

PARISH PLANET



BURSTON AND SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

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

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of Parish Planet.

The Summer started early and now the change to Autumn has come sooner than we might expect. Though I have heard rumours that Christmas decorations have already appeared in some shops.

Burston Mill update: The Parish Council had a useful and open meeting with the Mill regarding their plans going forward. 2 Agriculture are expanding the hours of operation to retain viability of the plant, and relieve pressure on their Stoke Ferry site to allow for maintenance. We have asked that any drivers are encouraged to drive slowly through the villages and not park up idling outside residents properties before the opening time. See the back page for the new timings.



Update from Open Gardens 2025

Following on from the success of the Open Gardens events in Burston and Shimpling in 2024 and 2025, a grant committee has now been formed, to distribute the funds raised. We would like to invite residents to apply for modest sums of money, up to £100, where there is a specific financial need. This could include helping people with expenses in connection with their education, training, or to enrich their learning. This includes travel or equipment costs and is open to all, young or old! Burston and Shimpling Community Groups can apply for potentially larger sums for a specific project or experience which would benefit our Community.

An Application form will be found on the Parish Council website:
<https://burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk/burston-open-gardens-information-and-grants/>
Any other queries please [email BOGgrants@gmail.com](mailto:BOGgrants@gmail.com)



Join the Parish Council.

We are looking for a new member for our Parish Council and welcome applications from our community.

What's involved?

Having a passion for their 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 or any Councillor.

Details on page 4 or our website <https://burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Autumn 2025

TWO VILLAGES • ONE PARISH

MINDFUL VILLAGE STATUS

Burston and Shimpling have each been awarded Mindful Village status, joining the SNC expanding network of communities dedicated to promoting mental health and wellbeing.

In Burston and Shimpling, six new Champions were trained at The Space, our local vibrant local venue offering a wide range of mental health and wellbeing services. These are in addition to the two parish councillors who have already completed their training.



Lisa, Aynur and Councillor Graham Minshull

Among the newly trained Champions is Lisa Webster, Co-founder of The Space and Wellbeing Champion for Burston and Shimpling. Lisa plays a central role in organising free monthly community events at The Space, supported by the National Lottery Community Fund and Norfolk Community Foundation. These events include classes, treatments, workshops and a welcoming Stay & Play for families.

Also completing the training is Aynur Bailey, a passionate advocate for accessible mental health support. Through her business, Papillon Emotional Wellbeing, Aynur offers Drawing and Talking therapies in Burston and supports events at The Space. In Long Stratton, she runs a free weekly Chatter and Natter table at the leisure centre and an evening session at the library, helping to reduce isolation and promote social connection.

For more information on how to get involved or become a Wellbeing Champion, visit South Norfolk Council' website:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/community-safety/support-wellbeing/mindful-towns-villages/how-to-get-involved>

NEWS FROM BURSTON SCHOOL

It's been a brilliant and busy Summer Term at Burston, filled with creativity, adventure, and memorable learning across the school. We were delighted to welcome our 7 new EYFS children across six transition sessions this term. We can't wait to welcome them officially in September. Thanks to the generosity of Friends of Burston Primary, we now have a fresh new collection of books to enjoy. A huge well done to our Year 6 pupils for their outstanding SATs results.

Here are just some of the highlights!

- Two of our pupils had an unforgettable experience at the 42nd Joan Mann Sports Day.
- To mark VE Day, we took a deep dive into history!
- Our KS2 children had an unforgettable time on their residential trip to Bawdsey Manor.
- Our trip to the Norfolk Show was a fantastic day full of discovery, fun, and excitement!
- Our KS2 children lit up the stage with their moving performance of *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse*.
- A brilliant whole-school Sports Day had us all cheering, racing and smiling. This year's Summer Fair was a roaring success, raising an impressive **£381!**

From next term, we're excited to introduce the Curiosity Approach in Willow Class. To support this, we're seeking donations of:

Costume jewellery, dress-up clothes and role play props
Real items (metal/wooden pots, crockery, tea sets, arm chairs)
Wicker baskets, wooden storage (bookcases, furniture)
Loose parts (buttons, beads, fabric)
Natural materials (stones, shells, wood)
Cushions, blankets and rugs

Contact: office@bps.set.education or s.underwood@bps.set.education – your support is greatly appreciated!

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



BURSTON RECREATION GROUND

With the summer now coming to an end we've experienced an unusual mix of weather. Lots of sun in May and June, mixed weather in July and the usual variable weather in August. However the recreation ground has seen its usual regular use with families in the play area, the football pitch, basketball area and BMX track used by older children and youths and the pavilion offering a covered seating area for picnics. With the community orchard providing an abundance of free fruit, the recreation ground has hopefully had something for everyone.

As with previous years we installed a temporary Port-a-Loo to allow the park to be available for longer periods without having to dash home for that comfort break and this will remain until the end of September. Some items of equipment in the play area have been repaired and when funds become available older items of equipment will hopefully be renewed.

Litter which was proving a problem in the community orchard area next to the BMX track seems to have eased but we still ask that litter is put in the rubbish bins provided or taken away when you leave. The hot weather we have experienced in the early summer months whilst great for activities and having fun unfortunately have had a cost on the tree saplings we have planted over the last few years with many struggling to grow. Likewise the meadow area can't seem to get the right balance between wild flowers and grass with thistles on the bund area slowly taking over, much to the delight of the bees. These two areas were cut in early August and we were again helped by the Probation Service Community Team with raking and collecting the hay, as they say many hands make light work. The problem with the thistle invasion may need some drastic action and we shall seek advice and guidance on this from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust who have helped us in the past.

The trees in the Community Orchard have flourished over recent years and now require some TLC so we shall be looking for volunteers in late winter to help with some pruning and cutting back. As we move into autumn we hope residents will still be able to enjoy the park and the facilities it offers. As usual if anybody has any comments about the recreation ground please send them to me at keith@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk

VILLAGE GATEWAY SIGNS COME TO THE PARISH

Following a year long campaign to have better speed signage installed in the parish we now have new village gateway signs at the start of each village. These signs replace the old highways speed signs and will hopefully bring a better awareness of the speed restrictions when driving through the two villages. The parish council also believes these enhance our villages status in line with other local villages that have adopted these signs.



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.

Shimpling - BOAT

This is the path between the corner as you enter Shimpling coming from Burston, and follows a mostly wooded track until the corner at the sharp bend along Moor Road. It includes a section that is part of Boudica's Way. Norfolk County Council are proposing to open it up to all vehicles again during September 2025. It is currently very peaceful and safe path to travel, and avoid the narrow road. If you use this path and have any comments about this please send them to chair@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk or direct to NCC Norfolk Trails norfolktrails@norfolk.gov.uk

Burston Mill - Open Hours

Burston Mill is now operated by 2Agriculture, and have confirmed their new operating hours as follows: 24 hour operation from 6 am Monday to 12 pm Saturday with loading Monday to Saturday as per current hours plus additionally Sunday loading / delivery (4 HGV's x 2 trips each) 7 am to 5 pm.

Autumn Litterpick

The next litter pick will be on Saturday October 4th. Meet on the village green at 9.30am

Parish Council Newsletter

For regular news updates from around the parish plus links to information relevant to the region subscribe to our regular Newsletters. You can do this by going to our Website and subscribing for free.

Next Meetings: 17th September 2025 and 15th October 2025 Both in the Strike School starting at 7.30 pm. The agenda will be posted on the website during the week before the meeting.

Contact Information for the Parish Council

Website: burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk

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