

A Community Effort Takes Root: 1,600 Trees Planted at Burscough's New Conservation Site

Burscough's newest conservation site is officially underway following a hugely successful community tree-planting event held on Back Moss Lane on Saturday 18th October. More than a hundred volunteers came together to plant an impressive **1,600 native trees**, marking the beginning of an exciting long-term project for our town.

Schoolchildren, Scout groups, members of Burscough Community Farm, local conservationists, and residents of all ages rolled up their sleeves to help transform the former grassland into a thriving future woodland. Many families were new to tree planting while seasoned volunteers shared skills and stories about the importance of restoring natural habitats.

The event also showcased the strength of community partnership in Burscough. With support from conservation groups and the dedication of local residents, the site is already beginning to show what can be achieved when people work together to improve the environment. The planting included a mix of species chosen to support biodiversity, encourage wildlife, and create a resilient green space for generations to come.

This tree-planting marks only the beginning. Burscough Town Council is planning **further conservation and habitat-building projects** for the site in the coming months and years. These will include a community orchard, meadow creation, wildlife corridors, and opportunities for schools and community groups to take part in ongoing ecological care and educational activities.

The new conservation site will be open for public enjoyment, offering a place for walking, learning, and reconnecting with nature. As the trees take root and the landscape begins to change, residents can look forward to watching the area grow into a vibrant, diverse habitat that benefits both people and wildlife.

The Council extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part, supported the event, or spread the word. Together, Burscough has planted not just a woodland, but the beginnings of a legacy.

If you would like to take part in future activities on the site, keep an eye on Town Council notices and local group updates—there will be plenty more opportunities to get involved as the project continues to grow.

Report by Cllr Bob Wilson

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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK



Out with the old, in with the new

This edition hopefully reflects on the importance of letting go of outdated habits, ideas, and belongings to make space for new beginnings, growth, and improvement.

We hope everyone enjoyed a Merry and Bright Christmas. All council members join in wishing Burscough residents a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2026.

As a Town Council, our powers may be limited, but our commitment remains strong. In 2026 we will continue to focus on enhancing the lives of Burscough residents through a range of community-focused initiatives. We will keep investing in local amenities and public spaces to ensure they remain safe, accessible, and well maintained. Where issues fall outside our remit, we will continue to lobby WLBC and LCC on behalf of residents to help resolve matters that require wider authority support.

Although LCC granted permission for an additional three Christmas motifs on Liverpool Road North, some residents will have noticed that several motifs were missing this year. The mandatory three-year column test certificate—carried out by LCC and funded by BTC—identified seven lamppost columns as not meeting the required standard. As a result, BTC was not permitted to attach any motif weight to them. While these columns are not deemed dangerous and would normally be replaced over time, following consultation with LCC, I am pleased to confirm that an agreement has been reached to share the cost of the replacements. This will hopefully allow new lampposts to be installed by late spring, ensuring that next summer's floral hanging baskets can be displayed as planned.

For the fourth consecutive year, your Town Council organised the two annual Remembrance services held in November at Burscough Memorial Gardens and Ringtail. Despite challenging weather conditions, both services were well attended. Our sincere thanks go to Councillor John Horsley and our dedicated team of clerks for their exceptional work in delivering these important events. We would also like to thank all participants, volunteers, and, most importantly, the residents who braved the cold to pay their respects. Please see inside for further details and photographs.

Positive progress is also being made regarding the future removal of the bollards on Bobby Langton Way. WLBC has expressed a willingness to work collaboratively with BTC, BFC, stakeholders, and the wider community on a regeneration framework for the area. This includes the former Barons Club site and the roadway entrance leading to Burscough Football Club. The Borough Council has acknowledged the Burscough Parish Neighbourhood Plan and aims to ensure that any regeneration proposals align with its vision, policies, and local priorities—including green spaces and parking.

Inside this issue, you will also find coverage of the Town Council's exciting new step into forest conservation. Over the weekend of 18–19 October, BTC held a Miyawaki tree-planting event at the council-owned two-acre site on the corner of Back Moss Lane. We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who took part—especially Lordsgate Primary School Headteacher Mr Hackett, his staff, and pupils who joined us on Saturday, as well as the many Scout groups and residents who volunteered on Sunday. Special thanks also go to Councillors Swin Purple and Bob Wilson for their organisation and for dedicating much of their weekend to supporting the project.

Thank you for taking the time to read this latest edition of the Burscough Town Council newsletter. As winter continues, we encourage everyone to check in on elderly or vulnerable neighbours. A quick phone call or doorstep visit can make a big difference, helping to ensure they are warm, have essential supplies, and can access the medication they need. Small acts of kindness help keep our community safe, healthy, and connected during the colder months.

Cllr Derick Moss.

Mayor – Burscough Town Council

Burscough Town Council has updated its website



The new website has details of forthcoming meetings and minutes from the full council meetings and the planning meetings.

It has a page of who your councillors are and how to contact them.

It has information on the flood group and how report flooding as well as lots of information about the drains and resources available to the public.

There is also information about the Town Council, and we will be putting local news on from time to time.

To check out the new website go to www.burscoughtc.co.uk

Burscough Town Council are delighted to announce the winners of this year's Annual Christmas Window Competition



Winner – I Luv Boutique, £150.00

Runner Up – Heyes Opticians, £75.00

Many thanks to all that participated in the competition.





Burscough Shines Bright for Christmas 2025

There's something magical about the moment our town transforms for the festive season. As December arrives and the nights draw in, Burscough lights up—quite literally—with a warm, welcoming Christmas glow that brings our community together. This year, despite a few unexpected hurdles, the town still managed to sparkle beautifully.

Our Christmas 2025 theme focused on warmth, community, and a traditional festive charm. Soft white lights, classic displays, and familiar decorations created an inviting atmosphere throughout the village. Even with some challenges, the heart of Burscough's Christmas spirit shone through, proving once again that it's the people and the place—not just the lights—that make the season special.

Lamppost Motifs: Plans vs. Reality

BTC had hoped to see 25 lamppost motifs light up the town this year, following an agreement with LCC that included an extra three motifs along Liverpool Road North. These motifs have become a staple of Burscough's winter landscape, marking the main route with festive colour and character.



However, during the routine 3-yearly LCC safety test, seven lampposts unfortunately failed inspection. This meant only 18 motifs could be installed and illuminated along the main thoroughfare. While it was disappointing not to see the full planned display, the motifs that did go up helped maintain the cheerful festive atmosphere commuters and visitors look forward to each year. To ensure the town still felt bright and festive, BTC added three strategically placed illuminated cone trees. These eye-catching installations provided vibrant focal points in key areas, helping to balance out the reduced number of lamppost motifs. Their warm glow and modern design added a fresh touch to Burscough's Christmas look, quickly becoming a favourite feature among residents.

Of course, no Christmas in Burscough would be complete without the traditional 20ft Christmas tree in the Memorial Gardens. As always, it stood tall and proud, its lights glowing beautifully each evening. The tree remains a symbol of togetherness and remembrance—a place where people pause, reflect, and appreciate the season. Despite a few bumps along the way, Burscough still managed to shine. The combination of classic decorations and the resilience of our community made this year's festive display one to remember. The lights may be temporary, but the feeling they create lasts all season long.

Article by Cllr Derick Moss.

Photos Credit Cllr Mike Price

Community Unity Through Sports



Burscough Village Primary School (BVPS) is thrilled to announce the launch of the "Community Unity Through Sports" project, an initiative designed to support well-being, build confidence, and foster friendships. This development will create a multi-functional sports zone where children, families, and residents of all ages can enjoy physical activities and community events in a safe and welcoming environment. BVPS is planning to host a variety of events, including football matches, running races, and family fitness days and we invite all community members to get involved.

The project has been made possible thanks to a £20,000 Community Infrastructure grant from Burscough Town Council, along with generous contributions from Sport England, local businesses, and funds raised through PTFA events. These funds have allowed us to commence Phase 1, with ongoing fundraising efforts ensuring continued progress.

Phase 2 will expand the range of available activities and include a climbing area for children. We welcome ideas, donations, and support from anyone wishing to contribute to this inspiring project.

For more information or to support the project, please contact BVPS on 01704 895403 or office@burscough-pri.lancs.sch.uk



BURSCOUGH PROUDLY REMEMBERS OUR LOCAL HEROES



11th November Remembrance Parade

Every year in November, the Poppy Appeal prompts us all to remember and honour the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much in service to our country – and the many who still do. Their courage, faith and devotion inspire us daily, as demonstrated by the great attendance at the recent Remembrance events in Burscough (despite the weather!).

Prior to the Burscough Football Club kick-off on the 8th November, the first of our local Remembrance ceremonies was held with veterans present from Lathom & Burscough Veteran Support Hub to lay a wreath and observe a respectful 2 minutes of silence and reflection. (It must also have helped the BFC team, who went on to win their game 3:1).

Our next event, organised by the Town Council, was the annual Remembrance Sunday parade and service at the Burscough War Memorial. What could go wrong after months of planning apart from the weather! But this is Britain, and despite the rain steadily getting worse as the afternoon progressed, hundreds of you turned out to support the dignitaries, veterans and members of all ages from local organisations taking part in the parade and then in the service in the memorial garden led by our local ministers.

The Skelmersdale Marching Band was outstanding, leading the way as we processed through the village for the act of remembrance and providing music throughout the ceremony. The lone bugler marked 2 minutes' silence before the laying of wreaths and the reading aloud of the names of the 208 local people who lost their lives during the two World Wars and in Afghanistan. Our visiting senior naval officer took the salute as we marched back to the Old Peoples Club to dry off and enjoy Pauline's excellent hotpot.





Then on Armistice Day, at 11.00 on the 11th day of the 11th month, we gathered again at the HMS RINGTAIL Memorial adjacent to Booths store to join in with the national act of remembrance and 2 minutes' silence. We remembered those who had trained here during the 2nd World War on what is now the industrial estate, when HMS RINGTAIL, otherwise known as RNAS BURSCOUGH, was a major naval air base with four operational runways. All naval bases are named after ships, hence the "HMS" title.

Burscough Town Council wants to thank you all for your support at all these events and remains committed to ensuring our local heroes continue to be respectfully remembered.

Each year the Poppy Appeal raises funds to support veterans and serving members of the Armed Forces and their families. This goes towards providing grants for welfare, supporting the physical and mental health of serving and ex-service personnel, which includes support with PTSD and other conditions. There is also help available in the form of debt advice; accessing appropriate housing; finding suitable employment, and support with pensions and other benefits. The funds raised also go towards supporting dependents and carers. The 2025 appeal for Lathom and Burscough has (with funds still to come in) so far raised over £12,000.

For those of you who are veterans, many of you will be aware that the Lathom & Burscough Veteran Support Hub meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Burscough Football Club.

Our monthly brunches bring together an amazing mix of people, from



those currently serving to long-time veterans like our 95-year-old regular, who never misses a brunch! These gatherings provide friendship, laughter, and a real sense of belonging, helping prevent loneliness and keeping our forces community connected.

So, if you're a local veteran, or have family links to the Armed Forces, why not join us, 11.00 – 13.00, at our next brunch? Free to attend, plenty of parking and Pete's bacon butties are becoming legendary!

By Councillor Dr John Horsley (Surg Cdr, ret'd)

Photos by Michael Dawson.

Improving Comfort and Safety at Mere Park

In line with the Town Council's ongoing commitment to investing in local amenities and public spaces—ensuring they remain safe, accessible, and well maintained—the three benches in the Mere Park children's play area have recently been upgraded by the Town Council.

The new benches are from composite materials, which offer a number of advantages: Including minimal maintenance requirements, as they do not need painting or staining; superior durability, with resistance to rot, warping, insects, and fading; and excellent performance in all weather conditions. Composite materials also enhance safety, as they are slip-resistant and splinter-free, and are environmentally friendly, being manufactured from recycled materials.

Article by Cllr Derick Moss

Chair – Street Scene Working Group.





A Major Step Forward With Our New Artesian Borehole

Burscough Community Farm has always been more than a growing space. For over eleven years, our eight-and-a-half acres on Meadow Lane have offered a welcoming, nature-rich environment where people can reconnect with the outdoors, learn new skills, and rebuild confidence. We work with adults from across West Lancashire, including those referred by GP Link Workers, mental health charities, Job Centres, occupational therapists, and community organisations. Many arrive dealing with anxiety, depression, loneliness, long-term unemployment or social isolation; all leave having found connection, purpose, and community.

Thanks to support from Burscough Town Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), we have now completed a major milestone in our farm's development: the drilling of our clean water borehole. It's an achievement that marks a huge moment in our history and one that will benefit local residents for many years to come.

Why We Needed a Borehole

Although we've spent more than a decade building a thriving community hub, one essential element has always been missing: a safe and reliable supply of clean water.

Until now, the entire farm has relied on pond and ditch water. While suitable for wildlife, it has limited what we can grow, and prevented us from running activities that require clean, safe water such as washing produce, cooking sessions, or hosting larger groups. It has also held back our ability to irrigate crops efficiently and safely, particularly leafy greens and microgreens.

This single barrier has affected every part of our work:

- Food growing
- Cookery training
- Wellbeing activities
- School visits
- Volunteer programmes
- Income generation
- Long-term resilience of the organisation

The CIL award directly addressed the biggest infrastructure challenge we faced, unlocking opportunities the farm has been ready for, but unable to deliver, for years.



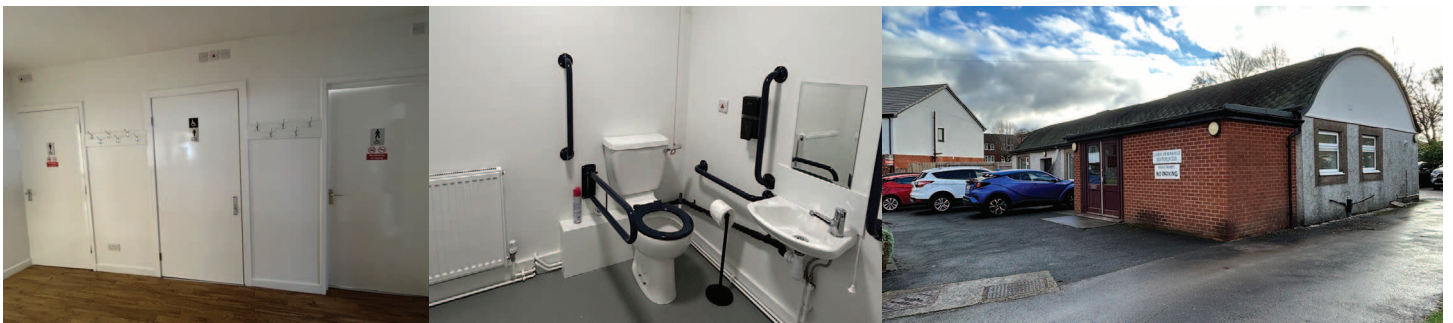
Town Council Grant provides Lathom and Burscough OPC with new Facilities

Many members of our community – not just the elderly - use Lathom and Burscough Old People's Club. You could attend our regular Tuesday Friendship Group; participate in U3A activities; take exercise classes for the over 60's; improve physical and mental health with Tai Chi; dance at a weekly session by Estrella's School of Dance; or get after-school tuition for your child, courtesy of Conexus. You may even have hosted or attended a birthday party or other social function there.

If so, you might have noticed we've had a recent upgrade, courtesy of a grant provided by Burscough Town Council. This has enabled us to upgrade the toilet facilities and make them fit for purpose, in particular for those with mobility issues. As well as new ladies' and gents' toilets, we now have a state-of-the-art disabled toilet facility, which has been long needed and is much appreciated.

Our first function, following the completion of the work, was to host the annual Remembrance Sunday parade. As the next-door neighbour of the now demolished British Legion building, it was perhaps fitting that the march started from the OPC and that we were able to offer shelter from the rain as the groups assembled. Participants were invited back to the OPC after the service, where they enjoyed hotpot and a warm drink, courtesy of the Town Council.

Going forward, these upgrades will make a difference to our core group, the over 60's, and to our regular users, as we work towards our aim of becoming a true community hub for the people of Burscough and Lathom. Huge thanks go to Burscough Town Council and to all those working behind the scenes to make this happen. We hope to serve the community for many more years to come.





An update from Traffic and Transport Group

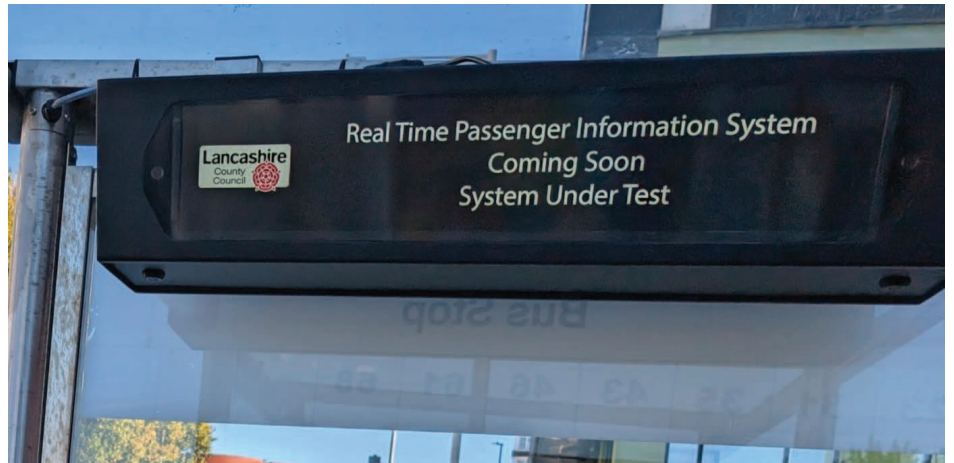
Our work in 2025

The Council would also like to thank residents who got in touch following the earlier article this year about Speed Indicator Devices (SPIDs). We received a wide range of comments and suggestions, including requests for additional pedestrian crossings, concerns about inconsiderate parking, further reports of speeding, and issues relating to the narrow bridge at the end of School Lane leading towards Lathom. All queries have been passed on to the relevant authorities, including the police and Lancashire County Council, and we will continue to represent residents' views and press for improvements where possible.

Exploring Real-Time Bus Information for Our Town

The Town Council is currently exploring the possibility of installing real-time bus information displays at selected locations around the town. These systems show live updates on bus arrival times, helping passengers know exactly when their bus is due.

Real-time information has been shown to make public transport more convenient



and reliable. By reducing uncertainty and waiting times, it can make bus travel more attractive for regular users and those who may not currently use public transport. It can also be particularly helpful for older residents, people with mobility needs, and anyone unfamiliar with local services.

At this stage, the project is very much in its early phases. We are investigating feasibility, costs, suitable locations, and working with relevant transport partners.

As such, installation, if it goes ahead, is likely to be several months away.

We will keep residents updated as the work progresses and once there is more clarity on next steps.

Councillor Neil Pollington, Chair of Traffic and Transport Group

BURSCOUGH LITTER PICKING Group Celebrate Their 8th Birthday

Burscough Litter Picking Group (BLP) will be celebrating their 8th birthday early in the New Year. Over the years, we have collected several thousand bags of litter—this year alone, nearly a thousand! - I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved over the years.

Your contributions have been invaluable and are truly appreciated by the people of Burscough.

A special thanks goes to the Linnets Line Lottery, local businesses, and Burscough Town Council for their financial support—we are grateful for your generosity.

Everyone plays a role in keeping our town clean, but I must highlight one of our volunteers, Mrs. Jeanette Houghton, affectionately known as Netteh.

Jeanette dedicates her BLP time along the canal towpath, going above and beyond in her efforts—she truly deserves recognition.

This year, two of our senior volunteers are celebrating milestone birthdays, bringing their combined age to 160! Mrs. Pauline Twine and I (George Clandon) will both celebrate our 80th birthdays in the coming weeks.

Pauline insists I am the eldest, of course! People often ask why we litter pick. Our answer is simple: it gets us out and about, it's enjoyable to meet like-minded people, and the walking helps keep us fit. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers.



Finally, a gentle reminder: please do not drop litter. It is unhygienic, unsightly, and costly to remove. Find a bin or take it home. Love Burscough—it's a wonderful place to live.

Burscough Litter Picking Group would like to thank you for your continued support.

*George Clandon
Burscough Litter Picking Group*



YOUR TOWN NEEDS YOU:

Burscough Town Council is currently recruiting new councillors and would welcome applications from residents who have an interest in making Burscough a better place to live and work.

A strong, healthy community is built when its leadership reflects the people who live in it. Diverse councils make better decisions: they bring a mix of life experiences, problem-solving styles, and perspectives that lead to more creative ideas and more balanced outcomes for the whole community.

Your Experience is Relevant whatever your Background

There is a common misconception that councillors need to come from certain careers or have specialist knowledge before applying. In reality, councils are strongest when they include people from

all walks of life The everyday knowledge you bring - about housing, transport, community safety, public services, accessibility, family life, or local wellbeing is valuable to the Town Council.

A Welcoming, Supportive Environment

The Town Council will offer a supportive environment and offer training on different aspects of being a Town Councillor. Every councillor is supported by clear policies on equality, inclusion, and respectful behaviour. Your voice will be heard and your perspective is valued.

Councils thrive when members feel confident speaking up. We want new councillors who bring fresh ideas, ask different questions, and see things through a community-focused, lived-experience lens.

Why Your Voice Matters Now

- safe walking and cycling routes
- parks and play areas
- support for families
- community events
- environmental and accessibility improvements
- local business vitality
- opportunities for young people

These decisions are stronger when the people affected by them are at the table helping to shape them.

If You've ever Thought, "Someone should fix that"..., You're exactly who we Need!

Our Clerk can provide guidance and answer questions.

Please contact Jackie Maguire on Jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk or 01704 894914.

BURSCOUGH TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS' CONTACT DETAILS

Mayor: *Derick Moss*
Deputy Mayor: *Brian Kennedy*

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
Swin Purple	-	07882 237770
Vacancy		
NEW LANE WARD (SBE)		
Mike Price	98 New Lane, L40 0RY	07748 621533
RED CAT LANE WARD (BWA)		
John Horsley	Curlew Cottage, 82 Moss Nook, L40 0RQ	07518 967517
RICHMOND PARK WARD (BWC)		
Eddie Pope	Landhurst, Hall Lane, L40 5UG	07969 919212 894540
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
Bob Wilson	9 Sawley Green, L40 7AY	07966 430427
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL		
Jackie Maguire (Clerk)	Interchange Building, Station Approach	
	Jackie.maguire@burscoughtc.org.uk	894914
Sheila Gill (Deputy Clerk/RFO)	Sheila.gill@burscoughtc.org.uk	

Upgraded Room Hire Space: Multi-Media Screens Now Available

As mentioned in previous newsletters, Burscough Town Council have newly refurbished rooms for hire. Rooms 1, 2 and 3 are available for hire at just £10/hour and if you book both rooms 2+3 as a large conference room, it is discounted to £15/hour. They can be leased by the hour and would be suitable for anyone organising a corporate event, training, music events/practice, theatre productions, and many more social activities. Since then, brand new multi-media screens have been added to each of the room spaces. You can hold team meetings on here, use them as a whiteboard, project presentations, and use multiple apps. Free Wi-fi is also included.

All bookings can be made online via the Town Councils website <https://burscoughtc.org.uk>. Facilities are now available in the evenings and the weekends. Room hires are available Monday through to Sunday 10AM-10PM.

