

PARISH PLANET

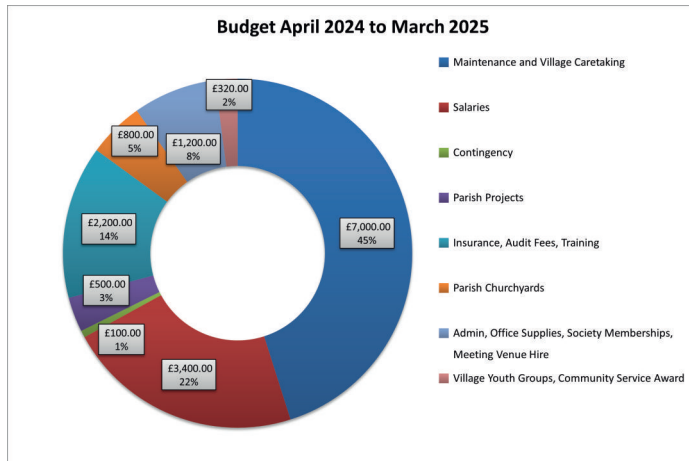
THE BURSTON AND SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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 the trees and flowers start to show early buds, the mild winter is a mixed blessing as the higher than usual rainfall has saturated the ground increasing the likelihood of flooding. The public road network around the villages is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council and issues can be reported via their website here <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads/report-a-problem>.



The budget for April 2024 to March 2025 has been considered and increased by 4% inline with the current rate of inflation. This gives a Band 'D' rate for Council Tax of £62.00.

The Parish Council can be contacted through our new Clerk Fran Sharp, by email:

parish.clerk@burstonandshimpling.org.uk or phone 01379 776355 or see the last page for details of all councillors.

Alison Wakeham
Chair

DON SWANTON AWARD

It's time to NOMINATE:-

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. Many individuals, groups and organisations go 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 Fran Sharp, Parish Clerk. Nominations for the award close on Sunday 31st March 2024.



VILLAGE LITTER PICK

SATURDAY 6th April 2024

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

MEET AT

CHURCH GREEN TO REGISTER

AND COLLECT EQUIPMENT

FREE REFRESHMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

email: angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk

THE BIG SOUTH NORFOLK LITTER PICK



BURSTON CONNECTION TO THE BRONZE AGE

Back in June 2023, whilst working soil to remove debris from a long-demolished 19th century cottage, one of our residents discovered a bronze age flint arrowhead. The find was located within 100 metres of Burston village green and is similar to two found nearby in Eye in 2020. Evaluated by the British Museum it has been recorded as a 'small barbed and tanged arrowhead made from a struck flake' with colour 'now patinated orange/brown from contact with iron oxides in the soil.' It measures 25mm long x 18.5mm wide x 4mm thick and weighs 1g. It has been dated as being 'Early Bronze Age, circa 2350 to 1700BC.' The barbs are the side extensions which serve to stop the arrowhead sliding out of the target. The tang was used to connect the arrowhead to a shaft. Such arrowheads were used for both hunting and in warfare.

The finder commented that it is quite mind-blowing to think that the last person to handle it lived somewhere around 4,000 years ago. On questioning the Norfolk curators regarding how long it would take to create such an arrowhead it is estimated that an experienced and skilled hunter could flake such a flint in about half an hour. As such a lost or wasted arrowhead could quite quickly be replaced.

Christine Stevens, Editor



SPRING REPORT ON THE RECREATION GROUND

Hopefully by the time you read this January and February will be behind us and we shall be heading into Spring. Again the winter has been another wet and windy period with little incentive to wander too far from the comfort of our homes but hopefully with drier and eventually warmer months in front of us the recreation ground will again become a place to venture into. We have been lucky enough to have been given another donation of tree saplings care of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust, enough to replace a good many of the ones that have not made it in both the recreation ground and alongside the track leading up to St Georges Church in Shimpling. So shortly we shall be looking for volunteers to help get these new saplings into the ground, look out for the dates on our website and the village Facebook site. A new rubbish bin is planned for the bottom end of the park allowing people using the benches to responsibly dispose of their sweet wrappers and drink cans. We are also looking to finally instal the fencing alongside the basketball area to prevent balls disappearing down the ditch. Hopefully by the time this edition of the Planet is published the broken timber support on the swings will have been repaired allowing all the swings to be used again. If this hasn't happened its because the playground equipment company is having difficulty getting the necessary materials which is beyond theirs and our control. One issue that will need to be addressed shortly 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. There have been further reports by residents of incidents of dog poo being left in the park and also sadly, by a member of the dog walking community, of dogs off-lead bothering smaller dogs. This will be discussed at the March parish council meeting to agree what, if any measures can be taken to alleviate these problems. We would again ask dog walkers to clear up after their pets and also for dogs off-lead to be kept under control. There are posters around the park reminding people to use the dog litter bins. There is a page on the South Norfolk District Council's website where dog issues can be reported, the link is; Dog issues – Broadland and South Norfolk <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/dog-issues-1> As always, any comments residents have on the recreation ground can be sent to me at keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk



GRAVE CONCERN

Burston has a well-deserved reputation of being a friendly village with supportive residents; the people who offer practical help, advice or local knowledge to support one another, those who always 'buy local' and those who keep a low profile whilst being neighbourly in the true sense of the word. So, it can be said of those villagers who have volunteered with tending headstones in St. Mary's Churchyard following my request for support in the previous Cock Crow



article 'Grave Concerns'. Thank you one and all. It was also good to hear from people who tend family graves and find out more of the connections between families, especially when looking at the female line. As I walked around the churchyard recently, I was heartened to see the thirty-five floral tributes laid over the Christmas period on your relatives, or friends, graves. So clearly loved and not forgotten. The Churchyard Maintenance Volunteer Group, set up after my plea for support, have now been allocated their own plots to tend. These will be kept clear of weeds and creeping ivy so that the churchyard remains a welcoming, accessible area for visitors to come and pay their respects, or search for their ancestors. There is a Churchyard Plan with a list of names should you wish to search for your ancestor's grave. You will find it inside the church or by contacting me, I'm happy to help if I can.

The response to my previous request for volunteers means that all the graves to the west (Strike School side) of the church now have a relative or volunteer tending them. The area right of the path on the south (Diss Road/Mill Road) will be left for wildlife as before. I have two volunteers who will help with grass cutting and keeping the hedges in check.

In the early spring when the ground is, hopefully, drier the boundary hedge to the north and the pond area will be cleared. There are one hundred plots in this area dated from 1850 to 2022 and I am aware that some are tended regularly. Once more I am appealing for volunteers to look after six headstones to make a difference to this area. If you cannot make a regular commitment then consider contacting me about helping with clearing the pond area as your contribution to the community and by being that good neighbour I mentioned at the start of this article.

Thank you again for your support.

Angela Belgrove

angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk

01379 741534

BURSTON AND SHIMPLING COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The Burston and Shimpling Community Kitchen celebrated Christmas with a party on 19th December. The Strike School was beautifully decked out for Christmas and soon filled with happy customers who



enjoyed roast turkey and all the trimmings followed by a selection of sweets, mince pies and more. A raffle saw prizes for everyone and rewards were presented to many people who had contributed to the success of this venture during the year. All this was followed by a sing song of familiar Christmas songs. Please look back on the Burston and Shimpling Community Kitchen page on Facebook to see what a good time was had by all. The Community Kitchen is held in the Strike School every Tuesday evening between 4.30pm and 6.30pm, everyone is welcome.

Christine Stevens, Editor

ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

24th March 2024 - 9.30am Morning Prayer' Palm Sunday

For further details please call:-
Bob Beck - 01379 740834

Diss benefice office - 01379 643783
or online at 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.

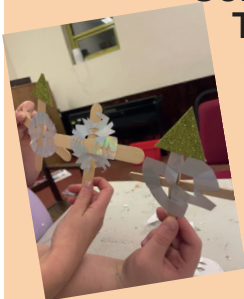
All Welcome - see the Burston Chapel Website:-
www.burstonchapel.co.uk

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.

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

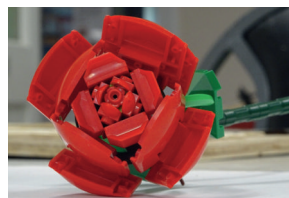
We have been busy making:-
Wood work- cars, photo frames
and Christmas decorations.



World Pizza Day - We made homemade pizzas.



Valentine's day - We made Lego flowers



Chinese new year- We celebrated with a Chinese buffet lunch and had a delivery of doughnuts.



Parish Council Meetings - usually Wednesday, St Mary's Church at 7.30pm
20th March -
24th April - starts with Annual Parish Meeting
22nd May - starts with Annual Parish Council Meeting
Agenda and further details on the website

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) 01379 776355

Council website

email alison@burstonandshimpling.org.uk

email keith@burstonandshimpling.org.uk

email angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk

email anita@burstonandshimpling.org.uk

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TWO VILLAGES • ONE FUTURE