

## Billingsborough Parish Council Newsletter November 2024

**A time to remember** the valour of those who selflessly gave their lives for our freedom – at this year's Remembrance Day service, that will be held in **St Andrews Church, Billingsborough on Sunday 10th November at 10.00am.**

**Would you like to be an influencer?** - Then why not apply to become a councillor. We are looking for enthusiastic and dedicated individuals to help us shape the future of our parish. By joining us you will have the opportunity to influence the decisions made about your village. **What does it involve?** – attending 9 meetings per year, listening to residents' concerns & ideas, helping make decisions on local issues & on the budget, giving your time to ensure the best outcomes for your village. **Why become a Councillor?** - You get the opportunity to make a positive impact, you gain experience in local government, you'll be part of a team committed to improving your community and you'll also have a voice to ensure your community thrives. **No experience needed** – interested in finding out more then please contact our clerk. **Mind made up, then applying is easy** - just complete our brief application form, which can be found on our website. You will then be invited to attend our November meeting on the 10th for selection via co-option. If selected you will be able to take part in the evening's meeting, after you have signed a couple of necessary official documents. We'd like to welcome our newest Councillor Helen Middlebrook, who was co-opted at our September meeting. Her details and those of all our Councillors can be found on our website. Helen will be laying the poppy wreath on behalf of the village at this year's Remembrance Service.

**The Parish Budget for 24/25** – will be discussed & drafted at our next meeting. We are keen to ensure that it will reflect the needs and priorities of our community. So please let our clerk know what matters to **YOU!** Or come to the public forum at our meeting and tell us. We can make choices on your behalf though **it would be much better if our decisions were based on your desires!**

**Poll update** - thank you to all of those that responded to our recent poll re the various development options for the recreation ground. The votes for the five a side & bike track were very close, so we are currently sourcing quotes & designs for both these options. Once we have these, we will consult with the village further. We value everyone's input but would especially like to hear from the young people of the village once we have more concrete plans and are looking at designs.

**Biodiversity** – it was agreed at our October meeting to create a wild flower patch in the far north east corner of the recreation ground, to provide a home for insects, food for pollinators and pleasure for all. We may also look to install bat boxes & descriptive signage. We will be applying to SKDC for funding for this project. If you have any ideas of other council owned areas that you'd like to see rewilding take place then please let our clerk know by 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Cemetery improvements** – we intend to replace the wooden gates and fencing at our cemetery with wrought iron gates and railings on a small wall. We also plan to add a small gate entrance with access path to the west of the drive. We are currently sourcing designs & costing and looking to see if there is any funding available to help with this project.

**Traffic attendant** – last year we secured a role for a 'lollypop' person to work outside our primary school, to ensure our children can cross the road safely. **Unfortunately this role is still vacant!** It's only fifteen minutes morning and afternoon, so do you think you could do it or perhaps share the role with a friend? Think about it and if you'd like more details then please contact Cllr Marin Hill on **07939 130665** or **cllrm.hill@lincolnshire.gov.uk**. It will be a shame if after all our hard work to secure this position, that it is rescinded due to lack of interest

**Low St. field trees** – we have been advised by Crown Estates that they will soon be planting 3 Lime trees, 1 Red Oak, 1 Hornbeam & 1 Acer Autumn Blaze in this paddock on behalf of the village to commemorate the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have been granted permission to erect a plaque to mark the planting of the trees and state their dedication and are currently sourcing quotes for this.

**Section 19 investigation** –initiated because of the flooding in January has been completed, however to date we've had no feedback.

**Please remember to pick up after your dog** - not doing so not only creates an unpleasant experience for others but also poses health risks and impacts on the cleanliness of our village. So let's all do our part by picking up. Together we can keep our village and Recreation Ground clean and enjoyable for everyone. **Thank you for your co-operation and being considerate dog walkers!**

**Autumn craft fayre** – in aid of village hall funds, will take place on **Sunday 3rd November from 10am to 2pm**, in the village hall. Browse - 23 tables of wonderful unique hand crated treasures from local artisans, including some new exhibitors. Whether you're looking for handmade gifts, home décor or just want to enjoy a day of creativity, there will be something for everyone, including refreshments. **Entry is free, so why not pop along to find one of-a-kind items and enjoy a fantastic day out, while supporting the village hall.** NB – only assistance dogs are permitted.

**Your Village hall requires 3 NEW committee members** – Without new members its's continuity is under threat. So if you'd like to help ensure its future, why not volunteer? No previous experience is necessary, just the willingness to get involved and make a difference. They also require a **volunteer caretaker** to help look after the hall, carry out small repairs and check the hall after events. Next year the committee are looking to **upgrade the bar area** and are looking to the community for help with this. So if you have skills such as fitting cupboards, worktops, sink units, painting etc. and are able to volunteer some time, they'd love to hear from you! If you'd like to join the committee, become caretaker or help with the bar renovation, please contact the secretary or come along to the **AGM on 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.** NB the **AGM** is open to the public, so why not pop along and meet the committee and join them for a cuppa and biscuits. **They're**

**looking forward to meeting YOU!** The next sessions of their very popular **Bingo** will be on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November** and **6<sup>th</sup> December**, doors open at **7pm** eyes down **7.30pm**, cash prizes so **over 18's only**.

**Church update** – we are very pleased to announce that the **Rve'd Rebecca Rock** has been appointed as Interim Priest in charge of the Billingborough and South Lafford Benefices. Her licensing will take place in our church on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm**, she will take up duties shortly afterwards and will reside in The Rectory at 16 West St, Folkingham. **Services** – this year's **All Souls** (when we remember those we love that have passed) will be held on **3<sup>rd</sup> November at 4pm**, (forms for names to be read out are available in the church). The **Carol Service** will be on **15<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm**, followed by tea & mince pies. **Midnight Mass** will be at **11.15pm** on **Christmas Eve**. **NB** – there is no service on Christmas Day. **Clock repair** – unfortunately due to technical difficulties, this will now be undertaken next year. We say **goodbye & thanks** to **Charlotte** for her leadership, dedication and passion during her time as Captain of the Bell Ringers and wish her well for the future! **Thank you very much Charlotte!** If you'd like to be part of the bell ringing team, please contact **Sandra** on **07833 247610** for more details. **Are you a flower arranger?** – If so are you able to spare some time to help with the church's floral displays for Easter, Harvest & Christmas? - **Yes** - then please contact **Karen** on **01529 240135**.

**Fortescue Arms** – Following an appeal launched via leaflet and social media a committee was formed to improve the pub as an asset of community value. A large and positive response was received from villagers as the committee looks to enhance this valuable local facility. To date the committee has met three times and appointed representatives to negotiate with the owners and local authorities, in respect to this goal. The next step toward this goal is to register the pub as an ACV (asset of community value). Anyone wishing to assist them or learn more about this should email Karyn Wilkins (Secretary) [kwhome2915@yahoo.com](mailto:kwhome2915@yahoo.com) or send a message via the group's Facebook page.

**Billingborough Cricket Club** – The club enjoyed a great 2024 season with the main opposition being the unseasonably cold weather. The Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> team went unbeaten all year and were promoted as Champions back to division 1. There was also a Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> team created which largely played away from home on many new grounds. Both Saturday sides competed well in higher divisions. The facilities were massively improved at the ground with the addition of new covers and an electronic scoreboard as well as an additional pair of sightscreens. Anyone new to the village and keen to play next season should contact Chairman Murray Turner on 07971503742 in the first instance. Winter nets will be notified via the BHTCC Facebook page.

**Pop in Too** - their **Macmillan** coffee morning raised an amazing **£440**. Liz would like to say a massive thank you to all who came, baked cakes and donated raffle prizes! This year's **Christmas Party** will be on Wednesday **18<sup>th</sup> December**; first coffee morning in 2025 will be on **8<sup>th</sup> January** and first lunch on **5<sup>th</sup> February**.

**The Ladies Wednesday Club** – first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, non-members £4 per session. November's talk is by **Sarah Rudy** – **vintage & modern jewellery & accessories**, December's meeting is the Christmas meal, which will be in the Plough Inn, Horbling at 1.30pm. **NB** the first meeting of 2025 is in February, when Fiona Barlow will be the guest speaker.

**Springwells Patient Participation group** – next meets on **21<sup>st</sup> November at 1.30pm in the waiting room**. This is your an opportunity to hear what's been happening in the practice and give your ideas, feedback and suggestions to help improve the patient experience. You can register to be part of this group by completing the Patient Reference Group form on their website [www.ruralmedical.co.uk](http://www.ruralmedical.co.uk) or by contacting reception. Alternatively you can just come along on the day.

**Library van dates** - **Vine St** – **11<sup>th</sup> Nov** and **9<sup>th</sup> Dec** 15.30 to 16.15, **Village Hall** - **6<sup>th</sup> Nov** and **4<sup>th</sup> Dec**, 9.45 to 10.45. There's also **Books to your door** - for more details about this service please call **01522 782010** or email [benjamin.tatton@gll.org](mailto:benjamin.tatton@gll.org).

**Wellbeing walks** – take place on the second Thursday of the month at **10am**, meeting and ending at the church with tea & biscuits. The walk is approx. 1 hr long & is suitable for all abilities. For more information please contact [Jennifer.pitt3@nhs.net](mailto:Jennifer.pitt3@nhs.net) or call **07789 533703**.

**Recycling your batteries is easy now** – all you have to do is pop them in a small clear nappy bag and tie them to the handle of one of your refuse bins.

**SKDC has a new Customer Service Centre** – which is located below its offices in the Picture House, on St Catherine's Rd. It is open Mon – Fri - 9am to 3pm. This means that you will now be able to book an appointment to speak to customer service advisors and meet with officers. **Call 01476 406080** or book on line at [www.southkesteven.gov.uk/contcat-us](http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/contcat-us). A number of self-service stations are also available for customers without digital access at home. This provision will enable them to complete online tasks and access online portals such as Council Tax, Choice Based Lettings, Licensing and Planning.

**A little reminder to light up at night** - when out on your bike & a **polite request** - to anyone whose trees, shrubs, hedging, etc. overhang the pavement – please cut them back and please can you also sweep up any discarded wet leaves – **thank you!**

**The Environment agency** – are currently checking their flood risk management assets to ensure that they are functioning correctly, to ensure water can move freely through the channels and thus help prevent flooding. So you may see them about in our area clearing debris, cutting grass etc. **Your feedback & ideas are always welcome so please do let us have them!**

Clerk [billingboroughparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:billingboroughparishclerk@gmail.com) 07415 842591 Chairman [bwoodheadbillingboroughhpc@gmail.com](mailto:bwoodheadbillingboroughhpc@gmail.com) 07810 861089

Website <https://Billingborough.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/contact-us/2>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Billingborough-Parish-Council-107945005250794>