

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL BULLETIN

SERVING BELLINGE, ECTON BROOK,
GREAT BILLING and LITTLE BILLING

Newsletter No. 27



Winter 2016

***The Parish Council
wishes everyone a
very Merry Christmas
and a Happy and
Healthy 2017***



Thanks for all your hard work Jim

THE Parish Council was very sad to receive the resignation of Councillor Jim Snedker due to him and his wife Sue relocating to Chelmsford. Jim has not only served two terms as a Parish Councillor, working tirelessly for the good of the whole parish, but he was instrumental, together with other volunteers, in the setting up of Great Billing Pocket Park. For some time now he has been the sole volunteer assisting the Green Space Manager in this project.

Great Billing Pocket Park occupies a rectangular piece of land on the eastern side of Great Billing village and is approximately 2.89 acres in size.

In 1990 this waste land was acquired by Billing Parish Council and with the help of the County Council Pocket Park scheme, a volunteer management committee was set up to improve the site. The volunteers and contractors, with the help of a grant from the Pocket Park scheme, cleared the area in 1991 and started planting trees to supplement the few remaining from the time when this area was parkland. This created a haven for wildlife in an otherwise urbanised area.



Great Billing Pocket Park.



Presentation of the first Green Pennant Award for 2005/6 to Great Billing Pocket Park. From left to right: NBC Cllr. Christopher Malpas (now Mayor of Northampton), NCC Cllr. Ben Smith, Parish Cllr. Steve Rockall, the late Ted Watson, the late John Shephard, Dennis Vaughan and Jim Snedker.

In 2000 a new committee was set up and an action plan written. Grants were applied for from various councils and wild life charities and work commenced to transform the Park.

As was reported in the Easter 2016 edition of this newsletter the pocket park has been transformed over the years and the vision Jim had for this area has finally come to fruition and is a favourite place for people to walk, picnic and exercise their dogs. Without the extremely hard work performed by people like Jim this would never happen.

The Parish Council thank Jim for all he has done for the parish and wish him and Sue a long and happy retirement.

New bus shelter for Ecton Brook



Marjorie Hinchliffe (standing) and Anita Hill at the new bus shelter.

Community Clean-up dates for 2017

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 2017 schedule is Saturdays 11th March, 8th July and 11th November between 10am and 12noon.

Volunteers meet outside the Co-op in Fieldmill Square (for Belling); 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.

AT the beginning of this year local resident Marjorie Hinchliffe approached the Highways Department at Northamptonshire County Council to ask if there was any possibility that a bus shelter could be installed in Overmead Road, Ecton Brook.

This is a bus stop that is extremely well used throughout the day by workers, school children, the elderly, young mums, wheel-

chair users etc.

She was advised that, unfortunately, there were no monies available in their budget for this and they recommended that she seek the possibility of third party funding.

Marjorie subsequently contacted the Clerk at Billing Parish Council and this request was discussed at a full council meeting.

After a survey of users of the bus stop resulted in 188 out of 191 people surveyed

in favour of a bus shelter being installed, the Parish Council agreed to go ahead with this purchase.

After weeks and weeks we finally fulfilled the various conditions demanded by Highways, (at one point we thought this project was going to be a non-starter).

Permission was finally granted in September and the new shelter was installed some two weeks later - just in time before the onset of winter.

Little Billing Pocket Park

THE steadfast volunteers continue to work hard, on the second Saturday of each month, at Little Billing Pocket Park, weeding, planting, mowing and collecting and removing litter and fly-tipped rubbish.

The 'regulars' have welcomed two new volunteers into their ranks over the past few weeks, and work will continue, unabated, over the winter months, when much can be achieved as the abundant

vegetation will die-down.

Forthcoming sessions will take place from 10am until 12noon, on Saturdays December 10th, January 14th, February 11th and March 11th.

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

All adults and supervised children are welcome.

Great Billing WI

OUR meeting on December 14th will be our Christmas Party with entertainment from 'New Vintage' and a delicious buffet.

Our first meeting in 2017 is on January 11th. We have a games evening with a fun quiz arranged, and Mike Carter will give a short speech on Legal information regarding forgotten Aspects of Law.

On February 8th, Michael Kushner is our speaker. His subject is 'Journey To Station X'.

Then on March 8th, Simon Hill will give a talk on 'Northampton Footwear Past and Present'.

On April 12th we will hear from Julia Gallagher and Ali Quinn about 'Policing Riots'.

Our meetings are held at the Bernard Weston Pavilion at the playing field in Great Billing. Visitors are most welcome.

More information can be obtained from our President Mrs Maddy Harrison, Telephone

In memory of Maud Knight

MAUD Knight, with her mother-in-law and a number of other ladies, founded Little Billing Women's Institute over 50 years ago.

They used to meet in mother-in-law's house or Maud's home, sometimes in the kitchen or front room, and even in the garage.

Maud was President for many years and filled many other roles within the group. She was a remarkable organiser, and with her calm outgoing way, and a brain full of ideas, she took the members on many different 'adventures' in their meetings - pottery party, Whitworth's Flour, fashion show, fire station visit, drama rehearsal, to name but a few.

Maud was a very active member within her community and was famous for her annual Garden Party, always raising money for charity.

She was active in many aspects of clubs in town and organised lots of outings. One such memory from one of our WI ladies was of train trips to Chester and Harrogate - where the younger members looked out for the quirkiest shops and boutiques.

When it was time to come home and they all shared their experiences of the day, Maud always made them laugh with her comment - "Ooh, they had a lovely Marks & Spencer."

Maud in her early years worked at Rita's on the Wellingborough Road and related many tales from her experience there.

Sadly Maud passed away a number of months ago; she is sadly missed both in the WI and the community.

To sum up the many years of Maud at Little Billing WI - she was simply the glue that held us all together.

Bellinge Community House

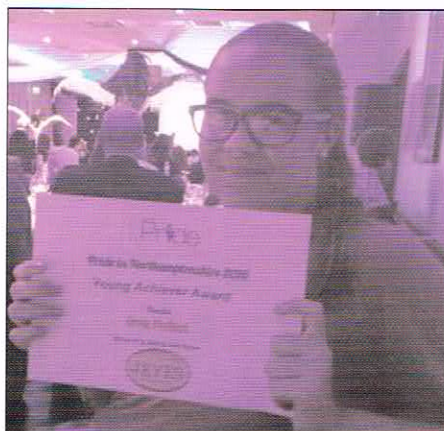
By Michelle Aveyard
Manager

WE have had a great year improving the interregional and external environment for services, group sessions and education.

Our support has this year extended into residents from each ward of the Parish addressing needs and supporting the skills and social mobility within the Parish.

We have an ever-increasing support network of organisations that want to work with us in providing services and opportunities for the local population of all age ranges - two Youth Groups and a diverse range of courses to improve knowledge and employability.

We have had some great Parish success stories - our Chairman Dennis Nash (and one of the Parish Councillors for Bellinge) gained recognition for his volunteering contributions - achieving the Heart of the Community Award from Northampton Borough Council, and our young leader Emily Shellard from Bellinge youth group



Emily Shellard - a finalist in The Pride in Northamptonshire 2016 Younger Achiever award.

being nominated and short-listed for Northamptonshire Youth Association's 'Young Leader' award. She was also a finalist in The Pride in Northamptonshire 2016 Young Achiever award.

Project ABC (Active Billing Community) will support any female 16+ into getting

fitter and healthier. The Jogging Group has already started and you can bring your young family if over 12 and jog together in a safe group.

In the New Year, we have Cooking and Healthy Eating sessions, Weight Management and Fitness, IT training, Gardening (ready for Bellinge in Bloom), along with our service to support debt advice and help with bills, arrears and any other financial problem.

In addition there is Sewing Skills and Knitting and you can meet a member of First for Wellbeing to kick-start your new year.

All can be accessed via our website www.bellinge.org.uk, our Facebook page, or you can follow us on Twitter.

We hope to see you on December 19th at 5.30pm at the 'Living Nativity'.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to our amazing volunteers supporting their local community and to wish you all a 'happy and healthy' 2017 when we hope to see more local people

Ecton Brook Residents' Association

ECTON Brook is a thriving community, home to a diverse number of people. What it lacks is a Residents' Association to channel information and practical ideas to and from the local and Borough representatives.

Many people may have good ideas or suggestions to improve living here, but may feel too shy or confused to follow them up.

Now a new Community Centre is about to open it is a perfect time to make your voice heard to make the Brook a more attractive place to live or work in.

If you feel you could contribute to a Residents' Association and bring ideas and comments from your neighbours, then send an email to patatkentwood@hotmail.co.uk with your name and email address.

From your Parish Highway Warden

BELOW are items you can report via the Highway Warden - either by email or Twitter. Please check out our Twitter feed to see what's been reported, time scales and if completed.

Email: highwaywarden@billingparish.co.uk
Twitter @HWBillingParish

Bridges
Ditches
Drains
Covers

Footpaths
Kerbs
Rights of way
Roads

Bus stops
Fly tipping
Pedestrian Crossings
Road markings
Traffic signals
Utilities
Vegetation
Verges
Signs

The Miraculous Birth of a Miraculous Saviour

By Rev. Richard Burbidge
Rector of Billing

AS we head towards Christmas and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ for the 2016th time, it strikes me that in today's culture there will be many who struggle with the idea of Jesus having a miraculous conception and birth.

'In the age of science and technology,' they say, 'where we know more now about the workings of the world than ever before, surely intelligent people can't seriously believe in a virgin birth anymore?' Well along with the rest of the world's two billion or so Christians, I believe that we still can.

Given who the pre-incarnate Christ was (the author of the entire universe), and given who was promised in the Old Testament (the Father's own son coming to dwell with us), and given what he did when he was on earth (healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and raising the dead) and given where he is now (ruling the universe at his Father's right hand), it is entirely reasonable and natural to believe that he was conceived and then born in a supernatural way. In fact, if anything, it would be unnatural for him to be born in any other way.

For Jesus is no ordinary man - he is God's own son and King, and so God himself, coming to live with us. So if people struggle

Church Services at St. Andrews, Great Billing and All Saints, Little Billing

4th Dec:	Advent Carol Service, All Saints, 6.30pm
17th Dec:	Christingle Service, (Hosted by Down 2 Earth) All Saints, 4.30pm
18th Dec:	Nine Lessons and Carols, St Andrews, 6.30pm
24th Dec:	Crib Service, All Saints, tbc
24th Dec:	Midnight Communion, All Saints, 11.15pm
24th Dec:	Midnight Communion, St Andrews, 11.15pm
25th Dec:	Christmas Day Communion, All Saints, 9am
25th Dec:	Christmas Day Communion,

with his miraculous birth and say 'I can't believe that,' my challenge to them is what would they say about Jesus if he had have been born naturally? Would they then believe what the bible says about who he is? I suspect that this would be highly unlikely, and that they would use this very idea - of Jesus now having a natural conception and birth - as a reason for unbelief.

The Bible teaches us that in Jesus's birth we have a miraculous birth of a miraculous saviour. This is what Christians down the ages and across the world have celebrated for over two millennia now. Do join with us in celebrating it again this year.

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Established 1894

Website: 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 (Bellingle)

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

New Councillors

THE Council was delighted to co-opt two new Councillors at its meeting in October - Patrick Henesey in Ecton Brook Ward and Norman Nickason in Little Billing Ward.

Both live within the wards they are representing and we look forward to a long and happy association with them.

Unfortunately, Jim Snedker has had to resign as Councillor due to moving out of the area (see article on Page 1) and this does mean that we have another casual vacancy in Ecton Brook.

If anyone is interested in their local community and would like to help define and develop projects to benefit both residents and the whole community, please contact the Clerk for further details.

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 January 2017
Monday, 13th February 2017
Monday, 13th March 2017
Monday, 10th April 2017

Celebration Avenue

MANY of you will be aware of the avenue of trees on The Leys. These trees are available for purchase and may be dedicated to any person, event, pet etc. the purchaser desires.

Of the trees already planted there is only one still available. A further planting of approximately 32 new trees will be made early in the New Year and this will bring the avenue to the bottom of The Leys. No further trees will then be planted.

If you are interested in purchasing a tree, please contact the Clerk for further details.

