

# BILLING PARISH COUNCIL BULLETIN

SERVING BELLINGE, ECTON BROOK,  
GREAT BILLING and LITTLE BILLING

Newsletter No. 26

Summer 2016



## The Chairman's report

**T**WELVE months ago I concluded my Chairman's Report by stating that I was looking forward to working alongside the newly elected council and incumbent staff as a team for the benefit of our community. I would now like to say a big thank you to everyone for all your hard work - it has been a pleasure for me to be part of your team. It is not my intention to name individuals but suffice it to say that between you a lot has been achieved.

At long last, partly due to continual lobbying, work is due to commence on the Ecton Brook Community Centre, and through the efforts of the local warden and Mick Bull landscaping and redevelopment is taking place at the lakes in Ecton Brook Linear Park. Ground clearance within the parish is ongoing by making use of the 'Pay Back' Team.

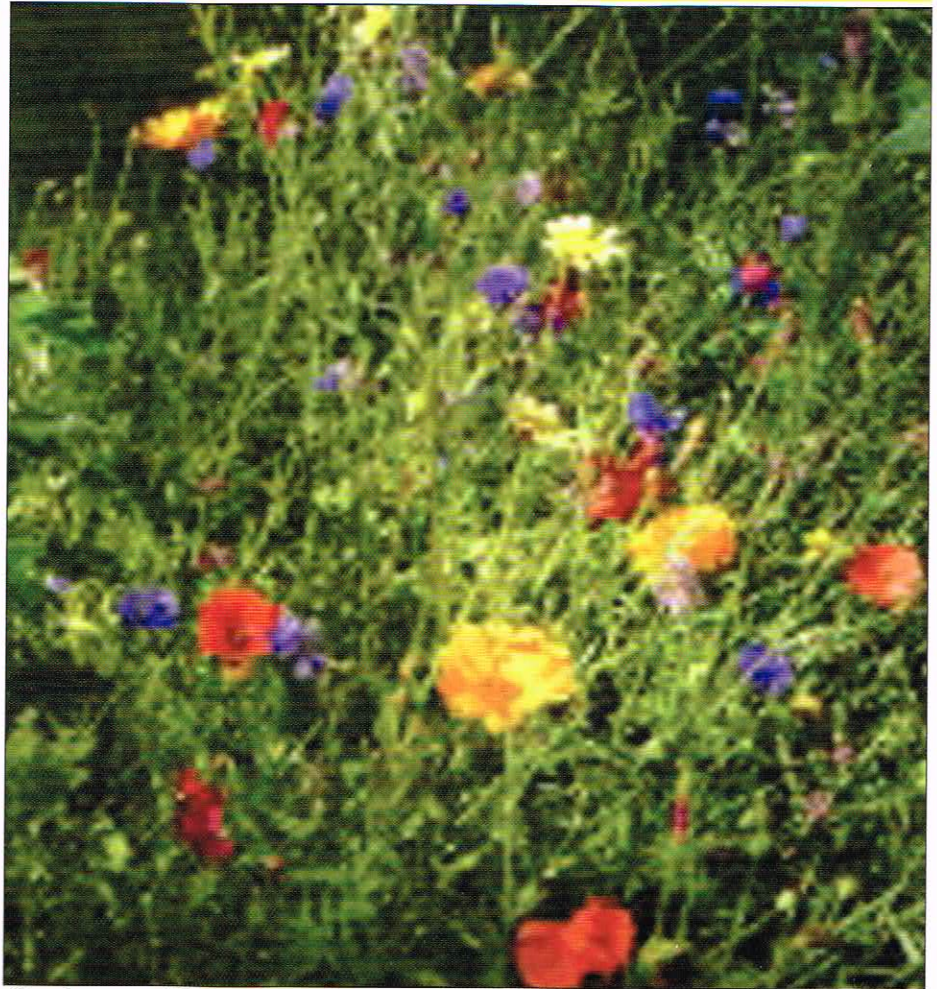
In Little Billing investigation as to how to reduce the noise from the adjacent A45 has revealed that in due course the Highways Authority intends to resurface our part of this road with noise reduction material and to install noise reduction barriers. Tree planting will also assist in achieving this objective. During the year an unwelcome planning application was withdrawn following lengthy consultations and objections from the local community.

Tree preservation in Great Billing and enhancement to St. Andrews Church and the adjacent Garden of Reflection has been achieved by the installation of a new pathway leading to both venues.

Our two local Councillors Christopher Malpas and Andrew Kilbride, together with Michelle Aveyard from Bellinge Community House and Sarah Oakes the Neighbourhood Warden, have assisted greatly in working towards improving the lives of those who live and work in our ward at Bellinge. The Bellinge Ward Committee meetings held regularly at The Guildhall and attended by all local agencies and Borough Departments have worked together to see that this objective is not only achieved, but maintained. A recent Week of Action centred around Bellinge Community House was well attended and received by the local residents.

Work is also ongoing regarding the updating/renewal of parish owned street lights for the whole parish and Billing Fayre has been resurrected by popular demand

### Flowers go wild



*One bonus of the wet weather experienced this year is that wildflowers have thrived and really brightened up the parish.*

and will be held on Saturday 25th June 2016.

Unfortunately during the year we lost the services of two long serving councillors - Liz Palethorpe and Rev. Steven Palmer - both due to retiring and relocating. They will both be sorely missed.

A big thank you is owed to both Sue and Chris who between them manage to keep the Parish and the Council on an even keel, and to our excellent Highways Warden, Damien Lang for all his hard work.

I did say earlier that I did not intend to mention any Councillor by name, but it would be very remiss of me if I did not mention our good friend and Councillor

Dennis Nash and congratulate him on being a winner in the Borough Council's Community Awards. Well done Dennis - much deserved.

For the coming year, if I had a wish list, it would include:

- \* A greater police presence in the Parish
- \* A roundabout at the junction of Orchard Hill with Manorfield Road, Little Billing.
- \* An answer to the breaches of the 'No Right Turn' from Fishponds Road into Great Billing Way, and finally
- \* More input from the community as a whole.

We will have to see what this next year brings!

# Billing Fayre back with a bang

**W**ITH there being no Fayre in 2015, this year it was back to the familiar pattern of waking up on the morning of the 2016 Annual Fayre and wondering first off what is the weather doing? Will it rain? Will the sun shine?

As long as it doesn't rain heavily and consistently then the Fayre goes ahead and even if we have some light rain before or during the event, the sports field at Great Billing drains really well and quickly.

By 9.30am the small group of volunteers were busy erecting gazebos and small marquees, marking out the arena and setting up the sound system.

Stallholders began to arrive shortly afterwards and the field was slowly transformed from a football pitch into a one-off market and entertainments area.

The two car park attendants were busy advising and pointing people to their pitch locations all already marked out clearly by the Green Space Manager. The children's roundabout was put together - it's believed we have had the same roundabout at every Fayre we have held over the last 15 or 16 years. Soon smells of freshly spun candyfloss, burgers, sausages and fried onions, while further up the field home-made curries, filled the air. The bar in the pavilion was set-up and the clink of bottles and glasses was soon heard, and the colours from the plant stalls were a joy to see.

The Mayor of Northampton, Councillor Chris Malpas and his good lady, Lynne, officially opened the event, not forgetting Verity, Chris' guide dog. Chris knows Billing well as the ward councillor and it was great to have him accept our invitation during his year of office.

Visitors to the Fayre started to drift in and then the heavens opened! Luckily the shower was sharp but fairly short and once the sun popped back out from behind the clouds we were all back into the swing and the Fayre carried on.

By this point the Dave Barry Band (put together by Dave Chard) had set up ready to play in their music marquee and the audience's chairs had been dried off and for the course of the afternoon they royally entertained the audience with their range of songs and musical instruments, demonstrating their many years of combined talent. As ever they were a huge success.

## Arena treats

In the arena we were treated to a Taekwondo display, crunching stuff; the young Starlight dancers had the audience four-deep around the arena and put on an outstanding display with the noise of the applause ringing round the park and Laughter Yoga, a new event to the Fayre, was very well received and enjoyed by the audience.

Also in attendance were the Parish Council's Highways Warden, the Neighbourhood Wardens from both Bellinge and Ecton Brook, as well as NBC Councillor Andy Kilbride, who went round and spoke with as many people as he could. It is really pleasing when all these people make the effort and involve themselves with visitors to the Fayre.

As the sun shone and it warmed up, the crowd numbers increased and the consumption of ice creams became ever more popular. People staggered off home under the weight of plants, tombola prizes and all manner of things that they had managed to find, to win or to purchase from the variety of stalls located all around the field.

As the afternoon drew on there was eventually the slight threat of further showers (it had been pouring down in Wellingborough) and the time came to clear up and pack away.

## Great effort

Thanks to the great efforts of a few, the field was clear and tidy and everything was put away by soon after 6pm. A great effort from all the helpers and the Parish Council would like to thank everybody who turned up on the day and took part in the event.

Many groups, organisations and charities were successful in their fund-raising during the day and it was good to see the support they received.

We hope to be there again at the end of June in 2017 and hope that many of you will again join us in one way or another. Please get in touch if you have anything to suggest, to offer or to give that will help us to put on another Fayre, maybe even better than those before.



*Above and below: stallholders and volunteers transform the sports field in to a one-off market.*



*The Dave Barry Band entertained audiences throughout the afternoon.*



*Stallholders enjoyed an afternoon of brisk business.*

## Calling new councillors

**D**O you have an interest in your local area? Do you want to help make decisions for the whole parish?

Would you like to help define and develop projects to benefit both residents and the whole community?

If so, Billing Parish Council has two casual vacancies for Parish Councillors.

If you are interested, or if you would like more details, please contact the Clerk on 01604 402756 or email [clerk@billingparish.co.uk](mailto:clerk@billingparish.co.uk)

## Great Billing W.I.

**O**N 10th August we have an evening outing to Kathy Brown's Garden at Stevington. Refreshments will be served after a guided tour of her lovely garden.

At our 14th September meeting we have Susan Rasmussen as our speaker. Dress With Success is her topic!

Our AGM is on 12th October and after the business is over we will enjoy some cheese and wine. Russell Attwood is visiting and talking of 'Pumpkins' - ready for Halloween!

At our meeting on Wednesday 9th November our speaker is Andy Harding. His talk is entitled 'What's Flying Tonight' which is an explanation of the lives and workings of our local moths.

Our Christmas Party this year will be on the 14th December. We will be entertained by New Vintage (Mike and Jenny Clark) while enjoying a festive buffet.

We meet at the Bernard Weston Pavilion on the playing fields in Great Billing on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm.

New members and visitors always warmly welcomed.

## At the heart of the community

**A**LL over Northampton there are those that help their neighbours, support local groups and regularly go out of their way for others in their community.

The Heart of the Community awards, organised by Northampton Borough Council, give us a chance to celebrate community spirit, recognise neighbourhood achievement and to say a big thank you to these wonderful people.

The Parish Council was delighted to hear that one of our Councillors, Dennis Nash, was one of this winners this year.

Dennis was nominated for his work as a trustee of Bellinge Community House, as a Parish Councillor for the area and an active member of the community.

Dennis is also chairman of his local allotment association and is involved with the Weston Favell Credit Union movement to ensure local people have access to financial support without additional worry. Dennis is a well-loved and respected member of the Bellinge community.

Dennis said: "I'm overwhelmed to have won this award and will receive it on behalf of all the



*Dennis with his wife after receiving his award.*

many volunteers working hard across the borough in these times of austerity."

## Comply with procedures

**T**HE process used by Northampton Borough Council to deal with fly-tipping has become much more streamlined.

Offences can be dealt with by Fixed Penalty Notices of between £250 and £400. As your Neighbourhood Warden, I would urge all residents to comply with procedures to dispose of waste items.

This month alone I have caught two local residents dumping waste on the street, and

several others have had warning notices issued.

Help may be available to people in genuine need, so please contact me direct on 07917 271157, or through the Community House or Parish Council.

I will also be carrying out some enforcement for littering, which is subject to a fine of £80.

**Sarah Oakes**  
Neighbourhood Warden

## New Police Commissioner

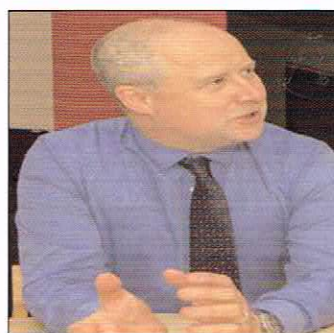
**S**TEPHEN Mold is the newly Selected Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire.

He is happily married to Nikki. They have a young family and are seeing first-hand how wonderful and challenging bringing up children in the modern world can be.

Stephen had a normal upbringing; climbing trees, playing football and then joining the Air Training Corps. This taught him tolerance, how to work with others through teamwork, the importance of taking responsibility and the value of public service.

Over the last 30 years, Stephen worked his way up through the ranks, from his first job unloading lorries, through various senior roles and eventually running his own business.

Stephen is passionate about making sure everyone gets their



**Stephen Mold**

opportunity to make the most of their lives.

As the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, he wants to ensure victims are put at the heart of everything he does. He is focused on addressing the problem with alcohol and drug fuelled crime across Northamptonshire, as well as working to end domestic violence.

In addition to this, he also wants to make sure that the

towns and villages of Northamptonshire are safe for children and free from those who wish to harm them, either physically or online.

Stephen is committed to protecting the number of frontline officers and believes that there is an ever increasing opportunity to exploit new technologies, to enable more officers to be visible on the streets of Northamptonshire tackling the issues important to local residents rather than being stuck at stations filling out paperwork.

If you would like to contact Stephen, he can be reached by email [Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk)

or via post at:  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner  
Force Headquarters  
Wootton Hall  
Northampton  
NN4 0JQ



## 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

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 12th September 2016**

**Monday 10th October 2016**

**Monday 14th November 2016**

**Monday 12th December 2016**

# Clean for the Queen

**T**HE Parish Council changed the date of its regular community clean-up in March to coincide with the nationwide Clean for the Queen campaign.

When our Queen came to the throne litter was not the problem that it is today.

Food packaging, plastic bottles, takeaway meals and cigarette butts have all contributed to a growing menace that affects our wildlife, streets, countryside and sense of pride.

What better way could we show our gratitude to Her Majesty than to clean up our parish?

While volunteers scoured the wards for litter as normal, several volunteers tackled the badly overgrown churchyard at St. Andrews Church.

We were delighted with the final result - and there were two huge piles of branches etc. ready to be collected the following Monday.



*NBC Cllr Andy Kilbride hard at work*



*Chairman John Marlow and Cllr. Jim Snedker*

## Community Clean-ups

**T**HERE is one remaining date to put in your diary for this year's Parish Community Clean-ups of litter and fly-tipped rubbish.

**It is on Saturday 12th November 2016 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.

## Little Billing Pocket Park

**T**HE monthly volunteering sessions continue at Little Billing Pocket Park, normally with between three and seven volunteers, whose efforts are greatly appreciated.

It is always difficult in the spring as the growing conditions for weeds, briars and nettles can be formidable, as, indeed, they have proved to be this year - with plenty of rain and warmer temperatures.

Over the past few months volunteers have continued to collect and clear litter and dumped household rubbish from the site; to weed the footpath; to mow the orchard and proposed picnic area, and to trim intrusive tree branches and shrubbery.

The committee was delighted to receive news that the Park has been awarded a grant from the Tesco Bags for Life scheme, and it is planned to use this money on providing picnic tables and benches for use by park visitors.

Future volunteering sessions are scheduled for 13th August, 10th September and 8th October, from 10am until 12 noon.

Volunteers meet outside the green container sited diagonally opposite the local shop in Valley Road.

All age groups are welcome, including younger children supervised by their parents.