

# 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

Even with the shortening days, Parish Councillors and other volunteers have been busy with the Autumn Litter Pick and preparing the Recreation Ground for Winter including the annual safety inspection. Footpath maintenance continues as the weather and other activities on the land allow. There have been some changes as we welcome two new members and a new Clerk. Many thanks to Ann Baker for her support and advice for the last 8 years and to John Mallows and Michael Bloomfield for their time on Council.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Alison Wakeham

Chairman



## CHRISTMAS AT THE CHAPEL

**Carols by Candlelight at the Chapel  
Sunday 17th December 6 pm**

**Carols outside on Church Green/Strike School  
Saturday 23rd December at 5pm  
with hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies  
whatever the weather.  
Wrap up warm!**

**Christmas Day celebration  
at the Chapel 10 am**



## COMMUNITY KITCHEN



The Parish Council's decision to enforce 'No Parking' to protect church green has proved to be controversial. Volunteers for the Burston Community Kitchen project felt the Parish Council's action was particularly detrimental to them as many of the participants have used the green for parking because there is minimal space next to the Strike School. The church green has been used as an overspill parking area for years. However the law states that parking isn't permitted on a registered green without the landowner's permission. A misunderstanding on both sides meant that the Community Kitchen were unaware they had been officially notified of the 'No Parking' arrangements and were therefore concerned when participants were cautioned by the parish council at one of their sessions. Having run for over a year with no apparent damage inflicted on the green, the

Community Kitchen wonders why the Parish Council feels it is necessary to bring this matter to the fore now. At the Parish Council meeting on 22nd November, the community kitchen was well represented. A supporter said the Parish Council had underestimated the feelings of villagers. The Parish Council said that since March it had become evident that regular parking took place on the green due to the success of the Community Kitchen Project who they said, had been informed that parking was not permitted (the Community Kitchen were unaware of this). The law says parking on a village green is not permitted and the Parish Council are obliged to follow the law. The Community Kitchen have corresponded with the Parish Council setting out their assessment of the law and requesting that the Parish Council considers their request to allow parking in the future. The council says they are seeking advice from other organisations and once received, consideration will be given to this request.

Christine Stevens

*The editor is asked to say that this article is not the view of the Parish Council.*

**TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH**

## VILLAGE LITTER PICK

On 14th October 2023, a dry and sunny morning, sixteen volunteers kindly picked up discarded litter from the roadside verges and public spaces in Burston and Shimpling. Although a thorough search took place, I am delighted to report that less rubbish was bagged up for collection by the council than is usual. Being the optimist that I am, I was hopeful that it was a sign that people were less inclined to throw their rubbish out of their car as they drive through the villages. This optimism was short lived as I travelled through Shimpling the very next day and saw discarded fast-food wrappers in the road by the turning for St George's Church. Our volunteers' efforts are still clearly necessary so please turn up at Church Green next April!

Once again we enjoyed a pleasant chat, coffee, cake and the now famous sausage rolls after our litter gathering. All your efforts are very much appreciated as I know that many of you reading this always keep the area around your home neat and tidy as well as regularly picking up litter when you walk around the villages and use the public footpath routes. Doing this helps to keep drains, ditches and watercourses free from items that snag on vegetation and prevent the free flow of water that adds to the risk of flooding.

As always, report any fly-tipping directly to Broadland & South Norfolk Council via their website or, if you prefer, to me by emailing [angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk) or tel. 01379 741534. I look forward to seeing you at the Spring Litter pick next April.

## HEADING IN TO WINTER AT THE RECREATION GROUND



After the successful picnic event organised in late summer, the recreation park is moving into its winter maintenance period although there is not a lot to do over the coming months with the last grass cut now done and dusted, the wildflower bund cut and the community orchard trees now beginning to drop their leaves. One issue that we will need to address, probably in the spring, is the grass that is creeping onto the footpath, this will be sprayed to push it back from the path edge and will necessitate the park being closed for at least 24hours. We will of course give advanced notice of when this will be carried out.

A survey has been carried out of the tree saplings planted over the last two years and we now know how many need to be replaced. Fortunately, the Woodland Trust is donating trees for us to plant this coming winter. A call for volunteers will be put out once we have a date when the trees will be available. The Portaloo toilet has been removed for the winter but will hopefully be back next year if funds allow, ready for the spring and summer. As noted above the community orchard trees are now beginning to lose their leaves but not before they provided a crop of meddlers, apples, pears, plums and quinces for local residents to harvest.

We have a further rubbish bin to install on the far side of the meadow area and some fencing alongside the basketball post to prevent balls going in the ditch. Plans are for both of these to be done by next spring.

Sadly there have been further reports of dog poo being left in the park and we would again ask dog walkers to clear up after their pets. There are posters around the park reminding people to use the provided dog litter bins. We have also installed a sign to remind people that overnight parking is not permitted in the car park which is for the use of the school staff and parents plus visitors to the school, the park and the village green.

As the park goes into its winter mode we will make sure that come next spring the meadow area will be coming alive with flowers, the playing field area will be ready for football, etc and all the footpaths will be clear to enjoy the whole recreation area. As always, any comments residents have on the recreation ground can be sent to me at [keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk). Have a good winter.

## BURSTON YOUTH CAFÉ

The Autumn is turning into winter and we have moved back indoors. Over the summer we enjoyed playing badminton, rounders and other fun games. We even ventured for a game of Nerf gun wars in the park. But we still have a lot of fun things to do inside. We have already baked cookies, decorated cupcakes, made mosaic coasters and getting closer to Christmas we are looking forward to our annual Christmas meal at the Café. Not to forget the games consoles, table tennis and tuck shop. We always welcome new young people from year 6 up to the end of high school. We often have 6th formers as young leaders, and would love for some new ones to join our team. If you are interested, do pop in to see us on Thursdays during term time, 3.45-5.15pm at St Mary's church.

Have a blessed Christmas Maria Newbould, Area Youth and Schools Worker - IntegrateYFC, Diss

## GRAVE CONCERN

Nestled within the conservation area at the heart of Burston is a hidden gem which many people drive or walk past daily. It caused a social media storm during the summer because it, along with several other similar sites, had been badly neglected; if you believed what was reported on local social media groups. Let me just put that reporting in context for you, if you haven't recently walked around the churchyard I urge you to do so now, as a lot has changed in recent weeks and I hope to gain your support to continue with maintaining this final resting place for many of our villagers.



Burston's population from the 2021 census is 582, of which 327 are aged 18-64 and 161 aged over 65; 52% Christian, 47% no religion. Why have I mentioned this? Because I am appealing for twenty people to commit to adopting just six headstones each. If you do the 'math' that would be 120 headstones, the approximate number on the west side and rear of the church. Please note the word 'headstones' as grass cutting is a less important, although necessary, maintenance issue that will be dealt with separately.

During October the 'Conservation Scheme Area' was scythed and cleared. This part of the churchyard is left undisturbed as part of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's 'Saving Norfolk Wildlife for the Future' scheme and as such has an abundance of primroses, wild flowers and grasses which proliferate through spring and summer. (Look for the plaque on the right of the path as you walk from the gate to the church porch.)

To the left of the path are more recent graves and this area is the one which needs more regular attention, especially on the boundary with the Strike School. This year most of these graves had become inaccessible and invisible, a fault which has now been rectified due to those remarks that struck a real chord with me; an incomer to the village. I thought that, like me, many residents might have tended their relatives' graves before moving away or retiring here from another part of the country leaving that responsibility to someone else. Wouldn't it be worthwhile to reciprocate this task here in our village? Perhaps our elderly residents dearly wish they were able to tend their loved one's grave but ill health or frailty prevent them. This is where those 20 people could make a community commitment to help whilst enjoying fresh air, gentle exercise and the sounds of nature around them.

If you have a pair of garden shears, a soft brush and a little time on your hands to keep a few headstones visible please contact me, Angela Belgrove [angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk) or telephone 01379 741534. If you regularly tend a grave and do not need this help, make contact and I will ensure the volunteers leave this to you to continue to do. Some of you may already know me through my work on the Parish Council as Litter Warden and with the Don Swanton award but this appeal is through my link as a regular member of St Mary's congregation and member of the Parochial Church Council. I hope to hear from twenty of you soon.  
Angela Belgrove.

## DITCHES AND WATERCOURSES - FLOOD MITIGATION WORK IN SHIMPLING

Following the severe flooding that occurred in the parish in 2019/2020, the parish council have been pressing various government agencies to undertake flood mitigation works in and around the two villages. After a long slog we are pleased so advise that the works planned by the Water Land Management Alliance, which incorporates the old local drainage boards, are about to commence in land to the north of Pug Street in Shimpling on the watercourse that runs parallel to Moor Road. Additional works will be carried out by the bridge opposite The Grange on the Dickleburgh Road. These works are being carried out by the Environmental Agency under the auspices of the WLMA and should be completed by the end of the year. We will of course monitor the progress of these works and regularly report back to the residents.

The WLMA plans also included works to the north of Shimpling but as yet the EA as not authorised funding for these to begin. We will be pushing the EA, WLMA and others to include these works in next years budgets as the WLMA plans need to be carried out in their entirety.

Copies of the WLMA plans can be viewed on the parish council's website at [www.burstonandshimpling.org.uk](http://www.burstonandshimpling.org.uk)



## ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

24th December 2023 - 9.30am Morning Prayer  
For further details please call:-  
David Crowe - 01379 741518  
Diss benefice office - 01379 643783  
or online at [www.dissteamministry.org.uk](http://www.dissteamministry.org.uk)

## BURSTON CHAPEL

Sunday Morning Service at 11 am  
Sunday Evening Service at 6.30 pm  
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](http://www.burstonchapel.co.uk)

## YOUTH CAFE

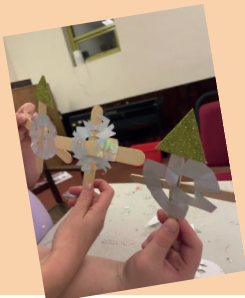
Every Thursday during term time in St Mary's Church. If you are High School Age the Youth Café is open from 3.45 pm to 5.15 pm and you get free pizza and milk shake.

## ST GEORGE'S SHIMPLING

Carols by Candle Light  
Thursday 14th December 7.00pm  
Wrap up warmly and bring a torch.

## JAMIE'S GANG

Jamie's Gang Children's Club  
Burston Chapel, Mill Road,  
Burston IP22 5TW  
Term-time Wednesdays  
5.00-6.30pm  
Reception - Year 6  
Come along!  
Thanks  
Ginni



## BURSTON HOUSE NEWS

## 'QUEEN OF LAUNDRY'



Jenny has just recently celebrated her 55th year anniversary at The Priory, Burston House working in support services and is deemed the Queen of Laundry. Well done Jenny and thank you for your continued dedication and support.



### Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are to be held at 7.30 pm on the following dates:-  
Wednesday 10th January - St Mary's Church  
Wednesday 13th March - St Mary's Church

## The Parish Council

The members of the Parish Council are:-

Alison Wakeham (Chairman) 07768 927182  
Keith Cowley 01379 742766  
Angela Belgrove 01379 741534  
Anita Hughes 07518 067942  
Toby Kheng 07876 193028  
James Gowing 07818 094085  
Fran Sharp (Clerk)  
Council website

email [alison@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:alison@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)  
email [keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk](mailto:keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk)  
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TWO VILLAGES • ONE FUTURE