



BURTON : PUDDINGTON : SHOTWICK
PARISH MAGAZINE
& COMMUNITY NEWS
CHRISTMAS & WINTER
2024/25

IN THIS EDITION
BURTON AND SHOTWICK CHURCH NEWS
PUDDINGTON 'CAROLS ON THE GREEN'
CHARITY FUND RAISING EVENTS



THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON CH64 5TG
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SHOTWICK CH1 6HX

Christmas

A SAVIOUR IS BORN



**“Unto us a child is born, unto us
a son is given”**

Meet him, alongside others, at a Christmas service near you.

He is always there for you.

www.burtonchurch.org.uk www.shotwick.org.uk
www.achurchnearyou.com

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 MORNING WORSHIP

WEEKLY - WEDNESDAYS

10:15AM HOLY COMMUNION

1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH

8:45AM HOLY COMMUNION

3RD SUNDAY OF MONTH

6:30PM EVENSONG

(NB 4:00PM FROM NOVEMBER)



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

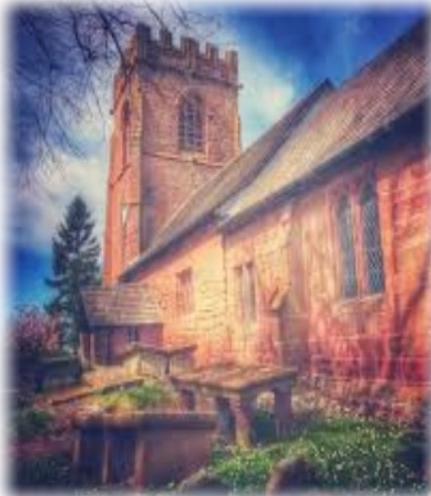
11:30AM MORNING PRAYER BCP

4TH SUNDAY OF MONTH

11:30 HOLY COMMUNION BCP

5TH SUNDAY OF MONTH

11.30AM HOLY COMMUNION BCP





SCRIBO



CHRISTMAS - IT TOOK A WHILE TO CATCH ON!

REVD JOHN COYNE

Believe it or not it took a long time for the celebration of Christmas to catch on – it was possibly 300 years before it became widely marked as a Christian festival! Whilst Easter was focused on from the beginning, Christmas – celebrating the birth of Jesus – had a slow start.

How times change! Today it's as much a secular holiday as it is a specifically Christian celebration, yet there is something intrinsic to the Christmas event which makes me glad it is so universally popular.

The well-known figures of Christmas nativity scenes demonstrate how the event impacted such a wide range of people:

- A young couple – Joseph and Mary – had their lives turned upside down by the announcements which led to that first Christmas.
- Shepherds, working people who lived on the edge of society and worked long hours, could have missed out, yet they were drawn into Christmas early on.
- Powerful politicians were enraged by news of the first Christmas. Herod carried out murderous actions for fear of a little, newborn king ... who might just upturn world order.
- Wise men/kings were truly the outsiders. As people from a different culture who were led to the event (late to the party), they came from a considerable distance to celebrate the birth of a baby.

A baby? Surely God had a better idea? A baby? Yet the gifts from those wise men tell a larger story: as the baby grew, so awareness of the significance of his birth would grow with him. Gold, frankincense and myrrh were never available in Mothercare. Strange gifts, with myrrh the most troubling: why would so-called wise men give a newborn what was essentially an embalming fluid?

This child himself was the real gift, given for all humanity. CS Lewis, at one time a convinced atheist, initially thought of Christmas as a beautiful and compelling story ... which was untrue. Yet Lewis changed his mind. He came to regard Jesus's advent into the world as true Truth.

Each Christmas, millions hear the astounding words from John's Gospel – an eye-witness account. John 1: 1-5 says:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

John claimed that, through the Word, God had made his dwelling with us. Amazing – yet he chose to do so not by overwhelming us (after all, many did not even recognise him), nor by using a disguise before a great reveal. In what's known as the 'Incarnation', God came as he is – humble, vulnerable, beautiful and true.

Jesus always gives us the opportunity to walk away from him. But as he wins people's hearts, his capacity to enter into a relationship with those who will receive him by faith remains undiminished. As John Ch 1 continues:

To all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

For all these reasons, I happily believe that Christmas is for everybody. The outsider is drawn in, the doubter is met with respect, the vulnerable are cared for and every element of human society is welcome. I therefore offer, not an argument but an invitation, to allow yourself to catch a fresh wonder about Jesus – the essence of Christmas.

If you're reading this message in Burton, Puddington, Shotwick, London, USA or New Zealand, meet him, alongside others, at a Christmas service near you. He is always there for you.

John

<''))><





FROM THE
PARISH
REGISTERS

Burton

Funerals

10 September

Austin Reynold Huxley

24 September

Keith William Jackson

3 October

John Chesworth

22 October

John Leonard Fox

20 November

Susan Mary Smith

21 November

Murdoch Mackay Kennedy

Baptism

1 September

Florence Iris Morgan

***Advent Service for All
Sunday 1 December 9:30am
Christingle & Croissants***



***Coffee, Croissants,
Pastries***

*from 9:30am plus
children's crafts*

Supporting

***Charles Thompson's Mission
Christmas Appeal***

PLEASE DONATE

Toiletries & Selection Boxes

*Donations can be left in
church until 8 December after
which they will be taken to the
mission in Birkenhead*



St Nic's Nippers

PRE SCHOOL FUN

St Nicholas' Church now runs a bi-weekly pre-school group for parents, grandparents & carers with pre school children.

If you have a responsibility to look after a child or children please come along and meet others in Burton.

We get together on alternate Monday mornings in the comfort of Gladstone Village Hall in Burton from 10:30am to 12 noon for activities, play, stories, learning and much more.

The next meetings dates are :

Monday 9 December : Monday 23 December

Monday 6 January : Monday 20 January

Monday 3 February : Monday 17 February



No need to book.

For information please contact: Sheila Dennison
St Nicholas' Church Families & Children's Worker
sheilad.stnics@gmail.com





Celebrating 300 Years ...

We have had a very busy start to the new school year. We had our SIAMS inspection at the beginning of term which was a chance for the Bishop Wilson community to share and celebrate the things that we do in school and beyond. The inspector was impressed by lots of things, but was moved by the way the children engaged with the school vision and values. You can view the report on our school website <https://www.bishopwilson.cheshire.sch.uk/page/siams/28124>

We spent a fabulous day celebrating 300 years of Bishop Wilson School and we were delighted to welcome so many visitors. There were lots of old photos and it was amazing to listen to the stories of ex pupils and teachers who have been part of the Bishop Wilson family over the years. Friends were reunited; memories were shared; cake was eaten and we have now added lots of details to our timeline of the school.



We currently have building work underway to support our introduction of a baby room in our Preschool/Early Years hub. We expect this to be ready for use early in the new year which is very exciting and will enable us to offer education, development and care from 9 months to 11 years.

Our classes have been very busy too. Eagles took part in a football competition; Owls went on a visit to explore the Stone Age; and Kingfishers and Robins have done lots of outdoor learning. We also celebrated harvest with a service in church. Our new reception children have settled in to school life incredibly well, so well in fact that they were confident enough to sing a song at the harvest service. The service was led beautifully by our worship leaders who chose the theme of fair trade. We would like to thank all parents and carers who supported the school council request that we collect food donations for West Cheshire Food Bank. Those donations were gratefully received.

Everyone is invited to join us for the following events:

10 December 2.30 pm - infant nativity - in church.

13 December 3.15 pm - PTA Christmas Fair - at school.

17 December KS2 2.30 pm - KS2 Carol Service - in church.

11 February 2025 - Parents and Carers service in church at 2.30 pm

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to keep up to date. [Click Here](#)

Suzanne Roberts **Head of School**

The Burton Society

Thursday 5 December

Christmas Gathering

Visitors are very welcome. Tickets £3 from Renee Syme 336 5852, (members' entry is free).

This year we will be entertained by Chris Lett and her ukulele band while we sip wine and eat mince pies.

There will be a raffle, a quiz and the popular 'Whisky Skittles' (bring £1 coins and money for the raffle).

All proceeds from the evening are in aid of Wirral Hospice St John's.

We have a happy village occasion in store!



Thursday 6 February

'The Early Neston Collieries'

Anthony Annakin-Smith will give us no less than seven reasons why they were remarkable.!

***7.30pm in the Gladstone Village Hall
Everyone is Very Welcome***



The Puddington Society



Puddington Village Carols on the Green Friday 20 December 6:00pm

Please join us for our community festive celebrations, where we gather for a traditional evening of mulled wine, mince pies and carols around the village Christmas tree. An event for all the family - be sure to keep an eye out for our special red and white visitor...!



***Everyone is
welcome to
join us for
Christmas
Carols, Mince
Pies & Mulled
Wine***



HOSPICE
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Celebrating 35 Years of Care

There is no charge for this event. However, we will be taking donations on the night for a very worthy cause: The Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Backford, Chester. This charity maintains a personal connection in the village and your support is greatly appreciated.

St Michael's Church Shotwick News

A big thank you to Arthur who does so much at Shotwick. Arthur has had a stent operation and made a remarkable recovery. Arthur works high and low from roof maintenance to levelling the flag stones prior to the installation of the knave carpet.

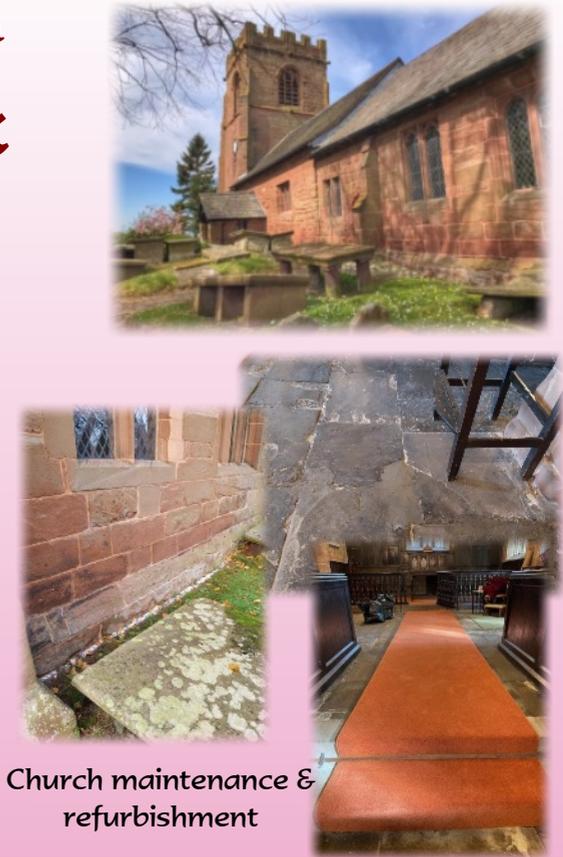
Remembrance Sunday

A few photos that capture to some degree the heartfelt outdoor part of St Michael's Remembrance service lead

by Rev Alan Leach.

Fortunately, the weather held as the Last Post was played and five wreaths poignantly laid on behalf of the church and others, including one on behalf of Councillor Simon Eardley.

Many thanks to all involved.



Church maintenance & refurbishment



Remembrance Sunday
at St Michael's

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Mothers' Union is a global Christian movement working with people of all faiths and none to develop communities, strengthen families and advocate for change.

We are a loving organisation open to anyone, and supportive of everyone. You don't have to have children, be married, be a woman, or be a churchgoer to join us.

There are different ways to belong to Mothers' Union depending on what works best for each person.

To find out more: [Click Here](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Our meetings are held at the Sports and Social Club Pavilion, in Burton

Thursday 5 December 10:00am
Coffee Morning - Mothers' Union Stall
Burton & Puddington Sports & Social Club Pavilion

Wednesday 11 December 2:00pm
Advent Carol Service - Neston Parish Church

Wednesday 15 January 2:00pm
AGM followed by an illustrated talk
'Travels in Peru', Nigel Griffiths



2024 in the Kitchen Garden

By Louise Emberson

Ness
BOTANIC GARDENS

It's been a funny year in the Kitchen Garden – it started off well with most of the vegetable seeds successfully germinating in the greenhouse, followed by good growth after potting on. Planting out and sowing seeds directly in the outdoor beds was however another matter! A higher than average rainfall early in the year and chilly temperatures meant that the soil was too wet and cold to plant or sow seeds when it would normally be done. When it did warm up enough to sow, slugs and, I suspect also rabbits, had a field day! Achocha, parsley, bean and onion plants amongst others were reduced to stumps overnight. It has been a bumper year for slugs which is great for the wildlife that feed on them such as birds, frogs, toads, ground beetles and slow-worms. Partly for this reason we don't take any measures to control slugs – they're a valuable food source for other species and many species of slug simply feed on organic matter such as leaves and dung, performing an essential recycling and decomposition process.

Despite a slow start, many vegetables did well this year, such as a couple of new varieties of broad bean and some unusual leafy greens (such as vegetable mallow and Aztec broccoli), as did French and runner beans, peas, potatoes and beetroot.

Other crops fared less well for various reasons – sweetcorn was doing well, and I even managed to harvest some cobs, until squirrels discovered them. I had to smile when I saw one struggling up the lawn with a cob almost as big as itself. Courgette plants were either eaten by slugs or sulked and died, I imagine because of the lack

of heat. But the prize for the best wildlife eating competition this year must go to all the caterpillars which reduced about 20 large healthy kale plants to just stalks in a matter of days! I was happy to sacrifice the kale as it has been a really bad year for butterflies. The Ness wildlife volunteers have recorded that numbers have been down two thirds from the same time last year and similar reductions have been observed all over the country.



Projects for this year have included a makeover of two of the flower beds – previous plants were removed and rehomed and have been replaced with plants chosen for their ability to attract solitary bumble and honeybees and other insects such as moths, butterflies, hoverflies and lacewings. Many insects are in decline so planting these types of plants is more important than ever. They all play an important role in pollination essential to produce many vegetables and fruit and help to keep insects such as aphids in balance and provide food for other wildlife such as birds.

We spent time in the orchard giving all the apple trees a thorough prune and started a monitoring process whereby we record data such as the health of the tree, flowering, fruit yield etc to help us look after the trees in the future. With the aim of creating a more biodiverse habitat, we also started a process of removing grass from around the base of the trees and replacing it with Ness compost and bark mulch or a mix of plants including nitrogen fixing plants such as clover and birds foot trefoil and other insect attracting plants. This year the apples have cropped well, particularly Bramley's and Spartan.

Projects for next year include adding a new compost bin and a comfrey column, which will make comfrey liquid – a great pick-me-up for plants. More edible perennials will also be planted.

Overall, it's been a great season and despite the losses there has been plenty of fruit and vegetables to harvest which just reinforces my belief that there is more than enough to go around for ourselves and all the wildlife with which we share the planet.



THE
BOTANIC
KITCHEN

Down the Garden Path with Flori Bunda *A Winter Wonderland !*

At the time of writing, the above headline is untrue, yet.

The hydrangeas are still blooming, albeit in their lovely hues of dark red.



Spring flowering bulbs have been planted a little later than usual.

The garden needs much attention due to the illness of my hubby being unable to assist me. However, under supervision the large roses have been pruned by one-third to save any wind rock on the roots.

For the first time, the dahlias have been lifted, their tubers washed and dried. They are now covered in newspaper in the greenhouse, awaiting their fate next Spring.



Sweet Pea seeds were purchased and will probably be sown in late December in square pots.

Agapanthus (Alba) seeds were gathered and await sowing indoors.

Harry Lauder (Twisted Hazel) is again out of control and received harsh pruning (noted in last article) again.



Galanthus Nivalis (snowdrops) are eagerly awaited. However, there are plenty of buds on the camellias. They were well watered and fed in the Summer.

The blackbirds, chaffinches, blue/great tits have returned to the garden. A greater spotted woodpecker made a brief appearance. Robbie Robin and Jenny Wren have also been spotted.

Tasks to be getting on with:

- Keep weeds under control
- Make plans for your garden

Happy Gardening !



Flori Bunda

Tales From ^{Wirral} foodbank



It's early November and a couple of things that affect Foodbank clients are in the air (so to speak). The first is that the weather's getting cooler and so households are facing the fuel or food dilemma. The Foodbank has started to see a small increase in the number of clients, probably because of this.

The second effect is the October budget. This had quite a few items that had a big effect on the lower paid, most of them in a positive way. The Household Support Fund that councils use to help those facing financial hardship has been extended until March 2026. This is a major tool that Foodbank Plus (the link up with the Citizens Advice Bureau) uses, so it's good to have the longer-term certainty about it.

Following representations from Trussell, the Jacob Rowntree Foundation, and others, the level of debt repayments that can be taken from a household's Universal Credit payment each month will be reduced from 25% to 15%. Benefits will increase by 1.7% from April 2025. The minimum wage will rise by 6.7% for those 21 and over and by 16.3% for 18-20 year olds from April 2025. There's also a commitment for the minimum wage to become the same for 18-20 year olds as for those 21 and over.

The increase in employer's national insurance contributions has been criticised as putting pressure on jobs and/or wages in the longer term, which could have a negative effect.

Despite the more positive outlooks from the budget (many of which arrive in the Spring) food donations are still sorely needed and can be made at many supermarkets. The Wirral Foodbank is looking for cereal, tinned vegetables, custard, pasta sauce, and tinned fruit, while the West Cheshire foodbank is looking for tinned meat/meat meals, tinned vegetables, instant mashed potato, biscuits and coffee. Both Foodbanks also accept monetary donations which they use to bulk buy food as needed and to provide other services to Foodbank clients. Regular donations especially help the foodbanks with their financial planning..

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

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

Thank you to all those who care enough to help provide support for our neighbours. It is greatly needed and always appreciated by the foodbank's clients, volunteers and staff.

Ian Birch, Volunteer, Wirral Foodbank

To volunteer or donate just [Click Here](#)

Burton Mere Wetlands

By Sheila Ryde of RSPB

It's Autumn, going on Winter!

At this time of year, a lot of work is being done at Burton Mere Wetlands. It is the time to cut back all the summer growth, but this management has been hampered this year by the very wet state of the ground. This has meant far less use of the tractor and a lot more work done by hand by the volunteer warden team. Much of this work is done mainly in areas that are not visible by our visitors, but you will see all the clearing that has been done in front of the hides and screens for better viewing.

You may have recently noticed some exciting reprofiling and new island creation work taking place across the reserve. The work at the far end of the reserve has now been completed and will soon be completed on the main scrape. They are also clearing ditches to improve drainage. These are fantastic habitat improvements for the coming seasons, and our winter wader species, such as Black-tailed Godwit, Ruff, Lapwing, Snipe and Redshank are already enjoying the new muddy areas.

November is the month to see Starlings as the light fades in large numbers, murmuring as they come into roost in the reedbed, often harassed by our local Marsh Harriers.

What do we expect in the winter? The spectacle of around 15000 Pink-footed Geese returning daily from their feeding areas to spend the night on the saltmarsh continues throughout the winter with up to 18 Whooper Swans in the area.





All the wintering duck species are present and looking very smart in their new plumage, and recently our visitors have been lucky in seeing a Green-winged Teal among our Eurasian Teal.

Marsh Harriers continue to be frequent visitors and occasionally are joined by Hen Harriers and even possibly a Short-eared Owl. The latter two species are seen more often out on the saltmarsh from Parkgate or Denhall Quay. High tides on the estuary are the best time to catch up with the birds on the saltmarsh, and the highest tides this winter are due 31 January, 1 & 2 February.

November and December are a good time to visit the reserve and order your Christmas goodies from our mail order shop. All purchases made on the reserve help towards the upkeep, and you get free delivery on all orders over £15.

It would also be a good time to visit our Café and sample the homemade "Winter Warmers" and seasonal delights such as Mince Pies and Turkey and Cranberry Sausage Rolls.

A date for your diary is the Big Garden Birdwatch weekend, 24-26 January. More details and how you can get involved can be found on the main RSPB website or pick up a leaflet from your local reserve.

Finally, February usually sees the return of our breeding Avocets and they start to arrive anytime from the middle of the month.

For regular updates, sightings information and news about the reserve, check our website blogs at rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands and follow us on Facebook and Twitter (search RSPB Burton Mere) – we hope to welcome you here soon.

Pictures RSPB



 An advertisement for the RSPB shop. It features a large image of a Robin ceramic feeder with a blue tit perched on it. Text includes "giving nature a home", "15% OFF when you spend £25 before 1 May", and "Save nature while you shop". At the bottom, there are three smaller images: "RSPB Garden furniture", "Summer robin mugs", and "RSPB Gole rainforest chocolate".

giving nature a home

rspb

April 2019

15% OFF when you spend £25 before 1 May

Robin ceramic feeder See page 42

Save nature while you shop

RSPB Garden furniture See page 47

Summer robin mugs See page 5

RSPB Gole rainforest chocolate See page 11

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Burton & Neston History Society



Burton & Neston History Society

Monthly meetings are held at:

Church Hall

Parkgate & Neston United Reformed Church

Moorside Lane, Neston

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 12 December 2024

The Royden Shipbuilding Family

Speaker: Mike Royden

Thursday 9 January 2025

Wirral Aviation 1900-1956.

Speaker: Neil Heather

Thursday 13 February 2025

Neston's Great Slave Mystery 200 years on

Speaker: Anthony Annakin-Smith

Talks are held on the second Thursday of each month at 8:00pm, until May 2025.

For details of other meetings in our programme

[Click Here](#)

Come Along to One of Our Meetings

Visitors are very welcome to attend our meetings and it is free on the first occasion.

Refreshments are served after the talks, and doors open at 7.30 pm





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**Every Sunday 26 January
to 16 February**

11am - 4pm

Adults £5 Children free



PLANTS FOR SALE



TEAS



More information at ngs.org.uk

Neston Library Event

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Walking Further Together – On Tour



Walking Further Together is an interactive exhibition of the lived experience of poverty, designed to challenge stigma and shape how we respond to the increased cost of living.

The exhibition has been developed as part of a recent collaboration between the Social Justice Chester research team and Community Inspirers from the West Cheshire Poverty Truth Commission. Following its successful launch in Chester, local residents now have the opportunity to drop in and see parts of the exhibition in libraries.

Catch Walking Further Together at:

December – Ellesmere Port Library – Monday 16 to Friday 20 December

January – Neston Library – Monday 20 to Friday 24 January

At each location one of the Community Inspirers who helped create the exhibition will be in attendance on the Thursday, 10:00am-1:00pm, to chat to visitors and answer questions.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/libraries/find-a-library/neston-library>

Cheshire West & Chester Mobile Library

THE MOBILE LIBRARY VISITS
BURTON AND PUDDINGTON
VILLAGES



Puddington from 10:40am to 11:00am

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Fridays: 20 December - 10 January - 31 January
21 February - 14 March - 4 April

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Fridays 9am – 4.00pm
Saturdays 9am – 2.00pm

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Community & Local Society Contact Information

THE BURTON SOCIETY

For more information please contact Renee Syme on 0151 336-5852.

THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

For information on activities & events please contact puddingtonsociety@gmail.com

BURTON & NESTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Church Hall, Parkgate & Neston United Reformed Church,

More information at: <https://sites.google.com/site/burtonnestonhistory/home>

BURTON BRIDGE CLUB

Burton Bridge Club meets on Monday Evenings

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

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

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