About Town

Issued by Burgess Hill Town Council

No. 154 March 2024

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Town events
Community news
Summer Fayre



CALENDAROF EVENTS APRIL 2024



2-12 -EASTER TRAIL

3 -TENNIS SESSIONS

4 -FAMILY FUN SESSIONS 25 -TEA PARTY

8 - ROCK UP AND RIDE

9 & 11 -YOUNG CARERS 10 -TENNIS SESSIONS

23 - SUMMER FAYRE

6 -MID SUSSEX MARATHON

28 -YOUNG CARERS 29 -WOWZER WEDNESDAY





2-HAMLET

6-D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS

1-TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

5 -OPEN-AIR MUSIC IN THE PARK

24 - JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK - WOWZER WED LAUNCH

30 - YOUNG CARERS

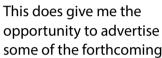


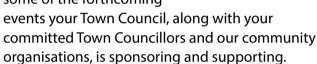


FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS VISIT: WWW.BURGESSHILL.GOV.UK/TOWN-COMMUNITY/

Message from the Mayor

When this edition of About Town lands on your doorstep we should be experiencing signs of Spring. To write this on a cold, freezing day in January does require some imagination.





The Summer Fayre on 23 June has as its theme 'Love Sussex – a celebration of its beautiful countryside'. Burgess Hill is fortunate to have such lovely open space and countryside in Bedelands Nature Reserve, Batchelors Farm and the Green Circle Network.

Other notable events detailed in this edition coming up include:

6 June: D-Day Commemorations, with the lighting of the beacon in St John's Park 24 July: free theatre event in St John's Park – 'The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck'

Read inside for more events planned in Burgess Hill.

'Loyalty to petrified opinion never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul' Mark Twain



Springtime hits Burgess Hill

Springtime is with us once again, bringing longer days and warmer weather – perfect for exploring everything Burgess Hill has to offer.

In Burgess Hill, we are lucky enough to be surrounded by nature – highlighted in our cover image for this edition of beautiful spring blossom in front of St Andrew's Church, submitted by Michael Duck. Thank you to everyone who submitted photos, reviewing the entries is always an enjoyable experience for the whole team. If you have a submission for a future issue, please email abouttown@burgesshill.co.uk.

It's looking like a busy few months, with the team at Burgess Hill Town Council organising events for the whole family. From pages 5 to 11, you can find details of all of the upcoming events taking us up until the next issue in July.

We also have a number of Community events and projects – take a look at pages 16 to 23 for details. Don't forget to check out the seasonal goodies in the Help Point Shop too – details on page 15.

Enjoy this issue, and enjoy the Spring weather!

Editor of About Town, Emily Bryant



Editorial and Advertising

The next issue will be published in July 2024, the advertising and copy deadlines will be 15 May and 29 May respectively. Please get in contact in advance of the deadline to reserve space.

Contact Details:

Advertising – advertising@burgesshill.gov.uk Editorial – abouttown@burgesshill.gov.uk

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Keep in Touch

Find our latest news and updates on our social media:



@Burgess Hill Town Council



@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 –

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

Easter Trail

Bramble's back! Follow him on another fun trail around the town, this Easter holiday. Every weekday from 2 - 12 April, the Easter Trail will be in full swing. Follow the clues, visit the shops and return your map to the Help Point for a choc-tastic surprise.

Trail maps will be available to collect from the Help Point, or to download from our website from 2 April. Visit our social media for more information.

Easter Holiday - Tennis Sessions and Rock up and Ride event

Grab your trainers and get outside - our tennis sessions are returning for 2024!

Pre-bookable sessions will be available in the Easter holidays, so don't miss out. Tennis will be running on Wednesdays from 10 - 11.30am with two 40-minute sessions, at St John's Park tennis courts.

The BMX track will also be the place to be to receive expert coaching on your bike on Monday 8 April from 10.30am - 4pm.

Check out our social media for more information on these exciting events.

Tennis sessions must be booked in advance www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshilltowncouncil

St George's Day Tea Party

To celebrate St George's Day there will be a tea party at Kings Weald Community Centre, on Thursday 25 April. It will be held from 2 - 4pm and is open to senior citizens and any adult Burgess Hill residents who are feeling isolated.

There will be entertainment, cakes and hot drinks.

Attendance is free but places must be booked in advance from 2 April, either in person at the Help Point, or by calling 01444 247726.



Lord Chamberlain's Men – Save the Date

The Lord Chamberlain's Men will return to Burgess Hill, performing the classic tale of **Hamlet**, on **Sunday 2 June, 6pm**.



20 VEARS

This tour is a special occasion for the company, as they celebrate their 20th year. The performance will be taking place at **Burgess Hill Girls, Keymer Road, RH15 0EG**.

Tickets are available for £18 (Adults) and £8 (Children – under 16 only) from the Town Council Help Point, email helppoint@burgesshill.gov.uk or call 01444 247726, or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshilltowncouncil.

Sussex Chorus – Upcoming Concert

Our next concert is as follows:

Saturday 23 March 2024 at 7.30pm

Claudio Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610

St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG

Tickets: £15. Concessions available

All information at: www.sussexchorus.org

Wowzer Wednesdays

The Wowzer Wednesday series returns this year, starting with some fantastic inflatables in St John's Park on Wednesday 29 May! The free activities are available for children to enjoy, with a separate under-fives area for the little ones.

The fun doesn't stop there! Every Wednesday in the Summer Holidays we will have entertainment. From theatre to inflatables, there'll be something new every week. On Wednesday 24 July, we even have Quantum Theatre visiting with their brilliant performance of 'The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck'. This, and every other Wednesday, is completely free – just turn up.

Visit our social media or website for all the information on times and locations.



Summer Fayre

Join us in **St John's Park**, on **Sunday 23 June**, for a fantastic afternoon of family fun at this year's **Summer Fayre!** With stalls, games and entertainers, there will be something for everyone.

The theme for the event this year is 'Love Sussex', celebrating the countryside, heritage and community right on our doorstep.

We will be joined by charities and community groups who work towards making the world a better and greener place to be – why not join them and see what work they're doing, and how you can get involved?

The **Summer Fayre Parade** returns this year, with **Burgess Hill Marching Youth** leading local schools and community groups in a lap around **St John's Park**

Following the grand parade opening, visit the market stalls, meet some feathered friends, or watch the dog show! We will even have our very own tortoise friend, Zelva – The Flying Buttresses are returning this year, with their fantastic act 'What the Tortoise Taught Us'.

For more information on the event, visit our social media pages, or email communityteam@burgesshill.gov.uk.

Teddy Bears Picnic

Monday 1 July sees the return of the Burgess Hill Teddy Bears Picnic! This exclusive event for preschoolers will see activities in St John's Park from 11.30am - 2pm.

Organised by Burgess Hill Town Council, The King's Church and Central Sussex Rotary, with funding from Burgess Hill District Lions there will be plenty to entertain preschoolers.

There's no need to book, just turn up and get involved!

Follow the Town Council social media for event updates nearer the time.





Monday 1 July 11.30am-2pm St John's Park



With sponsorship from Burgess Hill District Lions







Family Fun Sessions

The Family Fun Sessions, for families of children and young people with SEND, return for 2024 with the first two sessions on Thursday 4 April. Held at The King's Church, families can expect crafts, activities and information services.

There is no age limit, but sessions are aimed at ages 3-18. The sessions will run at 10 - 11.30am and 12.30 - 2pm, it is free to attend but spaces must be booked in advance.

Book from 1 March by visiting www. ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshilltowncouncil or book via the Help Point on 01444 247726 or in person at 96 Church Walk.





Burgess Hill Market

&

Burgess Hill Community Crafters Market

Save the date

01 JUNE 2024

For more information, visit www.burgesshill.gov.uk







D-Day Commemorations

The Town Council will be commemorating **D-Day** on **Thursday 6 June**, in a community event at **St John's Park**.

Attendees will be invited to bring their own picnic, or enjoy the fish and chip van that will be on-site! From 6 – 8:30pm, the community picnic will be in full swing with music and attendees are encouraged to dress up in 1940s fancy dress.

At **8:30pm**, St John's Church will lead in prayers at the **War Memorial Garden**, followed by a

parade to the beacon in the park, where we will have readings and singing, ahead of the beacon lighting at 9:15pm.

For more information, visit the Town Council social media, or pop into the Help Point at **96 Church Walk**.

If you have a family member who was involved in the D-Day landings, we would like to hear from you. Please email **communityteam@burgesshill.gov.uk** and tell us your story.





Burgess Hill Artists Exhibition

The Burgess Hill Artists, a cooperative of artists, crafters and designers from Burgess Hill and surrounding areas, will be exhibiting a

The Woolpack, Burgess Hill, throughout June and July.

selection of work at

For more information, visit www.burgesshill artists.co.uk





The Mid Sussex Marathon Weekend 'Come Along to Run & Cheer!'

Saturday 4 – Monday 6 May

Looking for something active and fun to do with the family over the Early May Bank Holiday weekend?

Why not join us at the Mid Sussex Marathon Weekend? **Be part of the action!**

The Mid Sussex Fun Run is suitable for all ages and abilities, and ideal for families – it isn't about the time it takes, but the shared experience. Entry is £6 and all finishers receive a Mid Sussex Marathon Fun Run medal. Fancy dress is welcome!

The Mid Sussex Mile is for youngsters aged 7+ and takes place after the Fun Run. It's a fantastic opportunity for budding athletes to get involved in the Mid Sussex Marathon Weekend – and start their medal collection! Entry is £6-8 pp.

There will be category prizes and medals for all finishers.

The Fun Run and Mid Sussex Mile take place daily across the weekend. Entries for all races via www.midsussexmarathon.co.uk or on the day.



3 RACES. 3 TOWNS. 3 DAYS.



Be part of the action - Sign up today









4-6 MAY 2024

Fun Run, Mile, 10K, 10 Mile or Marathon. Choose your distance!

4 MAY | 10M

East Grinstead Rugby Club

5 MAY | 10M

Victoria Park, Haywards Heath

6 MAY | **10K**

The Burgess Hill Academy

DAILY...

Mid Sussex Fun Run | All ages Family friendly. Medals. Optional fancy dress!

Mid Sussex Mile Ages 7+

A chipped time race for junior runners. Medals & prizes.

Town Council to Honour Fallen with Street Naming Policy

In November, Councillors passed a resolution to create a new street-naming policy.

Following the one-hundred-year anniversary of the War Memorial Garden, in Church Walk, Councillors took the decision to name streets and places in Burgess Hill using the surnames of the fallen on the War Memorial.

For future street naming requests, names will be picked at random from the War Memorial, honouring those from Burgess Hill that sacrificed their lives for the country's freedom.

The Council would like to hear from descendants of those on the War Memorial regarding this new policy. Please email council@burgesshill.gov.uk.



Burgess Hill Regeneration

For the latest news plus a helpful 'Frequently Asked Questions' section please visit:

www.burgesshill.net





Annual Town Meeting

Monday 29 April 7.30pm start

St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, Station Road

ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME



Saturday Councillor Drop-in

10am - 12pm | 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month
The Help Point is opened by Councillors to
discuss local issues.

Help Point services and shop not available.

Bus Stop Improvements

Wondering when your bus is going to arrive?

Burgess Hill Town Council is working in partnership with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) to deliver phase 2 of the Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) displays at bus stops around Burgess Hill.



Example of a new bus shelter

Bus users have been benefiting from existing displays, and phase 2 will see more RTPIs installed around Burgess Hill.

Bus operators track where their buses are using the Global Positioning System (GPS). The location data is then fed to WSCC's Real Time Passenger Information system.

In addition, there is the opportunity to replace some of the Town Council's tired bus shelters around the town and also install some new ones, subject to landowners' permissions.

The funding for these improvements, costing approximately £300,000, will come from the wider Local Growth Fund, Burgess Hill Place & Connectivity Programme, being delivered to support improved sustainable transport infrastructure throughout Burgess Hill. For more information visit www.burgesshill.net.

It is anticipated these works will commence Spring/Summer 2024.



Recycling Centres: Booking system now in place

You now need an appointment to visit West Sussex Recycling Centres. For more information, and to book, visit:

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ or phone 01243 642106

Emergency Numbers

Mid Sussex District Council (out of hours) - 01444 458166

Clarion Housing Group - 0300 500 8000

West Sussex County Council Highways Department - 01243 642105

West Sussex County Council Contact Centre - 01243 777100

Social Care (Adults) - 01243 642121

Social Care (Children) - 01403 229900

Citizens Advice - 0808 278 7969

Princess Royal Hospital - 01444 441881

Dental Emergencies (NHS Dentists) - 111

Tourist Information

Here at the Help point we have been busy working away finding new events, places, and days out across the whole of Sussex to help keep you and your family entertained this winter.

Explore local hiking routes that criss-cross the absolutely stunning views from the South Downs National Park, or with Easter right around the corner, why not visit one of our local farms where you can see some of the Sussex wildlife, up close and personal!

We've been working hard to showcase the incredible selection of events and attractions occurring throughout Sussex this winter, both on our website and within our Tourist Information Centre.

To find out more, contact the Help Point Team on 01444 247726, email helppoint@burgesshill.gov.uk or pop in to 96 Church Walk, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AS.



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 for a corporate function, informal meeting or more, please contact Sarah on 01444 247726, email council@burgesshill.gov.uk or pop in to 96 Church Walk.

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

Help Point Shop

With an amazing selection of locally produced goods, from crochet to cards and tea to tea towels, we're guaranteed to have something for everyone here in the Help Point shop. Why not get those Easter or Father's Day gift purchases in early? All from local artists, authors, brewers, craftsmen and confectioners – come in and see what you can find!

The Help Point Shop is open as follows:

- Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9am 5pm
- Tuesday, 10am 5pm
- Friday, 9am 4.30pm

If you are interested in having your own pitch within the shop, please contact the Help Point, call 01444 247726, email helppoint@burgesshill.gov.uk or pop into the Help Point, 96 Church Walk, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AS.



Burgess Hill in the Spring

Burgess Hill residents are lucky to be surrounded by green space. With Bedelands Nature Reserve, Batchelors Farm, and West Park Reserve all easily accessible, and the Green Circle running around the town, Spring is a particularly beautiful time to take in the sights.

If you are newly exploring the green spaces of Burgess Hill, the Town Council's guides are a great place to start. The Burgess Hill History Trail



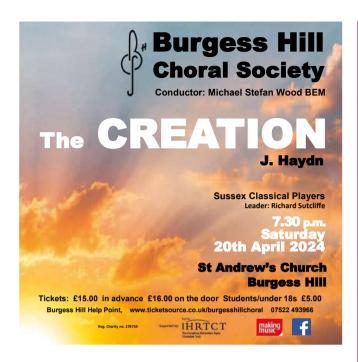
and Burgess Hill Twittens guides are available to collect from the Help Point at **96 Church Walk**, from dispensers around town, or to download from the Town Council's website. For our youngest residents, the Children's Spotter Guide introduces you to wildlife around the Green Circle, and can also be collected from the Help Point or downloaded from the website.

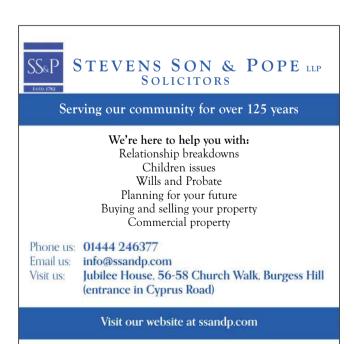
These guides act as a perfect starting point to exploring. For more information, pop into the Help Point, or call **01444 247726** to speak to our expert staff.

Guides can be downloaded from:

www.burgesshill.gov.uk







Burgess Hill Choral Society Spring Concert

At our spring concert, Burgess Hill Choral Society will perform Haydn's uplifting 'The Creation', an enduringly firm favourite with concert audiences.

Inspired by Handel's Messiah, Haydn depicts a dazzling vision of the Genesis creation story in a work which is full of drama and light. It reminds listeners of the beauty of the natural world and, despite the problems in society, the potential for harmony.

There are many reasons to love this work: many are drawn to its majestic choruses as well as wonderful solos. The orchestral accompaniment is also very important in its painting of pictures of the creation story, for example the emergence from chaos and formation of animals. Few doubt 'The Creation' is a choral masterpiece.

The concert takes place on Saturday 20 April at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 OLG.

Tickets (£15 in advance, £16 on the door, under-18s and students free) are available from Burgess Hill Help Point, at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshillchoral, on the door, by phone 07522 493966 or at www.burgesshillchoral.org.

Have you ever been to a classical concert?

If the answer is YES, you will know how amazing a classical concert is, if the answer is NO, this is your chance. Burgess Hill Symphony Orchestra (BHSO) are busy practicing for a unique concert for all the family. BHSO will perform Disney music from the first cartoon film, Snow White, up to the present day.

BHSO have a particular interest in giving young musicians an opportunity to play with a symphony orchestra. For this concert we are joined by our own Prince Charming, Tobias Alexander, and two Disney Princesses, Emily Milton and Mia Hayman-Lewis. They are hoping not to be the only Princesses as everyone is encouraged to dress up.

This concert has been a collaboration with our Musical Director, Michael Stefan Wood BEM and talented violinist, Christian Siddall. Buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

BHSO invites your whole family to join us on **Saturday 18 May**, **3pm** at **St Andrews Church**. Ticket prices: Adult £15 (£18 on the door), Student/under 18's £5, Family (2 adults, 2 children) £35. Buy your tickets at the Help Point, **bhso.org.uk/box-office** or by phoning **01444 232067**.

St John's Church Clock

Over time, the condition of the 4 clock faces had deteriorated and the Town Council took the decision to have them refurbished.

This work was completed in January 2024 and the clock faces now look fantastic and should last for many years.



The noble-looking clock with four 5ft faces, was erected in the spire of St Johns church in 1887 for Queen Victoria's jubilee by public subscription, to which almost every inhabitant in the district gave a small sum. That is why the town council is responsible for its upkeep rather than the church.



Learn the skills needed to help woodland habitats thrive with the Lost Woods project

The Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs project is offering a range of new subsidised courses that teach traditional woodland management and green woodworking skills.

People who live, work or volunteer in the project area, which covers Burgess Hill, are encouraged to join and learn skills that actively manage woodlands to boost biodiversity and strengthen habitats. A range of green woodworking courses are also on offer, including how to make your own walking stick and gate-hurdle making.

The subsidised courses are available until 2027, thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



Woodlands once covered a vast area of Sussex.
Over centuries, ancient woodlands have become smaller and fragmented due to development.
By training local people, and by working directly with landowners, the Lost Woods project is aiming to improve the condition of woods.

Lost Woods is made possible by players of the National Lottery.

For more information or to book a course, visit www.lostwoods.org.uk.



Wellbeing@midsussex.gov.uk 01444 477191

A Big Thank You from Burgess Hill Pantry!

Burgess Hill Pantry started 2024 well stocked thanks to the generosity of the local community. The Pantry launched its reverse advent calendar in November, inviting participants to put aside an item a day for 20 days. The Pantry also received support from local businesses including Mid Sussex Porsche, Epassi, CSL Behring, Radii Planet, Your Bump Your Baby, Woolovers and RF Solutions, as well as local schools, Beavers, Scouts, and churches. It was an uplifting experience seeing the donations and brought a tear to the eye of several volunteers.

These incredible donations stocked the shelves for a month, however, with the increasing cost of living,



we always need more support. If you are a local business who would like to support your local community, email hello@bhlocalpantry.org.

If you are struggling to put food on the table we are here to help – come in to 25-29 The Martlets, or send us an email.



Burgess Hill Repair Cafe Success

The Burgess Hill Repair Cafe has been successfully running throughout 2023, repairing a wealth of items.

The Repair Cafe started as an environmental initiative, encouraging residents to give continued life to old items, instead of buying new. The Repair Cafe is volunteer-run, with experts across disciplines of electrical, textile, jewellery and leather repair, as well as knife and tool sharpening.

Statistics from across 2023 showed that the team saved an amazing 368 items from landfill. A few most memorable repairs included a sentimental teddy bear, a cricket-pitch line-painter, and a

visitor's crochet rug and doilies made by their grandmother.

Councillor Anne Eves, Coordinator of the Repair Cafe said: 'I'm so proud of our volunteers and the amazing success rate they achieve. Their skills and enthusiasm mean we can prolong the life of favourite objects and avoid throwing more things away. And many people come to us on a Saturday just to sit and eat cake, and see who turns up!'

The next dates will be 13 April, 11 May, and 8 June 10am - 1pm, at the Kiln (opposite New Look) – come along and breathe new life into your own items!



Planters in Church Walk

During the summer months some new tiered planters were installed in Church Walk. The Maintenance Team, along with a work experience student from Plumpton College, filled these with bright flowering plants. As this had such a positive impact in the town centre, additional planters will be installed in 2024.





Young Carers

Burgess Hill Youth, with support from Burgess Hill Town Council, regularly hold Young Carers Fun Days for young carers aged 6-11. Through a range of activities, young carers are invited to attend and mix with children in similar situations. If you would like further information or to register a young carer visit www.

burgesshill.gov.uk/town-community/young-carers/ or contact Kayleigh@burgesshill.gov.uk

What is a Young Carer?

A young carer is someone who cares for another member of their household who needs help because of their illness, frailty, disability (including SEND), a mental health problem or addiction. This includes traditional care activities, or there just being a significant impact on the children within the home.



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www.pdp.services

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