

The Parish Magazine

St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

March & April 2016

www.burtonchurch.org.uk



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE

Hymn - 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'

The '140 Year Old' Mothers

Celebrating Easter

GROWING & THRIVING WITH GOD IN OUR COMMUNITY

CHURCH DIRECTORY



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	<i>Tony Carter</i>	<i>336 5446</i>
<i>Verger Duties</i>	<i>Ann Warr (Services)</i>	<i>336 2747</i>
	<i>Judy Redmond (Open & Close)</i>	<i>336 3643</i>
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<i>PCC Treasurer</i>	<i>Bryan Blakeman</i>	<i>336 7435</i>
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	<i>John Church</i>	<i>336 2228</i>
<i>Gift Aid Secretary</i>	<i>John Miles</i>	<i>336 4972</i>
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<i>Parish Magazine</i>	<i>Susan Bristow (Distribution)</i>	<i>336 6707</i>
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<i>Flower Arranging</i>	<i>Sue Church</i>	<i>336 2228</i>
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<i>Bell Captain</i>	<i>Jane Davies</i>	<i>353 0074</i>

COMPASSION & COMMUNITY

We live in a world where mental ability is rewarded. We are given puzzles and brain training exercises from apps on our phones and tablets, or we strive to do the good old newspaper crossword. But the heart is not trained, it often just muddles along. We learn more and more but often understand less and less. 24/7 media reports stream information about wars and disasters right into our living room, but we are likely to become less affected by a disaster in the next village than previous generations would have been.

Yet compassion can reach out across the barriers of class, status or ability to the person who is hurting. Compassion does not rely on knowledge or learning, the good 'Samaritan' only needed to know where the sore was to pour the soothing oil.

So many people in the UK have suffered severe flooding of their homes and communities. Throughout the Middle East and into Europe, millions of refugees escaping from war and destruction are facing the worst of winter conditions with little shelter and less protection. We have seen heart-warming demonstrations of compassion and sacrificial giving to offer hope to those who are vulnerable and exposed as well as the cruel and intentional destruction beyond our comprehension. How moved are our hearts?

There are at least 67 references in the Old Testament alone to the compassionate nature of God. God in his compassion sees the need of his people, people caught up in the chains of bad habits, destructive choices and sinful lives. Compassion involves action; it's not just a feeling, but a feeling that just has to do something to make a difference.



God the Father sent us Jesus to demonstrate what his compassion looks like.

Jesus in his compassion reaches out to everyone and anyone, not just the knowledgeable or clever, but the vulnerable and needy. Jesus reaches out, looking for hearts that are simply open to receive him; hearts that can still be moved. If we find we still respond a little, then all is not lost. The heart is still alive and kicking, able to be coaxed into generosity and able to prioritise and focus.

Peter de Vries the American writer wrote :

'We are not put on this earth to see through each other, but to see each other through.'

An opportunity to 're-tune' our hearts is to intentionally use Lent as a time to find out how we can make a difference. The Christian Aid publication '**Count Your Blessings**' gives us 40 days of reflecting upon our blessings and gives the opportunity to give, act and pray for communities in need. Look it up on the Christian Aid website or see the leaflets that are at the back of church.

Love of God should be the first priority, for true love of ourselves and of our neighbours both flow from this.

Cathy

CHARITY SUPPORT

Since the last issue, church members have been involved in supporting charitable organisations with which our church has developed close links.



40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY Thanksgiving Service

Chester Cathedral

7 January 2016

The day was blessed with over 600 people supporting this event. Guests included: *the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith; Bishop Peter Forster; Bishop Michael Baughen; Bishop Keith Sinclair; the Dean of the Cathedral Gordon McPhate; the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire David Briggs; The Mayor of Chester Hugo Deynem; and the Mayor of Wrexham Barbara Roxburgh.*

The service included hymns written by Graham Kendrick who also attended and brought his hymns alive. The recessional hymn ***“Lord for the Years”*** written by Bishop Michael Baughen.

The Cathedral Nave Choir enriched the service with the anthem ***“Tres Magi de Gentibus”*** and the reading from Matthew was read by Mark Mitchell who is a great supporter of Save the Family.

The service included 3 videos depicting “The Past” (with the founder Edna Speed) “The Present” and “The Future”. The atmosphere in the Cathedral was extremely warm with a strong sense that Jesus was with us showing his support for our faithful service in helping some of the most vulnerable families from our community.

PUDDINGTON ‘CAROLS ON THE GREEN’

For some 35 years or more Puddington Village has celebrated Christmas with ***‘Carols on the Green’*** - carols, refreshments and community spirit.

Once again the event was well supported and



Revd Cathy Helm spoke about the truth of Christmas and led the community in prayer.

The collection taken went to the charity ***The Mango Tree*** which supports children and young people, as well as their families and communities to ensure better lives.

MOTHERS' UNION



This year, the Mothers' Union celebrates its 140 years anniversary and there will be a service in Winchester Cathedral to mark the occasion. Mary Sumner, whose husband was the Bishop of Winchester, was the founder of the Mothers' Union.



So, what is the Mothers' Union? It is a worldwide Christian movement. There are four million members across the world in 83 countries. Its aim is to promote stable family life and the protection of children. Its work aims to enable individuals, families and communities to be in loving and respectful relationships and to challenge social injustices.

Fundraising is essential and professional people are employed to do this important work.

We meet monthly, in a social environment, working to a varied programme. There are interesting speakers, outings, lunches and of course tea and cake.

Belonging to the Mothers' Union means giving support and encouragement to each other in our hour of need. Everybody is welcome, ladies and gentlemen, young and old. Come and join us!



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary
"The joy of The Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10

THEY'RE THE APPLE OF THE TEACHER'S EYE

At Bishop Wilson CE Primary School in Burton, where we actively welcome new children to our beautiful rural setting, the PTA organised many events during the Autumn Term. These included movie nights, a Christmas Fair, bag packing at M&S and singing at Sainsbury's in Neston.



All told the PTA raised a total of £3000 from children, parents, and staff who all supported these events.

With the £3000 raised the PTA purchased 10 new **Apple iPad Minis** with protective cases, a charging station and an **Apple Mac Mini-Desktop Computer** which enables apps to be 'synched' and downloaded.

The children are now thoroughly enjoying using this new IT equipment as part of the curriculum.



GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS



This Good Friday, 25 March, we will be remembering Jesus' Passion in both St Nicholas' and St Michael's Churches with a *Walk Of Witness*.

There will be a half hour service at St Michael's Church in Shotwick at 2:00pm and those who would like to will then walk across the fields to St Nicholas' Church in Burton.

There will be refreshments at St Nicholas' Church from 3:15pm for everyone, including those travelling by car. A further half hour service will be held at 4:00pm in Burton.

All ages are welcome to join us, but please don't worry if walking isn't for you! There will be quite a few who will be going between the churches by car.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER SUPPER

The Seder is a Jewish meal that has been eaten for thousands of years during the Pesach, or Passover, festival.

It is eaten to remember the Jewish enslavement in Egypt and the quick escape led by Moses.



On **Maundy Thursday, 24 March**, at 7:00pm we will be holding a Seder Meal in Gladstone Village Hall. If you wish to attend please pass your details to Churchwardens John Vinson or Tony Carter.

A 'Thank You' from Ruth Chesworth

A very big 'Thank You' to everyone for their kind cards, letters and visits since my accident. Your thoughts, prayers and kindness have been very much appreciated.

Ruth Chesworth

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



On Wednesday 16 March there will be a Lent Lunch at the Vicarage starting at 12.30pm. Please contact Revd Cathy Helm if you would like to attend.

☎ **07471 890 827**

✉ **c.helm@burtonchurch.org.uk**

HARDY PERENNIALS



The *Hardy Perennials* are a group of ladies from around the parish who, for whatever reason, live largely independently. They meet regularly for lunch and to share each other's company.

The HPs meet at Pollard's Inn in Willaston - two course lunch with coffee at just £13.

If you would like to go along and if you haven't been before, please call either *Vivienne Blakeman on 336 7435 or Linda Jones on 336 5017*

HOLY COMMUNION SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

Mondays - 7 March & 4 April at 11.30am in the Burton Sports & Social Club. Although primarily aimed at those who have difficulty accessing the church, all are welcome.

Contact Basil Keys on 936 1403 or Jen Williams on 328 1006



A PRAYER FOR LENT

O Christ, who entered into the
lonely desert,
And who, facing hunger, danger
and temptation
Did not turn aside but affirmed the
way of self-giving love,
Strengthen us to resist the false
attraction of:
Easy answers,
Magic fixes,
Abuses of power,
And the delusion that there is any
way apart from justice in which
God's justice can be done.
Amen

Christian Aid



The final three dates for the Lent Course and discussion group looking at end of life issues will be 2 March, 9 March and 16 March at the Vicarage at 8.00pm.

HARDY PERENNIALS

Ladies' Lunch Dates 2016



Monday - 11 April

Monday - 23 May

Monday - 11 July

Monday - 22 August

Monday - 26 September

Monday - 31 October

Monday - 12 December



Pollard's Inn, Willaston

12.30pm for 1.00pm

 Vivienne 336 7435

 Linda 336 5017

UPCOMING EVENTS

START THE WEEK IN PRAYER

Monday morning at 9.00 am in church - a quiet time at the beginning of each week when we pray for the needs of our church, our community, our country and the world.

You do not need to pray aloud; many who attend choose to pray silently.

STUDY GROUP

8.00pm - Alternate Wednesdays

Danes Court, Mudhouse Lane

Contact Tony Carter 0151 336 5446

MESSY CHURCH



26 MARCH - EASTER SATURDAY

This will be held in the Vicarage Gardens and start at 3:00 pm. An Easter egg hunt, craft and games will be planned for this fun Easter Messy Church

23 APRIL 2016

This will be held in Gladstone Village Hall from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. The theme will be "Friendship" and we will be teaching the bible stories about the friendship between Jesus and Peter.

14 MAY 2016

This will be held in the Church and a picnic style meal will be served from 4:00pm - 6:00pm.

We are seeking volunteers to help with the sessions either in the food preparation, planning or with the activities themselves. If you can help please call Cathy Helm on 07471 890 827

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

† Muriel Colley

† David Owen

† Anne Gooder

† Audrey Robinson

† Irene Johnson

† Neil Fitton



CHURCH DIARY



March

- 6 Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday

8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship and Baptism

6:30 pm Evensong
- 9 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 13 Fifth Sunday of Lent
Baptism of Christ

8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 16 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 20 ***Palm Sunday***

8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
- 23 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 25 4:00 pm Good Friday Service
- 27 ***Easter Day***

8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
- 30 10:15 am Holy Communion

April

- 3 Second Sunday of Easter

8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship and Baptism

6:30 pm Evensong
- 6 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 10 Third Sunday of Easter

8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 13 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 17 Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
- 20 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 24 Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 11:15 am ***Annual Parochial Church Meeting***
- 27 10:15 am Holy Communion

HYMN STORIES

‘THERE IS A GREEN HILL FAR AWAY’

Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander 1818 – 1895

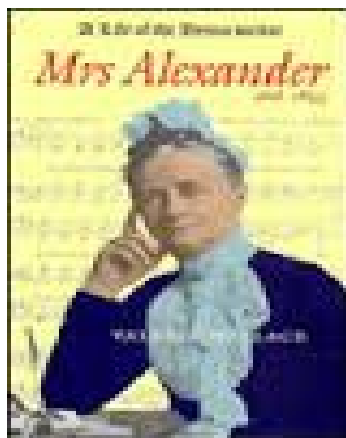
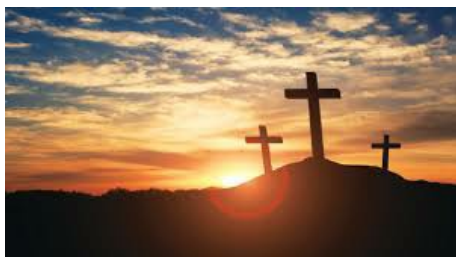
*There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.*

*We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear;
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.*

*He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by his precious blood.*

*There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven and let us in.*

*O dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love him too,
And trust in His redeeming blood,
And try his works to do.*



It is said that Mrs Alexander wrote this hymn whilst sitting at the bedside of her sick child. At the time she lived not far from the walled city of Londonderry, where her husband was the Bishop, and it is thought that the sight of the massive town walls and the green hills behind might have inspired the very visual images her words produce.

Cecil Frances Alexander was born in Redcross, County Wicklow; the second daughter of a British Army Major. She was a devout Christian and from a young age showed an aptitude for writing.

In 1848, at the age of just 25, she published “Hymns for Little Children” and dedicated it to her “little godsons”.

In 1850 she married the Revd. William Alexander. He was six years her junior and the marriage caused quite a stir, and it is said that her Father, for the sake of propriety, had her date of birth altered in the Registers – and indeed in some old hymn books her date of birth is listed as 1823.

‘There is a green hill’ was written to illustrate the creed “suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried”. The first verse paints a picture that captures the imagination. The original hymn has the words “without a city wall”, but later versions changed it to “outside a city wall”. The second verse celebrates the mystery of the cross beginning, “We may not know, we cannot tell . . .” The passion of Jesus, though difficult to comprehend, is something he endured for us and for our salvation. This is celebrated in the next two verses “He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make us good”. “There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin”.

Although this hymn was written for children it has become a classic Easter hymn for all ages. It sets the scene for the Lord’s passion and celebrates the mystery, purpose, necessity and challenge of the cross. It is usually sung to the tune “Horsley” written by William Horsley (1774 – 1858).

Mrs Alexander devoted her life to Christian education and to the care of the young and the poor. All the profits from the sale of her writings were donated to a home for deaf children. She was buried – at her request – in Londonderry... *outside the city walls.*

AN EASTER POEM

The Judas Tree

by Ruth Etchells

*In Hell there grew a Judas Tree
Where Jesus hanged and died
Because he could not bear to see
His master crucified*

*Our Lord descended into Hell
And found his Judas there
Forever hanging on the tree
Grown from his own despair*

*So Jesus cut his Judas down
And took him in his arms
“It was for this I came” he said
“And not to do you harm*

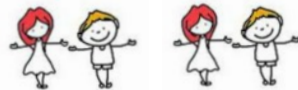
*My Father gave me 12 good men
And all of them I kept
But one betrayed and one denied
Some fled while others slept*

*In three days time I must return
To make the others glad
But first I had to come to Hell
And share the death you had*

*My tree will grow in place of yours
Its roots lie here as well
There is no final victory
Without this soul from Hell”*

*So when we all condemned him
As of every traitor worst
Remember that of all his men
Our Lord forgave him first!
Amen*

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
Day!



A MOTHER'S LOVE

"She opens her mouth with wisdom, and loving instruction is on her tongue"

Proverbs 31:26

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praised her"

Proverbs 31:28

'Stop your crying and wipe away your tears. All that you have done for your children will not go unrewarded. They will return from the enemy's land.

There is hope for your future.

Your children will come back

home. I, the Lord, have spoken'.

Jeremiah 31: 16,17

"As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem."

Isaiah 66:13

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb."

Psalms 139:13

10 Things Your Mother Never Told You

1. You made her cry... a lot
2. You wanted the last piece of cake
3. It hurt
4. She was always afraid
5. She knows she wasn't perfect
6. She watched you while you slept
7. She carried you for a lot longer than 9 months
8. It broke her heart every time you cried
9. She put you first
10. She would do it all again

NATURE NOTES

Spring has sprung!

The lovely *Galanthus Nivalis* (Snowdrops) finally came into bloom followed by winter Aconites with their yellow flowers and green rosettes of leaves – they brighten up dull days.

This time of year is truly wonderful with all the different varieties of spring flowering bulbs, especially daffodils and tulips and of course the English Bluebells. The white unnamed camellia was first to bloom (double white flowers) followed by two pinks named Felice Harris and Lady Macon. These shrubs are covered with net curtains during heavy frosts.

The greenhouse has been cleaned again and various pots and trays washed and filled with seed and cutting compost. The sweet pea seeds have already been greatly reduced in number – only 60 and although the colours are known, the variety is not!

Other seeds sown will be Annuals Mix, Cosmos, Razzmatazz, Cornflower, Larkspur (flowers good for pressing), Nicotiana (for perfume) and Pansy.



Vegetable seeds have also been purchased, but this “department” belongs to my husband! The *Buddleia Davidii* have been pruned hard and the Twisted Hazel has been trimmed as it now has many catkins and cannot be pruned.

Some jobs you can be getting on with in March and April

- *Prune roses, deadhead spring flowering bulbs, lift/divide any overcrowded snowdrops.*
- *Pinch out the tips of sweet peas*
- *Remove brown florets from hydrangeas*

Many birds have entered the garden recently; tiny Jenny Wren, a pair of robins and blue, coal and long-tailed tits.

The blue tits have inspected the nest box – will they take up residence this year?

Flori Bunda



St Nicholas Church Supports

wirral foodbank

*Please place donations of food and
other items in the boxes in the
Church porch*

A Message of 'Thanks' from the Trustees of Wirral Foodbank

In total last year Wirral Foodbank fed and supported 10,676 people – entirely thanks to the consistent and unwavering donations of food given by church collections, food drop-off points and supermarket collections.

Many of our clients are single – young and old, and come to our distribution centres on foot. We therefore really appreciate receiving smaller packets of sugar (500g), rice (500g) and tea bags (40s). In fact we have found that the 40s and 80s sizes of tea bags easily contain enough for 3 days supply for most of our families too, and that larger packs (160s and 240s) are less in demand (and can also be difficult to carry because they are so bulky).

We have received a very steady supply of beans during the last year, and now have enough to see us through for at least the next six months. However we are currently very short on;

- ***Cordial***
- ***Sponge pudding and Custard***
- ***Dried milk and Smash (dried potato)***
- ***Deodorant (men and women),***
- ***Feminine hygiene***
- ***Washing powder** (tablets preferred as they can be spilt and distributed)*

We are unable to take any more baby food or baby milk, and the Healthy Start Food Voucher Scheme is now available to many families in need. However the request for nappies continues to be high.

With our sincere thanks for all your help and donations.

NEWS & EVENTS

Burton Village Fete

The fete will be held on Saturday 11 June from 1.00pm to 5.00pm. The date coincides with the official celebration weekend for the Queen's 90th birthday, so we are hopeful of incorporating this too.

Any help or suggestions in the planning and organisation, or on the day itself, would be extremely welcome. Please contact Tricia on 336 8698 if you can help.

Puddington Village Events

The *Community Tidy-Up* is on the morning of Saturday 2 April.

A Village Street Party to Commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 12 June with Afternoon Tea (Sandwiches, Scones, Cakes etc.) and live music.

Gladstone Village Hall

GVH is sourcing a *Defibrillator* for use by residents. The plan is to site it outside the hall in a cabinet accessible 24/7 and information sessions will take place for anyone who wants to familiarise themselves with how it works. For more information please contact *Ingrid on 336 4974*

The *GVH Annual General Meeting* will be held on Thursday 17 March at 8.00pm in the Sports Pavilion

Sports & Social

The Cricket Club is seeking new members. T20 cricket is frequently played together with longer forms of the game. For more information please contact *Kevin Jackson at k.jackson@ntlworld.com*

ngs gardens open
for charity

BRIARFIELD

GARDEN

The Rake, Burton Village

The garden will be open on

Sunday 24 April

2.00-5.00pm

£4.00 Entry - Large Plant Sale

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

10 March at 2.00pm

Deanery Festival at Backford

15 March at 2.00pm

Lenten Meditation in Church

18 March at 10.00am

Deanery Committee at

Mollington & Backford Village Hall

20 April at 2.00pm

Planting of Flower Containers





The Secret B&B... in the heart of Burton Village

'Trustwood Bed and Breakfast' opened five years ago, but because the establishment has no signs highlighting its presence and relies principally on advertising in **Alistair Sawday's 'Special Places to Stay'** and reviews on **Tripadvisor**, according to Lin Friend, the proprietor of the B&B, *"some people in and around the parish have no idea where we are"*.

So who stays at this small country B&B? Well you may be surprised. Most guests come to visit family, or for weddings or other social events. Some arrive to enjoy a bit of comfort and a relaxed breakfast before they brave the grandchildren. Several have stayed at Trustwood B&B rather than with their family in order to have a break themselves and to avoid causing extra work for their relatives.

Increasingly visitors are people on weekend breaks who want to explore Liverpool and the Wirral, or who come for a golfing weekend. Guests have included vets visiting Leahurst, cameramen filming locally, bird watchers and people attending local courses and meetings.

Lin says, *"I think my favourite events are probably the weddings. We have loaned cufflinks, ties, ironing boards and irons. We've helped with little bridesmaids, watched over flowers, ordered taxis and waved them all off. Then in the morning, we've heard all about their event while serving the breakfast and trying to keep an eye on the bacon!"*

Trustwood Bed and Breakfast is in Vicarage Lane, Burton ☎ 0151 336 7118

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Trustwood Bed & Breakfast



All accommodation is on the ground floor. We have two spacious bedrooms and each has a large double bed and an en-suite bathroom.

Guests have use of a large sitting room with log-burning stove and French doors opening on to a delightful patio area with outside seating. It is warm, cosy and very quiet.

*As featured in Alastair Sawday's
'Special Places to Stay'*

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Sawday's

Vicarage Lane, Burton

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Stonebank Dive, Little Neston CH64 4DP

Gladstone Village Hall Burton & Puddington Sports Club

Village Hall Hire & Functions

☎ 336 3679

Sports Activities ☎

Cricket	336 7422
Tennis	353 0577
Junior Tennis	336 5613
Junior Football	336 6158
Walking	336 7178
Snooker	336 3268
Bowls	336 2050
Art	353 8354
Membership	07826 417 047

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

THE BURTON SOCIETY

The Society meets at 8.00pm in the Gladstone Village Hall. Everyone welcome.

Thursday 3 March: 'Travels in the Andes'

Nigel Griffiths will be giving an illustrated talk about travelling in the Peruvian Andes, Incas, Conquistadors, Railways, Condors and more

MANOR GATEHOUSE CLUB

A club for the retired or partially retired that welcomes new members and meets monthly with an invited speaker.

Various interest groups include history, music, painting, literature, travel etc.

All meetings are at 2.30 pm in Gladstone Village Hall

3 March: '300 Years of Food - Any Changes?'

Julia Hesketh

7 April: 'The Funny Side of Pharmacy'

Liz MacConnell

For information contact Rodney Lyon on **336 2128** or www.manorgatehouse.info

THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

Saturday 2 April at 10.00am - Village Community 'Tidy-Up'

Sunday 12 June at 3.00pm - Queen's 90th Birthday Royal Street Party Celebrations

Thursday 20 October at 7.30pm - Cheese & Wine Evening and AGM

Saturday 17 December at 6.00pm - Carols on the Green

For more information about events call Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288 or email puddingtonvillage@hotmail.com

BURTON AND NESTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Every second Thursday of each month at 8:00pm in Gladstone Village Hall.

For more information please contact Clive Edwards on 336 1190

BURTON WALKING GROUP

For more information please contact John Nuttall on 336 7178

BURTON MANOR

Tuesday 5 April at 7.15pm - 'Snippets & Stories from 1920'

Saturday 14 May 10.00am to 4.00pm - 'Looking at Buildings and Perspective'

Wednesday 15 June at 7.15pm - 'The Slave Ships of Parkgate'

For more information call 345 1107 or email burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

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