

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL BULLETIN

SERVING BELLINGE, ECTON BROOK,
GREAT BILLING and LITTLE BILLING



Newsletter No. 31

Spring 2018

New street lights will be more energy efficient

BILLING Parish Council has engaged Aylesbury Mains to update all of its parish-owned street lights and work is expected to begin at the end of March/beginning of April.

The new PLL lamps will be much more energy efficient (there is an approximate 56% energy saving compared to the present SOX lamps) and they last far longer, which will drastically reduce maintenance costs.

Residents in Station Mews, Great Billing will be pleased to hear that the Parish Council has decided to assume responsibility for the lights in their cul-de-sac and these will also be updated and maintained in the future.

Dog waste offenders face risk of prosecution

THERE has been a huge increase in dog owners not picking up after their dogs throughout the whole parish.

The vast majority of dog walkers are responsible and do so, but unfortunately a small minority do not. It is of particular concern that a lot of dog waste is left on the playing fields at Great Billing (you may have noticed that it is being sprayed with biodegradable pink chalk paint).

The football pitches are used by a huge number of young children and, consequently, it is a big health and safety concern.

From the CCTV footage it would appear that the main offenders are those that take their dogs out very early in the morning or after dark.

There will be increased patrols from the Neighbourhood Warden and the Parish Council will not hesitate to prosecute offenders.

Please note that bagged dog waste may be deposited in ordinary litter bins in addition to specific dog bins.

Winter delight in the garden



Before the recent snowy weather, residents of the Parish were able to enjoy some spectacular displays such as this in the Winter Garden in Great Billing Pocket Park proving it is not all doom and gloom in the winter months.

Household waste must be placed in bins/bags

THE Parish Council appreciate that the contractors for Northampton Borough Council are not emptying their litter bins as often as we would like and are hoping that when the new contractors take over in June that this will improve.

However, it has come to our notice that some people are putting household waste (including on one occasion what must have been the entire contents of someone's freezer) into litter bins belonging to the Parish Council.

Would you please note that this is an illegal activity and is classified as fly-tipping, for which you can be prosecuted.

All of your household waste **MUST** be placed in the bins/bags provided by Northampton Borough Council and placed outside for collection on the designated collection day.

We have many wonderful parishioners who spend a lot of their time collecting litter throughout the parish. Please let us make them redundant!

Either place any litter in the many bins provided or take it home with you – and if you see any litter lying about it would be nice if it was picked up. Let us aim for a litter-free parish.

Introducing the new neighbourhood warden

MY name is Lorraine Wright and I am the new Neighbourhood Warden for Abington, Little Billing, Great Billing and Bellinge.

I have worked for Northampton Borough Council for 11 years starting in the call centre, where I was for a year. I then moved on to become a Housing Officer where I managed Blackthorn and Rectory Farm and also the Ecton Lane Travellers site. I did this for four years and then became a Warden.

The previous areas I managed were East and West Hunsbury, Wootton, Rushmills, Brackmills, Great Houghton and Hardingstone.

These areas presented me with lots of different issues and enabled me to work with the Community Payback team in a lot of the green spaces.

I look forward to meeting the residents within the area. You can't miss me in my bright yellow high viz jacket, so please feel free to contact me or speak to me regarding any issues you may have.

You can contact me by email: lwright@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 07920 247740.

Community Clean-ups

THE remaining dates to put in your diary for the 2018 Parish Community Clean-ups of litter and fly-tipped rubbish are:

**Saturdays 14th July and
10th November between
10am 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.

Bellinge Community House – Supporting Residents in Great Billing Parish

HELLO again from BCH. We have had a very productive time since the last newsletter.

We hope that 2018 continues to develop as the Charity aims to support residents in the Parish, and is entering its 30th year of support to the local community and hope we have many more years to go.

The legacy of Project ABC will continue with Monday's Health Walks, meeting at 10am; Billing Joggers at 6pm for £1 per week, meet at Bellinge Community House; Core De Force with Paula Cowley 7.15pm-8pm at Bellinge Community Centre £2.50 per session.

On Tuesday afternoons from 1.30pm to 2.30pm at BCG, Chair Based Exercise (£2.50 per week); while on Tuesday evenings, Billy Hawkins will continue at 7pm-8pm with outdoor activities; 'Fit Start' and Yoga has moved with Judita to Standens End Barn from 7pm-9pm with options.

Bellinge Community House – Friday Community Breakfast

**Book your Breakfast: Call 01604
411473, bring this Voucher (no photo
copies allowed) and meet your local
community. Payment required if you
have no voucher - one only – normal
price £2.**

We are delighted that we have had such a positive response from local residents to improve their fitness and make new friends - a massive thank you to all the local volunteers that have trained and who are great ambassadors for supporting their community.

We have new opportunities for local people in the Parish that are looking for different activities, from education and support in returning to work with new skills, Knitting, First Aid, Food Hygiene, Social Groups that anyone is welcome to attend, Community Coffee Morning, Community Breakfast and so much more.



We have an exciting new project coming soon that, hopefully, in the next newsletter we will be able to share with you all.

We would encourage all residents to like our Facebook Page.

We are entering 'Bloom 2018' this year and have asked residents if they would like hanging baskets like those that we had last year. The cost is around £22, but you can pay weekly.

If anyone would like these, they can contact the community house by emailing bellinge@bellinge.org.uk

We have a just giving page that is in the process of being set up and we hope we can attract donations to assist with the continued support to local people.

We have had so much success with Northampton Partnership Homes 'Gold Award for best Community Garden' followed by the Northampton in Bloom Gold award for Best Community Garden.

We are very grateful for the work of our amazing team of volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the summer and winter keeping Fieldmill Square looking attractive for residents.

Bellinge really needs a proactive Residents Association which we are willing to support to become established, as it's the voice of the residents that matters.

Bellinge Community House is situated at Fieldmill Square, Field Mill Road, Bellinge, near the Co-Op – www.bellinge.org.uk

Ownership obtained at last

ALMOST a year to the date after it was originally anticipated, the Parish Council has finally obtained ownership of the area of land known as Bellinge Field.

This means that this land is now protected from ever being built on and will remain in perpetuity as an open space for members of the public to enjoy.

The intention of the Parish Council is to eventually bring this parcel of land up to the same standard as The Leys, but there is an awful lot of work required and it is realised that it will probably take some years to achieve this aim.

The council and the Green Space Manager have lots of ideas for the improvement and development of Bellinge Field but would welcome input from parishioners. If you have any suggestions or requests that you would like to be incorporated into our five-year

development plan please forward these to the Clerk, together with your contact details, and these will be considered for inclusion.



Bellinge Field - now protected from ever being built on.

Billing Annual Summer Fayre 2018

SATURDAY, June 30th is the date for the 2018 Billing Summer Fayre and, as usual, the Fayre will be held at The Bernard Weston Pavilion and sports field in Great Billing between 1pm and 5pm.

The afternoon promises to present a range of activities and stalls, food and drinks, ice creams and a BBQ as well as live entertainment from the Dave Barry Band.

We are looking for any individuals or groups who would like to have a stall at the Fayre or put on a short performance in the arena area.

Do you dance, sing, perform gymnastics or martial arts? Do you have an activity you could demonstrate and share with others? Are you part of a group who would like to fundraise by having a stall at the Fayre or do you support a charity and would like to raise some funds during the afternoon? We have loads of 3m x 3m pitches available on the playing field and, if interested, they are free if raising funds for a local group or for a charity or available for £15 each if you wish to have a stall for commercial purposes.

Admission on the day is free but please

be aware for safety reasons there is no parking available at the playing fields except for some disabled parking places.

If you are interested in booking a stall, performing in the arena area or would just like some more information please contact us either by emailing the Green Space Manager, Paul Marks at greenspacemanager@billingparish.co.uk or by giving Steve Rockall a call on 07713 077133.

Here's hoping for a fine day on June 30th and we hope to see many of you during the course of the afternoon.

Little Billing Pocket Park

THE volunteers at Little Billing Pocket Park have continued their work throughout the winter, meeting each month to remove litter and fly-tipped rubbish, sweeping footpaths and clearing the area north of the orchard of brash, nettles and thorns, so that it is more easily accessed as a recreational area.

Unfortunately, one of the new benches was destroyed by arsonists in early November. This will not be replaced as it is felt that it is sited in too remote an area to guarantee future safety.

At the start of the year an old tree became a victim of the storms and fell across the main footpath. It is always sad when a tree falls as they form such a vital part in our ecology, but, naturally, all living things have a lifespan, and it is thought that this tree was planted at the beginning of the last century.

Further volunteers are always welcome, and forthcoming volunteering session will be held on Saturdays, March 10th; April 7th and 21st; May 12th and 26th; and June 9th and 23rd.



Volunteers work all year round to ensure Little Billing Pocket Park is easily accessible for visitors to enjoy scenes such as the two pictured above.

Enjoying every minute of new role

I took over as the Green Space Manager in November 2017 and I knew that going from an office job as a mortgage consultant to working outdoors was going to be a huge culture shock. I can honestly say that I have enjoyed every minute.

With the work needed to maintain the parks and land that the parish own as well as the general upkeep of the Parish, there is always something to do and the variety of tasks keeps it interesting.

My predecessor, Chris, had spent the past 14 years improving the green spaces in the area to such a high standard that initially my task was to maintain what had already been done, with an exception of the construction of a fruit picking arch in Great Billing Pocket Park which I am sure will be full of fruit to be enjoyed by everyone next summer.

The recent acquisition of Bellinge Field



The newly created fruit picking arch in Great Billing Pocket Park which will, hopefully, be full of fruit in the summer. and Woodland will give me an opportunity to transform a neglected area into a useable space for the benefit of the whole community. This will be an ongoing project that will take many years to complete and

I am really looking forward to getting started.

My aim is to get more people in the community involved in some of the projects, like the transformation of Bellinge Field and Woodland, the Community Clean-Up which takes place four times a year and the Summer Fayre which will be on 30th June this year.

The first step towards achieving this was to set up a Facebook page to let people know what is happening in the area and to give information about how to make a difference by getting involved.

Please feel free to join the Facebook page 'Billing Parish Council' and take the first step towards making a difference.

Paul Marks
Parish Green Space Manager

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Website: www.billingparish.co.uk

THE Billing Parish Councillors are as follows:

Ecton Brook Ward

Rev. Richard BURBIDGE (Tel: 555186)
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)

Green Space Manager

Paul Marks (Tel: 785447)
Email: 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

Parish Highway Warden

Damian Lang
Email: highwaywarden@billingparish.co.uk

Forthcoming Council Meetings

PARISH 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 9th April 2018
Monday 14th May 2018
Monday 11th June 2018
Monday 9th July 2018
August - No meeting

Rockets are on target



Teresa Rockall



Nicola Rockall



Chris Rockall

AS the 22nd April 2018 draws closer, the tension mounts for two residents from the Parish of Billing. Teresa and Chris Rockall, together with Nicola Rockall (daughter and sister respectively), collectively known as the Elwes Rockets, are running the 2018 London Marathon in aid of Whizz-Kidz.

Once Teresa announced that she wanted to run the London Marathon (she has previously run a marathon in Milton Keynes) both the children said that they wanted to join her.

Whizz-Kidz was chosen as the charity to run for and all three were lucky to gain a

place. They have agreed to raise a minimum of £2,000 each for the charity and are working closely with Steve Marsh and his staff and customers at the Elwes Arms in Great Billing and Bipin Patel at Bipin Brook in Ecton Brook.

At the time of writing the total raised, since beginning in November, has now reached £4,500 and the trio are on course to complete their target by 22nd April 2018.

We are sure there are others from within the Parish who will also be running on the day and we wish them all the best of luck with their run and success if they are also fundraising for a chosen charity.

Making Ecton Brook a better place to live

FIRSTLY, a thank you to all involved in the Christmas celebrations. It was nice to see that the local school children were involved making decorations and that the solar lights added a further touch of gaiety.

Being the first effort it left a lot of things to be improved next time to make 2018 even bigger and better. There are also plans to include Diwali and Eid.

Despite the cold, the flower beds in the central car park continue to flourish and provide a welcome touch of colour in the drab winter.

Ecton Brook is entering the Northampton in Bloom competition this year and the area around the car park will reflect this year's theme celebrating 100 years of the ending, and winning, of the First World War.

Coincidentally the RAF was formed in 1918 so are also celebrating its centenary, and the flowers will reflect the red, white and blue of the United Kingdom.

Volunteers would be most welcome to help.

Ecton Brook Residents Group meets again on 22nd March and 24th May and all are welcome. Lights, dog fouling and rubbish have been highlighted in the past, so have your input!

Finally, the travellers have moved from the end of Ecton Brook Road and the 'campers' near the lake are being encouraged to find alternative accommodation.

Ecton Brook has a lot going for it, and can and will be a really nice place to live, so let's get to it!

Great Billing WI

WE meet in the Bernard Weston Pavilion, which is on the playing fields in Great Billing, at 7.30pm. Visitors are most welcome to attend.

Our next meetings are:

11th April - We have Dr. Audrey Matthews visiting us with her talk on Forensic Science.

9th May - May is our WI's birthday, so we are celebrating with a meal at the Telegraph Pub in Moulton.

13th June - Cheryl Worthington will be doing a Flower Arranging Demonstration.

11th July - Victoria Molnar-Brown will be with us, and her subject is 'An Accordion Adventure'.

In August we don't have a meeting at Great Billing as we go on an outing. This will be on the 8th but, as yet, the venue has not been decided.

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

Congratulations to champion Chantelle

HUGE congratulations go to local girl Chantelle Cameron, who won the World IBO Lightweight title in Leicester at the beginning of December.

It had been hoped that we could interview the 26-year-old for this issue of the magazine but, unfortunately, due to her commitments this has not been possible.

She has won all five of her bouts to date.