

PARISH PLANET

BURSTON AND SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Send items for the magazine to newsletter@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk

Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Parish Planet, which we hope you find interesting.

The warm weather helped make the Spring events and activities a success, and we thank the many volunteers and helpers who made this possible.

Local Government Reorganisation in Norfolk: There are proposals to change the current system of local government with county and districts councils to a unitary one responsible for all the local services in an area. This is as well as looking to combine Norfolk with Suffolk and have a mayor. At the moment these changes do not involve Parish Councils but other local elections will be delayed. There will be opportunities for public consultation going forward, with the expectation that the new council will be in place by 2028. More information on the South Norfolk and Broadland website.

Closer to home, after a lengthy process, The Mill in Burston has been bought by 2Agriculture, who have facilities from Scotland to Wales as well as East Anglia. We thank ForFarmers for their support to the villages, and look forward to working with 2Agriculture in the same way.



News from Open Gardens 2025

Another wonderful sunny day for Burston and Shimpling's Open Gardens again this year.

We had more sites for visitors to see including some wonderful cars and automobilia and exotic breeding birds. With 13 sites in all it made for an interesting afternoon for all who came. And did they come.

Thanks to Norma adding it to the Open Garden Website we had more interest this year bringing the total takings to £1497.

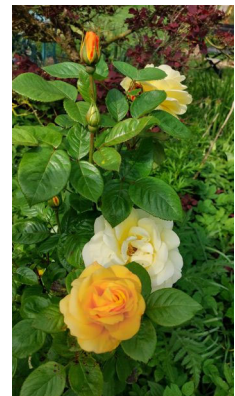
This will be added to last year's amount and a committee has been formed to manage this fund which will be distributed to Burston and Shimpling Village projects which may include individuals being able to apply for help with educational experiences. Watch this space for ways to apply.

A big thanks to all the willing and enthusiastic volunteers that created interesting and beautiful spaces for people to visit, those who made cakes, sold tickets as well as all the finer details of preparation like creating maps and organising insurance.

We have a review gathering on Thursday 3rd July to take a look at any improvements ready for next year.

Anyone wanting to get involved do get in touch with me as we would love your input.

Jo Bowley 07776141457 JOleybOwley@gmail.com



TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH

SPRING LITTER PICK

On Saturday 5th April a group of volunteers tidied up the verges, footpaths and recreation ground in Burston and Shimpling. In case you are new to the village and are not aware, litter picks are something the Parish Council organises each April and October - dates coinciding with the South Norfolk Big Litter Pick and Keep Britain Tidy national campaigns.

After collecting litter, several people voiced their concern about the amount of animal excrement - unbagged waste - left on Burston Recreation Ground around the walking track and wildflower bunds and bagged waste thrown into the hedges. If you walk your dog there be a responsible owner. Bag your pet's waste and deposit it in the dog waste bins provided.



The Parish Council provides these bins, arranges collection of the waste at a cost to YOU through your Parish precept payment which is part of the Council Tax bill you pay. Much of the unbagged waste is located at the edge of the perimeter footpath and in the rougher ground near the wildflower bunds. Perhaps those dog owners think these areas matter less when, in fact, they matter more as waste is more difficult to spot. A child is therefore more likely to encounter it when, for example, retrieving a ball or other piece of sports' equipment.

At the Parish Council meeting on 23rd April, it was agreed to purchase a dog poo bag dispenser and waste bags. In future there will be no excuse for not bagging and binning. Also, the Parish Council would politely remind everyone that dogs are not permitted in the enclosed children's play area.

If you drive through Shimpling towards the A140 you can't miss seeing the vast amounts of waste littering the verges. Everything from discarded fast food packaging and drink cans to blue protective gloves, cardboard packaging and car body parts become embedded in the undergrowth causing an unsightly mess. Likewise, in Burston routes out of the village suffer in the same way because of drivers discarding items from their car windows. The collective amount of rubbish which the 17 adult and 4 child volunteers collected was a staggering 25 waste bags which was subsequently swiftly collected by the council waste department.

Three lots of fly tipping were reported; worryingly several large canisters of used engine oil were found discharging into the watercourse at the entrance to Shimpling B.O.A.T. which is a popular spot for dog walkers.

After the litter pick volunteers deservedly enjoyed Victoria sponge and lemon drizzle cakes baked by Pam, chocolate cupcakes and sausage rolls as well as coffee and squash in the warm spring sunshine. Why don't you come and join us in October? Look out for the details on notices which will be posted around the villages and on the Parish Council Website: <https://burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk/>



Become a Parish Councillor

Are you passionate about where you live? Do you want to have a say in decisions that impact your community? Becoming a parish councillor could be for you.

We are looking for a new member for our Parish Council and welcome applications from our community. Parish Councillors are volunteers who meet regularly to maintain and improve the parish for all and you can support this by proposing or getting involved in local projects, research and local conversations, bringing your skills and expertise to the council and our villages. To find out more come along to a meeting or contact the Parish Clerk [Fran Sharp clerk@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk] or any Councillor. Details on page 4 or our website <https://burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk>

BURSTON RECREATION GROUND



With the temperatures and sunny days we have had so far this year it seems as if summer has been with us for some time now so lets hope it continues. Unfortunately this has meant that the park has been looking a bit parched but I hope by the time this finds you we shall have had some rain to freshen things up.

Anybody walking around the park will have noticed that some of the trees we have planted have not made it so these will be removed along with the plastic protectors and canes. Hopefully we shall get some more later in the year, care of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and The Woodland Trust so spaces can be filled in. We are looking at the possibility of installing an insect hotel somewhere in the park so keep a look out for this.

Finally we have completed the fencing alongside the basketball area which will prevent balls disappearing into the ditch. Also we have a new piece of play equipment in the play area—a wobble board - which replaced the old balance beam which was past its best. The agility equipment is missing a beam at the moment and we are waiting for this to be replaced. The next piece of equipment up for renewal are the swings but as this is an expensive item we shall be looking to get some outside funding to help with this replacement. Regular visitors to the park will have noticed that the Port-a-loo is back in a new location in the car park -please use this facility respectfully and leave in a condition you would wish to find it in. As usual if anybody has any comments about the recreation ground please send them to me at keith@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk

NEWS FROM BURSTON SCHOOL

Willow class held their PSHE café this first Summer half-term and welcomed parents and family to a session where they heard all about healthy eating and safety around the home. Reading and writing have been key activities for the younger children and, after reading Jack and the Beanstalk, have planted and grown seeds in the classroom; cress, broad beans and sunflowers are all doing very nicely on a warm windowsill, requiring lots of love and attention by everyone! The children have also been busy writing their own stories, after being inspired by a book called The Marvellous Fluffy Squishy Itty Bitty, by Beatrice Alemagna. We're already thinking about welcoming our new reception children in September and have planned transition days for everyone to experience their new classes and meet our teaching team. We're even holding an Open Day on 25th September 2-3pm and 4-5.30pm for Reception children who will start in September 2026!

In Oak class we have had a very exciting time! We have started learning all about Climate Change and Light in Topic and Science. As well as this, we had a brilliant VE Day celebration. Our Friends of Burston School very kindly gave us an enrichment activity where we were immersed in 1940s Britain, learning all about the war. It was a very thought provoking and enriching activity. And, running a mini-marathon, covering a minimum of 2 miles, was exhausting in the really hot weather, for staff and children! They all did an excellent job though and completed their 12 laps of the school playing field in amazingly quick time!! Some children even managed to run 3 miles in the same amount of time! We want to wish our Year 6s all the best in their SATs – they have worked so hard all year, and this will be a final push before heading to high school in September.

We have a jam-packed Summer Term, with our Friends of Burston Summer Fayre on Thursday 10th July from 3.30pm (everyone is welcome), our summer sports day to look forward too. Plus, trips to the Norfolk Show and our residential to PGL Bawdsey Manor.



As you can see, it's a busy time of year for all of us here at Burston Primary school but we're ready for the challenge and cannot wait for all the activities and learning that will be taking place!

Facebook: [Burston and Tivetshall Primary Schools](#) **X:** [@BurstonSchool](#) **Instagram:** [@Burstonandtivetshall](#)

St. Mary's Church

We are part of the Diss Benefice see

www.dissteamministry.co.uk

Diss Office 01379 643783 For further details please call Bob Beck 01379 740834

Youth Café

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

Burston Chapel

All Welcome—see the Burston Chapel Website for latest information www.burstonchapel.co.uk

Sunday Morning Service at 11 am

Sunday Evening Service at 6.30 pm

Jamie's Gang

(Reception to Year 6)

During term time on Wednesdays 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm

PICNIC IN THE PARK

COME ALONG AND MEET NEW MEMBERS OF THE
COMMUNITY FOR A RELAXING AFTERNOON IN
BURSTON RECREATION GROUND

BRING YOUR OWN PICNIC COME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS
BOULES COMPETITION FOR ADULTS - ROUNDERS GAME FOR CHILDREN

BANK HOLIDAY SUNDAY 12pm - 24th AUGUST

The Parish Council have started an occasional email newsletter of items of interest. If you would like to receive this please sign up here <https://burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

Next Meetings: Wednesday June 25th and July 23rd at 7.30pm. No meeting in August

The agenda will be posted on the website and noticeboards during the week before the meetings. The June meeting will be in St. Mary's Burston. Please send any items for discussion to the Clerk.

Contact Information for the Parish Council

Website: burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk

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