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Burpham Pages

January &
February
2023

Incorporating Jacobs Well

London Road 'Active Travel Scheme' roadworks under 'consultation'. Surrey County Council's plans on hold for further consultation.

Saving Sutherland Memorial Hall. Community groups and local clubs have gathered together to bid for the right to run the hall.

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Burpham Pages

Issue No. 102
January &
February 2023

Burpham Pages
Incorporating Jacobs Well
Local advertising and news magazine,
delivered free to over 3,000 homes.
Focussed on the local community and
the services available in the general
area. Includes Burpham Community
Association newsletter.
www.burpham-pages.co.uk

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Welcome

Dear Neighbours, Happy New Year everyone! There I was thinking that this issue was going to be a quiet one and all of a sudden all sorts of stories came flying in. Looks like 2023 is going to be a busy time in Burpham with lots going on.

The big story for the start of 2023 is the **potential disruption to our roads** as Surrey County Council look to improve the cycle lanes, roundabouts, junctions and pedestrian crossings along London Road. It's still all in the air and we won't find out more until the consultation with local councillors and groups takes place on January 5th, just before the publication of this magazine. The works are currently on hold until some of the finer points and concerns can be ironed out with community representatives.

Then we've got the important issue of the future of **Sutherland Memorial Hall** and how this will be managed so that the local community can make good use of it. Local organisations have this in hand and progress seems to be being made.

On a lighter note, the **Winter Lectures** are back with a really interesting series of lectures lined up for January and February. Please be sure to support these and if you have a passion for a subject, that you could speak for 50-60 minutes about, and that you believe others might share an interest in, talk to the organisers and perhaps you could join the list of speakers for 2024!

Also in this issue we hear from Nicky Exell of Slimming World with some **New Year weight-loss tips**, the **Burpham Pages** team talks about how we try and make the magazine (and supporting website) an inclusive resource for the whole community and Rev Joanna Levasier, of **Burpham Church**, asks if we will find the secret of happiness in 2023.

Well, let's hope we do discover that illusive secret this year. I hope you all have a wonderful 2023 and I look forward to speaking to you throughout the year.

Paul Nicholls (Editor)
editor@burpham-pages.co.uk

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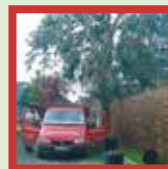
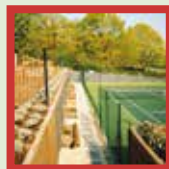
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News + events

January &
February 2023

Local news & events: get involved and tell us more about your news and events organised in Burpham, Jacobs Well and the surrounding areas.

London Road 'Active Travel Scheme' roadworks under 'consultation'.



The scheme was due to get underway on 9th January, but will now be postponed to allow more detailed discussion with the local community – 'to help ensure the benefits of the scheme are widely understood and delivered', according to Surrey County Council.

The project has been planned to take around five months, with the timeline squeezed to reduce disruption as much as possible. A new set of engagement events will be announced in the new year, with the start date to be confirmed.

Fiona Davidson, Surrey county councillor for Guildford South East (R4GV) is pleased to report that "Cllr Tim Oliver, Leader of Surrey County Council, has listened to and responded to the very significant and reasonable concerns about the current proposals for the London Road active travel scheme raised by residents, councillors, businesses and schools. The way the scheme has been managed so far has galvanised a level

of anger and discontent that is unusual for Guildford.

We all now need to work together – residents, councillors, schools, businesses and Surrey County Council – to find a way forward that is acceptable to all parties. I look forward to being part of the revamped consultation exercise."

Cllr Davidson has arranged for this meeting to take place on Thursday 5th January, 6.30-8.30pm at Raynham Hall, George Abbot School (prior to the publication of this magazine).

The original project had been planned to take around five months, with the timeline compressed in an attempt

to minimise disruption as much as possible. *The following information has been sourced from the Surrey County Council and has been abbreviated. For the full text refer to <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks/burpham-active-travel#whatis>*

What is Active Travel?

Following unprecedented levels of walking and cycling across the UK during the pandemic, the government announced a funding package to encourage more people to choose alternatives to public transport when they need to travel, making healthier habits easier and helping make sure the road, bus and rail networks are ready to respond to future increases in demand.

Why are Surrey County Council doing this?

SCC want to ensure our roads are safer and more accessible for children, pedestrians and cyclists travelling around Guildford.

What are SCC going to do?

- Installing one-way segregated cycle paths on both sides of London Road
- Upgrading the existing roundabouts to provide safer crossings for cyclists and pedestrians
- New crossing points
- Improvements to existing junctions
- Upgrading bus stops

Further information

Was there a consultation?

A consultation was carried out with residents and businesses in *Continued over.*

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2021. SCC invited residents to take part based on their age group and demographic to ensure they had a true representation of the views of the community.

The consultation showed that 58% of those residents and businesses engaged with supported the scheme, with 27% feeling that they didn't support the scheme and 15% unsure of their view. **We haven't made this public to date as we wanted to ensure that we were going ahead with the scheme, but we will be sharing the results of the consultation on the website and at the community event.**

What impact will these works have on the local community?

SCC understand the significant impact that these works will have on the local community and have examined several options of how to carry out these works safely for both the workforce and residents. These options included traffic lights that would have taken twice the time as well as causing significant traffic congestion in both directions.

Having examined all possible options and given the legal constraints of health and safety, the one-way closure was the shortest duration for the works.

Surrey County Council welcome your feedback and enquiries about this scheme. They will also be issuing regular updates on the web page as the scheme progresses. If you would like to get in touch or be added to their mailing list, please email them using this dedicated email: burpham.activetravel@surreycc.gov.uk

Burpham Pages will do our best to keep you up-to-date with developments in print or online.

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Saving Sutherland Memorial Hall



It's been months now that the community hall in the park has been closed to residents for meetings and events. Although the nursery and playgroup continue to operate, the closure is a loss for small groups, classes and community events.

Hope is at hand. A number of community groups and local clubs have gathered together to bid for the right to run the hall. It is supported by representatives of all the local political parties, the church, sports clubs, the **Burpham Community Association** and **Neighbourhood Forum**, and it is chaired by **Burpham Wellbeing**.

The group would manage the hall in the evenings and weekends so that there is a place for local activities, and it would prioritise community events. Its vision is to make Sutherland Hall a hub for local people with a special emphasis on health, wellbeing, community and Burpham residents. Hire rates will be affordable and most importantly, run by you and for you.

The council invited groups to express interest in managing the hall, but later withdrew the offer 'to do a bit more work on the qualitative assessment of

expressions of interest'. We are once again waiting on the council.

...the vision is to make Sutherland Hall a hub for local people with a special emphasis on health, wellbeing, community and Burpham residents.

Once we are up and running, we will cover all our costs and in the meantime we are applying for grants to help us 'start up'. But what we need most is people with expertise in, say, writing a business plan, forming a health and safety policy, formalising the group as a properly-constituted entity, establishing a booking system and so on. **We'd love to hear from residents if they have this expertise and can support our efforts this winter.**

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Guildford in Bloom announces Teacher Twilight Session



Guildford Schools in Bloom Team have announced an informative twilight session for teachers and TA's to help local schools get ready for the 2023 competition.

The event, on **6 February 2023** takes place at **Edwins Garden Centre** at Clandon Park – a long term supporter of the **Guildford Schools in Bloom** programme. Topics covered will be: getting sponsorship and engaging parents and local businesses; Planting advice and plant care; creating wildlife areas, planting for pollinators; and incorporating gardening into the curriculum to get the whole school involved.

Guildford in Bloom holds its annual Schools in Bloom competition in order to inspire young children to get gardening; to know where their food comes from; to respect and protect wildlife and to improve their wellbeing by spending time outside.

Surrey Wildlife Trust will be talking about their **Wilder Schools** programme and giving lots of information including little things that

make a big difference. Retired Teacher Jackie Roberts, who has entered and won Guildford Schools in Bloom in the past will be passing on her experience of bringing gardening into the curriculum.

The Guildford Schools in Bloom team is led by Shirley West and Caroline Coleman who said: "Every year we have more and more schools enter which is great to see, but the resources available at the schools varies across the board, so we have gathered some experts to help the teachers get started and maintain a healthy garden involving the whole school. We feel it is so important that children spend time outside and enjoy the wellbeing benefits of growing plants and helping wildlife.

Spaces are limited for the session so early booking is recommended – Tickets are just £25 per person which

includes an informative teacher pack and refreshments – more information and booking can be found on the Guildford in Bloom website: <https://www.guildfordinbloom.com/gardening-in-schools-event>

Guildford Lions Club – Fundraising News



Photo by Dan Harrington

The Guildford Lions Club have announced the fantastic news that the 2022 Firework Fiesta made a record profit of £52,941.72p.

The Club has given "A big thank you to all the Lions, Supporters and Sponsors who made this possible" and continued "As agreed a donation of £15,000 has been made to the **Prostate Project** which still leaves the Club with nearly £38,000 to help other worthy causes. Initial discussions have started with potential sponsors for a **2023 Firework Fiesta** and also key suppliers and contractors to enable us to produce a draft budget in January. At this stage we know several costs have increased and we have lost £7,500 of this year's sponsorship so much work remains to be done if we are going to bring a viable proposition to the Club."



**Guildford
Lions Club**

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Win a Sainsbury's eGift card worth £10.00*

visit <https://burpham-pages.co.uk/where-in-burpham-01-2023/>

Where in Burpham?

How well do you know the village you live in?

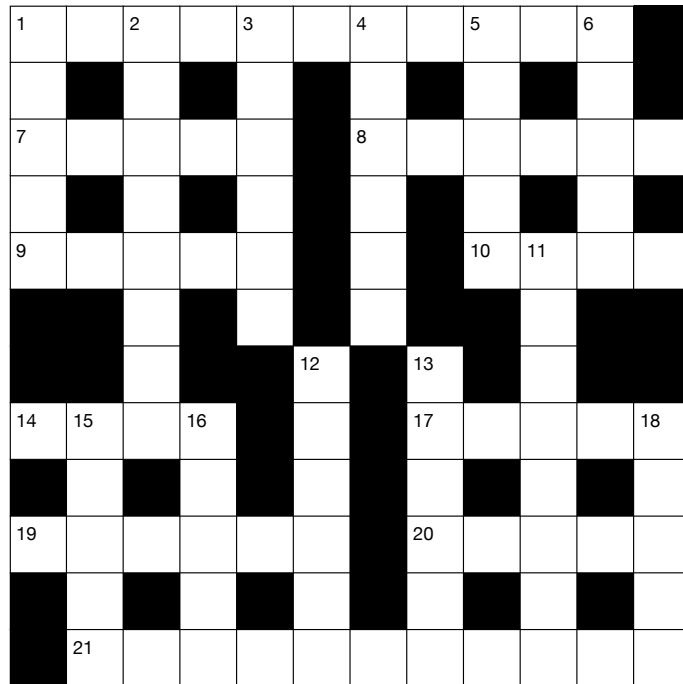
Competition

Can you identify where in Burpham this photograph was taken? If you can, visit us online at <https://burpham-pages.co.uk/where-in-burpham-01-2023/> and describe the location of the photograph as precisely as possible. We'll choose one of the right answers out of a hat and send the winner a **Sainsbury's eGift card for £10.00***.



Closing date for entries: 28.02.23. Winner will be announced in the May-June 2023 issue of Burpham Pages. No alternative to the prize listed above is available. No additional correspondence will be entered in to.

*Terms and conditions apply. Visit <https://burpham-pages.co.uk/where-in-burpham-01-2023/> for further information.



Across

- 1 Small, long animal with many legs that feeds on the leaves of plants (11)
- 7 Region, sphere or domain (5)
- 8 Being sour to the taste (6)
- 9 Clothing worn on your feet (5)
- 10 clarified butter (4)
- 14 A poet (4)
- 17 Spring-blooming perennial, bulb (5)
- 19 Bring to the latest state of technology (6)
- 20 A Dutch sweet, creamy, yellow cow's milk cheese (5)
- 21 Habitual absence from work (11)

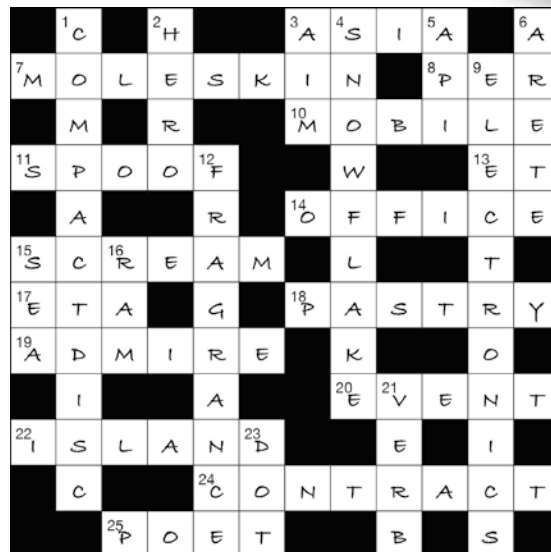
Down

- 1 Consisting of a deck of 52 and subdivided in to 4 suits (5)
- 2 Person whose job is making roofs from straw or reeds (8)
- 3 Lacking care or attention to duty (6)
- 4 Son of Daedalus; flew too close to the sun (6)
- 5 Speaking falsely (5)
- 6 An increase in salary (5)
- 11 Traditional Cypriot cheese (8)
- 12 Rule over something with authority (6)
- 13 Cheap cigar (6)
- 15 Most dominant, powerful, or assertive person in a particular group
- 16 An entertainer attracts a large audience (5)
- 18 Sacred song or poem used in worship (5)

Solution to Crossword No. 26

Burpham Pages issue No. 101
November & December 2022

The solution to each crossword will be published in the following issue of Burpham Pages as well as on our website www.burpham-pages.co.uk
For the January – February 2023 solution please see our March – April 2023 issue.



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From shoeing horses to creating art works

Blacksmiths in Burpham

Moira MacQuaide's history of Burpham

A blacksmith is someone who works with metals, creating objects such as agricultural tools, gates, furniture, decorative and religious items, etc, as well as shoeing horses' hooves. Although it is very likely that there was one in the area many years before, the earliest record found for a blacksmith in Burpham was for George Heath, who was apprenticed to learn his trade in 1743. By the time he died in 1793 he was both Burpham blacksmith and Innkeeper at the Anchor and Horseshoes pub. The Heath family continued with the smithing business for several generations, two Georges, two James and Samuel, who was the last until he emigrated to Canada in 1855. The business was taken over by Charles Puttock, whose son and grandson, along with a nephew Henry Edmead, continued in the forge on London Road until about 1911. Charles died in 1937 after being struck by a plane that crashed in Stoke Park.

According to the Tithe Maps of 1838, the blacksmith lived in Rose Cottage, on London Road, with his forge next door – later to become Guildford Signs. There seems to be some evidence that there had been a forge next to the Anchor and Horseshoes pub in previous years, but no written records survive to prove this. In 1905 Lord Onslow sold the property consisting of seven rooms, a garden and pigsty, as well as the farrier's shop, stabling for two horses, a chaise house and woodland attached.



Top left: Burpham village sign based on a photo by Don Scott. **Top right:** Kingpost Parade sign designed by Nick Bates of Burrows Lea Forge. **Bottom left:** Aldi's Green Man sculpture also created by Nick Bates. **Bottom right:** The Sutherland Circle designed by Steve Tomlinson

...the earliest record found for a blacksmith in Burpham was for George Heath, who was apprenticed to learn his trade in 1743...

Since 1911 there has been no blacksmith in Burpham, as the world changed and motor cars replaced horse drawn carriages. However, in recent years there have been several examples of modern blacksmiths creating signs and artistic structures

instead. There is the sign above the entrance to Sutherland Memorial Park, but it's not known when this appeared.

In 1991 the new village sign was erected, following a competition for ideas – won by Don Scott's photo of St Luke's Church. Although the first shops on London Road opened in the 1930s, it was only in 2012 that the signs, designed by Nick Bates of Burrows Lea Forge in Shere, were placed in front of the London Road and Kingpost Parade shops.

In 2015, when Aldi opened their shop, the sculpture of the Green Man was placed on the wall, to remember the history of the site – this was also created by Nick Bates.

In 2017 the Nine Standing Leaf sculpture, also known as the Sutherland Circle, was created in Sutherland Memorial Park, designed by Steve Tomlinson, with ideas from children at Burpham Primary School.

If you are willing to share your memories and photos to tell us more about Burpham then please contact Moira MacQuaide, either by e-mail (moira.macquaide@gmail.com) or by phone or text (07963 756543). My book, **Burpham – A Gateway to Guildford** is still available from me for £10 (free delivery locally) or on Amazon, but the **History of Burpham Primary School 1908-2014** is now out of print (available to borrow at Guildford Library).



Welcome to the **Burpham Community Association**

Community Update

www.burphamca.org.uk

To get in touch with the BCA contact the committee on secretary@burphamca.org.uk phone **07513 366072** or visit the website at www.burphamca.org.uk

January & February 2023

We wish you all a very Happy New Year!

We represent the community of Burpham, Guildford

Traffic Chaos in Burpham

Unless common sense prevails, Burpham looks set to become the centre of unimaginable traffic chaos in the new year.

SCC are proposing to carry out roadworks along the A3100 that will involve:

- Installing one-way segregated cycle paths on both sides of London Road
- Upgrading the existing roundabouts to provide safer crossings for cyclists and pedestrians
- New crossing points
- Improvements to existing junctions
- Upgrading bus stops.

The work involves the stretch of road from the Boxgrove roundabout to the New Inn Lane roundabout. The northbound stretch (travelling towards Burpham) will be closed to all traffic; access will be via the southbound road only. Working times will be Monday to Friday 0700h to 1900h, Saturday 0800h to 1600h. In addition there will be some night working on unspecified dates leading to closures of London Road, Woodruff Avenue, Wylea Avenue, Burpham Lane and New Inn Lane.

This means that all north bound

traffic heading to Burpham, the north bound A3 slip road and Clay Lane will have a three mile detour via Boxgrove Road and the Epsom Road to Merrow, then down Park Lane and New Inn Lane.

Has anyone at County Hall thought this one through? If this work goes ahead Burpham is facing months of chaos that will affect not just our residents but all the many other people who use the A3100. At worst, Boxgrove, Merrow and Burpham could end up completely gridlocked thus contributing even more to the already high levels of pollution. Has any thought been given to the effect on the local economy? Burpham has two supermarkets, a parade of local shops and restaurants, and a pub. They will all suffer loss of revenue. The north bound A3100 gives access to George Abbot school; that should lead to an interesting school run via Merrow, already choked with the St. Peter's traffic, plus three primary schools. And what about emergency vehicles, an all too common sight along that stretch of road?

The BCA wrote to SCC to outline our concerns. They include those noted above, as well as the reported

reduction of vehicular lane width to 3 metres, the appalling lack of proper consultation – surely a prerequisite before such an undertaking – and the short notice given. We asked for a postponement to allow for proper consultation and a less disruptive solution.

It is clear from social media comment that many others share our concerns. This may have prompted an announcement on 2nd December that the work, originally planned for two stages from January to August, will now finish at the end of May. A drop-in session was arranged on 17th December “for residents to find out more, see the plans and raise any questions.” Will anyone be listening?



BCA on Facebook & Twitter!

Join the conversation! Open to members and non-members, it's a great way to stay up-to-date with everything that's happening in our community.

twitter.com/burpham_c_a
facebook.com/burphamCA/



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Tickets only cost £1 per week, buy now at www.guildfordlottery.org/support/burpham-community-association

Other news

Defibrillator

The second defibrillator has now been installed at Sutherland Memorial Hall. We hope to run some training courses in the near future so if you are interested please contact the BCA.



Sutherland Memorial Hall

The BCA and other local groups including the Burpham Neighbourhood Forum, the Church of the Holy Spirit, Burpham Wellbeing and the sports clubs have joined together to work with GBC to try find a way to manage the Hall for the community so that full use can be made of this amenity.

Winter Talks

Here is the programme for the popular Friday evening January talks. They will be held in the Village Hall from 8pm to 9pm – and they're free!

Friday 6th Jan Medieval Sex and Marriage

Historically, marriage has been an awkward matter. Why were panels of women assembled to assess the virility of a husband? And just how celibate were the priests who married them? **Brian Creese** will answer these questions and more...

Friday 13 Jan The pyramids of Britain

It is a curious fact that Britain has more pyramids than Egypt. **Andrew Plumridge** will explain why and how the Egyptian style was used in the design of country houses, early cinemas and storm water pumping stations along the Thames.

Friday 20 Jan Surnames

Henry Spyvee will explain the historical roots of surnames and entertain us by explaining some of our own! Please submit your surname if you'd like him to cover it.

Friday 27 Jan Burpham's Arts and Crafts Housing

Niels Laub will introduce us to Claude Burlingham who masterminded the exquisite houses in Abbotswood and many more in central Burpham. He asks if we could be doing more to protect our fabulous architectural heritage...

Friday 3 Feb Around the world in 80 churches

From the ornamental mosques of Europe to the mountain top monasteries in Nepal and remarkable cathedrals of Iceland, **Andrew Plumridge** will take us on a tour of 80 of the World's most spectacular churches.

Online –

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Please contact Liz Turner, our Membership Secretary, if you have any queries. Her email address is membership@burphamca.org.uk

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New Year weight-loss tips!

With every new year comes resolutions – one of the most common being to lose weight. So if you're looking to kick-start your 2019 with a lasting change a Guildford slimming expert is sharing her top tips to make your New Year weight-loss resolutions a reality – and all without giving up your favourite foods!



Nicky Exell who runs a **Slimming World** group in Guildford and has been a Consultant with Slimming World for 6 years, says: "With the rise of trendy fad diets, people are often seduced by the promise of fast weight losses and take quick-fix routes to lose weight. However, these methods of weight loss aren't sustainable – after all, who wants to feel hungry all the time or give up their favourite foods indefinitely? Especially when that often means that by February New Year's resolutions are a distant memory.

There's no magic pill when it comes to weight loss and the best weight-loss plan is the one you can stick to. Our members lose weight by making small changes to the way they shop, cook and eat and filling up on Free Food – foods that are low in calories but satisfying like pasta, lean meat, fruit, veg, potatoes and more – so they don't have to go hungry or give up their favourite meals, as well as

gradually becoming more active and getting bucketloads of support along the way. They develop healthy habits that they can keep up for life, so they can not only reach their target weight but stay there forever."

"With the rise of trendy fad diets, people are often seduced by the promise of fast weight losses and take quick-fix routes to lose weight..."

Here are Nicky's top tips to help you discover a new you this New Year:

1. Make small and simple swaps

A huge misconception about losing weight is that you have to make dramatic changes and survive on lettuce leaves and carrot sticks. However, with Slimming World's Food Optimising eating plan, members are encouraged to make small and simple

swaps like switching from oil to low-calorie cooking spray and full-fat butter to low-fat spread, and swapping the white bread for wholemeal bread.

2. Plan, plan, plan

Losing weight is much easier when you get in the habit of planning your meals for the week. Pick meals that you know you'll enjoy, try new dishes to keep things interesting and make a shopping list – it's impossible to enjoy healthy meals if you don't have the foods you need to make them in your kitchen!

3. Get support

When you're losing weight, having a strong support system around you is vital. If you join a **Slimming World group** your fellow members, who are all on the same journey as you, will celebrate with you and boost your weight loss when you're doing well, and pick you up if you ever have a more difficult week.

Photo by Diana Potekhina at Unsplash

A huge misconception about losing weight is that you have to make dramatic changes and survive on lettuce leaves and carrot sticks.

4. Get active

But don't run before you can walk! If you currently lead a more sedentary lifestyle, and the thought of exercise makes you sweat, don't let your fears steer you away from getting active – after all, exercise isn't just about Lycra and aerobic classes. At Slimming World we encourage our members to make simple swaps – from taking the lift and using the car for short journeys to taking the stairs and walking to the shops. Increase your activity levels gradually until you reach the recommended level of 30 minutes five times a week.


5. Track your progress

Having a visual reminder of your long-term goal is a great way to help you stay on track with your weight-loss journey. Not only is it a great way to see the amazing progress you're making, it's a good way to keep yourself inspired and committed. Some members recommend using measurement charts and progress pictures to keep them motivated – not only will they remind you why you're losing weight, they're fun too!

"There's no magic pill when it comes to weight loss and the best weight-loss plan is the one you can stick to."

Contact Nicky Exell on **07399 953818** or email nickyexell.sw@hotmail.com





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Burpham Pages:

A resource for the whole community



Scan QR code to read Burpham Pages online.

The aim of Burpham Pages has always been to be 'community focussed' and with the relaunch of the magazine and its website back in September 2018 (now having surpassed our 100th issue since 2006) we have tried to focus on even more facets of Burpham life, to be as useful as possible to the local community and immediate surrounding areas.

We've done this by concentrating on 4 specific sectors of the local community: **residents, business, 'community infrastructure' and organisations & associations.**

For **residents** we hope **Burpham Pages** informs and entertains around subjects that concern those living in the village. Whilst remaining politically neutral, providing some news on current issues in and around the area as well as highlighting local affairs that might affect life locally, such as the roadworks on London Road or the 'Local Plan'. We also hope that the magazine and the website are a useful resource for those looking for local trades and services via their ads or the **online Business Directory** (see <https://burpham-pages.co.uk/business-directory/>) or events happening in the area (see <https://burpham-pages.co.uk/whats-on-directory/>). Obviously, in each case we are reliant on those trades and services placing an ad or the organisers of the events informing us of their plans.

For **local businesses** the magazine offers an effective conduit by which they can advertise their services to



the entire community (through the 3,200 copies we distribute every 2 months) and beyond (via the website). Community magazines have been proved to be one of the most effective mediums for advertising local trades and services as they offer credibility, a resource that is trusted and local people are supportive of

local business. We are often asked to recommend local trades and whilst we can't single out any particular advertiser, we can point enquirers towards the magazine or the online Business Directory (where locals can leave reviews, and we encourage them to, of suppliers that they have used).
Continued over.

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LAURA, MAY 2022



'Community infrastructure', for us, incorporates Burpham Church, roads and public transport plus facilities to support walking and cycling, our flood defences, the local schools (Burpham Primary School and George Abbot School), medical facilities, sporting, recreation and leisure facilities (e.g. the varied sports clubs using Sutherland Memorial Park) and open spaces (e.g. Sutherland Memorial Park and the Riverside Nature Reserve). These are all an important part of Burpham life and we aim to give them a voice through the magazine and online wherever possible.

And finally, we also aim to highlight the work of the **organisations and associations**, for example the Burpham Community Association and the Neighbourhood Forum, who do so much to ensure that life in Burpham continues in a way that is beneficial and enjoyable by all that live here.

We do hope you enjoy **Burpham Pages** and find it useful. Please do engage with us, let us know what you see going on in Burpham, advertise your services and let us know about your events. We are all a part of this community; we all have something offer.





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The secret of happiness, in 2023?

Another new year, and another set of crises that we hadn't even imagined twelve months ago! Anyone relate to that phrase "Stop the world I want to get off!"?

I confess I hadn't even realised that was a film title from 1966 until I googled it to see when the phrase first appeared! Clearly that feeling that everything is out of control has been around somewhat longer than I'd imagined, but surely becoming harder and harder to ignore.

As we head on into that clean sheet of 2023, I wonder if happiness seems simply unrealistic and out of reach. I recently came across this quote from JC Ryle (a 19th Century Anglican Bishop)

"To be truly happy, a person must be able to look in every direction without uncomfortable feelings. They must be able to look back to the past without guilty fears; they must be able to

look around themselves without discontent; they must be able to look forward without anxious dread."

What a challenging, and yet thought-provoking statement. How are things in every direction for you? Some of us look back at the past with deep shame and resolutely turn to the future so that we don't have to face the reality of what has happened to us and through us. Others of us are so scared of what the future might hold, that we keep our eyes firmly fixed on the past when everything felt safer. Still others of us try to live in the moment without care for others, for the past and ignoring what lies ahead. But none of these approaches are ultimately very satisfying. I wonder if JC Ryle was onto something all those years ago?

For him and for Christians around the world, the secret of such happiness is not a thing nor a mindset, but a who. A few weeks ago at Christmas we celebrated again the coming of Jesus, 2000 years ago. An irrelevant middle eastern religious leader, or perhaps, "Immanuel – God with us" as the Bible declares it.

This is why JC Ryle, and millions of Christians both before and after him, have been able to do a genuine 360 look at life without distress. Once you have truly discovered that God is with you, it enables you to tackle life differently however much difficulty lies ahead and whatever has passed already. Maybe something worth exploring in 2023?

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Burpham Gardening Club News

January & February

To join the club or our meetings call John Boon on 01483 874123

I wish you all a successful year in your garden and that you will grow plenty of entries for our Summer and Autumn shows. John Boon.

Things to do in the garden in January.

- If you cannot garden because the soil is rain sodden or frosted you can use your time by studying plant catalogues which have arrived in the post on a regular basis.

...remember that this year's novelty seeds are likely to be next year's ordinary seeds.

The same advice applies as when ordering spring flowering bulbs, the larger the plants you buy the better they will be when planted out in May. If you only need a few plants it would probably be better to visit a local nursery such as **Elm Nursery** at Sutton Green in May where you can select your plants first hand.

- New seed varieties which are usually F1 Hybrids are expensive to buy and often difficult to germinate, so look on the back of the packet to see how many seeds you are buying for your money, remember that this year's novelty seeds are likely to be next year's ordinary seeds.

- Whilst the fruit buds are still dormant Apple and Pear trees can be pruned, cut out any congested growth to increase airflow which will improve the quality of next seasons fruit, cut back to a fruit bud which is large and rounded on older growth, one year old shoots should be pruned back to a slender bud.

Things to do in the garden in February.

- Plunge shrivelled Dahlia tubers into a bucket of tepid water overnight, having removed any rotten tubers, they can then be started into growth to provide cuttings for new plants, place the tubers in a seed tray or pot and lightly cover with damp soil.
- Slow germinating annuals such as Antirrhinum and Lobelia should be sown indoors.
- Prune Summer flowering deciduous shrubs such as Buddleia which flower on the current year's growth.
- Cut back Summer and Autumn flowering Clematis to the lowest pair of strong buds.

- Sow Sweet Peas and pot on those sown in the Autumn.
- When it is mild Broad Beans, Carrots and Parsnips can be sown under cloches.

When it is mild Broad Beans, Carrots and Parsnips can be sown under cloches.

- Sow Greenhouse Tomatoes, Cucumbers and Peppers at 21°C.
- Seed Potatoes should be placed on their ends in a light, cool, frost free place to sprout.



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