

# Burwash Parish Matters, April 2021

## Parish Council changes

Anne Newson has resigned from the Council due to pressure of work. We appreciate the enormous amount of time and energy Anne brought to the work: she will be sorely missed.

We have two new Councillors, appointed at our most recent Council Meeting and we are grateful to them for volunteering to give their time and expertise to the Council.



Alistair Coulthurst writes:

*I grew up in a village near Leicester where I attended school and studied Economics and Politics at a specialist A Level College. I then spent a few years in France before embarking on my career in the wine and spirits trade studying for a degree in Wine Business at the University of Brighton, Plumpton College Campus. I moved to Burwash in 2017 from Tunbridge Wells and enjoy technology, music, playing rugby and spending time with my family.*



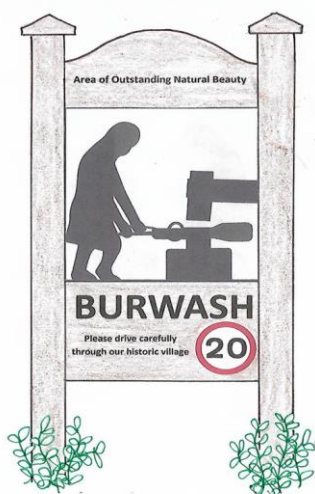
Ron Hewett writes:

*I served for 7 years as a Councillor for Medway Council, and 4 as Chairman of the Education and Life Long Learning Scrutiny Committee. I have lived in the Parish for more than 14 years and served on the Burwash Parish Council for 7 years, when I supported others to achieve the reduction of the speed limit through the Parish. Whilst serving on both Councils I very much appreciated the views of others, bearing in mind the decision we arrive at must be supported by as many as feel able.*

## Maintaining Burwash trees: update

After a lot of pressure from the Council, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) has agreed to pollard the trees in the High Street later in March/April. Initially they advised that it was not a priority this year, but we are pleased they have changed their minds. Whilst this 'debate' was being held with ESCC, a number of residents started working on the lime trees and we are grateful for the time and care they took over this.

## Village Gates



Thanks to all those who submitted designs for the Village Gates, which are part of the Speed Reduction scheme. The winning design was by Steve Moore and Mary Clarke.

The wording is:

'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'

'Please drive carefully through our historic village'

On the reverse:

'Thank you for driving carefully through our village'

When ESCC have agreed the work and their part-funding of the work, the 'Gates' will be placed adjacent to the points on the A265 where the speed limit changes to 20mph.

## Strand Meadow Development

You may have heard by now, that Rother District Council Planning Committee rejected the application by Park Lane Homes, and we are incredibly grateful to Cllr Anne Newson for the energy and expertise she brought to the debate. Cllr John Barnes, who represents ESCC on the Parish Council and Cllr Eleanor Kirby-Green who represents Rother District Council also spoke very powerfully on behalf of the Burwash community against the scheme. Thanks also to Robert Banks of 'Save Our Fields' and Martyn Wright, a resident who spoke very eloquently on behalf of the community. There may be further hurdles ahead but this was an important victory for those who object to the development at Watercress Meadow.

## Verges and Hedges

To help sustain the natural habitat of wildlife, some verges will not be cut quite so regularly across the parish by ESCC. This will not affect locations where natural growth needs to be checked to maintain road safety, such as at junctions, but you may see other verges allowed to grow and this will greatly benefit the natural world.

A hedgerow survey is being undertaken to see what biodiversity the hedgerows have to offer across the parish and to log species. A member of the High Weald team will arrange a training session in early summer for interested volunteers to help allocate hedgerow plants across the parish.

## Quiet Lanes

There has been an increase in traffic on the small single-track lanes across the parish. This has resulted in verges being eroded by vehicles. There has also been an increase in danger for other road users including walkers, horse riders and cyclists. The council wants to work with other local groups including the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) who have offered their support for a Campaign for Quiet Lanes, that will help drivers appreciate the need to take extra care on such roads and make them safer for other road users.

Cllr Brian Newman