

Burscough News

BURSCOUGH TOWN COUNCIL

WINTER 2024 – ISSUE 55



Burscough Remembers

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In November Burscough remembered those who have given their lives and who have served our Country. Two memorial services were held in November 2023. The Ringtail Memorial Service was held on Saturday 11th November 2023 at the Memorial near Booths Supermarket, the service was led by Reverend Banbury. Dignitaries, school children, local people and ex-service personnel attended and laid wreaths at the memorial.

On Sunday 12th November 2023, Burscough came to a standstill. A Memorial parade started at Lord Street and processed through the Town centre to the Memorial Garden, led by the Chair of Burscough Town Council, Cllr Brian Kennedy and the Mayor of West Lancashire, Cllr Maureen

Nixon. It was lovely to see so many people from Burscough join the parade or stop to watch.

The service at the Cenotaph was led by Rev Banbury. Wreaths, prayers and songs helped the local people to remember the sacrifice of our brave soldiers both in the World Wars and present combats. It was touching to see so many youngsters attend with schools and families as we should never forget.

The Civic Events Team, made up of Councillors, helped to arrange and coordinate the remembrance Services. A lot of thought, time, work, and preparation went into making this event a success.

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Chairman's News & Views

Dear Residents

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year , despite the ongoing struggle we all face with the rising cost of living.

My fellow Town Councillors and I , would like to wish everyone a “ Happy New Year “ and hopefully we will see some improvements in everyone’s health and finances during the coming twelve months.

The Town Council have now been operating from our new offices at the existing Burscough Bridge Interchange building for several months and all the Councils meetings are now held there.

Unfortunately the work being carried out by Northern Rail/ Network Rail to the surrounding platform and paved areas has been on hold for 6 months despite multiple attempts by the Council to get this work restarted and completed. The incomplete work has hampered the Council from utilising the full benefits of the building and the roll out of the community use of the building.

When this work is complete the Council will be installing a new notice board in front of the building to display Council news and also one for use by the community to advertise local events etc.

The Town Council at its January meeting agreed the budget for 2023/24 and also agreed the precept.

After a lot of work by our finance officer the Council was able to keep the precept at virtually the same as last year with a minimal increase of 20p on a Band D property. As you are aware the Town Council precept only makes up a small part of the overall Community Charge which the Borough Council and the County Council are responsible for setting.

At the time of writing this article there are proposals by Tesco to introduce restrictions to the amount of time that people can park on their car park. The Council feel that this situation has been brought to a head by the totally unreasonable introduction of charges on the Interchange car park by Northern Rail, a move which will no doubt deter some people from travelling by train rather than encourage them and also the increased use of the Tesco car park by people attending local football matches.

The Council are totally opposed to these restrictions and are fully aware of the consequences that they will have on local businesses and organisations. We are of the view that the restrictions are in contravention of the planning conditions that were put in place by the planning authority when the planning application was originally granted permission. To this end the Council have written to the Borough Council’s planning department to ask them to enforce these conditions forthwith.

On a more positive note the Council at its January meeting agreed to a grant application from the Stanley Cinema Project to fund the necessary repairs to the fire escape down to the car park from the original cinema balcony at the Stanley Club which will be the initial work to plans to restore the balcony and original seating of the Derby Cinema. This project is being carried out by local volunteers in order to bring back into use the original cinema facilities within the Stanley Club to provide an affordable community cinema for the use of the residents of Burscough.

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

Brian Kennedy

Burscough Town Council Chairman

Burscough remembers Saturday 11th November 2023 at Booth’s Memorial







Burscough remembers

Sunday 12th November 2023 at the Cenotaph



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Images courtesy of Michael Dawson Photography



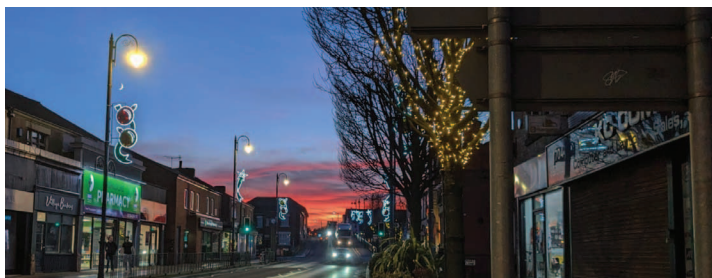
Christmas Stories

Burscough Aglow: Christmas Lights Display 2023

In 2023, Burscough was aglow with festive spirit, as the town's Christmas lights were switched on, casting a radiant glow on Friday, 24th December. The heart of our yuletide celebration, the Memorial Gardens, proudly displayed a magnificent 20-foot Christmas tree. This tree, festooned with colourful lights and crowned with a dazzling star, symbolised hope and joy during the festive season.

Complementing the grandeur were two impressive 12-foot cone trees, one adorning the Town Council offices, along with a new festive wreath and the other at St. John's Church, though the latter was regrettably removed mid-season due to inclement weather.

We extend our gratitude to Illumindex, the dedicated team behind



the lights, for their exceptional service, including three maintenance visits amidst challenging weather conditions. Their commitment exemplifies the community spirit that defines Burscough.

These festive decorations, a collaborative effort organised by the Town Council's Street Scene working group and funded by public contributions, embody more than mere aesthetic appeal. They represent the resilience and warmth of our community, uniting us in celebration and reminding us of our collective strength, even in the coldest of seasons.

Written by Cllr Sargent

Window Competition: Burscough's Festive Showcase – Christmas Window Wonderland 2023



The Annual Christmas Shop Window Competition in Burscough, a highlight of our town's festive calendar, reached new heights in 2023 with its display of creativity and charm.

The contest, growing alongside the town, saw local businesses vying for the top spot with their stunning window displays, each more impressive than the last. The judging, conducted by Jen, Jan, and Vera on 16th December, focused on originality, creativity, adherence to a theme or storyline, and overall visual appeal. After careful consideration over coffee and cake at the Hop Vine, their decision was finally made.

Summer Jane emerged as the 2023 winner, earning £150 and the honour of displaying the engraved trophy in their shop for the next 12 months. Close on their heels was Style House, securing the runner-up position with a £50 prize. Both winners announced on our Facebook page on 19th November, showcased exceptional creativity and dedication. Their displays not only brightened our town but also embodied the festive spirit of Burscough.

The Annual Christmas Shop Window Competition, organised by the Town Council's Street Scene working group, is a highlight of our town's festive calendar and reached new heights in 2023 with a display of creativity and charm.

Written by Cllr Sargent





Climate Lordsgate Eco Warriors have been busy

This year Lordsgate School have been looking at ways to support our environment and our climate through our school curriculum, intent that children will learn to 'Love our World'. As well as our curriculum activities we have set up an 'Earth Warriors' club which has been very busy in the Autumn term looking at ways to improve our environment and look after the planet.

The children audited our school and chose various projects to help around the school. These have included litter picking, improving untidy areas of our school and surrounding areas, encouraging recycling by putting new recycling bins in classrooms and checking they are being used carefully. We also have eco monitors that go around the school checking that lights have been switched off when rooms are not being used.

This term the children will be sharing the work they have done to encourage other children in the school to do the same. We are also introducing a textile and battery recycling scheme. We are always looking for ways to get involved with any community projects that will help improve the local area and contribute to our plan.



News from the Foodbank

Tackling the climate crisis has to be about a fairer society and the volunteers at the Food Bank in Burscough are doing both. As well as providing food, they are now adding an offer of clothing to the help they provide – upcycling clothing as a way to reduce waste as well. See their website for more.

We thank everyone for their generous donations! For more information email: burscough@skelmersdale.foodbank.org.uk



Burscough Bridge Methodist School Project



Schools have been leading the way with projects to help us all look more closely at how we live and care for the natural world around us. Pupils take an active part in reminding everyone of the beauty of nature around us.

A project at the Burscough Bridge Methodist School, working with Community Rail Lancashire to encourage people to walk rather than use their cars. The talented children at Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School were able to work with a local artist to create a wonderful piece of public artwork for our local train station, which will be enjoyed by all members of the community.

This will not only enhance the station aesthetics but also signpost the walk to Martin Mere and they hope it will encourage people to take the 30-minute walk with its opportunity to observe nature and wildlife.



Reducing our environmental footprint is paramount

Recent discussions on 'local' hydrogen initiatives, such as Hynet's A59 hydrogen pipeline proposal and plans for hydrogen storage in Liverpool City Region, have sparked interest. In November, Don Naylor from Liverpool Friends of the Earth enlightened our Planning Committee on these specific issues, highlighting key concerns and ongoing local campaigns. A significant learning was the distinction between blue and green hydrogen, a crucial factor in sustainable practices. Further details are available on the Liverpool campaign group 'Hynot's' website."

By Cllr Dereli



Community Speeding and how are we combating it?

Burscough Town Council is committed to reducing the speeding on the roads around the Town and the Council has approved money for some new Speed Identifier Devices or Spids for short. You will have seen the Spids around the Town letting you know if you are going to fast or the right speed for the road you are travelling on. These devices are now getting to the end of their usefulness and are off more than they are on. The Town Council have invested in four new Spids to help with alerting drivers if they are going to fast. The Spids will be moved around the Town on a six-week cycle and these devices also capture data on numbers of cars and average speeds the cars are travelling. This data can be used to let Lancashire Highways and the Police know of 'hotspots' for speeding. The new Spids are now being put out and about and we would welcome your feedback on them.



Life on the 'New' Estate

Hello Burscough, or "Burscur" as I have heard many a local say, albeit regardless of how it is pronounced I would hope that we can all agree that this once small parish is a great place to raise a family, run a business, socialise or just spend some spare time.

Speaking of spare time, this is something many of us had unexpectedly during the lockdown in early 2020 and this is when my family set down our roots here on the now, (dare I say it) Redrow Estate. I know that the seemingly endless new developments have caused some unease. However, I would say that change always comes to pass but it is the responsibility of both us as a community and council to ensure that change is for the better!

Why I am saying the above, you may ask? Well, in September 2022 I managed to pluck up the courage and get involved with the local council and become a Town Councillor. Being a new member of the Burscough Community I have been asked to provide my experience of living with my family on the Redrow Estate.

I have found the community to be a welcoming one and this was shown to me especially during lockdown. We have a young

daughter and my wife, who was pregnant with our now young son, was considered vulnerable. As everyone will remember, it was a time when people were keeping in their "bubble" so to speak, however, many members of the community, both old and new, came out of their bubble to welcome us, socially distanced of course. Whether that be checking up to see if we needed shopping, dropping off bouquets of flowers, or just a friendly letter to say hello.

For me, as I have already touched upon, Burscough has just the right mix of things. Whether that be visiting one of the many local parks, my youngest favourite being Richmond Park with its Pirate Ship Slide, or getting to walk down the canal, visiting one of our lovely local pubs, or taking a stroll through Platts Lane.

I hope this newsletter finds you well and I hope to see some of you at our regular Town Council meetings which are open to the public and the dates of which are available for you to view on our website.

Yours sincerely,

Ezra Ouko - Burscough Town Councillor

**Did you know
that local
people are
always welcome
to attend some
Town Council
meetings?**

You are able to talk about issues which affect you or that you wish the Town Council to know about. The Town Council are here to represent the local people of Burscough and can only be successful, if the local population let the Town Council know what is happening.

To find out about Town Council meetings, you just need to go to the Burscough Town Council website which is www.burscoughtc.org.uk.

The next meetings are as follows:

Next Town Council Meetings

Town Council Meetings 21st February 2024 Interchange Building starting at 7pm

Town Council Meetings 20th March 2024 Interchange Building starting at 7pm

Town Council Meetings 17th April 2024 Interchange Building starting at 7pm

Town Council Meetings 15th May 2024 Interchange Building starting at 7pm

Next Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings

Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings 6th March 2024 Interchange Building starting at 7pm

Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings 3rd April 2024 Interchange Building starting at 7pm

Planning and Footpaths Committee Meetings 1st May 2024 Interchange Building starting at 7pm



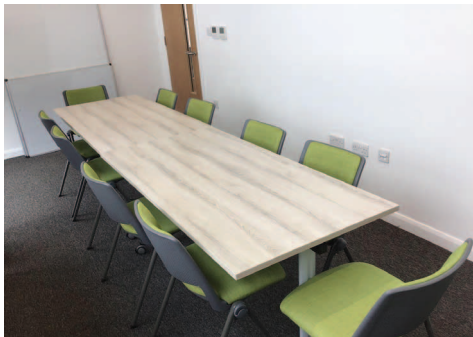
New space for the local Community

Did you know that the Interchange Building is now Burscough Town Council Offices?

Burscough Town Council moved into their new offices in March 2023 and took over the lease from Network Rail. Part of the vision of the Town Council was to allow local groups and the Community to have some space they could utilise, and you can now hire the rooms in the Town Council offices for your group.

The rooms would lend themselves to corporate events, exhibitions, training and workshops, theatre productions, societies and clubs, sports and fitness, meetings, music events and music practice. The rooms are bookable by the hour via an online system www.venuehire.scribeaccounts.com.

There are three rooms, a small room and two larger rooms. The two larger rooms can however, be hired as one big room. The costs are £10 per room, per hour and all payments and bookings are made online.



Burscough Town Council vacancies

Are you interested in making a difference in your community? Come along and join our welcoming Town Council. We currently have three vacancies which are open to anyone over the age of 18 who either live or works in Burscough and has done for a minimum of 12 months.

Contact the Town Clerk Jackie Maguire at jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk for an informal discussion, she will support you through the process. Town Council meetings are always organised on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and start at 7pm. There are also a number of working groups you could be involved in, these are:-

- Street Scene
- Finance
- Newsletter and Publicity
- Personnel
- Capital Projects
- Station Building
- Flooding
- Climate Change
- Neighbourhood Planning

Additionally, there is also a Planning and Footpaths Committee which meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month where all planning applications for the Burscough area are discussed and where necessary comments to West Lancashire Council are provided.

If you would like to get involved contact the Clerk or the office 01704 894914.

BURSCOUGH TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS' CONTACT DETAILS



Chairman:	Brian Kennedy	
Vice Chair:	Derick Moss	
Councillor	Address	Telephone
BURSCOUGH TOWN WARD (BWD1/BWD2)		
Cynthia Dereli	10 Meadowbrook, L40 7XA	895247
John Crawford	201 Liverpool Road South, L40 7RE	895297
ELLERBROOK WARD (BEB/BEC)		
Neil Pollington	11 Windsor Close, L40 7RH	07545 776408
VACANCY x 2		
NEW LANE WARD (SBE)		
Mike Price	Stanley Court, L40 4LA	07748 621533
RED CAT LANE WARD (BWA)		
John Horsley	Curlew Cottage, 82 Moss Nook, L40 0RQ	07518 967517
RICHMOND PARK WARD (BWC)		
Ezra Ouko	1 Higgins Lane, L40 7AZ	07912 945351
ST JOHN'S WARD (BEA)		
Brian Kennedy	37 Weaver Avenue, L40 4LE	895374
Stephen Bradley	34 School Lane, L40 4AE	07801 433584
VACANCY		
STANLEY WARD (BWB)		
Derick Moss	4 Abbey Fold, L40 7UX	07860 735025
Brian Bailey	60 Hesketh Road, L40 7SQ	07518 757059
Gary Sargent		07578 342593
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL		
Jackie Maguire (Clerk)	Interchange Building, Station Approach, L40 0RZ Jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk or 894914	
Sheila Gill (Deputy Clerk/RFO)	Sheila.gill@burscoughtc.org.uk	

Articles: Cllr Gary Sargent, Cllr Cynthia Dereli, Cllr Mike Price, Cllr Ezra Ouko
Photos: Michael Dawson and Cllr Gary Sargent