welfare benefits, bereavement, loneliness, mental health, employment and volunteering, and other social issues.

Social prescribing self-referral form on the website – www.ruralrotherpcn.nhs.net

Flu Jabs

The Surgery has been sending out invites for October to those eligible for flu jabs. If anyone is entitled to a flu jab and has not received an invite, they are welcome just to contact the Surgery and they will advise on the dates and availability. These are done on a first come first served basis as they only have a certain amount of stock.

www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/flu-vaccine gives information on eligibility criteria.

PPG



Richard Harden's father driving with a beard on during Benenden Carnival in 1938.

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 writing topic of around 500 words in any genre, which we share at the following month's meeting.

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

MOTORING

I can remember being driven up the M1 northwards by my Uncle in a pale blue Ford Anglia 105e (as seen on Heartbeat), which was his pride and joy. The M1 was "white", clean even, and the bridges were sparkling in the sunshine.

The M1, which opened in 1959 was designed to improve travel between London and the Midlands, reducing congestion on the A1 and other traditional roads. The early motorway had soft shoulders instead of hard verges, and Watford Gap Services, the first motorway service station, opened on the same day, becoming a notable stop for travellers and touring musicians. (We did visit this too.)

The opening marked a major milestone in British road transport, setting the stage for the expansion of the national motorway network.

One would hardly see a trip on the M1 now as 'motoring': huge lorries, a dirty hard shoulder, graffiti on the bridges, signs and indicators everywhere.

It is uplifting to often see Owners' Clubs 'motoring' through our villages or vintage cars being driven on our lanes. This is not a cheap pastime, especially if vehicles have to be restored: parts often have to be hand made by specialists. Another of my uncles had two black 1935 Wolseleys: still in full working order and driven daily in 1979.

THE EDITOR

BURWASH COMMON FÊTE & DOG SHOW

Our biggest fund raiser of the year was the usual resounding success with our loyal friends and supporters turning up in droves. It was a day full of fun for everyone especially the children who can run around safely spending their pocket money.

We had a new game run by the Woodham family 'the human fruit machine' which was hilarious.

Also the walking footballers gave a display and challenged the snooker club. The church organised a new Treasure Hunt which involved following clues found around the church and churchyard.

The Heathfield Silver Band were absolutely perfect: they really complete the atmosphere of a traditional village fête.



The setting is second to none, the facilities first class and it's a wonderful place to bump into old friends, make new ones, have tea or a beer and enjoy the atmosphere which thankfully hasn't changed much in the last century.

The Dog Show was bigger and better than ever and we're so grateful to Heathfield Pet Foods for their donations.



We are so grateful to our sponsors who generously gave vouchers or prizes and they are listed below.

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Oakdown House, Residential Home
Old Orchard
Pet Food Shop, Heathfield
The Flower House
The Rose & Crown
The Swan Inn
Twinn, Heathfield
Waterhouse Funeral Directors

Lakedown Brewery donated a trout fishing day which was fought over.



Enormous thanks to everyone who came along and enjoyed themselves and to the army of volunteers - you make all the hard work worthwhile.



THANK YOU TO THE COMMITTEE TOO (Ed.)

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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



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. Contact Kerry Fieldwick on 07703 565919.

July's choice of book was 'The Perfect Golden Circle' by Benjamin Myers published in 2022.

During a burning hot Summer in rural southern England in 1989 two very different men, Calvert the traumatised ex-soldier and the affable, chaotic Redbone venture out nightly in a decrepit camper van then on foot, to create complex and beautiful crop circles whilst striving not to damage the crops. They are a mismatched pair of outsiders who encounter amongst others; fly tippers; poachers, a drunken aristocrat and an endearing ghost. Over the course of the summer the media and the authorities interest in the phenomenon grows as the 'odd couple' race to complete the most ambitious of designs 'The Honeycomb Double Helix.'

If you enjoyed the TV series The Detectorists by Mackenzie Crook and were lucky enough to see Jez Butterwoth's play 'Jerusalem' (starring Mark Rylance and Mackenzie Crook) then this novel is for you.

This concise, rich, evocative novel was much appreciated and enjoyed by all but one of the book club. The comments speak for themselves; - 'A real feel good summer read.' 'A relevant read during this hot dry summer.' ' Loved the warmth of the protagonists' friendship and the fact that they had no desire to fit in.' 'Appreciated the concept of creating something anonymously, not wanting recognition, money or thanks is an interesting one.' 'I revelled in the quirkiness of this novel.' 'Really very funny in places.' 'Gentle and beautiful read.' 'A real gem'. The member, who didn't enjoy the novel, appreciated that Benjamin Myers was an excellent wordsmith. However, she didn't connect with the lyrical pastoral focus and found the novel's content repetitive.

As always within the group this led to a further discussion centred on the purpose of book clubs. We agreed its main aim is to encourage members to read outside their preferred genre and style and then to revel in the positive outcomes of the challenge.

During August we read 'A Sailor, A Chicken, an Incredible Voyage' by Guirec Soudee, published in English in 2021.

This autobiography originally published in French in 2019 is a modern coming-of-age story. Aged 21 Guirec sets off to sail around the world from what seems an idyllic island home in Brittany. He purchases an old 30ft sailboat and sets off on an epic voyage with little sailing experience. Shortly into his journey he takes on board Monique as a travelling companion. Small, plucky with beautiful copper–coloured plumage. Monique the hen proves to be an excellent and endearing companion who also supplies Guirec with eggs. Theirs is an unbelievable adventure over 45,000 nautical miles.

Aged 23 Guirec went 130 days stuck in ice near Greenland. At 24 he became the youngest navigator in the world to cross the Northwest Passage alone. He faces many storms, icebergs, and other challenges but throughout the journey the kindness of strangers and the comradeship of other sailors shines through the narrative.

This book received mixed reviews from the book club. We all agreed that it was not particularly well written maybe having lost something in translation? However, there was no doubting Guirec's good humour, enthusiasm for adventure and his willingness to overcome everything the sea threw at him. His relationship, love and consideration for Monique were touching. At times it was difficult to comprehend his foolhardiness but he followed his dream no matter what stood in his way.

The discussion as with all biographies blurred between the literary merit of the book and the person at the centre.

We all thought the book would appeal to those who enjoy sailing but there was sufficient adventure and excitement to engage a ' landlubber' with the help of the glossary and map to be found within the book.

During our August meeting we were fortunate to receive a visit from local author Rebecca Hardy. Without giving too much of the plot away of her new novel, she answered our questions surrounding the conception and writing of the novel which, we all look forward to reading during September. 'The Summer We Lied' by Rebecca Hardy.

JULIE UPTON



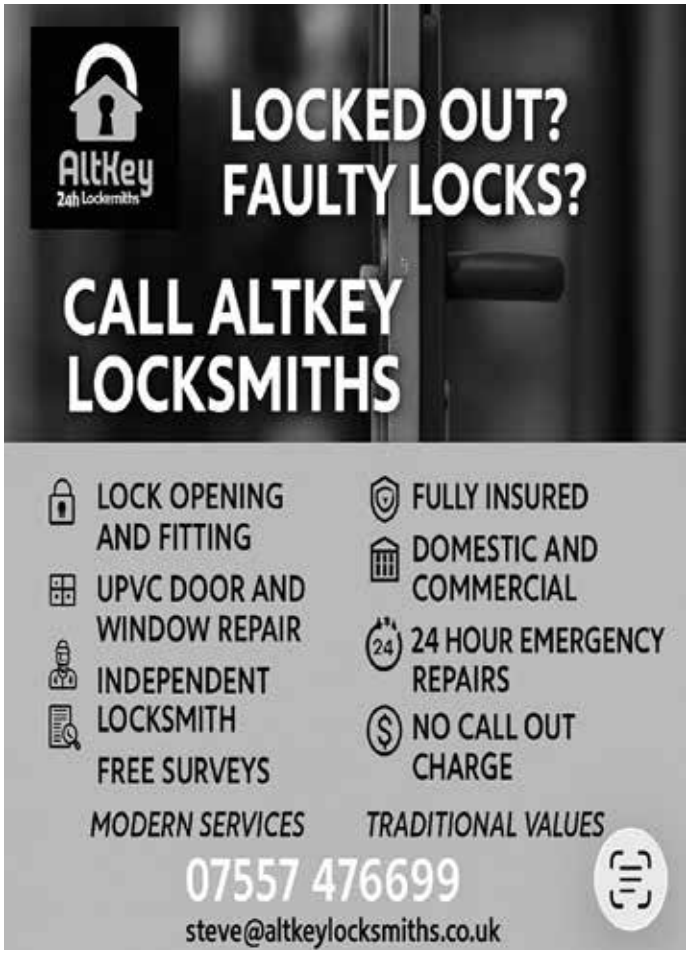
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THE AFTER EIGHT CLUB BURWASH COMMON

The After Eight Club has been very active over the Summer!

A trip to the Congress Theatre in Eastbourne went well in August – a group of us saw 'Operation Mincemeat' which was enjoyed by all. The musical was funny and a cast of five played their parts well!

We were entertained at the beginning of September by 'Lady Crabtree' who gave us a fun afternoon with lots of laughs!

The Burwash Common Fête took place on Saturday, 12th September and our After Eight Club was there with our Cake Stall and Home Produce.

Coming up….

On Thursday, 1st October, we have our Annual Quiz with Rotherfield Ladies Club – we are travelling to Rotherfield this year and they will host. Always a great afternoon with a nice afternoon tea to meet new friends.

Further ahead, Claudette Neville will be giving her talk on Kipling and Burwash. This will be held at the Burwash Common Pavilion on Wednesday, 28th October at 2.00 p.m.

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!

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Mob: 07770 489490



FROM THE CAR SHOW



Above: Adrian King with Jane Woodgate, admiring his Battle of Britain Car during the Burwash Common Car Show.

Below: Richard Harden's father with his trouble-some Chevrolet during his visit to New Zealand in 1929.



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

BURWASH

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

BURWASH COMMON

Outside Burwash Common Pavilion, left of front door.

ETCHINGHAM

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

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 funeral service for hot drinks.

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



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