

Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



The gen on the gee-up happening now at Burbage's much-loved Horsepool

IT is one of the most peaceful spots in Burbage, revered by a public who love its tranquillity and appreciate the way it helps the community preserve village roots and tradition. The Horsepool is and always will be a site commanding the special care and attention of Burbage Parish Council.

That demands a year-on-year programme of maintenance. And once in a while – since you can't stop a tree-based environment growing in stature - a major makeover. The Horsepool is getting that facelift, in the first large-scale improvement in 30 years. The overall aim is to make the site more accessible and useable for more people and the council is indebted to a local landscape architect who has freely volunteered his expertise and time to help plan the work required. Deadwood will be cleared and trees and shrubs that have become overgrown or are in the wrong place are being removed or trimmed back, improving views and making the site safer and more convenient for visitors. New gates (there will be one giving access from Church Street) and better footpaths will extend a "walk-in" invitation to passers-by. There will be some new yew hedging and additional trees will be planted to replace any that are being taken out.

A turfed section will encourage wildlife and flowers near a revamped pond area, with a walkway offering a close-up view. Attention



Village focal point: the Horsepool in Burbage is a landmark of peaceful reflection

is also being paid to hard landscaping: wooden and stonework features will be smartened up or replaced. Incorporating public art into designs will be considered and seating within the site preserved where possible, with some additional benches installed. Feedback from parishioners on what's going on at the Horsepool is welcome – call the Parish Office or pop in if you would like a closer look at the design plans.

- THE racket of a chainsaw is not the nicest noise in the world. You may have heard these raucous (though fast and efficient) tools operating in your neighbourhood. If so, be patient. Legislation to protect nesting birds applies from early spring, after which time crews can't touch habitat that may be in use by feathered friends trying to raise families.

That's one reason why the winter window is so heavily used by arborists; the other is that cutting growth when the sap is not running is kinder to trees and shrubs.

Essential treework has continued since autumn across the Burbage parish, ensuring that dead, diseased or dangerous material is removed and healthy re-growth encouraged. It's a rolling process covering every tree or hedge growing on parish-council owned land, including recreation fields, play areas, open spaces and cemeteries. Rest assured that your parish council does not remove trees, limbs or shrubbery without good reason and that every operational site has been carefully surveyed. If you are concerned about any work you see going on, do contact the parish office and talk to a staff member.

Save a queue . . . pick up this cue (and a hoe too)

SNOWDROPS are showing off and crocus and daffs can't wait to compete . . . can there be any doubt that spring is somewhere around the corner? To suggest winter has finished with us yet would be reckless. But plenty of gardeners are shaping up for the new season ahead, ordering seeds, plants and materials and perfecting those armchair dreams before better weather and increasing daylight allows them on to the patches of soil where ambitions become reality.

No room at home to expand on gardening ideas? Always fancied the extra space and freedom of an allotment plot? Now is a very good time to get on to the council's waiting list of applicants seeking a tenancy. Our allotment season runs from 1st April and so early spring is an optimum time when plots may become vacant. However, that inevitably triggers a surge in applications, so the advice is to get in early to secure a place in what is currently a manageable queue.

If you are up to a challenge, here's a further opportunity. Many allotments, as indicated, are let from April – but we have two plots (one at each of our sites at Woodland Avenue and Blackways Meadow) available for immediate occupation to anyone prepared to give them the tender loving care they require. The double bonus is that no charge would be levied until the regular renewal date, offering valuable rent-free weeks in which to bring the plots back to good health. Get in touch with the parish office if you are interested in learning more details or to arrange a viewing.

- **A FURTHER closure of the busy Lutterworth Road in Burbage, already suffering prolonged disruption because of bridge works, roadworks and adjacent housing development, means drivers can't currently use the link to and from the A5 Watling Street. The latest closure is scheduled to last until 26th February and diversion routes are posted.**

THE elected membership of the Burbage council is: Sketchley ward: Stan Rooney (chairman), Mike Hall, Amanda Wright, Christopher Ashton. Lash Hill ward: Ann Hall, Howard Wilkins, Stuart Bray, Mark Nickerson, Roger Johnson. Stretton ward: Peter Morris, Liz Rooney, Keith Lynch, Paul Williams. Tilton ward: Richard Flemming, Lucie Hoelmer, Noel Robinson, Tony Iliffe. St Catherine's ward: Peter Wallace, Mary Sherwin, Andrew Clayton

COUNCIL and committee meetings at the Millennium Hall in Britannia Road normally start at 7.30pm and follow this rota, subject to change if clashing with Bank Holidays: First Monday of month – Parish Council; second Monday, Planning Committee; third Monday, Finance & General Purposes Committee; fourth Monday, Planning Committee. Meetings in the weeks ahead: Monday, 12th February, Planning; Monday, 19th February, Finance & General Purposes; Monday, 26th February, Planning. Monday, 5th March, Annual Parish Meeting (7pm), Parish Council (7.30pm); Monday, 12th March, Planning; Monday, 19th March, Finance & General Purposes; Monday, 26th March, Planning.