



# The Parish Magazine

*& Community News*

St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

June & July 2020

**SUMMER 2020 EDITION**

**IN THIS EDITION OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE**

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# *Perseverance*

*by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*

*We must not hope to be mowers  
And to gather the ripe gold ears,  
Unless we have first been sowers  
And watered the furrows with tears.  
It is not just as we take it,  
This mystical world of ours,  
Life's field will yield as we make it  
A harvest of thorns or of flowers.*

## ***The Vicar Writes . . .***



Two weeks ago, a song was released on YouTube called 'The UK Blessing'.  
<https://youtu.be/PUtl3mNj5U>

It consists of people from 65 different churches across our nation singing a blessing based upon the old benediction prayer found in the Old Testament in Numbers 6: 24-26

*The Lord bless you and keep you;*

*The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;*

*The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.*

What a beautiful prayer of blessing to be praying over our nation at this time of crisis. It has had a massive impact with over 2.5 million views already and has now received recognition from the Prime Minister. He wrote a letter of thanks to Tim Hughes the worship leader who arranged it saying:

*"At a time when our churches are closed, I am filled with admiration to hear how you have used the power of music to bring together Christians of all denominations from across our United Kingdom. Your sensational singing masterpiece 'The UK Blessing' is truly uplifting and has touched millions around the world with its message of hope and its beauty."*

Throughout this crisis, as churches we have been finding many new ways of keeping connected and keeping our faith firm and strong. Music can be a very powerful way of enabling God's words to sink deep into our hearts and minds. I do hope you've been enjoying the hymns and songs I've been sending out with the weekly services. As we sing of the truths of God, those words can help to remind us of the truth of God's faithfulness and mercy. We should never underestimate the power of prayer, the weekly 8pm candle lighting and prayers said for our nation are not the only time we can pray.

As more changes are happening and uncertainty grows around the best ways forward, whichever way forward we go, we can go in the strength of God who is our rock, our fortress, our resting place, our hope, our salvation.

*Lord, steady our feet when  
the world tries to rock and  
shake our faith.*

*When materialism beckons  
with coy hands, steady our  
feet.*

*When lust sways within us,  
steady our feet.*

*When fear tugs at our  
knees, steady our faith.*

*Show us your goodness and  
steady our hearts in you.*

*Amen.*

*Show us your goodness,  
Lord; and steady our hearts  
in you.*

*(From Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals)*

This version has children singing 'The Blessing' and is equally moving To view it please click [here](#).

I currently send out our Sunday services via email each week.

You can find these and other resources on the church website -

[www.burtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.burtonchurch.org.uk)

Cathy

Every Sunday evening since the lockdown, Christians across the world have been lighting a candle in a window at 8.00pm.

They pray for their families, communities and our nations as we bring the light of Christ into the darkness of our current situation.



*You Lord, keep my lamp  
burning, my God turns  
darkness into light.*

Psalm 18: 28 ‘

A prayer for all those  
affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate  
us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

# Mark Tanner

## New Bishop of Chester



On 12 May at 10.00am the Right Reverend Mark Tanner was announced as the new Bishop of Chester. Mark Tanner is currently Bishop of Berwick in the Diocese of Newcastle. Due to the current circumstances, the announcement wasn't managed in the usual way as a proclamation from Downing Street. However, there are several clips on YouTube about his appointment that you can watch. You can follow the link on the Chester Diocese website to see the announcement as well as greetings from around the Diocese welcoming Bishop Mark and his wife Lindsay.

Mark was originally ordained as a priest in Chester Cathedral and served his curacy at St Mary's Church, Upton between 1998 and 2001. Consequently he is already known to many within the Diocese. Cathy and Steve Helm were worshipping at St Mary's at that time and have very good memories of his ministry there. Mark will bring a new, refreshing and purposeful lead to the Diocese and church members very much look forward to the time when they can welcome him to St Nicholas' Church.

# *Reflection*

*Ash Wednesday, February 2020 - the West windows of St Nicholas' Church at night with the planet Venus rising above a crescent moon.*



*Evensong, Book of Common Prayer - Third Collect*

*Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen*

# Venus

## The Evening and Morning 'Star'

Professor Mike Bode, Astrophysicist & Church Member

Towards the end of February, Louise Farrell took a beautiful photograph of St Nicholas Church. In the picture we are looking roughly West South West just after sunset with Venus hanging above the crescent Moon. Hopefully it will not be too long before we see the church lit up like this again.

Venus is second only to the Moon as being the brightest natural object in the night sky and is capable of taking many people unawares. In some cases, it has led people to interpret this unexpectedly bright object as all sorts of things and has historically been responsible for generating many supposed UFO reports. This is despite the fact that Venus is far from being a rare sight. In the very clear skies we have been blessed with since lockdown, many of you will have noticed Venus shining brightly towards the West once the Sun has gone down.

Although called the evening or morning star, Venus is really a planet, and is, after Mercury, the second closest planet to our nearest actual star, the Sun. Venus's relative brightness in our skies compared to Mercury results from it being a much larger body with a thick atmosphere of highly reflective clouds. Being further from the Sun, most of the time it is not as easily lost in the dawn or dusk twilight as Mercury typically is.

Venus is similar in size and mass to the Earth and in the past was often referred to as Earth's 'sister planet'. This is however far from the truth. The planet hosts a much denser atmosphere than the Earth. Indeed, the atmospheric pressure at the surface of Venus is 92 times that on the Earth's surface. Moreover, over 96% of the atmosphere is composed of carbon dioxide and Venus has thus suffered from a runaway greenhouse effect. This means that its average surface temperature is over 460°C – in most places on its surface lead would melt. Recent research has indicated that there is still ongoing volcanic activity continually adding gases to the atmosphere. Not somewhere we are likely to find life!

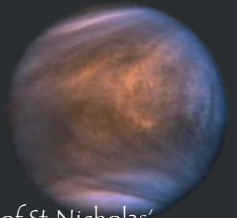
Since the photograph was taken, Venus has continued to provide a show in our western skies just after sunset, but as it proceeds on its orbit around the Sun it disappears into the solar glare as we come into June. As it comes out from behind the Sun later in the month, it then starts to re-emerge in early mornings in the East before sunrise. As the months go on, it will rise for a gradually increasing time before the Sun and by the Autumn it will become a spectacular early morning object.

For information on what planets can be seen in the sky from this area visit:

<https://www.schoolsobservatory.org/learn/astro/nightsky/maps>

If you want to know where the planets are in the sky for the rest of the year visit:

<https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/advice/skills/astronomy-guide-viewing-planets-night-sky/>







*If you like what you  
see ...*

*If you received your copy of the  
Parish Magazine & Community  
News from a friend or neighbour  
and would like to be placed on our  
mailing list, please email us at  
[burtonchurchcoms@btinternet.com](mailto:burtonchurchcoms@btinternet.com)*

*On Sunday 8 May at 9.00pm  
on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
VE Day, HM the Queen  
spoke to the Nation.*

*👂 I speak to you today at the same hour  
as my father did, exactly 75 years ago.*

*“His message then was a salute to the men and  
women at home and abroad who had sacrificed so  
much in pursuit of what he rightly called a great  
deliverance.*

*“The war had been a total war; it had affected  
everyone, and no one was immune from its  
impact. Whether it be the men and women called  
up to serve, families separated from each other, or  
people asked to take up new roles and skills to  
support the war effort, all had a part to play.*

*“At the start the outlook seemed bleak, the end  
distant, the outcome uncertain. But we kept faith  
that the cause was right – and this belief, as my  
father noted in his broadcast, carried us through.*

*“Never give up, never despair – that was the  
message of VE Day. I vividly remember the  
jubilant scenes my sister and I witnessed with  
our parents and Winston Churchill from the  
balcony of Buckingham Palace.*

*“The sense of joy in the crowds who gathered  
outside, and across the country, was profound,  
though while we celebrated the victory in Europe  
we knew there would be further sacrifice. It was  
not until August that fighting in the Far East  
ceased and the war finally ended.*



2020

*HM the Queen - Windsor Castle*



*King George VI*



*Broadcasts to the Nation in  
1945 & 2020*



1945

*Balcony of Buckingham Palace*

*“Many people laid down their lives in that terrible conflict. They fought so we could live in peace, at home and abroad. They died so we could live as free people in a world of free nations. They risked all so our families and neighbourhoods could be safe. We should and will remember them.*

*“As I now reflect on my father’s words and the joyous celebrations, which some of us experienced first hand, I am thankful for the strength and courage that the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and all our allies displayed.*

*“The wartime generation knew that the best way to honour those who did not come back from the war was to ensure that it didn’t happen again. The greatest tribute to their sacrifice is that countries who were once sworn enemies are now friends, working side by side for the peace, health and prosperity of us all.*

*“Today it may seem hard that we cannot mark this special anniversary as we would wish. Instead we remember from our homes and our doorsteps. But our streets are not empty. They are filled with the love and the care that we have for each other. And when I look at our country today, and see what we are willing to do to protect and support one another, I say with pride that we are still a nation those brave soldiers, sailors and airmen would recognise and admire.*

*“I send my warmest good wishes to you all.”* HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II



1940 - 1945 Service Men & Women Risked All



Winston Churchill  
Franklin D Roosevelt  
Joseph Stalin



1945  
VE Day Street Party



# Memories of 8 May 1945

## *Shirley Reade*

Shirley, who was very young at the time, remembers a street party in the Village between the Old Post Office and the White House and then later on there was a dance in the Gladstone Village Hall.

## *Ann Hudson*

I was 11 years old and at a street party, no bombs, no aircraft machine gunning the playground and having to lie flat on the ground. For the party the dining room chairs were taken into the street. Each child had one scoop of ice cream and a long thin narrow yellow food we had never seen. How to eat it, how to eat the inside? What is it?

## *John Roe*

Six weeks short of my fourth birthday, it was daylight and I heard a new sound. I asked my mum what it was and she told me that it was the church bells ringing because we had won the war and Hitler was dead. My mother made some triangular flags sewn on a tape stretched from our front bedroom window down the fence and back up to next-door's bedroom window.

We made weekly visits to Liverpool and then across to Wallasey to visit my grandpa. I saw the progressive bomb damage in Liverpool as many shops in Church Street became flattened, but Coopers the grocers remained for the duration. My grandpa's house in Wallasey received blast damage many times, but they undertook makeshift repairs and continued to live there.

## VE Day Baking

Lots of the children in Burton Village discovered VE day recipes and got baking (amazing they've got flour!) and then had their own garden tea parties. Some even dressed appropriately as land girls, evacuees and code breakers.



*In Costume*



*Emelia & Oscar Baking*



*Lucy Baking*

# We'll Meet Again

On 8 May after the Queen's address to the Nation at 9.00pm, several households at the top end of Burton village met in the road at appropriate distances to join together in singing 'We'll Meet Again'. The Elliott family led the singing brilliantly as everyone sang and waved their flags. It was a short moment of togetherness that helped raise people's spirits.

The song 'We'll Meet Again' was loaded with meaning in 1945 for those who sang and so it was again for Burton villagers who sang together, socially distanced but together in song.

Over the holiday weekend, Burton and Puddington residents put out flags, bunting and balloons to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.



Flags Flying in Burton



Even the Sheep join in at Puddington



Bunting Out in Burton



Shrubs Decorated in Puddington



Balloons Were Out in Mudhouse Lane

## Bishop Wilson School's Own Commemoration Video



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

See Bishop Wilson School's VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video

[https://www.facebook.com/BishopWilsonPrimary/videos/245833316631652/?p\\_a=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/BishopWilsonPrimary/videos/245833316631652/?p_a=SEARCH_BOX)



Behind the clouds there is  
always sunshine!  
This envelope contains a little  
bit of sunshine just for you.  
You are our sunshine!  
Plant me and watch me grow  
God Bless - Bishop Wilson PTA x



Bishop Wilson School PTA, with young helpers Katie and James, are spreading a bit of sunshine by leaving sunflower seeds in Burton's red phone box, for anyone to grow,



The School  
Supporting  
NHS  
Workers



# How Observant Are You?



*# find themz treasure rocks*

Have you noticed the painted rocks which have appeared around Burton village lately, painted by one of our young residents?

When you find one, you are asked to find a new location, take a photograph and post it on Facebook or Instagram with hashtag "find themz treasure rocks".

There's a rock for the NHS, another reads "Bee Happy" and another "Here Comes the Sun".

You might be able to work out where we saw this one first but it's now in a new location. Look out for it.

The young man who paints the rocks says there will be more to find soon, so why not join in the game?



# Photography ...

Since the last edition of the Parish Magazine and in response to its appeal, the publishing team has received a number of very high quality photographs which will be used in future editions. Whilst this is not a competition we are seeking to build up a small catalogue of images that can be used by the church. Consequently, further submissions are sought from photographers willing to submit their creative and artistic work. We are seeking pictures centred around the following categories:

- St Nicholas' Churchyard
- Parish Landmarks & Architecture
- Sunrise & Sunset
- Agriculture , Farming & Rural Craft
- Flora, Fauna & Wildlife
- Lanes & Byways
- The Four Seasons



Photographs must be original and submitted digitally. By submitting a piece of work the photographer agrees to grant St Nicholas' Church a royalty-free licence to use the image.



We would like to use as much local photography as we are able in the production of the Parish Magazine.

Primarily we are seeking village and rural landscape photographs. Images should avoid showing the faces of individuals. We will endeavour to acknowledge and credit the photographer of images used. When submitting photographs via email please confirm your name together with a brief description of the subject matter. Thank you.



Please submit your photographs to: [burtonchurchcomms@btinternet.com](mailto:burtonchurchcomms@btinternet.com)

# Life Under Lockdown



The team responsible for producing the Parish Magazine recently asked for your thoughts and reflections on life under lockdown and how it may have affected people of all ages.

We received quite a number of responses and it has been interesting to learn about how some of the enforced change of lifestyle has affected people, how they have adjusted and how they have been using their time.

We also must remember that for many people, both locally and farther afield, the lockdown has undoubtedly been difficult.





# No Exams - Just Training, Baking & Dancing Under Lockdown

Emma and Lucy Ashcroft - Burton

Our lives in lockdown have had many ups and downs, but we have got through it together with the help of our family.

I'm Emma and I am in Year 11. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, I am unable to complete my GCSE exams. Although this is frustrating, it will show that my hard work over the last few years has paid off and now I don't have to stress about revising for lots of exams too.

I am very glad to live in Burton because it has many different routes for both cycling and walking. The routes are usually quiet and I love the scenic views.

To keep ourselves fit and healthy, Lucy and I have been doing online workouts from Fitbit and Lucy's trampolining coach which have been quite tiring ... and I have learnt to juggle!



I'm Lucy and I am in Year 8. Whilst we've been off, I have been set heaps of work by my teachers and it can be quite stressful at times, but overall it isn't too bad. A week ago, it was my 13th Birthday and although we have to stay indoors, it was a day to remember.

I had pancakes for breakfast and I was surprised when I got a trampoline. This was extra special as I train at Birkenhead Trampolining Club and I miss it very much. Over the last few weeks, Emma and I have been baking many different scrumptious recipes.



On VE day, I made Union Jack cupcakes and I offered them to some of my lovely neighbours and they all seemed to enjoy them. For entertainment I have been teaching Emma tiktok dances, which have been a highlight of our lockdown.

# Not Going to School & Missing Friends - 'I Hope It's Over Soon'

Isabelle Denye - Burton

Hello. My name is Isabelle Denye and I live in Burton.

I am eleven years old. I would like to tell you what lockdown is like from a child's point of view.

The pros of lockdown are:

- I am allowed to have a bit of a lie-in (I am usually in my pyjamas dropping my sister off at her high school at 7:20 am!)
- I can see my sister, my dad and my mum all day
- The weather has been quite nice, we've had the pool out this week
- I am beginning to learn new skills (for example cooking and baking)
- I go on lovely walks, we have the woods opposite our house
- I can still Face Time my friends and family
- I can go in the garden and do my schoolwork

The cons of lockdown are:

- Not going on holiday
- Not being able to see family/friends
- I have to stay two metres apart from everyone, and I like to hug
- Not going to school (Bishop Wilson Primary School)
- I can't go to the cinema, shopping, swimming, or anywhere I like

Luckily for me, there are more pros than cons, but that may be different for you.

When we were first going into lockdown, I was scared because I was worried I was going to get the virus. To my relief, the numbers are going down, but the virus is still there. I hope that lockdown will be over soon, so I can see my friends and family, but I'll have to wait and see.



I am doing online work, so it is harder than usual without a teacher by my side, but the system that they have set up is very good.

I hope everyone is okay and well.

# VE Day, Life Under Lockdown & Being Together Again Soon



Ann Hudson - Mudhouse Lane

At this time of writing, during the global crisis of Coronavirus our hearts and prayers are with all peoples throughout the world who are grieving with the loss of loved ones.

As we face the daily challenges of reorganising our daily lives and means of communication, our most grateful thanks go to the St. Nicholas' Church family for all the care, support and help it provides. We've appreciated the telephone calls and conversations, the village team link and the Friends of St. Nicholas' Church, as well as our neighbours and trades people for deliveries of milk, eggs, meat, medical prescriptions, garden help and gardening supplies.

On a personal note we feel very privileged, thankful for our blessings, the absolute joy of the garden, yoga and of course Zoom.



We have recently celebrated VE day during the current crisis, the hidden enemy we cannot shoot! And for some of us we are able to recall the war-time years looking back to 8 May 1945.

A street party; no more bombs, no instant lying down flat on the ground at the sound of overhead enemy aircraft machine gunning our infant school playground. No more sleeping in an indoor air-raid shelter under the staircase, waking up crawling around in one's own urine and vomit, sick with fear.

On the day of the street party, our dining room chairs were taken into the street. Each child had one scoop of ice cream and a long, thin yellow food we had never seen. How to eat it? How to eat the inside? What is it? A prize was offered for the best painting of this strange food.

When lockdown is over how will we, as a community, church family and friends of St. Nicholas' Church, together with village friends, celebrate all together?

# So Much Time Under Lockdown To Enjoy Flowers & Hedgerows

Jenny Schwarz - Mudhouse Lane

One of the advantages of lockdown has been all the time in the world on a daily walk to stop and stare, to really look at one's surroundings and admire nature's bounty. How often have we had the opportunity to look closely at the wayside flowers, to marvel at their detail and beauty and on return, not only have the time to look up the name but also to learn something about them.

The hedgerows have been burgeoning with pretty wildflowers like the clouds of Cow Parsley and Green Alkanet which has tiny bright blue flowers and is a lovely contrast to the Cow Parsley that it grows alongside.



There is also masses of Jack By The Hedge. It has white flowers and is beloved of foragers. It's also known as garlic mustard and the leaves, when crushed, do smell of garlic. A few leaves added to a dish are said to enhance it with a mild garlic flavour - my tip of the week! It prefers a south facing hedge and appears on only one side of the lane where it is prolific but not



Burgeoning Cow Parsley

at all on the other side. It's also at the end of my drive so I must try a few leaves to check the flavour in my next dish.

Another plant with pretty small flowers is Common Fumitory also known as Smoke Of The Earth. It is a scrambling plant in the poppy family with crimson-tipped pink flowers. The 'smoky' or 'fummy' origin of its name comes from the translucent colour of its flowers, giving them the appearance of smoke or of hanging in smoke, and the slightly gray-blue haze colour of its foliage, also resembling smoke coming from the ground, especially after morning dew. It has been used as a medicine in Europe since the Middle Ages although it has been known since antiquity, being mentioned by Pliny that rubbing the juice in one's eyes causes excessive tearing. In modern Britain it is used as an eyewash to treat conjunctivitis. Historically it has had many uses to treat skin diseases, rheumatism and to cleanse the kidneys but be warned - the plant is poisonous.

Maybe as you take your daily exercise you will also find the time to admire the wayside flowers and not mind so much when they invade the garden as weeds!

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# The District Nurse

Circa 1924  
to 1950

**John Roe**



Nurse Jones & Her Motor Cycle

Photograph used with permission

Before the Gladstones left Burton, Mrs Maud Gladstone and Mrs Earle from Puddington Old Hall established a local Nursing Association. Mrs Olive Higgin (née Earle) took over from her mother. The first district nurse was Nurse Jones employed from 1924 to 1950.

Nurse Jones lodged in Willaston and rode a 'vintage' motorcycle to carry out her duties. She served Burton, Puddington, Ledsham and Two Mills.

Nurse Jones was paid by villagers' subscriptions of six pence a week [40 of these coins to the £1]. In Burton, the subscription was collected by Mrs Alf Kemp from Woodside Cottage, next to the Gladstone Village Hall. The collection was on a weekly basis as many of the subscribers were lowly paid farm workers' wives, and monthly collections would have been too difficult to pay.

When Pear Tree Farm was vacated by the last farmer in the mid-1940s Mrs Olive Higgin bought the property with some of her father's trust money.

Nurse Jones moved in about 1945/6 and resided there until her retirement in 1950.

By the time she came to live in Burton she was driving a dark blue Ford 8 car. There was a telephone installed, quite a rarity at the time, and when Nurse Jones was out a blackboard by the back porch told folk where to phone and leave a message with someone on her working plan for the day. She had regular homes where she would call knowing that she would be given refreshments or meals before going home for the night.

One of her hobbies was making Christmas presents for the children's ward at Clatterbridge Hospital. My father was always involved in helping her make dolls' houses which she then furnished. Other folk helped her making toys and dressing dolls. When she retired, she moved to Saughall and eventually moved to Crabwall Hall Nursing home where she died, well into her 90s.

Prior to the emergence of the Nursing Association there were local midwives. One was resident in 'The Nook' in Burton [now Dunstan Cottage] and her name was Dorothy. In 1920 she delivered Dorothy Elizabeth Gray [named after the midwife] who was known as Betty. She was the third child of Mr and Mrs William Gray of Hawthorne Cottage, in Burton.

Some older readers may remember Betty Gray riding a butcher's style bicycle with a front mounted large basket in which she carried home grown greengroceries for sale to her regular customers both around Burton and as far afield as Neston.

All the goods were grown by Betty and her brother Harry Gray on their market gardens in Burton until they both retired in 1978/9.

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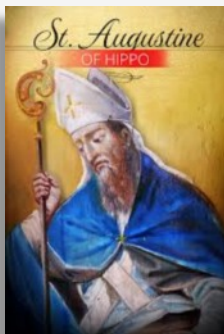
*It seems so long a time since the Mothers' Union members have all been able to meet together. The lockdown is proving to be both surreal and distressing, though absolutely necessary.*

*We do hope that everyone is well and coping. At least many of us have been able to appreciate the natural world and all its wonders, thanks to the beautiful weather we have enjoyed recently. We send you our love and prayers, trusting that you and your families remain safe and well.*

*We would like to share this ancient prayer with everyone:*

*“Watch thou Dear Lord with those  
who wake or watch, or weep  
tonight, and give thine angels  
charge over those who sleep.  
Tend thy sick ones Lord Christ.  
Rest thy weary ones.  
Bless thy dying ones.  
Soothe thy suffering ones.  
Pity thine afflicted ones.  
And all for thy Love's sake.  
Amen”*

*Who would have imagined that this evening prayer from the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD by St. Augustine of Hippo (North Africa) could be so appropriate today?*



## Thank You ...

*from Ruth Chesworth*

Ruth Chesworth has been a fixture in Burton Village for just over eighty years! She is genuinely, as they say, 'Burton born and bred' and has lived at Corner House in Mudhouse Lane all of her life. She went to school in Burton, attended Sunday School in Burton and has been a church member throughout.

Over all these years Ruth has held many positions in the parish including Verger, Churchwarden, a long-standing PCC Member at St Nicholas' Church, School Trustee and Secretary of School Trustees as well as Mothers' Union Member, to name just some of the roles she has undertaken.

It came as no surprise therefore, that on Tuesday

19 May, whilst taking their normal daily exercise, several people passed by Corner House to sing 'Happy Birthday' to help Ruth celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Ruth wanted to send a big **'Thank You'** to everyone who sent her cards and presents to acknowledge her special birthday at a time when she wasn't able to meet with friends and family as she might expect to be able to do when a significant birthday comes around.



An occasional car park takes on a beautiful and diverse new life.

## *A New Meadow for Ness*

*Jessica Mehers, Garden Technician  
for the WilderNess Area*

Please keep checking our website <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/> and social media channels for updates.

Some visitors may have noticed that in the past three years we have not regularly mown the main patch of grass in the Upper Garden.

This area boasts the finest views in the garden, but it was previously cut throughout the growing season so that it could be used for additional car parking during events. However, as it was so rarely used for parking (and as we have places in other fields available for our busiest days), we decided that the space could be better used.

Meadows are a rare natural habitat, created by fires and grazing by large herbivores. Many more exist as man-made habitat of actively managed grasslands, with the most species-rich receiving little fertiliser. Such meadows are full of flowers and insects and were common before the Second World War throughout lowland Britain, but in the past 75 years, over 95% of our meadows have been lost.

*Ness*  
BOTANIC GARDENS



Increased agricultural productivity through ploughing, drainage, fertiliser and herbicide application, and early cutting for silage means that species-poor rye grass-dominated fields have replaced the traditional species-rich meadows. These changes in farming practices alongside a lack of public awareness and protection have resulted in the loss of 7.5 million acres of meadow in less than a century.





Meadows and other species-rich grasslands now cover less than 1% of the UK. As a consequence, all new meadows that can be created are helpful to restoring habitats.

Meadows not only look very pretty they also support a huge range of wildlife. As well as native wildflowers and grasses they are important habitats for fungi, bees, flies, beetles, spiders, moths, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, bats and birds and here at Ness we are aiming to make the garden as wildlife friendly as possible.

Our Lower Meadow now contains over 75 different native plant species. The number has increased from the 23 species originally sown through a mix of natural colonisation and help from our wildlife volunteer group. They have sown and planted new species

over the years, adding greatly to the diversity of the meadow. The volunteers have also monitored the progress of the meadow by regular wildlife recording. Easily recognised plants to look out for include Cowslip, Oxeye Daisy, Knapweed and Yellow Rattle. Many interesting invertebrates are found in the Lower Meadow too nowadays. It is great for all sorts of pollinators and it is an especially important habitat for butterflies and moths, including Wall Brown and the Five Spot Burnet Moth. We are also very lucky to have Harvest Mice in the garden (we regularly find their woven grass nests) and have visiting Barn Owls and other raptors that hunt in the long grass.

We started our new meadow creation process back in 2017... we didn't cut the grass! At least not until the end of the summer. The long grass attracted a lot of invertebrates and it was great for butterfly net practice during our Mini BioBlitz that year.



© Barbara Allen



Management by mowing or grazing is essential to the balance and diversity in meadow grassland. Without management stronger grasses and more competitive weed species take over and eventually a meadow will turn into scrub then woodland.

Our meadows are cut at some point through the summer. The resulting hay is left to dry on the meadow which allows seeds to drop. Once it is dried it is removed and used to feed livestock through the winter. Removing the hay decreases the fertility of the soil.

Often meadows are used for grazing animals in autumn which helps flower diversity by reducing grass vigour even more, but sadly stock grazing is not always practical!

As we don't have any sheep or cattle our meadows have been mown and then harrowed. Disc harrowing is where a tractor drags thin blades through the upper surface of the soil to disturb the grass roots.

To further increase the number of native species in the Upper Meadow we have transferred fresh cut hay from the Lower Meadow and spread it about, in order to encourage seed dispersion.



We also sowed a native wildflower meadow mix designed for sandy soils. These included seeds for assorted flowers including Yarrow, Wild Carrot, Birdsfoot Trefoil and Clover as well as native grasses such as Crested Dogtail and Smaller Cat's-tail.

There are encouraging signs of greater diversity in our new meadow already. Last year we had lots of new Yellow Rattle growing. This is a wonderful plant for meadows as it is semi-parasitic on grasses and it helps other wildflowers to get a foothold by reducing the competition from the vigorous grasses.

As time goes by we will keep monitoring the meadow and hopefully more and more native species will establish themselves there. We are most grateful to all the volunteers who have helped create the new meadow and we hope it continues to provide a wildlife haven over the years to come.

# BURTON MERE WETLANDS

Despite some very slight changes in lockdown restrictions in England, Burton Mere Wetlands remains closed to the public for now. Our priority is to ensure that we only re-open when we have everything in place to keep our members, visitors, volunteers and employees safe.

We must also make sure that the wildlife that calls our site home is ready to receive attention after a couple of months completely on its own. You'll have seen reports from round the UK of birds nesting on and near normally busy paths (as well as some weird and wonderful places), so it's going to take us some time to check and make sure they are safe too.

We ask that you bear with us in these difficult times and check our reserve website, Facebook and Twitter regularly for the latest information, as well as the RSPB Covid-19 updates here.

If you are exercising on public paths around the wider RSPB Dee Estuary reserve we urge you to be alert for nature and please be extra careful around it - especially on beaches (where birds such as terns nest), paths (where plants have emerged, and birds may have nested) and open landscapes (ground nesting birds and other wildlife can easily be disturbed by people and dogs off leads).

Thank you. We look forward to being able to welcome you back when it can be done safely and responsibly for all people and wildlife concerned.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RSPBBurtonMere/>

[https://twitter.com/RSPB\\_BurtonMere](https://twitter.com/RSPB_BurtonMere)



*Tern*



*Dogs on Leads*



*Dee Estuary*

## Dovecote Nurseries

For all your gardening supplies including plants, compost, plant feed, pots, planters and lots more. Open 7 days in summer.



## Burtens at the Manor

Open 10.00am-2.00pm Selling sandwiches, salad boxes, crisps, cakes and drinks as well as acting as a small convenience shop selling bread, milk, vegetables, fruit, eggs, bacon, meat.

Only 2 customers in the café at any onetime. There will be hand sanitiser available and contactless card payments are preferred.

## GVH Tennis Courts

Due to Covid-19 there are several procedures that must be adhered to.

- Players from the same household may play together within the court enclosure
- Players from different households may only play one singles match at a time
- You must take sanitiser/disinfectant to clean hands, gate handle on entry & exit
- Players from separate households need to mark & handle only their own balls
- You must use your own tennis racket – no sharing
- All users are responsible for ensuring the courts are kept clean and safe
- Do not leave any rubbish or belongings at the courts
- It is advised that 10 minutes is left between groups on the courts

Usage of the courts will be reviewed in due course so please read the new notices placed by the entrance to the courts.

If the Government issues any new advice regarding safety in outdoor play areas, then that must be adhered to. Do not leave your home to play tennis if government advice means you should stay at home because you or someone you live with has or has had symptoms of COVID-19, or if you are in the most vulnerable category and have been advised to shield from the Coronavirus.

Although a booking system isn't currently in place, if you're a member you can join a WhatsApp group to post timings.

Contact Jude on 07932 538215 to be added. To join the club email Cath Rogers, [crogers@gladstonevillagehall.org](mailto:crogers@gladstonevillagehall.org)

Find out  
what's been  
going on  
down the  
Garden Path

How fortunate to have the garden and the chance to relax and enjoy the beauty in these difficult times.

At the moment the garden is a riot of colour, namely rhododendrons, aquilegia (Columbine), forget-me-nots, bluebells, lily of the valley and three lilacs, the latter providing such a lovely perfume. There are also pots containing a small selection of auriculars, also in bloom. The eryngium (Sea Holly) have survived the winter and a lovely hosta is looking stunning in a tub. The three new dahlias are growing on well but cannot be planted out until all danger of frost has passed.

There is a small border behind the greenhouse which again needs attention but there is a beautiful clematis (Nelly Moser) growing up the fence which draws the eye away from the 'wild' border.



*Clematis  
Nelly Moser*

Despite our sterling efforts to keep the garden under control there are many tasks to be completed

Harry Lauder's Walking Stick is again growing out of control and, rightly or wrongly, will have to be pruned. The ribes have ceased flowering and need a trim as they are growing too close to a shrub rose. Ground elder continues to be a menace and will certainly need to be attacked!

Buff Beauty (apricot colour) is showing masses of new growth and Alec's Red in the front garden has buds showing. As the name suggests it is a deep rose with a lovely perfume.

The sweet peas continue to grow on albeit slowly. With the flower show in mind there are 110 plants. As the show will not go ahead there will (hopefully) be plenty of bunches to give away.

The birds continue to visit – greenfinches, goldfinches, blackbirds, two robins and three baby robins who are almost the size of their parents. The



buzzards can also be seen on occasions.

*Three Baby Robins*

Jobs to be getting on with ...

- Continue weeding
- Even if it rains, remember to keep the tubs and pots watered

Enjoy the garden and keep safe.

*Flori Bunda*

Supporting the Local Community

# Dovecote Nurseries

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Burton

Make the most  
of your garden  
this summer  
including your  
borders, patio,  
pots and all your  
planting areas.

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grow bags and fertiliser are  
still available.



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Little Neston,  
Neston and Parkgate

Ask About Delivery  
*(minimum spend required)*

336 5748

[www.dovecotenurseries.com](http://www.dovecotenurseries.com)



# News from Cheshire West & Chester Libraries



All our buildings are currently closed but we are working hard behind the scenes to support you and the wider community during this time.

Library staff have been redeployed to several services including the Ellesmere Port Food Hub, preparing emergency food parcels for vulnerable residents. Other team members are supporting our vulnerable residents, working in the Virtual Support Hub where we are making calls to assist residents with food, medication and other needs. We also have staff working with the Registration Service.

Since 23 March over 1340 new users have registered for e-Lending products and there has been a 61% increase in e-Lending issue figures. We have also gained 461 new followers on Facebook and our most popular video has had 11.3k views. The team have responded to 840 electronic and online enquiries since 23 March.

Our homepage has been revised and is now a single point of access for all our digital services.

We are providing a programme of regular 'virtual' activities – replicating what we would offer within our libraries: rhymetimes, storytimes, digital animation, coding, craft sessions, book recommendations by staff, Lego club and creative writing.

To keep up to date with what's going on and to keep in the loop with new interactive initiatives and activities that we've got planned, follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/cwaclibrary> and Twitter <https://www.twitter.com/cwaclibraries>

## Join Online

Spread the word – you can join the library online and access eBooks, audio downloads, eMagazines and our eResources\* straight away without having to collect a library card.

Simply fill in the online joining form and then email [libraries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) confirming your name, date of birth and postcode, to receive a temporary card number and password.

This temporary card will be valid initially for one year and can be exchanged for a physical card once libraries are back open.

We've thousands of eBooks, audio downloads and eMagazines for you to borrow. If you can't remember your PIN/password, please use our password reset feature. Alternatively, email [libraries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) for assistance.

Please share this information with friends and family who might like access to these services.

## eBooks – Cloud Library

We have been purchasing a lot of new eBook stock (for both adults and children) to keep up with fresh demand. These are free to library members.

For ease of access, download the Cloud Library app via the App Store or Play Store and login with your library card number and PIN/password. The full collection is also available below.

## Audio downloads – RB Digital

To access audio downloads, you must first register on the RB digital website, then select 'register' in the top right hand corner (this will be a figure head icon on mobile devices).

If you have previously registered on OneClick Digital you do not need to re-register, as your app will automatically upgrade to the new enhanced RB digital app.

For ease of access download the RB digital app via the App Store or Play Store. On first use you will be asked for your registration details.

## eMagazines – Magzter

Cheshire Libraries offer a wide range of eMagazines, which are free to library members. To access these, you must first register on the Magzter website and then create a library user account.

You can read magazines online in your web browser on your computer or laptop. Simply log in and choose the magazine you wish to read. Alternatively, if you can download the Magzter Library app via the App Store or Play Store, to store magazines on your device.

## Home schooling and distance learning resources

To help with home schooling, we've added a lot of useful resources (for all ages) to our eResources page, so that all the information you need is in one place.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries/eresources.aspx>

And finally, don't forget to check out our Books and Reading section too, as there are a lot of free eBooks and eAudiobooks listed there for your enjoyment.

## National Shelf Service

CILIP, the UK's library and information association, has announced the launch of the National Shelf Service, a new daily YouTube broadcast featuring book recommendations from professional librarians. The National Shelf Service will feature one librarian and one book recommendation each day. The broadcast began on Monday 6th April and will continue every weekday at 11 a.m. The initiative focuses on helping children and families discover new and diverse reading experiences.

The books themselves will be picked specifically to encourage children to enjoy diverse characters and authors from diverse backgrounds. The initiative will also support children's creativity and well-being as they build their literacy and confidence.

# Tales of the Wirral Foodbank



The rate of change at the Wirral Foodbank has slowed as the council-led coalition running the Emergency Food Hub settles in for the long haul. There are still things to learn and do better, but in April the Hub delivered food to more than 7,000 households (16,000 people), 90% of whom are shielded, together with food vouchers redeemable at local supermarkets to a further 4,000 households (13,000 people).



The foodbank itself has provided 28,000kg of food to this effort – twice what was provided in April 2019. This is being merged at the Hub with food from other sources.

Food donations at supermarkets have bounced back to February's levels although, of course, food donations from churches and other organisations have largely converted to cash donations (thank you).

Those donations are being used to make bulk food purchases as the foodbank inventory runs down. British Gas bolstered stocks in April with several thousand kilos of food donations. This looks likely to continue through to July.

The foodbanks' trustees continue to guide the organisation's changing response and to plan for the future. Unfortunately, no one sees the need for emergency food support to die down any time soon.

We can continue to support our local foodbanks with donations:

Wirral <https://wirral.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

West Cheshire <https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

*Thanks to all of you for your support.*





## SEW SCRUBS FOR HOSPITALS IN WIRRAL AND CHESTER

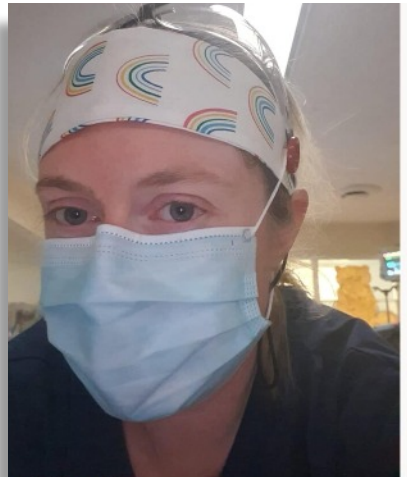
*If you can sew, why not join the Facebook group that sews scrubs for local hospitals? This is part of a national group called*

### ***For the Love of Scrubs***

*For more information click [here](#)*

*The drop off for scrubs is any Co-op store.*

*Alternatively, Deborah who lives at The Gallery in Burton Village is the Community Area Manager for the Co-op and any sewn scrubs can be dropped at her house.*



**Thank You**

# **Burton & Puddington's GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL**



## **HOME COOKED MEALS**

With support from Gladstone Village Hall, retired caterer Mary Walton is cooking delicious meals delivered to your door. This is an offer aimed at older members of our community. The price, to cover the cost of her quality ingredients, will be £5 per meal.

Call the Burton Community Help hotline on 0151 665 0867, leave a message and we'll get back to you. We need orders in by Sunday each week. Meals will be delivered on a Wednesday.



## **GLADSTONE RADIO**

Gladstone Radio with brilliant Burton DJ Steve Lord has been great!

28 May was our last Gladstone Radio. With the lockdown easing and the National Applause ending, we thought it would be good to finish as well. Thank you to all our phone guests over the past nine weeks.



## **VIRTUAL QUIZ**

The next virtual quiz on Friday 19 June. Table rounds will be available from 7.30pm with the main quiz at 8.00pm. <https://www.facebook.com/events/268331801050738/>



## **LEARN SPANISH DURING LOCKDOWN**

Sarah, who usually teaches Italian at The Hall, is starting a new online 'lingochat'. Adult beginners Spanish. Mondays 8.00 to 8.45pm at £5 per household.

Chester@lingotot.com



## **RECIPES**

Local resident Louise Lord, from Can Do Cupcakes, has started posting a weekly recipe on our Facebook page, perfect for keeping families entertained and fed! Join in and send us a picture of your creations.

<https://www.facebook.com/gladstonevillagehall/>



## **CHAIR YOGA**

To keep his class limber, Andrew Collin has posted a chair yoga session on YouTube, search 'Chair Yoga with Andrew 1'. Of course, any moves followed are at your own risk. If you enjoy the session, why not consider signing up once the class is up and running again.



Classes are Monday & Thursday at 9.30am. Contact Andrew on 07802 737258

*Information  
from Police  
Community  
Support Officer  
Linda Conway*



*Over the past few weeks, I have been approached by several Burton residents who are concerned about youths who appear to have been building a mountain bike trail in Burton Woods, which is National Trust property.*

*I have managed to apprehend a few of those responsible and also seized spades and saws from them and advised parents.*

*Although they appear to be polite, they are causing damage and putting others at risk due to the speed at which the bikes are being ridden.*

*I have informed our Rural Crime team who will also give the location some attention and also let the National Trust know.*



*Many thanks to the residents who have contacted me about this. I will continue to patrol the woods when on duty.*

*The ever-popular Burton Marsh Greenway is also receiving extra attention from the team at Neston. It is attracting lots of walkers and cyclists, especially in the current Covid situation. Groups of cyclists are being challenged by police as people should only be going out in a group if they are living in the same household. Obviously the same applies to groups of walkers.*

*Cyclists and walkers should abide by the latest Government guidelines and stay safe.*

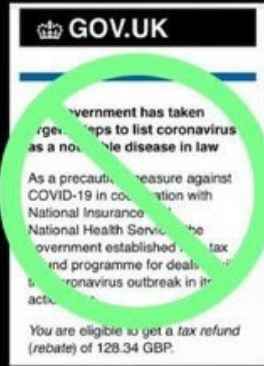
**Linda Conway, PCSO 20410**



HM Government

## Coronavirus

Be aware of refund scams.  
If you receive a text or email  
from HMRC offering you a  
tax refund, it's a scam.



## BEWARE HOAX NHS WEBSITE



Action Fraud have become aware of a hoax copy of the NHS website.

The website includes harmful links that lure people who are after looking for COVID-19-related health tips. Once you click on one of these links, a pop-up box appears asking if you want to save a file called 'COVID-19'. If saved, your device is infected with malware which can steal passwords, credit card data and much more



Please remain vigilant to online fraud.

If something doesn't seem right,  
**'Stop. Challenge. Protect.'**



You can find official NHS COVID-19 information here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/>

# From the Parish Registers



## Funeral

7 May

- Brian James Smallthwaite

20 May

- Christopher Thatcher Harding



## Hardy Perennials

Next Lunch Dates

Not Out to Lunch unfortunately!

Meetings Suspended

Stay Safe!

POLLARDS INN, WILLASTON

12.30PM FOR 1.00PM

Tel: Vivienne 336 7435

Tel: Linda 336 5017

## FLORIST OPENS IN BURTON MANOR

Flourish Flowers is now open at Squirrel Lodge in Burton Manor.

Flourish Flowers was established by Angela Adlard in 2011 and is a preferred Florist for 'Oh Me Oh My', Thornton Manor, Tower Hill Barns and are also the resident florist at The Red Fox in Thornton Hough.

They concentrate mainly on creating bespoke flowers for weddings and events, but Flourish bouquets are available online for next day delivery. Drop into the shop to see their range of flowers for sale or sign up for one of their flower-arranging workshops (dates to be confirmed).

Flourishflowers.uk or email  
shop@flourishflowers.uk

## Holy Communion

### Soup & Sandwich Lunch

For the last 9 years we have been holding an informal Holy Communion service once a month for those who find getting up the steps to church a bit of a challenge.

Initially we started in the Burton café and then moved to the Glass House at Burton Manor for a while until we settled in the Sports and Social Club where the facilities make it a perfect venue.

Several of the volunteers who have helped making the soup and sandwiches and hosting the lunch over the years have now stepped down...so a big **Thank You** to all those who have helped so faithfully and also to the new volunteers who have made up the teams so that we can continue to provide this very special service.

Many thanks from  
Cathy and those who enjoy coming along each month.

Gladstone Village Hall, Sports Pavilion, & Grounds

**ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED DUE  
TO GOVERNMENT  
CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS**

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Burton and Puddington Sports and Social Club

Welcomes New Members

With active social calendars and great facilities, why not join?

For Social Club membership or Cricket, Tennis, Bowls, Snooker  
or the Walking Club call us on 0151 665 0875

To sign up to our Newsletter it's [www.gladstonevillagehall.org](http://www.gladstonevillagehall.org)

To join our bar team call us on 0151 665 0875

To follow us and keep in touch



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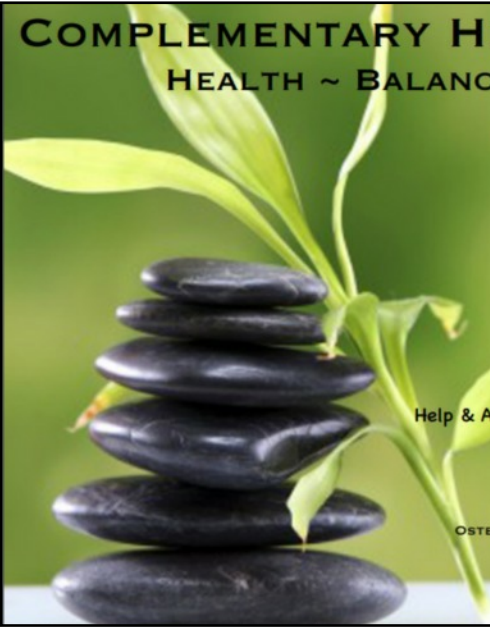
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*Our professional staff have a wealth of experience arranging funerals for bereaved families, serving Wirral and Merseyside.*

*At Charles Stephens our aim is to ensure that you have the minimum of worry and inconvenience at a time of bereavement. We are keen to offer advice and support wherever necessary to help with your funeral arrangements.*

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Available Monday to  
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## YOGA CLASSES

Classes are held on Tuesdays at Gladstone Village Hall, Burton 7.00pm to 8.30pm. - Hatha Yoga

Also on Mondays & Thursdays at the Burton Sports and Social Club - Chair Yoga 9.30 am to 10:30am

Beginners and returners are all welcome and equipment can be provided



Contact Andrew Collin

Tel: 07802 73 258

✉ [andrewcollin@btinternet.com](mailto:andrewcollin@btinternet.com)

## YOGA

**ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED DUE TO GOVERNMENT'S CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS**  
For Your Own Well-Being'  
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## *Community & Society Information*

**DURING THE PRESENT NATIONAL EMERGENCY SOCIETIES  
ARE NOT PERMITTED TO MEET**

### **THE BURTON SOCIETY**

Meetings in the Gladstone Village Hall at 8.00pm  
Contact Janey Griffiths 0151 336 3621

### **THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY**

For more information about events  
Contact Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288

### **BURTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

Membership is open to all residents of Burton  
An annual charge of £5 per household is payable from April  
[burtonresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://burtonresidentsassociation.co.uk)

### **BURTON AND NESTON HISTORY SOCIETY**

For more information about events  
Contact Robert Thrift on 0151 336 1771

### **BURTON WALKING GROUP**

New members always welcome - for more information about activities  
Contact John Nuttall on 0151 336 7178

### **BURTON BRIDGE CLUB**

For further information about future meetings  
Contact Hazel Huxley 0151 336 2288.

### **FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS**

For membership information and events:  
Contact 0151 336 6154 or email, [burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com](mailto:burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com)

### **LOCAL POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO) LINDA CONWAY**

You can contact Linda by emailing [linda.conway@cheshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:linda.conway@cheshire.pnn.police.uk) or by calling her  
Police Mobile Number 07824 609048.

You can also reach Linda at: [www.cheshire.police.uk/little-leston-and-burton](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/little-leston-and-burton)

Facebook: Little Neston and Burton Police

Twitter: LilNestonBurPol In an emergency, dial 999.

For general enquires and non-urgent assistance, dial 101.

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