

Billingborough Parish Council Newsletter July 2025

The Emergency Planning forum - held on 11th June was very well attended by residents of our village & of surrounding villages. The aims and advantages for having an emergency team in our village were clearly explained by Steve Eason-Harris, the Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Officer, with Lincs Fire & Rescue. For those who couldn't attend & might be saying why do we need one of these as we have a flood team? The answer is – this will be a team that would respond to any emergency not just flooding, it would also give us a direct route into accessing help from Steve's team – (we didn't receive their help earlier in January's flooding because no one had contacted his team, consequently they weren't aware of our dire situation), receiving alerts to any potential disaster & regular training to deal with them. We'd also be given an emergency box containing two way radios, high vis jackets & other items, plus a portable weather station. Setting up the plan would only take three or four people, (though more could be involved if they wished to) who would become the main contacts & who'd co-ordinate the volunteer helpers – which we hope will be numerous. Although, the Council is initiating this, it **will not be** the Council's plan – it will be the **Village's** plan & Steve will help us develop it! In order to have a more effective response to any emergency one of the main aims will be to work collaboratively with the Flood Team & at least the villages of Pointon, Horbling, Folkingham & Swaton including doing the locally delivered training together, (where possible). Skills learnt in the training will also be helpful in general life. Have we peaked **your** interest? Then please go to <https://arcg.is/1LePi52>, a QR code will also be posted on our website. This link is open until 30th September. Or if you'd just like more information please call Chris on **07810861089**.

The Flood Pod is coming to our village – on 28th July from 11am – 6pm, which will be situated in the recreation ground car park. This is a flood prevention event being hosted by SKDC, for more details please go to [Welcome to the NEW FloodPod! – FloodMary](#)

Flood updates - the **drone footage** taken by Steve's team of our area early this year is now available & can be viewed by going to <https://sitescan-eu1.arcgis.com/share/145979c0-3807-4681-a911-83c2442022c3>. There will also be a QR code posted on our website.

Telemetry machines - Funding has been secured by Brett Rycott-Jones, the Flood Resilience Programme Coordinator, with LCC to purchase several for our village. These will be placed in areas identified by the village and will allow real time monitoring of water levels & therefore possible flood predication, meaning we should be more prepared should a possible flood be identified. These machines will be fully maintained free of charge for ten years. **Sewage clearing** - over the last few weeks teams have been clearer out sewers in various parts of the village, which should have a positive impact to help minimise flooding. **Billingborough Flood Group (BFG) report** - The Environmental Agency (EA) have now issued the flood reports following the January 6th floods which the Billingborough Flood Group (BFG) have scrutinised in detail. The BFG have sent a comprehensive list of queries to the EA who have shared the queries with all the other agencies who are due to respond to them before the multi-agency meeting on 7th July. All the relevant agencies are attending as well as senior representatives from LCC and the Mayoral office to ensure they can obtain as much support as possible in their endeavours to significantly reduce the risk of future severe flooding events in our village. The objective of the meeting is to agree a strategic action plan for our area, which will be made public once they have reached agreement with all the agencies. Their intention is to form a working group subsequently, with representatives from the relevant agencies which will meet at regular intervals to review progress in implementation of the agreed plan and arrange residents meetings to feedback progress, as well as enabling residents to raise questions.

We welcome – Ari Volanakis to the Council & sadly say goodbye to **Julie**, who due to work commitments has had to resign, so we'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work during her term of office! This means that we still have **2** vacancies - ie **opportunities** for **you** to join us! Yes **YOU!** So why not take a look at (or even better complete) our brief application form online at <https://billingborough.parish.lincolnsire.gov.uk/council-business/parish-council-vacines>? This may be your moment in time to take the step forward from wondering if it's for you **to trying if it is!** Selection will be by co-option at our meeting on **8th July**.

Planning applications - the Council raised concerns re **S25/0672** – proposed change of use of outbuildings at the Fortescue Arms to short term holiday accommodation, it had no objections to Crown Estate proposed woodland planting in various locations surrounding Billingborough.

The Village's wild flower patch – should be about to bloom with flowers & life, so why not pop along & take a look to see how many different types of flowers, bees & insects you can spot? If you could let us know what you see & count them that would be brilliant, as would pictures. Every observation will help us better understand & care for this little pocket of biodiversity & help it flourish for many years to come!

2 New Basketball nets – were recently installed in the recreation ground but unbelievably within days of being fitted, the one in the tennis court area was stolen! Then the cunning thief must have found the old one in the bin, as they put it back up – we guess in the hope that we'd not notice the theft! Sadly this kind of senseless vandalism not only disrespects your community property but also affects the enjoyment of those using the courts & the moral of the Councillors!

Village Hall News – their amazing **VE Day celebrations** raised **£640**, which was equally shared between Help for Heroes & the Royal British Legion. **Flooring update** – thanks to very generous funding from the National Lottery, the tired & dated flooring in the main hall, kitchen & bar area, is going to be replaced, which unfortunately means that the hall will be **closed** from **4th to 17th August**. This little interlude in availability for use will be worth it, as it will mean that all future hall users will be able to enjoy a fresher, cleaner space. – **To make a booking please use - <https://hallbookingonline.com/billingborough/>. Village Hall Bingo **NB** the next session isn't until **Friday 3rd October**. Village community gym** – opening hours are – **Mon** – 9am to 12pm & 5pm to 7pm, **Tues** – 5pm to 7pm, **Wed** – 9am – 12 pm & 5pm to 7 pm, **Thurs** – **CLOSED**, **Fri** - 9am to 12pm. For more details please call **07577 030548**.

Billingborough Allotment & Garden Society Open Day – BAGS would like to thank all those that braved the very windy weather to support their annual event and help raise **£395** for allotment funds, this money will be used to help maintain the site – **thank you!**

Church News – the recent **Garage & Table top sale** raised an amazing **£1026** for church funds. Thanks go to all those that helped or donated items & cakes. **NB** the **Music for a Summer afternoon by Elaine Huckle followed by a Strawberry Tea has had to be rescheduled and is now taking place on 6th July at 3pm.** Tickets are **£15 inc the tea & a soft drink at half time.** To reserve your tickets please call Trevor on **01529 241325.** All proceeds to be split between the church & the Air Ambulance. **100 Club** – is back & there are still numbers available & it's just **£52 pa.** You have the option to pay weekly, monthly or yearly. If you'd like to join please contact Georgina Collyer gecolyer@hotmail.co.uk. **Cleaning help** – if you've a little spare time, your help would be gratefully appreciated to help clean the church on the **1st Saturday** of the month at **10am.**

Billingborough Cricket Club - committee details - Chairman – Barriey Light. If you wish to join or would like more information please call him on **07506 739413** or email at barrieylight@yahoo.co.uk. **July fixtures** – **5th - 1sts H** - playing Moulton Harrox 2nd, **12th – A - 1sts** playing Market Deeping 2nds & **H - 2nds** – playing Royal Boston 2nd, **19th – H - 1sts** playing **2nds** playing Uffington, **26th – H - 1sts** playing Orton Pak 1st, **August 2nd – A - 1sts** playing Ancaster, **8th – H -1sts** playing Heckington 1st, **9th - A-2nds** playing Heckington 2nds, **16th – H – 2nd** playing Boston 3rd, **23^{ed} – A - 1sts** playing Heckington 1st & **A -2nds** playing Royal Boston 2nd. All matches start at **12.30pm.**

Horbling & Billingborough Scout Group - would like to say a huge Thank you to our generous community for all their support in fundraising to redevelop their HQ in the wake of the 2024 flooding. They also received hugely helpful grant funding from Garfield Weston Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, The Bernard Sunley Foundation and the Biker Wind Farm Trust along with a generous donation from local business Switchserve to help them with the refurbishment. They are delighted to be back in their beloved HQ which has been reconfigured to give us them more toilets and an easier access kitchen. It has also had a completely fresh makeover with bright new wall cladding, LED lighting and energy efficient heating. They're still need of large kitchen appliances and flood resilient storage furniture, so they're not quite there yet but say that it's great to be back home!

Linkwell our good neighbourhood scheme needs volunteers - so if you have a little spare time and would like to make a difference to someone's life by befriending them, helping with shopping or transport, etc. why not consider volunteering for Linkwell? How much time you give is totally up to you. For more information please call **07731 678242.**

The Big Poppy make – amazing news we've reached 2000 poppies! So a massive thank you to all those that have contributed so far! However; we still need more poppies, so if you'd like to contribute to help create a magnificent display in the church & Spring Wells area to commemorate this year's Remembrance Day you still have time as we will be collecting poppies up to October. If you require a pattern please call Debbie on **07709 198524.** There is a collection box in the church for you to drop off your completed poppies & you can also drop them off at the village hall on a Wednesday at 'Pop in Too'.

Ladies Wednesday Club – if you like meeting up for a coffee/tea and a natter while 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 – except in **July & August**, when it's on **TUESDAY - 1st July** they are going to the DON'T LOOSE HOPE CAFÉ in Bourne, cars leaving village hall at 6.30pm. **5th August** it's a Bring & Share Tea at **3.30pm**, being held at Karen's house. You can either attend as a guest **£4** per meeting or become a member which costs **£20 pa.**

Village Pals is a new friendship group that is held every **Tuesday** from **12.15 pm** in the Fortescue Arms Billingborough. It is open to everyone – so why not go along for a coffee & chat & see what it's all about? They'd love to see **YOU!**

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 or call **07789 533703.**

Springwells Patient Participation group – next meets on **17th July at 6pm 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, by contacting reception, or coming along on the night.

Library van dates - Vine St – **21st July & 18th August** 15.30 to 16.15 **Village Hall** – **16th July and 13th August** 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.

In memory of Maureen Cowley – who sadly died on 11th May aged 86. Maureen was born in our village and lived her whole life here and was a cherished and respected member of our community. Many will remember her as the friendly face behind the counter of the post office that she ran for eleven & half years. She will greatly missed by all who knew her but her memory will live on in their hearts. Our deepest condolences go to her family but especially to her daughter Hayley, who is our Clerk & RFO.

If you notice anything in the recreation ground that requires attention or cleaning please let our clerk know - **Thank you.**

Clerk billingboroughparishclerk@gmail.com 07415 842591 Chairman bwoodheadbillingboroughpc@gmail.com 07810 861089

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

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