Billing Parish Council -Heritage & History Walk and Pocket Parks & Open Spaces Walk









Featuring a brief history of the Billing Parish and a map highlighting two suggested walk routes



Billing Parish is situated on the eastern side of Northampton and forms part of the Northampton Borough boundary.

The A45 runs along the southern edge of the Parish and the A4500 to the North.

The Parish consists of the two villages of Great and Little Billing and the newer wards of Ecton Brook and Bellinge. This has produced an eclectic mix of properties to be found within the Parish boundaries.

If you need to drive to visit the area please consider the needs of cyclists, pedestrians and local access by parking considerately in the Parish.

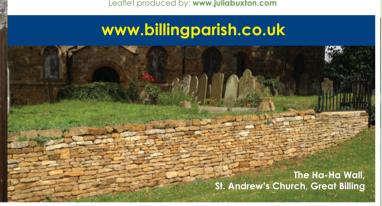
There is free car parking available on the southern side of the A45 opposite the Billing Garden Village. The walks around the Parish are easily accessible from here.

Contacts

For further information about Billing Parish please visit our website: www.billingparish.co.uk

Up to date contact information can be found on the website or email: clerk@billingparish.co.uk





Billing Parish History & Heritage



With its origins dating back to 1894, Billing Parish Council now encompasses four Wards; the ancient villages of Little and Great Billing, and the new communities of Ecton Brook

Most of the land in Billing Parish was at one time part of Great Billing Hall Park, a country estate with a long and varied history. Robert Carey Elwes purchased the Park from the executors of Lord John Cavendish in 1799, thus forming a long and strong local association with the Elwes family which endured until 1930. After its demolition in 1956, the former site of the Hall itself became a residential area centred on Lady Winefride's Walk in

Churches

Great Billing Village.

In Great Billing, **St.Andrew's Church** is situated on high ground overlooking the Billing Brook. Before the enclosures of the 18th Century, 45 Churches were visible from this spot. The first evidence of a Church dates from a Royal Charter of 1165. There are also two architectural features inside the Church that date from this time. Recently the Heritage Lottery Fund kindly funded a project to restore the historic ha-ha wall around the Church.



de **All Saint's Church** is a font that dates from the 11th ntury, but no other evidence of the original Church

Pocket Parks

eat Billing was designated a Pocket Park in 1989/90, nich is now managed by a group of volunteers. It is ated between Great Billing Way and the Great Billing ying Field. A wild flower meadow, butterfly garden, ar ew wood have been planted to encourage nature to om. A picnic area, benches, all weather footpaths o

e Pocket Park in Little Billing is situated inbetween the st, and Billing Brook (known locally as the Washbrook on the eastern side. Once part of the Great Billing Hall Estate, this land ends at the entrance to a right of way i Codlin Close in the north, where the Billing Brook widens o a small lake. This is known locally as Watker's Lake, med after a gamekeeper who was once in the emplo f the Estate, and whose cottage was then nearby. The an attractive weir on the edge of the lake, after whic he river continues its course in a southerly direction wards Billing Aquadrome. By taking the right of way int dlin Close, access can be obtained, via other potpaths and pedestrian road bridges, to the local mopping complex some 10 to 15 minutes walk away. The creation of new informal paths, a picnic area and a sative bluebell area are planned.

Heritage & History Walk and Pocket Parks & Open Spaces Walk Descriptions

Heritage & History Walk

This suggested walk route will take you through the pretty villages of Great and Little Billing, ensuring that you see all four Churches, two Pocket Parks, the historic Orchard and meadow land 'The Leys'. You can stop for refreshments at three of the four Public Houses enroute (The Elwes Arms, Deers Leap and Billing Mill) or maybe a spot of retail therapy at Billing Garden Village.

Walk approx 3 miles.







Pocket Parks & Open Spaces Walk

This suggested walk route will take you through the pretty villages of Great and Little Billing, ensuring that you see all of the above, but combining all of the surrounding Parish parks, playing fields and open spaces too. The parks are popular with walkers, joggers, cyclists and dog owners. Walk approx 4 miles.

Wheelchair access is limited in certain areas





The Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour and **St. Anslem** is situated in the heart of Great Billing village and was founded in 1878. It's shrine is one of the few authenticated handcrafted copies of the original icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour at St Alphonsus Church in Rome.

