

A letter to be put through the letterbox of all houses where there is a new owner.

WELCOME TO BURWASH

As chair of the Parish Council, I would like to welcome you to our community.

Moving to a new neighbourhood can be a daunting experience, but I hope you quickly feel at home as you get to know the area and all that it offers.

The Parish Council represents those who live in the three communities, which make up the parish of Burwash: Burwash Weald, Burwash Common and Burwash village. We have a responsibility to ensure the views of the community are represented at District and County Council levels, as well as help maintain and improve the local environment.

The main source of information is the Burwash Parish website, to be found at burwashparish.org.uk and the Burwash App. If you click on the 'Welcome' you will find a summary of all the information that is on the website. When you have a moment, log on and discover what makes this such a friendly and vibrant community.

If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the Welcome Pack, telephone Brian Newman on 01435 408942 and we will send you a copy.

With our best wishes for a happy future here,

Burwash Parish Council

The following is to be linked to the 'WELCOME' banner on the opening page of the burwashparish.org website. This replaces the existing 'Welcome' Page which is accessed via the Visit Burwash link. The other pages in the Visit Burwash list remain where they are.

WELCOME TO BURWASH

Burwash, Burwash Common and Burwash Weald are located at the heart of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The villages offer beautiful walks through breathtaking countryside, fine hospitality in our local pubs, architectural gems and much more.

Bateman's, the Jacobean house where Nobel Prize-winning author and poet Rudyard Kipling lived from 1902 to 1936, is a gentle stroll from Burwash High Street where a stunning bronze statue of Kipling has been unveiled.

Burwash War Memorial, erected in 1920 next to St Bartholomew's church, has a unique feature. Its lantern is illuminated on the day of the death of each of those Burwash men and women who died in the two world wars.

Accommodation is available in local pubs and B&Bs. The south coastal resort towns of Hastings, Bexhill, Eastbourne and Brighton are just a short drive away.

BURWASH PARISH COUNCIL – WHAT ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO

We're an independent local democratic unit and councillors are elected every four years. Councillors meet regularly to make decisions on the work and direction of the Council. As your representatives we have responsibilities across the parish and express our views to Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council, the Environment Agency, the Police Authority and Health Authorities. We meet monthly alternating between the Internet Café at the Council Rooms in Burwash and the Pavilion in Burwash Common. Our meetings are open to the public and we urge you to come to them and discover the wide variety of topics that are discussed. We pursue an active policy through direct action or grant aid measures to improve and enhance the general environment and condition of the villages. We are consulted on planning applications and on such things as schools, roads and planning enquiries. We also have the power to improve the environment and the lives of those living here by spending money on things which are in the interests of the parish and its inhabitants.

We welcome input from residents so that we can reflect the views of residents accurately when discussing matters with other agencies and when identifying parish objectives in future planning.

We are very proud that Burwash is a community with many activities taking place. If you are organizing an event that benefits the community and you would like it included on our website, do please let us know.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Betty Mc Bride, Steve Moore, Jason Caulkin, Bob Franklin, Julian Kenny, Nick Moore, Brian Newman, Anne Newson, Declan O'Neill, Ian Rees and Berry Wraight. The Chair and Deputy Chair are elected annually from serving Councillors.

Vacancies occur from time to time and these will be notified on the website. If you would like to consider joining the Council, contact the Clerk via our website www.burwashparish.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

There are monthly Council meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm alternating between the Council Rooms, which are in the Car Park in Burwash Village and the Pavilion in Burwash Common. Agendas are posted on the Parish Council's noticeboard which is on the Council Office near the Doctors' Surgery at least three working days in advance and members of the public are welcome to attend. We set aside a short period of time at our full meetings for members of the public to speak.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish takes place on a separate date in April or May. Everyone is welcome to attend to find out what has been happening in the village.

COMMUNICATIONS

Website: Take a moment to explore our website www.burwashparish.gov.uk. It contains information about local groups and societies, news of events in and around the villages as well as agendas, minutes of council and committee meetings, standing orders, newsletters, annual reports, members' information etc. There are also links to East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council.

Parish Office: Our office is adjacent to the Internet Café in the Bear Car Park. To contact the Parish Clerk please email parishclerk@burwashpc.org.uk.

The Council's mailing address is: PO Box 61, Etchingam, TN19 7YZ
or you can use the red post box outside the Internet Cafe in The Bear Car Park, Burwash Village.

Contacting a Councillor: Councillors can be contacted via our website www.burwashparish.org.uk.

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council currently has only two plots for use as allotments but is looking for land that could be used to increase capacity. If you are a landowner and feel you could have something suitable, please contact the Parish Clerk.

PLANNING

When planning applications are received the plans are viewed by the Planning Committee who will consider the impact a proposal may have on the village in general planning terms and makes a recommendation as to whether an application should be approved. It is then up to the District Council's planning experts to make the decision. Planning Applications that will appear on Council Meeting's Agenda can be viewed between 6.45 - 7.00 p.m. Members of the public are invited to attend but are not allowed to speak unless invited to do so.

BURWASH VILLAGE HALL

A number of local groups meet regularly in the Halls and other events take place there from time to time, including Short Mat Bowls, Snooker Club, Burwash Musical Theatre, Burwash Amateur Pantomime Society, Ladies Group, Not So Young Club, Horticultural Society, Flower Club, Quilters, Whist Club, Monday Painters, Circuit Training and School of Dancing.

For more information about the Hall and the activities, go to burwashparish.org.uk/burwash-village-hall
or contact Shirley Viney at shirley@bowzell.co.uk 01435 882497

THE PAVILION at BURWASH COMMON

The Pavilion at Burwash Common is situated at the top of the Burwash Weald and Common Memorial Fund Playing Field. Activities taking place there include Circuit Training, Pilates, Parents and Toddlers Group, Tai Chi and Yoga, as well as regular Quiz Night's and Music Nights

For more information and find out the hall and the activities, go to Burwashcommonpavilion.org

BURWASH PLAYING FIELDS

The Swan Meadow playing fields, which are in Ham Lane near to the Rose and Crown pub, are managed by the local community and include a sports pavilion, tennis courts, children's play area, cricket and football pitches, and are the base for the Bonfire Society, Horticultural Society and a number of other groups.

For more information go to:

burwashparish.org.uk/burwash-playing-fields

or contact Halina Keep at swanmeadow2019@gmail.com 01435 882183

COMMUNITY DEFIBRILLATORS

We have installed defibrillators which can be found outside Burwash Village Hall and outside Burwash Common Pavilion. Both are available 24hrs a day and can be easily and quickly accessed by anyone who needs it. The emergency services have been advised of their availability and location so that anyone requiring it will be given the access code by dialling 999.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

We have produced an emergency plan. Further details are available on the website site burwashparish.org.uk

BRIEF HISTORY OF BURWASH

Although it is quite likely that there was a Roman settlement at Burwash, the oldest building in the village is St Bartholomew's Church and parts of the Norman original (1090) can be seen today (a complete history is available in the church). Burwash grew steadily in the 11th and 12th Centuries and its status as a local trading centre was recognised in 1252 when King Henry III authorised a weekly market and a three-day fair in May. These markets continued until the 20th Century and the tradition is perpetuated by the annual village fete on the August Bank Holiday following St Bartholomew's day (August 24th). Although there are now no livestock for sale, the medieval inhabitants would recognise the music, food stalls and spirit of conviviality and fun which continues today.

The current appearance of Burwash village dates to the 18th Century when the rows of 15th and 16th Century cottages were upgraded and tile hung by the prosperous Georgians. Some larger houses were also built at this time including Rampyndene, Mount House, Burghurst and Denes House as a result of the local landowners moving into the High Street. The oldest house in the village is Pelham Hall (1375) but in most of the High Street the old buildings are hidden behind the Georgian tiles.

At one time there were at least seven public houses plus official and unofficial ale houses but gradually they have been reduced to two, the Rose and Crown and the Bear as well as The Wheel in Burwash Weald all of which retain many of their original features. Likewise in the 18th Century there were over 50 shops, traders and craftsmen but over the last 250 years these have shrunk. Now a village store and post office, a butcher, a hairdresser, flower shop and local petrol station meet most local needs

Smuggling was rife in Sussex and Burwash is rumoured to have been an important centre on the back route from the coast to London but no evidence can be found. However, Rudyard Kipling who lived at Bateman's (1902 – 1936) wrote:

*"Five and twenty ponies
Trotting through the dark
Brandy for the Parson
'Baccy for the Clerk
Laces for a lady, letters for a spy
and watch the wall, my darling, whilst the Gentlemen go by"*

Bateman's is owned by the National Trust and is preserved as a faithful monument to Kipling and his work.

Perhaps the greatest change to the village has been the occupations of its inhabitants. 800 years ago it was entirely based on agriculture and local crafts serving the villages and hamlets around. Very few ever travelled out of the area. With the growth of the markets in the 14th Century, travellers came to the village and over the next 500 years the range of traders and shops increased. Even in Victorian times, virtually the whole population worked locally. But with the arrival of the railway in 1851 and improved road transportation, the population became more mobile, travelled more and commuted to work in London and elsewhere. This process has continued until today when few work in agriculture and there are only a handful of shops. Most people work outside the village or are retired.

A more comprehensive history is available on the website:

Burwashparish.org.uk/history

BURWASH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

This monthly publication costs £1 per issue. The magazine is delivered to subscribers in the Village and is on sale at the local shop and St Bartholomew's Church.

BURWASH COMMON/ST PHILIP'S MAGAZINE

As with the Village Magazine, this is produced by the local church, but includes a lot of information and community news for Burwash Common, Burwash Weald, Southover and Witherenden. It is available for £1 from local shops and the church.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Burwash is within the High Weald Designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and there are many footpaths and Public Rights of Way throughout the Parish. East Sussex County Council's Public Rights of Way Department endeavours to keep the Public Rights of Way clear and free from hazards. ESCC is responsible for their upkeep and maintenance including keeping them clear and passable. On

the first Wednesday of every month there is a walk, led by an experienced local walker which starts out from The Bear Car Park at 9am.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Household rubbish is collected every Wednesday. Paper and card can be put in a pink sack obtainable from the Internet Café in The Bear Car Park, and these are collected fortnightly. There is a bottle bank and recycle centre in The Bear Car Park.

For further information, go to <http://www.rother.gov.uk/recycling>

SCHOOLS

Burwash has an excellent primary school. Judged as Outstanding by Ofsted, the school's curriculum was praised for inspiring and motivating pupils. The head teacher is Ms Debbie Gilbert.

For further information, go to www.burwash.e-sussex.sch.uk/home

There are a number of Community Colleges in the area: the two nearest being at Robertsbridge and Heathfield.

SHOPS

Burwash Stores and Post Office -

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6 am to 8 pm, Sun 7 am to 8 pm.

Jarvis Butchers -

a traditional business offering customers good quality as well as other locally produced products

The Flower House -

run by experienced, qualified florists with the flair and creativity to produce unique and distinctive flower arrangements for any occasion

Popes Cottage Antiques –

all antiques bought and sold

ARTISTS, MAKERS AND OTHER SERVICES

Mary Clarke – the Burwash Potter – combines her love of animals and working with clay to create highly individual ceramic art. She also specialises in Raku Glazing which is a traditional method of glaze firing, linked to Japanese tea ceremonies. Mary takes commissions to make ceramic portraits of pet dogs and other animals. Mary runs weekly lessons in her Burwash High Street studio throughout the year. Each term runs for six weeks and the cost is £120 per term. This includes basic materials and firing of the work. She offers one-off courses on introduction to pottery, garden art and hand-built functional ware such as teapots. Mary also runs pottery parties for both adults and children.

Full details from: mary.clarke1@btinternet.com or visit her website www.burwashpotter.co.uk.

Altered Images – Picture framing service

C Waterhouse and Sons – independent family funeral directors

PUBLIC HOUSES

Your local pubs are The Wheel, in Burwash Common, The Bear and The Rose and Crown in Burwash Village. All of the pubs serve food

TAKE AWAY

There are two visiting food vans each week: one specialises in Pizzas and the other Fish and Chips. The local shop also sells cooked Pizzas.

GARAGE

There is a BP garage on the edge of Burwash Village

TRAVEL

A car is very useful. The A21 is about a fifteen-minute drive from Burwash Village. There are 5 buses daily (Monday to Friday) from Burwash to Uckfield and from the Village to Hurst Green, via Etchingham Station. There is an hourly train service from Etchingham Station and Stonegate Station to London and to Hastings. Etchingham Station also incorporates a Bistro and café.

TAXIS

Burwash Taxis – 07931 605057

Burwash Village Cars – 07966 289758

CHURCHES

St. Bartholomew's, Burwash High Street

Rector and Priest-in-Charge: Rev Sally Epps

Details of services can be found in the Burwash Village Magazine or on the St. Bartholomew's website <http://www.saintbartholomewsburwash.org.uk>

St. Philip's, Stonegate Road, Burwash Weald

Vicar: Rev Graham Lewis

Details of services can be found in the St Philip's Magazine or on their facebook page [Facebook.com/stphilipschurch](https://www.facebook.com/stphilipschurch)

Christ the King, St. Anne's Green, Burwash High Street

For further information contact:

Parish priest: 01435 862191

Parish Deacon: 07887 506 592

Parishioner contact 01435 882556 or www.ctkhcp.org

SURGERY

Fairfield Surgery was purpose built in 1992 to provide the residents of the parish of Burwash and the surrounding villages with a convenient and easily accessible means to consult their General Practitioners. You will find us behind The Bear car park in Burwash High Street.

Telephone 01435 882306

LOCAL GROUPS and SOCIETIES

Sport and Fitness:

Burwash Cricket Club	01435 882832
Burwash Football Club	01435 864628
Burwash Junior Sport and Fitness Club	01435 883273/883656
Burwash Lawn Tennis Club	01580 880628
Burwash over 50's Walking Football Group	01435 882444
Burwash Playing Field Association	01435 864628/882183
Burwash Sports Pavilion	01435 883656
Burwash Short Mat Bowls Club	01435 882107
Burwash Snooker Club	01435 882594/882980
Kipling County Carriage Driving Group	kiplingcounty@aol.com
Parish Footpath Walk	01435 884312
Seagulls over Burwash.	simon.forster@seagullsoverburwash.co.uk
Tai Chi	07968 010851
Walks for Strollers	01435 882045

For young people

Burwash CEP School	01435 882440
Burwash Guides and Brownies	01435 883473
Explorers, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers	01435 882126
Musical Theatre	01435 882946
St Bartholomew's Sunday Club and Pathfinders	01435 882360
St Bartholomew's Tuesday Drop-In	01435 882360
St Philip's Parent and Toddler Group	01435 883247

Support Groups and Local Government

British Red Cross	0800 0280 831
Burwash Common and Weald Residents Association	07775 862846
Citizens Advice Bureau	01424 215055
Royal British Legion	01435 882360/882345
Neighbourhood Watch	01435 882444
Burwash Community Action Group	facebook.com/Burwash Community
Admiral Nurses	01435 882938
Burwash Parish Council	parishclerk@burwashpc.org.uk
Rother District Council	01323 787000
East Sussex County Council	0345 6080190
Sussex Police, non-urgent	101@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Village Life

Bateman's	01435 882302
Burwash Amateur Pantomime Society	01435 883615
Burwash Bonfire Society	natcooper13@hotmail.co.uk
Burwash Common Pavilion	01435 882650
Burwash Common After Eight Club	01435 882117
Burwash Community Fund	01435 883656
Burwash Community Internet Café	01435883510
Burwash Memories	facebook.com/burwashmemories
Burwash Duplicate Bridge Club	01435 883654

Burwash Ladies Group	01435 882034
Burwash Save Our Fields.	contact@burwashsaveourfields.org.uk
The Barnsley Foundation	01435 882301

For the Elderly

Age UK	01435 883483
Music/Movement Exercise for the over 60's	01435 882452
Not So Young Club	01435 882452
Burwash Housing Association	01435 883043
University of the 3 rd Age	01892 852128

Hobbies

Burwash Horticultural Society	01435 882243
Burwash Flower Club	01435 882043
Burwash Monday Painters	01435 883247
Burwash Pottery	07786 422870
Burwash Quilters	01580 200280
Heathfield and District History Society	01435 865260
Heathfield and District Philatelic Society	01292 852659
Jane Coleman School of Dancing	01580 200961

Disclaimer: please be aware that these facts were deemed to be correct at the time of writing. The Parish Council takes no responsibility for facts which may have changed since the production of this handbook. Annual updates will be undertaken. No business or organisation is being promoted by virtue of inclusion in this handbook. All details are included to give as much and as varied information as possible. If any other local business wishes to be included in the next update, please contact the Parish Clerk with the relevant information.