

# 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](mailto:c.stevens864@btinternet.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly my thanks to those who turned out for the parish litterpick, encouraged no doubt by the persuasive posters produced by the pupils of Burston Primary School. It was amazing how much rubbish was collected by the twenty pickers - the majority of it was bottles, cans and paper/plastic litter, although several tyres were found as well.

The election of the new Parish Council in May was rather a non-event as only five councillors stood for the seven seats. Our thanks go to Lindsey Bilston and Jim Rudd, who retired from Council, for all their hard work as councillors in recent years.

The new council has a busy time ahead - we are applying pressure to South Norfolk Council to review the situation regarding a Polling Station in Burston. It has become clear that the decision to stop using the Strike School was based on an assumption that the grounds were a bit muddy, and the room was not accessible by an electric wheelchair.

We are pressing South Norfolk Council to review this decision as it is very inconvenient for residents to have to go to Gissing to vote.

We will soon have a new fence installed on the playing field to separate the play equipment from the rest of the field, the intention being that the fence will keep dogs out and small children in.

We are in the process of modernising and updating the website - many thanks to Alison Wakeham for her input to this.

The recent parish Council Questionnaire has produced some interesting results - many thanks to all of you who completed it and especially to those who added comments relating to the main points at issue. The results will help the Council shape policy over the coming months. We will be asking those who showed interest in specific projects for their help as we move forward and will be looking at the provision of additional equipment on the playing field in line with the suggestions made.

Our village caretaker for several years, Jamie Churchard, has had to give up those duties as he is concentrating on expanding his window-cleaning and gardening business. The council wish to thank him for his work with us.

We now have a new village caretaker, Hadleigh Drake, who has already been mowing grass all round our villages and strimming the BMX track.

Nigel Frankland

## THE DON SWANTON AWARD



Councillor Isobel Pugh presented the Don Swanton award to Julie Botwright at the Annual Parish Meeting on 16th April. The Don Swanton Award is set up to thank someone who happily gives their time for the benefit of others in our community, the award can be given to someone of any age and for any activity, whether it is for ongoing work or a single event.

Isobel said it was a privilege to present an award that is about the people who live here, in memory of Don Swanton - the unsung hero of the village. A number of nominations had been received from villagers.

Nominations described Julie as being an angel in

disguise, willing to help and offering support to families. She has nursed sick friends, checked on neighbours in cold weather and run marathons to raise funds. Julie created the wooden poppies for the Remembrance commemoration on the playing field earlier this year. As a Teaching Assistant at the school she goes beyond the call of duty and is a worthy winner of this award.

## PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

As spring kicks in there appears to be more activity on the playing field. Fruit trees in the community orchard are now in beginning to blossom. The remembrance flower bed is full of of poppy seedlings so that should provide a nice display soon. We have now agreed a grass cutting service with one of our parishioners so the area around the orchard trees, community seat, information board and flower bed will be accessible to all who fancy a quiet stroll, to enjoy the trees and flowers at this end of the field.



We have now received the first part of the grant from Tesco's Bags of Help charity which has allowed us to place an order with Proctor Fencing for the new safety fencing to be erected around the children's play area. The fencing is due to be erected on 10th June. We would ask all parents whose children use the play area to be mindful of these works when they start, to allow the company to complete them as quickly and safely as possible - safety notices will be erected. We have had to carry out some more repair works on the picnic benches in the play area. We think damage occurs because the benches are being moved. As these benches are quite heavy, they should not be moved from their positions, so can all users of the play area please refrain from trying to man-handle the benches. One of the posts on the swing log facility has broken at ground level meaning it is currently out of action. Some safety fencing has been erected around it to prevent its use until we can get it repaired, hopefully in the near future, We are still hoping to have another pop-up star gazing event once we can be sure of some decent clear weather. There are some interesting astrological events coming up this year including a transit of Mercury across the face of the sun which doesn't happen that often, so lets hope for some clear weather when that occurs – more news to come.

Keith Cowley

### BURSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Firstly thank you to everyone that supported our Spring Fair by either coming along on the day or buying raffle tickets from us on the Market Place. We raised over £1,000.00 which for a small school is fantastic.

We have just done another collection for Bags 2 School, thank you to everyone that dropped bags in or left them out for collection.

Class 1 want to say a BIG thank you to Mr & Mrs Hoff and Mr Norman for letting them have a look round the apple orchard and find out some really interesting facts about bees. A lot of the children didn't know there is an orchard in Burston, so are really looking forward to going back and trying some locally grown apples and maybe some honey.

The school is also in the process of fundraising for a defibrillator for the community which will hopefully be sited at the school. The children will be doing a sponsored rounders tournament in June to help to raise some funds. If you would like to make a contribution towards this then please drop a donation in to the school marked defibrillator or there is a donation box in the Burston Crown.

PS thank you for your bags, they were really heavy....

### FRIENDS OF BURSTON CHURCH

The Safari Supper - our next event - takes place on 27th July - don't miss this gastronomic experience. Starters, main and dessert will be served at different venues around the location of the church green, with a free introductory drink. The Friends of Burston Church want to thank all those who have helped us in so many ways over the years. Recently we have tried, without success, to recruit new members to our group. We may struggle to continue providing the many and varied events that have come to be expected of us if we can't get help. We would therefore like to form a bank of people we can call on to assist us when needed without being committed. We plan to call these the Friends of the Friends of Burston Church. If you think you could help all we need is your contact details – email or telephone number. Please contact Christine Stevens (c.stevens864@btinternet.com - tel 01379 740505). Thank you



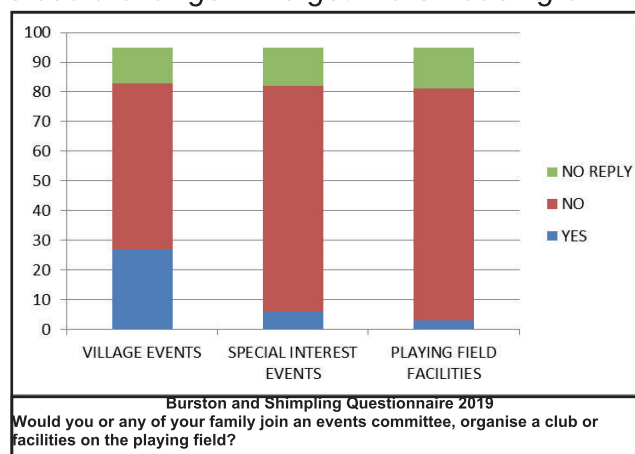
## Burston and Shimpling Parish Council Questionnaire 2019

Thank you to everyone who replied to the Parish Questionnaire, we had 95 replies in total giving many helpful comments and suggestions which we will consider when we plan any future projects.

**Burston War Memorial** – 60% of people who answered this question indicated there should be one, so the Parish Council will be looking to form a Working Group to take this forward.

**Village Hall** – less than half of the people who answered this question indicated the Parish Council should investigate a Village Hall at the present time. This could change if we get more housing or if St. Mary's Church closes, although it is also acknowledged that not everyone is comfortable using the church as a hall.

**Sports, Clubs and Other Events** – A relatively small number of people were interested in organised groups for sports or other activities on the Playing Field. Of the suggestions made for extra equipment Adult Keep Fit and a Basketball Wall were the most popular, with a few requests for a tennis court. There are potentially more people interested in helping with social events – so watch this space!



## BURSTON CROWN NEWS

Hello everyone,

Summer is coming on us fast and The Burston Crown now has an extended garden to enable you to enjoy it more!

The first Bank Holiday in May saw Beer, Bikes and Bands. This major charity event raised £10,500 on the day to support local children facing challenges in their lives. This is an enormous sum of money so thank you to everyone in the village for cooperating with the road closure on the day and our near neighbours in particular for their amazing support and kindness.



The motorbike that had travelled the shortest distance won the sought after 'Bev's Best Bike' award – so congratulations to Pip Grimmer!

The second bank holiday saw our first 'Burston with Folk' music festival organised in cooperation with Waveney Valley Folk Collective, once again ensuring very high quality live music available to our community.

We like to think of the pub as very dog friendly, and 21st July will see our inaugural 'Burston Bark Off'. It will be a wonderful 'fun with dogs' day.

Bring your dog along to participate in doggie contests, or just watch and mingle. There will be lots of doggie activities and dog biscuits for all and rosettes for some. This is the closest thing to Crufts that you will ever see in the village, and the title of best in show will be just as sought after by those attending.

In advance of Dog Day, we have our picture gallery of dogs that have brought their owners to the pub, on Instagram. One of these will be chosen by an internet poll to be Burston Crown Dog of the Year, to be announced during Dog Day. If your dog is not yet in the Instagram gallery get down to the pub and get that photo taken or post your own doggie fun image to The Burston Crown Instagram page and #theburstonbarkoff.

The 16th June sees Charlie Harper playing at 5.45pm. Charlie has just returned to Diss from his extensive tour of Canada to play for us with his band of all stars.

On the last Monday of each month we have Quiz Night organised and run by Quiz Master, Arron White. Only £1 per person and winning team takes the pot!

The last Tuesday of the month is Steak night - with fish and vegetarian options.

Hopefully we will see you soon. Bev, Steve and everyone at The Burston Crown



## 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](http://www.burstonchapel.co.uk)

## ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

9th June 8.00 am Holy Communion  
16th June 9.30 am Home Team  
23rd June 11.00 am Burston Chapel  
30th June 10.30 am 5 parishes HC Tivetshall  
7th July 9.30 am Morning Prayer  
14th July 8.00 am Holy Communion  
21st July - 9.30 am Home Team  
28th July 11.00 am Burston Chapel  
4th August 9.30 am Morning Prayer  
11th August 8.00 am Holy Communion  
18th August - 9.30 am Home Team  
25th August 11.00 am Burston Chapel  
1st September 9.30 am Morning Prayer



## 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.

## MOBILE LIBRARY

Sorry but this service has been discontinued by Norfolk County Council

## Parish Council Meetings

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

Tuesday 18th June  
Tuesday 23rd July  
Tuesday 17th September

## SPEEDWATCH

As some of you may have noticed we now have a speed awareness sign/camera which has been located at various positions around the Parish. This facility is shared with Tivetshall and allows us use of the sign every other month. So far it has been located on the Diss Road coming into the village and at the top end of Mill Road, again coming into the village. It is currently located in Shimpling. This sign records the speed of every vehicle that passes giving us data on vehicle speeds and the total number of vehicles. The Diss Road location showed a total number of 17,430 vehicles coming into the village in January with a top speed of 55mph and a total of 6,793 vehicles (39%) over the 30mph speed limit. The data for the Mill Road location gave a total number of 6,802 vehicles for March with a top speed of 65mph and a total number of 1,628 vehicles (24%) over the 30mph speed limit. The parish council is using this data to better target where and when to carry out Speedwatch activities which we report back to the traffic dept of the Norfolk Constabulary. In future we hope to use the data from this speed awareness sign in relation to proposed large scale housing development, traffic flows, highway issues relating to the Parish and also the village neighbourhood plan.

On the Speedwatch front the team can be seen around the Parish on a regular basis, and we are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining the team please contact Jim Rudd by email [ruddjim@rocketmail.com](mailto:ruddjim@rocketmail.com) or by phone/text on 07793041577

Informative emails are sent to about 150 email addresses in the parish from time to time with news of events, road closures and other items of interest. If you would like to receive these emails please send your email address to [nigelfrankland@btinternet.com](mailto:nigelfrankland@btinternet.com). If you later change your mind and do not want to receive them any more your name will immediately be removed from the list of recipients

## The Parish Council

The members of the Parish Council are:-

Nigel Frankland (Chairman) 01379 644788  
Alison Wakeham (Vice Chair) 07768 927182  
Christine Stevens 01379 740505  
Keith Cowley 01379 742766  
Isobel Pugh  
Angela Belgrove 01379 741534  
Ann Baker (Clerk) 01379 742937  
Council Website [burstonandshimpling.org.uk](http://burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

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