

# 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](mailto:c.stevens864@btinternet.com)

## PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We are fortunate to have so many volunteers in our Parish. Of course, all of the Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers, and they work hard for the benefit of residents. The team that installed the B4RN gigabit broadband also includes many local volunteers, who have given up their time, often working out of doors in all sorts of weather, to bring state of the art broadband to our rural community. Friends of Burston Church, a charity that raises funds for the maintenance of the building of St Mary's church, are all volunteers, as are The Friends of Burston School. There are others who volunteer: our footpaths warden, our tree warden, people who deliver this publication - The Planet, and the church magazine - Cock Crow plus numerous people who do small jobs around the village like raising and lowering the flag on the Burston flag pole on appointed days, baking cakes for litter-pick sessions and other village 'happenings', cutting some grass that no-one else will tend to, picking up roadside litter on litter-pick days (and on other days as well), helping with village working parties to plant trees and clear ditches.....and this list could go on and on. This volunteering is the oil that helps keep village life moving smoothly.

We should all be grateful that so many people give up some of their time to help the community. However, a few more volunteers are needed. I know that Sybil, who has for the last decade done an excellent job of running the Thursday Luncheon Club, which provides a lunch for senior citizens once a month, is looking for someone to take over that responsibility, and also volunteers will be needed to help organise and run our Parish celebrations of the Platinum Jubilee. If you would like to support our community, and you enjoy being part of an active village, can you give up some of your time – you will certainly enjoy doing it.

Please get in touch with me if you can help in any way – my contact details are on the back page.  
Nigel Frankland

## 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 or group 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.

With the pandemic continuing to disrupt our lives, many individuals, groups and organizations 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/don-swanton-award-nominations> . This should be returned to Ann Baker, Parish Clerk. Nominations for the award close on Thursday 31st March 2022.



## Village Litter Pick

Saturday 26th March 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

As usual, we will meet at Church Green to collect equipment and plan routes to be covered.

If you are unable to make this date and wish to complete the Litter Pick at a time to suit you, please contact Angela (01379 741534) to let her know the route you will be covering.

We were awarded £200 in the prize draw by South Norfolk for our Big South Norfolk October Litter Pick! The Parish Council will decide how best to spend the award.

Thank you for your valued support.

SPRING 2022

TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH

## COMMUNITY DOG WALK

The idea was simple, a free event, outside, food, and footsteps. Deb Bulman came up with the idea for this event from our objective of wanting to create a natural opportunity for 'community' in the village. An opportunity for villagers to connect with people they had not yet met, didn't know or hadn't seen for a long time. During the last couple of years, a number of people have moved out of the village and a number of households have moved in - a difficult time to become part of a community! As well as that, there are people who, if not lonely, are certainly alone. Though there had been some discussion about when to offer such an event, on the day we began the practical discussion Debbie Beck was present and readily offered her kitchen for cooking of bacon and boiling of water etc. Wendy, Rita, Deb and Debbie, with a couple of willing husbands, set about serving those who came. All in all, it was a lovely low-key event. The dogs loved it, and the atmosphere, from the youngest to the oldest, was very friendly and pleasant. Maybe we should do it again sometime...

Sam Brinkley, Burston Chapel



## RECREATION GROUND REPORT

The start of another year and a new look for the newly named recreation ground. The all-weather footpath seems to be a welcome facility as every time I visit there are people walking along with their dogs, children or just on their own maybe contemplating what it will be like in a few years time once all the recently planted trees start to shoot up. We have one last activity to carry out to complete the scheme that we started last summer and that is creating the wildflower meadow area. Initially we plan to seed the two raised areas with a selection of local seeds gathered last year from around the Parish together with some bought in seeds that will hopefully flower this year. We shall then be commencing the cultivation of the grassed area to the west of the raised bunds so that over the next few years this develops into the wildflower meadow we have planned. We hope to involve the school in the seeding activity in a few weeks so keep a look out for dates and times as all are welcome to come to help. Path walkers will notice that we now have three new information boards describing the new layout and where you are in relation to the new facilities. There is also a new plaque mounted on a timber post denoting that the newly planted woodland has been dedicated as part of the Queens Green Canopy in celebration of this year's Jubilee event.

Ditches around the recreation ground have been cleared to help drain rainwater away. We thank the Thelveton Estate for dealing with the ditch running alongside the trackway to the AW treatment plant. In order to help with access from Gissing Road we shall be forming some steps onto the timber bridge over the ditch.

We are still waiting for the replacement parts to arrive for the Twingo Seesaw in the children's play area and we hope to have that working again soon.

Finally, I would like to mention that we are considering installing an outdoor covered area, close to the play area, that can be used by both the community and the school as an outdoor classroom/event space. This would be an open sided timber structure, hopefully with timber benches and I would very

much like to hear the views from residents on this proposal, both for and against, as we shall be looking to access grants to fund this project. Please email me on [keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk) or call on 01379 742766 with your thoughts.

Lets hope for a good year ahead now COVID restrictions are easing and look forward to seeing more and more residents in the recreation ground throughout the year.



As part of the **Million Trees for Norfolk scheme** that Norfolk County Council are promoting we have been fortunate to have been allocated 300 tree saplings to plant in public areas around the Parish. These include fruit trees, native hedgerow shrubs and larger trees, and they have been planted in both Shimpling (the church path) and Burston (the village green and Audley End towards The Carr). Many thanks go to all the volunteers who came out at weekends to help with the planting and also to the Thelveton Estate for allowing planting on their land. The various locations around the parish where this planting has taken place will be shown on the Parish Councils website.



## PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022



As many of you are now aware there is to be a Bank Holiday weekend in honour of the Queen's Jubilee (70 years since her Coronation) between June the 2nd and 5th. Beacons, parties and musical events throughout the country are planned and Burston and Shimpling PC are trying to gauge interest in holding events. We are a small village and so anything we do to mark the occasion will be limited but it is felt that we should do something.

If you feel you would want to contribute to the debate the PC would be interested in hearing from anyone who would be prepared to join a committee or to set up/clear away following a party, probably held on the Play area field in Burston. If you can provide music, equipment (ie marquee, tables etc) or lighting then we would be pleased to hear from you.

At this stage nothing is definite and much depends on the enthusiasm shown by the village to join in.

Please contact Mike Warwick on [mike@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:mike@burstonandshimpling.org.uk) or join the Burston and Shimpling community Facebook page to register your ideas or thoughts under the Jubilee article.



## BURSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

We have had a busy few months. Our Ofsted visit on 31st November and 1st December 2021 resulted in a GOOD grading, the first for our school since 2006. We are very proud of all the hard work from Sapientia Education Trust, our staff, children, and parents who have helped us achieve this.

After our struggles through the pandemic, the children have decided to help others who have been affected as well. As a result, they set themselves a challenge to collect 200 eggs, alongside Tivetshall Primary School, to donate to local care homes. Our school wide value of happiness in December had the children thinking of how they could spread happiness to others. We have been inundated with eggs from the community and local businesses and hopefully will be able to donate many more than our 200 eggs.

In January the children were astounded to see 2 large black eggs in a large nest on our school field. There also seemed to be the remains of an egg which might have hatched. We searched the school site for clues and then wrote reports with our findings to help the investigation.

We hope that in the coming months the school will be more open to visits and that we can welcome visitors in to our many planned school events.

Mrs D Ridgeon  
Headmistress

## BURSTON HOUSE HOSPITAL

We are slowly getting through the winter months and here at Burston House we have been focussing on lots of indoor projects to help brighten the environment. Patients continue to greatly enjoy artwork and have recently started working with clay.



They are also designing artwork to display such as this cartoon picture, and we hope to share the finished result next time.



We have also been engaging in science sessions. Here are a couple of experiments, one involving shaving foam and food colouring, and the other using sweets to make a rainbow effect.



Practical sessions such as woodwork and furniture restoration continue to be popular. The patients are starting to sell some of the pieces they have restored and have had positive feedback, which they are really proud of.

We have also been keen to help local charities. Patients and staff have been collecting items for the local Foodbank, and patients have been collecting empty crisp packets for recycling to help raise money for a local animal sanctuary. We are also planning fun activities for Sport Relief, which will soon be here.

Thoughts are now turning to the garden as it will soon be Spring. Hopefully in the next edition we will be able to share some colourful and sunny pictures!

Jackie Lawrence, Occupational Therapist, Priory Healthcare

## 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](http://www.burstonchapel.co.uk)

## ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

13th March - 9.30am - Holy Communion  
27th March - 9.30am - Morning Prayer  
10th April - 9.30am - Holy Communion  
24th April - 9.30am - Morning Prayer  
8th May - 9.30am - Holy Communion  
22nd May - 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](http://www.dissteamministry.org.uk).



Three generations of the Mann family planting three oak trees on the newly named Recreation Ground in Burston in December last year. The field was originally dedicated to the village for recreational purposes in 1946 by Sir John Mann – Sir Rupert Mann's father. Sir Rupert Mann is seen here with his son Alexander and grandson Albie.

## 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](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.



## 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.

### Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are to be held in The Space, Mill Road, Burston starting at 7.30 pm on the following dates:-

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

[email\\_chair@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:email_chair@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

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

[email\\_keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:email_keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

[email\\_angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:email_angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

[email\\_mike@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:email_mike@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

[email\\_john@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:email_john@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

[email\\_parish.clerk@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:email_parish.clerk@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

[burstonandshimpling.org.uk](http://burstonandshimpling.org.uk)

**TWO VILLAGES • ONE FUTURE**