

# 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](mailto:christine@burstonandshimpling.org)



## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Our community has responded in many ways to the challenges of Covid-19, and while there is a long list of the things that have not happened in our villages, but which would have happened in ordinary times, there is quite a list of things that have happened which would not have happened in ordinary times.

A team of volunteers has been created, to shop and collect prescriptions for those who have been unable to leave their homes. If you need to use this service please contact Mike Warwick (741945). Suzi Silva has, with the help of others, set up a food bank in The Chapel. If you need the foodbank please contact Suzi on 07447305850.

The Burston Crown (741257) has set up a take-away meals service, and a village shop selling essential items, and will deliver to homes in the parish. The pub has also now provided a row of colourful heated beach huts, for the secluded dining experience. Suzi and the Pub organised free 'school meals' during the half-term holiday.

There has been a parish litterpick.

The Parish Council has held its recent meetings by Zoom and will continue to use this platform until it is safe to meet 'in person'. The meetings are open to the public. Information is posted on the village noticeboards and website [burstonandshimpling.org.uk](http://burstonandshimpling.org.uk).

More general items of interest and information relevant to Burston and Shimpling are circulated by email (contact [nigelfrankland@btinternet.com](mailto:nigelfrankland@btinternet.com)).

The Parish Council is continuing to play a leading role in the generation of the Diss and District Neighbourhood Plan and, as you will see elsewhere in this edition of The Planet, is developing plans to re-purpose the Playing Field. The SAM camera that we share with Tivetshall has been in the village and recorded one motorist doing 70 mph in a 30 mph limit. The Police are planning to visit us soon with their speed gun to catch motorists like this.

Finally I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and hope you all stay safe in the New Year.

Nigel Frankland



## PARISH LITTER PICK

Due to COVID restrictions our Spring annual litter pick was delayed until September this year. Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped by clearing litter from footpaths, roadside verges and ditches within our parish boundary. We were able to clear all the routes into Burston and Shimpling as well as several public footpaths and the playing fields. Thanks go to: Andy, Andrew and Amanda, Wendy, Lucy and Edward, Norma, Linda, Lindsey, Mike and Yvonne, Nigel, Keith, Alison and Tony. Our thanks also go to the villagers who regularly clear up litter to keep our village tidy- it is greatly appreciated.



Nine bags of rubbish were collected, less than previous years, however this may have been due to the length of the grass in the ditches which made it more difficult to litter pick. It was concerning that a large amount of rubbish is being left in the lay-by just outside the 30mph limit on Rectory Road and that facemasks, wipes and disposable gloves were being discarded in Shimpling.

Next year we hope to be able to complete the annual litter pick at our usual time in the spring.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Police recommended that members of the public should be discouraged from attending the wreath-laying at the War Memorial on Remembrance Day.



However the brief ceremony was attended by a respectable number of villagers. The ceremony was led by the Rev Cannon Tony Billett, from the Diss Team Ministry. There was a two minute silence, and wreaths were laid.

## BURSTON HOUSE HOSPITAL

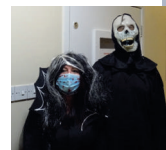
How is it that time of year already?

The last three months have not been spent as we have traditionally spent them; no group sports or BBQ's and only one social gathering for Halloween. It's been a real shame. Instead, we have focussed on getting our garden up to scratch with two gardening groups. The patients have worked extremely hard, cutting back brambles, digging out roots of unwanted plants, laying a bark pathway to our new relaxation area and planting spring bulbs.

A large number of patients have also worked together to make a mural for the outdoor space, which can be seen here. It is very eclectic, but has been a nice collaborative effort.



For our only social gathering in recent months, we celebrated Halloween with small groups from each ward. We had a puzzle room (our version of an escape room) and refreshments. Patients came dressed up in fancy dress, which gave some of the staff a fright!!!!



Also, here is one of our homemade decorations.....



Now it's on to Christmas. We already have Christmas card making underway, and depending on Government and company guidelines we hope to be able to plan a number of small Christmas parties to allow everyone the chance to join in and celebrate. Everyone needs something nice to look forward to, especially in these unprecedented times!

Have a good Christmas and see you all next year!

## BURSTON STRIKE SCHOOL DAY 2020

Since moving to Burston in 1998 we have attended all Burston Strike School rallies and worked at many raising money for the current school funds.

With no rally in 2020 for obvious reasons, we felt a strong urge to continue the tradition of remembrance of the heroic and brave actions of the Burston teachers Annie and Tom Higdon, and the school pupils led by Violet Potter, whose relatives still live in Burston.



The strike was about challenging the powers of the church and the local landowners who would not provide adequate funding for the school, to keep it warm and to buy shoes for kids; some of whom had to walk long distances each day whatever the weather. Landowners would pull kids out of school to work the harvest.

The Higdon's were sacked and the children led by Violet Potter went on strike. The new school on the village green was built by public subscription with much funding coming from the trade unions who fought for the rights of man, and who celebrate these hard-won rights each year in our village.

To commemorate the struggle, we organised a Burston Strike School stroll around the village. Instead of thousands, 17 of us strolled around the route of the Candlestick march in two waves, behind a Labour party banner.

Members of the GMB travelled from King's Lynn to tend and care for the Higdon's resting place at St Mary's church.



The physically distanced Burston Strike School stroll was cheered on by passing villagers and took place entirely without incident, but importantly maintained tradition and remembrance. The oldest marcher was 80 plus, the youngest from the village was just 2 years old.

I also asked John McDonnell MP, Angela Rayner MP and Rebecca Long Bailey to provide a 60 second video each on the importance of the strike school rally, and these can be found on Facebook at the Burston Strike School page.

Geoffrey Dixon



## PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

Well here we are again back into lockdown and I suspect, all wondering when this is going to end. However, I am pleased to report that the children's play area remains open as the new signage now in place detailing the current COVID-19 requirements means the area complies with the government guidance for outside play areas. All I would say is please follow the guidance we have set out on these signs so that everyone can stay safe whilst enjoying the area.

You may have noticed that there is now a timber post and rail fence running between the BMX track and the playing field area. This has been put in to provide a physical barrier between the track and the field for the safety of both the riders using the track and any walkers in the field. We felt this was a prudent measure to take to avoid any possibility of accidents or collisions occurring.

The other major activity in the playing field has been the underground cabling work being undertaken by the B4RN people and volunteers. This has been to get the fibre cabling coming from Shimpling into the new cabinet that went up earlier in the year. Further works are underway to get a permanent power supply to the cabinet and to extend the underground network down the field to the bottom boundary before it disappears around the back of the village. Please bear with us whilst these works are being carried out and we shall make every effort to keep the area safe during these works.

In my last report I mentioned that the parish council were looking at the possibility of installing an all-weather footpath around the field. The council set up a working party to develop this further and it was felt that we needed to widen the scope of our plans so as to make a much better use of the whole playing field area. This has resulted in an ambitious plan being produced as shown. This plan has already been circulated via our chairman's personal round robin email service and we have displayed copies of it in the playing field for general information. We would really welcome all, and any comments people have on these proposals as we want this to have as much community involvement as possible. Please feel free to send me your thoughts by email or post or even give me a call for a chat. As these plans develop, we shall be sending out more information and eventually call for volunteers with the tree planting works.

Let's hope we shall all be able to enjoy a normal Christmas and that the weather calms down a bit to allow the playing field to remain accessible to everyone.

Keith Cowley



## TALES OF BURSTON CROWN

Hmmm. I feel we've been here before.....

Lockdown 2 - the below average sequel to the spring hit Lockdown 1 !!!



Whilst the last year has been somewhat bonkers, one thing has remained and that's our wonderful customers. You've signed in, socially distanced, stayed in the rule of six, worn your masks, followed the arrows, you've eaten in and taken away, you drank and managed to run out by 10pm and all without a single moan, even when we haven't been able to keep up!

So here we go again, just as the steaks have gone back on the menu and Steve has just come around to the idea of having the fire alight. It's the right thing to do, albeit a bitter pill to swallow. As always, give us a knock if you need us, be good and keep your chins up!

Don't forget to make full use of our takeaway. And please book a table in December!!

Much love, Steve and Bev.

## BURSTON CHAPEL

AN ONLINE SERVICE IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD

Sunday Morning Service at 11 am  
Tel 01379 741816

For further details see the Burston Chapel  
Website:- [www.burstonchapel.co.uk](http://www.burstonchapel.co.uk)

## ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

Due to the second lockdown from 5th November all services have been suspended.

For further details please call:-  
Dorothy Swanton - 01379 741577  
David Crowe - 01379 741518  
Diss benefice office - 01379 643783  
or online at [www.dissteamministry.org.uk](http://www.dissteamministry.org.uk)

Also look out for the notice board outside the church for details of services.



## 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.



## RETIREMENT OF OUR RECTOR

On Sunday, October 25th the Winfarthing Group of Parishes met together at Gissing Church for Holy Communion and to say goodbye to our Rector, the Rev. David Mills, who has served us so faithfully for the last 19 years. After the service tributes were paid to the Rector for his dedication and willingness to always find time for any parishioner who needed him. Gifts from the parishes included a garden seat which will be so placed in the garden of his new house in Hemsby to give him a distant view of the sea. We wish him, his wife Caroline and all his family all possible happiness and blessings on his retirement.

## NEWS BULLETINS

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.



## Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are currently conducted virtually through ZOOM online. Contact our parish clerk Ann Baker for more details. Meetings start at 7.30 pm on the following dates:-

Tuesday 12th January 2021

Tuesday 23rd March 2021

## 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

Angela Belgrove 01379 741534

Mike Warwick 01379 741945

Ann Baker (Clerk) 01379 742937

Council website

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[email\\_alison@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:email_alison@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

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