



Newsletter no. 46

Spring 2026 Bulletin

BILLING PARISH COUNCIL

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

Billing Parish Councillor at Windsor Castle

Following the successful WW2 National Commemorations of VJ80, Victory in the far east against Japan, Parish Councillor for Little Billing, David Brede, and his partner Jill Robertson were invited to a special reception at Windsor Castle. This was to acknowledge the work he was involved in as the Chairman of COFEPOW, The Children Families and Friends or Far East Prisoners of War charity in making the commemorations happen.

The event was hosted by King Charles III and Queen Camilla, and they were accompanied by William, Prince of Wales, Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, and our Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer.

They were involved in the build up to events, by identifying veterans that were involved in the war in the far east, organisations that would be involved with the veterans that took part. This ensured that the this would not again be the forgotten army that fought in the war in the far east and the outcome was that the King acknowledged this at the time and this was also referenced in the Kings Speech on Christmas Day.

The Prime Minister hosted his own Garden Party earlier in the year for veterans and those involved with them.

Councillor Brede said, "The reception was a splendid affair in this most beautiful of venues packed with history which will stay in our memories for many years".



Welcoming a New Councillor to Ecton Brook Ward

As we move forward into the coming months, we are pleased to welcome Pete Nock to Billing Parish Council as the new councillor for Ecton Brook Ward. Although new to council work, Pete brings a positive approach, a willingness to get involved, and a genuine interest in supporting local residents. We look forward to working with him as he settles into his role.

Remembering Graeme

We would also like to reflect on the sad passing of Cllr. Graeme Gardner, who made a meaningful contribution to the council during his short time with us. He approached parish matters thoughtfully and was always ready to lend his support where it was needed.

One of Graeme's most lasting achievements was the creation of the Parish History Group, a project he was truly passionate about. His aim was to bring residents together to share memories, photographs, and stories that celebrate the heritage of our parish. Thanks to his efforts, the group has strong foundations and hope to continue as a fitting tribute to the care and commitment he brought to the parish.

Graeme will be greatly missed by fellow councillors and residents alike.

Councillor Vacancies

With Pete's appointment, we now have two remaining vacancies available for co-option. If you have an interest in supporting your community and helping shape local projects, we encourage you to contact the Parish Clerk. Their details can be found at the back of this magazine.

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.

SPEAK UP, STAY SAFE: Reporting Antisocial Behaviour in Northamptonshire

Antisocial behaviour (ASB) can have a real and lasting impact on communities. From persistent noise and vandalism to intimidating behaviour or nuisance vehicles, these issues can chip away at residents' sense of safety and pride in the place they call home.

Whether an incident seems small or part of an ongoing pattern, sharing information with Northamptonshire Police helps them identify hotspots, allocate resources, and intervene before behaviour escalates.

Many residents worry that nothing will happen or fear reprisals. These concerns are real, and they are heard, however, reporting ASB, whether openly or anonymously, will help build a clearer picture of what's happening in our parish and support agencies in taking action..

How to Report Antisocial Behaviour:

- Call **101** for non-emergency concerns.
- Use the online reporting system at www.northants.police.uk.
- Always call **999** in an emergency or if someone is at immediate risk.

If you have information about a crime but prefer not to give your name, you can report it anonymously through Crimestoppers, an independent charity that guarantees complete anonymity. They do not record personal details, trace calls, or identify those who contact them.

Anonymous reports can be made:

- Report anonymously via Crimestoppers at **0800 555 111** or via www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

What to Include When You Report:

Providing clear details helps officers understand the issue quickly and accurately. Useful information like what happened, when and where it took place, descriptions of people or vehicles involved, and if it's happening repeatedly, and how it's affecting the community.

Working Together for a Safer Community:

Communities thrive when people look out for one another. Reporting ASB isn't about getting others into trouble, it's about protecting your neighbourhood, supporting vulnerable residents, and helping authorities respond effectively. Every report contributes to a safer, stronger community.

Stay Informed with Northamptonshire Talking

Northamptonshire Police operate a free community messaging service called Northamptonshire Talking, designed to keep residents up to date with what's happening in their neighbourhood. Through this system, the Neighbourhood Policing Team shares timely alerts about crime, incidents, and local policing activity specific to your street or surrounding area. These updates help residents stay aware, consider their home security, and provide any information that might support ongoing investigations.

In addition to incident updates, Northamptonshire Talking also provides details about police surgeries, public meetings, local initiatives, and seasonal crime prevention advice – helping strengthen communication between the police and the community.

How to Join

Joining is simple and completely free. To sign up, just email your:

- Name
- Postcode
- Email address
- Address
- Telephone

Send your details to: michael.harrison@northants.police.uk or laura.nowell@northants.police.uk

Once your details have been received, you'll get a confirmation email asking you to accept and verify your Northamptonshire Talking account. Only after this verification will your account be set up and ready for use.

Working Together for Cleaner, More Welcoming Streets

Billing Parish Council is encouraging all residents to help keep our streets cleaner and more welcoming by disposing of waste responsibly. Fly-tipping not only spoils the look of our community, but it also attracts vermin such as rats and mice, increasing the risk of infestations and the spread of harmful diseases. In addition to these health risks, fly-tipping is a criminal offence with serious consequences.

Fly-tipping is illegal and can result in a fine of up to £1,000 or even a prison sentence if caught. It harms our neighbourhood, creates eyesores, and takes time and money to remove. If you witness fly-tipping or spot dumped waste, please report it so it can be investigated and cleared.

Reporting Issues

You can report fly-tipping, littering and other street issues through the West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) app.

There are plenty of simple, legal options available to everyone.

Repurpose, Reuse, Recycle, Donate

Before throwing something away, it's worth taking a moment to consider whether they could be given a new lease of life. Many everyday household objects can be upcycled, repurposed, or reused with a little imagination. Sometimes all it takes is a fresh coat of paint, a minor repair, or a creative twist to transform something old into something useful or decorative again.

If an item can still be used, donating is a great way to help others. Local charities and reuse organisations like Timewarp Reclaim Reuse in Kingsley often accept good quality furniture, small appliances, and household goods, some even offer free collection.

For items that cannot be reused or donated, recycling is the next best option.

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

WNC's recycling centres accept materials such as scrap metal, wood, hard plastics, garden waste, and more, helping reduce environmental impact and keeping Billing tidy.

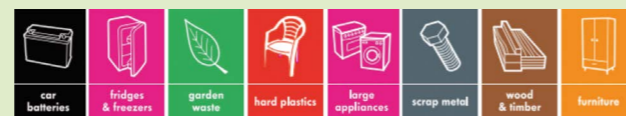


Diagram: What the Recycling Centre's Take

1. They are open seven days a week from 10am to 4pm and are free for residents to use. You just need to book a time slot online [Household Waste Recycling Centre Booking System | West Northamptonshire Council](#) before you visit—up to two weeks in advance, or as late as 30 minutes before arrival. If you cannot book online, you can make a booking through the HWRC customer service team, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, on **0300 126 7000**.
2. Book a Bulky Waste Collection – WNC offers a low-cost collection for large items.
3. Using Private Waste Companies – If you choose to use a private waste removal company, it's important to make sure they are a licensed waste carrier. Every business that collects and disposes of waste legally must hold the correct licence, and they should be able to show it to you on request. Using an unlicensed company increases the risk that your waste may be dumped illegally – and you could still be held responsible if your rubbish is traced back to you. Always ask for their licence number, request a receipt, and check that your waste is being handled safely and responsibly.

Every resident plays a part in keeping Billing looking its best. By disposing of waste legally, donating where possible, and reporting issues when they arise, we can all help maintain a community we can be proud of.

WHAT'S ON IN BELLINGE COMMUNITY HOUSE & COMMUNITY CENTRE

A Community Space for Local Residents – Come Along and Get Involved!

Bellinge Community House and Bellinge Community Centre host a wide variety of weekly and monthly activities delivered by different organisations. Many people don't realise how much is available – so this guide highlights everything happening and how you can get involved.

Your participation helps keep these vital community spaces active, welcoming and thriving.

BELLINGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

MONDAY

Free2Talk – Ages 8–11: 4:30pm–6:00pm

– Ages 12+: 6:30pm–8:00pm



✓ **No need to book – just turn up.**

Free Free2Talk is a youth and community organisation supporting young people. Their focus is on helping young people build confidence, skills, and resilience through activities they enjoy, alongside guidance from trusted adults.

BELLINGE COMMUNITY HOUSE

MONDAY

Northampton Wellbeing Walks Short Walk 10:00am (40 mins) /

Long Walk 10:45am (60 mins)

✓ **No need to book – just turn up.**

Friendly, free guided walks led by a trained volunteer. Ideal for gentle exercise, fresh air and meeting new people. The walks follow safe, accessible routes around the local area and are part of the Northampton Wellbeing Walks programme, coordinated by Trilogy Active.

Cre8Change – 10:00am – 2:00pm

✓ **No need to book – just turn up.**

Cre8Change offers uplifting, friendly sessions full of crafts, hands on activities, relaxed chats and confidence boosting fun. It's an easy going, welcoming place to meet people, get creative, or simply pop in for a cup of tea and a little company.



TUESDAY

Growing Together – Messy Play 1:00pm – 2:30pm

✓ **No need to book – just turn up.**

Fun, hands-on sensory play sessions for young children and their carers. Encourages creativity and early learning.



Northampton Partnership Homes – Second Tuesday of the Month 10:00am – 12:00pm

✓ **No need to book – just turn up.**

Northamptonshire Partnership Homes (NPH) hosts a friendly, in person, giving tenants the chance to speak directly with NPH officers about any housing queries or concerns.

WEDNESDAY

SPRING Social Prescribers – All Day

✓ **By Appointment Only**

If you're living with a long term health condition and feel life could offer a little more support or connection, SPRING can help. They offer one to one wellbeing appointments to help you feel more confident, supported and involved in your community. You can be referred to the SPRING service by your GP, Practice Nurse, pharmacist, or any professional support worker you are already in contact with. You can also choose to self refer by completing a referral form.

Please note: Referrals are open until 31st July 2026.

For more information, call: **01604 974995**

springnorthamptonshire.org/



THURSDAY

Knit & Natter – 9:30am–11:30am

✓ **No need to book – just turn up.**

A welcoming knit and crochet group for all ages and abilities. Bring your knitting, crochet and enjoy a friendly chat.

West Northamptonshire Wellbeing Service – All Day

✓ **By Appointment Only**

If you're aged 18 or over and feel you could benefit from a little extra support to improve your wellbeing, independence, or confidence, the West Northamptonshire Wellbeing offer up to 12 weeks of one to one support with a dedicated Wellbeing Advisor to help you improve your quality of life and stay independent. You can access support by completing a simple self referral, or you can make a referral on someone else's behalf (with their consent). Once your referral has been received, a member of the Wellbeing Service team will aim to contact you within two working days to arrange your first appointment.

0300 126 3000

wellbeing@westnorthants.gov.uk

westnorthants.gov.uk/wellbeing-service



FRIDAY

Cre8Change – 10:00am–2:00pm

✓ **No need to book – just turn up.**

Cre8Change offers uplifting, friendly sessions full of crafts, hands on activities, relaxed chats and confidence boosting fun. It's an easy going, welcoming place to meet people, get creative, or simply pop in for a cup of tea and a little company.



SENDS for Dads – 10:00am–11:00am

✓ **No need to book – just turn up.**

SENDS 4 Dads is a supportive group for dads, step dads, and father figures raising children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It offers a relaxed space to share experiences, get practical advice, and connect with other dads who understand the challenges and joys of parenting a SEND child.



Men's Only Drop in – 11:00am – 12:00pm

A welcoming, relaxed space just for men to come in, have a chat, and get support. No pressure, no booking – just a friendly place to talk, connect, or take a breather.

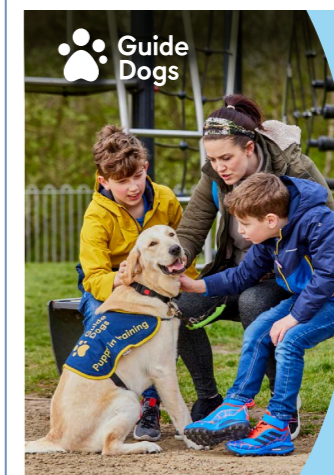
Billing Unitary Ward Councillor Surgery – Last Friday Monthly, 11:00am–1:00pm

✓ **Appointment Preferred**

Meet your local West Northamptonshire Council councillors to discuss issues or seek help. Book a slot by contacting silas.hays@westnorthants.gov.uk or mark.deakes@westnorthants.gov.uk.

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU

Join a group, attend an activity, volunteer, or spread the word – together we keep Bellinge's community spaces vibrant and welcoming. Both community spaces can be hired by voluntary and community groups looking to bring new services or activities to Bellinge – a great way to keep our neighbourhood active, connected, and full of opportunities. If you know a group or organisation who might be interested in hiring, please let Community Spaces Northampton know so even more activities can be available to the community.



Guide Dogs

Become a Puppy Raiser

Could you open your heart and home to a guide dog puppy and make a difference to the life of someone with sight loss?



Find out more:
[guidedogs.org.uk/
PuppyRaising](http://guidedogs.org.uk/PuppyRaising)

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in England and Wales (209617), Scotland (SC038979) and Isle of Man (1334). D714 08/25



Help Us Get Two Well-Used Parish Footpaths Added to the Definitive Map

Billing Parish Council is asking residents to support our applications to West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) to have two long established but currently unrecorded parish footpaths formally added to the Definitive Map, the legal record of public rights of way.

Which paths are we applying for?

WNC has requested we collect user evidence for the following two well used routes:

- **Linear Park Path** – running from behind Ecton Brook Primary School and linking to Ridgewalk (between Great Billing and Rectory Farm).
- **Billing Brook Path** – connecting Fishponds Road to the footpath at Codlin Close.

These paths have been used for many years by walkers, families, dog owners, schoolchildren and residents. Because they pass through wooded areas, they can become unsafe or blocked by fallen trees or overgrowth. Adding them to the Definitive Map would secure long term protection and ensure proper maintenance.

How you can help

If a route is not on the Definitive Map, its future protection is not guaranteed – even if it has been used for decades. To support our applications, we need user evidence showing that these paths have been used openly and regularly, without permission, for many years. This is done through completing a form which can be obtained by contacting the parish clerk.

Every response strengthens our case and helps secure these important pathways for the future – keeping them safe, maintained, and accessible for all.

Billing Parish Fayre 2026

Join Us for the 2026 Billing Parish Fayre! Saturday 27th June • 1pm – 5pm

Bernard Weston Pavilion & Sports Field, Great Billing

The much-loved Billing Parish Fayre is back for 2026, bringing a fantastic afternoon of community fun, entertainment, and summer celebration.

What's Happening?

Community Stalls: Local groups, charities, and residents offering crafts, games, raffles and more.

BBQ by Little Billing Scouts: As always enjoy a delicious Scouts-run BBQ.

Ice Cream with Joe: Cool down with favourites from Joe the Ice Cream Man.

Licensed Bar by The Elwes Arms: Refreshments served throughout the afternoon.

Live Music: Performances from new local bands.

Bouncy Castle, Donkey Rides & Petting Zoo: Donkey rides plus a brand-new petting zoo.

Free Entry: Everyone welcome!

Parking & Access – Please Walk In: Parking at the playing fields is strictly reserved for Blue Badge holders only. To keep the event safe and accessible, we kindly ask all other visitors to walk in wherever possible. If walking isn't an option and you need to park in the surrounding streets, please do so sensibly and considerately so local residents and visitors can move around safely.

Stallholder & Pitch Information

- Stalls can now be booked easily via the Billing Parish Council website.
- If you're raising money for a local group or charity, your pitch is free.
- Local businesses are welcome to book a stall for £15.00.
- We look forward to seeing you there – bring your sunhat, neighbours, and community spirit!



Easter 2026 – Church Services Summary

Palm Sunday 29th March

- **9.00am** – Palm Sunday Mass
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Great Billing

Tuesday 31st March

- **7.30pm** – BCCT Ecumenical Stations of the Cross with Taizé music
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Great Billing

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

- **6.00pm** – Mass of the Lord's Supper
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Great Billing
- **7.00 pm** – Maundy Thursday Communion
All Saints, Little Billing

Good Friday 3rd April

- **10.00 am** – Good Friday Reflection
St Andrew's, Great Billing
- **11.00am** – Solemn Liturgy of the Passion
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Great Billing

Holy Saturday – 4 April

- **10.00am** – Easter Craft Morning
St Andrew's, Great Billing
- **TBC** – Easter Activity Afternoon
Around Great Billing Village – see posters

Easter Sunday April 5th

- **9.00am** – Easter Sunday Celebration
All Saints, Little Billing
- **9.15am** – Easter Sunday Mass
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour – Great Billing
- **10.30am** – Easter Sunday Celebration
St Andrew's, Great Billing
- **3.00pm** – Easter Sunday Service with Holy Communion
Led by Rev Ian Forsyth.
Great Billing Methodist Chapel
- **4.00pm** – Easter Sunday Family Celebration
St Andrew's, Great Billing



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

