

Easter Bonnet Making, Parade & Picnic

Monday 14th April

9.30 - 1.30 approx.

The Kiln and Church Walk

Budget: £400

Breakdown: £80 -Venue Hire

£50.94 -additional food and squash

Spent: £130.94

Sandwiches donated by The Mustard Seed Café

Activities were funded by Burgess Hill Creative Community

Knitted bonnet items donated by Burgess Hill Yarnbombers

Food items donated by Burgess Hill Pantry (from Lidl)

Aim: to provide a free craft activity to children ages 4-11, followed by a short parade on Church Walk and a free picnic afterwards. Including a separate SEND session.

Number of bookable spaces: 55

Number of booked slots: 28

Number of attendees on day: 55

Number of no shows: 0

Publicity:

The event was advertised in a multitude of ways, including:

- Poster in the Help Point Window
- Event calendar
- Shared with all local schools
- All noticeboards in the town
- Nationwide noticeboard
- Middy article (from PR)
- Easter activity banner at the McDonalds roundabout
- Several posts on the Town Council Facebook
- Sent out via the mailing list
- Advertised at events prior to this one
- Press release in advance with all Easter activities
- Graphic in the March About Town

Event breakdown: There were three 45-minute sessions at 9.30am, 10.30am and a SEND session at 11.30am. This was then a short parade, forming up at 12.30pm outside the Kiln and walking a circuit on Church Walk, and then a picnic back at the Kiln afterwards. Participants were told during the booking process that taking part in the craft activity meant they must take part in the parade but they did not have to stay for the picnic.

Burgess Hill Creative Community led the activities and purchased the items to make the bonnets. Burgess Hill Yarnbombers donated knitted items for the bonnets and also decorated the bandstand. The Mustard Seed Café donated sandwiches for the event and then other food items were purchased for the budget, including squash, crisps and dietary items. Burgess Hill Pantry then donated pastry items that had been collected from Lidl as surplus.

Feedback:

We created a QR code which is available at the events to scan as well as in notice boards afterwards. The code is linked to a Google form which we can keep adding events to without changing the code itself. The form simply asks what event you have attended, *'what went well'*, *'it would be even better if...'* and *'If the event you attended required you to book in advance, how did you find the process?'*

Here are some of the responses received for this event;

What went well?

- We loved the Easter bonnet making! Such a great event and my 3 daughters really loved it.
- It was amazing, all the volunteers and staff were so friendly, supportive and it worked really well.
- We loved this event. Great for all ages. Loved that we could make the bonnet in smaller groups and come back for the parade and picnic celebrations. Really fun and memorable for my children age 2 and 4. My son asked me to book this again and said it was the 'best ever'.
- Good range of art supply, well organised volunteers. Lots of creativity encouraged.

- Well supplied, lovely volunteers very helpful and enthusiastic
- The materials for the bonnets were amazing and all the volunteers were so helpful. My daughter had an amazing time. The food was lovely.
- All the volunteers meant there was plenty of help and time for the children to do all they wanted on the bonnets. All the variety of crafty bits was amazing!
- The whole event was very well planned
 - Organised and accommodating

It would be even better if...

- Honestly, I couldn't improve this fabulous event! So much effort and organisation had gone into this morning. I wasn't expecting all the fabulous decorations for the bonnets or the huge spread of picnic food that was provided. Well done to everyone involved
- Perhaps asking participants to bring their own picnic, you could then do the parade (weather dependent) to St John's Park
- Keep it as it is, it was great! Please run again next year!
- They had music on the parade.
- Minor thing, the vegan items weren't labelled clearly and perhaps that would be helpful. Some music with the parade (a couple of members from Burgess Hill marching youth?)
- No ways to improve.
 - Great craft selection
- Nothing, it was great!
 - Everything was absolutely fantastic no changes required
- Nothing
 - Everything was awesome

If the event you attended required you to book in advance, how did you find the process?

- I had to set my alarm to make sure I remembered to book online but the link didn't work so I called up to make our booking.
- Bit tricky to find the earlier session but straightforward after that
- I booked on the day the tickets were available but couldn't get our preferred time slot. Process of booking was fine.
- The booking process is very simple
 - Easy
- Smooth
 - It was very easy once I saw a poster for it.
- Difficult to find the link to book
 - Very straightforward
- Booking link was not available when stated

Evaluation:

There was less uptake for the SEND session than normal, yet the 9.30 and 10.30 sessions were very quickly booked up. We can only presume this may have been down to the reluctance of children with SEND to join in the parade, as well as many children with SEND having issues with food, therefore making the picnic difficult for them to attend too. This is something we would need to consider if we were to do it again in 2026.

All the children booked attendee the sessions, with zero no shows, which is great, and the parade went smoothly. Post event, we received front page coverage in the Mid Sussex Times, with an article on page two. It is great to see the positive event shared widely.

The success of this event is really down to good partnership working with other organisations. Burgess Hill Creative Community brought their invaluable creativity and resources to the event, Central Sussex Rotary's decoration of the bandstand and supply of knitted items for the bonnets added a real magical touch, and the support of the Mustard Seed Café meant the children were able to enjoy a very tasty treat after their hard work.

Kayleigh Elliott-Davidson

Events, Communication and Administration Officer

22/4/2025

Photos of event



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Brilliant bonnets on display in parade



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Business on Countryfile

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Health



'Brilliant bonnets' on display during Easter parade

By Lawrence Smith
lawrence.smith@nationalworld.com

Children made some colourful Easter bonnets recently for a parade through the centre of Burgess Hill.

The event took place at about 12.30pm last Monday (April 14) in Church Walk.

A Burgess Hill Town Council spokesperson said on Facebook: "The kids made some brilliant bonnets and had a great time parading them through Church Walk. We held three sessions at The Kiln and after all the crafting, everyone was invited to take part in a short parade, followed by a free picnic. Thanks so much to



The Easter bonnet making workshop was followed by a parade NATIONAL WORLD

everyone who joined us – and to Burgess Hill Creative Community and Central Sussex Rotary for making the day so

special." Burgess Hill Creative Community praised the 'wonderful creations' the children made.



Burgess Hill Creative Community, the Rotary, Burgess Hill Town Council and other organisations put on an Easter bonnet making workshop NATIONAL WORLD

Central Sussex Rotary provided the Easter Bunny for the day, who was also at the Market Place Shopping Centre on

Good Friday morning. Sandwiches and other food at the event was provided by Mustard Seed Café.

Easter fun events in Burgess Hill keep children and young people busy

By Julie Holden
Contributor

Children and young people were kept busy this Easter holidays with free events in Burgess Hill!

The Easter Trail proved popular with nearly 300 children completing the trail across the holiday period. 22 local businesses got involved displaying items from Bunny's lost items, for the children to find. All the children received a book when they returned their map and three children, Niamh, Sebastian and Nakshatra, won the main prize of a soft toy (Framble and his two friends) and an Easter egg!

There were taster sport sessions to join with qualified coach, Zaire Taylor, from Worthing Thunder teaching basketball skills and Jimmy Smith and his team, from Incees Tennis teaching tennis skills. A large number of children attended the 5 sessions over the holidays and picked up new skills!

Over 50 Children visited the Kilo for Easter bonnet making with the Burgess Hill Creative Community on Monday 14th. The children then paraded from the Kilo and headed on a loop around Church Walk, so the children could show off their wonderful creations! After all the hard work the children tucked into a yummy picnic back at the Kilo!

On Tuesday 8 coach Niki, from Gosport BMX had children and young people (even the teenagers!!) fully engaged during the Rock Up and Ride coaching sessions. They learnt how to use the track better and make their jumps higher, whilst DJ Matt blared out the best tunes!

38 families attended the Family Fun Sessions, for families of children with SEND on Monday 7. Children enjoyed a whole range of activities including graffiti art with Tom on inflatable assault course and the Hot Wheel tracks from WOW Sussex. They also enjoyed story time with author Julie Aileen McDonald and learnt sign language with Makaton Jenny. There were also several organisations attending with information for families.

If you attended, we would love to hear your feedback as it helps us plan future



Coach Niki at the Rock Up and Ride event. SUBMITTED



Children enjoying the track at Rock Up and Ride event. SUBMITTED



Graffiti art at the family Fun sessions. SUBMITTED



Children at the tennis session at St. John's Park. SUBMITTED



Coach Jenny with children at the tennis session at St. John's Park. SUBMITTED

event. Please complete the Google form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/FAIpQLSeNFLkvwLIVhy6Xu6V4LnZWzW0UkCxbAbbqzMIpKLIQYLQ/viewform> Missed out on all the wonderful events!! Sign up

our mailing list and you will be emailed directly about events organised by us: <https://www.burgesshill.gov.uk/town-community/town-events/events-mailing-list/> The Family Fun Sessions were sponsored by The Bud-

ding Foundation and co-organised by Burgess Hill Town Council and The King's Church. Rock up and Ride was funded by The Mid Sussex Partnership, and organised by Burgess Hill Town Council in coordination with

Gosport BMX and Respect Youth Club. The Easter bonnet making was planned and run in association with The Burgess Hill Creative Community, Burgess Hill Town Council and Central Sussex Rotary, with donations from

Burgess Hill Yambombers and sandwiches donated by The Mustard Seed Cafe. The sports sessions and Easter trail were funded and organized by Burgess Hill Town Council. Our thanks goes to the



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