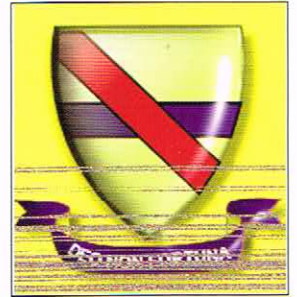


# BILLING PARISH COUNCIL BULLETIN

SERVING BELLINGE, ECTON BROOK,  
GREAT BILLING and LITTLE BILLING

6Newsletter No. 25

Spring 2016



## From the Chairman

**D**URING the winter months your team at the Parish Council have continued to work on your behalf.

Among many other items, they have liaised and assisted residents in Little Billing with a planning application, arranged for the installation of a defibrillator within the Bernard Weston Pavilion and the training of personnel on how to use it.

At Ecton Brook, a JCB was hired to level out the land near the lakes in the Linear Park ready for seeding in the spring. Lengthy meetings have also taken place regarding the possibility of updating street lighting within the Parish.

All of this takes time and a lot would not have been possible without the hands on assistance of our two local NBC - Councillors Christopher Malpas and Andy Kilbride.

On the subject of thank yous, it would be remiss of me if I did not say a big thank you to Liz Palethorpe, who has resigned her position to move to Devon, and also to the Reverend Steven Palmer who unfortunately for us is retiring and moving from the Parish.

I am sure you will all join me in wishing them and their families all the very best for the future.

*John Marlow*

## Real sign that spring is on its way



*Although we have endured strong winds, heavy rain and a few cold snaps during the winter, we virtually escaped without any real snow to trouble us. And it looks as though spring really is on its way if this photograph of snowdrops in the Garden of Reflection is anything to go by.*

## Honours round off a very good year for Cargin

**T**HE year of 2015 was a good one for local businessman Cargin Moss, who lives in Little Billing with Cindy and his three children.

In July, Cargin, who runs the 'Cargin Moss Black Belt Academy', was honoured by the Unified International Taekwondo Federation (UITF). He was presented with his 8th Degree Senior Master award from Grand Master Kwang.

And in the Queen's New Year's Honours List, he was awarded the MBE for his services to Taekwondo, Charity and the Community.

Since 2000, he has raised over £150,000 from 68 events for charity. He raised £30,000 for Cancer Research UK over five years organising Fun Runs on the Racecourse in Northampton; set up a martial arts challenge for Northants Police

officers to raise money for Care of Police Survivors (COPS) - a charity which helps families of Police Officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

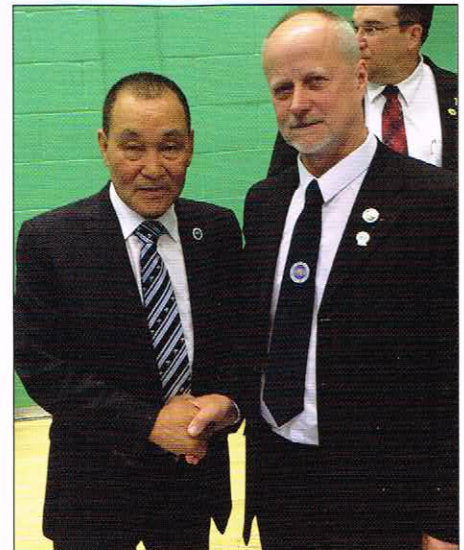
Other charities he has helped are the NSPCC and Multiple Sclerosis Society, while participating in the Dragon Boat Race and Strictly Northampton Dance has also helped raise money.

Senior Master Cargin Moss MBE said: "It is such a buzz to see my work paying off and changing people's lives.

"To help people, whether they are children or adults, picking their chins up and walking with confidence is a job in itself.

"It's addictive to be honest and there is even more to come."

Congratulations Cargin, you are a credit to our community and the town of Northampton.



*Cargin Moss (right) being presented with his 8th Degree Senior Master award from Grand Master Kwang.*



## Top award for Alice

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Alice Waples who has achieved the highest award given to a Cub Scout.

Alice, a Year 6 pupil at St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, has been awarded the Chief Scout's Silver Award.

Matt Taylor, the District Scout Leader presenting the award, said: "This is quite some achievement for a child who is only 10 years old. To gain the award Alice has had to earn six activity or staged activity badges of her choice and complete seven challenge awards, each of which make significant demands.

"Alice enjoys her Scouting and has recently moved into the Scout Section of the 43rd Northampton Group. All this and her school work as well - she clearly is a great asset to the school."

Well done Alice, and we wish you every success as you continue in Scouting.

### Community Clean-ups

**T**HERE are two more remaining dates to put in your diary for this year's Parish Community Clean-ups of litter and fly-tipped rubbish.

They are Saturdays 9th July and 12th November 2016 between 10.00am and 12 noon.

Volunteers meet outside the Co-op in Fieldmill Square (for Bellinge); outside the Newsagents/Post Office in Ecton Brook Road (for Ecton Brook); outside the Elwes Arms in the High Street (for Great Billing), and on the bridge over the stream by Little Billing pocket park (for Little Billing). High-viz jackets, bags, gloves and litter pickers will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there.

Further information may be obtained from our Green Space Manager.

### Great Billing W.I.

**FORTHCOMING** programme:

\* On 9th March Duncan Farrington will give a talk on The Challenges of Modern Farming.

\* On 13th April Fritz Dezutter will give us a demonstration and tips on making a hanging basket. There will also be a plant sale.

\* We celebrate our birthday on 11th May, with party food and drink and entertainment from Geoff Hatton: Jazz Manhattan.

\* On 8th June the subject is The Sport of Kings. Adrian McGlynn, Director of Weatherbys, will tell us of the origins of horse racing and the racehorse.

\* On the 13th July we have an Italian Evening with Wayne Mills. A pizza demonstration and chance to make your own, bring a rolling pin and board! There's also an Italian-themed quiz on the night.

\* We usually have a local outing in August, and this is still to be decided for the 10th.

Meetings are held at the Bernard Weston Pavilion on the playing field in Great Billing, the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Guests are most welcome. Come along and enjoy the evening with us.

Contact numbers for more information are (01604) 414749 or 493202.

## Billing Fayre is back

**G**REAT news - Billing Fayre will be back in 2016! It will be held on Saturday June 25th from 1.00 to 5.00 pm.

A very successful meeting was held at the Elwes Arms on 25th January when lots of new ideas were floated, and we were delighted to welcome five volunteers from outside the Parish Council.

As it is the Queen's 90th birthday this year we are hoping to link to that.

Forms for those wishing to book a pitch, etc. will soon be available. Please check our website -



**Diary date - Billing Fayre will be held on Saturday June 25th.**

[www.billingparish.co.uk](http://www.billingparish.co.uk) - for further details or contact the Clerk.

## Bellinge Community House

**B**ELLINGE Community House is a hub open to all residents in the Parish - Bellinge, Little Billing, Ecton Brook, and Great Billing.

As many of you are aware we offer a wide variety of support that is open to all residents. There are social groups during the week for all age groups from coffee mornings, youth groups to breakfast clubs.

We aim to have a warm friendly environment with services that local residents have requested.

Our new website - [www.bellinge.org.uk](http://www.bellinge.org.uk) - is up and running and our Facebook page [Bellinge Community House](https://www.facebook.com/BellingeCommunityHouse) is another way you can keep up to date with what available, courses, support and regular information for you.

Please like our page or send a friend request or better still call in. Hope to see you at the community events planned this year.

*Michelle Aveyard  
Manager*

## Credit Union at Bellinge Community House - every Friday 10am to 12noon

**Y**OU may think you knew that Northamptonshire Credit Union (NCU) was operating out of Bellinge Community House. Well if you do, then you have a good memory!

There has been a long-standing relationship between the two, and in fact NCU was first at Bellinge Community House in 2007, but with the retirement of the Manager and some key volunteers, the NCU Service Point closed its doors in 2013.

Now with new energy at the centre, and a dedicated volunteer, the Credit Union is once again delivering a Service Point at the Community House.

The Credit Union offers an alternative to the High Street banks, with a range of services. We have always offered Safe Savings and Affordable Loans. However, there have been some improvements and upgrades as well.

You can now pay into your account using our new Membership Card and its Pay Point facility. So you can visit any shop or Post Office displaying the Pay Point symbol and deposit cash safely at a time convenient to you.

We now describe our loans as affordable. This means that we ensure that you can afford the repayments and the borrowing will not over commit you and cause you financial difficulty. Our loan charges vary depending on your financial situation and the amount of money that you want to borrow.

Our members borrow from £200 to a maximum of £7,500 plus the sum of their savings! Have £2,500 in savings and you could seek to borrow £10,000.

Our Budget Plus account, offers an account that can receive any income whether salary or benefits or a mix there of! It has a bill paying facility so you have peace of mind that all those essential bills are paid, and is supported by a pre-paid VISA Debit Card. All the functionality of a bank card for shopping in store, online or over the phone!

Our website is better than ever. You can find loads of information, and download application forms for membership and loans. We have also got an on-line loan application form. Join the more than 2,900 people who are now members of Northamptonshire Credit Union. Membership is free.





# Great Billing Pocket Park Project

**G**REAT Billing Pocket Park occupies a rectangular piece of land on the eastern side of Great Billing village and is approximately 1.17 hectares (2.89 acres).

In the 19th and early 20th Century the area now encompassing Great Billing Pocket Park was parkland and pasture bordering the pleasure grounds (formal gardens) of Billing Hall.

The parkland was visible from the pleasure grounds by means of a Ha-Ha wall and ditch. The land was subsequently used by the developers of the Eastern District Housing area for their road making materials and a vehicle park.

In 1990, the waste land was acquired by Billing Parish Council and with the help of the County Council Pocket Park scheme, a volunteer management committee was set up to improve the site. The volunteers and contractors, with the help of a grant from the Pocket Park scheme, cleared the area in 1991 and started planting trees to supplement the few remaining from the time when this area was parkland. This created a haven for wildlife in an otherwise urbanised area.

In 2000, a new committee was set up and an action plan written. Grants were applied for from various councils and wildlife charities and work commenced to transform the Park.

The volunteers achieved many goals over the period to 2013:

- \* The Civic Trust Green Pennant Award was applied for and achieved with high marks seven years running from 2005 to 2012.

- \* In the 2009/2010 Keep Britain Tidy (Civic Trust) judging, the following comment was made: "In all categories this judge can recommend that this Pocket Park continues to be managed in such a thoroughly efficient way to meet the National Standards of Green-space Management."

- \* Enhanced involvement with the local community, Billing Parish and Northamptonshire County Council.

- \* Laying down of a small Playing Field and an all-weather practice pitch with walls for goals.

- \* The boundary shelter belt of trees around park was enhanced by careful maintenance and under-planting with spring bulbs.

- \* A section of the old of Ha-Ha was rebuilt to retain some link to the history of the area.

- \* The old Ha-Ha boundary was rediscovered and converted into a woodland path.

- \* Planting of a small wood of mixed trees for the millennium, now a thriving woodland.

- \* Creation of a Wild-flower Meadow with meandering paths crossing through it.

- \* A Winter Garden with winter flowering and scented shrubs plus all weather winding paths through the shrubs.

- \* Pedestrian access from surrounding estates was improved with the addition of steps, stiles and access paths from public right of way.

- \* An all-weather perimeter path of 440 yards for exercise and leisure walking laid down.

- \* Picnic Lawn with bench and table.

- \* Benches all around park

- \* Installation of more than 50 volunteer-made bird boxes in the shelter belt

\* Volunteer Groups involved: A.X.A. Insurance, Scouts and Billing Pocket Park Volunteers

The Park has now been taken over by Billing Parish as an almost



*The Wild-flower Meadow has meandering paths crossing through it.*



*The 440-yard all-weather perimeter path attracts exercise users as well as leisure walkers.*

finished project and maintained by a volunteer and the Parish Green Space Manager.

## Further volunteers still needed at Little Billing Pocket Park

**V**OLUNTEERING numbers at Little Billing Pocket Park have, unfortunately, not increased over the last three months, but an industrious, energetic and reliable core of around seven residents continue to attend the monthly sessions, working hard to keep the Park presentable and fit for use by walkers, joggers, children, dog owners and cyclists alike.

The team continues its tasks -

trimming foliage; clearing weeds from the riverside footpath; clearing and removing brash, litter and fly-tipped rubbish; cutting grass and removing nettles and weeds.

Future plans include the formation of a picnic area, and the planting of a native bluebell wood.

Volunteering sessions are of two hour's duration - 10am until 12 noon - on the second Saturday morning of

each month.

Do join in if you can.

Forthcoming sessions are scheduled for Saturdays April 9th; May 14th; June 11th and July 9th.

Volunteers meet outside the green container on the spare ground diagonally opposite the village shop in Valley Road.

Volunteers are advised to wear sturdy footwear and gardening gloves.





## BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Website: [www.billingparish.co.uk](http://www.billingparish.co.uk)

The Billing Parish Councillors are as follows:

### Ecton Brook Ward

Rev. Steven PALMER (Tel: 788508)

Steve ROCKALL (Tel: 530640)

Stephen WARD (Tel: 410548)

Jim SNEDKER (Tel: 07860 910765)

### Great Billing Ward

John MARLOW (Tel: 404678)

Michael PEARSON (Tel: 407118)

Cheryl WORTHINGTON (Tel: 408613)

### Little Billing Ward

David BREDE (07930 960241)

John CLEMENTS (07764 158516)

### Middle Ward (Bellinge)

Dennis NASH (Tel: 403702)

Gurcharan Kaur CHAGGAR (07986 905963)

Lorraine VAKIL (Tel: 07557 052280)

### Green Space Manager

Chris Campling (Tel: 785447)

Email: [greenspacemanager@billingparish.co.uk](mailto:greenspacemanager@billingparish.co.uk)

### Clerk to the Council

Mrs Sue Harris (Tel: 402756)

23 Elwes Way, Great Billing,  
Northampton, NN3 9EA

Email: [clerk@billingparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@billingparish.co.uk)

### Parish Highway Warden

Damian Lang

Email: [highwaywarden@billingparish.co.uk](mailto:highwaywarden@billingparish.co.uk)

## Forthcoming Council meetings

**P**ARISH Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (with the exception of August) at 7.30 pm at the Bernard Weston Pavilion on the Playing Fields at Great Billing.

Members of the public are always welcome. Agendas and approved Minutes may be found on the website.

Forthcoming meetings will be held on:

**Monday 11th April 2016**

**Monday 9th May 2016**

**Monday 13th June 2016**

**Monday 11th July 2016**

## Easter Church Services in Billing

Good Friday (25th March) to Easter Sunday (27th March)

### Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Great Billing

(Roman Catholic)

Good Friday: 3.00pm - Solemn Liturgy in honour of the Passion and Death of Our Lord

Easter Sunday: 8.00am - Resurrection of the Lord

### Methodist Chapel, Great Billing

Easter Sunday: 6.00pm - Evening Service with Holy Communion

### St Andrew's, Great Billing

(Church of England)

Good Friday: 10.30am - Family Worship

Easter Eve: 7.30pm - Service of Light

Easter Sunday: 10.30am - Holy Communion for Easter

### All Saints, Little Billing

(Church of England)

Good Friday: 2.00pm - Worship at the Foot of the Cross

Easter Sunday: 9.00am - Holy Communion for Easter

## Week of Action for Bellinge

*By Sarah Oakes  
Community Warden*

**N**ORTHAMPTON Borough Council, in conjunction with partner agencies and local organisations will be holding a Week of Action in Bellinge, during the week commencing April 11th.

Various environmental improvements will be taking place around the estate, from cutting back hedges and shrubbery, to some minor work on trees and removing fly tipping from our streets.

On Friday April 15th, there will be a multi-agency day at Bellinge Community House, where residents can meet staff from several organisations that operate in the area.

Key contacts from the Police, Northamptonshire Partnership Homes and NBC, together with many more, will be there from 12noon to 4pm to offer help, support and advice on a wide range of issues that affect local people.

On Saturday April 16th, from 11am to 4pm there will be a Family Fun Day, based at the Community House/Community Centre. Activities will include a bouncy castle, demonstrations, sports/fitness events and refreshments.

More details will be available from the Parish Council/Community House nearer the time.

Forthcoming events to look out for will include micro-chipping for dogs/cats at reduced rates with the RSPCA and a murder mystery event.

**Community Payback scheme** - As you may be aware, a large amount of work has been carried out in the woods at Fishponds Road by the Community Payback Scheme.

Organised by the Parish Council and Northampton Borough Council, the improvements have been significant, particularly around the main pathway and the area behind Glade Close.

We hope that we will see a reduction in anti-social behaviour in the woods as a result, and that local people will feel safer using the area, as visibility and lighting have been improved as a result of cutting back large amounts of shrubbery.

We would like to thank the team and supervisors from the scheme for all their hard work over the last few weeks, and also a thank the Community House for supporting this project.



**Rev Steven Palmer's last service will be on April 17th.**

## Rev Steven Palmer

**S**TEVEN came to the Billing Churches as our rector in early 2003, from Birmingham. He has been a Parish Councillor for most of that time, representing Ecton Brook.

During his time on the council and as our Rector, he has been a calm and guiding force, and a very good listener.

We give Steven and his wife Chris our thanks and very best wishes for a long and happy retirement. They will be returning to Birmingham, to spend more time with their family.

We will miss them both and hope they leave us with many happy memories. Steven's last service will be on April 17th at St Andrew's in Great Billing at 10.30am.