

Burscough Botanists Bedazzle with Beautiful Blooms – The 2021 Burscough Sunflower Competition results are in!

Stand aside Southport Flower Show, cool your heels Chelsea, take a break Tatton! There is a new botanical bunch in town. The 2021 growing season has passed and it has witnessed the most wonderous display of sunflowers for the “Burscough Sunflower Competition 2021.” The results are now in. The judging team will not patronise the entrants with talk of age, for their efforts far surpass their young years. The primary school children of Burscough have produced blooms that Monty and Carol could only aspire to. This could be because of the industrial amounts of nitrogen feed some entrants (allegedly) used. Or it could be because a special kind of sun falls on the beautiful town of Burscough. More factually, it is of course down to the hard work and effort of our young gardeners. They have put in a great deal of time and patience and their hard work has been rewarded with some

truly magnificent sunflowers. Now to the winners.

Primary Schools

In the “Burscough Primary School” category the Burscough Sunflower Cup, £100 prize money, participant rosettes, and most importantly, eternal glory in the annals of Burscough botany are **St. John’s Church of England School**, which is conveniently located on School lane. Their winning entry (pictured) was not only the tallest but it also, perhaps audaciously, grew horizontally for much of its life. When straightened out it was the clear winner at two metres and ninety centimetres (2.90m), precisely.

Second place goes to the two metre, twenty-four centimetre (2.24m) effort produced by the excellent gardening team (Gracie, Mia and Lucy) at **Lordsgate Primary School** (pictured). There is no cup this year for the team, but the successful growers still walk away with rosettes and

£50.00 to spend on their gardening club activities.

Honourable mention must go to third place entrant (pictured) which was grown by the keen gardeners at Burscough Village Primary School. Well done team! You won last year, maybe you will regain the trophy in 2022 to go back alongside the other cups in your burgeoning trophy cabinet.

Individual Entries

In the “Individual Growers” category we received some magnificent entries from all over Burscough. These entries reflect not only the fantastic growing conditions in the town, but also the widespread interest in all things botanical amongst our younger people. These sunflowers were truly gigantic and say much for the soil of





Burscough, as well as the ministrations of our young gardeners, and perhaps the odd nitrogen wielding grandparent.

Special mention goes to Leah McGlone (eight years) and Luka McGlone (six years) who both produced absolutely fantastic sunflowers. The tallest effort came in at a truly staggering two metres and eighty-five centimetres (2.85m) and with that the glory of winning the “Individual Growers” category in the **Burscough Sunflower Competition 2021**. Well done! To be honest it was a struggle to get the plants within the camera frame (pictured) and planes landing at nearby aerodromes had to be re-directed. These young Monty Dons walk away with a £30.00 prize to be spent on gardening items. Well done team McGlone!



Ben and Joel Willock produced two absolute towering giants. Their tallest effort came in at an eye-watering one metre and ninety-three centimetres (1.93m - pictured). Well done guys! £20.00 in prize money goes to this gardening team. As with the McGlone growers the Willock gardening team also conduct their growing

operations from Red Cat Lane. The soil there is really paying dividends for these young growers.

Finally, in the individual category we have the magnificent entry from Megan Blackburn. Her two metre and forty centimetre (2.40m) specimen puts all other plants in her garden in the shade. Megan



also constructed a special patented growing support beam to take the weight and height of her sunflower. £20.00 in prize money also makes its way to Megan. Well done Megan, excellent work!

Well done to all the entrants and their assistants, be they teachers, grandparents, or the occasional Gardeners’ Question Time (GQT) panellist. Dust off your trowels for next year, the competition is heating up! In 2022 the Town Council will again be providing sunflower seeds for those who wish to take part in the competition. Keep your eye on our newsletter and social media channels for further information.

Chairman’s News & Views

Dear Residents

I hope you are all well and that you have had a pleasant summer despite the difficult circumstances that we have all found ourselves in.

The Town Council have tried to bring some extra summer colour and cheer to the village centre with additional hanging baskets and planters and I do hope that you have enjoyed these displays.

The work of the Town Council carries on despite the problems of finding suitable venues for our face-to-face meetings because of the continued closure of the Grove Community Centre. We have been in discussions with Lancashire County Council with regards to reopening the Grove Community Centre for the benefit of Burscough residents generally, but as yet without success. In the not-too-distant future we hope to resolve this issue by taking on the lease of Burscough Bridge Interchange station and also we will be providing much needed community meeting space within the remodelled building. The Town Council will keep you updated on the progress of this project.

Two topics that residents bring to the Town Council’s attention over and over are problems of speeding and roadworks particularly on the A59. The traffic issues working group that the Town Council has set up is open to any resident that wishes to take part in these discussions. As a result of these meetings, we have recently had 20mph and 30mph speed limit signs printed that can be erected in private gardens adjacent to the highway on posts that the Council will provide. If you would like to have a speed limit sign in your garden then contact the Clerk on 01704 894914 or email jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk.

The issue of roadworks, especially on the A59 is a problem that never seems to go away. The Town Council whilst it has no direct control over these works is constantly lobbying Lancashire County highways department to impress upon them the disruption that these works cause and whether there is any possibility that they might co-ordinate the works better and also instruct contractors to work longer hours in order that the works are finished quicker and disruption reduced, everyone hates to see temporary traffic lights and cones in place and nobody working. I would urge everyone to report such instances to the Lancashire County Council highways department on 0300 123 6780 quoting the reference number of the works which should be displayed by the contractor on the traffic management signs.

As we move towards the festive season, I hope all our residents can look forward to more normal times.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please STAY SAFE. 

Brian Kennedy

Burscough Town Council Chairman.



Burscough Scarecrow Festival



After a gap of a year the Third Annual Burscough Scarecrow Festival was back for 2021. The Pandemic meant that it wasn't possible to hold the Fun Day as was the case in 2019 but the festival itself went ahead and once again scarecrows appeared at the fronts of houses and businesses across Burscough.

It was a Saturday back in July when the Scarecrow Judges Lesley Wilde, Dot Seddon and Brenda Guy met to make their decision, they were joined by Chris Ryley and Holly Budgen. The standard of the entrants this year

was excellent and the judges had a hard job ahead of them but in the end, they came up with the winners:

BEST BUSINESS: Swallow House Farm down Red Cat Lane with their excellent Twitcher Scarecrow

BEST SCHOOL: Burscough Village Primary

BEST HOUSE: Staycation Sunbather-72 Higgins Lane

BEST CHURCH: Burscough Methodist Church

The organisers of the Scarecrow Festival would like to thank the judges, Holly Budgen, Linda Shelton, all the people who entered the competition and all the people who voted as well.

They will be back next year, hopefully bigger and brighter.



Tackling Traffic Issues

When the Traffic Issues Working Group was set up the top issue that residents brought to the meetings was speeding. Having drawn a blank in efforts to get Lancashire County Council to do more to tackle speeding, the group decided that local action was needed.

While only the County Council can put up signs on 'street furniture' such as lamp posts, putting up a sign in your own garden is OK, we were told.

Cllr Alison Booth has produced an eye-catching design and the signs have been produced for us locally, and they are ready to go.



Does your road need our signs?

We can deliver one of our signs to you (and put it up if needed) in either 20 or 30 mph limit roads.

Please get in touch with the Town Council office if you want our campaign to come to your street!

CLIMATE ACTION

Action on tackling the global climate and environmental crisis will only be effective if we are all thinking about our roles as individuals and as a community and what needs to change.

The Town Council will be giving climate and environmental action consideration in all its work.

We also want to hear from **you**.

What action are **you** taking?

What action are you taking as a community group?

What would you like to see happening in our community?

Share your ideas on our facebook page and or email the clerk jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk

Report by Cllr. Cynthia Dereli.





Defibrillator

Burscough Town Council held a Town Council meeting and some Burscough residents attended to request that the Telephone Kiosk be reinstalled in the village. This idea expanded and it was suggested the kiosk could house a defibrillator this was agreed and funding from the Town Council budget was allocated. The kiosk arrived on the 2nd September 2021, it was quite a task for the delivery driver to swing the kiosk off his wagon and into position as you will see from some of the photographs provided, supervised by the Clerk and Cllr Moss.

The Town Council have also agreed to refurbish the telephone kiosks in Manor Road and Richmond Avenue and these will be collected shortly once the electricity supply has been disconnected. These two kiosks will also house a defibrillator.



In future it is the aspiration of the Clerk to organise a training event to show residents how to use a defibrillator, this will hopefully be in the Interchange building once we have secured the lease and made the appropriate internal changes.

More Zip for Childrens Play Park

As reported in the last newsletter Burscough Town Council completed the installation of three new pieces of equipment, including a children's ZIP WIRE, at Mere Avenue play park in August.

Playground zip wires have been around for many years, but are still one of the most popular pieces of park and playground equipment for toddlers and younger children alike! Not only can a zip wire release that inner Tarzan in any child but it can provide a different way to enjoy the environment from a more diverse perspective. The one the town council has installed on Mere Avenue Play Park is proving extremely popular and although around 30m in length, for safety reasons the seat is only some 2ft off the ground at its highest point.

Local resident Val Downing, pictured with her 4 grandchildren, Katie 10, Emma 9, Lucy 7, and 5 year old Jessica are regular visitors to the play park. In fact, they visit that often the children fondly refer to their favourite park as Grandmas Park. Val goes on to say that whenever they visit the children have a fabulous time and she considers, with the addition of the new play equipment, that the park is well planned out and she is confident it will provide a safe haven and hours of fun for children of all ages.

More adventure can be had with a ride on



the ROTATING SPRING SEESAW which provides a gentle ride for younger children, or an exciting fast moving dizzy experience for the older more adventurous thrill seekers. More popular with the older children is the newly installed CYCLONE SWING which spins and pivots and will provide fun and enjoyment for toddlers and teenagers alike.

Mere Avenue play park now has a total of 14 varying pieces of play equipment all of which are tested regularly for safety. Parents and/or guardians are asked to ensure that children are supervised and monitored at all times, particularly when they are using the play equipment. BTC has received a number of complaints from local residents of littering, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour, particularly in the evenings. Issues of a serious nature should be reported to the police and also the town council office on 01704 894914. Visitors to the play park are asked to refer to the 'conditions of use' notice erected next to the path and for health reasons not bring their dogs (guide dogs excluded) or exercise them on this children's playground. BTC would like to stress that the safety, health and well-being of every child is paramount.

Report by Cllr. Derick Moss.



BEFORE and AFTER

At April's full council meeting members of the council unanimously resolved to agree the Crabtree Lane Bench upgrade scheme proposed by the councils Street Scene Working Group. As shown in the before and after photographs shown above work included lopping back some of the tree branches and cutting back some of the overgrown vegetation, installing a safety fence behind the newly supplied bench in an effort to give some protection from the pond behind, and lay two lines of concrete flags and turf. As a further safety measure for protection from passing traffic, in particular large farm vehicles, the new bench was set back a approximately one metre from the original position.

The Town Council would like to thank



Mr Wilson, from Brandreth Farm, for giving his permission and allowing the council to carry out this work on his land for the benefit of the local community. Crabtree Lane, which runs between Red Cat Lane and the junction of New & Higgins Lane, is a popular rural walking route and it is

hoped that, whether it's a chance to reflect on life, deepen friendships and talk over hopes and fears, or simply the opportunity to admire the views, the new bench will prove to be a popular place to relax for those out for a stroll.

Report by Cllr. Derick Moss.

Why your Town Council are still supporting Fairtrade

At the Town Council we are looking forward to being able to serving Fairtrade tea and coffee at our meetings once again. There are many reasons why this makes sense.

A sobering new report by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that - without doubt serious human-caused climate change is happening now.

For the farmers and workers behind our Fairtrade favourites this is not news.

Farmers in Africa are already experiencing increasingly extreme weather. In fact, the scientists who wrote the IPCC report have confirmed temperatures in Africa are rising more rapidly than the global average, and more

extreme and more frequent rainfall is now expected across the continent.

This is just one example of why we need to support the efforts of Fairtrade farmers and workers. They are living with the reality of the climate crisis every day.

And many Fairtrade farmers and workers are already working on sustainable solutions, from tree planting initiatives to protect against flooding to innovative and eco-friendly farming techniques.

The Fairtrade label not only guarantees that the farmers who grow the products you enjoy get a fair price and the workers get a fair wage, but you are also supporting work that is environmentally friendly.

We hope you'll join us in supporting Fairtrade.



Litter Epidemic

If you are on Facebook you will be fully aware of the great work Burscough Litter Pickers undertake on a regular basis, many of you will have ticked Like or made supportive comments, whether your on Facebook or not we hope that you can in whatever way you can support the volunteers in Burscough Litter Pickers by helping in making the town a lovely, clean and tidy place that we are proud of for ourselves and visitors.



Since February 2021 the litter picker group have now collected over 550 bags, this is a staggering and unnecessary volume when you consider individuals can

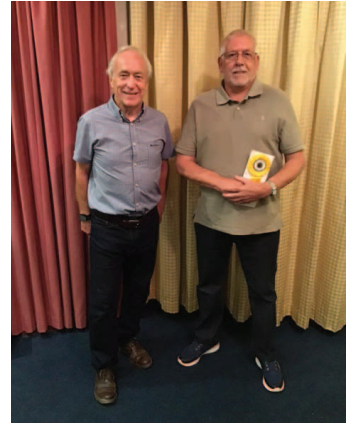
be fined up to £80 for a litter offence by a fixed penalty, if taken to court and convicted this could rise to £2,200.

The Town Council will continue to support the Litter Pickers and are very pleased to see children in the village taking an interest and litter picking and doing their bit to help with this epidemic.

Please support the litter pickers and take your rubbish home or place in a bin. If you are interested in volunteering to help or have any proposals of what can help contact the litter picking group - george.clandon@yahoo.co.uk.



Best Front Garden and Hanging Baskets Competition Winners



Burscough Town Council organised its annual Best front garden and hanging basket competition for 2021. The Town Council generously offered £100 for the 'winner' and £50 for the 'runner up' in each category. The Clerk 'Jackie' took photographs of each entry or they were submitted with the application form, the judges were random non-Town Councillors who visited the office over a 2-week period and judged each application on their merits and chose their favourites. The votes were counted and winners announced, Burscough Town Council were delighted with the results and so were the winners and runners' up.

Best Front Garden Category

Winner - James Graham who received a trophy and a cheque for £100.

Runner Up - Eileen Rimmer and her husband Don who received a rosette and a cheque for £50.

Best Hanging Basket/s Category

Winner - Bob Stringman who received a trophy and a cheque for £100.

Runner Up - Neil Sergeant who received a rosette and a cheque for £50.

A short presentation of trophies / rosettes and prizes at the Stanley Club provided the Town Council an opportunity to offer their congratulations and present the prizes. The Chairman of the Town Council, Brian Kennedy presented all the prizes.

Follow our social media updates and check out our website for further competitions and events.

If you would like to be a judge for next year or want to get involved in any aspect of the Town Council, contact the Clerk Jackie.





Welcome Back to our High Street

Over the Summer holiday period West Lancashire Borough Council organised a series of events in Burscough, designed to help bring people back to the High Street following an extremely difficult 2020 and 2021. All the events took place at Smithy Walk by the Wharf between 11am and 3pm and all were free for anyone to attend.

Saturday 21st August saw a display from some birds of prey and free face painting for the children.

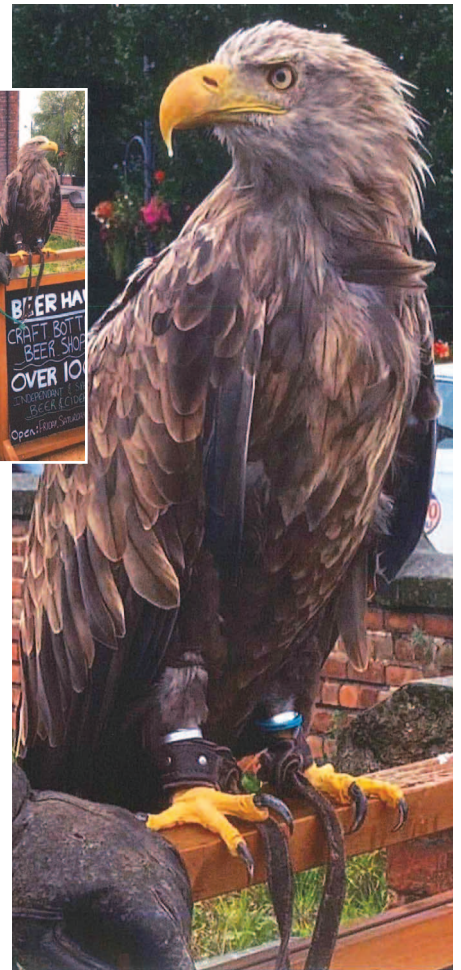
Tuesday 24th August it was Vintage Games

Thursday 26th August saw a performance from Mr Stix, a children's entertainer complete with fire breathing dragon.

Saturday 4th September was Interactive games

All the events were very well attended and well received.

Pictures from some of the events taken by Councillor Chris Ryley and Sheila Gill, Deputy Clerk.



BURSCOUGH CRICKET CLUB

Burscough Cricket Club Chair, Kenny Hughes, and members are delighted with the additional facilities recently completed following the award of Community Infrastructure Levy monies provided by Burscough Town Council.

This grant has enabled the Club to introduce improved disabled toilet facilities, access ramp together with viewing balcony for wheelchair users with parking adjacent to these improvements enabling safe access into the Club House.

The Club managed to carry out the works safely despite the Covid-19 issues and use of the building is now open for all

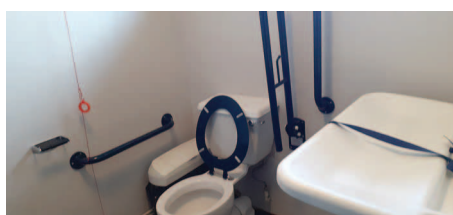


groups at attractive fees.

After a successful season we look forward to welcoming new members and visitors next season, follow Burscough Cricket Sports and Social Club on

Facebook for more information and messaging.

Thanks again to our dedicated Town Council members for their continuing support.





COUNCILLOR CHRIS RYLEY



Let me introduce myself, I am your Councillor Chris Ryley. I joined the then Burscough Parish Council in 2019, as the Councillor for New Lane Ward which I still represent.

I was born and brought up in Lathom and went to Burscough Methodist School and Burscough Priory High .

I try to play an active role in the Town Council. I have been Chair of the Newsletter Working Group since 2019 and am also Vice Chair of Planning and Footpaths Group and Secretary of Traffic Issues working group.

Outside of the Council I am actively involved in Burscough Litter Pickers and the Poppy Appeal I have worked with a mental health Charity for the last two years and actively campaign to raise awareness of and to lessen the stigma of the issues surrounding mental health.

I am really proud to be part of the Town Council and proud of what we do and continue to do, even through the challenging times such as we have just been through in the last 18 months. I am passionate about making the public more aware of the work of the Council and involving them more in all we do.

Any Burscough residents are always welcome to contact me at any time and I will do my best to resolve your issue or take it to the appropriate person or organisation.

My phone number is 07517 083405 and my email is chrisryley@gmail.com

Dates for the Diary / Future Points of Interest

- Ringtail Armistice Service on 11th November 2021 starting at 11am, by Booth's supermarket.
- Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph on 14th November 2021 starting at 11am. *(Unfortunately there will be no parade this year)*
- Christmas Lights within the Village area and extended main roads will be set up on the last weekend of November 2021.
- Christmas Window Competition for all shop owners to enter arrange a Christmassy display in your shop window. *(If anyone would like to be a judge for the competition, please contact Jackie at the Town Council office – all welcome)*
- Burscough Imagery of bygone years, plaques depicting Burscough will be fitted to the clock tower, coming soon.
- Burscough Town Council have arranged for all the street furniture within the village to be stained to enhance the area.

BURSCOUGH TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS' CONTACT DETAILS



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