

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

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

One of my grandchildren asked the other day "What does a Parish Council actually do?" That made me think – how many Parishioners actually know the answer to that question?

The Parish Council is made up of unpaid volunteers and a paid Clerk to do all the necessary administrative tasks. The Council are responsible for village assets like the Playing Field, the play equipment and BMX track, the community orchard and memorial garden, Church Green, the bus shelter, several benches around the village and some small areas of land, information boards as well as rubbish and dog waste bins. We are also responsible for maintenance of Shimpling churchyard, as the church itself is redundant, and we contribute to the upkeep of Burston churchyard. Consequently, we appoint and oversee contractors and a village caretaker to do the necessary mowing, strimming and hedge cutting. One Councillor undertakes weekly safety inspections of the play equipment and occasionally on major projects such as the installation of drainage for the BMX track, work is undertaken by councillors and other volunteers.

We co-operate with Tivetshall Council, as we share ownership of the SAM camera that appears in the village every other month. This shows speeding motorists how fast they are going and councillors move the camera, download and analyse the data, and send reports to the Police. The Council also oversee the Speedwatch group, with volunteers out each week with the speed-gun.

Each year we set a budget and a 'precept' (the money collected from residents through Council Tax). Of our 280 homes about 210 contribute, as of course, some homes are exempt. The Council try hard to keep rises in the precept to a minimum.

We comment on all planning applications for our parish before any decision is made by the South Norfolk District Planning Department, and are actively involved in creating the Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan which will control the nature of development within the parish. Regular meetings are held with NCC Highways department and we have a good track record of getting problems with the roads fixed quite quickly. The Council liaise with local landowners to keep footpaths clear and walkable.

Other tasks dealt with by us include the publication and distribution of The Parish Planet, an annual Litter-pick, the provision of a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day, flying of the flags, an Emergency Plan and grants to village youth groups,

Much of the work that the Parish Council does goes unseen but no doubt we would all notice if it wasn't undertaken.

THE DON SWANTON AWARD

Help us find our parish's un-sung heroes

The Don Swanton Award is set up to thank someone who happily gives their time for the benefit of others in our community, and we are pleased to announce that the nomination box is now open for 2020.

The award can be given to someone of any age and for any activity, whether it is for ongoing work or a single event.

So if you know of an individual or group who you think should be rewarded for their contribution to our community, please send us your nomination with:

- the name of the person that you wish to nominate for the award.
- the reason why you think they should be given it.

Email: isobel.pc@btinternet.com

Or post to

Church View, Diss Road, Burston IP22 5TP



The deadline for nominations is Sunday 22nd March. Entries will be reviewed by the Award panel and the winner will be announced at the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 21st April. We look forward to hearing from you.

TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH

IT'S ALL HAPPENING AT THE SPACE BURSTON

Calling all arty and crafty people!

In the picture are members of the new craft group that meets at The Space, Burston every Tuesday. They spent a lovely morning with some members drawing fruit and vegetables, someone making a teddy bear, a few knitters with jumpers and hats in progress and an oil painter. The group brings together people who enjoy any art or craft; knitting, drawing, embroidery, colouring, felting, crocheting...whatever you like. There is 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

All abilities very welcome. Drop in sessions are £5 per session or you can book five sessions in advance for £20. No need to book. Refreshments available (additional charge).

For more details contact Julie on 01379 742704 or email mailto:the.peacock.emporium@gmailcom

PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

Not a great deal to report for the playing field this time around as the weather has all but stopped any maintenance operations and also I suspect many other activities as well. We have not been able to carry out the repairs to the safety matting in the play area or install the missing post for the balance beam equipment. Hopefully the weather will allow this to be carried out in the coming weeks.

The BMX lads have slowly been modifying and repairing the track to meet their needs. The Parish Council will shortly be providing some top soil so that areas still suffering from puddles can be dealt with.

Free access to dogs in the playing field has been underway since before Xmas and we have not had any reports of excessive dog fouling so hopefully this can become a permanent relaxation of the previous rules on dog walking.

The one activity that will be evident in the coming weeks is the installation of the new B4RN Broadband distribution cabinet which is being located in the playing field by the small storage shed. Public warning notices will be displayed before the works commence and we would ask your cooperation in keeping clear of this area until the works are completed. Hopefully the installation of this cabinet will signify the expansion of the B4RN broadband system into the village. Lets hope that the wet weather will soon be behind us and use of the playing field can once more start to happen.

BURSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

A happy new year to everyone from Burston Primary School! I am extremely pleased with how quickly the children have settled down to their work and they have really tackled their lessons with vigour and enthusiasm.

We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Broughton to Burston Primary School. Mrs Broughton is our Class 2 teacher, having joined us in January and everyone at school has made her feel very welcome. She has been busy getting to know the children and has been very impressed with their work ethic and desire to learn – long may that continue!

Alongside the maths and English lessons, we have two main topics for the first half of the Spring Term; for Class 1 it is 'Family Album' and for Class 2 it is 'The Great Plague'. I have already seen a number of really interesting pieces of work and I am sure that this will carry on as the term progresses. In addition to this, our 6-11 year olds have been busy learning the ukulele via weekly lessons. These began in the Autumn and are being delivered by an outside provider who works with many schools in the area. Our wonderful PTA has kindly funded these sessions and from what I hear from my office, the children are getting on very well.

As you may well be aware, we are always looking for new children to come and join our school, in any year group and in any class. If you know of someone looking for a school for their child, do please point them in our direction. We love to show visitors around the school and it is very easy to book a visit: either phone the school office on 01379 741256 or email us at office@burston.norfolk.sch.uk

Very best wishes for the term ahead

Mark Carlyle, Executive Headteacher

BURSTON HOUSE HOSPITAL NEWS

What a fun couple of months we have had. We held our second "Burston House Has Got Talent" event. We had an Elton John Tribute, a Mastermind act, a Blues Brothers duo, an enthusiastic dog and many more. There was a panel of three judges, who had the tough job of picking the winner. The event was very successful and will no doubt return this year.

At Christmas, patients and staff put together a food hamper which was delivered to Culrose House in Dickleburgh. We also held our annual Carol Service with Reverend David Mills. We enjoyed singing our favourite carols, before sharing some mince pies and mulled juice. The production company Tickled Pink made an appearance in December with their "Christmas Spectacular". They danced and sang and got everyone in the Christmas spirit.

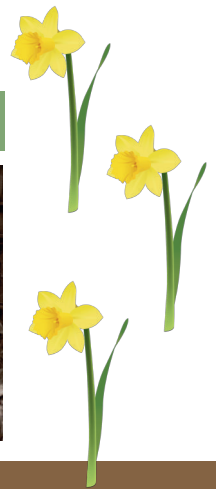
A patient has spent 13 months restoring an elephant to its former glory. "Ellie" was looking tired and needed some TLC. So, TLC is what

she received. "I have enjoyed every minute of the project and it was fun to use different materials and learn the story of 'Elmer the patchwork elephant'. 'Elmer' is like me and is different. I am happy I stuck to it. Other patients helped to get it finished, which I am grateful for". Now, with spring on its way we have lots to look forward to. Spring means we will be able to resume our pond building. We have the lining and sleepers in place, but we plan to add some more wood so that it doubles up as a bench. Then comes the fun part...choosing the fish!

Spring also means more outdoor activities and social events...there has been talk of our very first Spring Ball. Look out for an update in the summer edition of Parish Planet. Sam Hogg, Basic Skills Teacher
Priory Healthcare

VE DAY ANNIVERSARY PARTY FRIDAY 8TH MAY 2020

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE day (Victory in Europe – World War 2) the parish council has obtained a grant and will be offering its version of a 1945 style street party at Burston Church on 8th May 2020. Final details of this event are yet to be fixed but the day will include recipes taken from the period, when rations strictly governed what was offered. I'm sure artistic licence will allow some current day goodies as well! There is bound to be entertainment, games and fun for all.



FLAG DAYS

Now that we have a new flagpole and new flags, it has been decided that flags will be flown on days that are relevant to the Parish. This year the flag will be flown on the following days:-

23rd April - St. George's Day (Flag of St. George)

8th May - VE Day 75th Anniversary

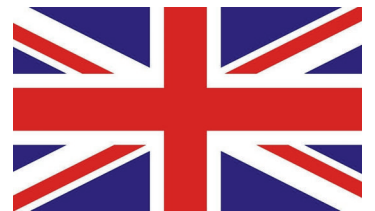
13th June - The Official Birthday of H. M. The Queen

1st August - The 'Regiment Day' of the Anglian Regiment. (Seven of the eight men named on the War Memorial were in Regiments that have been subsumed into The Anglians)

6th September - The Strike School Rally Day

8th November - Remembrance Sunday)

11th November - Armistice Day



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

1st March 9.30 am Morning Prayer
8th March 8.00 am Holy Communion
15th March 9.30 am Morning Prayer
22nd March 10.30 am Mothering Day Service
29th March 10.30am 5 parishes HC
5th April 9.30 am Morning Prayer
10th April 2.00 pm Meditation Good Friday
12th April 10.00 am Holy Communion Easter
19th April 9.30 am Morning Prayer
26th April 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.

COMING SOON
F.O.B.C.
present
A Comedy Evening with
Ben Langley
Supported by Daisy and the
Continental's ukele band
Wednesday April 22nd 2020
licenced bar

ST GEORGE'S SHIMPLING

There will be a service on St George's Day at St George's Church Shimpling - 9.30am Thursday 23rd April

KEEP YOUR PARISH TIDY!

Please come and join our parish Litter Pick on Saturday 2nd May. Do your bit to keep our Parish tidy. As part of the Big South Norfolk Litter Pick organised by South Norfolk Council we will automatically be placed in to a prize draw to WIN £200 and will also receive a £20 voucher to spend in the community. In addition the Friends of Burston Church are holding their coffee morning in the church so there will be refreshments on hand for those willing to participate. See you there!



THE FRIENDS OF BURSTON CHURCH

The Friends of Burston Church will be having a Coffee Morning in the church on Saturday 2nd May to raise funds for the maintenance of this historic building. There will be a wide selection of cakes and pastries for sale to take away or enjoy with your cup of coffee/tea. There will also be a raffle and other fun things too so please join us.



Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held in St. Mary's Church Burston starting at 7.30 pm on the following dates:-
Tuesday 24th March - PC meeting
Tuesday 21st April - PC meeting 7.00
Annual Parish Meeting 7.30
Tuesday 19th May - Annual PC meeting
Tuesday 23rd June - PC meeting

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
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