

The Burham Buzz

A free quarterly Community Magazine for the parish of Burham



Summer 2024

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BURHAM BUZZ
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see back page

Published by Burham Parish Council

www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Burham Parish Council

The Burham Buzz Community Magazine

The Magazine is a quarterly publication for the village and surrounding area. It is produced and delivered by dedicated local volunteers.

How do I normally get the magazine?

The magazine is delivered directly to you or your email inbox. You can also view the magazine online making the content available worldwide. If you are unable to access the internet please contact us and we will do our best to provide you with a printed copy.

How can I submit articles or suggestions?

If you have an article for possible inclusion in a future issue or suggestion for items you would like to see covered, or any other comments, then please let us know. See 'Contact us' below to get in touch.

Magazine Advertising

Advertising in the Parish Magazine is effective and excellent value. Adverts are prepared on a first-come first-served basis. You can have adverts from a full page to a few lines. Contact us for the current rates. The publication of any advertisement does not carry the endorsement of Burham Parish Council.

GIVE US A SHOUT or risk losing it

You must let us know if want to receive The Burham Buzz free of charge. Please call or email Pam or return the slip on the back page. We would also like to hear from you if you do not have internet access.

Can you help?

If you could help deliver The Burham Buzz to your road, or adjacent roads, it would be a great help. We would drop off copies at your house for you to distribute over a week or so. Can you help please? Let Pam know if you can help share the load.

Contact us

Editorial - Articles - Advertising - Photos

pam@burhampc.co.uk

Tel: 01634 685936

www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Burham Parish Council

Editing of articles and items submitted

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine and welcome your contributions. However we reserve the right to edit contributions or not to publish. The publication of any advertisement does not carry the endorsement of Burham Parish Council.

Burham Community Photographic Project 2024



The project is a photographic census of people that live or work in Burham to capture and preserve a record of life in 2024, before the village goes through a significant moment of change. To take part, you'll need to have your portrait taken and answer the question: *"What would you like someone in 100 years time to know about your daily life?"* Everyone who has their photo taken will get a free digital copy of their own portrait that can be printed, shared with friends and will be yours to keep forever! If we can secure the funding there will be an exhibition in the Old School Community Centre with all of the portraits on display. If you would like to take part please contact Pam on 01634 685936 or email: pam@burhampc.co.uk.

GIVE US A SHOUT OR RISK LOSING IT?

You must tell us if you want a free print copy of The Buzz magazine delivered to you. Unless we hear from you we may stop producing a print copy. Please ring Pam on 01634 685936 or email: pam@burhampc.co.uk

Your News and Views

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to share something in the next issue. If you have a contribution to make about all things Burham we want to hear from you! To get in touch see 'Contact us' on page 2.

S Sangha, Editor

Useful Contacts

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Burham Village Hall

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Burham Community Centre

Thurza Browne 01634 863322

KCC Community Warden

Simon White 07813694140
Simon.white@kent.gov.uk

Kent Police

PC Georgia Marshall 101

Fly Tipping

www.tmbc.gov.uk & search
'fly tipping'

Potholes

www.kent.gov.uk & search
'potholes'

The King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace



Mr & Mrs David Young attend Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 21 May 2024

On a wet and chilly afternoon, Dave & Betty (dressed in all their finery) made their way to Buckingham Palace to attend one of the King's summer garden parties.

The process started in late 2023, when "secret squirrels" made enquiries about the nomination process. Dave had no idea that people had been working behind the scenes trying to find a way to recognise his and Betty's services to the community.

In February 2024, Dave and Betty received a letter from the Lord-Lieutenant of Kent, Lady Colgrain, informing them that they had been put forward as deserving of an invitation to attend The King's Garden Party.

The acceptance form was completed and they received a formal invitation from the Lord Chamberlain. At this stage, Dave discovered who had put his name forward and he thanked them for nominating him and Betty.

The weather was not kind on the day, with torrential downpours forecast and the forecast was not wrong!

The Garden party was hosted by the Prince of Wales, representing his

father, King Charles. Other members of the Royal Family also attended.

Dave drove to Green Park adjacent to Buckingham Palace to the allocated parking area. After security checks Dave & Betty entered the Buckingham Palace gardens to be met by Royal Household staff who directed them to a designated area for meeting

members of the Royal Family. Here they had great pleasure in speaking to other guests representing communities, charities, the armed services and the NHS.

At 3.40pm the Yeoman of the Guard came out from the Palace doors and walked to the gardens followed at 4pm by Prince William and other members of the Royal Family. The guest greeted them with an array of umbrellas!!

Whilst Prince William joined guests from charities, Princess Eugenie and Princess Beatrice came over to Dave & Betty's group of guests and spoke to them. They were then all invited to the marquee for refreshments.

After a pleasant hour of chatting to fellow guests over refreshments they left the Palace Gardens and went back to the car to drive home. Their only disappointment was not meeting the King and Queen, who did not attend because of the rain.

A very well-deserved invitation in recognition of Dave & Betty's services to the village and community

Gnarwhal Skate School at Burham



We've all seen them at the top of the rec. The daredevil kids on their skateboards and scooters going up and down the concrete ramps. Some of us have probably thought "I could give that a go....". Well here's your chance!

I got to catch up with Rick Tunbridge, owner and teacher at Granwhal Skate School, based in Burham.

How long has the skate school been going for and how did it all start?

Rick: I've been skating all my life so

I'm well known in the skate community. I've also lived in Burham pretty much my entire life so people know I skate. After skating was introduced to the Japan Olympics I had loads of parents in the village ask if I would teach their kids to skate. I'm passionate about the sport and want to pass on the skills I've learnt so I jumped at the opportunity.

Wow that was three years ago next week!

Compiled by Nick Krauspe

Activities & Courses available to Burham Residents

Chair Exercise

To increase balance, strength & mobility.

Alternate Mondays, from 10 June, 10.30am-12noon in the Village Hall

Line Dancing Intermediates

Fridays, 5-6pm in the Village Hall

Crafting & Textiles.

10am-12noon, 2nd & 4th Fridays, Village Hall from 14 June

Introduction to Sign Language - Progressions 1 & 2

10am-12noon, Wednesdays, 5 June; 10 July, & 11 September in Village Hall

Level 2 Food Safety In Catering - Qualification

Thursday, 17 July, 9.30am-4.30pm, Community Centre.

Note: Community Centre is in Peters Village and Village Hall is in Wouldham.

To sign up, please contact: clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk

Burham School - A Brief History



Burham Church of England Primary School, Rochester Road

In 1858 the curate Rev. William A. Keith saw the need for education in Burham and suggested a church schoolroom for about 80 children as needed. The Earl of Aylesford granted land and most of the building funds were raised locally. Instruction cost 2d per week per child, with a reduction for a 3rd and 4th child from the same family.

The building was to become Burham Church of England Primary School and stood in Rochester Road (opposite the war memorial). In 1867 the accommodation was increased by an additional classroom. A teacher's residence was also provided. By 1870 the recorded attendance had increased to 136 pupils, and to meet the requirements of the Education Department further enlargements were necessary. By March 1872 a further classroom was added. The Education Department and the Diocesan Office contributed to the cost, the remaining funds being raised locally.

The principal ratepayers, who owned the local cement works, took no interest in the school, which had been built to educate their employees' children. The school was transferred to the care of the Education Board on a 21 year lease. Seemingly the building was further enlarged during 1878 to accommodate 400 boys and girls.

During 1890 the Board built a new boys' school, for 150 pupils, on the corner of Bell Lane. Girls and infants of both sexes continued to occupy the older Burham Church of England Primary School, until the lease expired in 1896.

At this time, the vicar Rev. A. E Bourne, proposed to take back the older building and re-open it as a church school. The Board reluctantly agreed, being unwilling to burden the ratepayers with the expense of providing new premises for the girls and infants. However the Education Department agreed to continue its annual grant and the church school re-opened on 14th December 1896. Various repairs to the building were carried out and an additional cloakroom and main drainage were added.

All was to change in 1958, when older boys rejoined the girls at the Church School and the infants moved to the Board School. This arrangement continued until a new school was built in Bell Lane and opened during 1985. The old Church School was demolished and houses now occupy the site. The board school is now the Phoenix Community Centre.

Michael Boozer, Burham History

See also Ken Jones-popular teacher & Head at Burham School on next page.

Ken Jones - popular teacher & Head at Burham School

Ken Jones was a popular teacher at our village school for thirty-eight years with his final seven as head teacher.

Many of you will have been taught by him or had children taught by him and will recall that 'Mr Jones' - as many still call him - was a force to be reckoned with both in and out of the classroom. He has many fond memories of the school and village.

He arrived as a naive 22-year old fresh out of teaching college from a small Welsh village. Ken's passion was drama but he was unable to pursue this at university because he got a place at teaching college and his academic grades slipped, a salutary lesson that great things can come for second options and drama's loss was Burham's gain!

Ken joined the school as part of a team and quickly learnt the importance of teamwork and established an ethos where all contributions were valued from cleaner to kitchen staff and teachers. He understood that learning was not al-

ways about academic results and introduced an Art Week, a gardening club and many sports activities achieving great success. His drama found an outlet when he started a School Panto, with a teacher cast which developed into a children's event engaging all abilities. One of his greatest moments was creating School Council which resulted in a visit to 10 Downing Street arranged by the local MP at the time.

Ken Jones was all about the children; he fought hard and tirelessly to ensure every child had a positive learning experience be it academic or in life skills; he armed all that came in contact with him with a strong sense of community that is the very heart of our village life. I wonder if he knows the difference he has made and somehow continues to make daily.

Compiled by Julia Bell

Were you at Burham School when Ken was teaching? Send us your memories or photos and we will try and print a selection

Anti Social Behaviour Reporting

Anti-social behaviour can be reported using the QR code or at www.tmbc.gov.uk. For emergencies call the Police on 999. You can also report anonymously to Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 or at www.crimestoppers-uk.org



Burham United Charities

Burham United Charities is a local charitable organisation that provides assistance to those in need living within the old parish boundaries. (i.e. Burham Village and parts of Blue Bell Hill). Every year the Charity gives grants towards the Winter Fuel costs of retired villagers on restricted incomes.

They can also offer one-off grants to help alleviate particular instances of hardship for any resident of the parish. Parents of school age children may obtain help with some of the costs associated with schooling. If you, or someone you know, is on a low income or has an exceptional need which is not provided for by Welfare Benefits, we may be able to help.

Contact: Dave Young (01634 867669) or Roger Kiralfy (01634 869900)

The Church in Burham - closure update



As was reported in the last issue of The Burham Buzz the Church is going through a process of closing down. The current position is that it is expected to close in September but plans for after then are still being finalised. Activities are continuing at present as follows:

Services

There will be a Morning Service at 10.30am each Sunday in June, July and August but the Church is expected to close at the beginning of September. Details of the special Service to commemorate the many years of worship in The Church in Burham will be announced later.

Book Exchange

This will take place from 10.30 till 12 noon on June 1 and July 6. There will be no Book Exchange in August. See Keep Burham Connected for arrangements in September.

Country Lunch

Country Lunch will take place on Thursday June 20 and July 18. There will not be one in August but see Facebook for news after then.

Eileen Smith

M: 07786281044

E: smitheileen3@sky.com

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Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers



The Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers are part of the national Ramblers organisation. We offer up to 3 'taster' walks.

Thursday 13 June

Circular walk through the woods from Southborough Common to Bidborough with great views north. Then down to Haysden and back. Moderate difficulty with one steady climb. 5 mls

Sunday 16 June

Circular walk from Shoreham to Eynsford with a fairly steep climb to Otford Hills. Return via the Roman villa, Lullingstone Castle and the country park of Lullingstone. Moderate difficulty. 5 mls

Sunday 23 June

Circular walk from Shoreham to Eynsford with a fairly steep climb up Otford Hills. Return via the Roman villa, Lullingstone Castle and country park. Moderate difficulty. 6.5 mls

Thursday 4 July

Circular walk through the Medway and Eden river valleys and Penshurst with its fine manor house. Moderate difficulty with one stile; may be muddy depending on the weather. 5 mls

Sunday 7 July

A scenic walk from Shoreham through woodland and grassland of the peaceful

Austin Lodge Valley. Moderate difficulty with two steep climbs and one long steady incline. Approx five stiles. 5 mls

Thursday 11 July

10am at Park along Old London Rd, Wrotham, TQ610593, TN15 7DL
Trosley Trot. 5.5mls/ 8.9km

Thursday 18 July

Knockholt Chevening Circular: explore the meadows and woods of the North Downs escarpment with grand views of Chevening House. Moderate difficulty with one steep climb. 4 mls

Thursday 25 July

Early evening walk from Wrotham, followed by fish and chip supper. 3 mls.

Please check the latest updates on our Facebook page or visit www.tonbridgeandmallingeramblers.org.uk.

WINCHESTER HOUSE

You're invited to our

Celebrating the Proms

EVENT

Saturday, 17th August 2024 from 5.30pm

Join us to celebrate The BBC Proms Classical Music Festival. Live music entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

For further information, please get in touch with our friendly team.

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see page 22 for details**

Phoenix Medical Practice

New Surgery at Peters Village

We have encountered issues with the land owners Trenport regarding this and these were highlighted by a local councillor last year in the following article - Council leader accuses Trenport of 'holding community to ransom' over Peters Village Medical Centre (kentonline.co.uk) Since then, the Bushy Wood development has been given the green light yet we are still no further forward. We will continue to try to work with Trenport to progress this development and to get our very much needed larger premises.

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

I have tried on a few occasions to find someone that would be prepared to take over as the patient lead for the PPG and act as the direct conduit between our patients and me at the Practice without success. If anyone feels that they can dedicate the time in helping mould the workings of the Practice, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Did Not Attend appointments

You may be aware that: the demand for appointments at the Practice far outweighs the number available. To make this more frustrating for both patients and the surgery is when patients fail to turn up for booked appointments. Over the last 3 months, the average number of DNA's per month were 86 which equates to over 14hrs of lost appointments or nearly 2 days a month. Each DNA costs the NHS £120!

Respect and Politeness

Our receptionists continue to get abuse on the phone through to abusive and intimidating behaviour to our GP's not only on the phone but also face to face. As a polite request, please treat our staff with the respect they deserve.

Uncollected Prescriptions

Another issue that is causing valuable dispensing time to be wasted is where patients fail to collect the medication that they will have requested. On average, the total time taken to deal with this is 10hrs every 6 weeks and as mentioned takes away valuable time from our dispensing team who are already under pressure to continue to keep to our 4 working day turnaround.

Other Clinical Staff

Many patients will be aware of the two additional clinicians we have to support, Dr Thom and Dr Beerstecher. Oksana Gonchar is our trainee Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Pallavi Pai our Prescribing Paramedic Practitioner. Both Oksana & Pallavi have extended skills/qualifications and are able to triage, diagnose, treat, prescribe and refer and see patients like the GPs. Both will have a GP to liaise with to ensure the most appropriate care/treatment plan is agreed with the patient so if you get an appointment with either, please bear in mind they can cover the same things as either of the GPs here.

Robert Niechoj, Practice Manager

Burham Parish Council News



Chair & Vice Chair

Cllr David Young was elected and accepted the post of Chair with Cllr Bill Stead as Vice Chair in May.

Land at Eccles

Road changes: Whilst there is no firm time frame regarding implementing highway changes it is likely to be 12 months "before spades were in the ground".

Work to the War Memorial cross A start date is awaited from the contractor likely to be early August. A free-standing wall for the names of the 24 "Lost Men" not included on the war memorial is in the pipe-line. A new union flag was purchased and installed at the war memorial.

Community Litter Pick

This took place 18 May with 5 residents attending (including 2 councillors and an employee). 5 bags of rubbish were collected. Our thanks to residents Jas Bradley, Julie Hogbin & Paul Croucher who attended.

Scarborough Terrace speeding

May Update: KCC have agreed to fund a gateway scheme of new signage and road markings. The Parish Council have confirmed the proposals and an installation date from KCC Highways is awaited.

Church Street: KCC Highways are not proposing to make Church Street one way as the ditches still allow vehicles to

pass but will continue to monitor the situation. New signs were installed during May.

Burham Car Parks

The re-lining of the three car parks (Village Hall, Bell Lane & Church Street) has been booked for 5 August when car parks are less busy. All vehicles will have to be removed during the duration of the work. The Village Hall overflow car park will remain open. Notices will be placed on vehicles and around car parks prior to the works commencing.

Burham Recycling

TMBC have removed all the recycling banks from recycling site. Note: The cardboard and the clothing bank are remaining as they are not under the remit of TMBC. They generate revenue for the village so please use them when possible.

Borough Councillor's Report

TMBC's Annual Council met on 14 May and elected Cllr Steve Hammond as Mayor of TMBC for the next 12 months. Chairing meetings with a finely balanced council will be a challenge but his past experience at RBLI should hold him in good stead with his varied civic duties. We wish him all the best.

Car Parks: TMBC is a top performing council when managing its finances and although it goes unnoticed by most residents, it is a massive advantage to them in low TMBC Council Tax and high-

Burham Parish Council News

grade services. However, for about 2 years, TMBC has seen a gap developing in the TMBC revenue budget with central government grants being reduced and our Council Tax capped at 3% when average annual inflation has been more than 10%. Sadly, the only viable solution, apart from cutting already stretched services, means we have had to start charging for the use of TMBC car parks. Parking charges are tightly controlled by law and can only be spent on items laid down in law. However, there is flexibility to pay for many of the revenue items to plug the impending gap. This revenue shortfall had led to a review of car park charges across the Borough. Generally, each car park had a unique set of issues such as legal covenants, supermarket partners or a preponderance of user types.

Two local TMBC car parks used by our residents affected are:

Aylesford Bridge Car Parks: This policy badly affects our residents especially those in Aylesford, where TMBC will be charging for the two Bailey Bridge Car Parks.

We were able to get a reduction from an initial proposal of £290 to £120 for an annual season ticket for a specific car.

There will be exclusive use of some parking spaces for season ticket holding residents. There will be an hour's free parking to allow for school drop off. Charges will not be implemented until the car park is extended. The latter concession means there will probably be no charges for about a year. Cllr R Dalton did not support these charges from the outset. He was one of the 5 Borough councillors that called the Cabinet decision into OS committee.

Martins Square Larkfield: This car park is also used by Burham residents.

The principal concern was passing trade using the shops and shop staff parking. The decision was that car parking charges will be introduced but with one hour's free parking and season tickets available at £120 per annum for shop staff.

AGILE: There has been no change since our previous reports.

Parish Council Issues

If you have any items that you would like the Parish Council to discuss, call 01634 685936 or email pam@burhampc.co.uk or come to our next meeting, due on 24 June 2024, 7.30 pm at the parish building.

Pam Saunders – Parish Clerk

Burham Parish Council

Dates of Ordinary Parish Council Meetings 2024/2025

All held on the last Monday of the month except when they clash with Bank Holidays etc. at the Parish Office, Rochester Road, Burham, unless otherwise notified.

Monday 24 June 2024

July 2024 (No meeting scheduled)

Monday 19 August 2024

Monday 30 September 2024

Monday 28 October 2024

Monday 16 December 2024

Monday 27 January 2025

Monday 24 February 2025

Monday 31 March 2025

Monday 28 April 2025 – Annual Meetings of Electors

Monday 19 May 2025 – Annual Meeting of Parish Council (Election of Officers)

Burham Clubs & Organisations

All Star Performers

We are a Musical Theatre company providing classes for ages 0-18! All classes held in the Old School Community Centre, Bell Lane on Saturdays. Check our Facebook page, ring 0738 808 4862 or allstarperformers@outlook.com

Bear Paws Quilters

The Club meets at the Community Centre twice a month on Wednesday evening, 7.30-10pm. There are approximately 30 members, covering all adult age groups.

Kathy White. 0742 516 5742

Book Exchange

1st Saturday in the month, at the Church Hall, 10.30am -12noon
Eileen Smith. 01634 867022

Burham Baton Twirlers

Held in the Burham Village Hall every Thursday 5pm -7 pm
Lyn Robinson 0772 937 3558

Burham Music Hall

Formed in the early 1970's, we have produced a variety of shows and events. We currently host regular Quiz and Bingo nights as well as a Christmas Panto. New members are welcome to join our friendly company. We meet most Thursday evenings at Burham Village Hall.
Simon Hughes 0798 035 7185

Burham Old Church going digital

Alongside their new programme of events for 2024, the Friends of St Mary's Church (Burham 'Old Church' down by the river) are improving the information available on this wonderful historic old building. Our new email address for the Friends smcburham@gmail.com can be used to make any enquiries about the Friends, events at the church and its history. A website is also under development, for launch around May, which will be found at www.stmarysburham.co.uk (though don't try it until then). This will feature all the events planned, a brief history of the church, details of its architecture, a gallery of pictures, the Churches Conservation Trust (the national charity managing the church), and how to join the Friends. Look out for it after May.
Philip Badman
Friends of St Mary's Church

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Burham Clubs & Organisations

Burham Pre-School

At Burham Pre-school we aim to help all our children become independent, confident little people. We care for children aged 2-5 years and our team work hard to promote emotional, physical and mental well-being in all our children; we help to develop the skills the children need to be ready for their next steps into school life. We welcome families from Burham and all local villages; why not give us a call to see if we are right for your little one? Burham Village Hall, morning & afternoon sessions available from Monday to Friday. Contact Tracey Beechey: 0771 082 9954 or burham.pre-school@hotmail.co.uk

Burham & Wouldham Book Club

We meet every third Wednesday of the month in The Windmill Pub at 7.30pm. We are given a warm welcome by the pub and are able to sit comfortably and discuss the book we received from the library the previous month. We are a small friendly group with a wide range of opinions on the book we have read. The Club gives a chance to read something you may not have chosen yourself to read. For more information call 0785 440 0506.


Gwen Worcester

Burham & Wouldham WI

Jam and Jerusalem? There is so much more to the WI! We meet at Burham Village Hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Each meeting has a theme, often with a speaker and an opportunity to chat, share interests, make new friends. And there's cake! You can learn new things – we have a pottery day at The Friars and a guided tour of Rochester in the diary. A chance to make your voice heard about import issues – this year we are campaigning on improved dental services. We have coffee mornings, outreach visits to Winchester House, walks and more. We will be at the Burham PreSchool Family Fun Day on 13 July-come and have a chat. Contact me if you are interested in joining our friendly group.

Margaret Wood 01622 718665 or email BurhamWouldham@wkwfi.org.uk



St Mary's Church, Burham




- its history and architecture


An illustrated 50 minute talk presented by
The Friends of St Mary's
at the Church, Old Church Lane, Burham, ME1 3XY
Sunday, 15 September 2pm

St Mary's Church, Burham, Kent, is a 900 year old Norman church closed in the 1880s when the village moved 'up the Downs' because of the marshy area and local brickworks. The church is now in the care of the national charity, the Churches Conservation Trust, helped by the Friends of St Mary's, Burham. Hear this 50 minute illustrated talk previously very well received and learn of the Church's 900 years of history; its exceptional features; the recycling of materials from local Roman villas and a temple; its location on the Pilgrims Way and its part in pilgrims' crossings of the Medway on the way to Canterbury; and the legacies from parishioners' wills over the centuries.

*Free entry. Refreshments available.
No toilets. Rough ground access.*

www.heritageopen days.org.uk

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Burham Clubs & Organisations

Country Lunch

This is held once a month at 1pm in the Church Hall, usually the first Thursday in the month. A simple meal of homemade soup, bread, cheese, apple crumble and tea/coffee are served for £3.00. The lunch is open to all.

Eileen Smith 01634 867022

Duet Dance School

Held in the Community Centre on Wednesday between 3pm & 4pm.

Julie/Hayley 0783 478 0669

Force Medway Group

This is a self-defence group for all ages held in the Burham Village Hall on Weds 6-7.15pm & Fri 6-8.30pm. Stuart Lowe 01634 862943 or 0755 796 249 www.forceselfdefence.com

Messy Church

Held at various locations locally at varying times.

Tonia Plowman 0759 357 5450

Short Mat Bowls Club

The Club was established in 1990 and has 30 members. The Club is open to all adult age groups and meets on Mon & Weds evenings in the Village Hall 7.30- 9.30 pm.

Irene Benton 01634 867466

Sword Fencing

Held in the Community Centre on Thursday 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm.
tony.devine01@gmail.com

Sunday Karate

Held in the Community Centre 10am-12noon

P Shepherd. 0775 792 5776

Thursday Morning

Community Club

This is an informal get-together for all ages that has been meeting in the Burham Old School Community Centre between 10.30am and 12noon on Thursday mornings for nearly 20 years. Admission fee is £2, and that includes all refreshments of tea/coffee, cakes and a free raffle. Hi Kent Hearing Clinic attends once a month and there are sometimes outside speakers, including the Community Warden. The Club also organises regular day trip outings.

Anne Taylor 01634 684927

Winchester House Care Home

Activities & Events:

16 June: 11am to 4pm Fathers Day Celebrations with singer at 11am

18 June: from 2pm Celebrating Royal Ascot.

21 June: World Music Day bring your dancing shoes

22 June: Health & Wellbeing Event for men, mini MOTs from 10am-1pm

29 June: Open Day 11am to 4pm

11 July: celebrating the opening of our refurbished unit

21 July: Circus Day from 2pm to 4.30pm with singer and magician

24 July: Country Themed Day from 11am celebrating country and western music

17 August: Celebrating the Proms, live entertainment & refreshments from 5pm onwards.

KCC Report by Cllr Andrew Kennedy

Almost 20 years of restricted government funding, along with inflation linked increases in council tax, against a backdrop of increasing demand for services, has left much of local government in a perilous financial position.

Over 100 local councils, districts, counties and powerful unitary councils such as Birmingham and Croydon, have technically gone bankrupt or issued warning notification that they are about to do so.

Kent County Council is not in that position, but I would be lying to say that things are not very tough.

Tens of millions of savings required to produce a legally balanced budget over the coming years will leave KCC with but no option to look at some core services. The alternative to this is a Section 114 notice, which will result in government commissioners moving in and imposing a 10% increase in council tax while stopping all discretionary spending. It is ironic that a badly managed council which goes bankrupt is then allowed to increase council tax and will receive additional government emergency funding, but a well-managed council (like Kent), trying its best to balance its books, is starved of resources and forced to make cuts. We appear as a country to reward failure while punishing success.

The biggest issue KCC faces is the cost of Adult Social Care. As the Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health (and

Kent's Mental Health Champion) I see at first-hand how difficult this is. The Adult Social Care budget is £600 million a year – almost half of the entire KCC budget, but the money is spent on just 2% of Kent's population. This is 10x the money spent on Highway repairs and pot-holes. No wonder so few people understand where the money goes.

However, we are dealing with some of the most vulnerable people in society, whose very life depends on the care we provide. These range from people with severe disabilities who cannot be looked after at home, to residents with dementia and older people who fall ill and whose families cannot (or will not) look after them. There are people in Kent who are so limited in what they can do that they require 24-hour care from more than one carer – at a cost of over £100,000 each.

The other issue are people being discharged early by the NHS to release bed capacity. These vulnerable people will almost always need to go into a nursing or acute care home, and once they do the cost of their care transfers from the NHS to KCC.

I will give you one example of the challenge we face. Last year demand for adult social care increased by 10%. This equated to an additional £60 million of statutory spending. The 4.99% increase in Council Tax brought in an additional £47 million. Therefore, the maximum allowed increase in council tax did

KCC Report by Cllr Andrew Kennedy

not even cover the increased cost of social care – let alone cover any increases in highways, potholes, schools, country parks, HWRCs or anything else provided by KCC.

Locally I continue to do my best for the community. I continue to push for speed restrictions on New Court Road and on Rochester Road at Scarborough Terrace. Regrettably, the speed monitoring undertaken does not meet the threshold required to trigger calming, but I will continue to push for this.

I continue to support local community groups and charities via my KCC Members' Grant and my privately managed Community Pot. The Community Pot is a sum of money arising from me not accepting a pay increase and paying this money into a fund which I use to top-up the KCC Grant.

Since my election I have allocated funding to Burham as follows:

£150 for Remembrance lamp-posts poppies

£1,000 to renovate the War Memoria and to engrave additional names

£700 for litter picking supplies for Burham and surrounding villages

£300 for educational toys for Burham Pre School

£300 towards a new Community Defibrillator at Frosts Garage

£500 to Burham-based Animals Lost and Found in Kent

£500 for Burham Village Jubilee Celebrations

£55,000 grant for the new Community Minibus shared between Burham and Wouldham

And, of course, all our local primary school children received sunflower seeds to grow over summer, and in December 2023 over 150 veterans and community heroes (25 from Burham) attended my annual carol concert and buffet support at the Capel Morris Centre in Aylesford. Both of these events were financed by me from personal donations or money I raised in sponsorship from local businesses and friends.

Finally, I have been told (verbally, not yet in writing) that my bid for £3,000 of community cohesion funding from TMBC has been successful, and I can now push ahead with my Community Bridge website, listing all community and voluntary groups (over 200 of them) which operate in our local area. This is a trailblazing scheme (the first of its kind in the UK) which I believe will benefit residents, social prescribers, GPs, parish councils and all those involved in community activities locally. It will provide a simple to use point of reference for local groups to advertise what they offer, and for local people to make contact and find out more – free of charge for both groups and users. I am hugely grateful to Cllr Des Keers for informing me of this funding and for his support in the application process.

Andrew Kennedy

13 May 2024

Burham Services & Facilities

All Saints Church, Burham & Wouldham

Burham is part of the Burham & Wouldham Parish in the Diocese of Rochester. The Church, of Saxon origin, is situated at the end of the High Street and on the bank of the Medway.

Gwen Worcester

Burham Allotments

For availability and current rates;

Dave Young 01634 867669

Burham Community Centre

This was formerly the Infants School which was purchased by the Parish Council and totally refurbished. Further improvements have been made to provide changing facilities. For hire, contact: Thurza Browne 01634 863322.

Burham Church Halls

There is a main Hall and a smaller Meeting Room, suitable for up to 16 people. For hire, contact:

Eileen Smith 01634 867022

Burham Church of England Primary School

The Junior School moved to the modern building in Bell Lane in 1984, soon fol-

lowed by the Infants School. All classes are housed in modern permanent buildings. The school draws pupils from Burham and equally from further afield. It enjoys a good reputation for high academic standards, a strong Christian ethos, and a caring atmosphere. Head Teacher:

Holly Goddon 01634 861691

Burham Methodist Church

'The Church In Burham', Church St., Burham. Details of Services are on the Church and Old School Community Centre notice boards. Check our website for up-to-date details about the services and events. The Minister and contact details can also be found at www.thechurchinburham.org.

Burham Parish Council Offices

The home of the Parish Office with a small meeting area. Refurbished in 2014. Parish Office, Rochester Road, Burham, Kent ME1 3RJ (next to the Village Hall)

Burham Recycling Banks

Containers are sited adjacent to the Village Hall for cans, plastic bottles, cloth-

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Burham Services & Facilities

ing, glass and cardboard/paper. The cardboard, paper & clothing banks generate funds for the village.

Burham Village Hall

This is a large modern building in the centre of the village adjacent to the Recreation Ground. It is the venue for a wide range of activities including charity events, Burham Music Hall, short mat bowls, wedding receptions and the Burham Pre School. To hire, contact: Aileen Bergin 0784 288 3028.

Burham & Wouldham

Collection for local Foodbank

The local food bank is The East Malling Centre. The two villages are continuing to collect and you can donate gifts at any of the pubs, 4 Church Street, Burham, 111 High Street, Wouldham, The Co-op in Peters Village, or in the Wouldham church porch on Sundays from 9.30 to 12noon. Tins and dry goods are urgently required. If you require help please ring 01732 846314 for confidential advice and assistance.

Gwen Worcester

KCC Mobile Library Service

The library vehicle is parked in the Village Hall car park and the library operates on alternate Tuesdays 2:25 - 3:25pm (red route). For updates and further information go to: www.kent.gov.uk/mobilelibraries

St Mary's Church, Burham

A redundant church maintained by the Churches' Conservation Trust usually open during the day. Events and Occasional services are held here as advertised on Facebook, Keep Burham Connected. Close to the old river Medway crossing and dates to the 1200's.

St Mary's Church Events 2024

Persuasion

This Is My Theatre June 18, 7pm

Cream Teas with Music

Saturday 31 August, 2-4pm

Open Heritage Day - History Talk

September 15, 2pm

Filaments Art Collective

Oct/Nov tbc

Carols By Candlelight

December 14, 6pm



All Saints Church Services & Events

Every Sunday: Morning Prayer 9.15am.

Prayer. Holy Communion 10.30am

Every Friday in Term Time only:

Little Lights Toddler Church 9.30am

Last Friday of the month:

Church Coffee Morning 10.45am

Cream Teas

From 9 June, then first Sunday in the month up to and including September 2pm - 4.30pm

Gwen Worcester

Clr Andrew Kennedy

Speaking up for the hard-working majority, those who play by the rules, do what's right and pay their fair share!

Since you elected me to Kent County Council in 2021, I have done my best to speak-up for the people of Burham and support our many local organisations:



£300 towards an additional defibrillator at Frost's Garage



£500 for Sue Cave's charity, Animals Lost & Found in Kent



£1,000 to renovate the War Memorial and engrave additional names



£55,000 KCC Grant secured for the new Community Minibus



£700 for supplies to our local litter picking groups



£300 for Educational Toys for Burham Pre-School

Dear Resident

When you elected me in 2021, I promised to always be the community's representative at Kent County Council, and never Kent County Council's representative in the community. I hope I have fulfilled that promise.

I promised not to draw a single penny in expenses, nor accept any taxpayer-funded hospitality - and I have kept that promise too.

And I promised to donate any increases in my councillors' allowance to local charity - and I have done so every year and will continue to do so.

I look forward to working with Burham Parish Council and the wider community in the years ahead, and if I can help in any way please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Andrew Kennedy

Kent County Council
Tel: 07792 924820
andrew.kennedy@kent.gov.uk

Follow my work at
[Facebook.com/ClrAndrewKennedy](https://www.facebook.com/ClrAndrewKennedy)

Sign-up for my monthly newsletter at
tinyurl.com/AKMonthlyNews



Proudly representing the communities of Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill, Burham, Ditton, Eccles, Kits City, Peters Village, Walderslade and Wouldham on Kent County Council

Community Workshops & Notices



My Community Voice
Protecting the neighbourhoods of Kent and Medway

MCV is a two-way engagement tool brought to you by Kent Police

Find out what's happening in your area

Receive alerts from your local officers

Tell us what matters most to you

Sign up
Sign up today and make your voice count

Find out more www.MyCommunityVoiceKent.co.uk

HELPING TONBRIDGE & MALLING GET DIGITAL

You could be eligible to access free:

- Gifted 2-in-1 laptop
- Digital skills sessions
- One to one digital support

This is available for **Tonbridge & Malling residents** over the age of 16 and digitally excluded, that meet one of the following criteria:

- In or at-risk of financial hardship,
- Not in education, employment or training, or
- Looking to develop skills to support employment or career development.

Full eligibility details and how to apply are available at www.digitalkent.uk or call 03000 410 950.

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Kent Learning



Safe and Well

Live safer at home with a **FREE Home Fire Safety visit**

We offer a **FREE** visit to anyone who:

- is aged 70 and over
- is living with dementia
- has a long term health condition
- has young children, or is pregnant
- is a smoker

Every fire service visit includes:

- friendly advice to help reduce risk in your home
- help to make your own escape plan
- FREE smoke alarms fitted if you need them

Booking a visit is easy, and at a time to suit you
Call 0800 923 7000 for more information

www.kent.fire-uk.org/homesafety

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202308-0103



Burham Pre-school FAMILY FUN DAY

JULY 13TH / 12 noon to 4-4.30pm

Our Activities

Sports hour - kids football and rugby
Mini Crafts - for our fury friends
Displays, games, stalls and much more!

AT BURHAM RECREATION GROUND

Burham Businesses

The Butchers Block

Traditional dog friendly country pub with classic fare, Sunday specials, pints & outdoor seating.

01634 786626

www.thebutchersblockpub.co.uk

Frost's Service Station & Store

Serving the locality of Burham for 50 years with a range of motor related services, including a convenience store.

Good Cod Fish & Chips Mobile Service:

Burham Village Hall car park:

Wed. 4pm-8pm. 0784 018 1091

Happy House Chinese Takeaway

Family run Chinese takeaway.

Collection and Delivery available.

01634 668326 or check our Facebook page

The Robin Hood

Venerable 700 year-old pub with wood burner, two bars, formal dining in a conservatory and gardens.

01634 861500

www.robinhood-pub.co.uk

The Vale Bakery

Long established local bakery with pastries, veggie pies and bread baked on the premises.

01634 861572

The Windmill Inn

Village Community Pub serving fine wines, spirits, ales and beers with a lovely beer garden. Family friendly with young kid's play area.

Dogs welcome on a lead.

01634 394882

www.windmillburham.com

Advertise in The Burham Buzz

Adverts are prepared on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Pam and book your spot today. 01634 685936 or pam@burhampc.co.uk

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2/3 of A5 page: 12cm x 12cm

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Option 4

Full A5 page: 12cm x 19cm

£37.50

£120.00

The Burham Parish Council



Parish Council Offices

Rochester Road, Burham ME1 3RJ

The offices are located adjacent to the village hall. The Parish Clerk is Pam Saunders, her office hours are 10am-2pm, Monday-Friday. For the latest information visit our website which is updated on a regular basis.

email: pam@burhampc.co.uk **t:** 01634 685936

www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk  Burham Parish Council

Burham Parish Council Allotments

To enquire about availability of plots and current rates, please contact:

Dave Young 01634 867669

Burham Village Hall

Rochester Road, Burham ME1 3RJ

A large modern hall located in the centre of the village next to the Village Recreation Ground with a large car park. It has many facilities including a large main room, a kitchen, toilet facilities including disabled provision and access. Two other smaller rooms are also available. Hire charges: Mon - Fri 8am to 8.30pm: £10 per hour. Fridays from 8:30pm & Saturdays: £18-£25 per hour, depending on the activity. To book, contact:

Aileen Bergin on 07842 883028

Burham Old School Community Centre.

Bell Lane, Burham, ME1 3SY

Formerly the village infant school, full of character, with parking close by in Bell Lane, the building has a large hall and a smaller one used for local clubs and charity events etc. Toilet facilities include disabled provision. Hire Costs: £10 per hour week days and £12 per hour at weekends. To book,

Thurza Browne on 01634 863322

Wouldham & Burham Community Bus

Provided by the two Parish Councils and operated by Compaid, a chargeable Membership scheme with weekly shopping trips to various local areas. Seats must be booked in advance. Additional charges for each trip. Open to residents of Burham and Wouldham including Peter's Village. Application forms available from the Parish Clerk or from Wouldham Parish Council.



Defibrillators

We currently have two defibrillators in Burham located outside:

The Parish Council Office

Frosts Service Station & Store

To access the defibrillator call 999 for the code and instructions

Published by Burham Parish Council

Produced and delivered by local volunteers

www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk



Burham Parish Council

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You must tell us if you want a free print copy of The Buzz magazine delivered to you. Unless we hear from you, we may stop producing a print copy.

Please call Pam on 01634 685936 or email: pam@burhampc.co.uk

Or cut this slip and return it to: Pam Saunders, Parish Clerk, Parish Office, Rochester Road, Burham, Kent ME1 3RJ (next to the Village Hall)

Name:.....

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If you are unable to access the internet please let us know and we will do our best to provide you with a printed copy.