



BURTON : PUDDINGTON : SHOTWICK
PARISH MAGAZINE
& COMMUNITY NEWS
DECEMBER '22 & JANUARY '23

IN THIS EDITION

CHURCH CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CAROLS ON THE GREEN IN PUDDINGTON

BURTON CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

SHOTWICK'S PLOUGH SUNDAY

COMMUNITY EVENTS

*Shotwick Brook winding its way from Neston
to Burton to Puddington and to Shotwick*

*THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON & ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SHOTWICK*



ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON & ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SHOTWICK



Vicar: Revd John Coyne
5 Burton Manor Gardens,
The Village, Burton, CH64 5AB
Tel: 07471 890 827
email: johncoyne.bps@gmail.com

**SERVICES AT ST NICHOLAS'
CHURCH, BURTON**
www.burtonchurch.org.uk



WEEKLY - SUNDAYS
10:00AM WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES

WEEKLY - WEDNESDAYS
10:15AM HOLY COMMUNION

1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH
4:00PM EVENSONG

3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH
8.45AM HOLY COMMUNION



**SERVICES AT ST MICHAEL'S
CHURCH, SHOTWICK**
www.shotwick.org.uk



1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH
11:30AM MORNING PRAISE

2ND SUNDAY OF MONTH
11:30AM HOLY COMMUNION CW

3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH
11:30AM MORNING PRAYER BCP

4TH SUNDAY OF MONTH
11:30 HOLY COMMUNION BCP

5TH SUNDAY OF MONTH
11.30AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP



Welcome

This is the Christmas and New Year edition of the Parish Magazine and Community News for the parishes of St Nicholas' Church in Burton and St Michael's Church in Shotwick. It is the first edition of the magazine covering both parishes embracing the village communities of Shotwick, Puddington and Burton.

Each village has its own individual characteristics and each of the two churches has its own clear identity. However, factors that bind these communities together include a strong appreciation for everything that surrounds us, our social and economic history dating back for over a millennium and an evident sense of commitment to support one another.

Advent & Christmas

As we approach Christmas we enter the season of Advent, the time immediately preceding the birth of Christ. The season of Advent, as it first emerged in the Church in the fourth and fifth centuries, lasted, like Lent, for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we know today, which covers the four Sundays before Christmas Day.

It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the birth of Christ. Advent falls at the darkest time of the year and the natural symbols of darkness and light are very evident throughout the period of Advent and Christmas.





SCRIBO



BEING THE BEST OF CHRISTMAS

REVD JOHN COYNE

I am all for fun and celebration at Christmas – it's not just for the children! Yet, childlike, whilst it's still Christmas without snow, I always long for snowfall. I love to be with family and friends. At the same time, I am really glad that Christmas is so much more than just a sentimental attachment to the season.

Christmas is actually about the birth of a child; born as the family travelled; born in a place where there was no room, so they were huddled into a corner; born with nothing extraordinary – well, that is, until the angel spoke to the shepherds.

It was the kind of birth that still happens across the world. We hear of so many people who are on the road, people who are travelling, people who are in some cases risking their lives to escape. Babies are born in the most unusual places all the time.

Yet the birth of Jesus is more than birth in an inhospitable space, in a stable. The Wise Men or Magi are fascinating because they represent a universal search for meaning and wisdom – meaning which they uncover when they encounter Jesus.

Although many images of Christmas contain the holy family, in fact at its centre is just one member of that family, Jesus himself. Christmas celebrates the relationship between God and us. It is about God loving us so much that he amazingly enabled his Son to be born among us, to learn what it was to be like us and, ultimately, to give his life for us.



So, as I look forward to Christmas, the most solid cause for celebration in my mind is that we have been given the greatest gift – Jesus with us. And the greatest gift we have to share is – Jesus. Indeed, the most powerful thing we can do is to tell the world just how wonderful this narrative is, now, just as it always has been. It's a story of love, a story of hope and a story of salvation.

Economic crises, miserable conflicts and displaced persons are nothing new, and the assertion that, at a particular point in history, the everlasting God became a refugee, 'God in a barn', calls us to care practically about the wellbeing of others. The birth of Christ calls us to act with compassion and generosity.



If God can roll up his sleeves and enter our world to redeem us from our worst selves, then surely we can set aside time and money to provide for strangers, to reach out to those in dark places and help some light to shine on hopeless circumstances.

As you read this magazine you will see a huge variety of opportunities to celebrate the gift of Jesus, suited to every generation – indeed, you will be very welcome to join in with what's happening at the churches in Shotwick or Burton. But whether or not you choose to be part of our Christmas worship, please step forward to show some extravagant love, some generosity and compassion which might affirm the worth of human beings who have become broken, hurt and hopeless.

In some sense that will demonstrate what incarnation – 'God with us' – is all about. That is what the name 'Emmanuel', attributed to baby Jesus, means.



So I wish you joy and grace this Christmas as you reach out to others.

God bless, John

<''))><



Services at St Nicholas' Burton



December 2022

- 3 2:00pm Messy Church
- 4 Second Sunday of Advent
10:00 am All Age Worship

Special Service

4:00 pm Evening Worship for Advent with the Bishop of Chester (Joint with Shotwick)

- 7 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 11 Third Sunday of Advent
10:00 am All Age Worship
- 14 10:15 am Holy Communion
2:00pm MU Christmas Service
- 15 2:30pm School Carol Service
- 16 6:30pm 'Book Before Bedtime'
- 17 6:00pm Community Carols on the Green in Puddington
- 18 Fourth Sunday of Advent
10:00 am Holy Communion
7:00 pm Carols by Candlelight
- 21 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 24 Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Carols round the tree
11:15 pm Midnight Holy Communion
- 25 Christmas Day
9:30am Family Communion
- 29 Wednesday No Service

January 2023

- 1 2nd Sunday of Christmas
11:00 am Morning Worship and shared Lunch
(Joint with Shotwick)
- 4 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 8 First Sunday of Epiphany – The Baptism of Christ
10:00 am Christingle Service
- 11 10:15 am Holy Communion



- 15 Second Sunday of Epiphany
8:45 am Holy Communion (BCP Service)
10:00 am Family Communion
- 18 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 22 Third Sunday of Epiphany
10:00 am All Age Worship
- 25 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 29 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
10:00 am All Age Worship



Services at St Michael's Shotwick

December 2022

- 4 Second Sunday of Advent
11:30 am Morning Praise

Special Service in Burton

4:00 pm Evening Worship for Advent with the Bishop of Chester

- 11 11:30 am Holy Communion CW
- 17 6:00pm Community Carols on the Green in Puddington
- 18 4:00pm Nine Lessons & Carols
Then Mulled Wine & Mince Pies
- 25 Christmas Day
11:00am Holy Communion

January 2023

- 1 2nd Sunday of Christmas
11:00 am Burton - Morning Worship and shared Lunch
- 8 First Sunday of Epiphany
The Baptism of Christ
Plough Sunday
11:30am Holy Communion CW then Soup & Ploughman's Lunch
- 15 Second Sunday of Epiphany
11:30am Morning Prayer
- 22 Third Sunday of Epiphany
11:30 am Holy Communion
- 29 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
11:30 am Holy Communion



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Burton

Baptism

23 October

William Arthur Singleton

6 November

Neve Rosa Faye Delaney

Leo Ansel Delaney

Wedding Blessing

23 September

Caroline Young &

David Thomas Harris

Funeral

10 October

Rita Elanor Watkins

11 October

Edward Radcliff Adlard

8 November

Anthony Ronald Price

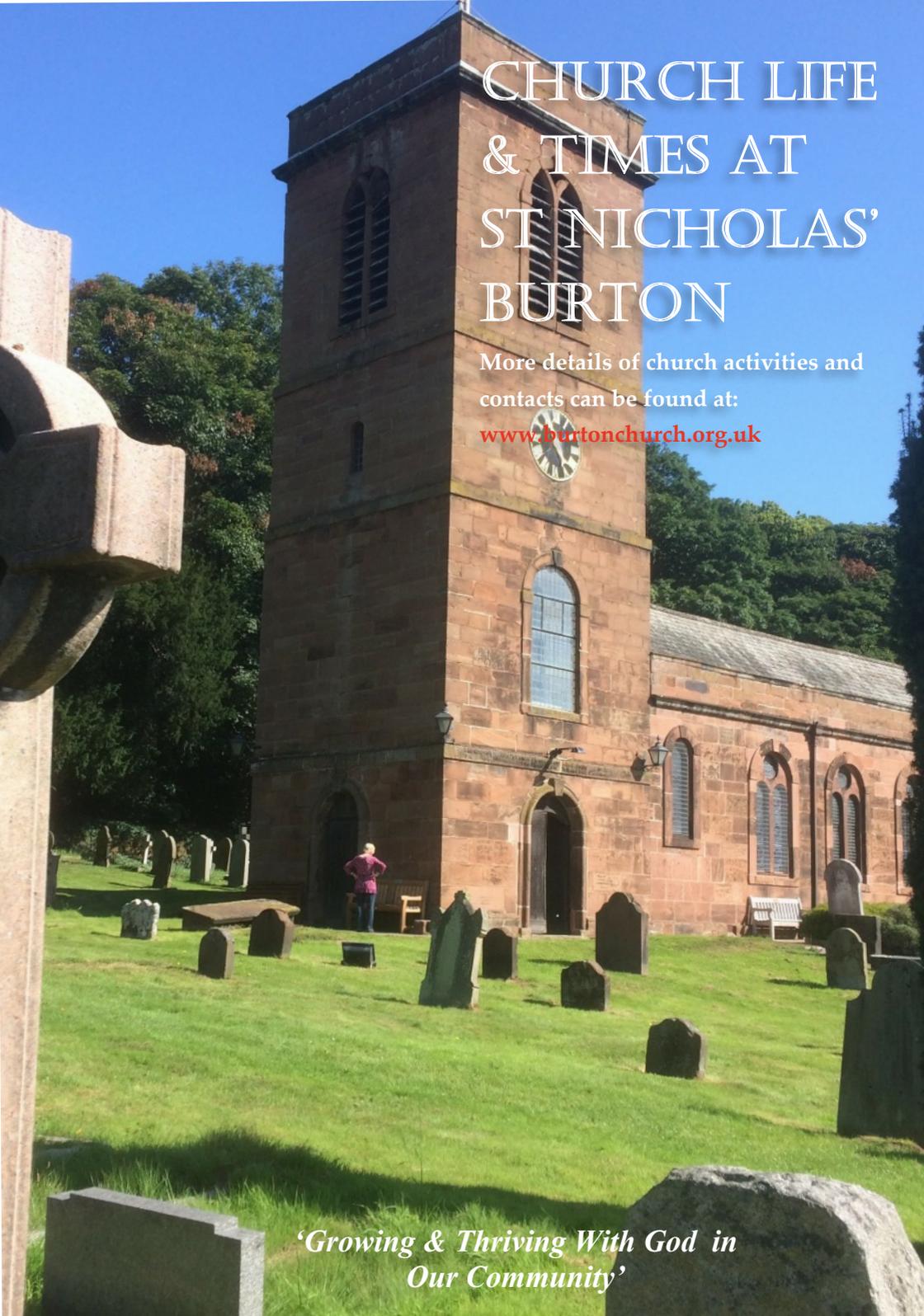
Shotwick

Interment of Ashes

14 November

Malcolm Reid

14 November



CHURCH LIFE & TIMES AT ST NICHOLAS' BURTON

More details of church activities and
contacts can be found at:

www.burtonchurch.org.uk

*'Growing & Thriving With God in
Our Community'*

Invitation



St Nicholas' Church

Christmas Tree Festival 2022

The Burton Christmas Tree Festival will be operating from Saturday 3 December until 10 December at St Nicholas' Church with the theme of "*Follow the Star - The Great Invitation*".

The church and its display of Christmas Trees will be open daily for visitors 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

The festival programme will include:

Saturday 3 December

Messy Church 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Sunday 4 December

4:00pm Evening Service
with the Bishop of Chester

Friday 9 December

Advent Sleepover Challenge

Tuesday 13 December

Candlelit Concert



As part of the festival's activities we will be collecting items for Charles Thompson's Mission in Birkenhead and for Wirral Foodbank..

There will be a drop off zone at church in Burton where people can drop off Christmas gifts for children of all ages - new items only - as well as food items, toiletries etc for Wirral Foodbank.

The aim of the festival is to raise funds for St Nicholas' Church and to support local charities that care for and help protect the more vulnerable in society.

For more information please contact: Sarah Curnow on 07527 848781 or email sarah.curnow27@gmail.com

Christmas Book Before Bedtime



Parents, Grandparents, Carers, Friends & Relatives

Come and join us amongst our beautifully lit Christmas Trees for our 'Christmas Book Before Bedtime' for our youngest church members

St Nicholas Church, Burton, Friday 16 December
6:30pm and finishing at 7:15pm

We have a story, sing a song and play a game and then finish with refreshments of (not too) hot chocolate, juice and a biscuit.

Come in your PJs, bring your teddy bear and join the fun!



***Further details:
Sarah on
07527 848 781***



The Puddington Society

A Cheshire Village Community



'Carols on the Green'

Puddington Village Green

Saturday 17 December

6.00pm

**Gather Round the
Christmas Tree**

All Your Favourite Carols

Mince Pies & Mulled Wine

Christmas Message

**There Will Be a Collection
for Local Charity**

**A Visit by
Father Christmas**

Children's Presents



Your Invitation . . .

This is a free event organised by the Puddington Society and in conjunction with St Nicholas' Church on behalf of our local village communities. Its aim is to help local residents celebrate Christmas with their friends and families.

Puddington, Burton & Shotwick - all are welcome!

The gathering enables people to come together and share the spirit of Christmas. It's a time to support one another, a time to celebrate, a time to consider what is important and to think of people who are less fortunate.

This year's collection will once again be in aid of Claire House Children's Hospice

Please give generously. **Thank You**



Claire House
CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

www.clairehouse.org.uk

Christmas by Candlelight

Tuesday 13th December, 7.30pm
St Nicholas Church, Burton

For details contact

Linda Jones: 0151 336 5017



An evening of festive music from across the world, bringing together a
heady mix of folk, classical and tango.

Tickets: Adults £15 Children FREE

Buy online: www.wirralchamberfest.co.uk



www.wirralchamberfest.co.uk





Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary

"The joy of the Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10

It's been a busy few months here at Bishop Wilson CE Primary School.

A highlight has to have been the welcome service for John and Sue Coyne. The children are really excited to get to know them and welcome them to the parish.



We were blown away by the harvest donations in October which were taken to the Foodbank. The ethos group of children led a wonderful harvest service in church.

Two weeks ago, we took part in a netball and football tournament.

All of those who took part did really well. The football team even came away with the winning trophy!



Sadly, we have had two episodes of vandalism in the last few months, with the most recent being over the weekend of 12/13 November. In the recent incident a group had been drinking and smoking around the back of school and they accessed the roof. They have caused approximately £800 worth of damage. Any information that could be passed on to the police would be appreciated. Whilst the cost of the damage causes us concern, we were most impacted by the amount of cleaning up that had to be done in the aftermath of the vandalism.

If you have somewhere that you can display flyers for the school advertising what we do, please get in touch with the school office. 0151 336 3396 or admin@bishopwilson.cheshire.sch.uk

Thank you in advance!

Suzanne Roberts

Head of School



St Nicholas' Church,
Burton



You are invited to Jesus' Birthday Party

Children, Parents, Grandparents, Carers & Friends

Saturday 3 December

2:00 to 4:00pm

**PARTY GAMES,
MUSIC,
DANCING,
CRAFTS,
STORIES AND
LOTS OF FUN!!**



PLEASE JOIN US IN CHURCH FOR A
PARTY TEA AND BIRTHDAY CAKE

See all the Christmas trees lit up around the church!

Further details:

Sarah on 07527 848 781

Hardy Perennials
St Nicholas' Church
Invitation

HARDY
PERENNIALS



Hardy Perennials
Afternoon Get-Together
Tea & Scones

Friday 2 December 2.00pm
Gift Café, Puddington

Home-Made Scones
with butter or cream and jam
Served With Tea or Coffee - £5 pp

An opportunity for us to meet up once again to enjoy each others' company and to share some home-made refreshments together. Ample parking and easy access.

RSVP

Linda 0151 336 5017
Vivienne 0151 336 7435





St Nicholas' Church

Community Harvest Supper Thank You!



The Harvest Supper held on Saturday 1 October was delightful and very much enjoyed by all who attended.

The evening featured a delicious buffet, followed by a staged reading of 'The Importance Of Peaches', a one-act comedy, and to round off the festivities, a raffle.

After expenses, £530.50 was raised for the Wirral Foodbank which was a great achievement.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make the evening such a success.



St Nicholas' Church

Coffee Morning



Christmas Coffee Morning in Church

Thursday 8 December 10:00am

Come Along, Meet Friends & Enjoy . . .

Coffee, Tea, Cakes & Refreshments

An Occasional Pianist

Mothers' Union Gift Stall



Christmas and New Year

A Time for Transformation

'With God all things are possible'

At the time of the birth of Christ, the Jews were waiting for the coming of a Messiah to free them from the tyranny of their oppressors. However the significance of the Nativity reaches far wider than the specific concerns of a moment in history; it touches the lives of all people throughout the ages. So, this Christmas as we gaze in wonder at the baby in the manger, we thank God for sending a Messiah who has brought salvation to the world; who continues to set the oppressed free and whose love is freely available to all.

Recent Events

The meeting held in October was well attended by members and visitors alike. Our Secretary gave a delightful and most interesting talk about her travels in Greenland, Labrador and Newfoundland, illustrated by some beautiful photographs.

In November, Ann Hudson gave us a fascinating talk on botanical illustrations and shared some of her exquisite paintings. The talk took us through Parkgate, to Burton Church, on to Ness Gardens, over to Liverpool, then to the Chelsea Physic Garden and finally, up the Amazon! We were able to welcome Sue Coyne and other friends from church, including two men.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 8 December at 10:00m

Church Coffee Morning at which there will also be a Mothers' Union Christmas Stall. Everyone is most welcome to attend and support this fundraising occasion.

Wednesday 14 December at 2:00pm

The MU Carol Service in Church. We invite anyone to come and join us for this special service.

Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 2:00pm

Annual general Meeting in the Burton and Puddington Sports and Social Club.



The Burton Society



Established 1971

Christmas Special

Thursday 1 December at 8.00pm

Gladstone Village Hall

Burton Reads presents a staged reading of

A Spy With a View

by Robert Scott

***A one-act comedy by arrangement with
Lazy Bee Scripts***

***David and Vicky are on holiday, but the weather has trapped them in
their hotel room. The monotony is broken by the delivery of a
mysterious briefcase, with a recording that self-destructs!***

Accompanied by mince pies and a glass of wine

Ticket essential - £3, or Free to Members.

Contact Renee Syme on 336 5852

Thursday 5 January: at 8.00pm

The Jubilee Tower

***Built to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of King George III in 1810,
David Shiel discusses its place in the physical and cultural
landscape of North Wales.***

Have you ever thought of becoming a bellringer in Burton?



There have been church bells rung at St Nicholas' for approximately 400 years. Over the centuries the bells have been used as a call to services, to celebrate weddings, to warn of wars, to announce accessions of kings and queens and to mark funerals. It's a sound that's deeply evocative of a rural way of life.

In early 2020, the bells were refurbished. Many residents and friends generously gave money to safeguard this asset of village life into the next century. We now need to make sure we have enough skilled people to keep the tradition going and to keep the bells ringing.

In January, I'd like to start to teach new people how to ring the bells to make sure this rural skill continues. If you have ever thought that you might like to learn, please get in touch. The current band is a friendly group of local people from Burton and Neston and you would be very welcome.

You don't need to know how to read music and you don't need to be a churchgoer. There is no age limit, you just need to be fit enough to climb the tower stairs and tall enough to reach the rope (approximately 5 feet tall). Lessons will be on Monday evening 7:00 to 8:00pm.

Jane Davies

0151 353 0074 burtontower@gmail.com



St Nicholas' Church

Parish Admin Assistant Wanted



St Nicholas' Church, like many parishes, relies on the time, talents and support provided by a number of individuals in order to ensure that the work of the church is able to function efficiently. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, preparation of church services, ministry and worship, ensuring compliance with church and legal regulations, business administration, finance and accounting, building and maintenance, youth and family work, pastoral care and, more broadly, engaging with the local community and its activities and interests.

More recently St Nicholas' Church has welcomed to the parish Revd John Coyne as its new part-time Vicar along with his wife Sue. However, the work of the church and its admin work has not diminished. Consequently we are seeking someone to join the existing team as a Parish Admin Assistant for a few hours per week to help with the important routine weekly admin work including assistance with the parish accounts.

The ongoing success of the church very much depends on people with skills and abilities who are prepared to help. Working with others, this position could be performed on a voluntary basis or subject to a small honorarium.

In addition, we are also seeking one or two technologically inclined people who might be able to help with social media communication and the live streaming of church services as well as at weddings, funerals and other events.

*If you would be interested in discussing any of these opportunities please contact:
Nigel Griffiths, Churchwarden 0151 336 3621*

Friends of Hampstons Well

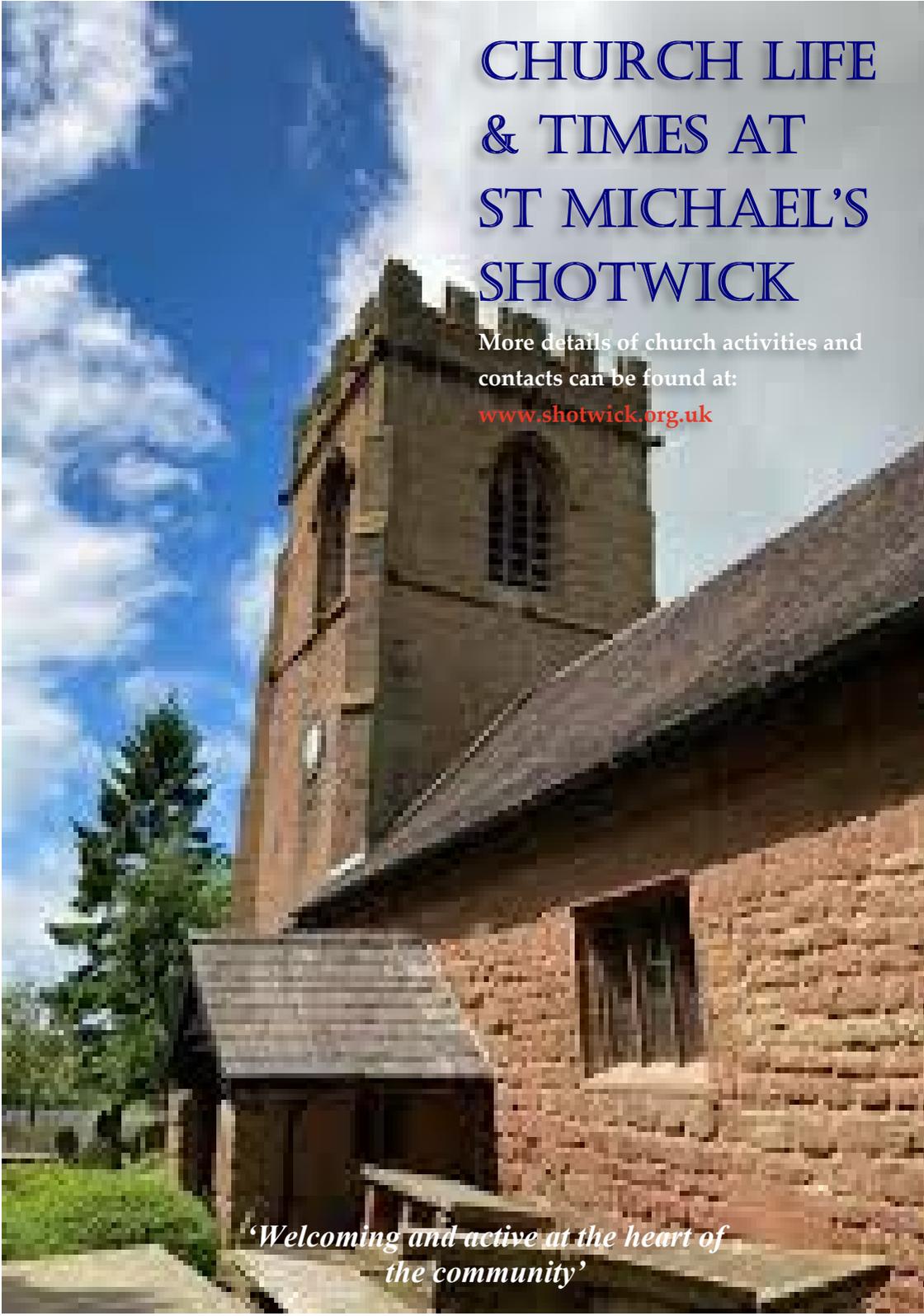
The Friends of Hampstons Well continue to make progress in restoring the ancient well of Burton and the Well Gardens in Station Road.

Using funds from successful Lottery and Crowd-funding bids the group has purchased tools and materials to enable it to plant native woodland plants and to begin replacing and restoring the cobble setts that surround the spring pool.

The Friends would be very pleased to have a few more volunteers to help with the gardening, or restoration work, or the committee work. It would be great to have more involvement from the local community .

For more information visit the Facebook Page @Friends of Hampstons Well (Burton) or telephone Barbara on 0151 336 2972





CHURCH LIFE & TIMES AT ST MICHAEL'S SHOTWICK

More details of church activities and
contacts can be found at:

www.shotwick.org.uk

*'Welcoming and active at the heart of
the community'*

***Have you ever
thought of
becoming a
bellringer in
Shotwick?***

St Michael's Shotwick



***Frank Parry and
his team are
looking for new
people to try
their hand at
bellringing.***



***Bellringing
practice takes
place on Friday
evenings at 7pm.***

***If you're
interested, please
give Frank
a ring on
01244 377 248***





**St Michael's Shotwick
Plough Sunday
Service
8 January 11.30am
Followed by Soup &
Ploughman's Lunch in
Church**

Plough Sunday is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year that has seen some revival over recent years.

Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare (cutting edge of a plough) into a church with prayers for the blessing of the land.

The service is traditionally held on the Sunday after Epiphany, the Sunday between 7 January and 13 January. Accordingly, work in the fields did not begin until the day after Plough Sunday, i.e. Plough Monday.

Although the nature of farming has changed over the centuries, Plough Sunday is seen as a way of generally celebrating farming and the work of farmers.



In the Church of England book of liturgy, Common Worship: Times and Seasons, there is a suggested prayer for the "Blessing of the Plough", for the "Blessing of Seed" and passages of Scripture related to the agricultural theme.

As well as a ploughshare, in rural areas, it is common for local farmers to attend the service with their tractors - both new and old.



Agricultural History Project



Do you or your family have a farming background ?

Would you be willing to share your farming recollections and memories in order to help support our project?

If so I am particularly interested in farming in the 1950s and 1960s before modern farming methods and a supermarket culture became established.

St Michael's Church is applying for a Lottery Heritage grant to help towards the cost of the refurbishment of the Church Tower. As part of the application we need to demonstrate a community benefit and our community strands for the application are 'agriculture before and now'. Consequently our project includes the development of a countryside classroom in Shotwick, suitable for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 visits by children. If you are interested in the project and may be able to help please contact

Jenny Sneddon via email at jcsned@gmail.com

St Michael's Church Tower Appeal

The Church Tower at St Michael's in Shotwick has been battling the worst elements of the weather since 1500.

We now need to help it battle on into the future with a new dressing of lime mortar.

We are therefore having a Tower Appeal to raise £66,000. Any donations or fund-raising ideas will be gratefully received.

We are a close working team at Shotwick and very good at implementing plans that maintain the fabric of the Church and its spiritual role.

And 'Thank You'

A very big '**Thank You**' to Basil Keys for looking after us during the recent vacancy when we were without a vicar.

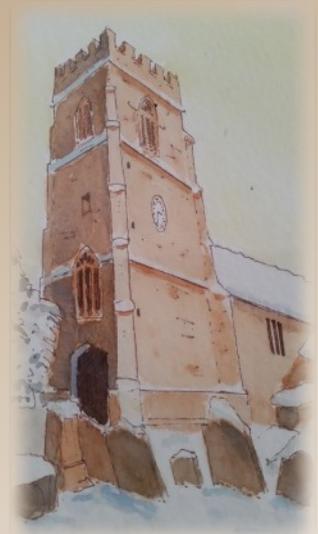
'**Thank You**' also to Di and Arthur for fixing the

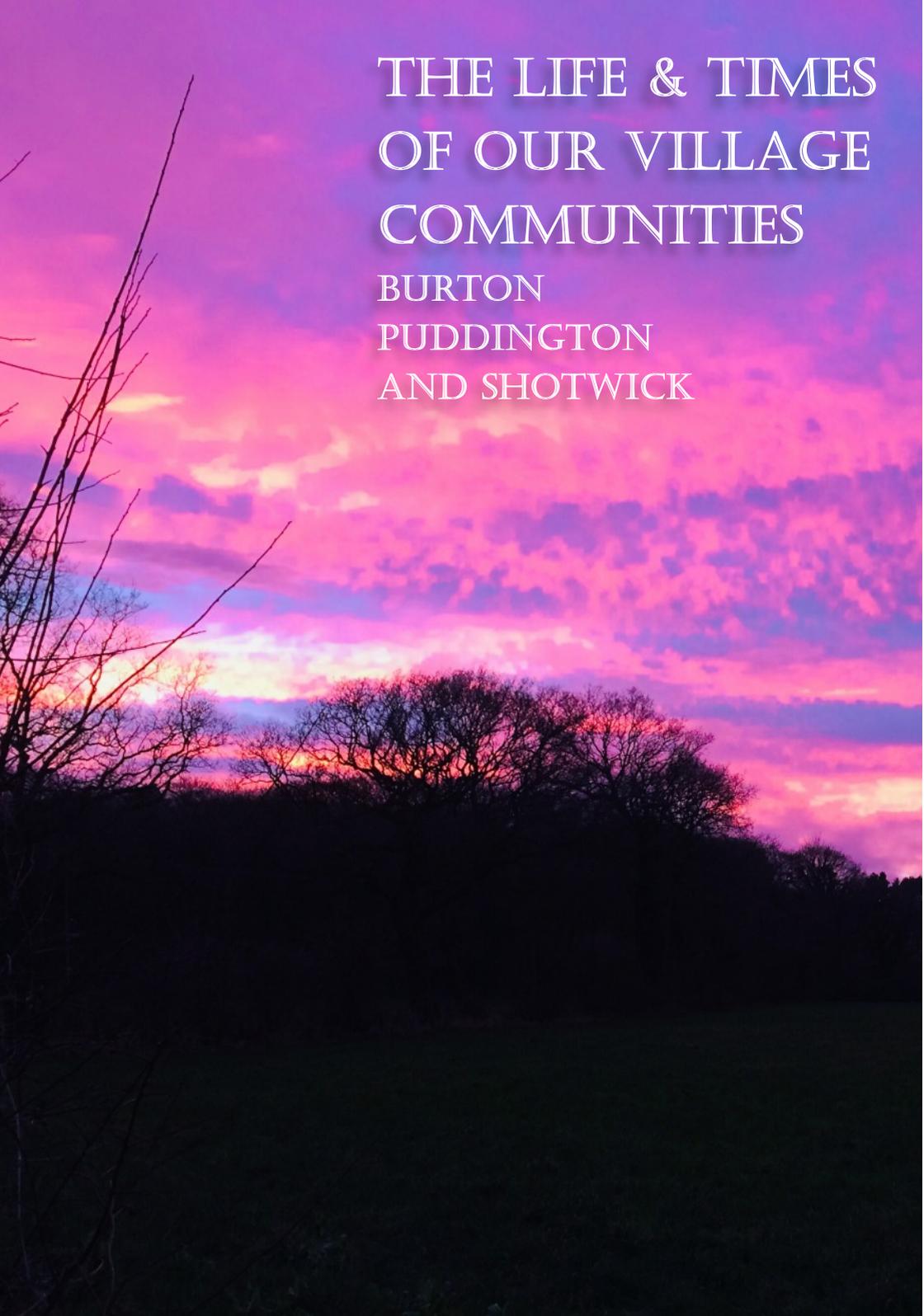
wobbly path . . . and to

Rosemary for our general

cleaning , and for the residual smell of polish as you walk in to the church . . .

and to Fred Smith for painting the front gates with Hammerite.





THE LIFE & TIMES
OF OUR VILLAGE
COMMUNITIES

BURTON
PUDDINGTON
AND SHOTWICK

Times Remembered

The Story

of the Windsor

Chair

John Roe



Around 1895 to 1900, village resident Mrs Annie Rosco decided that she wanted a second wooden Windsor armchair.

At that time such a was real comfort for cottagers. She was the wife of Joe Rosco, who became Head Gardener at Burton Manor and they lived at Rock Cottage in Burton, the same house where Chris Lunt now lives.

Mrs Rosco walked to Chester and saw a chair that she liked. It was priced at three shillings and sixpence or the equivalent of about £30 today. On arriving home and asking the local carrier how much he would charge to collect the chair for her and bring it back to Burton, he told her that it would cost nine pence (in those days there were 240 pennies in £1).



Mrs Rosco thought that this was far too much. So, she walked to Chester once again, paid for the chair. She then rolled her head scarf into a pad which she put on her head, turned the chair upside down and placing the seat on her head and holding on to each arm of the chair, she carried it back home.

As a child in the 1940s I used to sit on this chair beside the living room fireplace. However, I do not know what happened to it when her daughter Jessie removed the range and installed a modern tiled fireplace in its place.



Burton Manor's Ice House



BURTON
MANOR
GARDENS

Burton Manor is unique in being home to the only accessible ice house on the Wirral.

Ice houses were introduced into Britain in the seventeenth century by travellers who had seen similar buildings in Italy. The first modern ice house was built in Greenwich Park in 1619.

Often located near a source of natural ice such as rivers or freshwater lakes, ice houses were usually partly or completely underground. During the winter, ice would be cut and taken into the ice house and insulated with straw or sawdust to reduce melting. The ice would stay frozen for many months,

Almost certainly constructed during the Congreve family's ownership of The Manor from 1805, Burton Manor's Ice House consists of two chambers cut out of the solid sandstone bedrock. There are two entrances. One faces north and on the south side a doorway faces towards Burton Mere which the family owned and would have provided a source of fresh ice. Access for horse-drawn trailers would have been possible enabling ice to be unloaded directly into the underground chambers. At the north end a set of steep steps leads down into the main storage area to allow servants to collect ice from the store for use in the kitchen.

The Ice House is currently closed to public access whilst an assessment of some safety issues is carried out, but it is hoped to re-open it for supervised visits in the near future – bat roosting permitting!

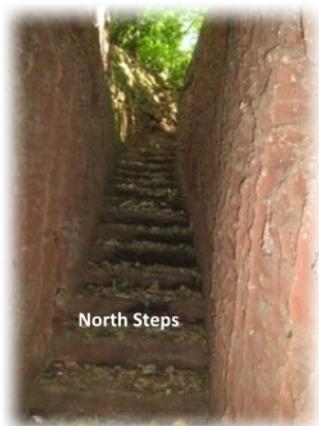
Source: Extract from Manor Garden Thymes Friends of Burton Manor Gardens Newsletter Edition 15



Storage Chamber



Entrance



North Steps

Tales From ^{Wirral} foodbank



It's A massive thank you from the Wirral Foodbank for your generosity at the Harvest Supper in October. As you may imagine your support is much needed. The Trussell Trust, which oversees about 1,200 foodbanks across the UK, including Wirral and West Cheshire Foodbanks, recently published a report on the work done by Trussell Trust foodbanks in the six months to the end of September. They noted that 1.3 million emergency food parcels had been distributed, almost half a million of them for children. It's an increase of 33% over the same time last year. In Wirral the figures are up 57% at more than 2,300 parcels in total, over 800 of which were for children.

Although these figures are startling, they are only part of the support picture in Wirral where a large number of local social supermarkets are providing low cost, good quality food, and where the voluntary sector and the council work closely together to support the local community.

More than half of the people who approach Wirral Foodbank tell us that their problem is low income (as against illness or debt for instance). This is a larger share than it has been in the past and no doubt reflects the increase in energy and food costs this year – costs which



disproportionately affect the less well off who spend a much higher proportion of their income on these items (as well as housing). The social safety net, primarily Universal Credit, has fallen behind the rapid rate of inflation even with some lump sum payments.

Yet it's still true that we see most clients only once or twice at the foodbank. Foodbank Plus, the cooperation with the Citizens Advice Bureau, is a big part of that. But the reality is that, when your income is barely enough to make do, the tiniest setback is a major problem.



Despite our fervent desire that foodbanks should be unnecessary, it's good to know that our (and your) support does not just provide sustenance but is a helping hand in an hour of need that facilitates a return to independence.

It's difficult for a lot of people to visit a foodbank. We hear the words "I never thought I .." more and more. Many express their surprise that the items they receive are all donated. ***They find it a complete revelation to learn that complete strangers are behind this help and not the state or the council.***



You - the people who are part of our local communities who donate food, goods and make cash donations - are those complete strangers.

On behalf of the too many people in this country who have had need to use a foodbank – ***Thank You.***

Donations can be made at most big supermarkets and at:

<https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/>

<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/>

As always, many thanks to those who support the Foodbank with food and regular monthly financial donations which make all the difference to so many people.



Thank You and very Best Wishes from all of us at Wirral Foodbank

If you would like to donate to this is what's needed . . .



Biscuits

Chocolate Bars

Coffee

Custard

Deodorant

Instant Mash

Jam

Nappies – Sizes 4, 5, 6

Packet Soup

Pasta Sauce

Rice

Rice Pudding

Shampoo

Shower Gel

Soap

Squash

Sugar

Tinned Fish

Tinned Fruit

Tinned Meat

Tinned Potatoes

Tinned Soup

Tinned Spaghetti

Tinned Tomatoes

Tinned Veg

Toilet Rolls

Toothbrush/Toothpaste

UHT Milk

Washing Powder Tablets

Washing-Up Liquid

The deadline for Christmas

Foodbank donations is

Monday 12 December.

However, we are still collecting for the Foodbank after that date .

If you would like to help people in crisis this Christmas and prefer to give cash to the Foodbank you can simply make a donation online - just click the link below:

Click and Donate Online to Wirral Foodbank

In the Garden

with Flori Bunda

A Winter Wonderland

The garden has been frost free at the time of writing. There are still patches of flowers in bloom, mauve cosmos, marigold, hebe, the odd roses (Ballerina, Buff Beauty, Alec's Reds). There is also a lovely viburnum. The blooms are pink and then turning to white - lovely for floral decorations.



The dahlias, although slow to bloom, have been beautiful. (Hubby brings bunches of same regularly from the allotment). They will spend the winter in the ground covered over with grass cuttings. Of course, when the leaves are blackened, they will be cut down.

The young rowan was stripped of berries as soon as they turned red.



The Spring flowering bulbs have been planted in various tubs and containers. Tulips, Royal Prince (mixed) and Queen of the Night (dark purple/black). Hubby performed this duty for me - I am now back on "light gardening".

Many beautiful birds visit the garden, but a most unwelcome visitor was a sparrowhawk, first seen perched on the bird bath. Then a mass of feathers was seen in the garden!

Robbie Robin keeps his guard on the bird feeders!

Tasks to be getting on with in the weeks ahead:

- Keep weeds at bay
- Make plans for next year's planting
- Harvest any remaining veg that is still in the ground



Enjoy the garden in winter

Happy Gardening

Flori Bunda



BURTON MERE WETLANDS

Wildfowl, Waders & Winter Walks...

After such a mild autumn, the leaves have finally turned to their glorious shades before being shed, and the days grow ever shorter as we race towards the end of the year.

Nevertheless, this is still a fantastic time to visit Burton Mere Wetlands, with the pools at their busiest with flocks of colourful ducks and delicate waders. Pink-footed geese are back in force to escape the cold Arctic winter, now flying miles inland to feed on farmland during the day but returning to roost on the Dee marshes each night.

Along the trails through mixed woodland and scrub is a constant buzz of activity with songbirds attending the feeders to replenish fat lost in the cold nights, a recent highlight being a nuthatch enjoying sunflower hearts, and an elusive treecreeper in and around the car park.

Our wood pellet stove is roaring to greet you at the visitor centre, where you can also grab a hot drink, sweet treat or even a tasty sandwich. Remember, whatever the weather you'll receive a warm welcome and can just relax with an unrivalled view from the sanctuary of the visitor centre, not least as the sun sets over the Clwydian Range across the border.

We're now a month into the groundwork for installing our new café, with the site taking shape nicely. It does mean there are occasional weekdays we are closed over winter, so please check our website, social media or give us a call to check before you visit if you decide on a spontaneous trip.

A reminder that we are open for most of the festive period, closed only on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Ideal for a break from the inevitable indulgences and a refreshing walk with visiting family and friends.



Pink Footed Goose



Treecreeper



*Autumn Leaves &
Short Days*



Trails at Burton Mere



High Tides Expected



See RSPB Website



Winter - Great Time to
Visit RSPB

After several successful autumn events showcasing the seasonal bird spectacle, last year's popular Robin Robin family activity trail returns to RSPB reserves including Burton Mere Wetlands this winter. The lovable short film from Wallace and Gromit creators, Ardman Animations, is brought to life on a gentle adventure through our woodland.

Come January, the focus will be on the Big Garden Birdwatch, the RSPB's annual event for anyone and everyone to take part in from the comfort of their home, absolutely free! Plus we'll have our usual guided walk, and separate family activity to raise awareness of the event and how much it contributes to the RSPB's work.

Also, with 2023 tide tables now published, we now know there are some big spring tides to look forward to in the first quarter of the new year, when we plan to run events at Parkgate Old Baths – watch this space for dates and details!

All our facilities are open daily 9.30am-4.30pm including our mail-order shop, with a fantastic eco-conscious Christmas range. Order here and get free home delivery for any order over £15 with the profits coming back to support more nature conservation at the Dee Estuary reserve.

For regular updates, sightings information and news about the reserve, check our website blog at [rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands](https://www.rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter (search RSPB Burton Mere).

The RSPB's events are now listed in one place, here:
<https://events.rspb.org.uk/>

Hopefully, with many of you living so close, you'll venture down for some winter wonderment sometime soon!

Merry Christmas

Winter Opening Times

10:00am to 4:30pm

Winter Holiday Closure

Admission to the Visitor Centre and gardens will finish for Members and day visitors on Wednesday 21 December at 4:00pm but Members may enter via the Members gate on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 December.

The gardens will then be closed to all from Saturday 24 December until Sunday 1 January 2023 when we will re-open at 10am.

Give the gift of Ness Membership this Christmas

And you'll be helping the gardens grow and contribute to conservation – this unique gift can be enjoyed all year round, time and time again! If you buy a gift membership between 15 November and 20 December 2022 as the donor you will receive a complimentary Ness Botanic Gardens 2023 calendar.

You can make your purchase online via our website [here](#) or in the visitor centre or contact the membership office on 0151 795 6300.

This offer applies to NEW gift memberships purchased between 15 November 2022 and 20 December 2022 only. The offer excludes gift membership renewals.

The last day for delivery by post before Christmas will be Monday 12 December.

The Botanic Kitchen Café is now being run by Ness Botanic Gardens, University of Liverpool

In November, the catering operation at Ness Botanic Gardens moved in-house. This means that the café is run by the Ness team and we still have the same great catering team in place.

In addition to our popular dishes the team will be developing a wider selection of dietary choices on the menu, such as vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Ness

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Here's a Local Transport Solution

Ellesmere Port and Neston Community Transport (EP&N) provide affordable transport for the community including those with mobility problems.

Car Scheme

EP&N operates a 'door-to-door' service under the banner of Community Car Scheme in which volunteer drivers can drive EP&N adapted cars to transport clients from their homes to medical appointments, shopping, hairdressers, social appointments and then take them home again.

Locations

CH65, CH64, CH66

Journeys are not restricted to the Ellesmere Port and Neston areas, but are for Ellesmere Port and Neston area residents.

Contact 0151 355 3739 www.epncta.btck.co.uk

Several local residents have already used the service and one said:

"I have used them twice so far and payment is roughly the cost of the petrol. My return trip to Arrowe Park hospital was roughly £17.50 and when I asked if I could leave a tip it was declined but "if I wished to round it up" it would be gratefully received as any surplus would go into a general operation fund - my £20 was a fraction of the cost of a taxi."

Cheshire West & Chester Mobile Library

THE MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS BOTH
BURTON AND PUDDINGTON

Cheshire West Mobile Library will be in
Puddington from 10:40am to 11:00am and
at the GVH in Burton from 11:10am to 11:50 oam
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Friday 16 December
January - Dates still
to be confirmed



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To raise money for the Burton and Puddington Gladstone Village Hall, Guy Tilby is collecting large empty inkjet cartridges for recycling e.g. HP302 or similar.

For each cartridge donated the GVH will receive £1.

Contact Guy at tilbyjohn549@gmail.com or call 0151 336 2339.

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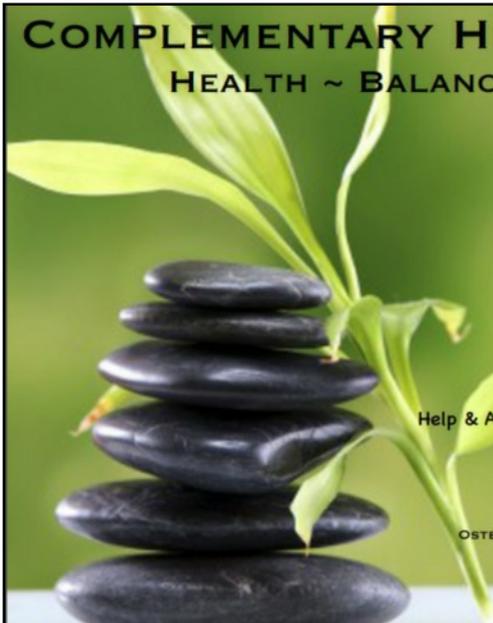
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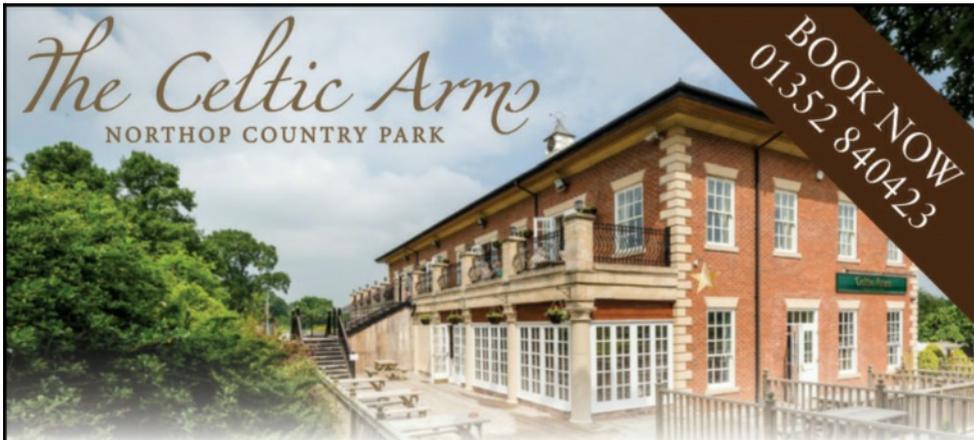
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Community & Society

Information

THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

Carols on the Green - Saturday 17 December 6:00pm

For more information please contact Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288

THE BURTON SOCIETY

Thursday 1 December 8:00pm Christmas Special and one act play

Contact Renee Syme on 336-5852

Thursday 5 January - The Jubilee Tower

An Illustrated Talky by David Shiel

BURTON & NESTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Thursday 12 January 'Crossing the Mersey'. Speaker: Gavin Hunter.

Gladstone Village Hall. Doors open from 7.45 pm, talks start at 8pm.

If you haven't been to one of our meetings before, it is free on the first occasion.

For more information please contact Robert Thrift on 0151 335 1771

BURTON WALKING GROUP

For more information please contact Gilly Mansfield 0151 336 4297

BURTON BRIDGE CLUB

Burton Bridge Club meets on Monday Evenings

Gladstone Village Hall at 7:15pm to play Duplicate Bridge

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For more information please contact Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288

BURTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Promoting & protecting the interest of Burton Village. Membership is open to all residents.

burtonresidentsassociation.co.uk

FRIENDS OF HAMPSTONS WELL

Friends of Hampstons Well brings together a community of people who care for and maintain this ancient site

For more information, please contact the Secretary at

friendsofhampstonswellburton@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

For more information please contact 0151 336 6154 or email burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

Magazine Administrator - sue@suebirch.com

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www.burtonchurch.org.uk

www.shotwick.org.uk

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