

Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



March 2021

Signs of environmental improvement

Colourful and informative signs have been installed on Parish Council managed green spaces where special effort is being made to improve biodiversity for the benefit of wildlife and the environment.

The signs, produced with the support of a Borough Council grant, explain how designated areas of grassland are being tended to encourage species-rich habitat, and show images of some of the flora and fauna that might be spotted in and around them.

A QR code links to the Leicestershire **NatureSpot** website, whose dedicated Burbage pages list species recorded in recent surveys and allow visitors to add their own observations.

War Memorial on YouTube

In partnership with Burbage Heritage Group and with the support of the Revd Andrew Hall and the Revd Dr Tim Woolley, the Parish Council's Remembrance Working Party presented a live-streamed filmed tribute and short service to mark the centenary of the unveiling of Burbage War Memorial on 26 February.

The presentation is now available to view online via the Parish Council's website or by using the link **War Memorial 100 Years On - YouTube**

Organisers are hopeful of holding a public commemorative event at the War Memorial later in the year, if Coronavirus restrictions permit.

Farmers' Markets planned

Market organisers have thanked the Parish Council for the use of Britannia Road car park for their March event, which proved very popular.

Please check the Parish Council website for details of markets planned in April and May.

Contact us: The Parish Office remains open for business but is temporarily closed to visitors, in line with National Lockdown restrictions. If you need to get in touch, you can call **01455 637533** or use the post box inside the front sliding door between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday except during the Easter bank holiday weekend, when the building will be closed from 12noon on Thursday 1 April until 9am on Tuesday 6 April. The best way to make contact is to email info@burbage-council.co.uk

Burbage Biodiversity Area

Burbage Parish Council is managing this area with wildlife in mind, to create a more beneficial environment for all sorts of the positive nature we are trying to create.

- Planting native species trees and hedging
- Putting up bird and bat boxes
- Not using chemical treatments
- Creating wildlife corridors and islands by allowing grass to grow longer in designated areas along borders and around trees

These are important results and form part of the landscape character of the village. They are a natural place, as well as being important for mental wellbeing.

They are also an important element in supporting biodiversity, absorbing CO2 and combating climate change, as well as reducing the risk of flash flooding.

Old grasslands should be left to support more species than any other habitat.

Meetings for the month ahead

Council meetings will continue to be held via Zoom on Monday evenings until further notice. Any changes to this arrangement will be publicised online and in subsequent newsletters. Joining instructions and confirmed timings will be published with an agenda 3 working days ahead of each meeting on www.burbage-council.co.uk

At the time of printing, meetings were scheduled as follows:

- Finance & General Purposes Committee, 15 March
- Planning Committee, 29 March
- Parish Council, 12 April
- Planning Committee, 19 April
- Finance & General Purposes Committee, 26 April
- Annual Parish Council, 10 May
- Planning Committee, 17 May

Chairman Zooms through the year

The Annual Parish Meeting, held via Zoom on 1 March, gave residents a chance to hear about the work that Burbage Parish Council has carried out in the past year.

Chairman of the Council, Cllr Richard Flemming, said: **"I must be the first Chairman of Burbage Parish Council who has not held a face-to-face full Parish Council meeting throughout their tenure."**

"Who would have thought 12 months ago that Zoom or Teams or Face Time would be the media that allowed us to link up with family, friends and colleagues?"

"Although we have faced nearly a whole year of lockdown or social restrictions, I am pleased to say that the business of the Parish Council has continued unabated. If anything, we have been even busier."

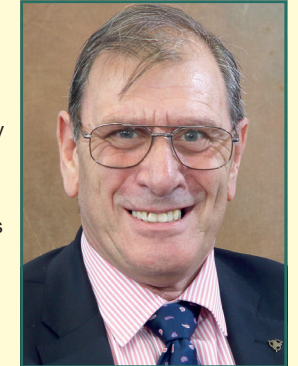
"The Council set up its own Coronavirus Sub Committee which has had to take tough decisions as to what has been able to remain open and what has been necessary to close but I am pleased to announce that with new rooms now completed at Millennium Hall, we will be able to provide improved facilities for the whole community as soon as Government restrictions are lifted."

"The lockdown has also seen the postponement of local elections, including the referendum to adopt the Burbage Neighbourhood Plan. It is hoped that they will be able to go ahead once Government restrictions have eased."

Cllr Flemming listed the streaming of an online Remembrance service and the provision of new play and fitness facilities at Colts Close recreation ground among the highlights of 2020.

He also drew attention to an ongoing biodiversity project offering environmental improvements across Parish Council managed green spaces and the creation of a new VE Day Memorial Garden outside Burbage Millennium Hall, both of which have been supported by borough Council grants.

After thanking fellow Councillors and Council staff for their contribution to the year's achievements, Cllr Flemming ended by saying: **"Finally, I want to thank all the residents of Burbage for their support during this pandemic, especially the teachers, healthcare staff, our local police force and those who have to work during these troubled times and cannot work from home. Hopefully summer will bring us a degree of normality, whatever the new 'normality' will be."**



Litter picking thanks

Keeping the Parish a pleasant place in which to live and work is a community effort and the Parish Council is very grateful to volunteer litter pickers who help to do the dirty work, clearing streets and verges across Burbage and adjoining areas, working hard for the benefit of the whole community. **Thank you all!**

Council vacancies

A vacancy for a Councillor to serve Lash Hill Ward on Burbage Parish Council is to be filled by co-option, as the number of required elector requests for an election to be held was not met.

An election has been called for a vacancy in St Catherine's Ward, which is due to be held on 6 May this year, along with other local government elections, if Government restrictions allow.

Parish help for victim support

A donation of £250 is to be made by the Parish Council to help pay for support packs for victims of crime and vulnerable people across the parish.

The packs are to be produced and distributed by Burbage PCSO Darren Stretton.

A similar donation made by the council last year funded 20 packs which have all benefitted residents identified by PCSO Stretton.

The next Parish Council newsletter is due out on 10 May. For more news, updates and links to useful sites, please visit our website www.burbage-council.co.uk