

Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



And the band played on... except that Burbage doesn't have one (yet)

ONCE upon a very long time ago, every rural community proud of its identity could muster a group of musicians.

They would turn out at fairs and fetes, play at weddings and christenings, help out with carol singing and attend church and chapel functions – a team that could provide an enlivening background to just about any sort of parochial happening. Groups were frequently family-related, their musical skills handed down the generations with words and melodies. No doubt their old fiddles continued to play many a good tune when passed into younger hands.

Music on the village green, in the street, or in park and square was part of a great British fashion. And when towns and urban districts began to pull populations from the countryside there was no decline in its popularity, though now the trend moved towards organised bands. Military bands, club bands, brass and silver bands flourished.

But even unique and treasured traditions can falter when lifestyles change dramatically. Lucky, today, is the small town or village that can still boast its own brass or silver band, dressed in a colourful uniform and ready to lead a community along its own High Street. Burbage, until quite recently, was among the fortunate. Sadly, it doesn't today support an active band. And it needs one.

Through the year there are occasions when music is an essential component of community events in the village. This year, 2018, there's a very special occasion when Burbage needs home-grown musicians - to lead its Centenary Commemoration of the Armistice that ended the Great War.

Burbage Parish Council is shaping plans for next November that will make sure the parish remembers its wartime heroes as it always does, with respect, dignity and decorum. Band music will be essential and without an ensemble of its own, Burbage is struggling to provide it (as you would expect, every existing local band is busy, with a priority to provide the music at commemorations in its own township or village).

... but could you change that by blowing your own trumpet?



Enderby Band members lead a Remembrance Sunday parade in their Leicestershire village last year. Could Burbage do the same?

Picture: BRIAN FREEMAN, Enderby

So what to do now?

Band fanatic Jeff Holder believes he has an answer. Jeff, a transport driver who lives in Sketchley Road in Burbage, wants to recruit new members to form a group he could help train up to provide music whenever and wherever Burbage wants it . . . including Poppy Day later this year. He has a huge experience of playing in bands and wants to encourage newcomers to get their hands on a musical instrument and learn how to play it. He has developed a teaching method that doesn't require the ability to read music and firmly believes that anyone can find something they can play. "Just give it a go", he says, extending an invitation to former band members and new volunteers to get in touch. Volunteers can speak to him (Tel **01455 250451**, mobile **07732 0171598**) or get in touch with the Parish Office and we will pass on details.

Jeff Holder has helped set up many bands across the country, some of which have participated in events locally, and he is keen to find out if there are people in Burbage interested in joining a village-based group as experienced or novice players.

Newcomers need no experience and some instruments are available for recruits to try out. Help is promised in the task of finding a building where they could meet and practice. The need, the will and the enthusiasm to form a band for Burbage is there . . . what we need now is a positive response from YOU, with as many volunteers coming forward as possible.

If you can you help the village say 'THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC' please get in touch

White nightmares give way to green dreams

IS it too much to hope that this long and bitter winter has finished doing its worst?

Should you be thinking along those lines (hopefully, if such dreary weather continues, by a warm fireside with a cup of tea in your hand) why not drift into a day-dream that features a summer evening scented by close-mown grass. Add a scone and strawberry jam to that cuppa, then throw in a sound effect of one wooden bowl gently nudging another with a satisfying click as it trundles to a winning shot.

You could almost be at the Burbage Parish Council bowling green in Bridge Road. If you haven't yet tried this sport for all ages, you SHOULD be there on Saturday, 24th March, when an open day is being staged (10.00 to 4.00) to welcome newcomers to this most traditional of English pastimes. Come along and find out more about the facilities at a green that's tucked away and tranquil. Bowl a few woods – tuition will be available throughout the day. If you like what you find, sign up for a first season membership free of charge. For more information, contact the Parish Office.

LOOK out for route and timetable changes affecting bus journeys for Burbage travellers.

The Hinckleybus 7/7A Burbage to Nuneaton service is being revised and will no longer call at the George Eliot Hospital, while the 66 Hinckley to Lutterworth route will see minor changes. Services between Hinckley and Barwell are being retimed to improve reliability – Service 1 will be re-routed directly along Leicester Road and will no longer serve the Asda store, while Service 2/2A will no longer operate along Bardon Road, Barwell. There will be re-timings of Service 3 buses between Three Pots and Hinckley. And travellers using Service X55 between Leicester and Hinckley should note that the 05.40 journey on Saturdays is withdrawn. Due to reduced passenger usage there will be fewer journeys serving Far Lash and some minor timing adjustments.

COUNCIL and committee meetings at the Millennium Hall in Britannia Road normally start at 7.30pm and follow this rota, subject to change if clashing with Bank Holidays: First Monday of month – Parish Council; second Monday, Planning Committee; third Monday, Finance & General Purposes Committee; fourth Monday, Planning Committee. Meetings in the weeks ahead: Monday, 12th March, Planning; Monday, 19th March, Finance & General Purposes; Monday, 26th March, Planning. Monday, 9th April, Parish Council; Monday, 16th April, Planning; Monday, 23rd April, Finance & General Purposes; Monday, 30th April, Planning.

Bins, benches, tables... tell us where you want them

BURBAGE is well blessed with open spaces and likes to make the most of them. So Burbage Parish Council is proud of the facilities offered at the sports fields, play areas and amenity spaces it owns and looks after. The council tries hard to find out what village families want on their recreational sites and always consults people living nearby when it's time to provide new equipment or replace older installations. There's no reason, however, to confine that process to bigger projects, so the council is asking people what they'd like to see in the way of new benches, seating, picnic tables . . . and litter bins.

The Open Spaces Working Party has a budget for additions (or renewals) to these smaller but nevertheless important fixtures that help the public enjoy time spent outdoors in the parish. It is asking where you would like to see seating and tables. Get your suggestions to us. Since there's no point in having well-equipped amenity areas if the place is ankle-deep in refuse, don't forget those litter bins. If you know locations where extra bins (or bigger ones) would help, do let the Parish Office know.

Call **01455 637533**, email info@burbage-council.co.uk