

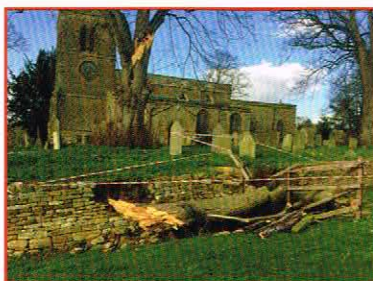
# BILLING PARISH COUNCIL BULLETIN

SERVING BELLINGE, ECTON BROOK,  
GREAT BILLING and LITTLE BILLING



Newsletter No. 28

Spring 2017



## Devastating effects of Storm Doris in the parish

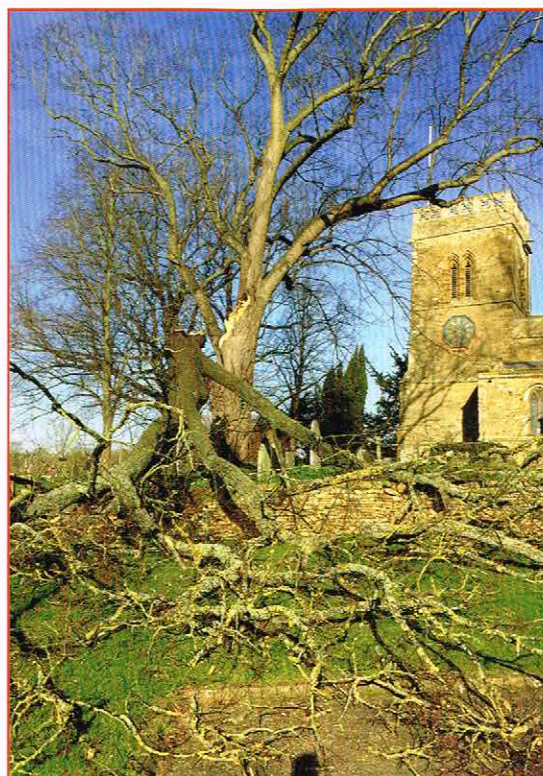
**N**O doubt many of you were affected by the ferocity of Storm Doris on 23rd February with trees and fences blown down, and the Parish Council was no exception.

A significant portion of a very large old Lime tree situated in the churchyard at St. Andrews church in Great Billing came down onto parish council owned land.

It damaged fencing at the top of The Leys, but more importantly a large section of the newly restored ha-ha wall was completely demolished.

Repairs to the fence and ha-ha wall will be carried out as soon as possible and it is hoped that by the time you read this newsletter works will be completed.

Arrangements were made to have the fallen tree removed the following day as it was deemed a safety hazard.



*Aftermath of Storm Doris which demolished a large section of the newly restored ha-ha wall.*

## Commemorative Tree Planting by the Mayoress

**B**ILLING Parish Council was delighted when Lynne Malpas, the Mayoress of Northampton, decided she would like the tree commemorating her year in office to be planted in the pocket park at Great Billing.

Lynne, the Mayoress, said she had chosen Billing pocket park for her tree planting to show her thanks for the support Billing Parish Council and the people of Billing had always shown her husband, Christopher, in his role as councillor.

The ceremony took place on Saturday, 25th February followed by a reception held in the Bernard Weston Pavilion. A commemorative bench seat was also placed adjacent to the tree.

Many dignitaries attended the ceremony including the Mayor and Consort of Rushden, Mayor and Consort of Corby, Chairman of Daventry District Council and Deputy Mayor of Raunds, alongside former Mayors of Northampton, members of the Council and Freemen of the Borough.

Unfortunately, as so often happens with the British weather, it started to rain five minutes before the ceremony started but it failed to spoil a lovely occasion.

The Council thank Lynne for bestowing this honour on it and wish her and Christopher all the very best for the remainder of their Mayoral year.

*Pictured left: Lynne Malpas, the Mayoress of Northampton, plants the tree to commemorate her year in office.*





## Community Clean-ups

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

They are Saturdays 8th July and 11th November between 1000am and 12noon.

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.

### Lesley Ingram

**I**t was with great regret that the Parish Council received the sad news that Lesley Ingram, the Neighbourhood Warden for Ecton Brook, had passed away so suddenly on 18th February.

Although Lesley had not been in the post for long she was extremely hard working and had contributed greatly to the area.

Our sincere condolences are extended to her family and friends.

### Billing Sewage Works

**T**HE Parish Council receives many complaints from parishioners regarding the odours emanating from the Sewage works.

If we report this to Anglian Water it only counts as one complaint, so if you detect an odour please complain immediately on 03457 145145.

It is to be hoped that the more complaints they receive the more likely they are to do something about it.

This telephone number can also be used to report a sewage leak.

For further information visit their website [www.anglianwater.co.uk](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk)

### Great Billing WI

**O**N the 8th March we have Simon Hill and his talk is 'Northampton Footwear Past & Present'.

At our 12th April meeting we will welcome Julia Gallagher and Ali Quinn, Police Officers. Their talk is entitled 'Police Riots'.

The 10th May is our WI's Birthday Meeting and we are going to Gallones Ice Cream Parlour to make and sample pancakes and ice cream.

On the 14th June, Shena Cooper will give a talk on 'What Is WASTE Food?'

12th July : You cannot be serious!.. Tales of a Wimbledon Umpire. Alan Gray will visit to give his talk on this.

Then on the 9th August we have an evening outing. This year we will have a walk at Stanwick Lakes, followed by a meal at their restaurant.

Our meetings are held at the Bernard Weston Pavilion at the playing field in Great Billing. New members and visitors are always welcome.

For more information contact our President Mrs Maddy Harrison on 414749.

## Bellinge Field



**Bellinge Fields - now owned by Billing Parish Council ensuring it will never be built on.**

**Y**OU may recall that quite some time ago we advised parishioners that Billing Parish Council was hoping to acquire ownership of Bellinge Field.

We are delighted to announce that this is finally coming to fruition and by the time you read this newsletter the transfer of ownership should be completed.

The Council is sure everyone will agree that we are extremely fortunate to have so much open green space within our parish and the acquisition of this additional green land means that this, together with the land already owned by the Parish Council, will never be built on and will remain in perpetuity as an open space for all parishioners to enjoy.

## Bellinge Community House

**W**E have had a very productive time since the last newsletter. Our success stories include £36,000 of Debt Relief support provided by Ella, who assists any resident in the Parish that needs support with financial management. Ella is fully qualified to provide this monthly service, a satellite service from Community Law Service Northamptonshire.

We have had several groups develop and we hope that they continue to do so: IT Drop in session and Wi-Fi, Project ABC - Active Billing Community with Health Walks and Billing Joggers group; Make do and Mend sewing group with Lind Miller, a local resident who volunteers her time, IT for beginners, supporting those that would like to get used to using a PC, i-Pad, while Health and Wellbeing Advisor Cath Pollock is here the second Wednesday in the month offering 1:1 support.

Bellinge Youth Group is held on Tuesday evenings for 8-12 year-olds and 12-16 year-olds supporting our 53+ young people that access this service, along with the Monday evening street football sessions.

We have entered Northampton In Bloom - with lots of people from Bellinge Pre-School to local residents all taking part.

The next Parish Family Fun day will take place at Fieldmill Square on 22nd April and we hope to have attractions for you all to enjoy. If there are any local people who would like to have a stall please contact BCH on 01604 411473, email: [bellinge@btconnect.com](mailto:bellinge@btconnect.com) or our Facebook page Bellinge Community House.

Vinnie's POP-up Coffee Shop opens the first and third Saturday of the month from 10am to 12noon offering homemade cakes and a cuppa for free.

New courses and opportunities are available. If you're ready and looking for employment try the Customer Care course aimed at those who would like to work in retail. Healthy Eating aims to support residents who have lunch box(es) to fill and family meals to cook and would like some inspiration.

We are also looking for parents in the parish that would like to have support to set up their own Parent/Toddler Group.

Community Breakfast is on Fridays 9.30am to 11am. Come along and have cooked breakfast and a cuppa for £1.50. Booking essential.

Bellinge Community House is located at Fieldmill Square near the Co-op.



## Billing Annual Fayre

**F**OLLOWING a year without a Fayre in 2015 the decision was taken to hold the event in 2016 and once again it turned out to be a very successful afternoon enjoyed by the many people who attended.

It is planned to hold the Fayre again in 2017 and the event will take place on Saturday, 24th June between the regular times of 1.30pm and 5.30pm on the playing fields at Great Billing.

Again, we hope to attract the eclectic mix of stallholders with homemade products, arts and crafts, lucky dips, tombolas and games for both adults and children.

In the arena we anticipate a mix of entertainment, much of it provided by local children with their dance and acrobatic skills. Live music will be a feature of the afternoon and refreshments will be available - both hot and cold - with soft drinks, teas, coffees, and a bar.

Last year's event was organised by a small committee of volunteers which included the Parish Council's Green Space Manager. If you would like to help out with the organisation of this year's event please let the Clerk know.

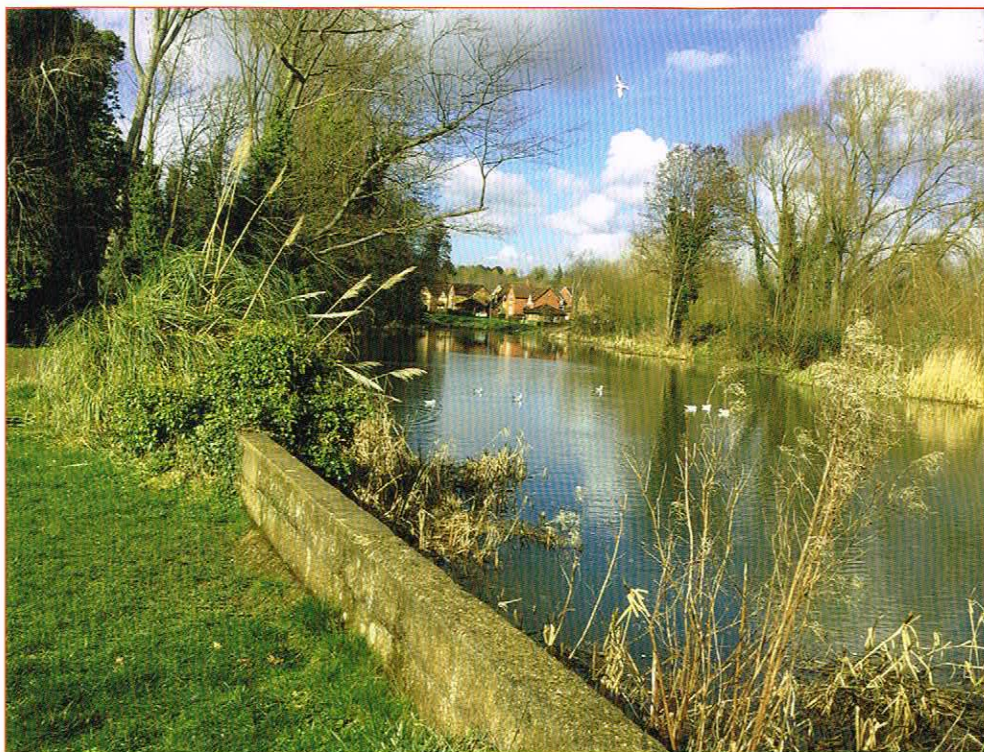
We look forward to seeing as many local people (and visitors from further afield) as possible, and if you are interested in having a stall or putting on some sort of display in the arena, please in the first instance, contact the Clerk to the Council for more information or for a booking form.

Any charitable group can have a stall for free and we only charge £15 for a stall if you wish to sell products for commercial reasons.

A successful event will assist in raising funds for the many charities and youth groups attending and there is no profit made by the Parish Council. Entry to the event is free.

We look forward to a fine and sunny day on Saturday, 24th June. As an early reminder, please note there is no visitor parking on the playing fields on

## Signs of Spring



*Spring is in the air as can be seen from this photograph looking upstream from Little Billing Pocket Park.*

### Little Billing Pocket Park's Triumph and Tragedy

**M**ANY favourable comments have been received following the installation of the new benches and picnic tables in Little Billing Pocket Park just before Christmas (see photo below).

This improvement was made possible as the Park Committee had successfully applied for a Tesco Bags of Help Grant. The other major purchase enabled by the Grant, a bright red Mountfield sit-on mower, was not, sadly, as successful.

Within hours of being delivered it was stolen from the container off Valley Road where the group stores its equipment.

The new mower was delivered at dusk on Monday, 30th January, and a passer-by must have taken a liking to it for, overnight on Tuesday/Wednesday, 31st January/1st February, the holding fitting within the lock-box on the container was sawn through with a hacksaw enabling the padlock to be removed, and the other padlocks on the main door were smashed-off and the mower, a chipper and other equipment were stolen.

Despite the noise and activity, nothing was heard by householders at neighbouring properties. So, if you spot anyone in the vicinity with a little garden and a nice new mower in the garage, please notify the Police by calling 101 and quoting Incident Number 205. Alternatively you can contact Michael Clasper on 01604 786240.

Nevertheless, life goes on, and if you fancy a couple of hours volunteering at the Pocket Park please note that the forthcoming sessions are from 10am until 12noon on Saturdays April 8th and 22nd, and May 13th and 27th. You'll be very welcome.





# Billing Covenanted Churches Together

**T**HE churches in Billing aim to share together, as far as possible, on their journey through Lent.

This year, as well as the Holy Week services, there will be an opportunity to share in a reflective Quiet Morning (March 18th) and also weekly Prayer Breakfasts.

We do hope that you will be able to join us at some of these events.

Prayer Breakfasts will be held every Tuesday during Lent from March 7th onwards at the Methodist Chapel.

At 8.30am we have a quiet, structured time of prayer for our world, our community and ourselves, followed at 9am by a light breakfast.

Even if you are not normally able to get to our monthly Prayer Breakfast you may like to set aside a Tuesday in Lent to come along to the chapel and join us.

We hope that this will be a helpful and encouraging time of prayer together during Lent.

## BCCT Holy Week Services at 7.30pm.

**Monday, 10th April:** at the Methodist Chapel  
led by Rev Phil Snelson

**Tuesday, 11th April:** at Our Lady's Catholic Church  
Stations of the Cross

**Wednesday, 12th April:** at St Andrew's Parish Church  
Music and Meditation led by the choir

**Other Service details:**

**Maundy Thursday, 13th April:**

7pm: Our Lady's - Mass and Washing of Feet

7.30pm: All Saints Little Billing - Stripping of the Table

**Good Friday, 14th April:**

10.30am: St Andrew's - Good Friday Reflection service

2pm: All Saints Little Billing - Meditations at the Cross

3pm: Our Lady of Perpetual Succour - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**Holy Saturday 15th April:**

7.30pm: St Andrew's Great Billing - Service of Light

**Easter Sunday, 16th April:**

9am: All Saints Little Billing - Lord's Supper

9:15am: Our Lady of Perpetual Succour - Mass

10.30am: St Andrew's Great Billing - Lord's Supper

6pm: Methodist Chapel - Worship led by Mrs Pedro

## Friends of Earls Barton Library

**T**HE Friends of Earls Barton Library group was started two years ago. Since then they have supported the library in various ways, including raising money to purchase the equipment to enable the running of a monthly film club (free to local residents), supporting the Summer Reading Challenge each year and much more.

Earls Barton holds a fortnight-long Festival in June, with a variety of events throughout the two weeks, culminating in the village Carnival.

The Friends of Earls Barton Library are organising a Literary Festival this year. It will take place on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June.

We have events throughout the two days. Poets, authors, an adult story teller, musicians and actors will read, run workshops on creative writing and self-publishing, act, sing, play, rap and interact with audiences of all ages. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

Although the printed programme is not yet available, we are expecting it very soon. Tickets will also soon be available for this most exciting venture. Please contact telephone Carolyn on 07584 093039 or email FriendsOfEarlsBarton@gmail.com to make enquiries.

## Celebration Avenue tree planting completed

**T**HIRTY-two new trees have been planted in Celebration Avenue - 17 of which have already been sold or reserved. This completes the avenue of Rowan trees which now stretches from the top to the bottom of The Leys, following the line of the natural pathway, and is a lovely feature of this beautiful piece of Parish owned land. Our Green Space Manager is delighted that this has been completed prior to his retirement early next year.

## Council Meetings

**P**ARISH Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month (with the exception of August) at 7.30pm 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, 10th April 2017**

**Monday, 8th May 2017**

**Monday, 12th June 2017**

**Monday, 10th July 2017**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held immediately prior to the Parish Council meeting at 7pm on Monday, 8th May 2017.

## 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

Patrick HENESEY (Tel: 536804)

Steve ROCKALL (Tel: 530640)

Stephen WARD (Tel: 410548)

### Great Billing Ward

John MARLOW (Tel: 404678)

Michael PEARSON (Tel: 407118)

Cheryl WORTHINGTON (Tel: 408613)

### Little Billing Ward

David BREDE (Tel: 07930 960241)

John CLEMENTS (Tel: 07764 158516)

Norman NICKASON (Tel: 07486 999328)

### Middle Ward (Bellinge)

Dennis NASH (Tel: 403702)

Gurcharan Kaur CHAGGAR (Tel: 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)