

No. 152 July 2023

Issued by Burgess Hill Town Council

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### Message from the Mayor

After eight years of being a Town Councillor it is a privilege to be the Chairman of the Town Council and to serve as your Mayor.

Our town has many challenges. An enthusiastic group of Town Councillors was elected in May; they



face many opportunities in reinvigorating the town. We must listen to our citizens and although we cannot make promises, we are ready to work hard.

The Town Council is pleased to offer grants to local groups to help sustain their activities.

A positive initiative is the possibility of reinstating Park Centre as a community hub.

Every second and forth Saturday from 10am to 12pm your Councillors are at the Help Point. Come by, meet us and talk about the problems and your hopes for the town.

Great journeys begin with single steps.

Burgess Hill Town Mayor, Janice Henwood

### Here Comes the Sun

Following the popularity of our front cover competition last issue, we once again opened to your submissions. Our bright and summery winning image for this issue was taken by local photographer Archie Tipple.

You will also find some of the runner up images inside. We received a great quality of submissions – if you would like to be featured in an upcoming issue, email communityteam@burgesshill.gov.uk.

With some changes in Councillors after the elections in May, make sure to check your Ward Councillor's contact details on Page 10.

As we head into the Summer, there is plenty to keep you entertained in Burgess Hill. Read on for details of upcoming Town Council Events, local Market Life, and the Tourist Information Centre inside the Help Point.

All of these activities could not run without your support – thank you to everyone who helps build our Burgess Hill community.

**Enjoy your Summer!** 

Emily Bryant, About Town Editor



### **Editorial and Advertising**

The next issue will be published in November, the advertising deadline will be 13 September, and the copy deadline will be 27 September. Please get in contact in advance of the deadline to reserve space.

### **Contact Details:**

Advertising – advertising@burgesshill.gov.uk Editorial – abouttown@burgesshill.gov.uk **About Town** is published by Burgess Hill Town Council.

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### **Keep in Touch**

Find our latest news and updates on our social media:



@BurgessHillTownCouncil



@BurgessHillTownCouncil



@BurgessHillTC

Receive a digital copy of **About Town** – sign up through our website: **www.burgesshill.gov.uk/ about-town-mailing-list** 

Sign up to our Events Mailing List through our website to receive email notifications of ALL Town Council Events! We have plenty of exciting events coming up so make sure you are in the know – sign up here:

www.burgesshill.gov.uk/events-mailing-list

### **Burgess Hill Town Council**

### Celebrate 30 Years of Batchelors Farm

Join us on Saturday 19 August for a community picnic in celebration of 30 years of Town Council ownership of Batchelors Farm.

The nature reserve comprises
33 acres, and was purchased by
the Town Council for the
enjoyment of residents —
and what better time to enjoy it
than at our celebration event!

Pack a picnic and come on down.



The event will be held in the top field, by the Water Tower, from 11am – 3pm, and we will be officially opening our brand-new community orchard.

We can't wait to see you!

Please note that there is no parking for the event, and that the site is only accessible on foot.



### Wowzer Wednesday Return for 2023

Following the success of last year's Wowzer Wednesday series, the popular summer activities return for 2023 – bigger and better than ever!

Starting in Church Walk, on Wednesday
2 August, there will be something going on for kids every Wednesday in August. From crafts with Burgess Hill Community Crafters Market, to a magic show by Tomfoolery, these are activities that you won't want to miss out on!

Finishing off the summer will be the **inflatable extravaganza** in St John's Park! Go head-to-head at laser tag, race through the inflatable assault course, or just bounce around on the air mountain pillow bouncy castle. **Make sure to mark your calendars!** 

Wednesday 2 August – Childrens Crafts with Burgess Hill Crafters Market, Church Walk, 11am – 1pm

Wednesday 9 August – Magic with Tomfoolery, Church Walk, 11am and 12pm

Wednesday 16 August – Circus Skills with Poi Passion, Church Walk, 11am – 1pm

Wednesday 23 August – Puppet Shows with WishWorks, Church Walk, 11am and 12pm

Wednesday 30 August – Inflatable Extravaganza, St John's Park, 11am – 3pm



### Wowzer Wednesday to open with

### **Burgess Hill Community Crafters Market**

August's Wowzer Wednesday series will open with a drop-in craft session funded by the Burgess Hill
Community Crafters Market!
Created to bring together local crafters, the Market gives them an opportunity to showcase their passion for handcrafting, whilst fostering community spirit. The Market is a brilliant opportunity to support local, small businesses, with the profits from table hires going back into the community – Wowzer Wednesday will be their first funded event!

SATURDAY
25 NOVEMBER

SAVE
THE
DATE

CHURCH WALK
12 - 5:30PM
BurgessHill
Town Council

Come and join the Burgess Hill
Community Crafters Market as they
kick off Wowzer Wednesday on
2 August! Their fantastic children's
crafting session will be running in
Church Walk from 11am – 1pm.

If you would like more information on the Crafters Market itself, please email bhillccmarket@gmail.com.

### Halloween Trail 2023

It's time to get spooky with the Halloween Trail. Running from 23 – 27 October, the trail will take children around the town centre, following a ghostly tale... and supporting our local businesses!

The Halloween Trail follows the success of the Easter Trail, which saw over 200 children take to the town centre in search of Bramble the Bunny – we can't wait to see how many take part this time around.

Every child that enters the trail will receive a prize, and be entered into our prize draw. All you have to do is collect your trail map from the Help Point, follow the clues around the town and return your completed form to the Help Point to claim your prize!

### A Market Life

Nestled at the foot of the South Downs you will find the historic Market Town of Burgess Hill. In its heyday, Burgess Hill was known for its thriving market. In more recent years, people are familiar with it as a popular, fast expanding commuter town.

Post pandemic, Burgess Hill Market on Church Walk once again provides residents and visitors with the ability to shop locally from independent businesses and traders.

One such trader is French bakery stall **La Boulangerie Du Marché**. They attend weekly, Wednesday – Saturday, selling a mouth-watering array of fresh bakes and wonderful products such as Marseille soap, lavender from Provence



and Brittany onions. You will also find locally sourced produce, including organic eggs from The Mac's Farm.

Gilles Haumont, proprietor, says 'I really love trading here; there's such a buzz every day. After many years exhibiting at events countrywide we were looking for something nearer to home; Burgess Hill was perfect with its friendly clientele that appreciates quality. The Town Council being so supportive and proactive has also been great!'

Answering the local need for a fishmonger is **Joni's Fresh Fish**, there every Friday. 'Our fish is sourced daily from trusted suppliers and day boats from Lowestoft as well as Billingsgate Fish Market.' Owner Joni, 'prides himself on buying what's in season, ensuring the very best produce every time.'

Newly established business Rosie's Brews & Bites, here every Friday and Saturday, serve locally roasted, organic barista coffees alongside an array of additional beverages. Treat yourself to a variety of delicious homemade pastries including sausage rolls, cheese straws, vegan rolls and a selection of sweet treats. 'Since beginning trade in Burgess Hill, I've been overwhelmed by the support received from local residents. I aim to cater for intolerance diets, whilst also still keeping my prices affordable in the current climate. There is nothing that I love more than knowing I have made a difference to someone's day with a simple conversation and a great coffee.'

To find out more visit www.burgesshillmarket.co.uk

### **Burgess Hill Tourist Information Centre**

The Help Point is also the home of the **Tourist Information Centre**, where the team prides itself on their extensive knowledge of the local area. The team has been working hard to increase the already wide variety of brochures and ensure they have something for everyone; from hiking trails such as the Centurion Way to museums and farms.

Situated on the railway line between London and Brighton and at the very foothills of the Southdowns National Park (the newest and sixth largest national park in the UK), the

Tourist Information Centre is in a prime position to support tourism in the local area and beyond. They are also renovating their website and social media with even more information and ideas for family days out.

From the array of Norman castles like Arundel and Hastings to the beautiful gardens of Borde Hill and Leonardslee, there really is something for everyone. Here at the Burgess Hill Tourist Information Centre we can offer a treasure trove of information on all things Sussex!



Anne Marks – cover image entry

### **Burgess Hill Town Councillors Contact Details**

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**Deputy Town Mayor: Tofojjul Hussain** 

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**BROOKLEIGH WEST WARD** 

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Email: stuart.condie@burgesshill.gov.uk

\*Mid Sussex District Council Councillor

\*\*West Sussex County Council Councillor

### **Help Point Surgeries**

Unless otherwise stated Surgeries are by appointment only, 9am - 5pm. Book through the given contact number.

### Tuesday

Mid Sussex Wellbeing: 10am - 3pm 01444 477191 (Bi-weekly)

NHS Audiology: 0800 622 6282

Workability: 01243 546035

### Friday

NHS Audiology: 0800 622 6282

Daily Monday - Friday

Housing & Council Tax Benefit: Paperwork drop-off service 01444 477264

### Are you looking for a room to hire?

Burgess Hill Town Council's Council Chamber and Small Meeting Room are available for hire, 5 days a week (Mon-Fri), here at 96 Church Walk

#### We boast:

- Central Location
- Parking Available Close-by
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Catering Options on Request



If you are interested in hiring one of our rooms, please contact
Sarah on **01444 247726**,
email **council@burgesshill.gov.uk**or pop in to 96 Church Walk.



### **Burgess Hill Help Point Shop**

Our Help Point Shop provides local small businesses, market stall holders and artisans another affordable platform outside of our market.

It's the perfect little gift shop, stocking a wide selection of items and offering something different for those birthday presents or teachers' gifts!

Summer is the perfect time to support local small businesses – enjoy a scrumptious ice cream from

The Sussex Ice Cream Company, or cool off with a bottle of spring water from Aquapax.

We have 6 delicious flavours of ice cream and sorbet – Vanilla, Strawberries &



Cream, Double Chocolate Brownie, Salted Caramel, Passion Fruit and Raspberry. **At only £1.65, they are a steal!** 

Did you know that Aquapax spring water comes in completely recyclable cartons? Plus, the bottles are refillable and only 95p per 500ml.

Pop in and see what other goodies we have in store!

If you are interested in having your own shelf space for a low monthly fee, contact the Help Point on **01444 247726**, email **helppoint@burgesshill.gov.uk** or pop in to 96 Church Walk.

### **Grants for Community Groups**

Each year, Burgess Hill Town Council awards grants to local voluntary groups that benefit Burgess Hill residents.

The application deadline for Minor Grants of up to £1,000 is 31 August. Applications will be considered for general running costs as well as capital expenses.

The next application deadline for Major Grants of £1,000+ is 30 September. Major Grants are for capital costs only.

Further information and to apply online, visit the Burgess Hill Town Council website, www.burgesshill.gov.uk. If you have any queries please contact 01444 247726 or email grants@burgesshill.gov.uk.

### PLY TIPPING IS THE ILLEGAL DUMPING OF ITEMS



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### Town Council Support the Swifts

In the last issue of *About Town* we heard from the Burgess Hill Swift Supporters.

On Friday 26 May, Burgess Hill Town Council demonstrated their support for the project, and to the environment, by having a swift box installed on the Council building. Members of Burgess Hill Swift Supporters and Chairman



If you'd like a nesting box or have seen swifts nesting near you, please let Burgess Hill Swift Supporters know: mileves@aol.com.

### Effective crime-reducing tool launched in Burgess Hill

A new information-sharing tool for local businesses has been launched in Burgess Hill to help police, retailers and security staff tackle crime more effectively together.

The smartphone app, called 'DISC', is already used in parts of East Sussex as well as over 550 town and city centres across the UK. It has now been rolled out to retailers in Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead with more areas in Sussex being offered DISC in the coming months.

The app, funded by Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and the Mid Sussex Partnership is being offered to businesses free of charge. It is a secure, online information-sharing system that allows retailers who are signed up, to share news, information and intelligence, including images and the times offenders were last seen.

The app allows users to alert one another as well as swiftly report crimes as they happen to the police. So far, over 100 businesses have signed up to the DISC app in Burgess Hill in their bid to tackle retail crime and anti-social behaviour within the town.

Pictured with Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne are various business owners and business organisations from across Burgess Hill, Town and District Council Officers and the local neighbourhood Policing Team.



### **Ditchling Common**

Bordering Burgess Hill, Ditchling Common is a diverse Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Common has a long history of human interference and utility. The land has been grazed for hundreds of years and also used for fishing, collecting firewood and leisure activities.

Today, this Country Park hosts many birds and insects. The nightingale can be heard singing in the spring in the scrub along the upper margins above the pond. Warblers, tits, linnets and finches are present in significant numbers. The buzzard and the red kite are now seen on a daily basis. The butterflies have increased remarkably here in recent years.

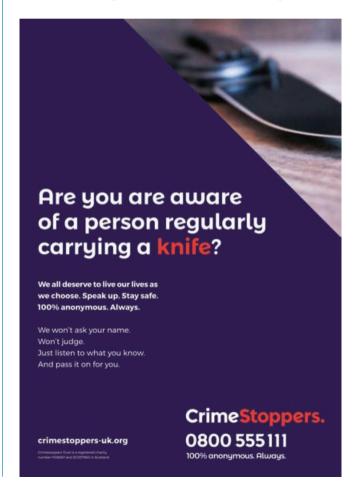
The commoners still manage the area south of Folders Lane, leasing the land to a local farmer who maintains the land following a management plan approved by English Nature. The new management plan has been successful in restoring the flora of the grassland and boggy areas here.

The Common is maintained by appropriate management that, if neglected, will rapidly lead



Anemone Nemorosa, photographed on Ditchling Common

to loss of diversity. The Ditchling Beacon and Commons Trust's aim is to maintain and improve the management of the land for the benefit of everyone. The Trust aims to maintain this wonderful common-land for future generations, including increasing the number of people who use the land. Find more information on the Trust's new website: www.ditchlingbeaconandcommons.org.uk



### Great News! Girls' Brigade is Returning to Burgess Hill

As the Hurstpierpoint Methodist Chapel will be closing at the end of the year, the 1st Hurstpierpoint Girls' Brigade (GB) is having to find a new home.

The group is excited to announce they will be moving to the Methodist Church in Gloucester Road and will re-open with the new name of

4th Burgess Hill GB in September.

Girls' Brigade takes girls from the age of 4 to 18 so if you have daughters who would be interested in joining, please get in touch with Margaret Taylor on 01273 832286.

Find further information on Girls Brigade at www.girlsb.org



Steph James – cover image entry



### The Cherry Tree Community Café

### Open every Thursday 10am-2pm

We run a 'Pay as you Feel' scheme with

#### Lunch served from 12.15pm

Find us at:
The Cherry Tree Centre,
Fairfield Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 8QB
Café entrance at rear of building
01444 258102 www.msva.org.uk



Registered Charity Number: 1158780.

### **Burgess Hill Heritage and History Association**

### **Launches New Website**

Our new website, designed by D'Avray Web Design and generously illustrated from our photo collections, will go 'live' in July. It contains new angles on Burgess Hill's origins and its history.

The website's purpose is twofold. First, it shows how the land on which Burgess hill stands was home for 800 years or more to a rural community of farmers and craftsmen with, from the early 1500s, brickmakers working in small rural yards. In 1850, by 'Parliamentary Enclosure' of the large pasture common at our heart, we had become a hub of industrial-scale brick, tile and pottery making. Yet we had more than raw industry. Our new 'parish', created in 1863, soon became a lively Victorian town. From West Street to Worlds End, Folders Lane to Fairplace Hill, local people pitched in to fund or build churches, chapels and schools and to set up emergency services, local government, social and sports clubs and other activities for their community. Much of the housing of that era, for incoming workers or for richer residents, still exists. It is part of our built heritage.

Our second aim concerns the loss of too many good buildings of all ages, from 16th-century farmhouses to the 20th-century Martlets Hall. We want those that still stand to be valued and built around, not razed to the ground. We hope that the new website will widen people's engagement with our history and heritage, and that more will join with us and help preserve it.

Our website relates to our activities, our collections and our goals, as well as our history. If any of this whets your interest, there are upward of 20 further articles on the topics covered. Just follow the links on the website to learn more.

At several points in Burgess Hill's story, local and national history interconnect. For example: Henry VIIIth's Reformation of 1536-1545 when we lost our 'Chapel of St. John'; the rise of non-conformist worship; the Poor Laws and how they affected our area; improvement of roads and transport; not to mention Parliamentary Enclosure itself, promoted as a 'Good Thing' but often resisted locally. How did we fit into the national scene? We hope that, for the town's school children, being able to link Burgess Hill's story to the wider world might make history lessons seem more relevant — or with luck, perhaps even interesting! The Town Council has provided a Minor Grant to contribute towards the costs of the website set up.

### www.burgesshillheritagehistory.org.uk



### **Shed Loads of Fun**

Burgess Hill Shed recently ran a STEM day for kids and families. The idea came from visits to Techniquest in Cardiff, a great place to explore the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) through exhibits and hands-on activities.

The aim was to run a downsized version of Techniquest which would be entertaining, fun



and affordable. To run this pilot event, BH-Shed teamed up with Dr Richard Robinson (from Brighton Science Festival) who has been captivating young people with his Pocket Science Funfair for many years. Some BH-Shed exhibits and activities had previously been used to support school STEM events, additional ones were provided by members and volunteers who had enjoyed successful careers in STEM fields.

As well as the Pocket Science Funfair, attractions included: Motion on the Ocean; World of Wood; Automaton Engineering; World of Steam; Bridge Building; See the Sound; Computer Controlled Machines; Natural Sciences; Pottery; Weaving and Needlework.

The event took place in The Kiln, Burgess Hill and was attended by over 100 visitors along with 30 volunteers helping on the day. Clearly there is a demand for such events and BH-Shed is now looking into increasing the number of activities and exhibits with a view to running more events during school holidays.

If you have an interest in STEM activities and want to help run or shape future events, please contact BH-Shed: shed@bhshed.org.uk.



Andrea Aro – cover image entry







### **Tapestry Day Club**

Tapestry Day Club provides high quality day support in small groups for older people living with dementia in the comfort and safe environment of our hosts' family homes.

This provides a welcome change for older people living in social isolation and respite for their carers. For many people struggling with loneliness and social isolation, large community centres can be overwhelming and create unnecessary anxiety. Through small and intimate group sizes, we aim to give people the time and space to feel at ease, flourish, form lasting friendships and feel valued.

Our days include refreshments, optional activities, a two-course lunch and transport. We have a host running her days every Tuesday supporting families in the Burgess Hill area.

Please get in touch by email on support@tapestrydayclub.co.uk or call us on 01403 791020.



### **Family Fun Sessions**

On Tuesday 4 April, Burgess Hill Town Council working together with The King's Church, welcomed families of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to the Family Fun Sessions.

The King's Church organised a selection of arts and crafts tables and sensory tables. Alongside bulb planting, circus equipment and a giant train track, there was plenty to keep the whole family occupied! The library also provided a sensory story time to the attendees, with Jenny Fisher teaching Makaton alongside. Staff from the Early Help Team and West Sussex Libraries also provided advice and support to the parents/carers.

The event was funded by The Budding Foundation, who also donated bulbs, pots and compost for the bulb planting activity.

The next Family Fun Sessions will be held on Tuesday 8 August, if you would like to be notified of when bookings go live, please sign up to the mailing list www.burgesshill.gov.uk/town-community/town-events/events-mailing-list



### Age UK Helpline Appeal

**Brighton & Hove** 

Age UK West Sussex. Brighton & Hove's Information and Advice helpline is currently under threat as funding cuts, the cost of living crisis and a drop in donations have all impacted on the service for older people. Due to increased demand, the charity is unable to keep up with all enquiries and despite its best efforts, calls from some of the most vulnerable in the community are going unanswered.



### WEIGHT OFF WORKSHOP



#### ARE YOU READY FOR SOME HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHANGES?

The 12 week workshop is FREE and includes a 45 minute lifestyle talk followed by an optional exercise session

**BREAK DOWN BAD HABITS AND** CREATE NEW HEALTHIER HABITS

DISCOVER SIMPLE CHANGES THAT RESULT IN A **HEALTHY WEIGHT YOU** CAN MAINTAIN EASILY

FIND YOUR MOTIVATION TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS LEADN HOW TO HANDLE SETBACKS

**Burgess Hill East Grinstead** Haywards Heath Men's course Haywards Heath Thurs 13th September

Wed 13th September 7pm-8.30pm Thurs 14th September 7pm-8,30pm Wed 13th September 7pm-8.30pm 7pm-8.30pm



Send us a message to book your space or scan 🚹 Med Sender the QR code to send us an interest request Wellbeing@midsussex.gov.uk 01444 477191



Age UK West Sussex.

Brighton & Hove (WSBH) is launching a fundraising appeal to help give older people a lifeline through this crisis. The lifeline appeal aims to support the charity and cover the cost of employing more specialist advisors.

As little as £5 or £10 will help staff the phones, supporting callers with their worries, concerns or queries. £50 will help provide tailored training for an advisor, enabling them to respond to some of the most common appeals for help.

The Information and Advice Team provides great value for money. For every £1 spent on the team, the charity is able to access approximately £18 in benefits/grants for older people.

Advisers on the helpline can provide up to date information and advice on a whole range of topics, not just financial matters. Housing needs, finding help at home, health and social care, family and personal matters, leisure and social activities, plus advice for carers is all covered.

Older people who need support can contact the helpline by calling 0800 019 1310, lines are open 9am - 2pm, Monday to Friday.

Age UK WSBH is relying on donations to help as many people as possible right now. Donations to the Age UK WSBH Lifeline Appeal can be made by telephone on 0800 019 1310 or by visiting www.justgiving.com/campaign/Lifeline-Appeal

Thank you so much for your support.

### An Update from Burgess Hill District Lions Club

The Burgess Hill District Lions have had a very busy few months with new members and community events.

Burgess Hill District Lions were out in the community taking part in the town's St George's Day Celebrations on Saturday 22 April. It was great to be out in town, in the sunshine, meeting and greeting so many people.

The Town Council's Coronation Big Lunch was supported by members, making sure the entertainment acts were in the right place at the right time, and collecting donations from the audience. All monies raised went to the Motor Neurone Disease Association charity.

The Lions celebrated our 68th Charter on 13 May. We hosted a dinner at Singing Hills Golf Club for Lions and esteemed guests. Among the guests were fellow Lions from Brighton, Billingshurst and Horsham. At the Charter, Lion John Gee was awarded with his 15 years of service chevron.

The Burgess Hill District Lions Club welcomed a new member in May. Lion Debby Machin has been a regular volunteer in our Book Shop for over a year and we are thrilled to have her on board. Lion Debby will be joining recently inducted member Lion Graham to work on our young people in service projects.

Our Book Den in Burgess Hill is our main

fundraising project. The book shop is incredibly popular and it provides the club with the funds needed to support

local causes.

Lion Debby is the second new member since Christmas and the fourth in the last twelve months.

Our club, one of the largest in the

country, has been actively recruiting new members and is growing steadily.

Find out more about Burgess Hill District Lions:

Web: www.bhdlions.co.uk

Facebook: @BHLions

Instagram: @burgesshilldistrictlionsclub



Pictured left to right: Lion Debby Machin, Lion President Alan Ranger, Lion Ron Whitehead membership sponsor and Lion John Carter Welfare Chairman.

## WOWZER WEDNESDAY

EVERY WEDNESDAY IN AUGUST

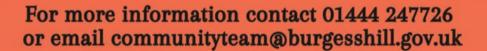
### FREE ACTIVITIES

2, 9, 16 and 23 August 11am-1pm The Bandstand, Church Walk



### FREE INFLATABLES

30 August 11am-3pm St John's Park, RH15 8HG



Burgess Hill Town Council





1kg Tray Meaty BBQ Ribs £6.98



1kg Tray Thai Chicken Kebabs £9.95



1.5kg Tray
Tandoori Chicken
Drumsticks
£6.50



1.5kg Tray Cumberland Sausages £8.25



1kg Tray
Minted Lamb
Chops
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