

## Chairman's News & Views

### Dear Residents

I am writing this before Christmas but publication of this latest newsletter will be in January 2021, I would therefore like to take this opportunity to say that I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year despite the unprecedented circumstances that we all find ourselves in.

You don't need me to tell you that the year 2020 will go down in history as one of the most difficult and worrying years in modern times, but there does now appear to be a light at the end of the tunnel with the rollout of a vaccine. That said the damage that has been caused to the health, wellbeing and economic prospects of everyone will be felt for years to come, unfortunately for some people for many, many years.

The Town Council has tried during these difficult times to contribute to initiatives to help alleviate some of the problems and in particular the Council made donations to the funding of the food bank that West Lancashire Borough Council operated from the sports centre. The Council has managed to operate throughout the various lockdowns by conducting its meetings and business via "Zoom" and by the increased use of the internet.

We managed during this time amongst other things to conduct a bidding process in order to make available to local charities, clubs and non-profit making organisations some of the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy funds and this was successfully completed in August with awards distributed to Burscough Cricket Club for building improvements and also for improvements to the Methodist church hall and provision of community garden facilities at three of our primary schools.

The Council is at present in negotiations with Lancashire County Council and Network Rail to take on the lease of the Burscough Bridge station building which has been closed and

out of use since June 2016. If successful in this process the Council wants to make part of the building available for use as a community resource for hire by local groups, clubs and charities etc. The income derived from this will help the Council offset some of the yearly running costs of the building and make the proposal viable. If there are any local organisations that may be interested in hiring space in this building please contact the Clerk at Jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk. Another project that has been financed by the Council that will be completed by the time this newsletter is circulated is the drainage and environmental improvements to Crabtree Lane and the adjacent properties. This project has been brought to fruition by the joint efforts of the Town Council and Burscough Flood Group (BFG) and I personally would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their work that made this project happen.

The Council has filled three vacancies which occurred during the year and I would like to introduce your new Councillors, Kevin Schofield who will represent Red Cat Lane Ward, John Crawford who will represent Burscough Town Ward and Neil Pollington who will represent the Ellerbrook Ward. Also in October we appointed a new staff member, Sheila Gill who is the Responsible Financial Officer and Deputy Clerk.

Finally I would like to mention the passing of Patrick Mackrell who represented the Burscough Town Ward as a Town Councillor. Pat passed away suddenly in November from Covid 19 and will be sorely missed by all his colleagues on the Council.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please stay safe.

**Brian Kennedy**

Burscough Town Council Chairman.



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PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER HAS BEEN FURTHER DELAYED AND YOU WILL NOW BE RECEIVING THIS LATEST EDITION SOMETIME IN SPRING WHEN THE RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED.



# Armistice Day Commemorations

Armistice Day commemorations were of necessity somewhat muted this year due to the effects of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic. It was sadly not possible to hold the traditional parade from the British Legion up to the Cenotaph, nor was it possible to hold the annual Armistice Day observance at the Ringtail Memorial at Booths. A small group of people however were determined that some sort of safe commemoration within the guidelines would be held. Though the traditional parade was not possible a small socially distanced service was held at the cenotaph at the 11th hour and wreaths were laid by the Mayor and others. This service was only made possible through the work of Richard Houghton, Darren Fairclough and Dave Fairclough.

Later on, Remembrance Sunday a Drive in Service was held at Tesco in place of the normal Church service that is held after the service at the Cenotaph in normal years. The service was limited to 100 cars and people were not permitted to attend on foot and had to stay in their cars. All

present agreed that the service was moving and respectful and safe. The service would not have been possible without the generous help of Tesco's, St John's Church in particular the Rev David Banbury, the British Legion Burscough and Lathom Branch and Burscough Town Council. The model was such a success that the church will repeat it at Christmas.

The Armistice Day Ringtail Memorial Service is in most years well attended, sadly the current pandemic meant that special arrangements had to be made. The event was limited to no more than 30 people, all invitees were given their own spot to stand socially distanced from the others. The short service by David Banbury was as moving and fitting as in previous years and all present respected both the solemnity of the occasion and the rules. Wreaths were laid by children of local schools as in previous years and also by the Town Council who have supported the event since its inception. The service was only possible due to the tireless work of Richard Houghton, the assistance of



Booths, the Rev David Banbury, Lawrence Critchley and the unstinting support of Burscough Town Council in particular Councillor Brian Bailey.

Burscough responded to the challenge set this year by Covid 19 and responded with three events conducted safely and respectfully. All hope that 2021 will see some sort of return to normality and the parade will once again wind its way up the A59 to the Cenotaph to pay respects to the people who gave their lives so that we could do just that.

*Photos courtesy of Michael Dawson and David Banbury.*

*Report by Councillor Chris Ryley*





# Lest We Forget

## what Remembrance Day should really be about

As the years have passed, Armistice Day has become a day to remember all of the sacrifices made by the members of the armed forces in times of war. Many countries around the world commemorate this day, or some form of it, in their own way, and while they aren't all on the same date, they have their own traditions to remember fallen soldiers. And as Remembrance Day arrives, we often hear the commemorative phrase "Lest we forget" - with people wearing poppies and holding a two-minute silence at 11am. The phrase 'lest we forget' is also symbolic of the day - but what are its origins?

The phrase is thought to come from the poem *Recessional* by Rudyard Kipling, which was written for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. Kipling wrote the poem at the height of the British Empire - and it was intended as a warning about the perils of Imperialism, suggesting that people should put their trust in God instead. However the phrase has taken on new meaning in its association with those who gave their lives in the First World War - serving as a reminder that nothing as devastating should ever be allowed to happen again.

It is generally accepted that Kipling himself took inspiration from the Bible - namely Deuteronomy 6 verse 12, which reads: "Then beware lest thou forget the Lord which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt" - The poem doesn't touch



upon remembering fallen soldiers, but has been adopted as part of Armistice Day traditions.

The phrase, originally coined more than a decade before the ending of World War I, was first published in *The Times* on July 17, 1897, and reads as follows:

*God of our fathers, known of old,  
Lord of our far-flung battle line,  
Beneath whose awful hand we hold  
Dominion over palm and pine -  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

*The tumult and the shouting dies;  
The Captains and the Kings depart:  
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,  
An humble and a contrite heart.  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

*Far-called, our navies melt away;  
On dune and headland sinks the fire:*

*Lo, all our pomp of yesterday  
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!  
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

*If, drunk with sight of power, we loose  
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,  
Such boastings as the Gentiles use,  
Or lesser breeds without the Law—  
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
Lest we forget—lest we forget!*

*For heathen heart that puts her trust  
In reeking tube and iron shard,  
All valiant dust that builds on dust,  
And, guarding, calls not Thee to guard;  
For frantic boast and foolish word—  
Thy Mercy on Thy People, Lord!*

*(Acknowledgement to Wikipedia)*

Remembrance Day commemorations were scaled back due to COVID-19 safety protocols, but small ceremonies were still held across the North West, including Burscough, in accordance with social distancing and government rules. Burscough Town Council was proud to supply and raise the Armistice Day "Lest we forget" banner in the Memorial Gardens in advance of the commemorations, held on Sunday 8th November.

*Report by Cllr. Derick Moss*

## A service to remember

St John the Baptist in Burscough didn't let Covid-19 get in the way of commemorating Remembrance Day.

There's a saying in the military; 'Improvise, Adapt & Overcome' and that's exactly what St John the Baptist Church, Burscough did. Passionate to make sure the service could go ahead, ex-serviceman Rev Canon David Banbury planned a Covid-secure drive-in service on Sunday evening on Tesco's carpark and it was a huge success.

The moving service included a bugler playing the last post, prayers from Fr. Leo Daley of St John the Evangelist RC Church in Burscough and Dave Nixon from the Royal British Legion coming forward to lay a wreath. Thanks to an army of

volunteers and marshals from the church, the event was carried out with military precision and as all participants remained in their cars throughout, it was entirely Covid-safe.

Canon Banbury said "This has been an amazing evening, and it has been extremely moving to remember the fallen and also to pray for key workers in the battle against coronavirus"

It is thought to have been the only one of its kind in the UK this year and Tesco's are thrilled to have been able to offer their carpark for the event.

Loraine Mortimer the Tesco Service Manager commented "Tesco are pleased to be helping with this event and we will do our utmost to support the drive-in Remembrance service and the local community.



# A memorial to two Burscough Heroes

**M**emorial Plaques to two heroes of Burscough who are perhaps not as well-known as they should be was finally unveiled on the 23rd September 2020. The memorial blue heritage plaques which are the first of their kind in West Lancashire together with an interpretation board was unveiled privately at Burscough Wharf. The memorial to Edward Bridge and Harriett Mahood was originally to have been unveiled at Easter with a much grander ceremony but the ongoing pandemic made this impossible though it is still hoped that a ceremony can be held in 2021

Edward Bridge M.M B.E.M was born in Burscough around 1893 and lived at 11 Moss Lane. He served in World War 1 and received the Military Medal. He was badly injured and spent the rest of his life bed ridden. He built radio receivers and during the war he began to receive coded messages, they turned out to be German Spies reporting on shipping movements and Edward informed the police. Every morning a car would arrive at his house to collect the messages and would be taken to Bletchley Park, the centre for codebreaking to be decoded. Edward Bridge received the British Empire Medal meaning he was decorated in both wars. He received a letter from Winston Churchill congratulating him on his contribution to the war effort. It has only recently become acknowledged how much of a significant role the codebreakers played in the Allied war effort.

Harriett Mahood was born in Liverpool. She later lived on Red Cat Lane in Burscough and founded Mahood's Nursery which was still running until very recent years. She was the first female deacon in the Church of England and was a women's rights campaigner and important figure in the Women's Suffrage Movement

It is hoped that this project will help to shine a light on people of Burscough who played an important part in the history of not only Burscough but the nation and who have not to date been recognised for this. The project run by Images of Burscough was only made possible due to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project will ultimately involve a video and a play which will be performed by a local drama group. These events have all been postponed due to the ongoing pandemic but can hopefully be held in 2021.

Images of Burscough are hoping to put up more plaques to important Burscough individuals in the future and already have a couple of names in mind.

Images of Burscough would like to thank the following people:

*Cllr Andrew Pritchard, Trevor Bridge, Jocelyn Bridge, Lawrence Critchley, Cllr Chris Ryley, Michael Dawson, Debra Baldwin, Julie & Gary Mitchell, Nigel & Shirley Guy / Burscough Wharf, Angela Frampton, Daniel Frampton / Acumen Financial Partnership, Ronwin Hurst nee Mahood, Marc Mahood, Neil MacFarlane, Richard Houghton, Kenneth Lees, David Abrutat, John Unwin, Photocast (who made the blue plaques) and of course the Heritage Lottery Fund.*



Edward Bridge M.M B.E.M



Harriett Mahood





# Christmas Shop Window Competition

**B**urscough Town Council ran its yearly event inviting all shop owners to create a Christmas display in their shop windows. Burscough Town Council were very pleased with the response from the shop owners, who created a number of fantastic displays and Burscough Village Centre looked very festive in the weeks coming up to the Christmas holidays.

As we were unable to ask a group to judge our competition this year due to the restrictions with Covid 19, therefore it was decided to hold a vote on Burscough Town



Councils facebook page. The responses were tremendous with residents all voting

for their favourite. The Clerk in consultation with the Chairman counted the votes on Thursday 18th December 2020.

The Winner announced: - ESQUIRE BARBERS

The Winner received a shield to display in their shop for 1 year and £150 was awarded.

Burscough Town Council would like to thank everyone for taking part, here is a photograph of the winner and other shop windows who joined in the festivities.



# Burscough 2020 Christmas

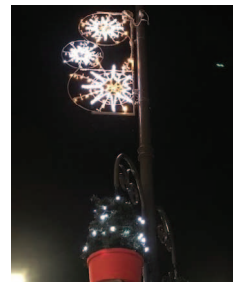
**H**oping to bring some much needed Christmas cheer to the town, Burscough's countdown to a festive season commenced with the annual switch on of the towns Christmas lights on the last Friday in November.

With additional funds made available by the town council, Burscough welcomed a new addition to the 2020 lights with a dazzling and colourful 12ft cone tree which lit up the entrance gates to St John the Baptist Church, and was dedicated by way of an inscribed commemorative plaque to the sad and sudden passing of Town Councillor Patrick Mackrell on the 10th November 2020.

Christmas is traditionally a magical time of the year, and while some may not have been feeling in a particularly Christmassy mood due to the pandemic, and with social distancing to the forefront of people's minds, it was hoped that the customary Memorial Gardens Christmas tree and illuminated lamp post lighting displays would encourage local residents and visitors alike to embrace the Yuletide spirit.

Prominent for the second successive year were 36 twinkling solar powered hanging Christmas trees which, due to battery life, were timed to light between 5pm and 9pm, also, a sparkling sight to behold was last year's new 12ft cone tree positioned at Burscough Bridge. The Town Council would also like to thank the proprietors of the Enchanted Florist and Style House for providing the electricity to the Christmas light features above their premises.

*Report by Cllr. Derick Moss.*





# Community Infrastructure Levy Scheme

**S**t John's CE School in School Lane Burscough applied for funding through the Burscough Town Council Community Infrastructure Levy and were successful in securing their bid.

The Headteacher and School had plans for an outdoor play area / gazebo for the children to enjoy educational facilities outside which also doubled into a play area. This work has now been completed.

The Headteacher states 'she is delighted with the project; the children have already started to use the facility and it's been tremendous fun whilst keeping dry. Please Thank the Town Council for allocating the funding to us we are very grateful!'



## Burscough Town Council Grant

**S**porting Challenge have been awarded £1000 from Burscough Town Council to fund some of their Burscough based sessions. Sporting Challenge is a family led charity started in 2008 operating in West Lancashire supporting people with learning disabilities, where all members of the Board of Trustees are parents themselves.

The charity aims to provide sporting activities to encourage people with learning disabilities to keep fit and healthy. There activities include: Aerobics, Bowling (in Southport), Boccia, Kurling, Zumba/Dance, Swimming and other Fitness Activities.

They provide support in West Lancashire area adults over 18 with a learning disability to access a variety of activities by providing transport to and from their homes and the appropriate sessional workers to support them whilst carrying out their sports/social activities.

Edward McCarthy Activities Organiser: "A huge thank-you for this grant, this will make a huge difference. If anyone wants further information on our sessions please get in touch.

**Tel 07971 299606 or visit [www.sporting-challenge.org.uk](http://www.sporting-challenge.org.uk)"**



## Interchange building

**B**urscough Town Council are currently working towards the possibility of taking on the lease for the Interchange building. This was previously used as the station building, located on the platform at Burscough Bridge Railway Station.

It is expected that the Interchange building will be used primarily for:-

- Town Council Office Space.
- Town Council Meetings.
- Available flexible Community Spaces for small rental, yet to be determined.

If you are a community group and would like to be considered to be able to rent some space for your community group, please contact the Town Clerk on 01704 894914 or email [Jackie.maguire@burscougthc.org.uk](mailto:Jackie.maguire@burscougthc.org.uk) to note your interest. If you could state how many participants are in your group, approximately the size of space required, what you would like to use it for, how often on a monthly basis you would like to use it and at what time of day / evening is your preferred time slot.





# Know your rights and claim the benefits you are entitled – outreach advice for Burscough Residents

These strange times have certainly focused our attention on what matters: looking after loved ones and keeping each other safe, and volunteering to help wherever we can. For many, life has turned upside-down because safe careers and employment are suddenly no longer there: We reassess our finances, our ability to keep our heads above water, and consider our options.

South West Lancs Independent Advice Network (ICAN) is a locally based charity that has been providing advice and support in West Lancashire for over 40 years. More recently, and before the lockdown, with support from Burscough Town Council and Burscough Young Peoples Centre, we were able to provide a weekly outreach services at the Grove. ICAN has huge expertise in Benefits advice, Debt counselling and Employment Law, and they are here to help. Everything is free of charge, confidential and impartial. For now, in-person appointments are suspended, but Burscough residents should be aware that we are still providing support via email or telephone, or any method you prefer. We have specialist advisers who can help with disability and carers' benefits, debt, employment law, in-work and family benefits: Whatever your issues, our advisers are there to help.

Whether you are facing redundancy or

## Introducing John Earle

It's always nice to put a face to a name and the friendly face you would most often see at our advice sessions in Burscough (or now hear him on the phone) is that of John Earle. John is a specialist in disability advice but he also has a background in financial advice, so is well qualified to help across the whole range of issues. Most of us find ourselves in the world of benefits advice because of our personal experiences and John is no different. This is what John has to say:

Having become disabled myself approximately 10 years ago, I found it extremely difficult trying to navigate the systems in place and couldn't understand why they were so punitive, rather than being a safety net. This left me feeling desperate, disillusioned and affected my mental ill-health. I decided then, that I would do everything I could to enable others. To help them navigate a system that seemed to punish, rather than provide. To ensure those who need assistance get it and to impart my acquired skills and knowledge to enable them to know where to start, what the process is and what to expect at every turn. I hope that by knowing they have someone on their side, who understands what they are going through, it will help alleviate the additional stress claimants are put under.

reduced hours, struggling to carry on in self employment or a small business, in employment on a low income or wholly dependent on benefits, you may be surprised at what is available. Don't worry in silence: a quick call may put your mind at rest. Our advisers can offer a quick, confidential assessment of what benefits you may be entitled to and from there you

can start any applications and plan ahead with confidence.

**Contact details are: South West Lancashire Independent Advice Network, the Ecumenical Centre, Northway Skelmersdale WN8 6LU  
Tel: 01695 726269; for Welfare rights e-mail [advice@swlican.org](mailto:advice@swlican.org) for IT Support e-mail [IT@swlican.org](mailto:IT@swlican.org).**

## Town Council and community support for local Litter Picking Group

The November 2020 Burscough Town Council zoom conference meeting councillors resolved to support the Burscough Litter Pickers group by way of a grant towards the provision of refreshments for the volunteers following their monthly litter picks.

It was proposed and agreed that the scheme would be capped at £30 per monthly litter pick, and run for a period of 12 months from January 1st 2021.

Members of the council are keen to show their support and appreciation, along with those of the local residents, for the efforts of those willing to give up a couple of hours of their free time on a Sunday morning. The general view was that people did this out of a sense of neighbourhood and civic pride rather than for reward, and it was hoped the grant would be considered as more by way of a thank you from the town council and local community.

Nationally and in Burscough, the level of

litter and waste being strewn and left by some sections of the general public has reached unprecedented levels. If you were to take leisurely stroll down Higgins, Crabtree or Orrell Lane and you would discover a myriad of discarded plastic bottles, cans and takeaway cartons tossed mainly from moving vehicles.

When asked to comment the leader of Burscough Litter Pickers, George Clandon, was harshly critical, saying that littering in Burscough has never been this bad, adding, so much so we have even been considering increasing the number of picks to two per month just to cope. He further suggested that the placement of additional litter bins in particular 'hot spots' would certainly help the situation, but what can you do about folks that refuse to use them, producing as evidence a photograph of discarded face masks he came across in the Memorial Gardens, this where sufficient bins are located. He further stated that his main area of concern is, in

his opinion, the dire lack of support from the WLBC, he wants to see a stronger stance taken by way of litter police and much heavier fines for offenders.

George offered his thanks, and those on behalf of his team of litter pickers, to the Town Council and local community for their continued support, adding, we would certainly welcome additional volunteers willing to sign up for our litter picks which usually take place every 4 weeks on a Sunday morning between 10am and 12noon.

Anyone wishing to volunteer can **contact George on: 07577 218313 or 01704 894189. Email: [burscoughpickers@gmail.com](mailto:burscoughpickers@gmail.com) Facebook: [Burscough-Litter-Pickers](https://www.facebook.com/Burscough-Litter-Pickers)**

When asked what message he would offer to litter offenders his candid reply was; don't be a litterbug, please take pride in where you live, and stop litter spoiling your town.

*Report by Cllr. Derick Moss.*



## BURSCOUGH TOWN COUNCIL HAS A VACANCY FOR TWO TOWN COUNCILLORS

Would you like to be a part of making decisions that affect Burscough?  
Would you consider being a Town Councillor and putting yourself forward for co-option to Burscough Town Council?

To apply, you must be over eighteen and a resident of, or live within three miles of, Burscough (or work at a business in the area). Have lived in the area for 1 year or more. Suitable candidates will have strong interest in the community and be prepared to give their time and take responsibility for helping to look after the concerns of local residents. Town Council work has continued without the need for face to face meetings, these have been conducted on Zoom Conferencing, therefore it would be essential that you would be able to use this action to be considered.

We provide training and support for new councillors. Meetings normally take place once per month on Wednesday evenings and there may be other meetings to attend.

If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please call for an informal discussion on 01704 894914.

Your interest will be most welcome.

Contact:- Jackie Maguire, Clerk to the Town Council,  
Office 17, Martland Mill, Mart Lane, Burscough L40 OSD.  
Email:- jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk

## Sheila Gill is welcomed to the Town Council Office

My name is Sheila Gill, I would like to introduce myself as your new Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer.

I previously worked for West Lancs Borough Council for 26 years, starting in the admin section then working my way up to the Finance Management section.

When I took early retirement in March 2020, I was seeking a part time position when the vacancy for Burscough Town Council arose. With living in close proximity to and having family and friends living in Burscough, I saw it as the ideal opportunity be able to work in an area that I have an ongoing interest and desire to meet the best possible interests for such a lovely area.

If anyone would like to contact me, I would be more than happy to assist in any way I possibly can.

My contact details are:-  
Tel: 01704 894914

E Mail: sheila.gill@burscoughtc.org.uk



## BURSCOUGH TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS' CONTACT DETAILS



**Chairman:**  
**Vice Chair:**

**Brian Kennedy**  
**Brian Bailey**

**Councillor**

**Address**

**Telephone**

### Burscough Town Ward

Cynthia Dereli	10 Meadowbrook	L40 7XA	895247
John Crawford	201 Liverpool Road South	L40 7RE	895297

### Ellerbrook Ward

Neil Pollington	11 Windsor Close.	L40 7RH	07545776408
John Tribe	Haydock Barn, School Lane	L40 4AE	07525169445
Alison Booth			07938622689

### New Lane Ward

Chris Ryley	14 Sutch Lane	L40 4BU	07517083405
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### Red Cat Lane Ward

Kevin Schofield	27, Liverpool Road South	L40 7SU	891775
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### Richmond Park Ward

David Hardisty	105 Rivington Drive	L40 7RW	894781
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### St John's Ward

Roger Bell	<b>VACANCY</b> Haydock Farm, School Lane	L40 4AE	897491
Brian Kennedy	37 Weaver Avenue	L40 4LE	895374

### Stanley Ward

Derick Moss	<b>VACANCY</b> 4 Abbey Fold	L40 7UX	07860735025
Brian Bailey	60 Hesketh Road	L40 7SQ	07518757059

### Clerk to the Council

Jackie Maguire (Clerk)	Office 17, Martland Mill, Mart Lane	L40 OSD	894914
Sheila Gill (Deputy Clerk)	e-mail: Jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk or e-mail: Sheila.gill@burscoughtc.org.uk		