

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL BULLETIN

SERVING BELLINGE, ECTON BROOK,
GREAT BILLING and LITTLE BILLING

Newsletter No. 24

Christmas 2015

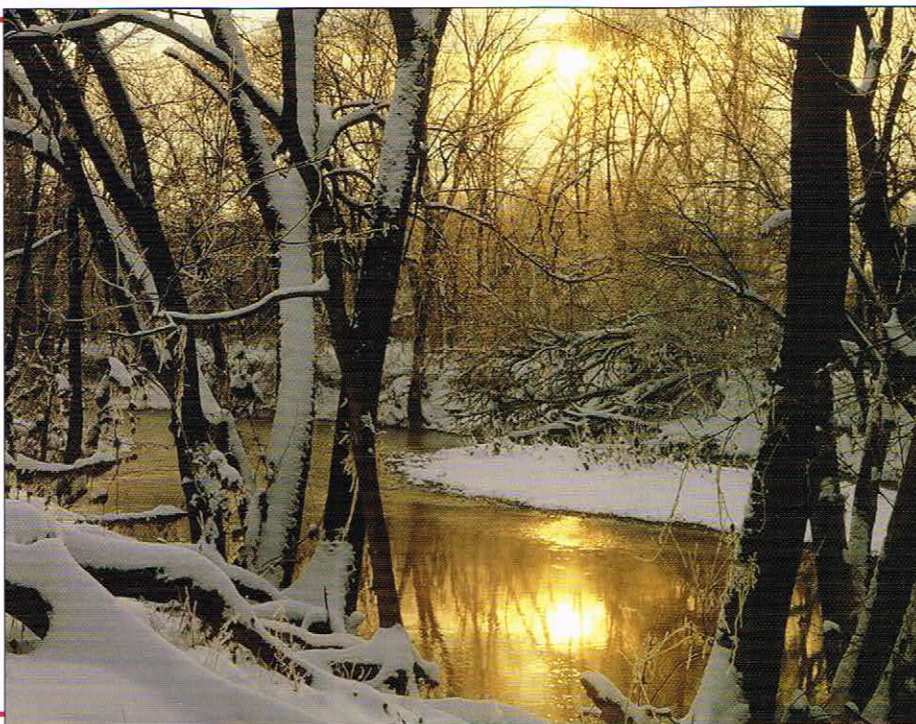


A beautiful Billing winter scene

After experiencing the warmest November day on record this year, we perhaps ought to be bracing ourselves for some cold weather ahead.

Pictured right is a pretty winter scene from within the parish after a snowfall in a previous year to give us all a reminder that although snow can bring difficulties with regard to getting out and about, it can also give us some picturesque landscapes.

Hopefully, if we do get snow in the coming months, our experiences will be more like this photograph rather than travel chaos and energy and health problems.



From the Chairman

COLD calling, Linear Park restoration, street lighting, litter, noise abatement, use of the Payback Team, street signage, tree preservation and Parish Special Constables. These are just a sample of some of the initiatives your newly formed

Council is working on at the present time.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the hands-on support we are receiving from your local District Councillors, Member of Parliament, local wardens and numerous other agencies based at the Guildhall. I

hope you agree this is not bad for starters!

In addition, your Council is in the early stages of negotiations with Northampton Borough Council regarding taking over ownership of the land known as Bellinge Field (pictured left).

This 12 acres or so of land borders the wards of Bellinge, Little Billing and Great Billing and is well used by the community.

Unfortunately this area has been somewhat neglected over the years and the Parish Council will pick up the maintenance costs should ownership be passed to it.

As stated earlier, negotiations are ongoing and will include financial implications, but I hope you will agree with me that the opportunity for us to own this land would ensure its 'green belt' status for generations to come and is an opportunity not to be missed. (Buy land, they are not making it any more - Mark Twain).

Finally, by the time you are reading this the festive season will be upon us, so from all at your Parish Council - Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

John Marlow



Bellinge Community House

WE continue to have support from the local community and we are really grateful for your ongoing support. BCH has been revamped inside by Nationwide volunteers and a few local volunteers so our community house is looking fresh, clean and tidy.

Thank you to everyone that was part of this task. It is close to the end of my first year as Manager and I have really enjoyed getting to know local residents and building new networking opportunities that support residents all across the ward.

Our new website - www.bellinge.org.uk - should be up and running so information for those on the internet is easier to obtain.

For those still not comfortable with computers, come along on a Thursday morning 10am to 12 noon to the IT for beginners - cost £1.00 per week. There is a friendly atmosphere and an opportunity to learn at your own pace.

We have lots more planned for the residents in the ward; the return of the Street Nativity in Fieldmill Square, Bellinge will be held on Monday, 21st of December,

with local residents taking part. I am really looking forward to this event myself, so any helpers would be appreciated.

Our purpose at Bellinge Community House is to support the things that residents ask for.

* Community law services on Thursdays 9am to 12 noon offers a diverse range of help. The service is confidential, just drop in, bring the problem and your national insurance number and you will be helped for free.

* Tuesday morning chair exercise session (cost £2.00 per week). Victoria is a fully qualified instructor so you are in safe hands. The 50+ meet for refreshments and there is the opportunity to meet your elected ward councillor and chat through any issues they can help with.

* The youth group for 8-12 years is running on Tuesday evenings from 4.30pm to 6pm (cost £1.00 per week), with qualified youth workers supporting young people in the area.

As many of you are aware we do have donations of dried food and clothes to help

and support our community along with general fundraising. We are not able to take any electrical items and although we are grateful we do have limited space, so only items that are clean, unopened and reusable are acceptable.

Good quality unwanted gifts can be used for fund raising in raffles to support ongoing groups.

All the staff, volunteers and trustees are very grateful that you continue to support Bellinge Community House.

I would personally like to thank those of you that pop in and take an interest in what we do and would invite those that have yet to walk through the door to come along, join in - we can be a stronger community together.

It would be great to see you at the Community Breakfast on Friday mornings.

Lastly, well done to the residents who completed their training courses gaining useful qualifications....there are more to follow.

Michelle Aveyard
Manager

Community Clean-ups

THERE are three new dates to put in your diary for the next year's Parish Community Clean-ups of litter and fly-tipped rubbish.

The 2016 schedule is Saturdays 12th March, 9th July and 12th November between 10.00am and 12:00 noon.

There is a possibility that the date of 12th March may be changed due to our wish to fall in line with the nationwide clean-up that is being arranged prior to our Queen's 90th birthday. If this is the case notices will be placed on all parish notice boards and on our website.

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, Chris Campling on 785447 or email greenspacemanager@billingparish.co.uk

What is doorstep crime?

THE majority of people who knock on your door ARE likely to be genuine. However, it is important to know that some are rogue traders, doorstep criminals and uninvited sales people and may turn up unannounced, with the intention of tricking their way into your home.

So-called 'doorstep crime' often results from an initial cold call. Unscrupulous traders will prey on the elderly and vulnerable members of society, carry out unnecessary, substandard and sometimes even dangerous work and then use strong arm tactics to persuade consumers to part with large sums of money for poor workmanship.

In addition, burglars may use cold calling as a pretext to engage in distraction burglary or sneak in thefts.

Avoid being a victim. Some 'Stay Safe' tips are:

* If someone claims they are part of a Trade Association or an approved body, ensure they have evidence and don't be scared to check up on them.

* If you have arranged an appointment and for someone to come and see you, use the password scheme when booking with the organisation. If the person calling on you doesn't know the agreed password, don't let them in.

* Have a spy hole or peephole on your door so you can see who is calling

* Use a door chain before you are certain who you are letting in.

* Always ask for id and confirm it with the organisation they claim to be with

* Always have your doors locked.

Your Parish Council and Trading Standards are currently looking at creating selective 'No Cold Calling Zones'. Why not put a No Cold Calling Sticker in your window? To apply for a No Cold Calling sticker, please telephone 0300 126 1000 or email tradedstd@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Opening times of Household Waste Recycling Centres from 1 February 2015

HWRC	Address	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su
Brickworth	Brickworth Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Corby	Corby Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Deanshanger	Deanshanger Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Easton (T)	Easton Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Kettering (T)	Kettering Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tushingham (T)	Tushingham Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Brickfields (T)	Brickfields Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Thrapston	Thrapston Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Wellingborough	Wellingborough Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Wootton Bassett	Wootton Bassett Road, Northampton	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Legend: ● = Open (10am-4pm all year round) ● = Closed

Opening times are subject to change without notice.

The Wootton Bassett site is closed on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Information is subject to negotiation with third party suppliers.

Northamptonshire County Council

Remembrance Sunday



Colonel John Royle, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, lays a wreath at Great Billing War Memorial on behalf of HM The Queen.



The wreaths laid by the various organisations at Great Billing War Memorial at this year's Remembrance Sunday service.

Volunteers are declining at Little Billing Pocket Park

VOLUNTEERING numbers at Little Billing Pocket Park have, unfortunately, been dropping of late, but work continues with a dedicated and reliable team of up to seven volunteers.

This year it has conspired to rain, or has rained heavily overnight, on most of the volunteering Saturdays, which has hampered the team considerably, and frequently prevented the use of the very beneficial machinery.

During the course of the year, the orchard has been strimmed, many brambles removed in the area behind Valley Road, and the sides of the riverside footpath have been weeded and cut-back.

The problems with litter clearance continue to take-up an alarming amount of volunteer hours during the course of the year,

and large logs from the arboricultural work continue to find their way into the stream.

Work will continue to clear the area to the right of the new orchard of nettles and briars in order to plant native bluebells in the area next Autumn.

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, December 12th, January 9th, February 13th and March 12th. Volunteers meet outside the Green Container on the spare ground diagonally opposite the village shop in Valley Road.

Great Billing Women's Institute

OUR December meeting on the 9th is when we have our Christmas party..... food, drink and entertainment with clog dancing.

Then we start the New Year with a games evening on the January 13th, which is always good fun.

Subscriptions are due, £37.50 for the WI Year.

On 10th February we have Louise Musson visiting to inform us about Telecare Technology.

On 9th March our speaker is Duncan Farrington with his subject: The Challenges of Modern Farming.

On 13th April we have a hanging basket demonstration and plant sale by Fritz Dezutter.

We welcome visitors to come and see if they enjoy the evenings with no obligation to join.

Meetings are held at the Bernard Weston Pavilion, situated on the playing fields in Great Billing.

For further information contact our President, Mrs Maddy Harrison, on 414749.

Celebration Avenue



Peter Neve, one of our Little Billing parishioners, kindly took all of the photographs associated with our Heritage Lottery funding. This is just one lovely example - of Celebration Avenue on The Leys.



BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Website: 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)
Lorraine VAKIL (07557 052280)

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)
Michelle YOUNG (07713 746050)

Middle Ward (Bellinge)

Dennis NASH (Tel: 403702)
Liz PALETHORPE (Tel: 401002)
Gurcharan Kaur CHAGGAR (07986 905963)

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

Council Meetings

PARISH 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 January 2016
Monday, 8th February 2016
Monday, 14th March 2016
Monday, 11th April 2016

Christmas Services in Billing

Our Lady, Great Billing

Thursday, 24 th December:	11.30pm	Service of Carols, followed by
	12.00	Midnight Mass
Friday, 25 th December:	8.00am	Mass
	11.30am	Mass

Great Billing Methodist Church

Sunday, 20 th December:	6.00pm	Christmas Carol Service
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St Andrew's, Great Billing

Sunday, 14 th December:	10.30am	Nativity Service with St Andrew's School
Sunday, 21 st December:	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
Thursday, 24 th December:	11.15pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Friday, 25 th December:	10.30am	Family Communion

All Saints, Little Billing

Sunday, 13 th December:	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service with The Watling Singers
Saturday, 19 th December:	4.30pm	Christingle Service
Thursday, 24 th December:	5.00pm	Crib Service
	11.15pm	Midnight Holy Communion
Friday, 25 th December:	9.00am	Family Communion

Fieldmill Square, Bellinge

Monday, 21 st December:	5.30pm	Carols with the Salvation Army Band
	6.00pm	Bellinge Street Nativity

The Elwes Arms

Wednesday, 24 th December:	8.00pm	Carols at the Elwes
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Billing Fayre

MANY people were extremely disappointed that the annual Billing Fayre was not held this year.

We would very much like this popular event to resume in 2016 and we are looking for volunteers who would be prepared to assist with this.

Ideally we would like to see the formation of a small committee to organise and run the event so that the workload is not too onerous for one person.

Cllr. Steve Rockall, who has organised the event virtually single-handed every year since its inception, has expressed his willingness to be part of the committee and to pass on his invaluable knowledge.

The Fayre is held on the last Saturday in June.

If you feel you could help with this well-supported event an informal meeting will be held at the Elwes Arms at 7.30pm on 25th January 2016.

If you would like to help but cannot attend this meeting, please contact the Clerk on 01604 402756 or email clerk@billingparish.co.uk



A meeting is planned for January 25th 2016 at the Elwes Arms to explore the possibility of resuming the popular Billing Fayre next year.

