

# PARISH PLANET

## BURSTON AND SHIMPLING PARISH COUNCIL QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

Send items for the magazine to [clerk@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk)



Following on from his visit to Burston School, Adrian Ramsey MP took the opportunity to see the state of the BOAT in Shimpling for himself, with County Councillor Catherine Rowett and myself. When the current monitoring by NCC, finishes there will be a meeting with Norfolk Trails to decide the next steps. Thank you to everyone who sends in pictures and observations about the state of the path to Norfolk Trails and to the Parish Council especially with the recent wet weather.

The first regular meeting with the Operations Manager will take place in March to review the increase in vehicles and the waiting at various places to enter the Mill.

The mobile SAM sign recorded a highest speed of 65 m.p.h in Shimpling this month. The data has been passed to the police Safer Neighbourhood Team for information.

### ROAD CLOSURE AT DISS ROAD AND MILL ROAD JUNCTION

Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways have advised that they intend to carry out road works at the junction of Mill Road and Diss Road sometime in April which will close the junction to traffic for 2 or 3 days. This will obviously affect HGVs accessing the mill so a one way traffic system is likely to be put in place. This will have traffic flowing from Gissing Road along Bridge Road and then to the mill. Traffic exiting the mill will flow up Mill Road, along Hall Road and then down Back Lane to join back onto Diss Road.

Access control will be installed at both ends of Bridge Rd to enforce the one way system.

More information will be available on the NCC website and also the parish council website once we have the final details.

More information is available on the NCC Highways website <https://maps.norfolk.gov.uk/highways/>

and also on the parish councils website—  
[www.burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk)



### UPDATING THE COUNCILS EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCE PLAN

The parish council is in the process of updating their emergency and resilience plan, and in order to do this is seeking relevant information from all residents. Included with this edition of the Parish Planet is a questionnaire that we would ask each household to complete, either online or in hard copy paper format. Instructions are included on the questionnaire on how to return the completed forms.

All information received will be retained in strict confidence and will only be used to allow the parish council to identify vulnerable residents who may require assistance in the event of a general parish wide emergency before local, regional and national agencies can take over the situation. Please help us to help you when the need arises.

Please contact Anita Hughes, (co-ordinator) or the Clerk if you have any questions.

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## News from Open Gardens 2026

Another few months of planning for this year's Open Gardens is fast approaching. This year it will be held on Sunday 17th May 2025 and we hope for it to be as successful this year as compared to 2025, if not more so. Fingers crossed for sunny weather.

Anyone wanting to get involved please email or call Jo Bowley 07776141457 or [J0leyb0wley@gmail.com](mailto:J0leyb0wley@gmail.com)

Look forward to hearing from you



## Burston Primary School – Spring Term Update

Oak and Willow Class have had a vibrant start to the Spring term, and we are pleased to share some highlights from recent events and opportunities that have brought our school community together.

Children's Mental Health Week provided a valuable opportunity for Oak and Willow Class to explore the importance of wellbeing and emotional health. Throughout the week, children took part in discussions and activities focused on self-care, kindness, and staying active and healthy. Staff encouraged children to understand that mental health is just as important as physical health.

In today's digital world, Safer Internet Day is more important than ever. Both classes participated in interactive lessons about online safety, learning how to use technology responsibly. Children explored topics such as smart technology, how to stay safe online, being kind in online spaces, and responsible use of AI – 'AI is a tool, not a person!'

This term, both Oak and Willow Class hosted Parent Cafés, welcoming families into school for coffee, conversation, and shared learning. These sessions gave parents the opportunity to meet teachers, ask questions, and work alongside their child on classroom learning, including mastering multiplication and division in maths. Our class assemblies also gave children the chance to present their learning to families and develop confidence in public speaking.

Reading continues to sit at the heart of daily school life, with all children being supported to grow in confidence and imagination. We have also enjoyed visits from The Shelf, Pastor Sam Brinkley, and our local Green Party MP, which enriched learning and sparked thoughtful discussion.

### Looking ahead to next half term.

Both classes remain committed to ensuring learning is fun, engaging, and challenging. We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, continuing swimming lessons, and finalising a Mother's Day event in partnership with FOBS.

As we welcome lighter, brighter days, we feel incredibly lucky to continue working with such a wonderful group of young people.

Miss Sally Underwood

Head of School

Crown Green, Burston, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 5TZ

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Facebook: [Burston Community Primary School](#) X: [@BurstonSchool](#) Instagram: [@Burstonschool](#)



## BURSTON RECREATION GROUND

Over the winter as you would expect the recreation ground has been in “close down” mode but there were a couple of activities that did occur. In January the school was visited by our local MP, Adrian Ramsey, and he took the opportunity to visit the new insect hotel in the Community Orchard with the pupils from the school. He was accompanied by our local county councillor, Catherine Rowett, who had donated funds for the insect hotel.

A team of volunteers also helped to cut back and prune some of the trees in the Community Orchard to make the grass cutting there a bit easier. Hopefully this will make walking through the orchard area more enjoyable.

By the time you read this the bund areas in the meadow area should (weather permitting) have been flattened making hay cutting less arduous in the summer.

The footpath by the bridge from Gissing Rd has been gravelled to allow access into the park less messy.



Repairs to the picnic benches in the play area are complete and will be returned in time for summer.

As the weather improves hopefully the recreation ground will start to dry out allowing the various areas to be used once again. As usual any comments please get in touch—

[keith@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:keith@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk)



## CLEARING OLD TREE GUARDS AND SPRING LITTER PICK

On a cold and wet day in early in January a group of hardy volunteers helped to collect old tree guards that were in the woods behind the Mill. These tree guards were installed when the woods were first planted many years ago by the then owners of the Mill, the Tuck Family. Over the years the trees had grown resulting in a lot of the guards being split and strewn around the woods. Over 300 guards were recovered and the new mill owners, 2Agriculture, removed all the guards once collected. The woods look a whole lot better now thanks to those hardy volunteers.



The next **Litter Pick** will be on **Saturday April 18th**.

Meet on Church Green at 9.30am Coffee, cake and a chat around 11.30am . Finish up and head home 12.00noon

Pick sticks, bags and HiVis vest provided.

Can't join us on the day? Three ways you can help:

- \* Contact [angela@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:angela@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk) (01379 741534) and pledge to collect in an area during the week.
- \* Clip your hedge and sweep the leaves to prevent litter being trapped and buried.
- \* Donate a cake for the volunteers who work so hard to keep our community neat and tidy.

Avoid pollution, be part of the solution – bag it and bin it

## St. Mary's Church

Is now part of the Redenhall Deanery.  
For further details please call  
Robert 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. Run by Integrate Youth for Christ

## Burston Chapel

All Welcome—see the Burston Chapel Website for latest information

[www.burstonchapel.co.uk](http://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.

## St George's Church, Shimpling



### Songs of Praise

*Followed by picnic  
in the churchyard*

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
12noon**

*Trail for children.  
Bring a picnic!*



## Community Speed Watch Team

Thank you to everyone who has so far volunteered to join the local Speed Watch team. However, we would welcome more members. This is one of the few ways we can monitor and discourage speeding through the villages.

Please contact Anita Hughes 07518 067942  
[anita@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:anita@burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk) for more information and to join up.



## Parish Council Newsletter and Meetings

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 signing up.

Next Meetings: 25th March 7.30pm. **Annual Parish Meeting** 22nd April starting 7pm. in the Strike School The agenda will be posted on the website during the week before the meetings. Please send any items of interest to the Clerk 2 weeks before the meeting date.

### Contact Information for the Parish Council

Website: [burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://burstonandshimplingparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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