

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

The Roman god Janus, the god of doorways and transitions, is always shown as having two faces, one looking back and the other looking forward.

The Parish Council is just transitioning into a new year, and so, like Janus, I am facing two ways.

Looking back the Council have just finished a year which started a few days before the first Covid lockdown. We soon got used to having meetings 'on-line', and the Emergency Plan was activated to provide help with shopping, prescription collecting, etc., for those who were shielding. The Plan was also used in response to the flooding that happened in Shimpling and also in Burston just before Christmas. During the year the council maintained all of its usual services, keeping the playing field and other parts of the village tidy, and inspecting the play equipment regularly, and the year has been completed with the total expenditure just a bit less than the budget figure.

Looking forward the plans for up-dating of the playing field are nearing completion, and a significant proportion of the necessary funding has been obtained through various grants. It is hoped that work will begin soon. We are in the final stages of a project to install a defibrillator in Shimpling. The defibrillator unit itself has been donated by ForFarmers, and we have grant funding for the cabinet and the installation costs. We have made a slight increase to the precept – a rise of £1 a year for a typical Band D home, which is of the order of a 2% rise.

Following the flooding we are co-operating with a new body, the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance, which hopes to bring together many of the bodies that are responsible for various aspects of 'water' in Norfolk, to generate long term plans to help prevent future floods. Two councillors are now assessing all of the ditches and waterways in the Parish to find where the problems are located.

I am grateful to all councillors, and others, who contribute to the work of the council.



THE DON SWANTON AWARD

Each year the Parish Council seeks nominations for this award; the purpose of which is to recognise the positive contribution made to the wider community by an individual who has, over a period of time, shown leadership or initiative resulting in the establishment of improvement projects or actions which have benefitted our community.

This year, more than ever, people have gone above and beyond being a good neighbour ensuring the safety and well-being of people in times of need.

With the exception of Parish Councillors, any permanent resident of the Parish is eligible for nomination using the nomination form which can be found on the Burston and Shimpling Parish Council website <https://burstonandshimpling.org.uk> or hard copies can be obtained from any Parish Councillor. This should be returned to Ann Baker, Parish Clerk. Nominations for the award close on Saturday 29th May 2021.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Over the Easter Holidays, some of the local children and their families took part in a sort-of Easter Egg hunt. Rather than hunt to find actual eggs, as is usually the case, the children had to follow various clues around the landmarks of Burston. As they went round the clues the children were to collect words associated with the theme of Easter. Successful participants were to visit the chapel within certain hours to pick up their prizes.



Pictured here with Ginni is Obehi, who was the first to collect her rewards. Everyone that took part completed the task. Well done.

SPRING 2021

TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH

PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

It seems an age since the last report on the playing field but fortunately it's been over the winter months so not a lot has been going on. The lockdown has meant that people have been staying at home and with the school closed for a number of weeks there hasn't been families around to use the facilities. However now with things easing a bit it's good to see that the children's play area is again proving popular and the BMX track is once again being used. There are a few maintenance works in the play area that we need to carry out, mainly to do with repainting some of the wooden items but these will be done to minimise the time each one is out of action.

Now the ground has dried out we shall be starting the grass cutting again and carrying out some garden maintenance around the community orchard. There are a couple of repairs that need to be carried out on the existing benches which will be done in the coming weeks and we shall also be looking to deal with the footbridge leading to Gissing Road which is a bit uneven.

The big event this year in the playing field will be the start of our repurposing plans which are covered elsewhere in this edition but rest assured we shall do our best so that during these works the playing field remains available for use by the village residents so please bear with us during this time.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH SHIMPLING

The history of St. George's can be found on the Parish Council website.

The church is maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust, and is still consecrated. Traditionally there are two services each year. In April there is a service on St. George's Day, which alternates between a communion service and Mattins, and in December there is a Candlelit Carol Service, when the church is lit with over 400 candles. The services are conducted by the Dickleburgh and Pulhams Benefice, and are facilitated by The Community Action Team, which is part of Burston and Shimpling Parish Council.



This year there was an open-air St. George's Day Service, attended by the legal maximum of six local residents.

The church is normally unlocked, and has several points of interest. For example, in the churchyard there is a War Graves Commission grave of a soldier, Frederick Cotton, who died from wounds in the first world war, and inside the church, at the East end, is a passage almost completely through the wall which would have been open, and would have been used to pass Communion bread to people with the plague.

BURSTON HOUSE HOSPITAL NEWS

Hope you have all had a relaxing Easter break. The months are going so quick and we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of summer here at Burston House. We have been spending more time outdoors now the weather is starting to get nicer and games of football prove to be as popular as ever.

We have also continued to be busy with our garden. We have been focussing on upcycling projects to help give items a second lease of life. Here are some pictures of how we have



reused pallets to make a planter and an insect hotel.

We started some furniture restoration projects, including this table in our activities building, which patients designed themselves.



We recently held a number of events for Comic Relief, including a comedy club where patients were able to tell their best (and worst!) jokes, a cake sale and an



activities day. We raised over £100 for such a good cause.



Hopefully as restrictions continue to relax we will be able to look forward to organising social events

including BBQs and sports competitions. It has been a long few months for us all in lockdown, but hopefully there are brighter times ahead now. Enjoy the warmer weather!

Jackie Lawrence

Occupational Therapist, Priory Healthcare

CROWN GREEN PLAYING FIELD PROJECT



facility.

This is an extremely ambitious scheme being undertaken by the Parish Council, one which requires both extensive funding and enthusiastic volunteering efforts.

Fortunately, we have now secured nearly 90% of the necessary funding for the scheme from several charities which will allow the project to commence in the next few months. The charities who have so generously awarded the parish council funding for this project are the Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnership Scheme for new public footpaths, the National Lottery for the footpath, benches, goal posts and fitness trail equipment, Saffron Housing Trust for benches and fitness trail equipment, The Geoffrey Watling Charity also for the footpath works. We, the parish council, are extremely grateful to these organisations for the funding awards which demonstrate how much these charities value communities and initiatives to improve the wellbeing of community residents.

The first action in our re-purposing scheme will be to commence the installation of the all-weather footpath around the playing field as shown on the accompanying plan, this will take a few weeks to be completed during which we plan to create the new 7 aside football pitch and start to install new benches. The fitness trail equipment will follow on behind the footpath works which will provide year-round access so that using this equipment can be an everyday activity. Finally, later in the year we shall undertake the major tree planting works within the field and create the wildflower meadow area.

At various stages as circumstances allow, we plan to hold publicity events whereby as many residents of all ages will be encouraged to participate in the creation of this new facility in the centre of Burston. Please look out for dates on the website for when these events are planned.

Once again thanks to all the charities that have so far contributed to this scheme and to the efforts of the working group, the support of the parish council and encouragement of many residents.



Chairman and working group with the National Lottery Community Fund award cheque



FLOOD PREVENTION IN BURSTON AND SHIMPLING

Following the floods over Christmas the Norfolk Association of Local Councils has formed the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance chaired by General Lord Dannatt to oversee works going forward in order to try and prevent the worst happening again. Their brief is to co-ordinate the many agencies involved with flooding in order that action can be taken on the ground starting with major local problems. As a result the Parish Council in Burston has appointed 2 councillors to prepare reports into local flooding problems with recommendations going forward. The councillors involved are Keith Cowley and Mike Warwick.

To date 3 reports have been carried out in North Burston, South Burston and Shimpling. These reports will be sent to NALC and on to NSFA who will involve the agencies responsible. Clearly this will take time but hopefully we will get some action this year particularly in Mill Road, the Beck dog-leg and around Pug Street in Shimpling.

With regard to more minor issues like ditch clearing, rodding pipes, carrying a stock of sand bags and general self-help on or around parishioner's land and houses, we can only advise that you take steps to mitigate any issues to help stop problems next winter. Investing in a small dirty water pump could be invaluable. The intention is to involve Parishioners, where deemed necessary, in any actions needed particularly where shared responsibilities lie.

Finally although the Parish Council will try to help and give advice in any way we can, we are not the fire brigade or builders merchants so keep a note of emergency numbers that can help.

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

If you are attending any of these services, for the time being, please let the churchwarden know to avoid potential overcrowding.

9th May	- 9.30am - Holy Communion
23rd May	- 9.30am - Morning Prayer
13th June	- 9.30am - Holy Communion
27th June	- 9.30am - Morning Prayer
11th July	- 9.30am - Holy Communion
25th July	- 9.30am - Morning Prayer
8th August	- 9.30am - Holy Communion
22nd August	- 9.30am - Morning Prayer

For further details please call:-

David Crowe - 01379 741518

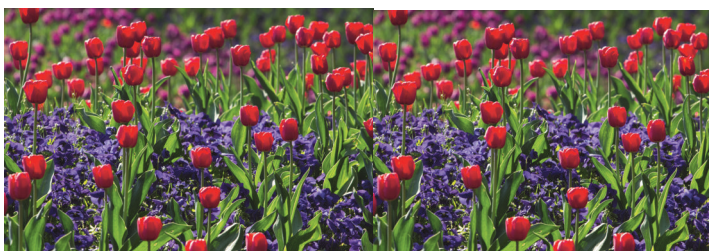
Cyril Bromley - 01379 740602

Diss benefice office - 01379 643783

or online at www.dissteamministry.org.uk.

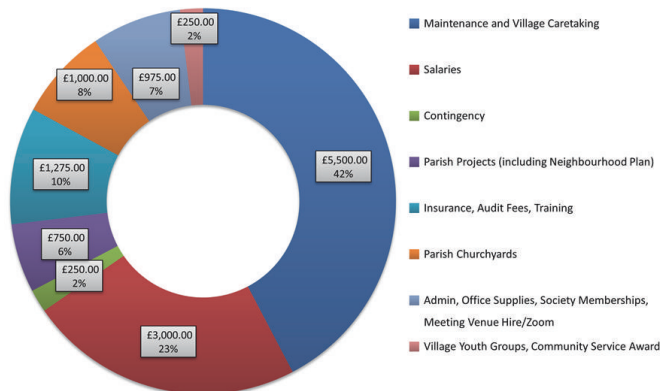
JAMIE'S GANG

As long as things stay on course for lifting of Covid restrictions, it is hoped to start Jamie's Gang the last half term of the school year. There will be quite a lot of outdoor activity for those weeks too.



PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET

For 2021-2022 the Band 'D' rate for Council Tax has been set at £56.50 a 1.8% increase on the previous year, giving the Parish Council a precept of £12,091.



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. 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 18th May - Annual PC meeting

Tuesday 22nd June

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

John Mallows 07976 365938

Ann Baker (Clerk) 01379 742937

Council website

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