

Billingborough Parish Council Newsletter

We are pleased to welcome – Rhea Rayside to the Council. Rhea took up office following co-option at our March meeting. This means that we now have our full complement of nine Councillors. Rhea's details and those of all of our Councillors can be found on our website

The Annual Village (Parish) Meeting – will take place on the **10th May at 6.30pm in the sports pavilion**. This is not a council meeting but one organised by us to give parishioners ie. **YOU** the opportunity to voice your opinions/concerns etc. on anything that affects the village or how'd you'd like to see it develop. It's also an opportunity for all village clubs, groups, organisations etc. no matter of size or membership to present a report, update or overview, so please encourage any club etc. you belong to do this. As always our clerk will be happy to read out any reports etc. on their behalf. **NB** this meeting will be directly followed by the **Annual Council Meeting**, then our usual bimonthly meeting and of course you're welcome to stay for both of these.

We are looking for volunteers – a) to train to be part of a Community Speed Watch Group, b) to help maintain the village jitties and c) to help maintain our three village entrance planters. **For more information or to offer your services please contact our clerk.**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: –

29th May to 3rd June – Time to decorate your house, street and build and display a royal themed scarecrow, ready for the judges. Winners will be announced at the Big Lunch Celebrations on 5th June. (Please return your application form to the letterbox of 3 Whiteleather Square by 23rd May).

Thursday 2nd June – plans are afoot to have a **beacon** at Sempringham Abbey.

Saturday 4th June - the fabulous **Tailfins**, will be performing an exciting live show of 1950's Rock 'n' Roll music in the Village Hall. Bar and light refreshments available. **Tickets which are at a special price of £5 pp, are on sale at 'Post 'n' More'**. So make sure you get yours before they sell out, as they're sure to go quickly!!

Sunday 5th June 11.30am - a **Celebration Service** is being held in Billingborough church.

Sunday 5th June 1pm – 4pm – **Billingborough Jubilee Big Lunch Celebration** fun for all the family at the Village Hall when there'll be - **Live music** from **Type 40** and an opportunity for free mic performers, craft stalls, old photos on display, an amazing model railway, free face painting, bouncy castle and crazy golf, a subsidised hog roast and free cakes, sandwiches, tea and coffee. The best decorated house, street and royal themed scarecrow will also be announced at the end of the day and trophies awarded. **NB**. This is an event organised by volunteers, with funding from the Council and the use of the hall kindly given free of charge by Village Hall committee.

Wednesday 8th June – musical entertainment will be provided by **Tinderbox** at the weekly 'Pop in Too' coffee morning. Refreshments served as usual from 10am to noon.

Eyes down – for a cash and prize bingo on Friday 6th May (over 18yrs only) - doors open 7pm - eyes down 7.30 - there will be a bar and light refreshments available - **funds raised will go toward the Village Hall Refurbishment Plan**. **NB**. Income from the Bingo held in March was donated to the Ukrainian Disaster Appeal.

The Wednesday Club – if you like meeting up for coffee/tea and a natter and learning about various topics in a light hearted way, then why not pop along to the Village Hall, at **7.30pm**, on the **first Wednesday** of the month? You can either attend as a guest **£4** per meeting or become a member which costs **£20 pa**. New membership commences in May.

Village cricket – offers an introduction to cricket for ages 5 to 18, with coaching by ECB qualified coaches. **Interested?** Then contact **Katie** on **07415174458**/Katie-falkner-cricket@outlook.com or **Kiran** on **07957471665**/Mak1-Kiran-cricket@outlook.com, for more information.

Billinghamborough Cricket Club's – new season commenced on 16th April. Details of their fixtures can be found on their website at <https://billingborough.play-cricket.com>. They are always looking for new players of both sexes to join them, so if you are over 13 and are interested or would like more information then please contact **Murray on 07971503742**.

Precept explained - it is a tax that we charge you to enable us to meet our budget requirements. Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from central government, consequently we rely on the Precept plus the income from our land, cemetery & allotments to fund our expenditure. The Parish Council Precept is part of your Council Tax and is collected via your Council Tax payments, with the amount you pay being identified on the front of your account under Billinghamborough. The Precept requirement is the difference between our estimated income and our anticipated spending requirements for the financial year, ie. our budget. Our financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March. We must agree a budget before we can set our Precept and both must be agreed by the full Parish Council. When calculating the Precept, we take into consideration: • current year's spending levels - for ongoing services for which we are responsible e.g. recreation facilities, lighting, water, insurance, grass cutting costs, maintenance and staffing • costs of any additional spending plans or projects • provision for contingencies and reserves • levels of anticipated income – from land rental income, allotment contribution and cemetery fees. Currently there is no cap on the amount that Parish Councils can raise via their precept (District Councils and County Councils are capped). This is under consideration but for now Central Government expects Parish Councils to demonstrate restraint. We try to keep it ours as low as possible. When we have agreed the amount of Precept, we inform SKDC and it is then added to your Council Tax bill and SKDC pay us the Precept amount, which this year was **£15,500.00**. Part of the Precept Calculation is the 'Band D equivalent'. Band D is the middle band of Council Tax and is supposed to represent the amount of Council Tax paid on an average property in the area. The Band D equivalent provides a measure which allows precepts among councils of different sizes to be compared. The estimated number of Band D equivalent properties in the tax base is notified to the Parish Council by SKDC prior to our Precept setting exercise. The required Precept is divided by the number of houses in the tax base to get the Band D. This year ours equated to an increase of **2.8%**, adding **0.85p** to the Council tax bill of a Band D property.

No Mow May – the Council voted at their March meeting to support this by not cutting the Aveland field grass during May.

Our tennis courts are now open – and open access and free use continues. In return we ask that you respect the guidelines set out on the notices on the fencing, lower the net after use and report any inappropriate use to our clerk.

The waterfowl – are busy mating and having babies, which seems to make them behave recklessly and wander onto the roads surrounding the Spring Wells. So on their behalf we say – **please be vigilant and slow down to give them and their young time to cross!** Thank You!

Best Kept Village – we are now automatically entered into this competition. So if we all make that little bit of extra effort with our gardens and public spaces, we may be lucky enough to win one of the monetary prizes ranging from £400 to £200.

Dance your cares away - is a creative contemporary dance class open to all and specifically tailored for people aged 18yrs+ who may be new to dance or wanting to try something different. The sessions will include a 60-minute movement followed by refreshments and a chance to socialise Venue: Newton Room, Guildhall Arts Centre, Grantham from Thursday 28th April 2022 running each Thursday for 8 weeks, from 10am - 11am. For more information and to book your place please email: communities@lincsymca.co.uk Telephone: 01529 30246.

Please remember all those affected by the war in Ukraine -may this conflict soon be over!

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