

Burgh Heath Village Newsletter

Keeping you in touch with your Neighbourhood

FEBRUARY 2026



Scenes from our village during the recent snow at the beginning of the New Year

BHRA's Famous Quiz Night and Supper

Saturday April 18th at the War Memorial Hall

Price: **£10** to include Pie/Sausage and Chips (fish and chips available for **£17**, £3 for non-eaters)

Bring your own drink

6:30 for a prompt 7:00 start

Teams of up to 8 people

Smaller groups and individuals can be formed into teams on the night

For full details and to buy tickets contact:

Eileen Clark [**Eileen.clark4@btinternet.com**](mailto:Eileen.clark4@btinternet.com)

07809749205

Chris Haslett [**cjhaslett@aol.com**](mailto:cjhaslett@aol.com)

07825 874215 01737 362380

PLEASE ORDER AND PAY FOR YOUR TICKETS

BY SATURDAY 11th April AT THE LATEST!

1-hour Countryside Walks and Indoor Picnic/Afternoon Tea

On Sundays – March 22nd, April 26th, May 31st and June 28th

Free of Charge

Walking? Meet at the Memorial Hall for a 3:00 pm departure

Afternoon Tea? Arrive at the Memorial Hall from 4:15

All Burgh Heath residents' welcome

We need to arrange catering so prior registration is vital

Contact Chris Haslett: cjhaslett@aol.com 07825 874215

NEW DATES! EXTRA EVENTS!

**30 minute, easy-to-follow,
low intensity exercise to
music sessions**

**“Zumba Gold” sessions conducted by professional
Zumba Instructor, Claire Kingsley**

Fortnightly at 10:45 am at the Memorial Hall

14th and 28th February

14th March, 11th April and

9th May

With tea, coffee, biscuits and chat to follow!

For further Information contact:

caronigblack@gmail.com

FREE OF CHARGE!

**Cardio
Fitness
Muscle
Conditioning**

**Flexibility
Balance
Well-being**

Chairperson's Report

As I'm writing this report, I have been reflecting on all that has happened locally since I took over as Chair of the Residents' Association in July of last year. It's been a really busy time with consultations being held by our Local Government around the form of the new Unitary authority for Surrey and the potential creation of a new Parish Council locally. We now know that we will become part of the East Surrey Unitary Authority and wait to hear by the end of March, whether we will be part of a new Banstead and Villages Parish Council.

We were also made aware last year of the proposed construction of houses on Canons Farm with all of the potential impacts for residents of Burgh Heath and Kingswood. Many of you attended the consultation event held by the company Pegasus in December and were very vocal in your views about the proposal. At the time of writing, there has been no further communication from the developer but as you may be aware, a joint committee has been formed between the Kingswood Residents Association and Burgh Heath Residents Association to help steer information and any action plans from both areas around the farm. There is more information about this later on in the newsletter.

On the lighter side, we have organised a number of events since the summer including our bi-annual quiz night where, in October, 12 tables of residents competed for the title! It was a great night. We also held a Christmas get together and were joined by families and friends from around the village. We had a photo booth and there were a number of games that everyone participated in but mostly everyone just chatted and spent time with friends and neighbours.

As we move into February, the weather hasn't been very kind and it's been difficult to get out and about much, apart from on a few bright days last month and of course during the snow at New Year which, personally, I loved! I appreciate though that it causes difficulty for many in getting out and about and certainly parts of Scotland, the North and the Southwest of England were really hit by heavy snow and subsequent flooding, and my sympathies go out to everyone who has been affected by these extreme storms.

Hopefully, Spring and the better weather will arrive soon. May I belatedly wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2026.

With best wishes from

Eileen Clark - Chair BHRA

Burgh Heath Residents Association (BHRA)

The Residents' Association consists of volunteers who provide a focal point for any news affecting the community. We are easily contacted by residents and enjoy excellent communications with our borough and county councillors. BHRA endeavours to ensure that residents' interests are represented in dealings with statutory and community bodies such as the council and Banstead Commons Conservators. The committee enjoys organising, supporting, and funding a number of activities for the benefit of the community. Judging by the number of people who participate and give feedback, it would seem that the events are popular and welcomed.

We publish our own Burgh Heath Newsletter twice a year – in Spring and Autumn. It is delivered to all households in the area – a total of approximately 400.

More information about activities can be found on our website: www.burghheath.com including links to our Facebook group – **Burgh Heath Residents Association** and Instagram account – **burghheathra**.

Everything we do is the result of time and effort from volunteers. The committee is elected annually at the AGM, but we always welcome volunteers who can bring new ideas to work with us in a variety of ways. If you have some spare time and think you could help us, please get in touch. It is a great way to make new friends and build relationships in the community.

To enable the committee of BHRA to represent your views on a range of matters, we need more residents to join and sign up to receive updates and to strengthen communication between the committee and the community.

Volunteer With Us

- Join our committee – Our meetings are kindly hosted by the Burgh Heath Comrades & Social Club (Contact: 01737 351790, email: burghheathclub@gmail.com or Facebook Burgh Heath Comrades)
- Support events – in any way that you are able
- Work with street stewards to deliver the newsletter and occasional leaflets, and to collect donations
- Contribute your ideas and skills to our ongoing work and activities to foster a community

BHRA Committee Members

Eileen Clark – Chairperson

Nick Clark – Treasurer

Becca Merrell – Secretary

Ann Dobson – Secretary

Julie Haslett – Membership Secretary

Santosh Chandran

Caro Black – Zumba Contact

Julie Arnott

You can contact any member of the committee using our email address -
burghheathra@gmail.com

If your email is for an individual committee member, please make that clear in the subject header.

Your Road Stewards -

- **Ballards Green – Ann Duly**
- **Canons Lane, Can Hatch & Heathdene – Bev Lourenco**
- **The Green – Ann Dobson**
- **Maybury Close – **Vacancy****
- **Duncan Road, including Tynefields – David Hodges**
- **Yeomans Court & Memory Cottages – **Vacancy****
- **Oatlands Road, Egmont Way & Brighton Road to Copse Lodge – Paula Bonner**
- **The Parade including shops and flats – Dan and Ioanna Porsica**

Once a year, volunteer road stewards call on residents to request a voluntary donation fund things such as the newsletter, representation at the annual Banstead Remembrance Ceremony (purchase of a wreath), a donation to the Royal British Legion, and membership of the Banstead Federation of Residents' Associations.

This year, we have asked for £5 per household. We are trying different ways to make this process easier and have developed a leaflet that will explain this in more detail and will be posted through your door during January/February.

The contribution is voluntary, and we distribute the Newsletter to all households regardless but, if possible, please help us to fund and continue our service to you.

Eileen Clark – Chair, BHRA

Local News

Burgh Heath War Memorial Hall - Exterior Facelift Completed

Those of you who use the Hall, or walk past it regularly, will have noticed that the front of the car park has been re-surfaced recently, levelling out all the potholes and cutting back the overgrown surrounding banks to the original boundary. It turned out that the largest of the potholes nearest the Hall was actually more of a mini sink hole, collapsing into a soak away for rainwater. This has now been re-routed so should present no more problems. The surface has been replaced with a porous material to comply with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council's remit.



This work was the final stage of a three-and-a-half-year project to completely renovate the exterior of the Hall, starting in April 2022 with the re-tiling of the roof. The exterior renovation, including re-rendering, replacing rotten timbers and painting was carried out in May 2024, with work on the car park being completed just before Christmas 2025. The overall cost of these three individual projects was £73,500 and we were delighted to have received two Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grants from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council totalling £30,000 towards this work. The balance of the cost was met from Hall funds, no mean achievement when our only source of revenue depends entirely on income from hire fees, and normal running costs, gas, electric, insurance, rates etc. still had to be found on a regular basis whilst this work was being carried out.

Now that the exterior of the Hall is sound, the Management Committee can concentrate on the interior, carrying out essential repairs and re-decoration where necessary and bring the Hall up to date regarding facilities. Hopefully our garden volunteers, Ruth, Julie and Chris, will continue their excellent work when weather permits, clearing the front flower beds and planting more spring and summer flowers to enhance the exterior appearance of our lovely old Hall.

Brenda Harrison
for Burgh Heath War Memorial Hall Management Committee

No Entry Sign Replaced on the A217

The 'No Entry' sign on the A217 opposite the junction with Oatlands Road that has been missing for some years has now reinstated by Surrey County Council. The original sign was knocked over by a car some years ago. It is good to see it back.



been

The Premier Inn - Heathside

The Premier Inn on Brighton Road, will soon be undergoing a major refurbishment. There has been a restaurant or hotel on the site for many years, and the picture above shows when the site was occupied by The Sugar Bowl: “a country club with an outdoor swimming pool.” The Sugar Bowl later became Il Pirata, an Italian Restaurant, and more recently The Heathside Hotel.



Over the past few years, the exterior of the establishment has gradually deteriorated, so news of the upcoming refurbishment is welcome. In March, the restaurant will be knocked down and rebuilt with 30 new bedrooms above. Following on, the existing bedrooms will be upgraded, and a lift installed for greater accessibility.

In 2024, Whitbread announced a roll out of a ‘Next Evolution’ rooms programme, and many hotels have already been enhanced across the country. It is hoped that the Premier Inn situated in our village will be subject to the same renovation.

A Bus in Burgh Heath

Burgh Heath residents now have access to an on-demand bus service. This is very good news for those who are unable to walk too far to a bus stop, or who just want to leave the car behind sometimes. Fares are cheaper than using a car, taking into consideration fuel and parking costs. The village has been without public transport for too long. Surrey Connect is a safe and reliable bus sharing service – a cross between a bus and a taxi. It is available to everyone in Surrey in the areas shown on a map on the website.

The Connect service operates **Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm** and **Saturday 8am to 6pm**. You can book up to 7 days in advance or on the same day. A journey can be booked via the free **Surrey Connect app**, online at **surreyconnect.org.uk** or, probably the easiest way for many, is to call customer service on **01883 701278**. The bus will collect passengers from a nearby location and take them anywhere within the local area shown on the map, such as shops, stations or health centres. Unfortunately, the bus is unable to take Burgh Heath residents to Epsom Hospital as it comes under a separate ‘territory’. However, it is available for travel to East Surrey Hospital! Burgh Heath sits inside the Reigate territory which means residents can use the bus to travel anywhere between Banstead and Horley. You can pay in advance or onboard – concessionary passes are accepted.

So, fancy a trip to Banstead or Reigate? Pick up the phone, choose your pick-up and drop-off points, and you will receive confirmation of both, along with vehicle details.

Adult single fare:

Under 5 miles: £2; 5 to 7 miles: £4; 7 to 10 miles: £6; 10 to 12 miles: £8

We are indebted to Mike Gibson and Laurence Teague of Kingswood Residents’ Association – supported by Cllrs Shelly Newton and Rebecca Paul (MP), who campaigned to bring the service to Kingswood which enabled Burgh Heath to also take advantage.

If you have already used this service, the BHRA Committee would be interested to know more about your experience. Please contact us on burghheathra@gmail.com

Pond News

On 11 January, an abandoned wheelchair was spotted sitting on the iced-over Burgh Heath Pond. After a call to local councillor Shelly Newton, she turned up in her camper van with a rope and crowbar. With waders borrowed from Chris Haslett, and using him as an anchor, Shelly was able to wade in, breaking the ice on the way. The wheelchair, which seemed to be an old one in disrepair, was eventually rescued and Shelly survived. Thank you, Cllr Newton!



Pond Life

During the past few months, two rare visitors to the pond have been spotted. In November, a male Mandarin duck was seen enjoying a paddle. These colourful wildfowl were introduced to the UK from China and have become established here following escapes from captivity. The duck certainly brightened up the pond.

On Monday 19 January, an Egyptian Goose popped by – much to the annoyance of the resident Canada Geese. Egyptian geese are a rapidly increasing non-native species, particularly in southern England, London, and East Anglia. While once considered rare, they are now widespread. These geese are considered an invasive species due to their aggressive nature and their impact on native wildlife in competition for nesting places.



Other local wildlife news

Sixteen delightful sheep can be found grazing on Banstead Downs to prevent scrub, brambles and woodland from getting out of control, and to help maintain diversity. Two of our villagers, who come along and enjoy events such as the quiz night, don their wellies and volunteer to count the sheep – and no, they don't fall asleep while doing it. What a fantastic photo! Thank you, Thelma. Thank you, Margaret.



BHRA's Annual Christmas Party



The BHRA Christmas Party was held on the 19th December at the War Memorial Hall. It was attended by over 60 residents and their families who enjoyed the festive buffet provided, relaxed and generally chatted to neighbours, joining in with table games and bingo. There was a raffle with a splendid Christmas hamper as the star prize. We had some great feedback and hope to repeat the event in 2026.



Our recent Art Event and Photography Competition

On Saturday 8th November, our Autumnal-themed art event brought together local families for an afternoon of playful creativity. We had four stations to move between, exploring different ideas, materials and textures. At the air-dry clay table, hands of all sizes shaped, rolled and moulded their own creations. The hedgehog collage table invited children to layer beautiful autumn leaves to create spiky hedgehogs. Polystyrene printmaking resulted in some stunning pictures - with the inevitable excitement as the paper was peeled back to reveal the image! Finally, children made firework paintings, full of vibrant bursts and unpredictable shapes, by blowing paint across paper with straws. It was a wonderful afternoon, full of creative energy and beautiful artworks. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make the afternoon a success.



Photography Competition

There was also a photography competition held with the subject of “**Changing Seasons around Burgh Heath**”. We received some beautiful entries and after a great deal of consideration, the winners were announced and prizes presented at the Christmas Event on 19th December. The winning photographs are shown below.



Category 1: 8-11 years

Winner: Thea

Judge Feedback: A delightful little woodland world spotted at exactly the right height. The young photographer has looked closely and noticed something most of us would walk straight past. The tiny mushrooms, glistening with droplets in the fresh green grass, are beautifully framed and give the picture a gentle, magical feel.

Category 2: 12-17 years

Winner: Megan

Judges Feedback: A lovely imaginative piece of nature art, photographed with real care. The careful pattern of the leaves and acorns radiating from the tree creates a striking design that celebrates autumn colour and texture. It shows patience, creativity and a strong eye for patterns in the natural world.



Category 3: 18+

Winner: Monika

Judges Feedback: It's a beautifully executed close-up, full of texture, detail and a sculptural quality that really stands out, all set against a soft, atmospheric forest backdrop.

Burgh Heath Comrades & Social Club

Regular social events: Bingo, Quiz Nights

Sky Sports, snooker, pool, and darts

Meeting room available for local groups

Email: burghheathclub@gmail.com

Phone: 01737 351790

Facebook: Burgh Heath Comrades

A Message to Burgh Heath Residents' from the Honourable Rebecca Paul MP

Writing this update for BHRA members, it gives me great pleasure to think about the history behind Burgh Heath, a village I have had the honour of serving first as your County Councillor and now also as your Member of Parliament. Like you, I believe it's important to protect the identity and heritage of our villages, which is why I share your concerns around the proposed development between Burgh Heath and Kingswood.



Whilst planning is a quasi-judicial matter – and therefore not something I have direct control over - as your MP I am committed to doing all I can to protect our beautiful landscapes. I have continuously raised concerns in Parliament over the recent doubling of housing numbers for our borough. I have also made clear my concerns about the introduction of 'grey belt' and what this could mean for our precious green belt designations. As many of you know, this long-standing designation has helped to deter urban sprawl from London into our Surrey villages and protect the very distinctive and unique identities of our villages. It is disappointing that this long tradition – upheld by countless governments of different colours – is now under threat.

Not only could this see the merging of our villages, but also the loss of high-grade agricultural land. There are also serious concerns over access to and from the proposed site and supporting infrastructure.

I am not against building homes. I welcome that between 2010-2024 over 2 million new homes were built across the UK, with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council as the local planning authority playing its part and I support the current Government in its ambition. However, it needs to be done in a thoughtful, considered way – prioritising brownfield and urban development over green belt. And borough councils like RBBC – which have met their targets – should be rewarded rather than punished with ever increasing housing numbers.

In the meantime, I would like to thank members and the committee of the Burgh Heath Residents' Association for all their work over the past year. Speaking to constituents locally I know how grateful they are for everything the Residents' Association does. We are fortunate to have such a community minded group of people that are committed to delivering improvements in our local area. I also recognise that with Local Government Reorganisation and the Community Governance Review relating to potential town and parish councils, the workload this year will be more than previously. So, I want to thank them in advance for all their efforts to get the best result for Burgh Heath, and I am here to support them in any way that I can.

As ever, if you need my help I can be contacted at rebecca.paul.mp@parliament.uk. I also send out a monthly e-newsletter which may be of interest covering more of my work both in Westminster and locally. To subscribe please visit my website www.rebeccapaul.uk

Very best wishes,

Rebecca

Rebecca Paul MP

Member of Parliament for Reigate, Redhill, Banstead and our villages

Update on the Proposed Development at Canons Farm



Following the well-attended presentation by Pegasus regarding proposals for the development of farmland between Burgh Heath and Kingswood, the Residents Against Greenbelt Erosion (RAGE) action group asked residents to complete a feedback form.

The results of this were that over 200 residents responded and approximately 98.7% of people who attended felt a lack of credible and accurate information was given by the developer at the presentation, that the presentation was very misleading in its approach and claims and finally, that it was totally unacceptable as a whole.

This has now been reported to Reigate & Banstead council ahead of the developer's proposed application.

RAGE Canons Lane, Burgh Heath Residents' Association (BHRA) and Kingswood Residents' Association (KRA) have formed a joint committee, bringing all our efforts under one umbrella to show that the residents intend to robustly fight and defend the farmland from development, that we care about our greenbelt and preservation of this wonderful farm and to stop the planned mass development.

The joint committee is:

- Supporting the farmer: Michael Jelley, and this year we will be promoting the farm with talks at schools, local business and restoration work of historic hedgerows etc. Michael has agreed to a collaboration to make the farm's own small batch brewery beer from the barley grown on the farm! We will be launching a competition to design the labels - with the help of local schools and residents.
- Going to be carrying out restoration and protective work and studying the farm wildlife, particularly a study of a rare species that have been arriving onto the farm and now returning in recent times, last seen 125 years ago. We would welcome volunteers who might be interested in supporting this in any way. Please contact us via the BHRA email address: burghheathra@gmail.com if you would like further information about this.
- Going to demonstrate that this farm is very high-quality in its natural beauty, history and national importance to food security, local enjoyment for dog walking, birdwatching with Canons Farm and Banstead Woods (CFBW) Birds association, ramblers' walks, archaeological sites and greenspaces giving the residents a great place of sanctuary.

RAGE Canons Lane has posted its website and petition at: <https://www.ragecanonslane.co.uk>. The petition has already attracted over 2600 signatures

There is also a new supporting website: www.kra-bhra.co.uk showing the richness of the natural beauty of the area. This is purely to support the farm by means of residents and visitors' pictures, videos, drawing and paintings giving a vital picture into the beauty of the wildlife and local importance of the farm, beyond its great contribution to the country's much needed and vital food stocks. Please take time to look at this.

RAGE Canons Lane, BHRA and KRA Committees thank you all for your support in helping protect and preserve one of the last farms left within the M25

What's Happening in Burgh Heath?

What?	When?	Where?	Who to Contact?
Refresh @10 Coffee Morning	Last Saturday of each month 10:00 to 12:00	St Mary's Church	Patricia Peacock peahen3@hotmail.com
Sunday Service	10:00 am 22 nd Feb, 8 th March, 22 nd March	St Mary's Church	operations@norkwithburghheath.com 07930 397308
Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Services	10:00 29 th March and 5 th April	St Paul's Nork	operations@norkwithburghheath.com 07930 397308
Messy Church	10:00 am, 3rd Sunday of each month	St Mary's Church	Patricia Peacock peahen3@hotmail.com
Parish Walking Group	3 rd Saturday of each month at 10:30	St Mary's Church	bythecshaw@hotmail.co.uk
Craft and Chat	2:00 pm on the 1st, 3 rd and 5 th Wednesday of each month	St Mary's Church	Patricia Peacock peahen3@hotmail.com
Pool Club	11-1 am. Fortnightly 5 th March, 19 th March, and so on	St Mary's Church	Patricia Peacock peahen3@hotmail.com
Quiz and Supper Evening	April 18th at 6:30 pm	Memorial Hall	Chris Haslett: cjhaslett@aol.com 07825 874215
Stroll and Sandwich 1-hour walk, followed by free sandwich tea	See Page 3 for Dates and times	Memorial Hall	Chris Haslett cjhaslett@aol.com 07825 874215

St Paul's and St Mary's excellent website is at: <https://norkwithburghheath.com/>

Recreational Classes & Clubs at The Burgh Heath War Memorial Hall

What?	When?	Who to Contact?
Surrey Jive Club	Monday Evenings	Shaunodwyer1965@gmail.com
Jive Classes	Tuesday Mornings	Tracey Allen info@tjsjive.co.uk 07946 625778
Hit Squad Fitness: Classes for All Ages	Tuesday Evenings Friday Mornings	Charlie Radley: 07734 7533022 renovatemaster@gmail.com
Wednesday Social Art and Craft Group	Wednesday a.m. and p.m.	Jenny Power 01372 740285 jennypower687@btinternet.com
Core Values Pilates	Wednesday Evening & Thursday Morning	Paul Andrews 07852 914879 paul@corevaluepilates.co.uk
Muttleys Dog Training Socialisation and Kennel Club Obedience Course	Thursday Evenings	Alison Wilde 07718 042821 alison@champwilde.f9.co.uk
Yoga for All	Friday Evening 5:30 to 6:30	Simone Hill 07885 567691 iam_soulfull@hotmail.com
Zumba Gold (Zumba at a slower pace) followed by tea and biscuits Free of Charge – just turn up.at 10:45	See Page 3 for Dates	Caro Black caronigblack@gmail.com

Hall enquiries welcome (including single bookings – no adult parties or weddings) for all vacant periods. Please contact the Lettings Secretary on 01737-352883 (between 9am and 6pm weekdays only please)
or e-mail:- bobharrison5010@btinternet.com

Recipes for Winter

Chocolate Mug Cake: Serves 1

Ingredients:

4 tablespoons self-raising flour; 4 tablespoons caster sugar; 2 tablespoons cocoa powder; 1 medium egg; 3 tablespoons milk; 3 tablespoons vegetable or sunflower oil; 2 drops vanilla essence; 2 tablespoons chocolate chips.

Method:

Add the flour, caster sugar and cocoa powder to the largest mug you have (to stop it overflowing in the microwave) and mix together.

Add the milk, vegetable or sunflower oil and vanilla essence and mix until smooth, before adding 2 tbsp chocolate chips, and mix again. Centre your mug in the middle of the microwave oven and cook on High for 1½ -2 mins, or until it has stopped rising and is firm to the touch. Keep an eye on it to make sure that it doesn't flow out of the mug.

Enjoy with ice cream or custard!

Ref: Good Food

Bean and Barley Soup: Serves 4

Ingredients:

2tbsp Vegetable Oil, 1 large onion – chopped, 1 fennel bulb, quartered, cored and chopped, 5 garlic gloves, crushed, 400g tinned chickpeas, drained and rinsed, 2x 400g tinned tomatoes, 600ml vegetable stock, 250g pearl barley, 215g butter beans, drained and rinsed, 100g baby spinach, rinsed, grated parmesan cheese.

Method:

Heat the oil in a saucepan over a medium heat, add the onions, fennel and garlic and cook until softened and just beginning to brown (about 10 mins).

Mash half the chickpeas and add to the pan with the tomatoes, stock and barley. Top up with a can of water, then bring to the boil and reduce the heat, then simmer covered for 45 mins until the barley is tender. Add another can of water if it has significantly reduced.

Add the remaining butter beans and chickpeas to the soup. After a few minutes, stir in the spinach and cook for about a minute (until wilted). Season and serve, topped with parmesan cheese

Newsletter I Spy

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Pond

Canonsfarm

Greenbelt

Facelift

Quiznight

Chocolate

Zumba

Rage

Heathside

Photography

Surreyconnect

Egyptiangoose

Winners

Residents