



# About Town

*Inside:*  
The Snow Queen  
performance details  
Festive events  
Town news

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Issued by Burgess Hill Town Council

No. 156  
Nov 2024

*The Snow Queen comes to Burgess Hill*



*It's  
Christmas!*

**23 NOVEMBER**

**CHURCH WALK  
11AM - 5PM**



01444 247726



[facebook.com/BurgessHillTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/BurgessHillTownCouncil)



[communityteam@burgesshill.gov.uk](mailto:communityteam@burgesshill.gov.uk)

**BurgessHill**  
Town Council

## Message from the Mayor

Over the summer many events have taken place. The weather has mainly been dry and warm - especially important for the fantastic Summer Fayre in June.

I have been fortunate to attend many of the Town Council's free events: tennis coaching at St John's Park, skateboard instruction in Church Walk, continuing the tradition of Wowzer Wednesdays, and not forgetting the popular sand pit.

A thank you also to Mid Sussex District Council for organising the Play Day at Jane's Lane Recreation ground - it was encouraging to see so many community groups involved and an emphasis on recycling and caring for our environment.

Coming up we have our main Christmas event on 23 November, the fantastic Snow Queen performance from Quantum Theatre on 14 December, and many more festivities detailed in the following pages.

### **Edmund Burke (1729-1797)**

"It is a general error to suppose the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare"

Burgess Hill Town Mayor, **Janice Henwood**



## Season's Greetings to Our Residents

As we enter the festive season in Burgess Hill, we are looking forward to new events and initiatives for the town.

We are pleased to welcome the new Chief Executive Officer of Burgess Hill Town Council, Julie Holden - find an introduction on page 9. Julie's appointment follows the retirement of Steve Cridland, who served in the role for 10 years.

There will be an exciting range of events in the lead-up to Christmas and in the New Year. Our cover this month highlights the performance of the Snow Queen, coming to Burgess Hill on 14 December. Plus, gather to watch the Christmas Lights officially being switched on at 'It's Christmas in Burgess Hill' on 23 November, and enjoy a full selection of activities from the Town Council and Burgess Hill community groups, detailed throughout the issue.

Also in this issue, find out the latest from the Town Council Help Point, with new products in the Help Point Shop for your Christmas shopping needs, read about the new Shop Local scheme, and plan your family outings with our Tourist Information team.

We also have news and updates from the Town Council and our local community groups - read on to learn more.

Editor of *About Town*, **Emily Bryant**





## Editorial and Advertising

The next issue will be published in March 2025, the advertising and copy deadlines will be in January, exact dates tbc. Please get in contact in advance of the deadline to reserve space.

### Contact Details:

Advertising – [advertising@burgesshill.gov.uk](mailto:advertising@burgesshill.gov.uk)

Editorial – [abouttown@burgesshill.gov.uk](mailto:abouttown@burgesshill.gov.uk)

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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](http://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](http://www.burgesshill.gov.uk/events-mailing-list)



## The Snow Queen

Burgess Hill Town Council is funding the **Snow Queen** performance by **Quantum Theatre**, to be held on **Saturday 14 December** at **Cyprus Hall**.



Kay, and his dear friend, Gerda, are devoted to each other but one day a splinter from a demon's mirror lodges in Kay's heart, turning him cruel and cold – and soon the Snow Queen passes, whisking Kay away to her icy palace in the North Pole.

No one knows what's happened to him, but the heartbroken Gerda decides she must set out to find him. A long and dangerous journey ensues and she eventually reaches the Snow Queen's palace. But can her love save Kay and melt his cold Heart?

Performance times are **11am** and **1.30pm**. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Ticket prices are £5 per adult and £1 per child aged 3 and over. Chairs will be provided for adults and children will be sitting on the floor. Ticket price will include a drink and tickets will be available from Saturday 23 November at the Help Point open from 11am.



**BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL  
&  
BURGESS HILL COMMUNITY CRAFTERS MARKET**

**SATURDAY 07 DECEMBER**

**BURGESS HILL TOWN CENTRE  
FROM 10 AM**

**VARIOUS STALLS  
LIVE MUSIC**

**FREE FACE PAINTER (11AM- 2PM)  
MID-SUSSEX RADIO**

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS VISIT :  
[WWW.BURGESSHILL.GOV.UK](http://WWW.BURGESSHILL.GOV.UK)**

**Burgess Hill**    **BHCC**  
Town Council

## Get Your Skates On

To help celebrate Christmas Mid Sussex District Council and New River are delighted to be providing a free to use synthetic **ice rink** for the community, as part of the Burgess Hill festive celebrations at the Martlets. The ice rink will be open each weekend from **Saturday 23 November until Sunday 8 December 2024**. Please keep an eye on [midsussex.gov.uk](http://midsussex.gov.uk) and our social media channels for more details.

**NEW  
RIVER**



## Carers Day

FOR UNPAID CARERS

The annual event will return in Spring 2024,  
at Burgess Hill Girls

Further information will be available  
in the new year.

Keep an eye on our social  
media and website for updates  
or join our mailing list at;

[burgesshill.gov.uk/town-  
community/town-events/events-  
mailing-list/](http://burgesshill.gov.uk/town-community/town-events/events-mailing-list/)

For more info; call 01444 247726 or email  
[Communityteam@burgesshill.com](mailto:Communityteam@burgesshill.com)

Co-organized by  
**Burgess Hill**  
Town Council



**BURGESS HILL**  
— GIRLS —

## Check Your Health Event

Saturday 25 January 2025  
The Triangle Leisure Centre

Let's take care of our health together!



**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**With FREE taster classes available!!**

Further information will be available in the  
new year!  
Keep an eye on our social media and website  
for updates or join our mailing list at;  
[burgesshill.gov.uk/town-community/town-  
events/events-mailing-list/](http://burgesshill.gov.uk/town-community/town-events/events-mailing-list/)

For more information;  
call 01444 247726 or email  
[Communityteam@burgesshill.com](mailto:Communityteam@burgesshill.com)

**Burgess Hill**  
Town Council

## Burgess Hill Christmas Hamper Project

The Christmas Hamper project is an established community project in our town that in 2023 supported 260 families in need, providing a food box that could be collected by a nominating agency, or delivered directly to them. The project is coordinated by the Town Council but is very much a partnership project that has the support of Burgess Hill Community Foodbank; Burgess Hill Youth; The King's Church and Burgess Hill District Lions. The Lions and the Foodbank contribute financially to the project too. This year we are pleased to confirm

the support of Steve Willis Training who have agreed to financially sponsor the Hamper boxes for the next three years. The project team are grateful for their support and secures the project up until 2026.

If you would like to contribute to the project please drop any of the items to either the **Help Point** or the **Kings Church Foyer**. The Help Point will also be open to receive donations on Saturday 23 November between 12 noon and 4pm and have your face painted for free!

## Folders Meadow Play Area Gets a Revamp

Families and children have something new to smile about as Burgess Hill Town Council announce the installation of brand-new play equipment at Folders Meadow Play Area. This vibrant upgrade promises to provide endless hours, fun and excitement for children up to the age of 14 years old.

The newly installed equipment includes a log pick-up sticks climber, mini target wall & basketball and cableway. There is also a wheelchair accessible seesaw and interactive play panels so children of all abilities can participate in the fun. A dip bar is a welcome addition to the adult green gym equipment.

To celebrate the opening of the revamped play area, Burgess Hill Town Mayor, Councillor Janice

Henwood, along with the Leader of Burgess Hill Town Council, Councillor Peter Williams and fellow Town Councillors, officially opened the new play equipment.

The total budget for these improvements was £45k funded by developer contributions allocated to this play area.

The Town Council maintains Folders Meadow Play Area on behalf of the Fields in Trust, with the last major upgrade in 2012. The Fields in Trust champions and supports parks and green spaces by protecting them for people to enjoy in perpetuity. When visiting Folders Meadow Play Area, please be considerate to neighbouring properties by either walking, cycling, or use public transport to get there.



## More Virgin Media Boxes Get a Makeover

More artworks are gracing the streets around Burgess Hill with local artists painting their designs on Virgin Media telecommunication boxes.

Local resident and art teacher Richard Black has painted his design of the 'Old Gasholder', originally opened in 1950 and decommissioned in 2004, on the cabinet on Leylands Road, opposite Lidl.

Local artist Betty Le Bon also painted her rugby themed design on the cabinet at Royal George Road, corner with Denham Road. Her son plays at Burgess Hill Rugby Club.

Burgess Hill Town Council entered an agreement with Virgin Media to give some of their grey telecommunication's boxes around the town a makeover.



## A New Initiative by the Leader of Burgess Hill Town Council

When Councillor Peter Williams became Leader of the Town Council in May 2024, he pledged to increase the Council's communication with residents, so as to take away the misinformation that has been fuelled by a lack of knowledge and facts about the many issues that face Burgess Hill.



With this in mind, he has set up a new page on the Council's website entitled 'Updates from the Leader'. Peter explained "There will be regular updates on all manner of issues, which will be thoroughly researched and written, in the form of easy-to-read illustrated articles. Each will be numbered so you will be able to see which one is the latest".

Resident response so far has been very positive and Peter said "I will continue with my updates for as long as necessary and hope that my pledge will inspire those that follow me, into the future"

Whilst a website page can be accessed by those who have the means of doing so, if other residents would like to see Peter's updates, please call in to the **Help Point** at Church Walk where they can be displayed on the public computer screen.

[www.burgesshill.gov.uk/updates-from-the-leader/](http://www.burgesshill.gov.uk/updates-from-the-leader/)



# Burgess Hill Town Council Welcomes our New Chief Executive Officer, Julie Holden

**Burgess Hill Town Council welcomed our new Chief Executive Officer Julie Holden on 17 September.**

Moving from East Grinstead Town Council where she has held the position of Clerk for the past 13 years, she stated that she was delighted to move to Burgess Hill and take on the challenge of her home Town Council: "Burgess Hill is a wonderful town, yes, we have our challenges, but when we look to the level of services being delivered at our Town Council with immediate effect to the people who live here, there is a lot to be proud of and I look forward to continuing to develop the services and the work of the Council Team."

Julie has lived in Burgess Hill for 30 years, is married and loves to spend time on walks in the area with her two dogs.

Julie succeeds Steve Cridland who retired at the end of August after 10 years in the role.



## Development of Phase 2 of the Burial Ground

The existing burial ground (phase 1), managed by the Town Council, was opened in June 2004 and has provided a respectful and serene final resting place for residents of Burgess Hill. Within the next two to three years, it will start to reach capacity and we are now looking to develop the site immediately adjacent to the existing ground to provide a peaceful and sympathetically designed setting for the next 30 years.

Planning is at the early stage and the Town Council has appointed a consultant to assist with the design layout of this new phase. Costs of the development are estimated to be up to £300k and the Town Council will be seeking a loan from the Public Works Loan Board to fund the project.



## Shop Local This Christmas!

**Burgess Hill Town Council has launched an annual Shop Local campaign to encourage residents to shop locally this Christmas.**



Here at Burgess Hill Town Council, we strongly believe in supporting the town's local businesses and by choosing to shop locally this Christmas, you are showing your support for these businesses, the town's economy and reducing your carbon footprint.

Shop Local is an exciting reward scheme where shoppers using local businesses signed up to the scheme will be entered into a Christmas prize draw. Shoppers can collect a loyalty card and FREE tote bag from Burgess Hill Town Council's Help Point, or one of the participating traders, and can then start collecting stamps whilst shopping across Burgess Hill.

31 shops and businesses within Burgess Hill are participating in the scheme which celebrates the town and its community. When out and about doing their Christmas shopping, customers collect a stamp when they buy something in one of the participating shops. Once they have collected just six stamps, they are entered into a free prize draw to win a host of gifts generously donated by the shops across the town.

The scheme started on Monday 2 September 2024. The prize draw will be made by the Burgess Hill Town Mayor on 20 December 2024, with winners being invited to collect their prizes before Christmas.

If you would like to find out more about this scheme or sign your business up, please contact the [Help Point Team](#) directly on **01444 247726** / [helppoint@burgesshill.gov.uk](mailto:helppoint@burgesshill.gov.uk).

## Lloyds Bank Launches Community Banking Service Following Branch Closure

**Following the recent closure of Lloyds Bank on Church Road, the bank has introduced a new initiative to ensure continued support for its customers in Burgess Hill. Lloyds has launched a community banking service, now available every Wednesday from 9 am to 3 pm at the Burgess Hill Town Council Help Point.**

This weekly service aims to provide essential

banking assistance to local residents who may have been affected by the branch closure. Although there is no cash facility available, customers can access a range of services, including help with account enquiries – both personal and business.

For further information, visit the [Help Point](#) or [Lloyds' online services](#).

# Tourist Information

**As the days grow shorter and the crisp air of autumn turns into winter's chill, there's no better time to explore the hidden gems close to home in Sussex.**

## Discover the Green Circle Network

Why not start by venturing into the Green Circle Network? This wonderful ring of green spaces and footpaths winds around and within town, offering the perfect opportunity for a scenic autumn or winter walk. With the whole family in tow, you can make the experience extra fun for the kids by using our **Children's Spotter Guide** to identify local wildlife

## National Trust Winter Wonders

For a truly magical experience, consider visiting one of Sussex's **National Trust properties**. Many of these historic houses and gardens, including **Standen House, Sheffield Park, and Wakehurst Place**, are transformed into enchanting winter

wonderlands, complete with sparkling light trails. Wander through beautifully lit gardens, explore festive displays inside grand historic homes, and experience the charm of these beloved estates in all their seasonal glory.

## Stay Up-to-Date with Sussex Events

We've been working hard to showcase the incredible selection of events and attractions happening across Sussex this winter and beyond. Be sure to visit our updated website and in-house resources to plan your perfect day out, whether it's a family-friendly activity, a cultural outing, or a peaceful nature walk. From local markets and festivals to holiday light displays, there's always something new and exciting to discover.

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



## Help Point Shop

### Looking for unique gifts?

Our Help Point shop offers a fantastic selection of locally produced goods, from ceramics and hand-crafted cards to candles and tea towels. With the Christmas countdown on, you'll find something special for everyone on your list! All items are sourced from talented local artists, authors, brewers, craftsmen, and confectioners. Stop by and discover some perfect treasures today!

Visit us before 20 December to take advantage of



the Shop Local scheme; collect stamps on your card and get it entered into the draw!

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](mailto:helppoint@burgesshill.gov.uk) or pop into the **Help Point, 96 Church Walk, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AS**.

01444 472700

[info@tishawssolicitors.co.uk](mailto:info@tishawssolicitors.co.uk)  
[tishawssolicitors.co.uk](http://tishawssolicitors.co.uk)

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Initial meeting £100 (incl. VAT)  
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# Burgess Hill Town Council Help Point Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

**Monday 23 December** - 9am - 5pm

**Tuesday 24 December** - 9am - 12.30pm

**Wednesday 25 December** - Closed

**Thursday 26 December** - Closed

**Friday 27 December** - Closed

**Saturday 28 December** - Closed

**Sunday 29 December** - Closed

**Monday 30 December** - Closed

**Tuesday 31 December** - Closed

**Wednesday 1 January** - Closed

**Thursday 2 January** - 9am - 5pm

**Friday 3 January** - 9am - 4.30pm

During the Christmas period, Help Point surgeries will be limited. You are advised to check with the Help Point before attending on **01444 247726**.



## Festive Rubbish and Recycling Collection

Recycling and rubbish collection will be altered over the festive period.

To check your collection times, visit:

[http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/  
waste-recycling](http://www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling)

## Help Point Surgeries

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

### Tuesday

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

**Outside Clinic Audiology:**  
**0808 239 3936**

**Workability:**  
**01243 546035**

### Wednesday

**Lloyds Community Banker: 9am - 3pm**  
**Drop-in service**

### Friday

**Outside Clinic Audiology:**  
**0808 239 3936**

### Daily Monday - Friday

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



## 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

**BurgessHill**  
Town Council

### 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.

## 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](mailto:council@burgesshill.gov.uk) or pop in to 96 Church Walk.



# New Nature Corridor Scheme to Reconnect Ancient Woodlands

**The Lost Woods of the Low Weald and Downs project is calling for landowners to sign-up to a new nature corridor creation scheme, which will help to reconnect ancient woodlands across a 314 sq km area spanning from Lewes to Storrington.**

The Woodland Trust-led partnership project is looking for sections of land that can be either planted or left to naturally recolonise with trees and shrubs, which will allow wildlife to move more freely between ancient woodland habitats and boost biodiversity.

Ancient woodlands (woodlands which have existed since 1600) are the richest and most complex habitats in the country. Once vast, they now cover just 2.5% of the UK and are home to more threatened species than any other.

Bob Epsom, Outreach adviser for the Woodland Trust, said: "Over the past century we've lost much of our ancient woodlands in Sussex due to intensive agriculture and expanding development. This project is really exciting as it aims to link some of the pockets of ancient woodlands that are remaining across the Low Weald.

"For landowners, there are so many benefits of getting involved. Trees reduce flooding, prevent soil erosion in farming, and provide shelter

and shade for livestock. Hedging creates more homes for wildlife. Together, we can make a real difference to biodiversity levels in the area and help some of our most at-risk species."

Interested landowners will receive free advice on the best way to create wooded habitat on their land, and volunteer help with planting trees or hedges can be arranged.

The Lost Woods team is also supporting landowners with the application process for woodland creation funding, including the Woodland Trust's subsidised **MOREwoods** and **MOREhedges** schemes.

If you are a landowner interested in joining the scheme, or a volunteer who would like to help with planting, please visit [www.lostwoods.org.uk](http://www.lostwoods.org.uk) or email [lostwoods@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:lostwoods@woodlandtrust.org.uk).

The Lost Woods project is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund and is a partnership project between The Woodland Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Small Woods Association and Action in Rural Sussex.

As well as restoring woodlands, the project is offering woodland management training courses, and supporting disadvantaged community groups in Sussex to access nature.



## Sing with The Sussex Harmonisers this Christmas!

As in recent years, **The Sussex Harmonisers** are inviting all adults to join a series of rehearsals to sing Christmas songs in four-part, unaccompanied harmony. The rehearsals will culminate in a concert at **St John's Church** in Burgess Hill. Attendance at both the rehearsals and the concert is free – it's a great opportunity to try a cappella versions of songs in a friendly environment!

Rehearsals:  
**Tuesdays 12 November to 3 December, 7:30pm to 9:00pm**  
**Woodlands Meed College, Birchwood Grove Rd, Burgess Hill RH15 0DP**



(If women can't attend on Tuesday evenings, they could come along to our female-voice chorus **Sussex A Cappella** on Monday evenings at The King's Centre – contact us for details.)

Concert:  
**St John the Evangelist Church, Lower Church Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AA**  
**Tuesday 10 December, 7:30pm**  
 Free entry, refreshments available, retiring collection in aid of the church and club charities

Further information:

[www.sussexharmonisers.org.uk](http://www.sussexharmonisers.org.uk) or email [contact@sussexharmonisers.org.uk](mailto:contact@sussexharmonisers.org.uk)

### ART EXHIBITION CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

**SATURDAY 23rd**

**NOVEMBER 10am - 4pm**

**St John's Church**

**Burgess Hill**

For more info please contact us via our website

@burgesshillartists.co.uk or DM us on Facebook [burgesshillartists](https://www.facebook.com/burgesshillartists)

Original Local  
 Art, prints and Cards.  
 Café open for  
 refreshments





# Burgess Hill Choral Society Christmas Concert

Get into the Christmas spirit at Burgess Hill Choral Society's forthcoming concert when we shall be performing Saint-Saëns' moving Christmas **Oratorio** and Chilcott's celebratory **On Christmas Night**. The event includes professional soloists and the choir will be accompanied by South Downs Sinfonia who will also be playing Corelli's **Christmas Concerto**. In addition, there will be carols for choir and audience.

In **On Christmas Night**, Chilcott presents a sequence of eight original carols in which he incorporates traditional melodies within his own settings which results in a work of many moods ranging from reflective to jubilant. He also uses lots of different musical styles, from jazz to folk music.



**Burgess Hill Choral Society**

**Christmas Oratorio**  
Saint Saens

**On Christmas Night**  
Chilcott

**Christmas Concerto**  
Corelli

and Carols for  
Choir and audience

Conductor: Michael Stefan Wood  
South Downs Sinfonia Leader: Jonathan Truscott

**Saturday 7th December 2023 7.30 p.m.**      **St Andrew's Church Burgess Hill**

Tickets: £15.00 in advance, £17.00 on the door under 18s £5.00  
Burgess Hill Help Point, [www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshillchoral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshillchoral)  
07522 493966 or on the door

Reg. Charity no. 276759

The Honorary Richardo Taylor  
Charitable Trust

making music

Saint-Saëns' Christmas **Oratorio** is widely loved for its simple lyrical beauty; it is a work which includes drama as well as gentle passages and leaves listeners with a sense of joy.

The concert takes place on **Saturday 7 December at 7.30p.m.** at **St Andrew's Church, Burgess Hill, RH15 0LG**. Tickets (£15 in advance, £17 on the door, £5 students and under-18s) are available at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshillchoral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshillchoral), from Burgess Hill **Help Point**, on the door, by phone **07522 493966**, or visit our website at [www.burgesshillchoral.org](http://www.burgesshillchoral.org).



## Burgess Hill Community Crafters' Market

BHCCM is an indoor market started in April 2022 to provide an opportunity to the hand crafting community. Running quarterly, it provides a dry undercover space for crafters to showcase their talents.

BHCCM is a not for profit organisation, putting the money made from table hire back into the community - we provide FREE crafting activities days to local children.

Join us for our festive market on Saturday 7 December 10am - 3pm at The Kiln, in the Martlets, Burgess Hill.

## Burgess Hill Pantry Reverse Advent Calendar is Back

Burgess Hill Pantry supports those who are struggling to feed themselves and their families in Burgess Hill and the surrounding area.

We always have a waiting list and need the support of our community to continue to offer the service. If you are looking for something different to do this festive season and want to help, our Reverse Advent Calendar is back.

Last year we had a huge response from the community which kept our shelves stocked through the hungry gap in the early months of this year. Unlike the usual advent calendar this one asks you to put a different item each day into a bag during December and bring them to the Pantry.

We are also running our coat swap again this year. If you have a coat that you no longer need, adults or childrens, or children's Christmas jumpers then please bring them to us in the **Martlets** next to New Look. Anyone who needs a warm coat is welcome to come in and take one off the rails too!



**Burgess Hill Pantry**  
**Reverse Advent**

DONATE AN ITEM A DAY TO THOSE IN NEED  
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS CHRISTMAS

1 DEC Jam/Pickle	2 DEC Biscuits	3 DEC Squash	4 DEC Coffee	5 DEC UHT Milk
6 DEC Pasta Sauce	7 DEC Tinned Fruit	8 DEC Teabags	9 DEC Tinned Tomatoes	10 DEC Sweet Treat
11 DEC Shower Gel	12 DEC Ketchup or Brown Sauce	13 DEC Longlife Juice	14 DEC Washing Up Liquid	15 DEC Tinned Dessert
16 DEC Tinned Meat	17 DEC Pasta	18 DEC Toilet Rolls	19 DEC Toothpaste	20 DEC Cereal

PLEASE BRING YOUR COMPLETED CALENDAR TO  
THE PANTRY, 25-29 THE MARTLETS BURGESS HILL

WE ARE OPEN  
19 DEC 10-12.30PM AND 1.30-4PM  
20 DEC 9.30-11.30PM  
21 DEC 10-12P

WE RE-OPEN ON 3RD JANUARY  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO 1191035

## Could You Be Our Next Rotary Youth Leader Applicant?

On 29 August, the Burgess Hill Rotarians gathered for breakfast at Mid-Sussex Golf Club. We hold this event once a month at 9:30 am, inviting speakers to share their insights.

On this occasion, we welcomed Mikey B. In 2022, Burgess Hill Rotary sponsored Mikey to attend an activity week organised by Surrey County Council. He shared that the week had given him the courage to push himself towards higher goals, confidence in leading

others, and long-lasting friendships with fellow participants.

We are now seeking another individual aged 14–18 who would like to attend this exciting course next summer. Are you up for the challenge? If so, please contact us via our website:

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1441>

## Making a Difference: Burgess Hill and District Rotary Club

**The Burgess Hill and District Rotary Club is a vibrant hub for individuals eager to make a positive impact in our community and beyond. We meet twice a month in a local pub or golf club for a meal and a chat, and twice a month on Zoom. It's a friendly gathering where we share ideas and laughter!**

Over the past year, we've dedicated ourselves to youth engagement, holding competitions such as Young Musician of the Year and supporting the Youth Debating Team. Our events, including 3 car boot sales, 3 quiz nights, and a spectacular camel racing night (yes, wooden camels on wheels!), have been a hit. Not to mention, we've also lent a hand to Santa with his sleigh runs during the festive season.

We are proud of the funds we've raised for local charities, including St Peter and St James Hospice, Burgess Hill Girl Guides, and Sussex Air Ambulance. Our crowning achievement, however, was an impressive £11,000 donation to Water Survival Boxes.

We're always welcoming new members to join our merry band of do-gooders, so why not get in touch via our website? As we prepare to help Santa once again this year, don't forget - electronic donations are now a breeze! Our first night out is **Thursday 28 November**.

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=1441>



## Autumn Treats from the BHSO

For their autumn concert on 23 November, the Burgess Hill Symphony Orchestra are offering their loyal audience a number of musical treats.

The concert will open with the well-loved *Hebrides Overture* (also known as "Fingal's Cave") by Felix Mendelssohn. This piece captures the majesty of the hexagonal basalt columns and impressive sea caves on the island of Staffa, as well as the decidedly mixed emotions one might feel while admiring these natural wonders from a small boat on the open sea!

Schumann's joyous *Konzertstück* ("Concert Piece") for Four Horns and Orchestra (Op. 86) features four solo French horns. This piece takes full advantage of the new possibilities offered by the

recently-developed (in 1850) valve horn, which in contrast to the natural horn is fully chromatic. BHSO's own Christopher Newport and Jeanie Teasdale will be joined as soloists by guest players John Peskett and Lizzie Faulkner.

The comic ballet *Pineapple Poll* was written by John Cranko with musical arrangement by Charles Mackerras. It is based on a story written by W.S. Gilbert. All the music is by Sir Arthur Sullivan, and BHSO will be playing a number of these pieces, which we are sure will be familiar to our audience.

César Franck had a long and distinguished career as an organist, teacher and composer, mainly of organ and piano works, in nineteenth century France. This evening we present his only full-length symphony, *Symphony in D minor*. This is a rare chance to hear a piece which was credited with reviving the French symphonic tradition. It took Franck three years to write, and was first performed in 1889.

The concert will take place on 23 November in St Andrew's Church, Junction Road, Burgess Hill and will start at 7.30pm.

**Burgess Hill Symphony Orchestra**  
 President: Katie Derham  
 Conductor: **Michael Stefan Wood BEM**  
 Leader: Richard Sutcliffe

Hebrides Overture F. Mendelssohn  
 Symphony in D C. Franck  
 Pineapple Poll Suite A. Sullivan arr. Mackerras  
 Concert Piece for 4 Horns and Orchestra R. Schumann



**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November St Andrew's Church  
 2024 7.30p.m. Burgess Hill**

Tickets £16.00. (£18.00 on the door)  
 Students/Under 16s £5.00 Burgess Hill Help Point 01444 232067 bhs0.org.uk/box-office

Charity no. 1048597

### Growing old is mandatory....

but what do you want out of your later years?

What do you hope for and what do you fear?

What does growing old mean for you, how are you planning for it and can it be celebrated?

Come and join a 10 week therapeutic group to discuss ageing. Starting in Burgess Hill in Jan 2025.

£10 per session. For more information, contact

Sheila Pope on 07792100390 or

sheilapopercounsellor@gmail.com

# Neighbourly Care is Looking for Volunteers

Neighbourly Care is a charitable organisation founded in 2008 by councillor Anne Jones MBE.



It is run entirely by volunteers and our aim is to make our community a better and more caring place. We provide practical help to housebound or isolated older people, people who are sick or disabled, people who are lonely, parents with young children, or people in sudden crisis. We work within Burgess Hill, Hassocks, Keymer, Hurstpierpoint, and surrounding areas.

Our services include befriending (either through visiting or by phone), shopping, local transport, light help around the home, minor household repairs and small gardening jobs. All services are free, though donations are much appreciated. It is important to emphasise that we do not provide nursing or personal care.

We are currently keen to recruit more volunteers. The skills that volunteers require are friendliness, kindness, patience, enjoyment of other people's company, and, ideally, the ability to drive, though this isn't essential.

We ask anyone interested in becoming a volunteer to phone **07876 066 368** or email [neighbourlycare@outlook.com](mailto:neighbourlycare@outlook.com). All volunteers will be asked to complete a DBS check and paperwork, and undertake a brief induction.

Our website is [www.neighbourlycare.co.uk](http://www.neighbourlycare.co.uk)

# A Vision to Refurbish Park Centre

The trustees of Park Centre Burgess Hill have set out a vision to fully refurbish Park Centre bringing the building up to date, fully repaired, accessible to all and transformed into a building Burgess Hill can be proud of for many years to come.

Constructed in 1872, the building was donated to Burgess Hill by the local philanthropist Emily Temple. Working with local Chartered Surveyors and architectural consultants, the trustees aim to reopen the building by 2025. By phasing the refurbishment, they plan to ensure that the Centre remains a vibrant hub for the community throughout the renovation process.

The trustees said: "We envisage Park Centre being a thriving youth and community centre, hosting services such as local youth clubs, mental health drop in, youth theatre, indoor sports, dance groups and so much more."

"We are seeking your assistance in the restoration, renovation, and reopening of Park Centre. Every contribution, regardless of size, plays a significant role. Thank you for your unwavering support in revitalising Park Centre into a vibrant and inclusive space for all once more."

Find out how to help by emailing [info@parkcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@parkcentre.org.uk) or visiting [www.parkcentre.org.uk](http://www.parkcentre.org.uk).



# Recycle Your Christmas Tree and Change a Child's Life Today

**You can't beat the magic of a real Christmas tree, during the festive period! Those celebrating Christmas in style will be pleased to know that Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity will be running its annual Christmas Tree Recycling campaign in January 2025.**

In return for a donation, we will collect your tree direct from your drive, or front gate and take it for recycling. Collections will be undertaken on **Saturday 4, Sunday 5 and Monday 6 January**. All you need to do is put your Christmas tree outside your house, make a donation and we'll do the rest. So long as the tree is easily visible and accessible, you don't need to wait in for us.

Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity supports children under the age of five with cerebral palsy and other motor learning impairments, helping them to have the best possible start in life, and providing families with the support and skills to continue their child's development at home.

This Christmas, we're asking people to support children like Molly.

Born in 2021 by emergency C-Section at 37 weeks, Molly suffered a prolonged period of oxygen loss (HIE), resulting in severe brain damage and a lifetime of challenges. When she was 6-months old, her parents were told about Dame Vera Lynn Children's Charity. Molly attends physiotherapy sessions, swimming, music and enjoys her home play sessions.

Currently helping over 80 families a week, all our services are provided free of charge to children just like Molly. With your help, we can change more lives.

For your Christmas Tree recycling collection, simply **book before midnight on Thursday 2 January 2025**, either online or over the phone.

Please visit our donation page (<https://dvlcc.org.uk/events/christmas-tree-recycling/>) and **reference XMASTREE** in the message section. Alternatively, please call **01444 473274** (9am – 5pm) and donations can be made over the phone.

For further information please visit [dvlcc.org.uk](https://dvlcc.org.uk).



**BURGESS HILL GIRLS**

## Senior Citizens' Christmas Tea Party

THURS 28 NOV 2.15-3.45PM  
CROFT II PERFORMANCE, BURGESS HILL GIRLS

Tickets must be booked in advance, via Burgess Hill Town Council in person at 96 Church Walk or by calling 01444 247726

**PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO ONSITE PARKING**

Supported by **Burgess Hill** Town Council

# Have you seen the beautifully painted Virgin Media boxes around the town?

Did you know they were commissioned by Burgess Hill Town Council?



We would like to see more boxes painted, so if you would like to submit a design, scan the QR code or visit [burgesshill.gov.uk/virgin-media-boxes/](http://burgesshill.gov.uk/virgin-media-boxes/) for more information



\*Prices quoted exclude VAT & are available to customers with a long term medical condition.

# Clearwell mobility



*Making Life Easier*



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today!

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Mobility Scooters  
From **£799\***



Powerchairs  
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Stairlifts  
From **£1,790\***

[www.clearwellmobility.co.uk](http://www.clearwellmobility.co.uk)