



All systems go for Burton's Play Area



On the 17th March 2014, many Burtonians joined together in the OHH for the first 'gathering' of residents for the embryonic Burton Community Association. There, you provided a whole range of ideas and projects that you wanted taking forward for the betterment of our community. Many of those have already come to fruition – village social events, Burton in Bloom, tidy up days, speedwatch, to name but a few; but the biggest capital project amongst these and receiving the greatest votes for support that auspicious evening, was for the development of a children's play area.

We listened and we took action. Over the last two and a half years, the play area committee has consulted extensively across Burton, other local community groups, Wiltshire Council, as well as academic and operational play area design experts. The play area equipment has been chosen by focus groups across the whole age range of the village and designed for our younger children – to provide an outlet for key aspects of their physical, social and cognitive development. From individual contributions to local business donations and national grants we have raised over £30,000.00 in pursuit of this endeavour!

Last week, a unanimous ‘Yes!’ from the BCA trustees, has seen those funds and grants allocated towards the equipment order and build of Burtons play area on our land by the side of Nettleton Road. Hopefully you will have seen that many fantastic residents and families from the village have cleared, levelled, turfed and fenced that ground over the last 18 months or so – no small effort given for a decade it has been an unusable jungle of brambles, rocks and unsightly debris!

It is now ready to receive the equipment and Playforce, a local company in Melksham, has been selected to turn our project into reality. The 3-D ‘design-led’ play area gives a great overview of what the finished article will be – and when will that be? – if the advised timelines go to plan, we will have our playground opening its gates before the bells of St Mary’s ring in 2018!

...with a little help from our friends (at the OHH)

BCA Secretary Chris Bennett says, “We are extremely pleased with the support provided by the management and staff of our local pub, with special promotions, fundraising and assistance with local events. One such example is that in recent months the pub has offered the ‘takeaway pizza’ promotion whereby the pub will donate £1 towards the village play area project for each pizza purchased. During the first 6 months of this

promotion the pub has donated the sum of £108. Please let the pub staff know if you have any specific requests for pizza toppings and they will try and accommodate you”.

A number of joint events with the pub are planned in the future, which will be circulated in the coming weeks, so please watch this space.

Another succesful harvest supper

St Mary’s Harvest Festival has become a popular fixture in the Burton calendar; this year, the church was decorated with glorious flowers and lots of fresh produce, and in the informal service led by Marje Caie we celebrated and gave thanks for all the good things we receive from the land with the help of our farmers. We shared our good fortune with lots of donations of dried and

tinned foods for the Chippenham Food Bank.

There was a fantastic spread of food and drink for the Harvest Supper, including a special harvest loaf. We ended with an auction of the fresh produce with Ian Chapple entertaining us and stimulating plenty of bids to round off a most enjoyable and successful evening, which raised over £170 for St Mary’s Church.



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September village tidy up event in Burton

Building on the success of several previous events in over the last 3 years, another "Village Tidy Event" in Burton was accomplished on Saturday 16th September 2017. The morning began at 10am at St Mary's Church where a small number of willing volunteers, including some new faces which were very welcome, gathered for a short brief given by Trystan Hitchens.

As with previous events, the main focus for the day was clearance of weeds, debris and rubbish from the pavements and public areas throughout the village and the cutting and repairing of grass verges.

The event, organised by Burton Community Association, saw nearly 10 villagers working throughout the day with a few finishing at the Old House at Home at for some light refreshment at the end of the day.

The impact of the Tidy Up Event is immediately noticeable but as always there is more to be done throughout the village. As previously highlighted, whilst a targeted event always delivers results quickly, we

are also keen to encourage involvement of the whole community outside of these events at times that are convenient for those who would like to contribute to this overall effort and indeed already we have seen evidence of this which is really encouraging.

Locations that got the Tidy Up treatment this time included the village gateway planters at the eastern approach to the village, Toll Down Way including the footpath to the church, select areas along the Street, signs were washed and the pathway beside the road towards Acton Turville was cleared.

"Beyond the efforts of those who helped on the day, we also need to say thank you to everyone who used/provided their own gardening equipment and also those who provide support outside of the scheduled events to help keep the village tidy," said Trystan. Additionally, a special thank you goes out to Judith and Paul Bird for hosting the mid-morning refreshments which was another fantastic spread!

To find out more, look at the before and after pictures...



Halloween!!

Save the date! Saturday 28 October 2017 17:00: a spooky spectacular at Al and Marje's garden, The New House, Church Hill. Keep an eye on your inboxes or our Facebook page and Website for details. This year, games include a jack o' lantern carving contest with prizes, food and plenty of fun!

Trick or treating for the kids will happen on Halloween night, 31 October, from 17:00 to 19:00. Remember, keep your porch light on if you're receiving, off if you'd rather not.

Dog Fouling of Footpaths

The BCA has received several complaints from residents regarding dogs fouling the footpaths in the village, the matter was reported to Wiltshire Council who replied:

If the issue of dog fouling is still an issue on the footpaths of Burton please could I ask new service requests to be submitted individually for each incident with mapping and photos if possible. Specific location details are required for each individual incident to enable our contractors to respond and action accordingly.

BCA secretary Chris Bennett says *"we have a number of dog owners in the village and this would only seem to be applicable to a minority of persons, generally residents are very responsible and will clear up after their pets, however we must make efforts to ensure the footpaths and public areas are kept clean,*

especially where children may have access. In view of the response from Wiltshire Council we should all monitor the issue and report any problems, with photos to the Council, and I would suggest submitting a report online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting which is very easy to use, and has an auditable trail of the incident"

The council will only attend sites where a number of deposits of dog mess or litter are present at one location. Should the fouling occur at the same location regularly, your report will be forwarded across to the Dog Warden for review and action.

The BCA has taken initiative and action based on your concerns, however, we are reliant on everyone reporting this to the Council and taking responsibility to address the wider issue.

What's on?

Following the success of last year's event, the **Village Christmas Dinner** is back on the **8th of December**, this time at the Old House At Home. Dinner includes canapes, welcome drinks and a 2 course dinner. Invitations coming soon!

Do you have any event suggestions? We are looking for new ideas to get more people involved in community. Please contact Chris with your suggestions - chriswatkinbennett@supanet.com
