

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL BULLETIN

SERVING BELLINGE, ECTON BROOK,
GREAT BILLING and LITTLE BILLING

Newsletter No. 29



Summer 2017

Chairman's Report 2017

I would like to place on record a big thank you to all my colleagues on this council for the time, commitment and enthusiasm you have all shown during the past 12 months, in solving or otherwise the many and varied problems that have arisen within your respective wards.

It is not my intention to name individual councillors or identify specific cases or else we could be in for a long night! I must, however, make a special mention of our Parish Clerk, Mrs Sue Harris. Sue, your efforts on our behalf and the professional manner in which your role is carried out is very much appreciated by us all.

Also thanks to Chris, our Green Space Manager, for ably looking after the Parish assets and Michelle and her team at the Community House for all their hard work and commitment in and around Bellinge.

The efforts, hard work and support from Councillor Andy Kilbride, our local Neighbourhood Warden Sarah Oakes, and our Parish Highway Warden, Damian Lang are also very much appreciated.

Michael Clasper's involvement, together with his team of volunteers at Little Billing Pocket Park is often, quite justifiably, recognised by his local residents and we are pleased to see the Parish Council's annual grant of £1,000 put to such good use.

I am also pleased that during the year the Parish Council has seen fit to give financial assistance to Bellinge Community House, the Community House Youth Group, Bellinge Pre-School, and our local Scout troop, thereby recognising the importance of investing in the younger members of our community.

We had hoped that Billing Parish Council would have acquired ownership of Bellinge Field by the end of March but, unfortunately, there has been some hold-up at NBC at the completion stage. We are confident, however, that this transaction will be completed shortly.

We were delighted to see the return of Billing Fayre in June 2016 and look forward to this annual event taking place for many years to come. This year's Fayre took place on Saturday, 24th June and Steve Rockall and his team and all the volunteers helped make it another enjoyable and successful day.

The year ahead will no doubt throw up new problems but I am confident that with our present team these will be met head on.

In conclusion I would like, on your behalf, to place on record our congratulations to our other local Councillor, Christopher Malpas who, on 18th May, completed his year as Mayor of Northampton. Chris and his wife Lynn attended a total of 530 engagements and have raised in excess of £21,000 for his chosen charity - Guide Dogs for the Blind. Chris, well done, and we look forward to welcoming you back to our parish.

John Marlow
Chairman

A blooming good display



This summer's warm weather helped turn Great Billing Pocket Park's Corn Meadow into a blaze of colour for visitors to admire.

100th Birthday Celebration for Joan Bollins

ON Saturday 8th July 2017, Church Walk in Great Billing was closed to traffic enabling a street party to take place, with relatives, friends and neighbours gathering to celebrate the remarkable achievement of the 100th birthday of Joan Mary Bollins (nee Middleton).

She told us that as a young girl taking part in a parade down Church Walk she looked over to the cottages and told her friend 'I shall live in those cottages one day' - and so she did, moving there with her husband in 1955!

Our congratulations and very best wishes go to Joan and we look forward to the 101st.

Pictured right: Joan Mary Bollins with a celebratory bouquet.



Community Clean-ups

THE last date for this year's Parish Community Clean-up of litter and fly-tipped rubbish is Saturday 11th November 2017 between 10am and 12noon.

Volunteers meet outside the Cop 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 WI

VISITORS always welcome to attend our meetings which are held at the Bernard Weston Pavilion in the pocket park at Great Billing.

Future meetings are scheduled for:

9th August - we will be going to the Pamukkale Turkish Restaurant.

13th September - Fashion Show - Jackie Allen from Rock Those Frocks in Towcester will be bringing her new range for the Autumn/Winter season.

11th October - is our AGM, where we have cheese and wine and a few quizzes after the business is over.

8th November - David Sleight will be speaking on 'Maintaining & Repairing British Historic Buildings'.

13th December - food and music to celebrate Christmas

For any further information please contact our President Maddy Harrison on 01604 414749.

Little Billing WI

OUR forthcoming programme is:

3rd August - Glass etching

7th September - Boobs and Droops

5th October - AGM - Election of committee and President

2nd November - Stanwick Handbell ringers

7th December - Festive Bagpipes
Meetings take place at All Saints Church, Little Billing, starting at 7.30pm.

Please note that our August meeting will be at an alternative venue due to the Church being decorated.

Come along and join us, you are very welcome.

For further information please contact our President, Linda Brett, on 01604 403525.

Neighbourhood Warden report

IT has been a busy few months for me, as I cover a large area including Billing, Abington and Thorplands so if you haven't seen much of me I apologise!

We seem to be experiencing a surge in untaxed vehicles in the area, with a dozen or more removed in the last few weeks. For clarity, a SORN vehicle can only be kept on private land. This does not include public parking areas or grass verges. If anyone is unsure of the rules regarding car tax or the provisions for storing cars that are subject to SORN Notices please refer to www.gov.uk or contact the DVLA on 0870 0421101.

I have also been dealing with a number of domestic properties where car repairs are being carried out. Anyone using public roads to carry out repairs to vehicles, is committing an offence under the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Act 2005, and will be subject to action accordingly. Repairing vehicles on private land is permitted in some situations, but given the nuisance issues around noise and parking for example, action can be taken to prevent these activities.

Fly tipping continues to blight certain parts of the Parish, which is a real shame given the hard efforts of everyone who is trying to make a difference to the area. I would urge anybody that has any information, particularly in the Foskitt Court, Gallfield Court area to come forward. Information can be given anonymously. I appreciate that the restricted

opening hours of our local tips has had an impact, but for any resident in genuine need of help with the disposal of their waste, particularly large items, please contact me or Bellinge Community House to see if we can offer support.

As we move in to the summer months, please remember home safety. If you are going away, do not advertise your movements to lots of people, including on social media. Ask a friend or neighbour to collect your post and turn lights on and off while you are away. When you are at home, remember to keep your doors locked. Be aware of cold callers, and always check identification. If in doubt, don't answer the door. There are some helpful booklets at the Community House that give further information, but I am happy to do a home safety check with people if they would like.

Sarah Oakes

soakes@northampton.gov.uk

Tel: 01604 837384

Litter Bins

THERE is a worrying trend throughout the Parish of household waste being placed into litter bins. This is an illegal activity that is classed as fly-tipping and as such the perpetrator is liable for prosecution. All household waste **MUST** be placed in the bins (or bags) provided by Northampton Borough Council and placed outside for collection on the designated day.

Bellinge Community House

Billing Fayre - We had a great day at the Fayre and our Tombola Stall raised £133.50 that will go towards supporting our organisation. It was a great afternoon meeting new residents.

Bellinge in Bloom - Some of you, hopefully, will have noticed the effort that has gone into improving the Hub of The Community, Fieldmill Square, with the amazing efforts of Jon Porter, our much-trusted volunteer, and Cllr Dennis Nash along with various volunteers and the residents' support. The 'Community Garden' is looking amazing. We have had lots of positive comments and any resident looking to support the community garden project and interested in generally keeping the area tidy please do get in touch.

Project ABC - Health walk - three more new walkers have joined the group with a total of 14 registered.

Billing Joggers Group - we have another resident being trained up as a leader and additionally another resident is being trained to support the Chair Exercise groups that started weekly on 20th June 1.30pm to 2.30pm, so we are moving in the right direction and hope to have walking football, walking netball and Zumba groups up and running soon.

Bellinge Youth Group - we have still not been successful with our many bids to support the youth group. This is disappointing as we have 78 8-12 years on the register. I have submitted another application for part of the cost to the

Youth Social Action Fund and hope this will be successful. Until we find out any other information we will need to suspend the youth group at the end of the school term and until we are in a better position to deliver this, fingers crossed hopefully very soon. The 12+ young leaders will continue and we had a Bellinge Young Leader, shortlisted in the County Youth Ambition awards 2017.

Residents Association - There has been varied views and attendance at the Bellinge and District Residents Association. Your voice and commitment adds value to the local community where your views can be put forward. The proposal is to restart the Residents Association in the Autumn. If you would like to add your support please talk to your Parish Councillors, Mr Dennis Nash, Lorraine Vakil, Gurcharan Kaur - every voice counts.

Community learning - We have a diverse variety of community courses both educational and vocational open to all parish residents 18+ and those looking for workplace qualifications. Contact details are: email www.bellinge.org.uk Like our Facebook page [Bellinge Community House](https://www.facebook.com/BellingeCommunityHouse) or contact us on Twitter [@BellingeCommunity](https://twitter.com/BellingeCommunity)

Date for the Diary - Our AGM will be on the 16th October 2017 so please hold that date as we would be delighted for you to attend. The staff and volunteers at Bellinge Community House look forward to seeing you.

Reflecting on 14 years as Parish Green Space Manager

CHRIS Campling, Parish Green Space Manager, is retiring at the end of this year and has been looking back on his 14 years employment with the Parish Council.

The Parish of Billing is very fortunate to have numerous green spaces, four of which are owned by the Parish Council and which I have been lucky enough to manage over the past 14 years. One of the focal areas of the Parish is Great Billing playing fields, the pavilion and pocket park situated between Penfold Lane and Great Billing Way.

When my employment started, the pocket park was managed by volunteers, with wildlife being the core of their management plans. As time went on the volunteers dwindled and nature took a serious hold and almost took over the whole area. At my suggestion the Parish Council was happy for me to take over the management role and made funds available for clearance and projects.

A five year plan was drawn up between me and my one remaining long-standing trusty volunteer, Jim Snedker, and we set about transforming the park with people in mind but still trying to include wildlife areas.

We eventually achieved our long term objectives, the highlight being the winter walk with its bright coloured trees and shrubs to cheer up the coldest winter day, along with flowers and scent that emerge as early as January. This will get better and better as the area matures.

Alongside are areas set out with plantings for bees and butterflies and

hundreds of snow-drops heralding the on-set of Spring. Dotted around the park are beds of daffodils, bluebells, pinkbells, whitebells, cyclamen, lily of the valley and wild garlic to name but a few.

A now mature millennium wood was planted in 2000 and the start of a blossom grove.

There are many benches alongside a path around the park with clamber-art and ball-walls for the young ones, and a picnic area overlooking our colourful summer corn meadow lending something for all most of the year round.

The Leys, adjacent to St. Andrews Church, is a huge green space enjoyed by many people from all areas of the Parish. Over the years this area has been enhanced with the restoration of the ha-ha wall around the church, the gradual restoration of the old Convent orchard with authentic heritage apple trees. Seven more are being planted this autumn, mostly from the Victorian era with good old fashioned names such as Peasgoods Nonsuch and Pitmaston Pine Apple.

Many native specimen trees have been planted to replace the gradual loss of our Horse Chestnuts. Celebration Avenue with 96 native Rowans is now complete and a new wild flower meadow by the Roman Catholic graveyard has got off to a very good start.

On the other side of the grave-yard was a vastly over-grown neglected area which was secured by the Parish Council in 2010. With the help of S106 money from the development of the old school and a bit of old fashioned vision the area

is now a quiet peaceful 'garden of reflection' with beds of crocus, snake-head fritillaries, star of Bethlehem, blue-bells and cyclamen.

Brightly coloured dog-woods, winged spindle and viburnum add interest to the area. Clumps of scented narcissus such



Meadow and Wood before (left) and after (right).



The Orchard (left) and Celebration Avenue as they are today.



The Remembrance Garden before (left) and after (right).

as pheasants-eye and thalia emerge in late spring. Trees have been replaced with winter flowering cherry, almond, jaquemontii 'ghost' birch and the unusual Judas tree. Spring-time boasts masses of snow-drops surrounding a stunning specimen copper beech tree.

Hand on heart I feel I can honestly say that during my employment with the Parish Council I have left a mark that will be enjoyed by parishioners for many years to come.

By the time this goes out the Parish Council will, hopefully, have secured Bellinge Field adjacent to the Leys, which I have no doubt will be a long-term major project for my successor, whom I wish the very best of luck and trust he/she will enjoy working on Parish land and with the Parish Council as much as I have.

Parish Council Asset Manager

A vacancy will occur in December 2017 for the above position. The post holder will be responsible for the overseeing and the management of Billing Parish Council's assets, which include a pavilion, sports field and open park areas.

Knowledge of Health and Safety legislation and good computer skills would be beneficial. The ideal candidate will possess a clean driving licence, be self-motivated, have a love of the open air and horticulture, and possess the practical skills required for ground and building maintenance.

Salary is negotiable and a full job description, together with terms and conditions of employment are available from the Clerk.

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)

Lorraine VAKIL (Tel: 07557 052280)

Green Space Manager

Chris Campling (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 11th September 2017

Monday 9th October 2017

Monday 13th November 2017

Monday 11th December 2017

Scouting changes lives



The 46th Northampton (Overstone) Scout Group is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

Scouting makes a difference to individuals and the community in which they live. It is inclusive and Scout Groups should reflect the make-up of their local communities.

It is youth shaped where young people shape their own Scouting experience.

And it grows, because everyone has the right to have the opportunity to take part in Scouting.

Over the last 40 years, the 46th Northampton (Overstone) Scout Group has done just that. This year we celebrate our 40th anniversary and oh, what a year it has been so far.

With the aid of some funding from Great Billing Parish Council, nearly 70 young people aged from six to 14 years old, plus 20 Leaders, left Overstone one bright and sunny Saturday morning in February to visit the Natural History and Science Museums in London.

Armed with their rucksacks, stuffed full of food and drink for their lunch and tea, the intrepid explorers set off to the capital by coach.

During the day, they managed to see and experience an earthquake, the inside of a volcano, see the Soyuz Space Capsule that Tim Peake returned to Earth in, talked to 'Mr Faraday' in the Science Museum about electromagnetism and helped out with an experiment as well as seeing lots of weird and wonderful bugs and creatures from the past including a moving dinosaur.

The funding also helped support our Anniversary Spring Camp held over the

weekend of the 28th April to 1st May. Over 35 Cubs and Scouts camped for three nights with 20 Beavers joining in from Saturday morning to Sunday evening.

Activities over the weekend included First Aid Training supplied by the Scouting Northampton Emergency Aid Team, where all the Young People earned either a Stage 1, 2 or 3 Badge.

Music, the Northampton Scout Band, was there and worked with the Young People to earn their Stage 1 Music Badge.

They painted ceramic plates with support from POTZ Ceramic Studio, who left their studio in Billing Garden Village to spend a day with the Group, before returning to fire all the plates. A big thank you to them for all their hard work.

The young people also took part in traditional Scouting activities such as target shooting, archery, pioneering, backwoods cooking, wide games, camp fires etc. A very busy weekend enjoyed by all.

We also took the opportunity to hold a Community Tea which was attended by the Scout County Commissioner, Dean Smith, as well as members of Billing Parish Council - John Marlow and Norman Nickason, - County Councillor Andrew Kilbride, Rectory Farm Residents Association and other members of the Community. Overall it was great weekend, if a little tiring for the Leaders.

Other things the Group have been involved in this year include a Group Cubs Sleepover in March, a District Beaver Scout Camp in June as well District Cub Camp.

THERE has been a marked increase in the number of dog walkers who are not picking up after their dogs - particularly on The Leys.

It would appear that the worst offenders are those who take their dogs out early in the morning and/or late at night - presumably they believe that no-one can see them so it doesn't matter!

A Message for Dog Walkers

Unfortunately, these selfish individuals are spoiling things for the vast majority of dog owners who are responsible and who do pick up.

It is against the law not to clean up after your dog and the Parish Council will not hesitate to prosecute offenders.

Please note that bagged dog waste may be placed in normal litter bins in addition to the designated 'dog bins'.

Should this situation not improve, the Parish Council will have no option but to introduce a 'Dogs on leads only' rule within all its parish-owned land.