

Parish Council update report: February 2020

The Parish Council has included a number of new initiatives in its financial plans for 2020-21, with an emphasis on the environment and our community.

Sadly, a number of ash trees have been identified which will need to be felled during the year but it is anticipated that new trees will also be planted.

And it is hoped that work will be undertaken to our village hall to improve its energy efficiency, such as new windows and/or doors.

There are also plans to enhance the adjacent car park with a permeable surface, tree protection measures and spaces for cycle parking.

As can be seen below, plans are being developed for the community to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day – including events on Saturday 9th May, publications and a lasting legacy.

The Parish Council is pleased that many members of the community are now involved in some of these initiatives. Particular thanks are due to the working group of parishioners who continue to make good progress with plans for the commemorative bench project.

It is anticipated that the War Memorial will have been cleaned in time for VE Day and that the new bench will have been completed in time for the 100th anniversary of its unveiling and dedication.

We hope that many parishioners take will part in with the community litter-picking day in February as well as volunteering to look after local Nature Reserves. If you would like to help in any way, or need to contact the Parish Council, please contact our Clerk, Petra Norris, via 07943 536065 or buritonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

The Parish Council continues to study all planning applications in the parish and we have continued to report faults with the fencing along the top of the Recreation Ground to Network Rail. But we have been unsuccessful in our Appeal to Government Inspectors to get motorised vehicles removed from some of our lovely Rights of Way.

As previously suggested, parishioners are encouraged to check the health of any ash trees on their land. Not all of them will necessarily be infected and it could be a shame if resistant trees are felled unnecessarily. Advice can be obtained from the Parish Council's Tree Warden, Matt Marriott via 07713 575398 or sequoiatreeservices@gmail.com

Our village hall continues to be a very popular venue but please tell your friends and business contacts about it and make contact with the Hall Manager, Steve Franks via 07878 027845 or buritonvillagehall@gmail.com

And the 'Dottie Tots' Nursery School is still looking to increase its intake and hours of operation. More details are available via www.dottietots.co.uk or via Karen Burrows on 07872 040 614.

Events in Buriton to mark the anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe: Saturday 9th May

This year sees the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and there is a special Bank Holiday weekend to mark the occasion.

This provides opportunities for communities to arrange appropriate events and a group of parishioners has responded to calls from the Parish Council to develop ideas for activities to be held in Buriton on Saturday 9th May.

It is hoped that there will be something for everyone – young and old – including a photograph of the entire community outside the church at 11am.

This anniversary marks the time when peace emerged after nearly six years of war and represents an important milestone in history. Activities here will include opportunities to reflect on the enormous sacrifice, courage and determination of people from all walks of life who experienced this dark period – but the tone will be one of celebrating peace, rather than marking victory or triumphalism.

The day will commence, at 10am, in the church, with a series of readings that will look back not only to 1945, but to the time before and to times afterwards, with hope and renewal. Words of many writers will be borrowed including recollections of those living in the parish at the time and people evacuated here from big cities.

At 11am it is hoped that everyone will assemble for a photograph of the entire community before being led by the Liss Band to the village hall and recreation ground where children from Buriton Primary School will provide themed performances and displays of artwork.

There will be opportunities for everyone to bring picnics to the recreation ground or to pop into one of the pubs for refreshments before an afternoon of family games on the recreation ground.

There are plans to bake Buriton's very own 'Peace Cake' for this occasion and in the evening a ticketed Barn Dance will be held in the Manor Barn.

In addition, it is also hoped to create a 'trail' in parts of the parish in the weeks prior to 9th May – allied to a small display of silent soldiers – and families are encouraged to research their own WW2 stories and contribute to a 'memory board' to show the breadth of the global conflict.

Arrangements are also being made with St Mary's church for a commemoration of VJ Day in August.

For further information or offers of help, please contact Doug Jones (01730 231326 / doug.pam@btinternet.com) or Sam Rossiter (07713 033268 / samrossiter@hotmail.co.uk).