

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

As I write, signs of spring are becoming more visible week by week. The snowdrops are out (there are tremendous displays just off the lanes around Gissing) and some daffodils are in sight. Let us hope that the weather will soon get warmer.

There is much to look forward to over the next three months including the Coronation of King Charles in early May. Plans are being laid down for a celebration of the event on the Saturday, and also for a 'big lunch' event on the Sunday, so look out for details as they become available.

On Thursday 4th May there will be local council elections. There is already one vacancy on the Parish Council and it would be good to see candidates stepping forward for the election. Anyone who lives in or near the Parish can stand for election. Please let me know if you would like more information.

Remember that to be able to vote in person you will need photo-id, such as a passport or driving licence or an older-person's bus pass. If you apply for a postal vote you will not need the photo-id, but if you have none of the relevant documents you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate.

Information is available on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>.

Remember that these things take time, and if you want to be able to vote you need to take action over the next few weeks.

On Sunday 23rd April, St George's Day, there will be a short Communion Service at 3pm in St George's Church in Shimpling. Tuesday 25th April is the Annual Parish Meeting, which is your chance to raise any topic that you wish to air or discuss.

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 economic downturn and inflation rising sharply these are challenging times. However, many individuals, groups and organisations 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 2023.

NEW ACTIVITY GROUP

The Friends of Burston Church is disbanding as a group. For a number of years this group has raised funds to maintain the fabric of the church building. Unfortunately the current estimate of costs to rectify structural problems within the church is excessive and the FOBC feel their contribution is no longer of any practical help.

Therefore members of the group would like to concentrate their efforts to promote activities within the village and raise funds for other local good causes.

In order to form a new organization we need to recruit some new members. If you are interested please contact Christine Stevens, tel 01379 740505, email c.stevens864@btinternet.com – or come to our meeting at The Space, Mill Road on Friday 31st March 6.30pm-8.30pm.



TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH

BURSTON COMMUNITY KITCHEN

When the Warm Spaces initiative was aired, Bev Kembery, Debbie Bullman and Ginni Brinkley created their village hub in the Burston Chapel, serving warm food and offering a community space for anyone who wanted to join them. The venue soon changed to The Strike School when Bev contacted the Unite Union and obtained their consent.

What started out as a small venture has now developed into a fantastic weekly event for the village. It gives people in the community some companionship and provides newcomers to the village with an opportunity to make new friendships. Over thirty villagers are regularly catered for, delicious meals being supplied by Steve and Bev at the Burston Crown and an array of puddings provided by Sue Wright all served by the group and their helpers. Quiz nights and prize bingo sessions have entertained on occasions.

Bev says speaking on behalf of everyone who helps this happen every Tuesday it's filled our hearts with happiness. She wants to offer a big thank you to The Priory Burston House for buying the groceries every week and gives a very big thank you to Unite Union for the use of The Strike School.

The Burston Community Kitchen is at The Strike School every Tuesday from 4.30pm until 6.30pm.

All of you are welcome.

For more information, please call

Bev at The Burston Crown 01379 741257

or Ginni 01379 741816



WILDER CONNECTIONS PROJECT CONFERENCE

The Parish Council was approached by Norfolk Wildlife Trust to give a short presentation at their Wilder Connections Project conference, which was rounding up what the project had achieved in the South Norfolk Claylands Living Landscape since it started in 2021.

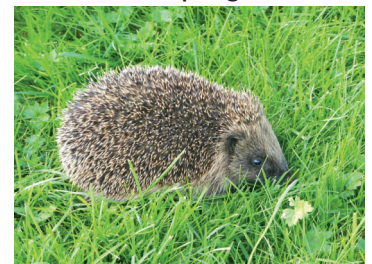
Very good talks were given by Eliot Lyne, the CEO of NWT, Patrick Barkham, the author and President of NWT, Argus Hardy, a founder of WildEast and three farmers, all farming in South Norfolk. Eliot Lyne reminded us that NWT is the first and oldest Wildlife Trust in the country, started to conserve land at Cley. He spoke of how lives are enriched by nature and that we must make more space for nature – which we are now doing in Burston and Shimpling.

The Wilder Connections Project aims to connect communities and individuals with the countryside and also connect pockets of wilder land for wildlife to move around in, by planting more hedgerows, trees and wildflower meadows and restoring the many ponds we have in South Norfolk. We're certainly starting to create more hedgerows, wooded areas and wildflower areas in our parish. The three farmers talked about the ways in which they are restoring their old ponds for wildlife, planting lots of hedgerows and trees and creating glorious wildflower meadows. Patrick Barkham encouraged the connection of areas, for example by using hedgerows, and said that everyone can help by leaving wild spaces in their gardens, as well as enjoying reserves which are helping scarce species to continue.

Did you know that the hedgehog population has plummeted in recent years, with the East having the most serious decline? So what we do in our own gardens is very important for wildlife.

Our talk focused on the Playing Field Project and how it has been helped by NWT Wilder Connections, through workshops on creating wildflower meadows, baseline assessment of the wildflowers in the field already, providing 'green hay' to spread on the meadow area, workshops on hedgelaying, scything etc and lots of other advice and support from NWT staff. This has also included practical help with tree planting and spreading 'green hay' for example. We are really grateful to the NWT as well as other organisations which have provided trees, funding etc.

Lindsey Bilston



RECREATION GROUND UPDATE

Well the start of a new year, the reports are that it's going to be another hot one, let's hope not as hot as last year which took a real toll on the new trees we planted over the winter of 2021/22.

More and more people I meet in the recreation ground comment on how much they enjoy coming to the park now there is so much more of interest with the footpath, infant woodland and meadow areas, the new covered pavilion with its bench seating and of course the new basketball net area. There's still a little bit of work to do around the basketball net area, firstly to spread the remaining top soil around the concrete slab and also to put up a permanent fence to stop balls going into the ditch.



We are also planning to install a further rubbish bin by the benches down by the BMX track so people don't have to carry their rubbish all the way to the bins by Audley Close entrance or in the play area. On the matter of bins there has been an increase in the amount of dog's "calling cards" being left on the grassed areas! We have now installed baskets with free poo bags at the two main entrances so PLEASE, PLEASE use these bags and put them in the dog waste bins provided. We don't want to go back to preventing dogs being in the recreation park but if the problem does not improve some sort of restrictions may need to be considered. If you see any culprits please have a gentle word to remind them.

In keeping with our plans to provide new facilities within the park, a boule or pétanque court is planned to be built this coming spring. It will be located by the new pavilion so that groups of players can gather in relative comfort whilst enjoying their game of boules. Also it's hoped that we may be able to invite other village groups for friendly competitions over the summer. If you are interested in joining this group please contact my fellow parish councillor, Anita Hughes, who is leading with this project.



On the weekend of the 29th January there was a tree planting session when a group of volunteers planted approx. 100 tree saplings in the spaces left by the loss of trees last summer. We also planted a new Mulberry tree in the Community Orchard area to replace the one that had died. We have more trees to plant this coming spring so look out for a call for volunteers.

It will be interesting over the coming months to see how many of the trees have survived and what wildflowers are coming up in the meadow area – let's

hope we shall be pleasantly surprised.

Any comments please contact keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk or call on 01379 742766

BURSTON HOUSE NEWS

We have made our own Burston village using a range of materials and will be entering this work and other items into this years Koestler Awards.

Koestler is a charity for expressing yourself in the form of art works. Many people get involved each year which is very positive.



Burston service users have been taking part in photography sessions and have taken wonderful photos of some birds at Needham Lakes and Diss Mere.



There are also some lovely photos of a local church.

On Monday 6th Feb an earthquake struck Southern

Turkey near the city of Gaziantep. This had devastating effects on the city and many people have died. We are starting to collect for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal.



We will be celebrating Pancake day on 21st February and we are aiming to start litter picking in the village.

BURSTON CHAPEL

Sunday Morning Service at 11.00am
Sunday Evening Service at 6.30pm

Jamie's gang (school age club) Wednesdays
5.00pm to 6.30pm in term time only

All Welcome - see the Burston Chapel Website:-
www.burstonchapel.co.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

26th March 9.30am Morning Prayer

For further details please call:-

Robert Beck - 01379 740834

Diss benefice office - 01379 643783
or online at www.disssteamministry.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.

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

The Parish Council needs another councillor. Applications must be complete by early April. There are eight meetings each year and other duties at your choice. To become a councillor you must be over the age of 18, on the register of electors, a resident or have for 12 months owned or rented or occupied land or premises in or within 3 miles of the Parish, and have UK or Irish or EU citizenship. If you are interested in serving the community and really getting into 'village life' and would like further information please contact the Parish Clerk or the Chairman. (Contact details below)



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
John Mallows 07976 365938
Anita Hughes
Ann Baker (Clerk) 01379 742937
Council website

HEDGELAYING

I was lucky enough to be invited by The Norfolk Wildlife Trust to a hedge laying course on The Heywood in February, run by the incredibly talented Alison Huxley of Huxley Hedges.

As a mixed age group of both male and female we started the day off with tool safety and a history of this ancient art.... And art it is indeed.

In brief, hedge laying is the process of partially cutting through and then bending the stems of a line of shrubs or small trees, near ground level, without breaking them, so as to encourage them to produce new growth from the base and create a living 'stock proof fence'. Although originally done to keep livestock in, I can see it's decorative value and will be putting my new skill to practice in my own garden. I was amazed that with only our hands and minimal tools we could produce something so strong and beautiful to look at in no time at all (obviously great tuition from Alison). If you go towards Diss from Burston, over Wolsey bridge and around the corner just turn your head to the right ...

(In my opinion the most beautiful hedge for miles)

Keep your eyes peeled, you may just see more of it in the village
Anita Hughes



Parish Council Meetings

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

Tuesday 21st March - PC meeting
Tuesday 25th April - Annual Parish meeting
8.00pm
Tuesday 16th May - Annual PC meeting

email chair@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
email alison@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
email keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
email angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
email john@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
email anita@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
email parish.clerk@burstonandshimpling.org.uk
burstonandshimpling.org.uk

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