



PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Recent weeks have been a busy time for the Parish Council. Following the elections in May we now have a new County Councillor, Barry Duffin. We had an interesting morning taking him around Burston and Shimpling and showing him our 'problem' areas. We also have a new Highways engineer and he too has had a conducted tour of the Parish and is now familiar with the areas that flood and also with those parts of the parish where water just bubbles up through the road. It is hoped that these problems will be addressed soon.

Following the flooding two councillors, Mike and Keith, have looked at ditches and waterways right across the Parish, and have identified the 'pinch points' where the water could not flow away quickly. The Council have appointed a firm of Civil Engineers to prepare a report indicating what might be done to improve the situation, with the cost of the report being mainly paid for by a 'crowdfunding' exercise. When the report is available it will be published and the Council can plan a way forward.

We are fortunate to have keen councillors who give up their time to move projects forward. For over fourteen years Christine Stevens has been on Council, and she has been responsible for footpaths, liaising with landowners to ensure that the footpaths are maintained and are passable, and she also has edited, and in recent years also done all of the layout and production of this magazine, The Planet. Christine has decided to retire from Council, but we are grateful to her for her excellent service over the years.



Nigel Frankland

THE PLAYING FIELD REPORT

We are now halfway through the year and despite the really odd weather ongoing maintenance work has been continuing on the playing field. The field is getting a regular cut keeping it looking in good shape, the hedges will shortly be cut back, and the community orchard is now starting to produce pears, apples, medlars and quinces which will soon be ready for picking so please help yourselves. The BMX track is again now being well used and slowly youngsters are finding the new fitness trial equipment fun to have a go at. The new 7-side football goal posts are also now in place and shortly there will be some additional benches to relax on.

Parents will have noticed recently that the play area has been closed whilst some items of play equipment have been repainted. We are sorry for this temporary closure, and we hope that the area will be open again very shortly.

The footbridge at the top of the field leading to Gissing Road has been replaced and is now much safer than before.

At the beginning of September, we shall be starting on the new footpath works and these will take about 6 weeks to complete. We apologise for any inconvenience this will cause which we shall aim to keep to a minimum, so please bear with us because at the end this will be a great new addition to the playing field.

We hope you can enjoy the rest of the summer now that restrictions have been eased and no matter what the weather does. Look out for the calls for volunteers in the autumn when the tree planting of the new wooded areas will begin, and the wildflower meadow will start to take shape. Until then stay safe.



BURSTON HOUSE NEWS

It has been a busy few months at Burston House. This year saw the return of our own festival Burstfest, which proved to be hugely popular. There was some brilliant music provided by The Grey Wolf band, a barbeque, and other fun activities.



Patients made their own tie dye t-shirts for the event and there was a real festival atmosphere

We have all enjoyed the summer of sport and have been inspired by the sportspeople in the Olympics, and the achievements of the England football team. Patients enjoyed following Euro 2020 in our recently refurbished patient area. Patients voted to call this new space The Shed. There was an opening ceremony to celebrate its opening and another barbeque (we have to make the most of the sunshine while it lasts!)



There have also been plenty of projects to keep us busy. We have now finished work on the pond and the flowers in the garden are looking lovely.

We have also upcycled some dining room chairs and the patients are proud of their achievements.

We have a few more events planned while the weather is nice including a beach themed party and a sports day.



FRIENDS OF BURSTON CHURCH

On 11 July, 16 residents of Burston kindly opened their gardens for the afternoon for the Open Garden Event, last held 6 years ago. Burston School also opened their newly designed sensory garden. Several people had tabletop sales as well. Despite unsettled weather we welcomed over 40 visitors who enjoyed the amazing variety of gardens as well as taking tea and cake in some of them. The only complaint was lack of time to visit them all. Because of Covid restrictions lunch in the church was not feasible but we hope to make this an all-day event next year. Garden lovers please note!

The event raised almost £400 for the maintenance of St Mary's church as a village meeting place.

The Friends of Burston Church would like to thank everyone who contributed to make the event successful particularly the garden owners and also those who could not join us but generously gave donations.

Our next event is the Safari Supper on September 4th: a three course dinner served in three gardens, with a gentle stroll between each course to sharpen the appetite. Tickets, adults £12.50, children under 12yrs £6, are available from Christine: 01379 740 505 or c.stevens864@btinternet.com. Wine and soft drinks will be on sale with one free drink on arrival. We look forward to welcoming you.

SPRING LITTER PICK

A Spring Litter Pick event organized by Angela Belgrove of Burston and Shimpling Parish Council took place on Saturday 5th June, tying in with the Keep Britain Tidy 'Pledge a Million Miles' Campaign. The litter-pick covered several miles thanks to the band of volunteers who turned out on the day, or during the week if they had prior commitments.

These included: Andrew Grimley who completed the loop between Gissing Road and Mill Green, Sue Wright, new to the village, who, with Christine Stevens, completed Mill Road and then returned with a fishing net to scoop cans from the ditch that she couldn't reach with her pick stick, and Mike Warwick who found a spade. Lucy Delacasas covered Audley End, and Alison Wakeham cleaned the road between Shimpling and the level crossing. Many other volunteers, including several children, scoured the verges of all of the roads in the Parish as well as the playing field and Church Green, filling a considerable number of bags that were put out for collection by the District Council.

It is clear that many residents keep their own frontage, curbside or Close free from litter on a regular basis. Also, many litter-pick when out for a walk. For this the Parish Council is extremely grateful. It makes Burston and Shimpling a pleasant place to live. The children of Burston Primary School completed posters for the event which were displayed on the day and have been added to the website (burstonandshimpling.org.uk). Their message is clear, do not litter - it causes a hazard to wildlife and is unpleasant.

The next villages Litter Pick date is Saturday 9th October 2021.

CROWN GREEN PLAYING FIELD PROJECT

Things are starting to progress now with the playing field scheme and residents visiting the park will now see that the new fitness trial equipment has been erected by the zip wire at the top of the field. This all-weather equipment includes parallel bars, steps ups and chinlifts all suitable for children over 12 years old, teenagers and adults. The equipment is set on safety matting so the whole area is safe from falls.

New 7-aside goalposts have been installed and the old rusting goalposts have been removed. Shortly we shall be marking out the football pitch so we hope that this will give the budding soccer stars a chance to hone their skills.

See the photo on the front page showing the equipment now installed.

Shortly we shall be installing new park benches and a large picnic bench by the football pitch and in early September we shall be commencing the works on the new all-weather footpath around the field. The project will conclude in the autumn with the creation of the new wooded areas and the wildflower meadow, and we have met recently with a representative of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust who have agreed to provide assistance and guidance with the creation of these areas. Currently we are planning to start planting trees in mid-November so please make a note in your diary as we shall be hoping to enlist as many volunteers as possible to help with this activity.

The scheme has been generously funded by the following organisations:-



THE DON SWANTON AWARD

As you are no doubt aware, each year a resident or organisation in Burston and Shimpling who has gone 'above and beyond' in their service to the Community is presented with an award – The Don Swanton Award.

Don was a great member of the Community, a Director at Tuck's Mill who quietly helped many people, especially when they were in a difficult place. Described as a real gentleman who drove a Bentley, Don was a real asset to the Parish.

Dorothy Swanton (his widow) was on Church Green in Burston with a crowd of local residents to see the Don Swanton Award given to Suzi Silva, and said that Don would have been proud to see the award presented to such a worthy candidate.



Councillor Angela Belgrove, who chaired the committee that decided who was to receive the award, made the presentation and explained that Suzi had been active before the Covid lock-down 'upcycling' all sorts of items, finding things that people no longer wanted, and redistributing them to people who really needed them. When the lockdown came Suzi organised a food-bank that was based in Burston Chapel, obtaining the food from Morrisons. Suzi did shopping for families who were isolating, and at one time was shopping for eight families at once.

A few weeks previously Suzi had been involved in the village litter-pick, collecting a sizeable bagful of rubbish, and said that she would continue to do litterpicking from time-to-time as she could see the need.

Suzi has made a tremendous impact in the village during the three years that she has lived here and said that she was surprised to receive an award, and that she enjoyed living in such an amazing community. All the work that she had done had been a pleasure, and she was pleased to live in a lovely village where so many people go the extra mile.

Angela Belgrove said that she was pleased so many people came to see the presentation, and give Suzi a big round of applause, and she was particularly glad that the rain held off so that presentation could be made in the dry.



BURSTON CHAPEL

Sunday Morning Service at 11 am
Sunday Evening Service at 6.30 pm

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

12th September 9.30am Holy Communion
26th September 9.30 am Harvest Service
10th October 9.30 am Holy Communion
24th October 9.30am Morning Prayer
14th November 9.30 am Holy Communion
28th November 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

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.



The Friends of Burston Church

invite you to their

SAFARI SUPPER

Saturday 4 September 2021
at 6.30 pm

3 course dinner in lovely gardens
Licensed bar

Adults £12.50 including one free drink
Children under 12 years old £6

Tickets available from

Christine Tel: 740505
c.stevens864@btinternet.com



NEWS BULLETINS

Informative emails are sent to about 150 email addresses in the parish from time to time with news of event, 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 usually held in St. Mary's Church Burston starting at 7.30 pm on the following dates:-

Tuesday 21st September - PC meeting
Tuesday 23rd November - PC meeting

The Parish Council

The members of the Parish Council are:-

Nigel Frankland (Chairman) 01379 644788
Alison Wakeham (Vice Chair) 07768 927182
Keith Cowley 01379 742766
Angela Belgrove 01379 741534
Mike Warwick 01379 741945
John Mallows 07976 365938
Ann Baker (Clerk) 01379 742937
Council website

email chair@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
email alison@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
email keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
email angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
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TWO VILLAGES • ONE FUTURE