

Burwash Parish Council

Autumn/Winter Newsletter

Serving the communities of Burwash Common, Burwash Weald and Burwash Village

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to the latest Newsletter which is being sent to every household in the parish.

As we approach winter, we are pleased to report that the **emergency generators** have been put in place in Burwash Village Hall and The Pavilion, Burwash Common so that, in the event of a local power failure, there will be a backup system available to maintain essential services. These two halls will provide the focus for support and shelter should that be necessary. Further information about how this will work is included in the Newsletter.

The development of a **Community Hub**, which will potentially replace the existing Parish Office and Rooms is an important part of the work of the Council as the present buildings have a very limited life. Although the Council are working towards a suite of rooms which will enable Primary Care Services to have a base in Burwash, other alternatives are being looked at.

A number of local voluntary organisations are supported by the parish and in this Newsletter there is an article by **Wild About Burwash**, who help maintain and improve the local environment and promote the Dark Skies policy across the area.

The Pavers and the High Street

One of the many things that makes Burwash such a distinctive village is the pavers which form the pavements in the High Street. These are brick tiles laid in a herringbone pattern and are largely original. In constructing the cottages near the Kipling statue, many were taken up and replaced with tarmac. Thinking that some remedial work might be necessary in the future, a stock of pavers was acquired and these are now to replace the tarmac and restore the historic nature of the area.



The Lime trees which are also a feature of the High Street are now to be maintained by East Sussex County Council, although local volunteers will continue to ensure that the pavements are kept clear.



If you want to keep in regular touch with the Parish Council, you can sign up to the e-bulletin which will ensure that each week you will receive in your email in-tray details of events and meetings as well as planned road works, building developments and lots of local information. You can sign up by contacting the Parish Clerk:

Emma Neil on 07375 809 660 or 01435 583014

or via the Parish website: burwashparish.org.uk

If you would like to receive a monthly Parish Matters in printed form through the post, Emma can set this up for you, if you provide your address.

Wild about Burwash



Wild About Burwash (WAB) started from a group working together on the neighbourhood plan. We wanted to bring together people with a shared interest in protecting, improving and enjoying the natural environment in and around Burwash. We started with talks on local issues from a range of speakers including the High Weald National Landscape Unit, the Woodland Trust and Ray Mears. Talks continue to be popular but we now also have regular Sussex Wildlife Trust and other species-spotting walks, regular social get-togethers and a growing number of focused projects.

WAB was one of the first groups to work with the High Weald Unit to monitor and record the quality of our dark skies in 2018. We have, since, run several events including star-gazing with astronomers through telescopes, interactive domes, talks, workshops and story-telling for children. In 2023 we had an evening at Batemans with speakers from Herstmonceux observatory, Caroline Moore, local moth expert and Bob Mizon, a leading dark skies expert. With other local groups and parishes we are working towards achieving an International Dark Skies Reserve certification for the High Weald.

Since 2022 we have been producing WAB apple juice (around 2,000 bottles) using apples kindly donated from gardens and orchards in and around the parish with the help of volunteer pickers. so far. These are juiced at Ringdens and then sold locally; people who have donated or helped pick get a reduced price. We are hoping to use the funds to create new local community orchards.

We have an active Compost group where members share tips and ideas and then evaluate the qualities of different composts using microscopes and are hoping to create community composting systems. WAB also works with St Phillips Church in Burwash Common and the Sussex Botanical Recording Society. Volunteers have run three churchyard clearance events and we are helping to log species and protect the unimproved grassland in the churchyard. This year we have also started developing a wildflower verge at the top of Batemans Lane in association with the Parish Council and East Sussex. We encourage members to log any wildlife sightings that they see when out on walks on iRecord to build both national and parish biodiversity records.

Our recent film night saw 100 of us watching the inspiring film "Six Inches of Soil" with a panel of local experts, farmers and growers bringing the subject of regenerative agriculture to life. We run regular events with the local scouts and beavers groups; bracken clearance, bluebell counts, pond dipping and hedgerow surveys. We have also worked with Burwash school planting new hedging and helping to prune their apple trees.

Our latest project is river monitoring. After a training day in November, we aim to establish a baseline for the Dudwell in terms of water quality, invertebrates, fish and bankside flora and fauna and to monitor conditions at set points along the river on a regular basis starting in the New Year.

If you'd like to join us (no membership fee) or like to know more about WAB, please contact us on wildaboutburwash@gmail.com We'd like to think there is something in the group for everyone!

'Wild About Burwash' is one of the local groups that the Parish Council supports and we are grateful for the work that they do throughout the parish in protecting and enhancing the environment.

Winter draws on...

With the approach of winter we of course hope that it will be snow-free and storm-free but with the changing climate, we must anticipate that the weather might interrupt our daily lives and we need to be prepared for power cuts.

In readiness for such emergencies, the Parish Council has installed oil powered generators at the Pavilion in Burwash Common and the Village Hall in Burwash Village. These will provide enough power to charge phones, provide background heating and make warm refreshments available to those who can get to them.

Please sign up to the Burwash e-bulletin so that we can inform you how you can access these facilities, and what to do in the event of an emergency. Contact Emma to sign up, or find the link at burwashparish.org.uk



A footpath in Burwash Weald

The Priority Services Register

has been set up to provide free help for those who would like extra advice and support, including when there is an interruption to your electricity, gas or water supply. It helps utility companies look after those customers who need extra help with everyday energy matters, as well as power cuts, gas, or water supply interruption. Go to: theprs.co.uk and follow the links, or contact the Parish Council who can help you with this.



In rural areas where fatalities are four times more likely to happen than in urban areas, the discussion about road safety has a tendency to focus on number of collision casualties alone. In most areas where it operates, the quality-of-life issue as well as feeling safe when using roads recreationally are equally important to residents. This is not a reminder that the problem of speeding goes well beyond quantifying its consequences with casualty statistics alone.

Inconsequentially applied enforcement methodology is not likely to change socially perceived acceptable behaviour, if the majority of those caught speeding either are not - or consider themselves, habitual speeders. Increased compliance with the law can be achieved with other means than enforcement. In the case of Speedwatch, personalised education is just as efficient to bring the problem under control.

We are looking for volunteers who can commit a minimum of one hour a month to help with the roadside speed checks to help educate drivers. If you are prepared to help, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Burwash Internet Hub

The hub is run by the Parish Council and volunteers and offers help with technical and IT queries. It is open in the Parish Room, next to the Parish Office, in the Car Park on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Become a Parish Councillor -

The Parish Council currently has vacancies for Parish Councillors. There is a monthly meeting and the opportunity to share in decisions which affect the whole community. If you would like to be involved in the exciting projects currently being undertaken by the Council, and would like more information, please contact Emma on 07375 809660 or email parishclerk@burwashparish.org.uk

Community Hub - update

At the October Full Council meeting, Councillors voted to move forward with the scoping of the Community Hub. This project, originally noted as a desirable addition to Burwash in the Neighbourhood Plan, has been included in the Parish Council business plan for a few years now. The Parish Council consulted on the idea of a new facility in Burwash in the spring of 2024 and the response to the idea was very positive.

There are a number of stages to go through before any plans can be drawn up and the Parish Council have just agreed to set aside up to £30,000 for the design and costings of the project to be outlined. This would get the project to the stage where the Parish Council could apply for planning permission. Additionally, meetings with Rother are taking place to ensure that the Parish Council have their support, their permission to build and access to any additional funding from Rother that might be available.

The funding put aside for this next stage is to be taken from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is 15% of the cost developers pay Rother District Council to provide additional infrastructure to the parish, therefore, supporting the development. This means that the Parish Council have received just over £60,000 from the developments at the old Ashwood Nursing Home site and the site previously called Oakleys Garage. Building has also begun at the site at the end of Strand Meadow called Watercress Fields so another approximate £93,000 is due from that site in due course.

Once received, CIL funding has to be spent on infrastructure projects within 5 years of receipt, or it has to be paid back to the local authority. Burwash Parish Council are committed to improving the parish for residents and are keen to ensure that this funding is spent for the whole community. Once meetings with Rother have taken place and more is known about the feasibility of the project, a wider public meeting will be held detailing options on architecture and potential funding streams.

Another piece of work is being conducted alongside the Community Hub project to explore the alternatives to the building of a new facility and will include looking at other buildings and options in Burwash that might be suitable for re-purposing should the Community Hub project not be given the green light. This will include looking at the current Parish Office and Room, as well as the Scout Hut, the Village Hall and the Pavilion at Swan Meadow: buildings that may not be owned by the Parish Council but could be looked at as potential alternative sites with further discussion.

If you would like to discuss the project or have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact Emma, the Clerk on parishclerk@burwashpc.org.uk or 07375 809 660.

It has been suggested that a Community Hub could be used as a base for those who work from home and rely on their internet connection to carry on their business. This is one of the suggestions which the Council will be considering but, in the meantime, if the internet connection you rely on for your business fails, contact Emma: it might be possible for you to use the facilities at the Parish Room until 'normal service' is resumed.

The best way of keeping in touch with the parish council news, is to receive the weekly Burwash e-bulletin via the internet by signing up on the Council's website: burwashparish.org.uk
If you do not have access to the internet and want to receive Parish Matters in printed form, you can collect one from the Parish Office, or contact Emma and we will ensure you get Parish Matters delivered to your home.