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clunch

DECEMBER ~ JANUARY 2026

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Editors' letter

Dear Readers,

It's Christmas time once again! Well done we made it. Is anyone fed up with festive adverts yet?

This edition has all the local church services for you on page 7.

The Print Centre and Hidden Treasures have had a fabulous year and their JustGiving charity page has received a great amount of support. See the full story on page 12. Hidden Treasures are opening late for those special local crafted gits. See page 22 for opening times

We have two Christmas Markets in Burwell on 13th December. The Farmers Market is at Mandeville Hall, see page 21 for more info, and the other one is at The Day Centre, see page 30.

If you have ever wondered what Podcasts are all about, or even if you already enjoy listening to them, then our new column giving you a selection of our popular listens are on page 56.

Finally a special thank you to our volunteer delivery team that bring every house in Burwell a copy of our magazine. We couldn't do it without you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Clunch.

Until next time...

Vaughan Allanson

BE PART OF CLUNCH

Would you like to participate in your local magazine? We are looking for regular contributors.

So if you have stories about Burwell past or present, run community events or have a club or society that doesn't already feature in Clunch or just an amusing story, then we would love to hear from you.

So, why not write a few words and send it to:

editor@burwellclunch.co.uk



A green rectangular advertisement. At the top left, the text "TALK TO US" is in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, "If things are getting to you" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. In the center, "116 123" is in large, white, bold, sans-serif font, with "FREE" in a white speech bubble to its right. Below "116 123" is the text "This number is FREE to call" in white. On the right side, there is a white box with a black border containing the text "50 YEARS OF LISTENING" in green. Below that is the Samaritans logo, which consists of a white box with a black border containing the word "SAMARITANS" in green. At the top right, in small white text, it says "Leeds Samaritans is celebrating".



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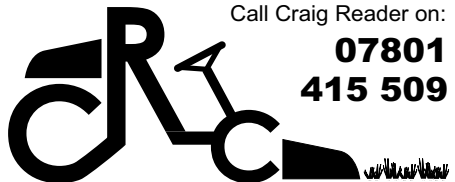
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Trinity Church Closing Service

About 80 people gathered for the Closing Service on Saturday 18th October to give thanks for the work of both the Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Burwell spanning three centuries, although sadly several people were unable to attend due to health issues.

Our Minister Rev Laura Martin took the service and the Moderator of the Eastern Synod of the URC, Rev Lythan Nevard, led the Prayers of Intercession, the Statement of Closure, and the Prayer of Leaving. Rev Dr Eleanor Williams, Rev Colin Watkins and members from Trinity also took part. The service was followed by refreshments obtained from Lane's Bakery, during which numerous old photos and articles were on display.

It was lovely to see so many friends from the village including St Mary's, the Baptist and Catholic Churches, and others who had worshipped at Trinity in the past and had travelled several miles to share with us.

Burwell Village College Primary Library Refurbishment

We would like to continue to enhance the library so we need your help!

Excitingly, our school application has been successful for the 'Tesco Stronger Starts' token competition. Voting will commence in the following stores from the first week in October 2025 until mid-January 2026

RedLodge Express IP28 8JZ
Newmarket Express CB8 8LX
Newmarket Extra CB8 7AH

To vote, you will need to make a purchase of any value within the stores listed. You will receive one token per transaction to be placed in the voting unit, normally located near the entrance of the store.

The project with the highest number of votes across the region will receive up to £1,500, the second placed project up to £1,000 and the third placed project £500.

Thank you for supporting us! Happy shopping!

Although we are all saddened by the closure of the church everyone has happy memories of times past and present, such as the Church Fetes in the garden, the Christmas Fayres in the church (with Santa in his grotto), Harvest Suppers and Teas, Quiz Nights with fish and chips and many floats in the Village Carnivals (quite a few prize winning entries!), and more recently our "Trinity TIME" drop-in coffee mornings. The groups who have been meeting in the church rooms will miss their familiar settings, and we wish them well in their new venues.

The church contents had to be cleared before handing it back to the URC who own the property. We have been delighted at the response from the churches in the area, the Day Centre, our user groups and village friends who have helped us in any way and although all the items have been freely given away, many recipients have made donations to the East Anglian Air Ambulance for which £1170 has been raised so far.

Newmarket Community Cinema

The Newmarket Community Cinema shows a film on a Monday evening once a month at The Stable, High Street, Newmarket.

Doors open at 6.45pm with the film starting at 7.30pm. Admission £6 for December and then £7 for January, including free refreshments:

The next two films will be:

Monday December 15th

The Penguin Lessons (12)

Monday January 19th

Conclave (12A)

For further information or to reserve seats, please either email richardjbowler@outlook.com or call 01638 666810.

LETTER FROM THE VICARAGE

During December, people are 'counting down' to Christmas Day in an ever-increasing variety of ways. In my childhood we had a simple card Advent calendar with a traditional picture of a manger scene, doors marked with the countdown numbers and a picture of the different characters behind each. These days you can pay hundreds to have a gift for each day from toys to jewellery. And don't fret, your pets can have their own also! At St Mary's, we mark each of the four Sundays of Advent by lighting a candle each time, one for the first week, two for the second and so on. I take special delight in announcing when it's time to light 'Four Candles'! Finally, when we get to Christmas, we light 5 candles, as we celebrate the Light of Jesus coming into the world.

We're really pleased that Community Angel Awards are back this year, with St Mary's partnering again with Burwell Co-op. We are looking for nominations for anyone who has made a difference to you, anyone you know, or in the community. Please send all nominations to me by 9th December, ready for the Award Ceremony at St Mary's 12.00pm on Saturday 13th December. We're also inviting the community to make Angel decorations for the church, which will be on display from that weekend. In the lead up to Christmas anyone can come in to have a look and admire the community creations. The church will be open every day in daylight hours. In St Mary's, we'll also have our Remembering Tree in place from early December, and all are welcome to write the names of loved ones on stars for the tree. All are welcome at any of our Advent and Christmas services and events, as we explore the meaning of Christmas together. More details on the Churches Together page.

If you'd like to find out more about who we are and what we do, or get more involved in the life of St Mary's and St Etheldreda's, please get in touch, and also if you would like to chat or if we can pray for you, if you are struggling financially, or know someone who is, or need help accessing Ely foodbank. The Pop-up Pantry is open on the first Friday of month 2.00 – 3.00pm at Burwell Day Centre, and we also hope to have some Christmas specials.

Best wishes for an Advent full of hope, a Christmas full of joy, and a New Year filled with peace, from all of us at St Mary's and St Etheldreda's!

Eleanor Williams Vicar of Burwell with Reach
01638 741262 vicar@stmarysburwell.org.uk

Website www.stmarysburwell.org.uk
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysburwell/>

Churches Together Praying for Burwell

As Churches Together in Burwell, we pray for our village community, and are seeking to offer support wherever we can. Each month, we pray for a different part of the village. These are the streets we will be praying for over the next two months. If you have a prayer request at any time, or would like one of the ministers to get in touch, please email BurwellPrayer@btinternet.com or contact 01638 745502 or 01638 741262. We can also help to put you in touch with one of the local foodbanks if you find yourself in need of support. Any information that you share with us will be treated in confidence and in accordance with the requirements of GDPR.

December

Baker Drive, Ness Court, Ness Road, The Avenue (Burwell), Swaffham Road (Reach).

January

Buntings Crescent, Buntings Path, Carter Road, Garden Court, Hawthorn Way, Martin Road, Orchard Way, Westhorpe (Burwell), Ditchfield (Reach)

Contact Details for the Churches and Ministers

Churches Together Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/churchestogetherburwell>

Burwell Baptist Church: Rev'd Chris Johnson
01638 745502 www.burwellbaptistchurch.org.uk

Newmarket RC Church OLISE: Fr Leo Michael Marianu 01638 662492/666305 and Fr John Morrill 01223 811822. www.olise.co.uk

St Mary's Burwell: Rev'd Canon Dr Eleanor Williams 01638 741262 www.stmarysburwell.org.uk



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Burwell Baptist Church

Sunday 14th December

10.30am Preparing for Christmas All Age Service

Sunday 21st December

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 25th December

10.30am Family Celebration of Christmas Day

Newmarket RC Church

Wednesday 24th December

6.00pm Childrens'/Family Mass (Our Lady Immaculate, Newmarket)

Wednesday 24th December
(Newmarket)

11.00pm Carols and then Midnight Mass

Thursday 25th December
Kirtling)

9.00am Christmas Day Mass (St Philip Neri,

Thursday 25th December

11.00am Mass (Newmarket)

Community Christmas lunch available after the 11.00 Christmas Day Mass. Pre-booking essential (book by phone 01638 662492).

St Mary's Burwell

Sunday 7th December

4.30pm Christingle Service at St Mary's

Saturday 13th December

12.00pm Community Angel Awards at St Mary's

Sunday 21st December

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's

Monday 22nd December

5.00pm Christingle Service at Reach

Wednesday 24th December

3.00pm Crib Service at St Mary's

Wednesday 24th December

11.30pm Midnight Communion at St Mary's

Thursday 25th December

8.30am Holy Communion at Reach

Thursday 25th December

10.00am All Ages Together service with Communion at St Mary's

Burwell Day Centre

Since 1989 Burwell Day Centre has been supporting those aged 55 and over in Burwell and surrounding areas who experience loneliness and social isolation. We provide a warm, safe environment where people can rebuild social connections and enjoy daily life.

Five days a week, we serve freshly-cooked, delicious hot meals and put on a variety of entertainment – everything from musicians to magicians. We offer chair-based exercises to strengthen mobility and flexibility, hold craft classes (pottery to painting) and run a host of other activities to keep our users engaged and content.

For those who are housebound due to mobility problems, we deliver a meals-on-wheels service to their door. Most of all, we fill the biggest missing part of their lives – companionship. We have a great team of staff and volunteers to provide the social care the elderly deserve.

Over the past few years, government and council funding has been cut drastically. Across the UK, over 300 Day Centres have closed since 2018 because they cannot afford to operate. Yet we are still here! In fact, our Day Centre remains the only five day a week facility for elderly social care in our District. We are so grateful for the donations of our supporters. Their contributions regularly make up over 10-15% of our overall income.

However, rising overheads and lower income levels are presenting major challenges. We have taken significant steps to ensure our sustainability, such as cutting costs where possible. We have plans to expand our Day Centre activities to include service users from other districts, operating a café, increasing our evening activities and delivering meals to businesses in Burwell.

In summary the services the Day Centre provides are as follows:

- We are open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday
- Meals are only £10 for a two-course meal. We need an order by 3pm the day before
- Our café is open on Mondays from 10am to 2pm
- Our Day Centre is available for private hire to all sections of the community

Please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Tel 01638 743363

Email admin@burwelldaycentre.co.uk

The Burwell Day Centre is located in Ash Grove in Parsonage Close off Parsonage Lane. There is a direction sign at Pound Hill. Come and see us!

Burwell Carnival 2025

Thank you to everyone who supported the Burwell Carnival in July of this year.

We are keen that the Carnival will continue to be a vibrant and exciting community event. However, we need to balance this against our running costs and the committee and wider volunteer capacity, which continues to be relatively limited in its numbers. As such, we plan to move to a biennial model with the full Carnival taking place every other year.

We have set the date for Saturday 3rd July 2027, and hope to make it 'better than ever' with the longer lead in and planning time.

We hope that by not running the full Carnival in 2026, we can increase the number of smaller fundraising and entertainment events taking place in the village through the year.

Please watch this space for more information, we would continue to welcome your good ideas and practical support with any aspect of our event organisation and planning.

By the next issue of Clunch, we expect to have news about a number of grants to local community and charitable projects - we anticipate donating around £5,000 in this year's fundraising round.

Burwell Car Scheme

If you are unable to use conventional transport the scheme can help you arrange a journey from Burwell.

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Safer Falls – a second course from Burwell Judo Club



Starting Friday January 16th, 3pm-4pm in the Gardiner Memorial Hall, running for 8 weeks.

Falls are one of the leading causes of hospital admission in older adults. This is a course designed to teach older adults how to fall safely, and to teach you ways of improving balance and stability so as to avoid falls. There is no upper age limit.

We will take you through a progression of exercises to learn safe falling, and to avoid the falls which will lead to broken bones. This programme has been devised by our National Governing Body, the British Judo Association.

More information can be obtained from Jane Blunt (fjblunt@gmail.com).

Cost £2 a session.

BURWELL SURGERY HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Burwell Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients and GP practice staff who meet in person, and with the option to join online, for 90 minutes, four times a year.

Members of the PPG get to hear about any upcoming changes at the surgery as well as being able to provide feedback on the patient experience to help improve the service. We also act as a consultative group for any changes at the practice and the wider NHS.

Our next meeting will be at 6.30-8pm on Tuesday 27th January at the Burwell Day Centre with an option to join online via Teams.

At January's meeting we hope to have a speaker from the Surgery team responsible for Perinatal Services. We also hope to hear more about upcoming national changes to prostate cancer screening.

At each meeting we now have a 7.30pm slot specifically focused on the views of younger people and parents with young families. In January we will also be having the Perinatal Services talk at this time. Do please feel free to join the meeting for the 7.30pm slot either in person or remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Joining the PPG does not mean you have to come to every meeting or attend for every item on the agenda. You can dip in and out, or send feedback in advance of the meeting, but by being part of the group you will receive the agenda and minutes of each meeting.

If you would like to be part of the group, please contact the Surgery on 01638 741234 or by email at cpicb.burwellsurgery.admin@nhs.net.

For more information, including a wide range of articles about Surgery services such as weight loss injections, health checks, social prescribing and health and wellbeing coaching, please visit: <https://www.theburwellsurgery.co.uk/patient-group/about-our-ppg/>



BURWELL PRINT CENTRE

A Heartfelt Thank You from Your Local Social Enterprise

November 20th marked Social Enterprise Day, a time to celebrate organisations that put people and purpose before profit. At Burwell Print Centre we're proud to be part of that movement — supporting individuals with additional needs through meaningful work, creativity, and skill-building.

We are absolutely thrilled to share that, thanks to the incredible generosity of our local community, our JustGiving appeal raised an amazing £2,220! Every penny will go directly towards the IT equipment we need to run a successful Print Centre, helping us continue to provide valuable opportunities for all our team members.

A special thank you goes to 'The Farthing Trust' for their very generous donation and support, as well as to everyone who

donated, shared our posts, or spread the word

We were also touched by the offers of second-hand computers, which we can have refurbished to meet our needs — a huge help as we continue to grow and modernise our services.

The outpouring of support we received on social media was truly heartwarming. It's wonderful to know that so many people believe in what we do and want to help us continue making a positive impact. It truly reminds us of what a caring and connected community Burwell is.

From all of us at Burwell Print Centre, a huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, shared our campaign, or offered help. Your kindness and community spirit mean the world to us.

You can continue to support us by using Burwell Print for all your printing needs and buying your gifts from Hidden Treasures.

Here's to another year of creativity, inclusion, and opportunity in Burwell!

Wishing everyone in the village a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year from all at Burwell Print Centre.



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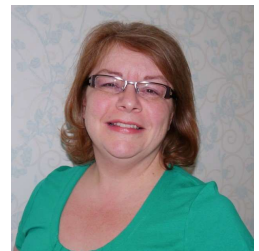
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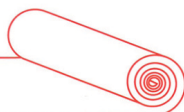
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Charlotte Cane MP

As the year draws to a close and we gather for festive events across our villages and towns, I've been reflecting on what makes Ely and East Cambridgeshire so special — our sense of community, our compassion, and our determination to look out for one another. That spirit has shone through in everything from local campaigns to doorstep conversations this autumn.

In November, I joined my constituent Lisa Smart, from Cottenham, outside 10 Downing Street to deliver a petition with over 15,500 signatures calling on the Government to save vital hospice beds at Arthur Rank Hospice. Lisa's daughter received end-of-life care there, and her powerful story shows just how much this service means to families across Cambridgeshire.

The petition is part of a joint campaign I launched alongside Liberal Democrat Cambridgeshire MPs Pippa Heylings and Ian Sollow to reverse an £829,000 funding cut. Without that funding, nine of the hospice's 23 beds face closure — meaning more than 200 patients could be left without access to specialist care each year. Everyone deserves compassion, dignity, and peace at the end of their lives. We must not let a funding failure take that away.

In Parliament, I've been urging the Government to deliver fair funding and real reform for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). In Ely and East Cambridgeshire, 4% of pupils have Education, Health and Care Plans — higher than the national average. Our schools do incredible work, but they need the Government's support. Every child deserves the chance to thrive, with properly funded and accessible support close to home.

I continue to press the Government on fuel poverty, after uncovering official figures showing that 9.6% of households in our constituency — that's 4,487 homes — were living in fuel poverty as far back as 2023. Shockingly, Ministers have yet to publish the data for the past year, even as families continue to struggle with soaring energy



Photo: Charlotte Cane MP (second from right) stood alongside local residents and MPs to deliver the petition to save palliative care beds at Arthur Rank Hospice.

costs. I am urging the Government to publish the latest figures, to end fuel poverty and tackle the cost-of-living crisis.

Whether it's meeting residents on the doorstep, attending local events, or holding my three monthly surgeries, I'm always here to listen and help. Since being elected, I've now closed over 9,000 cases where residents have come to me for advice or support.

As your local champion, I'm here to stand up for you — and I'll keep doing just that.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who keeps our community running through the darker months — from NHS staff and carers to utility workers, emergency services, and transport teams who work tirelessly through the holidays.

Wishing you a peaceful and happy festive season, Charlotte

P.S. This is just a snippet — to keep up with everything I'm doing, sign up to my newsletter at bit.ly/newsfromcharlotte.

Charlotte Cane, MP for Ely & East Cambridgeshire
charlotte.cane.mp@parliament.uk |
020 7362 1601

Upcoming Advice Surgeries Charlotte Cane MP

OCTOBER: Thurs 02, 2pm-4pm - Ely
Thurs 09, 3.30pm-5.30pm - Strettham
Fri 24, 11am-12.30pm - Online

NOVEMBER: Fri 14, 12.30pm-2pm - Online
Fri 21, 2.30pm-4.30pm - Ely
Fri 28, 3pm-5pm - Stetchworth

DECEMBER: Thurs 04, 1.30pm-3.30pm - Sutton
Fri 12, 4pm-5.30pm - Online
Thurs 18, 10am-12pm - Ely

JANUARY: Thurs 08, 9.30am-11am - Online
Fri 16, 11am-1pm - Isleham
Fri 23, 3.30pm-5.30pm - Ely

FEBRUARY: Fri 06, 9am-10.30am - Online
Fri 13, 11am-1pm - Milton
Thurs 26, 2.30pm-4.30pm - Ely

MARCH: Thurs 05, 3.30pm-5pm - Online
Thurs 12, 10am-12pm - Ely
Fri 27, 1pm-3pm - Mepal

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Burwell WI – End of Year Message 2025

As 2025 draws to a close, the membership for the Burwell WI is 63 members, one of the largest groups in Cambridgeshire. Our members continue to enjoy coming together each month alongside our smaller member groups – two book clubs, a creative writing group, cookery, gardening, and crafting clubs!

The Burwell Belles remain as active as ever and the upkeep of Burwell's two defibrillators is proudly funded through our fundraising efforts, including proceeds from our WI stall at the Burwell Carnival. We also took part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning at The Fox, once again led by Chris Collins, who celebrated her 26th year of hosting this wonderful event. Thanks to her and a team

of talented WI bakers, £405 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support.

It has been a fantastic year of engaging talks at our monthly meetings. We extend our gratitude to all our guest speakers for keeping us entertained and inspired.

Looking Ahead to 2026

We're excited to share our early 2026 meeting schedule and warmly invite guests to join us.

January Meeting: Our first meeting of the year will focus on the National WI Resolutions choosing a cause to bring to the government's attention. We'll also hold our Annual Baking Challenge, with judging and rosettes awarded!

The Blister Pack Recycling Initiative, launched following the 2025 resolution, has had to be suspended for the time being. We are now in contact with the County Council and our MP to find a new home for the collections.

February Meeting: We welcome Leonard Priestley, who will share fascinating tales from his life as a lorry driver and removal man.

March Meeting: Our own Sara Phipps will give a talk about her time working in the L'Oréal perfumery division, guiding us through a sensory journey of scents and perfumes in her session titled "Know Your Nose."

April Open Meeting: Our annual Open Meeting - open to the whole community, both women and men - will feature a speaker from the Hearing Dogs Association. We're thrilled that Dory the dog will also be joining us too! This promises to be a heartwarming and insightful evening about the lives and work of these incredible dogs and their trainers.

If you'd like to join an upcoming meeting, we meet on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Gardiner Memorial Hall. Visitors are very welcome - entry is £5 per person. Or drop us a line at alisondodds@hotmail.co.uk.

Finally, from everyone at Burwell WI, we wish the entire Burwell community a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year 2026!



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Soham Scout Hut £4

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Wednesdays

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11am - 12pm Beginners

Reach Village Hall £6

12.30pm - 1.30pm

Chen Style Beginners



Thursdays

Paradise Centre, Ely £5

Keep Active Ely

10am - 11am

T'ai Chi Health, Beijing 24 Step

Burwell Sports Centre £4

12pm - 1pm Seated T'ai Chi Strength & Balance

1pm - 2pm T'ai Chi Fitness, Stretch and Strength

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Burwell Village College Primary

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As Burwell Village College Primary School is officially a "Good" school there has never been a better time to join the Governing Body at the school. A vacancy for a non-school parent governor has just recently arisen due to the stepping down of a valued governor due to work commitments. Therefore, we need to attract a person from our local community who has a range of varied skills and experience to work with us. School governors are community minded people who volunteer to work with the Headteacher and staff to deliver the best education for the pupils of the school. They don't need to be specialists or have experience of the school curriculum but do need to be ready to work together in the best interest of all our children.

The governors work with the Headteacher and staff on a wide range of matters including:

Deciding what kind of school and education we want to offer our pupils within and beyond the National Curriculum

- Working strategically to help the school achieve its aims
- Ensuring that pupils feel safe, feel secure and happy and receive the best opportunities to learn in a creative and positive environment
- Helping to set school policies and to meet statutory regulations
- Ensuring money is spent efficiently and effectively
- Working in partnership to support the school
- Questioning and robustly challenging the schools leaders on the standards of educational performance

The full Governing Body meet about 6 times a year during term time, with individual governors taking on particular roles to suit their interests and experiences/skills. The meetings last about 2 hours and in between meetings governors are expected to undertake school visits to observe first-hand the work of the school and to monitor the impact of initiatives in line with the School Development Plan and its priorities. Many governors work full time and are able to fit in this role around their other commitments. As being a governor

is a public duty some employers give time off to enable their employees to fulfil this role. The motivation of governors is to make a positive contribution to something which is of fundamental importance to our whole community, that is the education of our children.

This role is unpaid but does offer fulfilment and satisfaction as you watch the school develop, knowing that you are making a difference in the education and learning of our children. There is a very extensive range of training opportunities to fill in any gaps or knowledge of the school curriculum and being a school governor.

If you are interested in being a school governor or just want an informal chat to know more about what this entails please contact the school in the first instance on either 01638 613103 or office@burwellvillage.cambs.sch.uk and they will arrange for the Chair of Governors, Mrs Edris Tildesley, to contact you and arrange time for that conversation.

Christmas Farmers Market

Is on 13th December this year. Doors open at 9am until 12 Noon at Mandeville Hall.

We should have 28 stalls across 3 halls as well as a refill van (so bring your own containers to fill),

Mary from Happy Coffee and Gemma from Porch Plants outside. We are pleased to offer some of the best produce and crafts in the local area. We have award winning Beer & Cider as well as award winning Preserves & Gin. Some of the most celebrated bakes both savoury and sweet from 4 amazing bakers. Beautiful plants and flowers, cheese and breads. Locally reared and butchered Pork, Beef & Lamb, chocolates and sweets, raw honey and organic fruit and veg. Planet friendly products, hand made gifts, jewellery and cards, beautiful crafts, curry kits & vegan ready meals.

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With super friendly stallholders and customers who have become friends, we pride ourselves on our friendly and welcoming atmosphere. And where else in the village can you get a cup of coffee & a slice of homemade cake for £1?

All the money from refreshments is donated to a charity in the village.

Make sure you're protected this winter

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough urging anyone eligible for their COVID-19, flu, RSV or pneumococcal vaccines to make sure they've had them this winter. Each vaccine has a slightly different eligibility criteria:

RSV vaccine – for anyone who is pregnant, aged 75-79, or anyone who turned 80 years old from 1 September 2024.

Pneumococcal vaccine – for anyone 65 or over (only one dose is needed).

Flu vaccine – for anyone aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2025); have certain long-term health conditions; are pregnant; live in a care home; are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance; or live with someone who has a weakened immune system.

COVID-19 vaccine – for anyone aged 75+; those aged between six months and 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment; and people who live in a care home for older adults.

For some people who have got used to have their COVID-19 and flu vaccine together in winter, this might mean a change for them as the COVID-19 vaccine age criteria has changed from people over 65 to people over 75.

To find out more about these vaccines, and how to book them, or find a walk-in clinic, please visit The Vaccinators website <https://www.cpics.org.uk/the-vaccinators>

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has continued to have a strong presence in the village, we continue to support and promote local artist and crafters of all ages, enabling them to showcase their handmade products in a retail setting.

Our Meet the Maker events have continued to prove popular, especially our recent Pottery and Paint event, where we offered the opportunity for members of the community to pop in and create your own little friends out of clay, with Jess's guidance.

With the festive period fast approaching we have been busy planning our events to the end of the year:

Our yearly Christmas Shopping event will take place on Saturday 29th November 10am – 4pm. Debbie Bull will be outside displaying her Xmas Wreaths and floral displays and of course the mulled wine will be flowing inside the shop to bring on the festive cheer.

Remember if the table and chairs are outside the shop we are open and ready to greet you.

Hidden Treasures success is due to the amazing support we have had from you, our customers, the talented artists and creativity that fills our shelves and the incredible team of workers from Burwell Print that always greet you with a friendly smile.

Whatever 2026 brings we would like to thank you all for your support in 2025 and remember

every purchase from Hidden Treasures is supporting a small local business and a local Burwell charity.

We would like to wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Saturday 29 Xmas Shopping Event 10am-4pm

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Friday 5 Last night of Late Night Shopping Week - 6pm

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Tuesday 23 Closing at 4pm Merry Christmas!

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Facebook: Burwell Ex-Service and Social Club

Burwell Museum and Windmill

October saw the end of our 'open' season at the Museum.

However, this year, we went for it by hosting a Halloween event over the weekend of the 25th and 26th October. This is the first time we have hosted this event and a lot of effort went in to make this a success – unfortunately due to Storm Amy, we were unable to host the Guides for an evening event – next year maybe!! Special thanks go to Catina Kirkpatrick, Karen Robinson and Malcolm Busby together with



our team of very creative volunteers!

Our next event is Santa's visit to the Mill on the 6th and 7th December. There is still time to buy your tickets!! There is free access to the barn where there will be story telling and children's crafts available, along with face painting at a small charge (profits split with the Print Centre). There will also be spinning demonstrations, mulled wine, Burwell Brewery Christmas Ale, a Christmas hampers raffle and gifts to purchase! Tickets to Santa are by timed appointment only and each child gets their own specially chosen gift.

In November, we have our last school visits of the year with Burwell Village College year 2 children joining us. We are then having a break until March next year where we already have 2 schools booked in to visit us.

Our winter plans are progressing well, and the Mill Team will have put their IPAF training to good use already by having a cherry picker on site to check out some concerns that they have with the fan tail, and give the sails/mill a check before the winter. Fingers crossed that all goes well.

Burwell is such a special village. The Museum Trustees were contacted by Gerald and Pauline Mason recently as they had heard that we were looking for funding to make some changes to our Tea Room. Thanks to their kind donation, we plan over the winter to expand and change our tea room facility, enabling us to remedy the overheating and lack of space/height issues that we currently have, in both the kitchen and the main area. This is a HUGE project for us and if you have electrical, plumbing, flooring or general building skills and you would like to help us, then please do get in touch.

Our volunteers are always busy and following the donation of a new work bench, banded cabinet and wood working lathe for their workshop, they have been busy re-arranging it and sorting through their tools – some of which they have finally had to say goodbye to. So, if you have any old saws or tools that you no longer want, please think of us before throwing them away – the team would greatly appreciate this.

Our winter closure looks like it's going to be a busy time for us again, with the Environmental

Education Hub planning progressing well, along with other practical things like completing our IT update, and reviewing our website and finally sorting out our office!

Outside of the Museum, you may have seen that we have been selected for the Co-Op Local Community Fund. Please choose us as your charity of the year as part of your Co-Op



Membership scheme and help us to purchase some AV kit for our new Environmental Hub.

Burwell Museum will be at the Christmas Farmers Market on the 13th December and will be selling season tickets for 2026 if you wish to purchase one or give one as a gift to a loved one. We will have details of our events for 2026 by then too! We will also be selling raffle tickets for our Christmas Raffle Hampers so come along and see us.

After such a busy year, The Museum Trustees and Volunteers would like to thank everyone who has supported us over the year, by coming to an event or giving us a donation. Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2026.

Parish Council Report

Burwell Parish Council: A Year of Progress and Community Action

As 2025 draws to a close, Burwell Parish Council is reflecting on a year of hard work and community progress — from tackling major planning issues to improving local facilities and services.

Solar, Batteries, and Bus Routes

This year's biggest talking points have centred on solar and battery developments and the future of local bus routes. The council has submitted detailed consultation responses, all available on the Parish Council website and regularly shared via Facebook. Residents are encouraged to stay engaged — and to reach out directly with questions or concerns.

Biodiversity and Sustainability

A new Biodiversity Plan is taking shape, with specific local actions now being added. Meanwhile, sustainability has remained a key focus: Mandeville Hall has been upgraded to energy-efficient LED lighting, and the council has successfully secured funding for solar panels and battery storage, due to be installed soon.

Highways and Safety Improvements

Road safety also received a boost this year. Funding was awarded for flashing warning signs on The Causeway and Buntings Path, and the community-led Speedwatch programme has been reactivated — thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers.

Community Spirit



The Council organised local events, including Remembrance Sunday and Burwell in Bloom. The popular Repair Cafés and SWISH events continue to thrive, promoting sustainability, skill-sharing, and community connection. More about Repair Café's later...

Safety and Policing

The Council has received reports of vandalism, anti-social behaviour, and theft during the year. Residents are strongly urged to contact the police first in any such incidents. Even if you think nothing will be done, every report counts - statistics help secure vital investment in community policing.

Festive Events

The Parish Council warmly invites everyone to its Annual Christmas Carols on Friday 19th December at 7pm, accompanied by the Newmarket Town Band — and with the promise of a special festive visitor.

Join the Council

There are currently vacancies for Parish Councillors, offering residents a chance to get directly involved in local issues — from climate action and planning to community initiatives and transport. Details on how to apply are available on the Burwell Parish Council website or by contacting the Parish Office.

Allotments Available

Green-fingered residents can now apply for plots at the Newmarket Road Allotment Site. Interested?

Email burwellrfo@burwellparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Facilities for Hire

The council's village halls and tennis courts remain popular community assets. Both halls feature projectors and fully equipped kitchens, and are used by a wide range of groups — from fitness classes and theatre groups to business meetings and private events. Bookings can be made via www.burwellparishcouncil.gov.uk, where residents are also welcome to arrange a viewing before booking.

Tennis Anyone?

For just £4 per half hour, the Burwell Tennis Courts offer great value for fun, fitness, or a casual game with friends. Courts can also be used for netball, and bookings are available online at clubspark.lta.org.uk/burwell-tennis-courts.

Burwell's Repair Revolution: Fixing More Than Just Broken Things

In an age of fast fashion, disposable gadgets, and rising living costs, the thriving Repair Café movement is proving that sometimes the best solution is not to buy new, but to breathe life back into what we already have. And here in Burwell, that idea is thriving.

Burwell Repair Café has become a much-loved community fixture — a place where neighbours gather to fix, mend, and share. Whether it's a faulty lamp, a favourite jumper with a tear, or even a vintage record player, the café brings together skilled volunteers and local residents to tackle repairs with enthusiasm and care.

Why It Matters

Cutting Waste Locally

Every successful repair saves an item from landfill — and in Burwell, that impact is measurable. Since its launch, the café has carried out over 250 successful repairs, preventing an estimated 5,370kg of carbon emissions — the equivalent of growing 86 tree seedlings for 10 years or charging more than 300,000 smartphones.

Saving Money

With the cost-of-living crisis squeezing households, repair cafés offer an affordable alternative to replacement.

Strengthening Community Ties

More than just practical, the café has become a social event. Neighbours meet over tea and cake, volunteers share knowledge, and connections grow stronger.

Preserving Skills

From darning and sewing to repairing a tricycle or rewiring a standard lamp the café is helping to keep traditional repair skills alive — and to pass them on to the next generation. The most popular category for repair is modern electrical appliances — such as hoovers, coffee makers and toasters.

The idea for Burwell's Repair Café was born out of the Parish Council's Climate Change forum. After research, training from Cambridge Carbon Footprint, and plenty of community input, the first event launched in November 2022. Since then, it's gone from strength to strength. While the Parish Council provides the venue and sits on the steering committee steering group, the café is run by volunteers from Burwell and beyond — from repairers to cake bakers — and is now proudly self-sufficient. What's more, funds raised from donations and the sale of refreshments are being ploughed back into other local environmental projects.

One attendee said "It's great that our Parish Council has taken this initiative forward and is finding positive methods to support climate change."

The range of items that pass through the doors is astonishing — from kayaks to music boxes, vacuum cleaners, toys, and treasured family keepsakes. One repairer, Halina, even improved a simple zip repair by adding a jewel, making the outfit not just more functional but providing some Burwell bling!



And what do volunteers say? They describe the work as challenging, rewarding, and deeply satisfying – especially when an item holds sentimental value.

Ask anyone what makes Burwell's Repair Café stand out, and you might be surprised by the answer: cake! Alongside the repairs, the café has become known for its delicious bakes and sausage rolls – so much so that recipes are now being shared with other community groups. Even if you don't have something that needs mending, it's worth dropping by just for the refreshments and atmosphere.

How to Get Involved

The Repair Café is always looking for new faces:

- Bring along an item to be repaired
- Volunteer as a repairer

✉ Get in touch: burwellrepaircafe@gmail.com
🌐 Find out more: www.burwellrepaircafe.org

The next Repair Café takes place on 1st February 2026, while its sister event, the popular Burwell Swish clothes swap, returns on 8th March 2026 at Gardener Memorial Hall.

The Burwell Repair Café isn't just about mending things. It's about valuing what we have, reducing waste, and building a stronger, more connected community. So next time something breaks – don't bin it. Bring it to the Repair Café and be part of Burwell's repair revolution.

Burwell Parish Council

Christmas market

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Burwell and District Horticultural Society (formerly BAGS), including Junior Section

Forthcoming Events:

Weds 3 December: Christmas Social (7:30, 5 Bells Barn)

Sat 6 December: Taster session for the Junior Section. Children aged between 6-13 welcome – Josh Saward (10:00, Allotments)

2026

Sat 17 January: Taster session for the Junior Section. Children aged between 6-13 welcome – Josh Saward (10:00, Allotments)

Weds 28 January: 'How to be a Show Winner' – Tony Fuller (7:30, 5 Bells Barn)*

Weds 25 February: 'Hellebores' - Barry Gayton (7:30, 5 Bells Barn)*

Sat 28 February: Taster session for the Junior Section. Children aged between 6-13 welcome – Josh Saward (10:00, Allotments)

Weds 25 March: 'Las Vegas to LA' - Colin Smith (7:30, 5 Bells Barn)*

Weds 22 April: Short AGM followed by 'The Breckland Flora – Jo Jones (7:30, 5 Bells Barn)*

Sat 16 May: Coach trip to Savill Gardens (a stunning garden for all seasons, in Windsor Great Park)

Sun 7 June: Burwell Gardens Open Day (NGS charity opening)

Sat 25 July: Annual Flower and Produce Show at Mandeville Hall

Sat 26 September: BBQ at the Allotments

Weds 21 October: TBC (7:30, 5 Bells Barn)*

Weds 18 November: TBC (7:30, 5 Bells Barn)*

Weds 2 December: Christmas Social (7:30, 5 Bells Barn)

NB * Denotes that these events are free to members, but a charge of £4 will be made to non-members.

For more information/ to join BDHS, please contact: angela.ratcliffe@ntlworld.com

Tree Planting:

Now is the time to plant trees in the garden. Trees are now dormant and will have all winter and early spring for the soil to firm up around the root ball, and for natural rainfall to help water them in, so new roots will find it easier to grow into the soil.

I am a great believer in 'the right plant in the right place'. There are several things to take into consideration before planting trees in your garden:

What will be the size of the tree in 10, or even 30, years? You may wish to screen yourself with a rapidly growing tree but that sort will not stop when you want it to, so you will eventually need a tree surgeon, at great expense, to try to undo your mistake. Most conifers, in particular, will leave you with a horrible dead top if you attempt to reduce their height. Also, have some thought for your neighbours, particularly those to the north of your planting, who will end up with a very shady garden if your choice is unwise. An eventual height of 3-10 meters should not be exceeded, unless you are fortunate enough to be planting a wood or parkland! Alternatively, if you are prepared to put in the work, you could choose a tree amenable to pruning so it can be maintained with a sensible size and shape.

What trees thrive in our local climate, the soil in your garden and the specific location you have in mind?

Avoid suckering species, or try to buy plants that are grafted onto non-suckering root stock. Beware stems coming off the rootstock of a grafted tree, which should be removed as soon as they appear - this is a common problem with ornamental cherries.

Give thought to the wildlife value of the tree you choose: native trees or more ornamental variants of these, such as variegated hollies, are best. Trees with flowers and fruit are always good.

Have some feature that makes it attractive, such as interesting bark, good flowers, vivid fruit, variegated or coloured leaves or good autumn colour.

Trees to avoid:

Sycamore is naturalised but not a true native, originating from central Europe and Asia. It produces a multitude of seedlings in your garden and those of your neighbours. It will get far too large, too quick, and the roots will disrupt drains and house foundations. In the spring the leaves get covered in aphids, so everything underneath will become a sticky mess. Most other plants will struggle to live under sycamores, with their heavy shade and probable root toxins.

Horse chestnut is another non-native, originating from the Balkans. Again, they are too big for domestic settings and threaten drains and foundations; recently, the introduction of a leaf-miner means that leaves turn brown from mid-summer.

Walnut originates from Iran. Again, these make very large trees with the inherent problems associated with that. If you are desperate for one, then there is a dwarf form, 'Europa', available from Suttons.

Leylandii is a very vigorous hybrid of two North American species of conifer. It is still sold widely for hedging, despite growing at the rate of 1m per year, with a potential to reach over 30m. They cast heavy shade and almost nothing can live under them. They must be trimmed twice a year without fail as, once control is lost, you will never be able to get them back in shape - unlike yew, they cannot generate fresh shoots from old wood.

Suggested trees suitable for ordinary gardens include:

Crab Apple: can be easily pruned, producing attractive flowers in the spring and fruit in the autumn. There are varieties with different flower colours and fruit colours.

Field Maple: provides great autumn colour and can be pruned to maintain the shape you want. There are other, smaller, species of maple that will provide coloured leaves and interesting bark.

Hawthorn: has lots of flowers in May - white, pink or red. It will produce red berries in the autumn unless you get one of the double varieties (which are also less attractive to pollinators). It can be pruned in midwinter, although not too drastically.

Hazel: can be periodically cut to the ground to keep it as a shrub. The catkins appear early in the year on bare stems, a reminder that spring is on its way. There is

also a purple leaved variety but this needs a more sunny position or the colour will revert to green.

Holly: a good evergreen option and there are some great variegated varieties to provide all year around interest. The negative is the prickly leaves, although there are almost spine-free varieties such as 'Golden King' (confusingly, a female variety - there will also need to be a male variety nearby for you to get berries).

Silver birch: a light and airy tree, grown for its attractive bark.

Strawberry Tree: possibly native to south west Ireland, although predominantly found around the Mediterranean. This is an unusual evergreen tree with clusters of large, heather-like white or pink flowers and red fruit. The fruit ripens in the autumn and the flowers open at the same time, providing a good nectar source for insects before hibernation. The red/brown bark adds an extra interest. This tree will be happy in a hot and dry summer.

Rowan: has a light, airy structure, spring flowers and red berries.

Whitebeam: a larger relative of the rowan but with oval leaves, with dense white hairs on the underside. Fruit and flowers similar to rowan.

When planting trees, water in well and until established. Make sure that the soil level is the same after it is planted as it was in the pot. Apple trees and many others will die if the soil or even mulch is piled up against the trunk.

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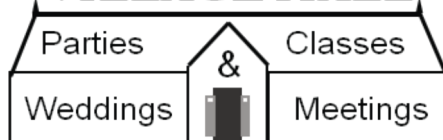
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Once upon a time a hundred years ago, there was a dark and stormy..... Kelvin Reynolds

This is the opening line from a book called *Wolf Wilder* written by children's author Katherine Rundell. I used the book as a class reader with my Year Sevens at Sawston Village College and I initially asked them to complete the opening sentence with one word. There were many variations, popular choices included 'dark and stormy night, house, village.' Nobody got it right, for the answer is 'Once upon a time there was a dark and stormy GIRL!'

The book is set in Russia in the early 20th century and features the life of young Feodora who lives in a peasant village and who forms a relationship with a pack of wolves. That opening line always blew me away, so I was delighted when I had the chance to meet Katherine at an event sponsored by Toppings book shop and held in the magnificent Ely cathedral. Katherine spoke about her latest work and the development of her characters. She is a very lively and inspiring speaker and it was a joy to meet her afterwards and get a signed copy of her book. Katherine likes to experience events for herself to give her a better understanding of her characters' actions, like sailing down the Amazon or flying before including these sequences in her book. So she arranged to have flying lessons, but admitted she found it quite difficult and on one occasion, after landing, she knew the lesson had not gone well and when she asked her instructor for feedback he replied 'Well we're both still alive!' An amazing young lady. This is what author Michael Morpurgo said about her 'There was Tolkien, there is Philip Pullman and now there is Katherine Rundell.'

A few weeks later I returned to see Ben Elton talking about his autobiography, interviewed by Emma Thompson. Ben changed the direction of comedy in this country, as a stand-up comedian he was one of the first to incorporate politics into his act.

He later went on to write comedy for television, including *Blackadder*. I didn't know that in his early days Ben and Emma, who looked very elegant in a grey trouser suit, were an item for a year and are still best friends. We are lucky to live in this area for we have both Ely and Cambridge literary festivals which give us the chance to see and hear many authors, artists and politicians talking about their latest projects.

I have a friend, David Johnson, a photographer

and film maker who has recently decided to close his company after ten years, mainly because of the growing pressure of AI. You may have seen him recently featured in the local news on the BBC. I have worked with David on a few film projects in the past, I'm not an expert on AI but I never considered that one of my favourite pieces of technology is Alexa, that I use most days for playing songs that go back to the sixties while I'm cooking or working in the kitchen.

AI will definitely affect small film companies, not just actors and but also camera operators, script writers, costume designers and image producers who could all be affected by a artificial intelligence.

A key worry also is that students at school and universities can use AI to create essays and course work, doing little to contribute themselves. The fear is it will stifle initiative and original thinking. Many fear their work could be stolen, leading to infringements of copyright. On social media there has been a massive increase of false information, doctored photos and even images of people who don't actually exist. It appears to me that AI is like a giant information station providing every detail and answer to every situation known to man and woman on the planet and some one had to put all this information in over the years. But AI is not only providing us with all the answers but is also predicting new solutions to problems, taking life to a whole new level in key areas in industry and medicine, providing revolutionary methods of production and the development of fantastic advances in the treatment of deadly diseases and illness. It reminds me of the industrial revolution when workers labouring in their peasant cottages on very basic machines were suddenly confronted by the invention of new and huge machines which led to the establishment of factories, and the start of mass production which was far more efficient. But it meant the end of the simple cottage system. The massive change prompted riots in some areas.

Eventually many of the workers would move to the factory towns and learn to work the new machines.

I'm sure we in our world today will adjust to the challenges of AI in the future but like two hundred and fifty years ago, we can't turn back the clock.

Burwell and District Flower Club

Following the summer break, the Flower Club resumed its monthly meetings on 10th September with a floral demonstration by Naomi Wells entitled 'Stories'. The demonstration followed the (fictional) life of a couple after meeting in France and subsequently marrying. Her beautiful flower arrangements provided several members with a valued prize when their winning raffle tickets were drawn at the end of the evening.

On 8 October, we enjoyed an 'Autumn Wreath' workshop run by Barbara Collins with members making and decorating their wreaths with autumnal plant and flower materials such as physalis (chinese lanterns), dried wheat sheaves, craspedia flower balls and pine cones.

On Saturday 10 October, the Flower Club held a fundraising event at Burwell Farmers Market, selling a variety of floral posies, flower arrangements and small plants, all handmade or propagated by members. It was a very successful morning, raising funds towards our Club expenses.

Our next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 November when we will be running an In-house Demonstration entitled 'Colour and Sparkle'.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (excluding August and January), 7.15-9.15pm at the Gardiner Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome (£8 for visitors). For details of all the Club meetings and how to contact us please see our website:

www.burwellflowerclub.co.uk

Burwell & District Flower Club



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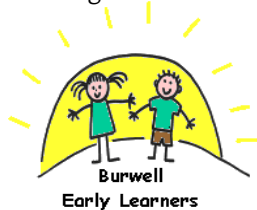
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Wicken Fen

Winter is approaching, a magical time on Wicken Fen. Hedgerow fruits and berries are food for thrushes, while the wetland hosts hundreds of ducks, geese, swans and wading birds. Sometimes, murmurations of thousands of starlings swirl above the reedbed before dusk. And sparkly, silver dawns are a beauty to behold. So why not wrap up warm and head for a walk on the Fen?

Once you've blown the cobwebs away, head to our café for a warm drink, soup, scone or sweet treat. Throughout winter, the Docky Hut Café and Visitor Centre are open 10-4.30pm everyday except for Christmas Day.

As always, we have themed activities at the Family Discovery Area in the visitor centre and there will be a new winter trail around the boardwalk. Why not browse the gift shop or second-hand Book Nook for festive gifts. Our popular Father Christmas at the Fen events are running each weekend from

Father Christmas at the Fen spaces are disappearing fast! Step into a festive wonderland in the charming Fen Cottage, where children can join the Elves for a Christmas craft, then meet Father Christmas himself and receive a gift.

Drop into our Family Games Station to play a festive board game and transform into an Elf for a fantastic photo opportunity. This popular event is almost sold out, so book now to avoid disappointment. Tickets are £14.50 per child.

New for 2025, we have a special *Twas the Night Before Christmas* storytelling. Step into the warmth of Fen Cottage this Christmas Eve, where one of Santa's very own Elves will be reading the beloved festive poem *Twelve Days of Christmas* beside a crackling open fire. This group storytelling session is perfect for children aged 3 and up, offering a magical moment to pause, imagine, and soak up the spirit of Christmas. Every child will take home their very own copy of *Twelve Days of Christmas* to keep the festive magic alive. Festive attire is encouraged — think Christmas jumpers, pyjamas, or elf hats. Come along for a heartwarming start to your Christmas celebrations.

For the latest reserve news, visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen

Events: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/whats-on



Winter Dog Walk, Justin Minns

Wicken Coronation Band

Over the festive season, the band will be playing at the following supermarkets and concerts.

- Sun 30 Nov - Wicken Christmas Market
- Sat 6 Dec - Stretham Outdoor Christmas Market
- Sat 13 Dec - Tesco, Newmarket
- Sun 14 Dec - Wicken Methodist Church Carol Service
- Fri 19 Dec - Tesco, Ely
- Sat 20 Dec - Tesco, Barhill
- Sun 21 Dec - Wicken Coronation Band Christmas Concert, Fordham Victoria Hall.



It would be fabulous to see you at any of the above engagements. Please do pop over and say hello.

As usual, I'm finishing with a note to encourage any budding or returning player who fancies a go with a brass instrument to come along and join us either on a Monday evening (Youth and Training Band) at the Wicken Methodist Chapel or on Wednesdays (Senior Band) at the Wicken Village Hall at 7:30pm. New players would be made very welcome.

Stay tuned!

The Wicken Coronation Band would like to pass on our warmest wishes at Christmas and for 2026. Thank you for your continued support.

Claire – Secretary Wicken Coronation Brass Band

<https://wickenbrass.band>

District Council Report - September 2025

Full Council met in September with Local Government Reorganisation taking up much of the meeting. This will probably see the current 7 principal councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough being merged into 2 unitary authorities. 5 options are currently having business cases drawn up, with Council in November taking a decision on which option ECDC prefers. Whichever option(s) is submitted to Government. Government has made it clear that they will have the final say. Council also agreed a motion calling on Government to release funding for the much-needed Ely North railway upgrade. Council also approved the Treasury Operations Annual Performance Review for 2024/25 and ratified the appointment of Mr Jude Antony as Finance Director/Section 151 officer. Following the announcement of the retirement of Mr John Hill, Chief Executive, Council agreed the establishment of an

Appointments Panel. Council agreed updates to the Corporate Plan and received update reports from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

I also attended a meeting of the Operational Services Committee. This meeting received an update from the Community Safety Partnership, a performance report for the waste and street cleaning services, as well as the Statutory Accounts for East Cambs Street Scene for 2024/25. Committee approved the review of the street cleansing service and received a progress report on the introduction of the new waste service in 2026. (Residents should all have received a letter about the new service, and further information will be provided nearer to the introduction. Finally, Committee received a budget monitoring report and reports from Anglia Revenues Partnership.

David Brown

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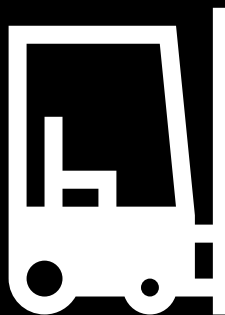
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The classic Sudoku game involves a grid of 81 squares. The grid is divided into nine blocks, each containing nine squares. The rules of the game are simple: each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

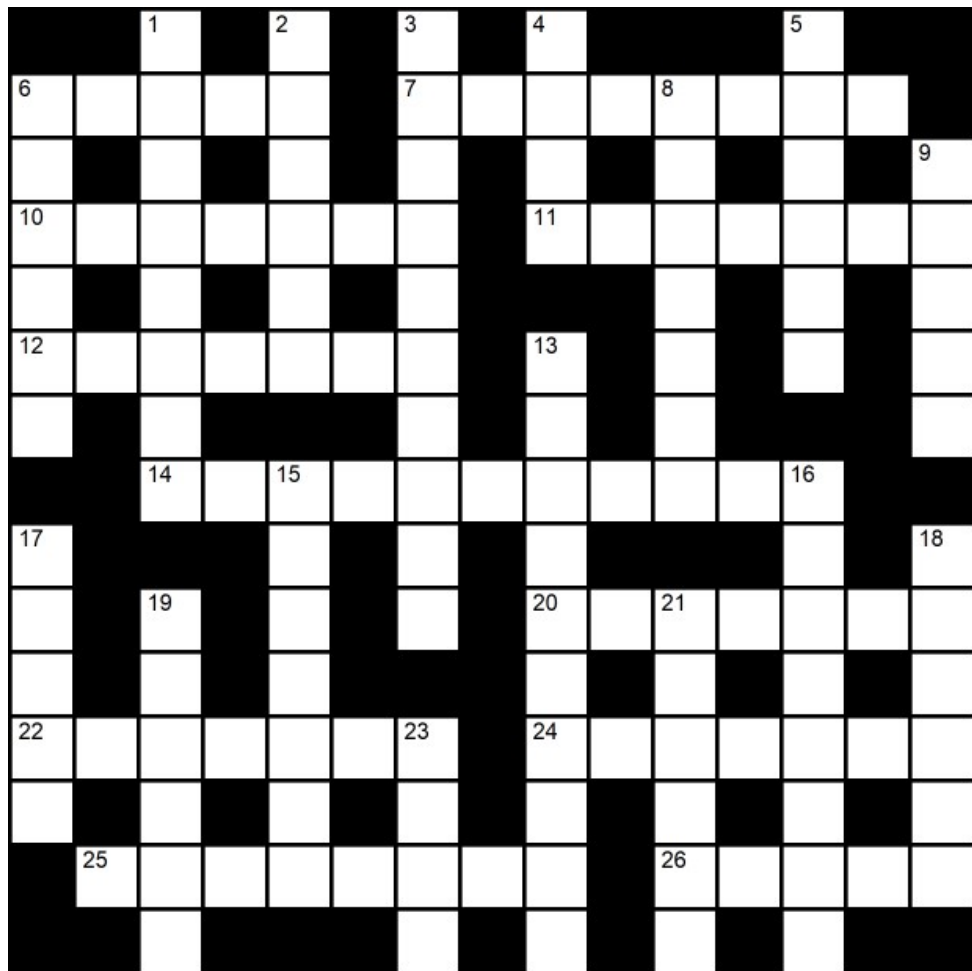
EASY

		3			7			6
				1	8			
			3			5		
								4
6			7					
9	7				6	2		3
				5			8	7
4	1					3	6	
	3			8				

HARD

	1	3		6				
				5				
			9					
		6			3	5		
				2			9	
	9		8			4		
	8				9	2	6	
		1		3				
		5	2			8	4	

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Bottisham and Burwell Photographic Club

As we continue our meetings during the autumn months, on Dalmatian Pelicans of Lake Kerkini, Living & Working in the Antarctic and The Many Faces of China & People'.

Our last meeting on the 21st October was a Zoom presentation by local wildlife photographer Kevin Pigney. Kevin's talk called 'Passion for Scapes' included landscapes around the UK explaining long exposures, planning a shot, using filters, camera techniques and the kit required. Kevin will return to us next season to give his new lecture, 'My Top Thirty' which we are looking forward to.

Our forthcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

4 November: Print Lecture Competition No. 1 judged by Mrs Sarah Rossouw, Cambridge.

18 November: 'Colour to Black & White' Zoom presentation by Chris Hodgson, Darlington.

25 November: 'Living & Working in the Antarctic' by Prof. Lloyd Peck, British Antarctic Survey, Cambridge.

2 December: 3-way Friendly Cup Print Battle with Melbourn & Ely Photographic Clubs.

9 December: 'It's a Knockout Christmas Quiz' A fun evening with members enjoying

nibbles and refreshments to round off the end of the year.

January meetings include:

6 January: 'Spotlight on Hugh Milsom' featuring prints by this well-known award-winning photographer as told by Jonathan Vaines of Bedford.

20 January: 'The Many Faces of China & People' by Mike Sharples from Stafford. Zoom presentation.

Our meetings are held Tuesdays at Swaffham Prior Village Hall, High Street, Swaffham Prior CB25 0LD, from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm, the third Tuesday in each month being held via Zoom conferencing.

Visitors are always welcome for a small fee of £4.00 which includes refreshments.

If you are interested in joining this active club, please contact our Secretary, Debra Bennett, for further information and a copy of our programme. Email: secretary.bandbpc@gmail.com or visit our website www.bottburpc.org where you will find more detailed information and a gallery showing a selection of our members' work

I look forward to meeting you.

Daphne Hanson DPAGB HonPAGB
Chairman

Burwell Sports Centre

The month of festivities is here! Remember to look after yourself during this busy period. As always, we try to offer something of every age and season of life here at Burwell Sports Centre. Fitness classes for young and old, play and craft sessions, live music, as well as roller skating for the family. Keep an eye out for information on our Sew Amazing after school club for budding sewists and their adults. Our Healthy You chair-based, and Stretch and Balance sessions also finishes on the 18th of December.

Remember to come and sing your festive favourites at our monthly Open Mic Talent Nights These evenings include a few spotlight slots for under 18's, as well as any adult who would like to perform. There will be a live band, and our bar will also be open for some 'courage' (over 18s only).

Please book your slot, as the spaces are very limited, by contacting gillmiller5452@gmail.com, or 07909915615 or 07769668152.

There is plenty of information on our Social media accounts and our website. If you can't find the answer to your questions, please contact our centre at enquiries@burwellsports.co.uk, or leave us a message at 01638 742125 if we don't answer.

Please remember that we take a break between Christmas and New Year. We are closed on public holidays, and will run a reduced timetable between 25 Dec and 1 January.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

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Pod On!

The team at Clunch meet up regularly and one of the topics which we always come to in our chats is what podcasts we've been listening to lately.

We thought it might be a nice idea to share some of our favourite podcasts in each issue — from the funny to the fascinating, the soothing to the surprising. Whether you're a total beginner or already hooked, we hope you'll find something that makes you want to press play.

But we realise that not everyone might know what podcasts are or how to access them, so put quite simply.....

A podcast is like a radio show that you can listen to whenever you like. They're made by people all over the world — from big broadcasters like the BBC, to small independent creators recording in their spare rooms. You can find podcasts on almost any topic you can imagine: history, gardening, comedy, local news, true crime, sports, books, wellbeing, and much more.

Listening is easy. Most smartphones and tablets already have a free podcast app — like Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or BBC Sounds — where you can search for a show if you know the name of the show, presenter or topic. Then simply, press play, and listen instantly. You can also use your computer, or even a smart speaker ("Alexa, play The Archers podcast!"). The best part is that most podcasts are completely free to listen to, and you can "subscribe" so that new episodes appear automatically when they're released.

Podcasts fit neatly into everyday life. Many people enjoy them while driving to work, tidying up, or relaxing with a cup of tea. They're a lovely way to learn something new or simply be entertained.

So here are a few to get you started:

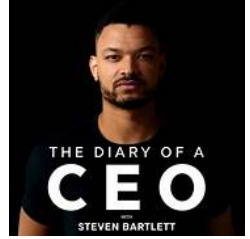
Lives Less Ordinary

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Cyber Hack/The Lazarus Heist

When I started listening to this podcast a couple of years ago it was called the Lazarus Heist and Season 1 and 2 tell the story of The Lazarus Group, North Korean state-backed hackers who were behind the biggest crypto heist in history. Now in it's third season under the new name Cyber Hack, the story is completely gripping. Episodes are 35-45 minutes long, you should listen from the start to let the story build.



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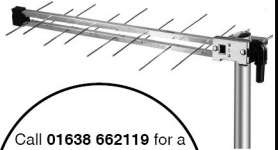
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OPEN: Monday - Friday 9.00 - 5.30 Saturday 9.00 - 12.30

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