



Newsletter no. 40

Spring 2024 Bulletin

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

Discover more at: www.billing-pc.gov.uk

D-Day 80:

Commemorating the Historic Normandy Landings

In June, the United Kingdom and France will come together to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Normandy Landings, a pivotal moment in history that forever altered the course of World War II. On June 6, 1944, Allied forces executed a daring and audacious plan, codenamed Operation Neptune, which involved a massive seaborne invasion of Nazi-occupied France. This operation, more commonly known as D-Day, marked the beginning of the liberation of Western Europe.

The Significance of D-Day

D-Day was a monumental undertaking that required meticulous planning, immense courage, and unwavering determination. Here is an extract taken from ex Billing Parish Council Chairman, Bernard John Weston's (1922 – 2018) Oral History Recording about his D-Day experience.

I was called up in 1941 when I was 19 and joined the Royal Armoured Corps for training. Then I was rather fortunate. I had a cousin who was in the Northamptonshire Yeomanry and he saw his squadron leader who was Colonel Stockdale of Mears Ashby and he got me drafted into the A squadron in Northamptonshire Yeomanry as a tank wireless operator.

A month before D-Day we were based in Bury St Edmunds and were issued with Sherman tanks so we got an idea that something was going to happen. I was sent up to Barnard Castle for quite a while to learn the ins and outs of the Sherman wireless sets as they were American. When I came back to Bury, we formed the 33rd Armoured Independent Brigade along with 1st East Riding of Yorkshire Yeomanry

and the 144 Regiment RAC.

From Bury we went to Aldershot where we waterproofed the tanks using Bostick and had armour and ammunition boxes welded to the tank to carry extra kit if we wanted it.

From there we took the tanks by low loaders down to a big transit camp at Waterlooville near Portsmouth.

When it came through that troops had landed in Normandy we were moved down to Gosport where we loaded the tanks on to American tank landing ship. When we got out into the Solent, we were stuck there for about three days because of the terrible storms in the channel, however as we were on an American ship we had lovely rations.

We finally landed at D plus six at Le Hamel (Gold Beach) just east of Asnelles and travelled to a place just outside Bayeux where we then had to de waterproof the tanks.

As we were independent and not attached to a division, where ever they wanted tanks poor old 33rd were called up to take them.

I finally returned home in 1946.



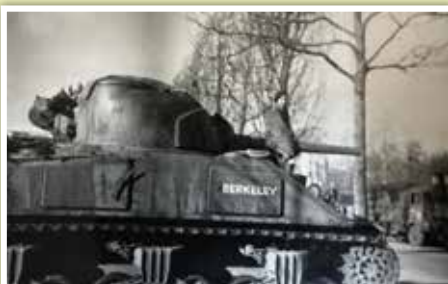
National Commemorations and Events

It is intended that Billing Parish Council in conjunction with the Elwes Arms Pubic House will join together on the evening of the 6th June 2024 and celebrate this auspicious occasion. A fish and chip supper (the only food not to be rationed during the war) will be available together with music and singing from the 1940's era.

At 21:15, along with communities across France and the UK, a beacon representing the 'light of peace' that emerged from the 'darkness of war' will be lit by Billing Parish Council and the *International Tribute* read by Councillor Reverend Burbidge.


A Legacy of Courage

As we reflect on the 80th anniversary of D-Day, let us remember the courage, resilience, and determination of the men and women who changed the course of history. Their sacrifices continue to inspire generations, and their legacy lives on in the freedom we enjoy today.



Get Ready for the Ultimate Summer Extravaganza!

Mark your calendars, folks! **Saturday 29th June** is about to transform into a whirlwind of fun, laughter, and community spirit at the 2024 Billing Summer Fayre.

 **Where?** The Bernard Weston Pavilion and Sports Field in Great Billing.

 **When?** From 1pm to 5pm.

What's in Store?

Hold onto your sunhats, because this year's Fayre promises an eclectic mix of activities and delights:

- 1. Stalls Galore:** Picture this – colourful stalls lining the field, each brimming with treasures waiting to be discovered. From quirky crafts to tantalising treats, there's something for everyone.
- 2. Foodie Paradise:** Prepare your taste buds! Savour mouthwatering bites from local vendors, whether you're craving sizzling barbecue or ice cream
- 3. Thirst Quenchers:** Feeling parched? Fear not! Quench your thirst with refreshing drinks from the Elwes Arms Bar.

- 4. Entertainment Extravaganza:** Brace yourselves for toe-tapping tunes performed by Blast from the Past. Bounce, giggle, and defy gravity in the Bouncy Castle Village or take a ride on a donkey.

Admission Details

- Free Entry:** Yes, you read that right! No tickets required – just show up with your sunniest smile and join the festivities.
- Parking Alert:** Attention, parking enthusiasts! Due to safety precautions, parking at the playing fields is as exclusive as a backstage pass. Only those with a disability parking permit (Blue Badge) get the golden ticket.

Pitch Perfect

Are you part of a group itching to fundraise? Or perhaps you're a charity champion ready to make a difference? We've got pitches aplenty on the lush green field. Here's the scoop:

- Local Heroes:** If you're raising funds for a local group or a heart-warming


charity, your pitch is on the house!

- Commercial Ventures:** Got entrepreneurial flair? Secure your spot for a mere £15.00. Set up shop, dazzle the crowd, and who knows – you might just become the talk of the Fayre.

Book Your Spot

To claim your slice of Fayre magic, reach out to our Green Space Manager, **Paul Marks**. He's the wizard behind the scenes, making sure everything runs smoothly.

 **greenspacemanager@billing-pc.gov.uk**

 **07725 856784**

So, gather your tribe, dust off your sunhat, and let's create memories that'll warm our hearts long after the sun sets. See you at the Billing Summer Fayre!

For more details, visit the official Billing Parish Council website: www.billing-pc.gov.uk/billing-summer-fayre



Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Work to improve safety and security in Belling has been completed as part of the Government's Safer Streets initiative.

Three CCTV cameras, funded by West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) with support from the Government's Safer Streets fund, have been installed in Belling following high levels of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity including drug-dealing, assaults and shoplifting.

The cameras are situated on Fishponds Road, Fieldmill Road and Billingmead Walk in Belling.

In addition to the CCTV cameras, WNC has utilised funding to improve safety in the parish by installing new lighting in underpasses and providing a targeted youth project to engage young people and divert them from criminal activity, including one-to-one mentoring with young people not in education.

Cllr David Smith, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement, and Regulatory Services at West Northamptonshire Council, said: "Keeping residents safe is one of the Council's top priorities and we have invested significantly to improve areas which have historically been hotspots for anti-social behaviour and where we have been told that people feel unsafe.

"It is fantastic to see the positive impact this work is already having on the lives of residents and local businesses and communities, and we look forward to continuing to work with partners to further reduce criminal activity across West Northamptonshire and make our streets safer and more pleasant for everyone."

Join Our Green Community!

Volunteer at Great Billing Pocket Park!

Are you passionate about nature, community, and making a positive impact? Look no further! The **Great Billing Parish Council** invites you to roll up your sleeves and join our vibrant team of volunteers.

What's It All About?

- **When:** Every Wednesday morning from around 9:15 am until noon.
- **Where:** Meet at the Bernard Weston Pavilion in the heart of the picturesque Great Billing Pocket Park.
- **Why:** Because together, we're changing the face of the parish—one open space at a time!

What Will You Be Doing?

Our green-fingered tasks include:

- **Weeding:** Tackle those pesky invaders and keep our flower beds looking fabulous.
- **Litter Picking:** Help us maintain a pristine environment for everyone to enjoy.
- **Planting:** Get your hands dirty and contribute to the park's natural beauty.
- **Path Maintenance:** Keep our trails safe and accessible.
- **Tree and Hedge Care:** Prune, coppice, and nurture our leafy friends.

Why Volunteer?

- **Fresh Air & Exercise:** Swap your desk for the great outdoors.
- **Community Bonding:** Meet like-minded neighbours and forge lifelong friendships.
- **Feel-Good Factor:** Know that your efforts directly benefit our award-winning park.

All ages and abilities are welcome! Wear sturdy footwear or Wellingtons, bring your gardening gloves, and let's make a difference together!

For more information, call Paul Marks on (077725 856784).

Little Billing Pocket Park Needs You Too!

- **When:** Spring/Summer (April – September) every second and forth Saturday of the month, 10 am to noon. Autumn/Winter (October – March) just every second Saturday of the month, 10 am to noon
- **Where:** Gather by the green container opposite the local shop on Valley Road.
- **Tasks:** Litter picking, grass mowing, path weeding, pruning, and planting.

All ages and abilities are welcome! Wear sturdy footwear or Wellingtons, bring your gardening gloves, and let's make a difference together!

For more information, call Michael Clasper at (01604) 786240.

A Heartfelt Thank You for Donated Bird Boxes

As the seasons shift and the days lengthen, our gardens and green spaces come alive with the cheerful melodies of birds. These feathered visitors play an essential role in our ecosystem, from pollination to insect control.

Natural nesting sites for birds, such as tree holes and old buildings, are vanishing rapidly. As gardens get tidied up and old houses undergo repairs, these nooks and crannies disappear. Our feathered companions need alternative options to raise their families.

Its thanks to a generous donation of bird boxes from a local couple that our local bird population have new cosy sanctuaries to call home.



Advice issued to owners of keyless entry cars after rise in vehicle thefts

Owners of cars with keyless entry are being urged to review their vehicle and home security after a rise in high-powered and electric vehicle thefts.

Relay Theft (Keyless Entry)

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key fob comes within a short-range distance of the car. Keyless theft, also known as 'relay theft', occurs when device is used to fool the car into thinking the car's own remote key fob is close by; this unlocks the car and allows the ignition to be started.

Is my car keyless entry?

If you have to press a button on your car's key fob to enter your car and turn the ignition with your key, then your car is not 'keyless' entry.

Keyless entry cars allow the driver to unlock and start the car with the key fob still in their pocket / bag. Once in the car, the driver can press a button to start the engine without ever needing to touch the key fob / remote.

How can I protect my vehicle?

Keep car keys safe

Whilst at home keep your car keys away from the car to disrupt communication range.

Avoid leaving them near your door or window.

Use a signal-blocking pouch

The pouch can block the transmission of the signal from the car key once inside the pouch.

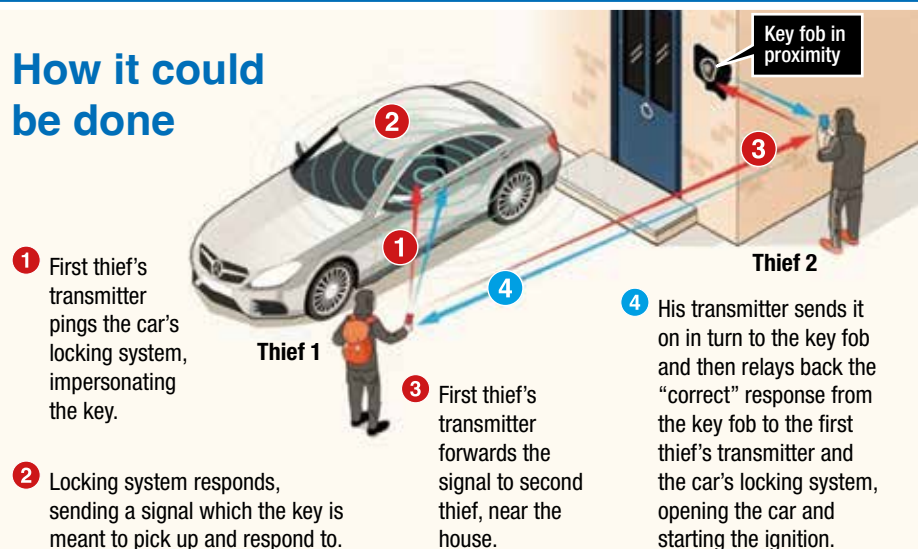
Turn off the fob's wireless signal

Wireless signals on some keyless fobs can be turned off. Look in your car manual to see if this is possible, if not, contact your vehicle manufacturer.

Re-programme your keys

This erases the code from the car key to the car itself. This will mean a spare car key that is not in our possession can no longer be paired with your car leaving it susceptible to theft. Contact your local Master Locksmith Association (MLA) approved auto locksmith for a quote.

How it could be done



Council Meeting Dates

Parish Council Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Bernard Weston Pavilion on the Playing Fields at Great Billing Pocket Park. Agendas and approved Minutes may be found on the website. Forthcoming meetings will be held on:

13th May 2024

8th July 2024

10th June 2024



Merlin the Sussex Spaniel Triumphs in Veteran Dog Class at Crufts 2024

Crufts, the prestigious dog show, witnessed heartwarming moments as our four-legged companions showcased their grace, agility, and charm. Among the talented canines, Parish celebrity Merlin, a dignified Sussex Spaniel, stole the spotlight by securing 1st place in the Veteran Dog Class on Gundog Day.

Merlin, at the seasoned age of veteran status, demonstrated his unwavering spirit and elegance. His glossy coat, rich chestnut hues, and soulful eyes captivated the judges and the audience alike. Under the discerning eye of Mrs. E.P. Hollings, Merlin showcased his years of experience and dedication.

His owner Sue Graves said "Merlin will be 12 years old this month, we are so proud of him. He has many admirers who stop and speak to him while he is out on his walks around Great Billing Parks".



New Enforcement Cameras on Great Billing Way, Northampton

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has recently introduced a number of enforcement cameras around the town at strategic locations. One such spot is here in the parish at the junction of Fishponds Road and Great Billing Way.

The Problem

Great Billing Way has faced its fair share of traffic woes over the years and with more and more people disregarding the no right turn could lead to more.

The Solution

In February 2024, WNC activated automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras along Great Billing Way, which are in operation 24 hours a day. These cameras are not about punishing drivers, but to enforce traffic rules, prevent any potential collisions and promote smoother movement.

During the first six months of the site going live, a warning notice will be issued for first offences to any vehicle and, from 1 August onwards, all motorists who breach the rules at this site will receive a Penalty Charge Notices (PCN). Any money from future PCNs is ring fenced and will be put back in to funding highways services and projects under the legislation.

During the first four weeks of the scheme, 1192 warning notices were issued, along with 17 Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) averaging around 43 per day.

Defibrillator Installed in Little Billing

In a remarkable display of community spirit, the residents of Little Billing have successfully advocated for the installation of a life-saving defibrillator.

The idea began to take shape during the Billing Parish Council Meeting where Little Billing residents voiced the need for immediate assistance during cardiac emergencies.

Billing Parish Council has an unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of its residents so acquired a new defibrillator which has been now been installed. The cabinet, prominently located next to the Parish Notice Board on Valley Road near the entrance to Little Billing Pocket Park, ensures easy access for residents and visitors alike.

The installation of this defibrillator stands as a testament to the power of community and parish council collaboration. As Little Billing embraces this new addition, it serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us that sometimes, the most significant changes begin with a united voice and a shared purpose.



If you would like to have your say in the newsletter, please contact:

Clerk to the Council, Mrs Carrie Goodridge
clerk@billing-pc.gov.uk | 01604 785447/07395 318 860

To find out who your local councillors are, please scan the QR Code or visit www.billing-pc.gov.uk/councillors

