



PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Future Beckons.....

In the coming months the Parish Council will be spending quite a bit of time considering 'The Future'. A consortium of local Councils including Diss and the majority of Parish Councils immediately surrounding it, will be working together on a District Neighbourhood Plan. This will reflect the wishes of the population but will act as an overall 'blueprint' for development in the foreseeable future (probably the next 15 years) within the area covered by the plan. It is envisaged that within that time frame there will be growing pressure for development in South Norfolk, in Diss and the adjacent Parishes. It is hoped that with a Neighbourhood Plan in place outlining the sort of development that will be acceptable, the infrastructure that will be needed to support the development can be provided without detracting from the attractive nature of the area. A steering group is being established and when initial work has been done there will be substantial consultation.

On another front South Norfolk will be conducting a Governance Review this year which will look at the way that governance at Parish Council level is delivered. South Norfolk will be looking at all of the 119 Parishes in their area. Many questions will be asked, such as:-

'Are Parish Councils of an appropriate size...or should two or more councils be amalgamated?'

'Are the Parish Boundaries in the right place?'

One factor that tends to show the present arrangement is not working well is that in 2015 when new councils were installed only 19 of the 119 parishes had actual elections and a large proportion of the Parishes did not have enough candidates to fill the available seats. In Burston and Shimpling we have been fortunate as although we did not have an actual election because we did not have enough candidates we have nonetheless been able to co-opt members so that we have a full Council of seven Councillors.

More information about the Neighbourhood Plan and the Governance Review will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting which will have the theme of 'Burston and Shimpling Past, Present and Future,' to be held in St Mary's church, Burston at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th April.
Nigel Frankland, Chairman.



NEWS FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH

Christmas seems a long time ago, now, but I want to thank everyone who contributed to make our 'Christmas Spectacular' so successful — and enjoyable. This was an informal Christmas service, particularly with children and families in mind. The Christmas story was brought to life by 'Magical Mark' who entertained us with magic while we were enjoying hot dogs, mince pies and mulled wine. (Quite a lot of mince pies were consumed in St Mary's over Christmas, one way or another!) Again, grateful thanks to all involved in this special service, in particular to Margaret and Rod Tuck who provided the refreshments.

Sybil Peck is organising a coffee morning in church on 11th March — she is hoping to raise money to support Julie Botwright, who is running in the London Marathon for gene research. There will be some delicious cakes, I am sure — do come!

We look ahead towards Lent and Easter now. The next 'special' service will be on Mothering Sunday — 26th March at 10.30 am. Pastor Sam from Burston Chapel will be giving a talk, and there will be flowers for all the mums, grandmas and aunties, who contribute so much to our lives and do stay on for refreshments following the service. There will be our usual Holy Communion Service at 8.00 am on Palm Sunday (9th April). This marks the start of Holy Week. The services in Holy Week across the five parishes will be published separately (please see the poster in the church porch).

On a final note (the 'note' seems particularly appropriate!) you may have heard our church bell ringing again. It had to have quite a lot of repairs done, but thanks to Dorothy Swanton's tenacity, we have been awarded a grant of £1,000 for this, and it is now back in place, ready to welcome you all to worship!

Rachel Hobson

THE DON SWANTON AWARD 2017

Don Swanton was a man described as “a true champion of our parish” “a man who everyone saw as a friend” and “a true gentleman”. He sadly died in 2006 and in his memory the Parish Council set up the Don Swanton Community Service Award.

This year we would like to emphasise that this award is organised by the parish council but it is very much YOUR award. Nominations can be submitted by anyone who lives in the parish. It is a public way for us all to say thank you to someone who gives their time to make our community better.

We are pleased to announce the nomination box is now open for 2017.

The award can be given to someone of any age and for any activity, whether it is for ongoing work or a single event. If you know of an individual or group who you think should be recognised and thanked for their contribution to our parish, please send us your nomination with:

- The name of the person or group that you wish to nominate.

- The reason why you think they should be given it.

Email: tomgrievepc@gmail.com

Or

Place Cottage, Shimpling, IP21 4UB

The deadline for nominations is the beginning of April 2017. Entries will be reviewed by the Award panel and the winner will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting (at the end of April).

We look forward to hearing from you.

Burston House Hospital News

It has been another busy few months here in the OT department at Burston House! Over Christmas we had a number of activities running such as a cake decorating competition, lots of baking, Christmas card making, karaoke, watching films and playing games.

Alongside all of the ‘baking’ we have continued to promote health and fitness through the continuation of our fitness class ‘Mission Fit’ which is a combination of health promotion and fitness and we have also started sailing which has been very successful. Patients have been able to try canoeing and motor cruising!



We have been very lucky as we now have a PAT dog who has been visiting us for a few months every two weeks! This has been a huge success and has already been very beneficial.

We had lots of fun pumpkin carving for Halloween!



Camilla Lees, Occupational Therapist - Burston House



Big Litter Pick

Burston and Shimpling BIG Litter Pick
7th May 2017

Your Parish needs your help. We are organising a big litter pick on Sunday 7th May at 2pm. Meet at Burston Church where Hi-vis, collection bags, litter grabbers and maps of both Shimpling and Burston will be given out showing the zones that we are going to focus on.



3:30pm Tea and cakes will be available for all litter pickers returning from our two villages.

We look forward to seeing you there and appreciate your help in making our combined community a cleaner place for the Summer months.



JAMIE'S GANG

Ginni and I have embarked on our 19th year running Jamie's Gang. The club meets at Burston Chapel on Wednesdays between 5.00pm and 6.30pm. Jamie's Gang is for children of primary school age, this means the age range is 4 - 11 years old as most of the local schools have a reception class. A 50p subscription is paid for each child that attends and there is also a tuck shop, the profits from which help contribute to paying for the craft materials and any other "props" that are needed for the activities on club nights. These are initially paid for by the offerings of the congregation who gather for worship at the Chapel. Ginni and myself are not funded for our part, nor are the volunteers who help. When Don Swanton was alive he initiated a regular gift from St Mary's PCC to the Chapel to assist with any expenses in the work amongst the children, a very kind gesture that mops up any extra costs where necessary.



Most club nights are spent in the Chapel though we do from time to time use other areas of the village. The children look forward to the nature trail at Green Lane, we have done a litter pick in conjunction with South Norfolk District Council a couple of times on the playing field (only safe place to do one really, and there's not a great deal of litter to pick, you'll be glad to hear). Mrs. Hoff recently suggested a re-run of an evening with her where we went and looked at her orchard and each child went back with a huge bag of apples. We also had a dance night at St Mary's when a 10 strong dance troop came and did some energetic dances with the children. (rather than

me!) At the end of Summer term, we have a family BBQ with inflatables, which seems to go down well.

In terms of members, we had a total of 47 children attend in the last school session. Out of that 47 we probably have a pool of about 30/35 children from which we can have anything between 15 - 25 children on a night. Children come from 4 local primary schools. In terms of leadership Ginni and I are the main leaders. We then have a couple of young leaders - Anna, our daughter being one of them (currently doing a Young Leaders course run by the Diocese of Norwich) and another young girl who is currently doing her Duke of Edinburgh at Diss High School and is doing her community service element with us. A few of our former members have done this over the years and their help has been very welcome. Also, we have a parent helper rota. This is made up of some of the mum's of members who come along to help with various elements of the evening and help watch over the children.

The activities are usually simple crafts. After a busy school day we find they don't want to do anything too adventurous. We play a few games, we sometimes watch a video animation in the winter months (can't see the picture properly when it's still light outside). We have a short talk or story, school assembly-style which is broadly Christian in nature but which, I think, anybody could derive some benefit from even if they have no faith.

Pastor Sam Brinkley

CHURCH WATCH

Can you help protect St George's church?

Hi my name is Andy Downes and my wife and I were married at St. George's church in Shimpling. We attend as many services as we can. It saddens me that some people find a need to damage a lovely old building such as this and I would like to help protect it. If three or four people were willing to give up a few minutes a week to enable a rota to be created, so that one person could make a random visit daily to check all is well, it would help to protect this valuable building. At no time would you have to put yourself at risk, the check would be to observe and if necessary report any problems.

If you think you could help please contact me:- 07774780992 or a.downes@ymail.com .



BURSTON CHAPEL

Sunday Morning Service at 11 am
Sunday Evening Service at 6.30 pm
Prayer Meeting - Tuesdays 8 pm (call 741816 for details)
Jamie's gang (school age club) Wednesdays 5 pm to 6.30 pm in term time only
All Welcome - see the Burston Chapel Website:-
www.burstonchapel.co.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

12th March 8.00 am Holy Communion
19th March 9.30 am Morning Prayer (Home Team)
26th March 10.30 am Mothering Sunday service
+ 3.00 pm Evening Prayer
2nd April 9.30 am Morning Prayer
9th April 8.00 am Holy Communion
16th April (Easter Sunday) 11.00 am Burston Chapel
23rd April 11.00 am Burston Chapel
30th April 10.30 am 5 parishes Holy Communion at Tivetshall
7th May 9.30 am Morning Prayer
14th May 8.00 am Holy Communion
21st May 9.30 am Morning Prayer (Home Team)
28th May 11.00 am Burston Chapel

Please note: the services in Holy Week (WB Sunday 9th April) across the 5 parishes will be published in the porch.

MOBILE LIBRARY

14.55 - 15:25 Burston Primary School

30th March, 27th April, 25th May, 22nd June

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH - SHIMPLING

Evening Prayer 4.30pm Sunday 23rd April, St. George's Day

YOUTH CAFE

Every Thursday during term time in St Mary's Church. If you are High School Age the Youth Café is open from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm and you get free pizza and milk shake.

The Parish Council

The members of the Parish Council are:-

Nigel Frankland (Chairman) 01379 644788
Alison Wakeham (Vice Chair) 01379 741500
Christine Stevens 01379 740505
Tom Grieve 01379 741166
Piers Bilston 07841 291883
Lindsey Bilston 07713 944509
Jim Rudd 07793 041577
Ann Baker (Clerk) 01379 742937



THE FRIENDS OF BURSTON CHURCH

The Friends of Burston Church were busy at the end of 2016. On 12th November they hosted the Andrew Jackman Remembrance Concert, promoted by Dianne Jackman and featuring music by the Cawston Brass Band. A very different sound for the church but one that was enjoyed by everyone. The annual Carol Concert took place on 13th December. The Shelfanger Singers entertained us with seasonal songs. Mince pies and mulled wine were served to conclude the event. A very enjoyable evening was had by all although disappointingly the number attending was down on previous years. Plans for events in 2017 have seen a change to the usual St George's Supper, instead a 'St Patrick's Day' supper event is to be held on 17th March. The FOBC will provide steak and ale pies and trifle with a raffle and impromptu entertainment also planned. The Safari Supper will be held again this year having been a huge success in 2016. This means the open village event usually held biennially (and alternating with the safari supper) will not take place this year.

CRAFT CLUB

10.00am - 12.00pm - ForFarmers pavilion:-

15th March - Stitch cards
17th May - Flower arranging
19th April - Coffee morning
21st June - TBA

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held in St. Mary's Burston starting at 7.30 pm on the following dates:-
Tuesday 21st March 2017
Tuesday 25th April - Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 16th May - Annual PC meeting
Tuesday 27th June - PC meeting

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email tomgrievepc@gmail.com
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TWO VILLAGES • ONE FUTURE