

PARISH PLANET



THE BURSTON AND SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Editor: Christine Stevens

Have you any news items or stories the parish might be interested in? Please send your items by email to c.stevens864@btinternet.com

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Parish Council is now at the half-way stage of its four year term.

What have we achieved in the last two years? Of course we have done what Parish Councils are meant to do – we have maintained the playing field and managed the upkeep of two churchyards, we have kept other parts of the village tidy and we have carried out weekly safety checks on the play equipment. The parish council has considered and commented on planning applications, some of which have been contentious, we have liaised with the Highways department of Norfolk County Council and pressed them to attend to many outstanding matters, but we have done much more than that!

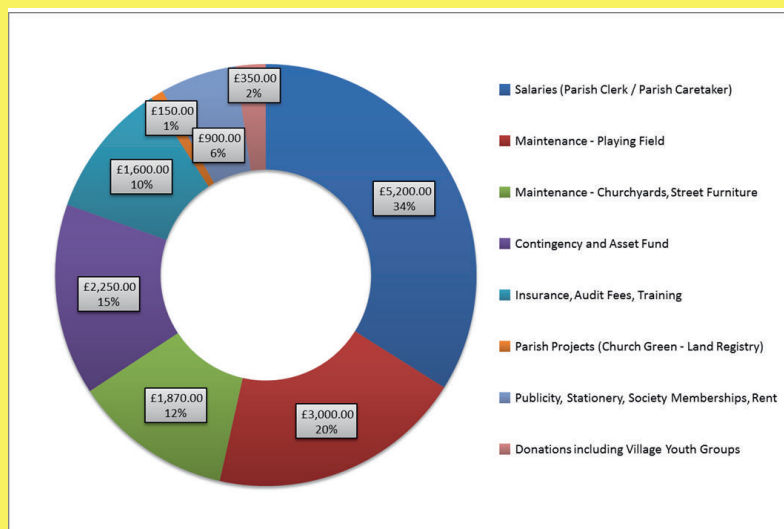
Starting with an audit of everything that we do, and everything that the Council owns, we have commenced a programme of improvement and renewal. Some of the results of this programme have been very visible, such as the installation of £25,000-worth of new play equipment on the playing field - the formal opening ceremony of which was attended by many residents – and the removal of 'the shed'. The 'Heritage' noticeboards have been renewed and all the village benches have been restored and repainted. All of the footpaths in the Parish have been inspected and following the application of pressure, Norfolk County Council have re-instated lost and damaged footpath finger-posts. The overgrown hedge on Church Green has been cut back.

Other results are less noticeable, such as the fact that our projected 'spend' for next year is still virtually the same as ten years ago and the Parish council tax has only risen by 4% in spite of the fact that the block grant provided by South Norfolk Council, which used to be a significant part of our income, has been reduced to zero. We have prepared and lodged a detailed response to the request for comments on the South Norfolk Governance Review where it seems that SNC may be proposing to amalgamate parishes so that they have an electorate of about 1,000. Burston is about 400 – Shimpling 200 (as an example the Tivetshalls number 400). We are taking an active role in the Diss and neighbouring parishes Neighbourhood Plan, which will set out what residents feel will be appropriate development in coming years. We have been able to give financial support to Youth Groups in the Parish.

We have plans for the next two years – as well as continuing with the governance review and the neighbourhood plan, we will register both the playing field and Church Green with the Land Registry, and we hope to repaint the Burston village sign. We would like to secure more co-operation from landowners/farmers in keeping footpaths open and clear, especially where the paths cross cropped fields. We will be looking closely at the plans for the new sewerage scheme to ensure that it has a minimal impact as it is installed and when it is operational. However, we will aim to continue to keep Council tax as low as possible, while keeping our villages as safe and attractive as possible.

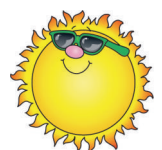
Nigel Frankland, Chairman

PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2017-2018



The Parish Council have considered the budget for 2017/2018 and have applied to South Norfolk for the annual precept to the amount of £10,812.

The Band D rate for 2016-2017 was £52.00 and we have managed to keep the increase to only £1 to £53.00 for 2017-2018, whilst still supporting Parish activities..



SUMMER 2017

TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH

THE DON SWANTON AWARD 2017



Don Swanton was a real pillar of the community of Burston and Shimpling, quietly helping with many aspects of village life. The Don Swanton Award was instituted by the parish council to commemorate his sense of service, and is awarded each year to a resident who has been nominated in recognition of their contribution to the community.

This year the award was presented to Sybil Peck who was nominated by many for her stalwart work in the community over many years. In particular Sybil's involvement is with the church and especially with the luncheon club which meets monthly in the church providing a hot meal and an enjoyable social event for retired residents.



Hello there,

My older sisters aunts and I moved to Burston last year, so our landlord and us would like to meet people in the community who would be interested in understanding our lifestyle. Our landlord prepared our new environment so that our individual homes could be situated in areas that were conducive to our needs. You may have deducted that I am one of many who in a collective colony with our mother Queen bee live within a hive. As the weather permits we explore our new environment to seek out all sources of nectar and pollen whilst in time of poor weather or lack of natural food our landlord (or beekeeper) makes sure of our seasonal needs. Those of you who are interested in our craft please come and join like minded people to understand us further, with a cup of tea or coffee from our landlord on 10th June 2017 from 3 pm to 4.30 pm. We would appreciate a call so as to get an idea of numbers attending.

Brian Norman 01379 740106



BURSTON HOUSE HOSPITAL NEWS

We have had a successful few months at the hospital, which began with the start of our Recovery College whereby patients lead a course, consisting of six sessions, to teach their peers. The three courses on offer were Sign Language, Cooking from Scratch and Art.

In March we held a charity event for Comic Relief. The patients and staff enjoyed a bake sale, fun games and a Talent Show. The Talent Show, "Burston's Got Talent", was the highlight for most. The majority of entrants chose to sing, with a handful choreographing a dance routine. Professional audio equipment was hired to make the event as successful as possible. I wonder whether any of the village residents could hear us?

Over the next couple of months the patients will be working towards achieving OCR qualifications in a range of areas, including Education, Practical Skills and Cooking. They will receive nationally recognised certificates, which they can then take forward with them to demonstrate their skills and abilities.

We are also hoping to offer some art work to an exhibition due to be displayed at The Cornhall in Diss throughout June and July. The theme of the exhibition is "birds". This can include photographs, paintings, sketches, models and such like. The patients are already underway with their projects.



Sam Hogg, Basic Skills Teacher at Burston House Hospital



Big Litter Pick



Over 20 residents and Councillors took part in the Big Litterpick in Burston and Shimpling on Sunday 7th May. Although the weather was a bit chilly it was dry and all of the major roads of the parish were cleared of litter – some of it having been there for many years. The sacks of rubbish and recycling were piled on Church Green ready for collection, while the rubbish collectors enjoyed a cup of tea and cakes in the Church. The event was organised by Tom Grieve who awarded Certificates to the younger collectors.

PARISH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN

So why have a local emergency plan? Well, emergencies happen. The professional emergency responders will always have to prioritise those in greatest need during an emergency, especially where life is in danger. There will be times when you may be affected by an emergency but your life is not in immediate danger. During this time, you need to know how to help yourself and those around you. By becoming more resilient, you and our community can complement the work of the professional emergency responders and reduce the impact of an emergency on you and our community both in the short and long term.



As the local emergency coordinator, I hold a copy of the Plan which contains a database of those who have volunteered their services and/or the use of equipment or the provision of accommodation, etc. However, the Plan is overdue for review and with the resignation of my deputy, Andrew Grimley, I need to appoint a Deputy Emergency Coordinator to help with the review process. If you feel that this role could be for you then I would be pleased to have a chat with you to explain what is involved. I am extremely grateful to Andrew for his time as deputy. I should stress again that in case of an emergency your first call must be to the professional emergency services via 999. My contact details are 0771 267 0926/lenhobson@bmn-management.com. Do please let me know if you are interested in becoming involved in our local plan or if you have any queries concerning the plan itself.

Len Hobson, Parish Emergency Coordinator

BEERS BIKES AND BANDS AT THE BURSTON CROWN

More than £4000 was raised at this event to help local young people in need.

More than 450 people came to the Burston Crown, community and fund raising event held on Easter Sunday.

Combining a bike show, a beer festival and music from Thy Last Drop and SJ and the Flying Pigs the charity fund raising day proved to be a great success. More than 150 motor bikes were on show at the pub competing for Best Bike by public vote and landlady's Choice – chosen by Bev Kembery. First time auctioneer Adam Stokes helped to push the charity auction of promises to raise just over £4,000.



Luan Hines said, “our aim was to raise money to help young people in our area who need help because of life challenges they have faced. The wonderfully generous people who came to Burston on Sunday helped us to exceed our expectations. A big thank you goes to the small businesses of Diss and the surrounding area who were so generous in providing auction lots that helped us raise this important sum of money”.

Bev Kembery, owner of the Burston Crown said, “ this was our busiest day ever at the Burston Crown and an event we hope to repeat . It was a great party atmosphere with a really good-natured and generous community of people”

For further information contact Geoffrey Dixon 07775582305 - geoffreydixon@ymail.com

The Burston Crown

ARTSFEST '17

Theatre, poetry & music

Thursday 14th May
Jacob Solstice and the Cosmic Order
Vincent Knight 8.30pm

Sunday 17th May
Dave Thomas Band 5.30pm

Tuesday 19th May
The Odyssey
A one-man performance by David Myrme 8pm

Thursday 11th May
Druids 8.30pm

Tuesday 16th May
No-one cares about your new thing
by John Osborne 8pm

Thursday 18th May
Crumbs for Comfort 8.30pm

Sunday 21st May
The Wilsons 5.30pm

Tuesday 23rd May
Lady Bracknell's Confinement
A Wildean monologue 8pm

Sunday 28th May
It's a Wonderful Life 5.30pm

Tuesday 13th June
Tortoise vs Hare
Romance, redemption and rural running 8pm

ALL FREE EVENTS

1001 Rd, Burston NR22 5TW Tel: 01293 743257
www.burstoncrown.com



The Burston Crown is a busy village pub bringing people from all over Norfolk and Suffolk to enjoy great food and great music. We have music gigs every Thursdays and most Sundays and it is great to support a vibrant East Anglian music scene. Our focus is to support musicians who play original material, and it never ceases to amaze us how many talented musicians there are. Musicians praise the quality of the sound provided by sound engineer Billy Fleming from Burston, via Scotland! We have continued to support charity fundraising, and this year have focussed on mental health charities for local young people seeking to replace support services that sadly have been reduced. In May we launched our first ever Arts Fest featuring theatre, poetry and music and this has been supported by Creative Arts East. We aim to build on this in coming years to make the village a centre for arts in South Norfolk. We have events that are being planned for summer; so like us on Facebook and we will keep you up to date with all that is happening. Events at The Burston Crown are free to enter so come and enjoy yourself.

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

CRAFT CLUB

10.00am - 12.00pm - Forfarmers pavilion:-
 21st June - 19th July - 23rd August -
 20th September

MOBILE LIBRARY

14.55 - 15:25 Burston Primary School
 22nd June, 20th July, 17th August, 14th September

THE FRIENDS OF BURSTON CHURCH

The St Patrick's Day Party on 17 March was enjoyed by over 50 people. Steak and Guinness pies and whiskey and ginger trifle were followed by entertainment also with an Irish theme. Guests were given copies of jokes to share with us all, revealing some surprising talents hidden in our community. A total of £658.00 was raised towards the upkeep of the church as a village amenity. A date for your diary, The Safari Supper will take place on Saturday 15 July. Details to follow on Burston Church website:burstonchurch.org.uk or from Norma Ajdukiewicz:01379 740595 or ajduk@btinternet.com

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

WOW FESTIVAL 2017



Burston residents Geoff and Julie and their business partner Dom are organising the 8th WoW festival to take place 7/8/9th July at Woolsey Bridge Fields on the Burston Road. As usual there will be many bands playing including hip-hop legends The Mouse Outfit and reggae king, Horseman and The Upper Cut band.

The event always raises funds for Burston School and Gissing Children's Centre and supports local breweries and food makers.

Tickets can be bought from Claire's Sugarcraft in Cobbs Yard, Diss, on line from www.wow-arts.co.uk, or you may find Geoff, Julie or Dom at the Burston Crown on music nights.

CATS

The team facilitated a St George's Day Service in the Grade 1 church of St George in Shimpling. The service took the form of evensong, which was led by Alasdair Wilson, with Jenny Vere playing the organ. Over twenty residents attended, and maintained a centuries-old tradition of having a service in the church on the day of the patron saint. A collection of over £90 was taken for The Churches Conservation Trust, who maintains this now redundant church.

The next event to be organised by the team will be the annual Barbecue with Music, to be held on Church Green on Saturday 2nd September – the evening before the Strike school Rally.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held in St. Mary's Burston starting at 7.30 pm on the following dates:-

Tuesday 13th June (Special for AW sewerage scheme)

Tuesday 27th June

Tuesday 18th July

Tuesday 19th September

email nigelfrankland@btinternet.com

email alison@holmevale.com

email c.stevens864@btinternet.com

email tomgrievepc@gmail.com

email piers.bilston@gmail.com

email lindseybilston@gmail.com

email ruddjim@rocketmail.com

email burston.shimpling@btinternet.com

TWO VILLAGES • ONE FUTURE