

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 c.stevens864@btinternet.com

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During the early part of this year most of the work being done by Council was 'behind closed doors', but in recent weeks things have been much more public. Anyone going onto Burston playing field will have seen the differences: the play equipment has been painted, the benches have been revarnished, new benches have been installed, there is now a proper gravel path around the whole field, trim-trail exercise equipment has been installed, and hundreds of trees have been planted. Soon the wildflower seeds will be sown, and then we can see the new-look recreation area coming to life. Already there have been comments that the path is helping people walk across or around the field without getting their feet muddy.

Following the flooding of last December the Council have been taking a proactive role in encouraging those with responsibilities for ditches and waterways to undertake work that will reduce the risk of future floods.

With the generous support of residents in a 'crowdfunding' exercise a report has been prepared by professional consultants, identifying problems and suggesting what should be done. Copies have been sent to landowners and to Norfolk County Council. Already some of the recommendations have been acted on.

The Council arranged a public meeting at which the entire situation was reviewed, and it is hoped that soon everyone will see signs of action being taken.

Councillors have worked hard during the year to make all of this happen, and I wish them, and all residents in our Parish, a very Happy Christmas, and a safe and healthy New Year.

Nigel Frankland

THE BURSTON CROWN

Another year nearly done!

Thank you to you all for supporting us through these very trying 20 months.

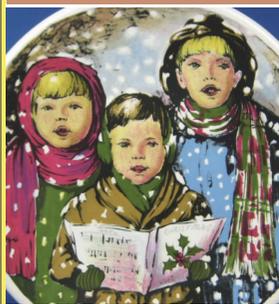
The deli we opened from the pub in January was a great addition. Steve's sausage rolls, scotch eggs and cakes were instant hits. Not so good for my waistline, I have to add! The deli has served us well but it's time to make a

change again and adapt to what is needed, so this space will be a very cosy snug with sofas, coffee tables and boardgames. The summer was great and everyone was desperate to come out and meet up with friends and relatives the sheds have proved popular for those not quite confident enough to come inside the pub. So onto winter and Christmas, i'm sure that everyone is looking forward to having much more of a celebration after last year!!

If you forgot to pick up your milk or potatoes or amaretti biscuits. Pop in, we will try and help out.



BURSTON CHAPEL CHRISTMAS



At Christmas time there are many people in our country who sing, as a line in one of the familiar carols "But in the dark streets shineth, the everlasting light" Surely Burston and Shimpling folk REALLY know what a "dark street" is. Some wish for lamposts, some are quite happy without them. However, being spread over several square miles of dark lanes carol singing door to door or street to street is difficult. Some too, would rather not have carol singing at their door. This is why we offer the Carols On The Green event before Christmas each year, for anyone who would like to come along and join in Christmas celebrations in the open air.

Last year was quite unusual, as it turned out. Burston Chapel has hosted open-air carols in the village since Ginni and I arrived in 1998, but we inherited it from our predecessors. We never have more than about 20 each year, sometimes more, sometimes less. Last year many people came. You will remember, we had just entered a tier system as a country, and many were in tears - at not being able to visit or receive family members from other areas. We had travelled through a year of hope and fear and in many ways were feeling uncertain about how things would turn out in the year to come. However, we WERE able to gather on Church Green for some celebrations to mark the season and to have refreshments (thanks to Bev and Steve at the Crown) of wine, hot chocolate, mince pies etc. and also the refreshment of connection to each other as villagers. As is usual we will be holding an open-air carols event on the 18th December at 5pm. You are all most welcome to come and join with the celebrations and whether it is a small gathering or a larger one, it will be a delight to see you.

CHRISTMAS 2021

TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH



B4RN Community Broadband Update

The volunteer group and our contractor, Clive, started installing the network in August 2020 under difficult Covid-19 restrictions. We now have the core network completed and almost every property has the ducting to their boundary. About 80 households and businesses now have the benefit of 1Gb broadband and this number is growing every week. If you haven't already, sign up for the Gigabit voucher at b4rn.org.uk GET B4RN. In November B4RN were awarded 2 important industry awards:

- The Independent Networks Cooperative Association (INCA) Best Community Project
- Best Rural ISP from the UK Internet Industry Award

There is more information here <https://b4rn.org.uk/b4rn-wins-awards-double/>

We are very proud to be part of this community organisation helping rural communities. B4RN are currently in talks with Saffron housing about supplying to their properties in the area. Learn more at <https://b4rn.org.uk/news/>

Jane Fishwick Burston and Shimpling B4RN Volunteer Group



BURSTON HOUSE HOSPITAL NEWS

It has been another busy few months at Burston House with lots of activities going on. As the winter months approach, we have been winding down work in the garden, but not before finishing a few more projects. We have continued to focus on re-using old materials and have recently upcycled an old chest of drawers which was



not being used into a planter for the garden. It has certainly added some colour to the garden and the patients have enjoyed seeing it put to good use.



They have also made a birdbath using old pots which looks very effective

As the weather changes, the focus is turning to indoor projects including photography. The group has been focussing on creating scenes using everyday materials. This picture is of an alien city and if you look closely, you can see that it has been made using screws.



With Christmas rapidly approaching, patients have been making Christmas cards and festive artwork to brighten up the hospital. Art sessions have been very popular recently and patients have enjoyed the opportunity to explore their creative sides. There have been some fantastic pieces created and we are exploring the possibility of exhibiting these locally so that everyone's achievements can be showcased.

This has been another challenging year for us all but hopefully there are brighter times ahead. Wishing you all a merry Christmas and best wishes for 2022.



AUTUMN LITTER PICK

Our Autumn Litter Pick event took place on Saturday 9th October tying in with the South Norfolk Clean Up Campaign. We collected litter from every road, close, green space and footpath in and around Burston and Shimpling, thanks to the band of volunteers who turned out on the day or during the week if they had prior commitments.

These included: Tim, Isobel and Kiera who found a laundry basket, Jenny who has promised to return to the path next to the playing field once the vegetation has been cleared from the ditch. Andrew, Amanda, Julie and Sue, Juan, Juliette and Suzi, Robin and Eileen who cleared most of the central area of the village and Green Lane. Wendy who had to use a wheelbarrow to bring her rubbish sack back to the collection point as it was so heavy. She commented that the BMX track area was really clean and tidy so well done to all the people who use this facility. Andy, Keith and Nigel cleared the outer area of Burston. Alison, Tony and Nigel collected all through Shimpling and this was by far the worst area blighted by litter including fly tipping of three car tyres and fast-food packaging. A considerable number of bags filled with litter were left on Church Green awaiting collection by the council and the tyres that were removed from a ditch in Shimpling will be collected by South Norfolk Council.

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to villagers who regularly litter pick, and to the volunteers who turn out for the organised events. On this occasion Friends of St Mary's Church held their Coffee and Cake morning to coincide with the litter pick and all volunteers enjoyed free refreshments.

The next Litter Pick is the spring 'Keep Britain Tidy Campaign', see you all then.

CROWN GREEN PLAYING FIELD PROJECT

Some quite extensive changes have been carried out on the playing field - a re-purposing project instigated by the Parish Council. The final phase is now underway – but more of that later.

General ongoing maintenance included having the ditches around the field cleared of obstructions and vegetation, hopefully allowing any storm water to flow away. Also brambles and climbers have been removed, these have been taking over the garden fences of the Audley Close houses backing onto the field.

The main distribution cabinet for B4RN (broadband) is safely located next to the council's storage shed.

The playground equipment has been repainted and is looking fresh and bright. Unfortunately, the small seesaw is broken but a specialist company will undertake repairs, so hopefully it will be back in action fairly soon.

The old timber bench by the entrance from Audley Close has been replaced by a new sustainable bench funded in part by Saffron Housing Trust as part of the re-purposing scheme.

The BMX track is used by more and more bikers and its reputation is growing beyond the parish. Ongoing facilities within the playing field are all in good shape and well used and now we have some new exciting areas for residents to enjoy:-

An all-weather footpath extending around the perimeter allowing a lot more residents access to the whole field, parents with pushchairs, dog walkers, youngsters on trikes and joggers, everything we hoped and planned for. Sustainable benches around the footpath giving a place to rest and take in the views.

A new picnic table kindly donated by a local resident for families to use.

New fitness equipment for those who feel inclined to improve their fitness and a new 7 aside football pitch for those who want to kick a ball around. All great additions to the park

Lastly, we will be planting 500 tree saplings around the park creating biodiversity into what was for many years a sterile grassed field and we must thank any residents and children planning to attend our tree planting weekends. A new wildflower meadow will be created in the spring incorporating the two small hillocks formed from earth excavated as part of the footpath works, saving the expense of it being removed off site.

In conclusion this year sees a new page turned in the use of the playing field, or should we call it the village recreation park. We hope these new facilities will generate ongoing interest in the park and as the wood grows and the wildflowers blossom more involvement will occur. Have a good Christmas and Happy New Year.

Keith Cowley

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

We have had an active Community Speed Watch group in Burston & Shimpling since 2018. With the information and data submitted the Police have been able to see the number of vehicles speeding through our villages which has encouraged them to set up a full speed watch-with fines.

Covid restricted us from any activity but I would like to reinstate the programme, to do so I will need more volunteers, full training will be given usually done in a few hours.

To maintain a speed watch programme we need to carry out four sessions of one hours monitoring over a month. So hopefully with enough volunteers it will only take 1-2 hours of your time a month.

Please contact me on either 01379 640795 or email briandfishwick@gmail.com and I will be happy to answer any questions.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

There was a good gathering around the war memorial on Church Green at 9.15am Sunday 14th November, a bright but chilly Remembrance Day. A short ceremony was led by the Reverend Cannon Tony Billett of the Diss Team Ministry. The names of the eight men of Burston who gave their lives in The Great War (as it was then known) of 1914-1918 were read out loud. Some of the homes that the young soldiers came from still overlook the Green. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish Council by Hamish, a recent serving member of the armed forces living in the village.



FRIENDS OF BURSTON CHURCH

If you haven't been to a function in the church organised by the Friends of Burston Church then do give it a try. With the church being the only facility in the village for large events, the FOBC strive to raise funds to ensure the continual maintenance of this building. The latest occasion was our Fish and Chip quiz which was a sell-out with over 60 tickets sold. The quiz master, Rodney Tuck, set an interesting selection of questions to keep all our brains active and the Fish and Chips provided tasty sustenance during the interval.

Our Safari Supper earlier in the year looked like being a washout so we decided to hold the event in the church. A marquee, erected inside the building and decorated with flowers and balloons helped to create a garden party feeling within the church. The coffee morning which was held in conjunction with the village Litter Pick, was not well attended but we are planning another in the Spring and hope to have a jumble sale event at the same time so please come along. Besides coffee and cakes to enjoy in the church, we have a delicious selection of home-made produce for you to buy, so don't miss it!

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 December 9.30am Holy Communion
25th December 9.30 am Holy Communion
9th January 2022 9.30 am Holy Communion
23rd January 2022 9.30am Morning Prayer
13th February 2022 9.30 am Holy Communion
27th February 9.30am Morning Prayer
13th March 2022 9.30am Holy Communion

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

NEW FACEBOOK GROUP

A new facebook group has been created: 'Burston and Shimpling Community'.

It is open to anyone to join this group, and anyone can 'post'. Please join this on-line community to be the first with the latest news.

The new group is here

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/485722735910598>

HEDGES AND PAVEMENTS

At this month's Parish Council meeting concerns were voiced about pavements through the village being narrowed by overgrown garden hedges. In some cases briars and thorny shrubs attack the unwary walker and buggy pusher. In other cases over growth causes obstructions for the disabled and forces people to walk into the road. It blocks sight lines for people crossing and makes it difficult for drivers pulling out at junctions, it also hides traffic signs. We respectfully remind you that, throughout the year, it is your responsibility to maintain hedges and to clear away clippings from pavements.

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.



Picture supplied by Burston House Hospital



Parish Council Meetings
Meetings are to be held in The Space, Mill Road, Burston starting at 7.30 pm on the following dates:-
Monday 17th January - PC meeting
Monday 21st March - 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

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