

A time to remember the valour of those who selflessly gave their lives for our freedom – at this year's Remembrance Day service, being held in **St Andrews Church, Billingborough** on **Sunday 9th November at 10.15am.**

The Big Poppy Make – a MASSIVE THANK YOU to EVERYONE who made poppies for our Poppy appeal -**2500** of them. Your time, creativity & community spirit have helped make a wonderful display & meaningful tribute to those who served. Special thanks go to the Pop in ladies & to Ann W who knitted an amazing **650** poppies!

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 & 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 **11th** for selection via co-option.

The Parish Budget for 24/25 – will be discussed & drafted at our November meeting. We are keen to ensure that it will reflect the needs and priorities of our community. So please let our clerk know by 7th November about 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!**

Flooding updates - **BFG** recently held their first residents' feedback session, to update on the progress & implementation of the Strategic Flood Plan that they produced from the EA and Section 19 reports. They explained in some detail what actions will be required to deal with control of water upstream West of Billingborough through a flood alleviation scheme, the issues we are facing with the overall poor condition of the village drainage system and how we can get surface water that does break through onto roads through the village quicker and into drainage assets to the East of the village & outlined how the BFG will monitor progress with developments and hold the various authorities to account. **Village Drainage System** – they continue to strive to understand this & identify who is responsible for each asset. AW & LCC have been undertaking investigation works, often without informing them or us. BFG ask that if you see any such teams out, that if you are able to do so, you enquire what they are undertaking & post this information on BFG's Facebook page. Similarly, they'd value the contribution from all residents who have knowledge of our drainage systems and feel they can contribute to understanding the issues. **Ousemere Lode to the West of Billingborough** - one of the actions from the Strategic Plan was to locate additional telemetry devices further upstream of the village as part of the early warning system for potential flooding events. They were pleased to announce that LCC obtained approval from the Environmental Agency to locate one device on Pipperdam Bridge and one on the bridge on Mareham Lane where the OML crosses. In addition, LCC are locating additional telemetry in Folkingham to also provide early warning of potential flood events. All data will be fed to an app that residents will be able to access once it is up & running. **BFG** intend to become a constituted group, as once registered they will be able to apply for grant funding from various sources to support local flood mitigation efforts. **Volunteers required** - once they have formalised their group, they will be looking for volunteers to form a community action group to work in collaboration with the various authorities in undertaking basic maintenance work such as keeping local drains, ditches, and other water courses clear as well as street gullies in an effort to keep assets clear as far as possible. If you are interested in helping to look after our village watercourses, then please contact Helen Middlebrook or Murray Turner via the **BFG** Facebook page. All updates & reports can also be found on this site. **Everyone can help with gutter water flow** by ensuring that the gutters outside or near your property are free from debris & by reporting any blocked drains on **'fixmystreet'**. **Stay safe & informed by signing up for flood alerts at** – **<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>**.

The Village's Resilience Planning Group – if you haven't already put your name forward to be part of this, you can still register your interest by email to **bwoodheadbillingboroughhpc@gmail.com**. It is anticipated that the first meeting will be in the week commencing 8th December.

Footpath to Pointon Update – we have been assured by Cllr Hill, that the much needed repairs to this will be undertaken in 2026.

Temporary road closure – 3/11/25 – 7/11/25 on Mareham Lane, for the removal of the foot bridge between 134m & 151m south of Billingborough Rd. Signage displaying accurate dates & times & alternative routes will be displayed on site in advance. **TTR012941**

SKDC updates – the **new Turnpike Lane waste disposal site**, is due to open to the public on **1st December** & the new food waste collection should be operational by **February 2026**. Since the District Council elections in May 2023, they have added **125** new houses to their rental housing stock, however; supply is still way below the need, as there are currently **1500** on their waiting list for a property.

Church - Services – **2nd November All Souls service at 4pm**, if you wish to remember a loved one, please add their name to the sheet in the church or call Trevor on **01529 241325**. **Remembrance Service – 9th November at 10.15**, **Carol Service – 21st December at 3pm**, **Midnight Mass – 23.15 on 24th December**. **Sale table** - why not pop along & have a browse at the items for sale on the table at the back of the church. You'll find handmade cards & gift tags (made from your donated old Christmas cards), bags of 10 for a £1 & other treasures. All proceeds support the church. **NB** any unwanted gifts, would be gladly welcomed for resale. **100 Club** - numbers available, cost **£52 pa**. You have the option to pay weekly, monthly or yearly. To join please contact Georgina Collyer **gcolyer@hotmail.co.uk**.

Forthcoming events – 1st November Billingborough Village Hall is hosting a FREE Hallowe'en Disco Party from 7pm-11pm and everyone is welcome to celebrate the spooky weekend NB children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be plenty of tunes to dance to - on the wonderful new dance floor! Fancy dress is encouraged (but not essential). Alongside the licensed bar (cash or card accepted), hot dogs will be served and there will be a raffle to win some great prizes. **2nd November - Autumn Fayre** in aid of village hall refurbishments, being held in the VH, **29th November Christmas Fayre** – in aid of the church & being held in the church. **Village Hall bingo** will be held on **Friday 8th November & 5th December** – doors open at 7pm eyes down at 7.30pm. Looking to 2026 **BATS** will be performing their no doubt hilarious interpretation of **Jack & the Beanstalk on 21st & 22nd March.**

Your Village Hall AGM – Thursday 11th December at 6.30 – everyone's welcome, so why not pop along to hear what's been happening over the last year & what's planned for the year ahead. The committee would love to see you! If you'd like to hire the hall you can do so at - <https://hallbookingonline.com/billingborough/>.

Pop in Too – is a weekly coffee morning held on a Wednesday in the village hall at 10am. On the first Wednesday of the month coffee is followed by lunch of soup, pudding and refreshments, which is served at 12pm, there's no need to book and everyone's welcome. There is no set charge for either the coffee or lunch; you just donate what you can afford. **NB** there will be **NO POP** in on **24th & 31st December** & first coffee morning in 2026 will be on **7th January**. **NB** - their coffee morning on the **25th September raised £417** for **Macmillan**, a big thank you goes to all who supported this event.

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 – it's a **chat with Revd Rebecca Rock** on **5th November** & on **3rd December the Christmas celebration at 3pm**, which is an afternoon tea, cost £20..

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!**

Billingborough Art Group – do you love to paint, doodle, splash a bit of colour around or always wanted to try painting? Then why not pop along to the Village Hall on a Monday from **10 to 1pm** & see what this friendly, informal art group is about? All abilities welcome only criteria is that you are over 18. Cost is £20pm. For more information please call Carol on **07513 020346**.

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 **6th November at 1.30 pm 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. Join via 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 – **10th November & 8th December** 15.30 to 16.15 **Village Hall** – **5th November** and **3rd & 31st December** 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.

Have you resolved to get fitter? - Then why not give our friendly Community gym ago? It's where results happen and motivation is contagious! For more information please call **07577 030548**.

Social prescribing - is a person centred service focusing on practical, social & emotional needs with a goal to improving mental & physical wellbeing. The service can help with accessing community groups, overcoming isolation, anxiety, depression, stress, loneliness, befriending, bereavement, finance, housing support, volunteering or returning to work. It can be prescribed by health professionals, community groups & other services, you can also self- refer at <https://lvet.co.uk/social-prescribing/>. For more info call **07825 518033**.

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**.

Help4paws dog rescue – our local dog rescue centre, is looking for volunteers to help in the foster kennels. Previous kennel experience & knowledge of rescue dogs or having worked in an animal related sector preferred though training will be given. Min age 18. However; if you just feel that you can give some time to walk some of the dogs that would also be very much appreciated. If you'd like to know more please call **07500 970902** or email to melloneyfletcher@gmail.com. If you have any spare blankets, duvets, towels or dog related items, tucked away at home, that you no longer require, they would be very gratefully received! Every blanket means a cosy, happy dog & a wagging tale of appreciation. **Thanks go to those who have already helped or donated!**

Exciting News -2 half allotment plots will soon be available – so if having an allotment is something you've always dreamed of, this could be the opportunity to make that dream come true! For more information please contact **Jeannie** on **07368 350846**.

Spread the word – do you belong to a non -profit group/organisation or are running a charity event that you'd like to tell everyone about? Then we'll happily include a piece in our newsletter - space permitting. All submissions & enquiries to Chris our chairman.

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