

**THE  
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE**



**BURHAM**

**WOULDHAM**

**PETERS VILLAGE**

**DECEMBER 2020**

**&**

**JANUARY 2021**



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Produced and delivered by local volunteers.*

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PARISH OF BURHAM & WOULDHAM**  
**All Saints Church, Wouldham**

**RECTOR—Rev'd Mike Hayes**

*Usual working days are on Thursdays, Fridays & Sundays.*

**Tel: 07964 697556**

**E-mail: [mikejhayes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikejhayes@hotmail.co.uk)**

**CHURCH WEBSITE: [www.wouldhamchurch.org.uk](http://www.wouldhamchurch.org.uk)**

*Unfortunately at present the Church must be kept locked but arrangements for access can be made by contacting one of the Church Wardens:*

<i>Church Wardens</i>	<i>Mr Tim Reed Mr Ken Kirk</i>	<i>Tel. 01634 666895 Tel: 07818 361608</i>
<i>Baptisms</i>	<i>Mrs Gwen Worcester.</i>	<i>Tel. 01634 672060</i>
<i>Weddings</i>	<i>Mrs Catherine Gore.</i>	<i>Tel. 01634 404742</i>
<i>Church Safeguarding officer</i>	<i>Mrs Helen Wells</i>	<i>Tel. 01634 685935 <a href="mailto:hwells2@btinternet.com">hwells2@btinternet.com</a></i>
<i>Monuments &amp; Churchyard Enquiries</i>	<i>Rev'd Mike Hayes</i>	<i>Tel: 07964 697556</i>
<i>Church Flowers</i>	<i>Mrs Catherine Gore.</i>	<i>Tel. 01634 404742</i>
<i>Bell Ringing</i>	<i>Ms Tina Miles</i>	<i>Tel: 07967 795913</i>
<i>Church Treasurer</i>	<i>Mrs Nicky Grimes.</i>	<i>Tel. 01634 864319</i>
<i>Church Secretary</i>	<i>Mrs Gwen Worcester</i>	<i>Tel. 01634 672060</i>
<i>Church Magazine Editor</i>	<i>Mrs Mary Davis.</i>	<i>Tel. 01634 869650 <a href="mailto:zero.mexdavis247@btinternet.com">zero.mexdavis247@btinternet.com</a></i>

**View the Magazine online:**

**Church Website: [www.wouldhamchurch.org.uk](http://www.wouldhamchurch.org.uk)**

**Wouldham Parish Council: [www.wouldhampc.com](http://www.wouldhampc.com)**

**Burham Parish Council: [www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk)**

If you would like to receive **The Diocese of Rochester Newsletter**, go to the link here for the E-Newsletter:

**<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/communications/diocesan-publications/enewsletter/>**

# CHURCH OF ENGLAND WORSHIP

REV'D MIKE HAYES



Dear friends

We have just entered the churches season of Advent. I think this year will be the most meaningful Advent of our lifetimes.

Because Advent is all about waiting in hope.

Yes, that means waiting in hope for the coming of Christ, recalling the first Christmas, and looking forward to Christ's coming again.

But the context this year is also the waiting in hope for deliverance from the coronavirus, together with prayers for scientists and doctors working on vaccines and treatments.

In Christian tradition waiting is not boring, it's not about kicking our heels wishing something else was going on. Rather it's about living in the present moment, and living life to the full whatever restrictions may be in place.

We can celebrate Christmas whatever happens. Some of the things we always do may not be possible this year. There will be new possibilities, new traditions may spring up. And simpler celebrations may be good for the planet.

So I pray that this Advent we will all be blessed, and will find it to be a time of hope and joy and peace for all of us, not least because we can share hope and joy and peace in acts of love and kindness to those around us.

After all, that was the main purpose of Jesus coming at Christmas, and an outbreak of love and kindness would be an amazing cause for celebration.

Traditionally in church we light a candle on an advent ring decorated with holly and ivy, one candle for each of the 4 Sundays of advent, and another for Christmas day.

Wishing for all of us, light in darkness,

*In peace, Mike*

# Merry Christmas



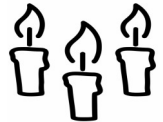
*Our magazine wishes everyone a peaceful, happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year*

*Heather & John Lloyd wish all our friends and neighbours A Happy and Safe Christmas*



## CANDLE PRAYER TIME

Troubled times .....  
but your churches are here for you  
.....ask for a prayer for yourself or others .....



..... contact Gwen Worcester on 01634 672060 or [mikejhayes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikejhayes@hotmail.co.uk) to add your prayer request for our Candle Prayer Time group to say in their homes on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm.

Join them also in prayer with a lighted candle from your home. With much love to all in Wouldham, Burham & Peters Village. From all at All Saints and The Church in Burham



# CHURCH OF ENGLAND SERVICES

All Saints Wouldham.



## DECEMBER & JANUARY SERVICES

*Provisional arrangements may change if further restrictions are announced.*

**Every Sunday at 10.30 Holy Communion at All Saints.**

People can attend in person or follow on ZOOM. To request the ZOOM link please send an email to [mikejhaves@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikejhaves@hotmail.co.uk)

As you enter the church please wear a mask, scan the NHS check and trace barcode on your phone and show to the Welcomer, or give your name and phone number. (which will be kept for 21 days). Please maintain distancing while entering the church, use sanitiser as you go in, and wait to be shown where to sit. Congregational singing is not allowed at present. The organ and soloist lead while others must hum.

**December 6th Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 13th Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

**Sunday, 20th December. DIY Christingle kits can be collected from the church between 12 and 2pm** and can be delivered on request to the housebound and those socially isolating

**Online giving to the Childrens Society is encouraged this year**

**Online Christingle Service can be found via the website:**

**[www.wouldhamchurch.org.uk](http://www.wouldhamchurch.org.uk)**

**Thursday, 24th December,**

**1-5pm Church Open for individual prayer**

**11.30pm Midnight Mass (in church & on ZOOM)**

**Friday, 25th December, 10.30 Christmas Morning Service**

**December 27th First Sunday of Christmas**

**January 3rd Second Sunday of Christmas**

**January 10th The Baptism of Christ**

**January 17th The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

**January 24th The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

**January 31st The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**



# DECEMBER & JANUARY

## Services at The Church in Burham (Methodist)



Dear friends,

‘What are you doing for Christmas this year?’ For many of us, never before has this casual question been loaded with so many hopes, fears and uncertainties. As I write, England is in the midst of a second national lockdown, instigated (according to some media sources) with the aim of ‘saving Christmas.’ News has recently emerged of vaccines with a success rate of up to 95%, sparking hope among those desperate to spend Christmas with their extended families. At present, it is impossible to know what restrictions will be in place come the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. But one thing we know for certain – Christmas does not need to be ‘saved.’ However we are able to celebrate, the story at the heart of Christmas remains unchanged – the story of our God who loved us so much that he took on flesh and was born in a stable. Perhaps the uncertainty of this year might help us to appreciate the story in new ways – why not watch [this short film from 2016](#), about the uncertainties Mary and Joseph experienced on that first Christmas?

When the current lockdown lifts, and churches are once again permitted to hold in-person services, we would love for you to join us for **worship at the Church in Burham every Sunday at 10.30am.**

Alternatively, we would be delighted to see you at one of our **online circuit services every Sunday at 10.30am.** You can also dial in and listen to these services by phone, if you are not online. There won’t be a service on Christmas Day at the Church in Burham; however, we would love to see you at our online act of worship. See :

<https://www.nkmethodists.org.uk/news/invitation-to-worship-from-home.html> of all online services.

We are also continuing to offer a **fortnightly dial-in service**, especially for those without the Internet, on alternate Thursdays at 10am. If you would like to join us, please contact me using the details at the end.

Although everyone’s Christmas plans are subject to change, we’re delighted to announce our plans for the much-loved village Christingle on Christmas Eve.

*Continued.....*

*Continued.....*

You can find all the details below – please do come and collect a DIY Christingle bag, join us on Zoom to build your Christingle, and post photos of it afterwards in our Facebook group. We look forward to celebrating with you again this year – albeit in a slightly different way!

## **Christingle at the Church in Burham – Christmas Eve 2020**

You are warmly invited to...

- Collect a **‘DIY Christingle’ bag** from outside the church between 10am and 12 noon on Christmas Eve
- Join us for a **service on Zoom** (see link below) at 2pm on Christmas Eve, in which we’ll have stories and songs, and will be building our Christingles
- **Post photos of your Christingle** on our designated Facebook group and display yours (unlit!) in your window for others to see. Please note that this is a public group, and so all photos and details posted will be available for anyone to see:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/806983793210099>

**Details for Zoom service at 2pm on Christmas Eve:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84867769347?  
pwd=VUMrUHByZWWhCd2ptejArWmpPaGpkdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84867769347?pwd=VUMrUHByZWWhCd2ptejArWmpPaGpkdz09)

**Meeting ID: 848 6776 9347**  
**Passcode: 887689**

**Or dial 0203 481 5237 and enter the Meeting ID and  
Passcode followed by #**



**THE CHURCH IN BURHAM (Methodist),  
Church Street, Burham  
MINISTER The Revd Naomi Oates  
Tel: 01732875072 or 07485072407  
Email: [naomi.oates@methodist.org.uk](mailto:naomi.oates@methodist.org.uk)**

**Every  
Blessing**

*Stewards: Eileen Smith Tel. 01634867022  
Joyce Brown Tel. 01634864413  
Rod Murr Tel. 0163486807*

*Requests for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals to:  
Rev Naomi Oates or one of the Stewards.*



## THE CHURCH IN BURHAM (Methodist)

A few years ago when some maintenance work was being carried, the workmen found a large banner in the basement. By good fortune, a member of the Church, who unfortunately is no longer with us, found a photo of the Sunday School, holding the banner. We don't know exactly how old the banner is, but in the photo there is a picture of a young lad whose name is on the War Memorial having died in the First World War.

Unfortunately when the banner was found, it had suffered some damage due to damp, with the tassels rotten and a small hole in it. Money was donated to the Church when Trevor Smith died earlier this year and the Church Council has agreed to put this towards the cost of renovating the banner.

Some experts have assessed the damage and are confident that restoration is possible. We have already had some generous donations towards the cost of the repairs, but we still need to raise about a further £500.

We would welcome any contributions, however small, to enable this project of go forward.

If you would like to give something, please contact :  
**Eileen Smith on 01634 8670322**



A photo of the banner which has been displayed on one of the walls in the Church, which you may have seen when visiting.

## THE HENRY PETERS CHARITY

This charity was set up by Henry Peters in his will around 1912 to be distributed to the sick and poor of Wouldham by the Parish Council. The trustees have agreed that the payments could be used to fund residents getting to and from the doctors' surgery or hospital.

**To apply please contact the Council clerk on 07904281522 or [clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk).**



## THE EDITOR

The Magazine Editor, Mary will be stepping down next summer from the Editorship.

The Magazine is essentially produced and published by the Church for the community and it's stated purpose is *'to promote and enhance the feeling of community within the Parish by publishing information, articles, reports and notices and advertisements that inform, entertain or relate to church, the community and individuals and organisations within it. This will include editorial content which reflects Christian beliefs'*.

The Magazine has for many years delivered every month, with an army of willing volunteers, to every home in the Church Parish of Burham & Wouldham (which includes Peters Village). Regrettably with an increasing population, the cost of production was to become unaffordable and so, while we continue to print and deliver the magazine for people who specifically request one, the magazine now continues as a digital edition on the Church and Parish Council websites.

We are now seeking a new Editor who has a flair and enthusiasm to bring the digital edition 'alive' on the websites with interesting and relevant content—possibly with it's own website. The position has been voluntary but that could change in relation the Magazine's financial situation.

If you have an interest, please contact the Editor to discuss.

## ALL SAINTS CHURCH, WOULDHAM, WEATHERVANE APPEAL

For 218 years the tower at All Saints Church in Wouldham has been surmounted by a fine iron weather vane. Sadly after more than 200 years it is in need of urgent restoration. The church is seeking to raise £2500.00 to enable this to be undertaken by local craftsmen, this will involve removing the weathervane and transporting it, restoring the iron work and the original gilding, finally reinstating atop the tower for another 200 years. Please consider giving a donation towards preserving this beautiful iconic part of our village history. Thank you.

You can donate by visiting:

**[www.https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/weathervanewouldham](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/weathervanewouldham)**



Or, if you prefer, you can send a donation by cheque (*payable to Burham & Wouldham PCC Acc.*)

Send to: Mrs Heather Lloyd, 40 Downs View, Burham, ME1 3RR

I wish to donate £..... to the Weather Vane Appeal.

My name .....

Contact details .....

# RESULTS OF THE WOULDHAM HALLOWEEN COLOURING COMPETITION.

Judged by Eddy and Rose.

"Judging was much harder for this competition and judges decisions are final. Congratulation to all who entered as the Judges poured over the entries for a considerable time.

**Winner of the 3-4 Age Group was Leila Rose aged 3**

**Winner of the 5-6 Age Group was Harley aged 6**

**Winner of the 7-10 Age Group was Iona aged 10**

**Winner of the 11-13 Age Group was Georgia aged 13**

**Special commended prize to Oliver T**

**Winner of the Adult section was Simone, aged 43.**

For the winner of the adult section, I am obviously not a Gentleman as I have put in your age."



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## JOIN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH FOR WOULDHAM

**THE PARISH COUNCIL ARE ORGANISING A NHW. THIS WILL:**

- *Reduce / prevent local crime and disorder*
- *Reduce fear of crime*
- *Address issues relating to antisocial behaviour*
- *Create safer neighbourhoods*
- *Build community spirit and cohesion*
- *Reassure members of the public*
- *Enhance partnership working with other community groups*
- *Assist in the detection and apprehension of criminals through members providing information to the police*
- *Improve quality of life and the local environment*



Whether you are thinking about joining, already a member or leading a scheme or an Association we have a range of crime prevention advice, and support materials to suit your needs.

There is a neighbourhood watch set up in Peters Village which is very successful.

If you want to help keep Wouldham safe please contact:  
[srimmingtonwpc@gmail.com](mailto:srimmingtonwpc@gmail.com) or [clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk)

ST MARY'S CHURCH BURHAM ME1 3XY  
JANUARY 22 & 23 5PM-9PM

# FILAMENTS II

Installation of threads light and projection

ARTISTS

Elizabeth Burman

Karen Crosby

Rosie James

Ruth Payne

Linda Simon



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**





**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION,  
OR TO BOOK,  
PLEASE CONTACT US:**

**Telephone: 01634  
254000**

**Email:  
[info@farleighcoaches.com](mailto:info@farleighcoaches.com)**

**Website:  
[www.farleighcoaches.com](http://www.farleighcoaches.com)**

Alternatively, pop into our  
Travel Office on  
Vicarage Lane, Hoo,  
ME3 9LB

**COMING UP...**

**Eastbourne £1 Bar Break**

Haddon Hall Hotel  
Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February  
3 nights, £189

**Valentines Break**

Hogs Back Hotel & Spa  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February  
2 nights, £199

**Blackpool Inclusive Break**

The Imperial Hotel  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March  
4 nights, £299

**2021 Excursions Programme  
is out now**

DAY EXCURSIONS  
ONE NIGHTERS  
WEEKEND & MID WEEK  
BREAKS  
SHORT & LONG BREAKS  
CITY BREAKS

**GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE**

**OUR MEASURES:**

Temperature Checks  
Hand Sanitisers  
Boarding from back to front  
Disinfectant fogging machine  
Masks to be worn on board  
Social distancing on board

## TONBRIDGE AND MALLING RAMBLERS



Our friendly group is one of 13 Ramblers groups in Kent and part of the national Ramblers walking organisation. Our volunteer leaders offer a variety of walks, mostly on Sunday mornings with additional mid-week rambles each month.

Our walks are usually circular and about 5-6 miles in duration. We explore the beautiful Kent countryside from different starting points within the Tonbridge and Malling area and, occasionally, further afield. New members are welcome, as are those wishing to try us out before joining Ramblers.

Group walks are currently paused until at least 2 December 2020. We will be restarting as soon as we can, dependent upon government guidelines and Ramblers national guidelines.

Meanwhile, to find out more about our group please visit:

**<http://www.tonbridgeandmalligramblers.org.uk>**  
or email **[info@tonbridgeandmalligramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@tonbridgeandmalligramblers.org.uk)**.

I will update again once we're able to restart our group walks.

### **BURHAM UNITED CHARITIES**

**Burham United Charities are a local charitable organisation that provides assistance to those in need living within the old parish boundaries. (i.e. Burham Village and parts of Blue Bell Hill).**

Every year the Charity gives grants towards the Winter Fuel costs of retired villagers on restricted incomes.

**They can also offer one off grants to help alleviate particular instances of hardship for any resident of the parish.**

Parents of school age children may obtain help with some of the costs associated with schooling.

**If you, or someone you know, is on a low income or has an exceptional need which is not provided for by Welfare Benefits, we may be able to help. Contact:**

**Dave Young (01634 867669) or Roger Kiralfy (01634 869900)**

# **BURHAM PARISH COUNCIL/ NEWS DECEMBER/ JANUARY 2020**



Keep up to date with Parish Council business, visit:

**Website: [www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk)**

**Facebook page “Burham Parish Council”**

Another year has nearly passed and what a strange 2020 it's been. Virtual monthly meetings continue with a reduced agenda. Any items not included with these virtual meetings will not be forgotten, just on hold for the time being. Legally we are able to use virtual meetings currently up until May 2021 but it is hoped that face to face meeting can resume before then, when guidance changes.

Whilst the Covid 19 situation continues and we are forced to have Parish Council meetings virtually, as a reminder residents can still join in the meeting. An e-mail address would have to be provided. Any resident wishing to join in should contact me by noon on the Friday before any such meeting to have any questions/queries addressed to council members.

Parking in parish owned car parks which include Bell Lane, Church Street, Village hall and Village Hall overflow: As a reminder all vehicles using these free of charge facilities must be taxed, MOT'd and insured and in a road worthy condition (All of these conditions apply not just some). SORN vehicles are not permitted nor are camper vans/mobile homes. Sleeping/living in vehicles parked in these areas is also not permitted. Random vehicle checks are carried out and if a certain vehicle is found not to comply with the rules, a letter is placed on the vehicle requesting removal. (We have no facilities to trace the owners/registered keepers). If the vehicle is not removed, then the Police are contacted and a letter passed to the Police to pass on to the owner requesting removal,

Whilst I have chased TMBC in relation to the litter picking along the Pilgrims Way (Split road), their response was - mid October - “Sorry I have raised the issue however we still do not have the resources to carry out the work”. I even requested that if we could provide the man power/labour would they be prepared to close the road and was advised “Sorry but this would not be possible. The cost of a total road closure would be very high”. I will continue to chase on a regular basis.

I have also made enquiries again in relation to the Saturday bulky refuse collection via TMBC contractors. No date available when this service will resume.

*continued.....*

*continued.....*

TMBC Parking Action Plan phase 12 (Informal Consultation): Proposed double yellow lines in Bell Lane to stop obstructive parking opposite the disabled bays near surgery, this is a safety priority.

New Court Rd footway/cycleway (breaking up from Church Street to Bell Lane): This was reported to KCC Highways (as the acting authority) back in July. We have been advised that “We (KCC) are currently pursuing revenue streams to fund the work and will update you once we know whether the work will be undertaken this financial year or if it will have to wait until post April 2021” We have now been advised that the work should be carried out on the 3 December for 2 nights from 1900 hrs until 0300 hrs. Highways are carrying out this work outside normal working hours to minimize the disruption to users given there is no alternative footway.

Remembrance Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November: A social distance remembrance service took place at the war memorial at 2pm with the correct Covid 19 processes in place (no Church Service afterwards), which was well attended by over 25 residents.

Via social media, we have managed to secure 6 limited edition (run of 75) commemorative plates from an ex-Burham resident, who left the village 15 years ago. They feature Burham War Memorial, Vinnes Youth Club, Golden Eagle and Church Street, Village Hall, The Old Church and the Church in Church Street. In due course, they will be hung in the Parish Building for residents to view (once the building has re-opened to visitors). We would like to thank Mr. Trevor Rudge, the original owner. Over the last eight months or so with the Covid 19 situation changing rapidly, things can change at very short notice, so just check with me if you need clarification regarding any parish council issues.

**Burham Parish Council would like to wish all our residents a very happy, healthy Christmas and good wishes for 2021.**

Let's all hope that 2021 brings better news than 2020!! Stay Safe!

**If you have any items that you would like the Parish Council to discuss, just give me a call on 01634 685936, e-mail me on [pam@burhampc.co.uk](mailto:pam@burhampc.co.uk) or join in at the next scheduled meeting, which is due 21st December 2020 - Virtual. January 2021 meeting is scheduled for 25th – format of January's meeting (either via MS Teams or normal face to face) to be agreed nearer the time.**

***Pam Saunders – Clerk.***

# WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL DECEMBER/JANUARY

*NEW WEBSITE: [Wouldhampc.com](http://Wouldhampc.com)*



## **WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

We are now having the monthly Parish Council meetings via Zoom. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, if you would like to log in please contact the clerk for the link.

### **NITROUS OXIDE**

Once again this month the use of nitrous oxide in the village has come to the attention of the Parish Council. This is dangerous, if you knew your child was using it you would be worried. Please look at the information we have put into the Community Magazine and stay vigilant.

### **HEIGHT BARRIER**

By now the height barrier should be up in the car park. The PC have many reasons for having to put this up, please see our Facebook page and our website for details.

### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

There are many ways of finding out what the Parish Council do. Our website; [wouldhampc.com](http://wouldhampc.com) has all the minutes of our meetings, financial information and much else with links to other village sites containing many historical photos. We always welcome input from residents. Please contact the clerk if you have any questions or comments.

### **DOG POO**

Yet again we have to ask please pick up after your dogs, it really is disgusting that there is dog poo left on the Recreation Ground and the pavements. If you see someone who does not pick up after their dog and you know who they are please report to the PC and we will forward this onto TMBC who have the power to fine offenders.

### **LITTER WARDEN**

The PC have hired a new litter warden, welcome Liz. She will be working from the top of Village Road to the top of the Rec and everywhere in between. The PC strive to keep the village nice. Which leads me on to:

### **VILLAGE IN BLOOM**

The PC are going to support Village in Bloom next year, once again from the top of Village Road to the top of the High Street we are hoping for as many flowers as possible. Keep an eye out for more information as soon as we have it.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

Despite putting out many adverts we have not had much response from Wouldham.



*continued....*

Being a member of NHW is a great way to support the village and helpful to all residents young and old. Contact us if you think you could help.

## **NEW COUNCILLOR**

The Parish Council welcome a new Councillor, Mark Savaryn. We have discussed increasing the size of the PC to 9 Councillors to help with the additional workload of Peters Village. We always get people wanting to stand for the Parish Council which is very encouraging.

The Parish Council would like to wish all the residents of Wouldham a very Happy Christmas and New Year. In the words of the famous song: It can only get better!

## **CONTACT**

**CLERK: Nicky Grimes** [clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk) 07904281522

**CHAIR; Eddy Bell** [Ebellwpc@gmail.com](mailto:Ebellwpc@gmail.com)

# **Nitrous Oxide Laughing Gas**

In January 2020, the HSE warned young people through the mainstream media of the risks associated with using Nitrous Oxide 'laughing Gas' due to the increase in use within communities and at music festivals in 2019.

Soon to be published data from HSE and Trinity College Dublin in relation to drug trends last Summer at music festivals indicates that over a quarter of respondents to the survey had used Nitrous Oxide.

Nitrous Oxide is a depressant/dissociative/inhalant type drug and is also known as Laughing Gas.

Whippets (cartridges of nitrous oxide), whippet. Chargers. Bulbs. NoS, N2O, balloons, hippee crack.

The gas has a number of industrial uses and is used clinically as an anaesthetic gas for pain relieving properties when mixed with air.

It is colourless gas and some say is slightly sweet smelling and tasting. It can be found in different forms such as whipped cream chargers 'whippets' which are small silver cartridges. It can also come as crackers with balloons attached or as balloons that have been filled with gas.

If it is inhaled this is sometimes referred to as nagging.

Some of the effects of using this drug after 10-30 seconds are:

- People feel euphoric, giddy and want to giggle.
- Some feel relaxed and calm.
- Some people may get a headache,

dizziness or blurred vision.

- Loss of balance and feeling unsteady or disorientation.
- Irritated respiratory tract – the part that helps a person breathe.
- Short lived paranoia.
- It can cause a change in blood pressure for some people or sudden death due to lack of oxygen.

### **Some of the Long term effects:**

- Mood changes and depression.
- People with heart blood pressure or mental health concerns could be at greater risk. Nitrous Oxide can cause a drop in oxygen levels which increase heart rate.
- Inhaling directly from the canister can damage the throat and lungs.
- Risk of falling or accidents after use.
- People have died from suffocation or lack of oxygen.

### **Educating young people**

Parents play an important role in educating young people of the risks associated with drug and alcohol use.

To help parents discuss substance use the HSE have produced a booklet to guide the conversation. You can down load HSE Parents Guide.

You will then get the facts and reduce the harm to your children who may be involved in taking these drugs.

Author of this item is HSE National Social Inclusion Office.

# PARISH INFORMATION

## BURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Pam Saunders – Clerk.

The Parish Office, Rochester Road. Burham. ME1 3RJ

Opening times: Mon-Frid., 10am—2pm

Tel: 01634 685936. Email: [pam@burhampc.co.uk](mailto:pam@burhampc.co.uk)

[www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.burhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk). Meetings usually the last Monday in the month.. The next Council meetings: 21st December & 25th January. Format of meeting (either via MS Teams or normal face to face) to be agreed nearer the time. *See page 12*

## WOULDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk—Nicky Grimes 07904281522

[clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk) [www.wouldhampc.com](http://www.wouldhampc.com)

Council Meetings are held in Wouldham Village Hall. Usually 1st Tuesday of the month The next meetings: 1st December & 5th January by ZOOM. *See page 14*

COMMUNITY WARDEN:- Vivien Hickmott 07813694140

POLICE - PCSO Jo-Anne Tiller, non emergency tel. no. – 101

PETERS VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Steve @ [Petersvillagenhw@gmail.com](mailto:Petersvillagenhw@gmail.com)



## TRANSPORT

**Bus Services: Arriva no.155.** There are to be additional routes as 'lockdown' is lifted.

**Clarks of London's commuter coach service.** The 764a and 764b service picks up from bus stops: Keepers Cottage Lane (05:52 & 06:30) & Village Road (05:50 and 06:28). [www.clarkescommute.co.uk](http://www.clarkescommute.co.uk) or call 020 8778 6697.

A Free Bus to Tesco leaves Wednesday, 10am from Burham village only.

## HALLS FOR HIRE

Burham Old School Community Centre – 01634 863322

Burham Village Hall – 07842883028

'The Church in Burham' Hall – 01634 867022

Wouldham Village Hall – 01634 864319 [clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@wouldhampc.co.uk)

ALLOTMENTS Different size allotments are available to grow your own fruit and veg. **Burham:** Contact: Dave Young 01634 867669.

**Wouldham:** Contact Sue 01634 682363



## Phoenix Medical Practice

33 Bell Lane, Burham, ME1 3SX. Tel: 01634 867982.

### Opening times

Monday & Thursday: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:30 am - 6:00 pm

### Dispensary Opening Times

Monday & Thursday: 8:45 am - 12:00 pm

2:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:45 am - 12:00 pm

3:30 pm – 6:15 pm

[www.phoenixsurgery-burham.nhs.uk](http://www.phoenixsurgery-burham.nhs.uk)

**NHS 111** can help if you have an urgent medical problem and you're not sure what to do. NHS 111 is available 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week. Get NHS help online or on the phone.

To get help from NHS 111, you can: -  
go to [111.nhs.uk](http://111.nhs.uk) (for people aged 5 and over only) or telephone 111

**DEFIBRILLATORS:** Situated:

1. Outside Burham Parish Office.
2. Outside Wouldham Village Hall.
3. Outside Wouldham Village Store.

If a machine is needed, call 999 for the code and instructions.

**PRESCRIPTIONS.** If you are unable to collect your prescriptions and live in Burham, Wouldham or Peters Village, the Church offers a collection service. Contact: Rachael Harris. 07725289194

*The surgery require 72 hours to prepare the prescription and the volunteers collecting these prescriptions need 24hrs notice.*

**HEARING AIDS.**

**HiKent Hearing Clinic, TEMPORALLY SUSPENDED** monthly—on the 2nd Thursday the month. **10.30-11.30 hrs at Burham Community Centre.** Aftercare clinics for NHS hearing aids. Free of charge & open on a drop-in basis. No need for an appointment. <https://hikent.org.uk/>

**SHOPS**

**Frosts Service Station & Store**, Rochester Rd, Burham. 01634 861228, Opening times: Mon-Frid 7am-7pm. Sat 7am-6pm. Sun 8am-1pm

**The Vale Bakery**, 209 Rochester Rd, Burham 01634 861572.

Closes 4pm. Closed Sunday & Monday.

# INFORMATION AND WASTE COLLECTION UPDATES CAN BE FOUND AT TMBC:

<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/extreme-weather/waste-service-updates>

Also if there are any problems with your household waste collection they can be reported here.

<https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/recycling,-rubbish-and-waste>

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## VISITING HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES DURING CORONAVIRUS

Our household waste and recycling centres (HWRCs) at **Capstone, Hoath Way, Cuxton Site (Medway Council) & Tovil (Kent County Council)** are open for essential use only. You can only use these sites if there's a risk of injury, health or harm by storing your waste at home. To be able to visit a HWRC **you must book a slot online in advance**. Please note that slots are very limited in order to maintain social distancing for staff and visitors. You will only be able to book one visit in any 4 week period per household to ensure everyone can use sites safely. Kent residents visiting Medway Council sites must show identification.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling/visiting-a-hwrc-during-coronavirus>

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200132/waste-and-recycling/1123/book-a-vehicle-into-a-kent-or-medway-household-waste-and-recycling-centre>

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## SATURDAY WASTE COLLECTION—SUSPENDED

TMBC Helpline 01732 844522 [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

**Wouldham** - Car Park, Knowle Rd,  
8.00am–9.00am

**Snodland**- Saltings Road  
(outside Neville Park)  
8.00am—9.00am

**Burham**, Village Hall  
9.15am -10.15am

**Snodland**—St Benedicts Rd,  
junction of Paddlesworth Rd.  
8.00am

**Eccles** – Bull Lane lay-by.  
10.30- 11.30am 8.00am—8.45am

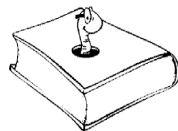
## **KCC Mobile Library: Now monthly on Tuesdays:**

**DECEMBER 15th & JANUARY 12th**

**Wouldham, Walter Burke Ave - 13.15-13.45hrs.**

**Wouldham, Ravensknowle - 13.55-14.25hrs.**

**Burham, Village Hall - 14.35-15.35hrs**



### **MOBILE LIBRARIES DURING CORONAVIRUS**

Our mobile library service is running. However, due to coronavirus, we will be operating **A SELECT AND COLLECT SERVICE**

You can select up to 6 books or audiobooks in a week in advance and when they're ready you can collect them from one of our mobile libraries.

To order your books:

call us on **03000 41 31 31** to speak to a member of staff.

or go online to:

**<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library/mobile-libraries-during-coronavirus>**

**Book Club** - Meet 3rd Wednesday of the month at various local venues.  
Contact - Gwen Worcester 01634 672060

**Book Exchange** - The Church in Burham, Church St. **Not currently running.** Bring books you have read and exchange them for others from our good selection. Tea and coffee are served together with homemade cake for which we ask for a donation of £1. Contact Eileen Smith 01634867022

### **ACTIVITY/SPORT**

**Burham Football Club** - Contact Paul Fitzpatrick 07805198937.

**Rambles** are organised fortnightly. Evenings are best time to contact Jane Gilbert: 01634 682910.

**Windmill monthly dog walks** from The Windmill Inn, Burham at 10am. Advertised in the Windmill. Afternoon tea there afterwards.

**Burham Baton Twirlers** -Village Hall every other Thursday 4.15-30pm.  
Contact Lyn Robinson 07729 373558.

**Step Fitness Classes** – Fitness sessions in Burham Village Hall.  
Thurs 7pm – 8pm @ £7 per session, Contact Abbey on 07713056301.

**Force Medway Group** - Self Defence in Burham Village Hall.  
Weds 6 -7.15pm. Fri 6-8.30pm. Contact Stuart Lowe 07557 906249

**Tonbridge & Malling Ramblers.** See page 11 for details

## **BURHAM CHILDREN'S CENTRE**

**Due to the current situation with Covid-19 all our  
Children's Centres are closed.  
FOR SUPPORT & ADVICE PLEASE PHONE OR  
EMAIL: [tmbc@kent.gov.uk](mailto:tmbc@kent.gov.uk)  
or see our FACEBOOK PAGE**

**Bell Lane, Burham. ME1 3SY Tel: 03000 418008**

Free sessions for children aged 0-5 years— **TUESDAY, & FRIDAY**

**Closed on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday**

**3rd Tuesday of the Month only 1.00pm –3.00pm. Well Baby Clinic.**

**Development Reviews 1.00pm-14.30pm**

Come and get your child weighed and speak to a health visitor.

**Friday am 9.30am –10.30am. Baby Stay & Play** Birth - Crawlers

**11.00am—12.30pm. Stay & Play.**

## **BURHAM PRE-SCHOOL, BURHAM VILLAGE HALL**

'Good ' OFSTED inspection - April 16.

We welcome children aged 2 -5yrs.

Sessions:

Mon - Fri\* am 9.15 - 11.45.

\*Fri. am is for rising 5's only

Mon - Fri pm 12.20 - 2.50.

Mon - Fri. Lunch Club 11.45 - 12.20

Optional 'early bird' drop off at 9am for £1.0.

Come along and visit to see if we are right for you!

Visit our website: [burhampre-school@weebly.com](http://burhampre-school@weebly.com)

Supervisor - Tracey Beechey Tel: 07920 599287/07710 829954

Email: [Burham.pre-school@hotmail.com](mailto:Burham.pre-school@hotmail.com)

## **JELLYBEANS PRE-SCHOOL, WOULDHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Our Ofsted Inspection found Jellybeans to be 'good'.

Sessions :

Mon - Fri am 9.15-11.45

Mon - Thurs pm 12.25 - 2.55

Mon - Thurs Lunch Club 11.45 - 12.25

Early drop off option available.

Feel free to visit at any time, no appointment necessary.

For further information please contact-

Mrs Donna Cook (Supervisor) on 07932551771

## CHURCHES

### Church of England Parish of Burham & Wouldham:

1. **All Saints, Wouldham.** Holy Communion every Sunday at 10.30am and, afterwards, open to visitors till 2pm. Online Zoom worship continues. Funerals and weddings may be held in church with limited numbers. Also online services. *See page 3 for update*
2. **St Marys Church, Burham.** Old Church Rd,  
Open daily 10.0—4.0 pm . Closed during ‘lock down’  
A redundant Anglican Church under the care of the ‘Churches Conservation Trust’. Occasional special C of E services are held there and events run by the Friends of St Marys.
3. **The ‘Church in Burham’ (Methodist). Church St.**  
Every Sunday at 10.30am. *See page 4 & 5 for update details*  
Also online services.

## EATING & DRINKING

**The Butchers Block** Pub/Restaurant, Burham - 01634 786626

**The Robin Hood** Pub/Restaurant. Common Rd, 01634 861500 (*page 23*)

**The Windmill Inn** /Restaurant, Burham - 01634 864570

**Happy House Chinese** Takeaway, Burham - 01634 668326

**Fish & Chips Van:** 07840 181 091

Wednesday, 5-8pm. Burham Village Hall car park

Saturday, 5-8pm. Wouldham recreation ground car park.

**Medway Inn & Rubys** Indian Restaurant/Takeaway, Wouldham.. 869181

**Watermans Arms**, Wouldham. Food served daily & Sunday lunch -

01634 681830

## THEATRE/MUSIC/FILM/ART

**St Marys Old Church**, down by the river. **Filaments II. Installation of light and Projection. January 22-23, 5-9pm.** See page 9

**All Saints, Wouldham Church Choir.** Choir practice on **Thursdays, 7.30pm**, All Saints Church, Wouldham.

New junior and senior members are most welcome.

Enquiries: Sandra Holman: 01634-867586

**Church Bell Ringing** All Saints Church, Wouldham.

Tina Miles Tel: 07967 795913

**Film Club** The Church in Burham, Church St.

Contact Eileen Smith 01634867022

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**FOR PUPPY & KITTEN AVAILABILITY**



# The Robin Hood

364 Common Rd, Blue Bell Hill, ME5 9RJ

**01634 861500**

## TAKEAWAY MENU

Frid & Sat 5-9pm. Sun 12-6pm  
Free delivery within 3-mile radius  
*See our: Facebook Robin Hood-Pub*

### Burgers

#### The Classic

8oz homemade chargrilled burger topped with crispy bacon, melted cheddar, gherkins and baconnaise sauce. Served in toasted brioche bun with sliced tomato and crisp lettuce £8.50

#### The Mexican (hot)

8oz homemade chargrilled burger topped with salsa, jalapenos, Smokey Monterey Jack cheese and chipotle sauce. Served in a toasted brioche bun with sliced tomato and crisp lettuce £9.25

#### The Italian

8oz homemade chargrilled burger topped with melted mozzarella, crispy Parma ham and garlic mayo. Served in a toasted brioche bun with sliced tomato and crisp lettuce £9.25

#### The Blue

8oz homemade chargrilled burger topped with melted stilton, caramelised red onion and chargrilled mushroom. Served in a toasted brioche bun with sliced tomato and crisp lettuce £8.99

#### Buttermilk Chicken

Crispy coated buttermilk chicken breast topped with honey and mustard mayonnaise. Served in a toasted brioche bun with sliced tomato and crisp lettuce £8.95

#### Bangkok Bad Boy (V) (medium)

Spicy oriental inspired burger with mixed vegetables, coriander, chilli, lemongrass and lime leaf, coated with black onion, cumin seeds and crunchy red lentil crumb. Served in a toasted brioche bun with sliced tomato and crisp lettuce £8.75

### Pub Classics

#### Beer Battered Cod

Large freshly battered cod filler coated in our own beer batter. Served with chips and tartare sauce £9.90

#### Pork Belly

Tender slow cooked pork belly served on top of buttery mash, braised red cabbage and apple with cider gravy £10.95

#### Chilli and Rice (mild)

Homemade medium chilli served with rice £9.50

#### Sausage and Mash

Three Old Spot sausages served on top of buttery mash with red onion gravy £9.90

### Kid's Menu £4.50 each

Sausage and chips

Beef burger in a brioche bun with chips

Southern fried chicken goujons and chips

### Appetisers and Sides

Southern fried chicken goujons £3.95

Garlic ciabatta bread (V) £3.25

Cheesy garlic ciabatta bread (V) £3.75

Crispy fried potato skins topped with bacon and cheese £5.25

Beer Battered onion rings (V) £3.25

Chunky gourmet chips (V) £2.75

Chunky gourmet chips with melted cheese (V) £3.25

Chunky gourmet chips with chilli and cheese £4.95

Skin on skinny fries (V) £2.75

Sweet potato fries (V) £3.55

### Sauces £0.60p each

BBQ	Garlic Mayo	Baconnaise
Chipotle	Mayonnaise	Firecracker Sweet Chilli

### Puddings £4.25 each

Chocolate Fudge Cake	Caramel Apple Pie
Salted Caramel Brownies	

### Sunday Roast (available Sundays only. Pre-order required on Sat)

**Beef, Pork, Chicken Breast or Vegetarian Nut Roast** Adult £10.50 Kid's £5.50

All served with roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables, Yorkshire Pudding and gravy

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## CO-OP Supermarket is confirmed for Peters Village



Peters Village developer Trenport has announced that the Co-op will operate the community's new supermarket, with work expected to start by January 2021 and complete by the autumn.

Trenport MD Richard Hall said: "I'm not only delighted to announce a start on the supermarket after all the delays caused by this eventful year, but also to name the Co-op as the occupant. "I'm sure the store will be the focal point of the new village centre we are starting on soon, which includes three more shops, a dental surgery, and a community hall. Work will also begin shortly on a medical centre being built by the NHS."

Craig Smith, Co-op Acquisition Manager, said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to serve Peters Village. We are always looking for new locations where we can develop the range, choice, products and services locally to create a truly compelling offer, conveniently. "We are committed to connecting communities and making a difference locally, and to operating at the heart of local life." Mr Smith added that shoppers who choose to become Co-op members are rewarded with 2p added to their membership account balance for every pound they spend on the store's own-brand products. The retailer shares a further 2% with community causes.

Members are also eligible for discounts across the Co-op group to make savings on funerals, insurance policies and legal products and services. Contactless card payment limits have been increased to £45, making it easier, quicker and safer to shop, and students who are TOTUM cardholders - the new name for NUS Extra – can enjoy a 10% discount off groceries at the Co-op.

The chain has also put measures in place to assist during the Covid-19 emergency: the Co-op Community Shopping Card enables those self-isolating or told to stay at home to shop and pay for their essentials; cards are bought or topped-up by calling 0800 029 4592, allowing friends, families, neighbours or volunteers to shop at the Co-op on their behalf. And the retailer's Food Share scheme works to minimise food waste and make a difference locally, supporting not-for-profit organisations who work to share food with those in need in the community.

Co-op <https://www.coop.co.uk> is owned by around 4.6m active members.

## A NEW YEAR START FOR PETERS VILLAGE CENTRE CONSTRUCTION

Work on creating the heart of Peters Village – including the shops and community centre – starts in January, according to the community’s developer, Trenport.

Company CEO Richard Hall said: “Covid-19 has disrupted planning and building and driven up the cost of materials and logistics this year, on top of other issues not of our making – it’s been ‘a perfect storm’.

“But a new year can be a new start. Construction of all centre facilities will launch in January 2021, Covid permitting, beginning with the village hall, quickly followed by the supermarket and three further shops plus ancillary works such as landscaping, parking and a play area. 4

“We were also pleased to announce that the Co-op (see <http://bit.ly/3lptSo5>) will operate the supermarket. It is scheduled to open by autumn and will be a great fit for Peters Village, as the brand is known for its ethical and Fairtrade policies.

“The Co-op has also confirmed that the new store will run on 100% renewable energy, all of which chimes with the community’s sustainable transport plan, nurturing of rare wildlife and the local Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

“Of course, we are disappointed by delays to the centre facilities due to external circumstances including Covid-19, but Peters Village had an unblemished record on construction timetables up to this point, with some previous elements even completed ahead of schedule, notably the new bridge.

“And Peters Village will gain enviable facilities; the community hall, for instance, is 25% larger than originally proposed after we took note of local input, and now includes changing rooms for the playing fields next door, which we have also upgraded”

Mr Hall said these points underlined how Trenport had always set the bar high on delivering Peters Village Creating an in-house blueprint for housing quality and upmarket style to give a harmonious look to the whole community, rather than a mixed appearance dictated by the preferred designs of different housebuilders

- Donating the land and financing a fine new school that is larger and better ‘future-proofed’ than the planning permission required
- Building a bridge that is both elegant and effective, cutting what had been a tortuous 25-minute drive from bank to bank to just one minute ·

*continued .....*

- Striving to ensure that the community is well served by public transport
  - Commissioning a distinctive and appropriate sculpture to welcome people to the all-new community
  - Preserving and commemorating the natural and human heritage of the site: there can be few new communities able to boast such an important SSSI.

These factors clearly played a part in Peters Village receiving a prestigious accolade at the annual First Time Buyer (FTB) readers' awards.

The 1,000-home community was the 'Highly Commended' runner-up in the Best New Development in the South category, which recognises sites offering "an exceptional range of new homes that stand out from the crowd whilst remaining accessible for first time buyers."

Richard Hall said afterwards: "We are delighted with this honour in one of the toughest FTB awards categories, especially as votes come from the magazine's readers in print and online – all prospective buyers.

"The award underlines why we have such a high rate of sale for homes at Peters Village and no shortage of housebuilder partners keen to develop here – we have just one development parcel left now.

"And Peters Village has a lot to attract first time buyers; through our partnership with the Government's Homes England department, housebuilders onsite have been able to offer a range of affordable options, enabling people to get onto the housing ladder in a rural location with great facilities."

FTB Editor Lynda Clark added her thoughts: "It has been a tough year for first time buyers, but with every challenge brings an opportunity to make a real difference.

"The 2020 First Time Buyer Readers' Awards are all about championing ways to make homeownership achievable and celebrating the companies that are going over and above the call of duty."

The new award for Peters Village follows a Bronze in the Best Public Realm category at the What House? Awards 2019 and Mr Hall said this second award was an extra boost after the Co-op deal.

*Steve Loader for Trenport*

## DECEMBER in Your Garden

*'May we all emerge from Winter with our strength renewed,  
& any unwanted pieces left under the ice.'*

The days may be short, and distinctly colder, but there are still enough opportunities to be able to continue to enjoy your garden throughout winter. Once the rain and frosts arrive there are fewer tasks to do in the garden as there is less routine maintenance required, but the finer dry days still allow an opportunity to review what's looking good, and to plan for the coming year.

By now any tender plants should have been stored away for winter, and those that might get damaged by high winds or snow should also be moved to a more protected spot if possible. If we do get any snow, which might be more likely in the new year, make sure to knock any lying snow off hedges or branches where possible as the weight can often cause them to break. If the weather is still mild and there haven't been any prolonged spells of frost, then it is still possibly to mulch the ground with manure, compost or bark etc. This will help to protect your soil over winter from erosion (it's a bit like throwing a blanket over), and the worms and micro-organisms will work them into the soil to help nourish your plants come springtime.

One of the key opportunities at this time of year is to harvest evergreen shrubbery to bring into the house either in a vase, or use to create festive displays. There will be some lovely seed heads around, either in your garden or along wild hedgerows (although only pick a few as these provide valuable resources for local birds and bugs), together with holly, ivy and yew which are all festive favourites. You can add to these using winter Jasmine, brightly coloured stems of Cornus, Willow, Hawthorn & Euonymus all of which can add an extra dimension to your display. Every year I suggest also spreading your festive decorations out into the garden, bare branches lend themselves so well to a few baubles and fairy lights, & in the dark evenings it brings that extra sparkle to the view. So if you're out on a winter walk, think about the opportunities to create a display from stems and seed heads – they can be equally as beautiful at this time of year.

Winter is the ideal time to clean up your tools & sharpen those that might need it as they are less in use now. Any metal parts can be cleaned over with wire wool dipped in linseed oil, which will help clean them, but will also lubricate any joints, and wooden tools will also benefit from the oil to rejuvenate and protect them for next season. Make sure all tools are stored away safely over winter so they are clean and fresh ready for spring. Washing out any spare pots and trays is also good practice, so that they are clean and ready for use in the new year.

*continued.....*

*continued.....*

Collect up any last leaves now & bag up to make 'leaf mould', simply punch a few holes in a black sack, pack the leaves in, tie the sack, & leave for a year. Leaf mould is an excellent soil conditioner, and can also be used for potting up cuttings etc. in Spring, & you can make it for just the cost of a few black sacks. Leave the bag behind a shed or out of sight for a year for it to be fully rotted down & ready to use.

In the vegetable garden, root veg can still be harvested, and if prolonged cold weather is forecast then lift what you need and heel them into a lightly dug trench instead as this will make them easier to retrieve when required. Winter is the ideal opportunity to prepare beds ready for the new season, but it can be difficult in wet and cold conditions as this can cause more harm than good by either compacting the soil, or exacerbating erosion. The no-dig technique helps with these factors as it actively discourages digging, instead favouring the worms and micro-organisms to do all the hard work instead. By adding a deep layer of manure or compost on top of the soil & leaving it to be worked in, it encourages a stronger and healthier soil as a result. It's not for everyone, & if you prefer to dig, then the addition of manure or compost into your dug beds will also be beneficial for next season. Rotation of your crops is also key to the success of your produce as it helps to minimise opportunities for some pests & diseases that affect particular crops. There are guides available to help plan what crops will benefit from previous crops, and this can then inform next years' growing plan.

Other things to be doing in the garden now:

Continue to keep bird feeders and baths topped up, and defrost in freezing temperatures – winter is a hard time for our native birds so they will welcome any additional offerings.

Keep an eye on indoor plants, now the heating is on and natural light is less, their watering requirements will alter.

Take advantage of a bit of down time & peruse some seed catalogues – ordering now will mean you're well ahead for spring sowing.

Finish pruning Roses if you haven't done so already – cut back on an angle to an outward facing bud, reducing the overall height by approx. two-thirds.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, & a Happy Healthy New Year.

*Sue Durrani, Allotment Association, Wouldham*

***Wouldham allotment plots are available. [Contact Sue: 682363]***



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Produced monthly by volunteers for Burham, Wouldham & Peters Village. (*except January & August*)

and a printed copy can be delivered to any residents who request one.

***Thank you.***

The deadline for copy is always on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the previous month but please contact the Editor earlier to agree the content and reserve the space. (*see outside back cover*)

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