

## 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

1st December 9.30am Morning Prayer  
Friday 6th December 2.00pm **Christingle**  
8th December 8.00am Holy Communion  
Tuesday 10th December 7.30 pm **FOBC Carol Concert**  
15th December 9.30am Morning Prayer  
22nd December 3.00pm **Carol Service**  
Tuesday 24th December 11.30pm **Midnight Mass** at Shelfanger  
29th December 10.30am 5 parish Holy Communion at Tivetshall  
5th January 9.30am Morning prayer  
12th January 8.00am Holy Communion  
19th January 9.30am Morning Prayer  
26th January 11.00 am Burston Chapel  
2nd February 9.30am Morning prayer  
9th February 8.00am Holy Communion  
16th February 9.30am Morning Prayer  
23rd February 11.00 am Burston Chapel

## 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.

**Merry Christmas**

## 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

email [chair@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:chair@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)  
email [alison@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:alison@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)  
email [christine@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:christine@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)  
email [keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)  
email [Isobel.@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:Isobel.@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)  
email [angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)  
email [parish.clerk@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)  
[burstonandshimpling.org.uk](http://burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

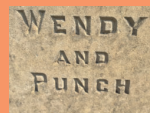
TWO VILLAGES • ONE FUTURE

## SPOT THE LANDMARK

Here are the answers to the location of sites featured in our Autumn edition:-



This bridge crosses the stream in Back Lane Shimpling



This brick is on the Strike School in Burston

## ST GEORGE'S CHURCH - SHIMPLING

The annual Candle-lit Carol Service will be held in St. George's Shimpling on Thursday 12th December at 7.30pm. The Grade 1 church, (which has no electricity or water supply) will be lit by hundreds of candles for the traditional service of nine lessons and carols.

Car parking is available at the farmyard of Hall Farm, and you are asked not to drive down the track to the church, as it can be muddy and slippery and dark, and there will be people walking to the church.

Please wrap up warm as there is no heating, and bring a torch and wear sensible shoes for the walk.



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

Tuesday 14th January - PC meeting  
Tuesday 24th March - PC meeting  
Tuesday 21st April - Annual Parish meeting

# 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 [christine@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:christine@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Two significant things have happened on Church Green in Burston. Firstly, the village sign has been restored by Dale. The wooden sign has been rubbed down, filled with an enhanced filler and then carefully repainted. At the top of the sign it was suffering from some rot which has been repaired. The whole sign now looks as good as new! Our thanks go to Dale who gave his time for this project.

Secondly a War Memorial has been constructed on Church Green in Burston, to commemorate the eight men of the Parish who made the greatest sacrifice in The Great War. See more in our Memorial article.

The Strike Rally went off smoothly. There were fewer people attending than in some previous years, but there was a significant number of marshals. Inevitably some roads were blocked while the march was assembling and on the route round the candlestick, but the Green was left clear of all litter. The only problem was some cars parking on the grass verge in Rectory Road, and this will be addressed for next year.

The small fence in the playing field has now been repaired, and an insurance claim has been made, but the Parish Council have to pay the excess of £250. The Police have terminated their enquiries with no culprits having been identified.

The Council are beginning to consider the budget for next year. The current year's budget suggested a proposed expenditure to be greater than the income from the precept. This may become a regular occurrence as we no longer receive any regular funding from South Norfolk Council, as a consequence of them no longer receiving funding from central government. We do have some reserves that can be called on, but this problem will have to be addressed.

Finally I wish all residents a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year.

Nigel Frankland



## PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

With winter fast approaching maintenance activities in the playing field are now starting to wind down but there are still a couple of matters to be resolved. Replacing the safety matting under the swings and at the bottom of the slide is one of these items and now the ground is a little softer we hope to get this done in the next couple of months. Also the balance log equipment requires one more post to be replaced and hopefully this can be addressed shortly.

We have managed to replace the broken timber fencing along the side of the parking area so the metal fencing around the play area is now again protected. Now the fencing is in place around the play area we are pleased to announce that the Parish Council are happy to approve of dogs on the playing field. Please can all dog owners clear up after their dogs and use the dog waste bins provided to ensure the playing field is kept clean and tidy for other users. We shall be reviewing the situation after six months to see that our request on clearing up dog waste is being followed.

Finally, those with keen eyes will have noticed that an area next to the small shed has been cleared of vegetation in preparation for the new B4RN broadband distribution cabinet that will serve the parish once the network is extended from just beyond Shimpling. Obviously when the work of installing the cabinet and the concrete base it sits on is underway we would ask all users of the playing field to keep clear of the work area especially those with young children.

Keith Cowley

## SPACE CRAFT

Calling all arty and crafty people!



A new friendly art and craft group is coming to The Space, Burston on Tuesday mornings from January 7th. The group aims to bring together people who enjoy any art or craft; knitting, drawing, embroidery, colouring, felting, crocheting...whatever you like. There will be a still-life table set up for those who want to draw or paint – just bring along your own choice of materials. And for crafters, bring along your own materials or an on-going project. Enjoy a relaxing morning of chat, coffee and crafts in the beautiful new studio at The Space, Burston.

Every Tuesday 10am-12pm, The Space, Sterling House, Mill Road, Burston (first session Tuesday January 7th)

All abilities very welcome. Drop in sessions are £5 per session or you can book five sessions in advance for £20. Refreshments available.

For more details contact Julie on 01379 742704 or email [the.peacock.emporium@gmail.com](mailto:the.peacock.emporium@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS 2019

TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH



## BURSTON HOUSE HOSPITAL

Well, what a fun quarter we've had. In September we held our very first mini festival. Burstfest. Yes, we had a marquee, thanks to Burston Primary School, a live band called the Gray Wolf band, a photo booth, hook a duck, face painting, mocktails and a BBQ. A huge success That we'll endeavour to expand on next year! At the end of September we held a coffee morning and afternoon in aid of MacMillan. How greedy of us! We raised a very respectable £92.02 for a very worthy charity. We also held our annual patient Award Ceremony to celebrate their achievements. A total of 12 patients received nationally recognised qualifications called Life and Living Skills. Well done to all of them!

A few weeks ago we held a Halloween Wellbeing event for staff. This included lots of spooktacular games. Wrapping people up with toilet paper to look like a mummy, apple stacking and doughnut bobbing, to name but a few. It was a really fun event that was enjoyed by all who participated.

Our garden transformation is well underway. Patients have worked really hard and have removed the "vintage" garden fence to open up the whole garden and have begun placing sleepers around what we hope will be our ornamental garden pond. We can't wait to see and make use of our renovated garden! Now would be a good time to mention that we still have some patient made bird boxes for sale... If you are



interested in buying one, or would like to see more examples, please contact David Bullman at DavidBullman@priorygroup.com.



By the time you read this we will have already held our second "Burston House has Got Talent".

We have some very interesting acts signed up, ranging from vocal performances and keyboard solo's to a staff, never been seen before (and probably never again), Spice Girl's Tribute Group! Look out for how this went in our next update!

So, all that is left now is, dare I say it, is Christmas activities. Cooking, carol singing, games, crafts and parties. On that note, all of us at Burston House Hospital wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

## REMEMBRANCE

On November 7th 1919, King George V invited all his people in every part of the Empire to join him in a special celebration of the first anniversary of the end of WWI. "...it is my desire and hope that at the hour when the Armistice came into force...there may be, for the brief space of two minutes, a complete cessation of our normal activities...so that, in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the Glorious Dead". So on Tuesday 11/11/1919 at eleven o'clock, when clocks chimed, church bells rang and maroons (firecrackers) sounded, all trains and traffic in London stopped, people stood where they were and observed two minutes silence, most remembering their own loved ones, friends or neighbours. So started the annual tradition of Remembrance, now transferred to the first Sunday in November.

In Shimpling an oakwood tablet was put up in St George's church with names of the fallen, but not so in Burston which was still bitterly divided by the Burston School Strike. An unknown villager created a manuscript listing all 38 men who went to war and marking the names of the 8 who did not return. This is now on display in the church. A later, printed version hangs on the wall.

Now Burston has a permanent memorial on the Church Green, thanks to the Parish Council, chaired by Nigel Frankland, and many well-wishers and local businesses. Our Rector, Rev David Mills, led a service there on November 10th 2019, just 100 years after the first Remembrance Day. Norma Ajdukiewicz

## B4RN BROADBAND

It may look as though nothing is happening on the project but there is a huge amount of planning being carried out by the Burston, Shimpling and Gissing volunteer team behind the scenes. The planning is the longest part of the project, digging relatively fast. We now have permission from the Parish Council to put the cabinet on the edge of the playing field near to the school. We are currently finalising the route from Moor Road, Shimpling, to the cabinet identifying any obstacles and getting the wayleave approval from the various land owners. If you haven't already done so please take advantage of the Government gigabit voucher scheme which is worth £1500/ household or £3500/ registered business towards the project. Find out more and register at b4rn.org.uk - get b4rn and follow the instructions. This is the only way that rural communities will get reliable broadband and keep our communities vibrantly going forward. The Tivetshall project is proceeding rapidly although the weather has held up digging recently. The line is also being dug to the Diss Business Park to help businesses improve their efficiency.

Following the open days at Burston and Gissing we now have more than 30 volunteers signed up to help with the project. If you would like to find out more please contact Jane Fishwick - jane.fishwick1@btopenworld.com and I or one of the volunteers would be happy to visit you.

## BURSTON WAR MEMORIAL

More than 100 years after the end of The Great War (World War 1) our small village of Burston now has a War Memorial.

For many years a Roll of Honour has been hanging in the church of St Mary, which lists the 38 men of the village who went to war, and indicates the eight who made the supreme sacrifice and never returned. The reason why there was no war memorial similar to those found in other villages is lost in the mists of time, but the fact that the famous Strike of pupils from the State school started in 1914, and the Strike School that still



stands by the village green today was built in 1917 may have had something to do with it.

In a questionnaire that the Parish Council circulated in 2018 parishioners were asked if they thought that village should have a war memorial, and a lot of responses showed that there was support for this idea. A 'War Memorial Group' of three people was established, that investigated possible locations,

possible designs, and possible wording for the memorial tablet.

It soon emerged that a position on Church Green would be ideal, as the memorial would be centrally located, and in a visible but not overly prominent position. One member of the working party, Nigel Frankland, saw a memorial in the woods near Knettishall Heath, which consisted of a simple brick plinth, with a flint panel inlay, and having a sloping engraved stone on the top at about waist height. Another member of the working party came up with the idea of a cupboard, to be built into the plinth, similar to those found at the War Grave Commission Cemeteries on France and Flanders which could contain a book giving details of those who died, and those who served.



After some discussion it was agreed that the inscription should give the name, rank, regiment, serial number, date of death for each of the Burston men, and details of where each casualty fought, and where they are commemorated by the War Graves Commission. It turned out that only 2 of the 8 had known graves, and the rest were on memorials such as the Thiepval Memorial.

An initial appeal led to some residents and businesses promising financial support, and at this stage Cyril Bromley, a retired architect who lives in the village was drawing up plans, and an estimate for an engraved stone had been obtained, but there was still a way to go to reach the target necessary to start building works. James Easter, the local Councillor on the South Norfolk Council then indicated that his Council had some funding that would be distributed soon, and suggested that if there was an application there would be a good chance that the promises of funding that the group had would be matched by South Norfolk Council. To make the application more formal the working party joined forces with the Parish Council, and in September it was confirmed that a substantial grant had been awarded which made the project viable. However, there were only six weeks to Remembrance Day! It was decided that this was just enough time to get memorial built. The wording for the stone was finally agreed and Bierton and Woods were commissioned to make it.

Tommy Bloomfield, a local builder, was asked to build the plinth, and mount the stone, and erect a surrounding fence and a new flagpole. The plinth is built of red brick, with a grey gravel surround. In the front of the plinth is a stainless steel cupboard, made by the apprentices of Wavenys (known to many as Waveny Pumps Limited). The rear of the plinth is provided with a flint inlay panel in the form of a cross, and the flints have been taken from local fields, and more of these flints have been incorporated in the centre of the plinth. Probably many of the men named on the memorial worked in the fields where these flints were collected. Work started on Church Green in October, and the stone, a black polished granite slab with silvered engraving, was mounted on the plinth on Friday 8th November, just two days before Remembrance Day.

At 8 am on Sunday 10th November a large number of residents were by the new memorial to observe a silence, to lay wreaths and flowers, and to hear the names of those who died read out. The ceremony was led by the Reverend David Mills, who held a Communion Service in the church afterwards.



The whole project has been a tremendous team effort. In addition to the funding from South Norfolk Council funding has come from local residents and the Army. Jewsons in Diss have provided building material free of charge, and for Farmers, who run Burston Mill, provided the oak posts and chains for the surrounding fence.

Peter Rees has undertaken a lot of research into the 8 men who died, and has produced the book that is now in the cupboard in the memorial. For some of the dead he has found photographs, and details of where they lived, and the battles that they fought in. This book will be expanded as the months go by and more information emerges, and there will also be details of the thirty men who served and then returned after the war. Now that we have a new flag pole we must decide on suitable days to fly flags, either the Union Jack or St George's flag. There are a number of commemorative days but perhaps you have other suggestions. If so please let us know.



Nigel Frankland