

## Your Billing Parish Councillors

Find out more: [www.billing-pc.gov.uk/council-meetings/](http://www.billing-pc.gov.uk/council-meetings/)

	Name	Email	Phone
West Northants	James Hill	james.hill@westnorthants.gov.uk	07869 119 789
	<b>Billing &amp; Rectory Farm</b>	Keith Holland-Delamere	keith.holland-delamere@westnorthants.gov.uk
	Paul Clark	paul.clark@westnorthants.gov.uk	--
	Andrew Kilbride	andrew.kilbride@westnorthants.gov.uk	07714 958 443
	<b>Riverside Park</b>	Penelope Flavell	penelope.flavell@westnorthants.gov.uk
	Stephen Hibbert	stephen.hibbert@westnorthants.gov.uk	07866 021 229
Billing parish	Rev. Richard Burbridge	rburbridge@billing-pc.gov.uk	01604 555 186
	<b>Ecton Brook Ward</b>	Steve Rockall	srockall@billing-pc.gov.uk
	Stephen Ward	sward@billing-pc.gov.uk	07710 835 596
	John Marlow	jmarlow@billing-pc.gov.uk	01604 404 678
	<b>Great Billing Ward</b>	Micheal Pearson	mpearson@billing-pc.gov.uk
	Cheryl Worthington	cworthington@billing-pc.gov.uk	01604 408 613
	David Brede	dbrede@billing-pc.gov.uk	07930 960 241
	<b>Little Billing Ward</b>	John Clements	jclements@billing-pc.gov.uk
	Thea Smith	tsmith@billing-pc.gov.uk	07958 777 951
	Gurcharan Kaur Chaggar	gchaggar@billing-pc.gov.uk	07986 905 963
	<b>Middle Ward (Bellinge)</b>	Chintu Shah	cshah@billing-pc.gov.uk
	Chintu Shah	cshah@billing-pc.gov.uk	07789 864 541
<b>Parish Highway Warden</b>	Damian Lang	highwaywarden@billing-pc.gov.uk	--
<b>Clerk to the Council</b>	Mrs Carrie Goodridge	clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk	01604 785447



Newsletter no. 34

# BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Winter 2021 Bulletin



It has been a considerable time since the Parish Council has been able to produce and distribute a newsletter so there is quite a lot to catch up on.

## Annual Chairman's Report 2020 - 2021

Hopefully by the time of presenting this report we will be well on the way to returning to some sort of normality after the restrictions of Covid 19. During the past twelve months the Parish Council has not stood still, and although our meetings have been held virtually (a blessing on cold, wet nights!) it has been business as usual.

The hard work and investment we have put into our green spaces over the years has come to fruition with residents discovering areas they had no idea existed. The opening up of The Leys, old Orchard and Bellinge Field into one large area has encouraged members of the whole community to make use of this marvellous facility. Work continues with the widening of the path in Great Billing Pocket Park, the planting of a Celebration Avenue and installation of a drainage system in Bellinge Field.

Negotiations are still ongoing to acquire the ownership of Bellinge Community House to ensure its future and to be a lasting legacy to our colleague, the late Dennis Nash.

A pathway in Ecton Brook Linear Park is badly needed and work has started to obtain the £60,000 funding required for this project.

I want to record my thanks to all the Councillors, to Paul our GSM, to Damian our Highway Warden, Fiona our volunteer and to our contractors Dick, Anne and Ian for all their hard work and commitment. A very, very special thanks must go to our retiring Clerk/RFO. Sue has been with us for the past fourteen years and I will definitely miss her help, support and guidance. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Sue and Martin all the best for the future. I now welcome our new Clerk Carrie Goodridge, who I am sure will fit in well with our team.

I am pleased that those in authority have used common sense and now support the marvellous and much appreciated work being carried out by the Wombles with their litter picking.

I do not know what the future holds with the formation of the new Unitary Authorities, but I do know that if the new Unitary Councillors give the same support, we have enjoyed with Councillors Andy Kilbride and Christopher Malpas we will not go far wrong.

Many thanks.

*John Marlow*

- Chair

## British Empire Medal for Kathleen Forsyth

Kathleen Forsyth who lived in Great Billing was awarded a British Empire Medal for her services to Northampton Festival of Dance in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours list in 2020 just three months before she died. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic restrictions, the presenting of the medal had to be delayed and was finally presented posthumously to her husband Brian Forsyth on the 21st of October 2021 by Lord Lieutenant, Mr. James Saunders Watson.



Kathie initially became involved in Northampton Festival of Dance when her daughters started to compete in the competition, she then joined the committee where she remained for 40 years. For the last 25 years she became the committee's secretary and took on the mammoth task of organising and scheduling the six-day festival, which involved over 900 dancers of various genres aged between four and 21. Her involvement didn't stop there, on each day of the festival she would assist the adjudicators to record the marks and their comments which was all done by hand.

In addition to her involvement with Northampton Dance Festival Kathie who had trained as a teacher also set up an infant school in Singapore for children of British Servicemen who were posted there, became a Governor of St. David's School, organised Meals on Wheels at Northampton General and Manfield hospitals and helped Guide Dogs for the blind and many other animal charities. Kathie was an amazing example of the selfless members of our community whose work deserves to be recognised.

## 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:

Mon 13th Dec 2021      Mon 14th Mar 2022

Mon 10th Jan 2022      Mon 11th Apr 2022

Mon 14th Feb 2022

## Volunteers Needed!

Great Billing Pocket Park sessions are from 9am till 12 noon every Wednesday and meet at the Parish Council Office, Bernard Weston Pavilion, Great Billing. Activities vary and are suited to all abilities.

Little Billing Pocket Park Volunteering sessions are from 10am until 12 noon, on the second Saturday of each month from October until March, with an additional session from April to September a fortnight later. Activities include mowing grass, pruning bushes and trees, weeding footpaths, removing litter and planting new hedging. Volunteers are always welcome and meet outside the green Container on the spare ground diagonally opposite the village shop in Valley Road.

### Christmas Service Times

Time & Date	Service	Location
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 16:00	Advent Carol Service	All Saints Little Billing
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 16:00	Family Christingle Service	St Andrews Great Billing
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 18:30	Carols by Candlelight	St Andrews Great Billing
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 11:30	Midnight Lord's Supper	St Andrews Great Billing
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 09:00	Christmas Day Service	All Saints Little Billing
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec - 10:00	Christmas Day Service	St Andrews Great Billing

Please check [www.facebook.com/AllSaintsandStAndrews](http://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsandStAndrews) or [www.billing.church](http://www.billing.church) or call Rev. Richard Burbridge on 01604 555 186 for more information.



## Queen Elizabeth II' Platinum Jubilee

In 2022, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee (70 years of service). It has been announced that to celebrate this historic milestone, that an extended bank holiday will run from Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June 2022 where public events and community activities can take place.

As a Parish we shall be taking part in the The Queens Green Canopy which invites people to "Plant a tree for the Jubilee" and shall be having a Royal theme for the annual Billing Fayre.

If you have any further ideas on how we as a Parish can celebrate this historic event, please contact the Parish Clerk on [clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk)



### Anti-Litter Campaign

Ecton Brook Residents Group decided to run a competition to design an anti-litter poster with the aim of getting children to think about what litter is doing to the planet.

Through a contact within St Andrews School the competition was opened up to the year 4's with brilliant results we ended up with over 50 posters which were then judged by the committee. In first place was Roxie second was Esme and third was Simon they each received a small prize. We will be laminating some of the posters and placing them round the estate.

### Dog Fouling

With the advent of the dark evenings and mornings we experience an increase in dog fouling on our green spaces. Responsible dog owners carry a torch and many have adopted the practice of placing an illuminated collar onto their pet to help identify when and where the owner needs to clean up. Please be one of the responsible owners!



## Billing Parish Annual Fayre

Although the weather during the summer of 2021 was not full of sunshine, the Saturday of the Annual Billing Parish Fayre turned out to be one of the better days. The Fayre had been cancelled the year before due to COVID-19, but with a lot of work and liaising with Northamptonshire Police and various people within the local authority the Parish Council was able to run a safe and successful event.

The afternoon was very popular with a large number of visitors who all supported the various stalls, charities and local groups enabling them to all receive much needed funds to allow them to continue their activities in the following year.

It is understood that a record number of jars of homemade jam were sold during the afternoon and the visiting donkeys worked tirelessly entertaining the children with their rides. Some of the enforced changes proved to be popular with the relocation of the band tent and the bar being moved to the Pavilion doorway. We hope that we can run the event again in 2022.




### WOMENS PENSION AGE CHANGES:

A small, new group of women (of a certain age) in the local community are meeting on a regular basis to talk over the changes from 60 to 65 years of age. They last met at the Apothocoffee Shop in Earls Barton and the All-Season's Café, Billing Garden Village, off the A45. If you were born in the 1950s, early 60s and would like to join in the discussions, tell us your story and generally have a place to speak out about this, you are welcome to join us.

For more information on the latest developments regarding the Ombudsman Report published in July this year, please contact.

**Jill Robertson:** [Northamptonseastwaspi@hotmail.com](mailto:Northamptonseastwaspi@hotmail.com).



### Defibrillators

Prior to COVID-19 the customers and staff at the Elwes Arms Public House in Great Billing embarked on a fund-raising journey to purchase three defibrillators for the parish.

The first two purchased, one being resident in The Elwes Arms Public House in Great Billing which is accessible whenever the public house is open and the second is located on the wall of Ecton 1 between the Post Office and One in Ecton Brook. The Parish Council has topped up the charity fund amassed by the Elwes Arms Public House and has completed the purchase of a third machine. The Parish Council has also installed a new streetlamp adjacent to the telephone kiosk in High Street, Great Billing which will subsequently provide the power to keep the defibrillator from freezing during the winter months.

The defibrillators will be registered on The National Defibrillator Network database so they can be accessed in the event of an emergency. Thanks, and Congratulations to all those at the Elwes Arms Public House involved in the fundraising.



### Bellinge Community House Britain in Bloom Award

Bellinge Community House has been presented with a Britain in Bloom Level 5 Outstanding Award. Despite the difficulties thrown up by the pandemic Bellinge Community House has made a wide range of environmental improvements from bug hotels to composting. The project has started to spread into the communal areas by the Co-op and across the road where beautifully kept flower beds can be seen and into the pre-school where they have been growing their own herbs and strawberries. Congratulations to all the volunteers, you should be very proud of the difference that you are making to our community.

### New Councillors

The Council is delighted to have co-opted two new Councillors – Thea Smith in Little Billing Ward and Chintu Shah in Bellinge Ward. We look forward to a long and happy association with them.

There are still three councillor vacancies available. So, if you have lots of enthusiasm and are interested in shaping the area in which you live, please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

### Anti-Social Behaviour

Northamptonshire Police, West Northamptonshire Council and their partners are working together to help make Billing Parish a more pleasant and safe community to live in. The aim is to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, empower residents and ensure vulnerable people can access the support they need.

*If you are experiencing anti-social behaviour, witnessing criminal activity in Billing Parish they want you to let them know or else they will assume all is okay. The police can be contacted via 101 or online at: [www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/](http://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/) in an emergency – please dial 999.*

Anti-Social Behaviour can also be reported to West Northamptonshire Council through [www.northampton.gov.uk/xfp/form/356](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/xfp/form/356)

Anonymous reporting can be made through Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111 or through [www.Fearless.org](http://www.Fearless.org) both methods are absolutely, completely 100% anonymous always. If you would like to speak to a real person you can contact Paul Marks who is the Parish Police Liaison Officer on:

Tel: 07725 856784  
e-mail: [greenspacemanager@billing-pc.gov.uk](mailto:greenspacemanager@billing-pc.gov.uk)

## Northamptonshire's two new unitary councils

On the 1st of April 2021 we saw the launch of the two new unitary councils for Northamptonshire – North and West. Our Parish falls under West Northamptonshire Council which replaces Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire Council and parts of Northamptonshire County Council. This has been done to help provide better services and information for residents and businesses.

Go to [westnorthants.gov.uk](http://westnorthants.gov.uk) website for the latest news, information about services and details on how to contact them.



### Your New Unitary Councillors

Back in May local councillors were elected by our Parish to decide how the West Northamptonshire Council should carry out its various activities. They represent public interest as well as us individuals who live within the wards in which they have been elected to serve. As our Parish has been split between two Unitary Wards, Billing & Rectory Farm (which covers Ecton Brook, Bellinge and Great Billing) and Riverside Park (covers Little Billing) we have two sets of Unitary councillors. (See back page for contact details)

### Goodbye Sue, Hello Carrie

We now have a new Parish Clerk and responsible financial officer, Carrie Goodridge. After 15 years of exemplary service Sue Harris decided it was time to hang up her keyboard and calculator and is now able to spend more time with her family, particularly her grandchildren and now rarely has to decline an offer to get out onto the golf course



Sue was an excellent addition to the Parish Council and over the years she consistently proved her worth, her business capabilities and showed what a lovely person she is to know and to work with. Although Sue has officially retired, she has spent some time helping our new Clerk to get set up in her new role and is happy to make herself available if Carrie or the Council ever need any advice or guidance.

Thank you, Sue, for everything and good luck in enjoying your new retirement. Carrie, we welcome you to the fold, you have settled in very quickly and are proving that you will also be a great addition

## THE EXTENSION OF THE VOI E-SCOOTER SCHEME

In September it was announced by North and West Northamptonshire Councils that the year-long trial of Voi Scooters will be extended until March 2022. The Voi Scooter trial was launched in September 2020 with the vision of making Northamptonshire more sustainable. By encouraging the way people move around the County it could help to reduce noise, congestion and air pollution making it a more sustainable environment for us to all live.

Your Parish Council, however, has serious concerns regarding some user's actions particularly the abandonment of Scooters anywhere, the riding on pavements and a total disregard to pedestrians and other road users. The Parish Council have notified Voi of our concerns and are in the process of seeking a banning order for the use of the Scooters on any owned Parish land.

Concern is also shown for the apparent lack of enforcement by the relevant authorities.

You can report situations of misuse at:

[www.voiscooters.com/report/uk](http://www.voiscooters.com/report/uk)  
Then quote the time, date and place.

