Billingborough Parish Council Newsletter May 2026

Your Village, Your Voice – so please join us at the Annual Meeting **-** being held on **12th May at 6pm in the Recreation Ground sports pavilion**. What makes our village special isn't just the place – it's the people who call it home i.e. – **YOU** and we want every one of you to be part of shaping our village's future, so please come along & give us your ideas/opinions & be part of the conversation directing your village forward! ***NB*** This meeting will be directly followed by ***The Annual Council Meeting,*** which you're welcome to attend.

Wanted a few good neighbours, (no super powers required) – do you have a soft spot for your village - a few ideas about how it could be better, have time to attend 9 meetings a year? Then you could be just who we are looking for to join the council. As a councillor, you'll help make decisions that shape everyday village life & help turn "someone should do something about that" into I helped make that happen. Being a parish councillor isn't about speeches – it's about good neighbours working together for the good of the place we call home. So if you care about your community, why not step forward? Your village needs YOU & we promise that it's more rewarding than you think. Interested? – Then why not complete our brief application form on our website? Selection will be by co-option at our meeting on **12h May**.

Looking to the future – we're excited to share with you that we have a draft proposal to develop, enhance & future proof your recreation ground. The proposed plan is called **Aveland Hub – Sports, Nature & Heritage park**, which proposes to redevelop the recreation ground into a beehive of wellbeing & economic activity, that better reflects the needs of our community now & in the years ahead. As part of this process we've launched a consultation to gather your comments, ideas, preferences & priorities. Your input will play a vital role in shaping the final plan. The consultation is now live & available for you to complete, until **30th June.** It can be accessed at https://Billingborough.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parish-information/Survey/1 or you can a get a paper copy from our clerk. Funding would of course be sourced if it were given the go ahead. Meanwhile if you want to know more, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions about it at the Village meeting on **12th May.**

The Billingborough Flood Group (BFG) - has made significant strides over the past six months, focusing on the development and implementation of various actions outlined in the Billingborough Strategic Flood Mitigation Plan produced following the severe flooding experienced in January 2025. Formation and Structure of BFG - Since its inception, the BFG has been incorporated as a Non Registered Community Group, functioning similarly to a charity. This move enables the group to apply for grants to fund flood mitigation and maintenance schemes within the village. The group has appointed a Chairman, Treasurer, and four Members. These individuals are responsible for ensuring that all funds are spent appropriately and accounted for in accordance with best practices. Currently, the BFG is in the process of opening a bank account to manage donations received to date as well as future donations and grant funding. Additionally, BFG email addresses and a domain name have been established to facilitate communication and organisation. The chair can be contacted on k.szokalo@bilingboroughfloodgroup.co.uk. An up to date report on controlling water from the west of Billingborough, the drainage system in & around Billingborough, removing flood water from the village to the east & ongoing challenges & future outlook can be found on their and our website. ***Don't forget*** if you wish to stay informed about potential flood alerts from our telemetry alarms, sign up at **innovative.resilience@lincolnshire.gov.uk –** ask to be registered to the **BILLINGB0ROUGH system,** providing your name, email address & mobile tel no if you wish to be alerted via text as well as emails. You will then be sent an email on how to register. If you haven't already done so also register for ***flood alerts*** at **https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings. BE PREPARED** - don't let the weather outwit you – remember **flooding can happen extremely quickly**! Our ***thanks*** go to BFG for all their hard work!

Billingborough Emergency Community Group (BECG) –is still accepting volunteers willing to help in an emergency (but without being involved in the committee). If you'd like to be such a volunteer please contact **Rob** on ***07972 383257*** or at hifivephoto@gmail.com. Joining doesn't commit you to anything other than helping when you can should an emergency occur. It also gives you the protection of being covered by their volunteer indemnity insurance & access to training. We thank those that have already volunteered & apologise for the delay in any training, this is beyond our control but can assure you that we are actively pursuing this.

Village Hall 70th birthday celebrations – will take place on the **30th May.** This will be a free event for the community, with a 1950s tea dance/garden party in the afternoon & an evening party dance, celebrating the golden years of 50s, 60s & 70s music with a live band & DJ.

Cinema is coming to Village Hall – on **23rd July.** This is a pop up event organised by SKDC. **How to Train your Dragon** will be shown in the afternoon & **Hot Fuzz** in the evening. More details to follow soon.

Village Hall Bingo **-** the next sessions of their **very successful cash bingo** will be held on **Friday 1st May & 5th June, doors open 7pm, eyes down 7.30pm**, (Over 18s only). Bar & refreshments are available. Bingo will take a break for the summer but will return in the autumn. ***Lottery –*** the VH is now part of Lottery SK community fundraising lottery, a simple & fun way to raise funds for the VH. For just £1pw you'll have a chance to win up to **£25k** in the weekly draw, while supporting the hall, as 60p of every pound goes local causes like our hall. To buy a ticket, please go to **https://www.lotterysk.co.uk/.../billingborough-village...** For information & hall hire which is **£20 ph.** call **07704 298402** or you can book direct at **hallbookingonline.com**

Miller Magic Big Band – will be performing in our church on **18th July,** providing an evening of big band swing music from 1940s to 80s, including music by Glen Miller, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey & more. Tickets **£15**, to include light refreshments will be available from Trevor **01529 241325,** Karen **07375 416505** or from Post & More from May or June. Drinks will be available to purchase & all proceeds will go towards the restoration of the west stain-glass window.

The Aveland Art club – thank all those who supported their ***Spring Fayre,*** which raised an amazing ***£800*** for the village hall refurbishment fund. ***Thank you!***

Church News – the east facing clock now has its new pointers in place & is back providing us with the time, a path has been installed leading from the main doors to the choir door & the carpark's lining has been repainted. ***100 Club has availability for new members*** **-** cost is **£52 pa** & you can pay weekly, monthly or yearly. If you'd like to join please contact Georgina Colyer gecolyer@hotmail.co.uk.

B*illingborough Amateur Theatre Society (BATS)* **-** delighted audiences with laughter and plenty of pantomime magic this spring with their production of Jack and the Beanstalk. Across three performances around 340 people enjoyed a wonderful weekend of community theatre. BATS would like to thank everyone for their continued support, as a proportion of the proceeds go to the Village Hall - **£400**, on this occasion. They'd also thank the many volunteers working behind the scenes and front of house all of whom helped make the production to be such a success and also to you for coming along to support them. If you'd like to join BATS or volunteer to help, please contact them via contactbats2@gmail.com or https://www.facebook.com/share/1GeFpRen85/

Billingborough Cricket Club **-** *committee details* **- Chairman** – Barriey Light, **Vice Chair & Secretary** – Shane George. If you wish to join or would like more information please call Barriey on ***07506 739413*** or email at barrieylight@yahoo.co.uk.

Our Allotments –if you'd like to be added to the waiting list for an allotment please email FayeHalifax214@gamil.com.

Parking RESPONSIBLY near our school – sadly some people just don't seem to care that parking on the double yellow or zigzag lines on Victoria St poses a safety hazard to all the school's pupils, which may even include their own children. So we ask that you think before you dump your car, in what to you seems a convenient spot, especially at drop off & pick up times. Irresponsible parking creates hazards for the children, pedestrians & other road users, increasing the risk of an accident & making it difficult for emergency vehicles to access the area if needed. **Please remember that the safety of our children & community are paramount.** So please ***park safely*** at all times – ***thank you.***

Dog fouling & discarded poo bags – yet again we seem to have people who feel it's ok just to leave dog mess where their dog deposits it or bag it up then throw it in a ditch or hang it in a tree. **All these actions are unacceptable!** Dog mess left on pavements & grassed areas presents a health hazard & spoils enjoyment of shared spaces, while discarded poo bags in ditches helps hinder water flow. So we say to **THE IRRESPONSIBLE** dog walkers - your dog **can't** clean up after itself **YOU HAVE TO – SO START DOING SO** & take your full poo bags home or pop them in one of **11** litterbins, scattered around the village & **9** in the recreation ground. Don't leave them as tree decorations or potential flood contributors! ***Thank you.***

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? You can either attend as a guest **£4** per meeting or become a member which costs **£20 pa**. **6th May** the talk is by **Patti Harris** on the **Secret Museum** & on **3rd June** it's - **Awareness of Fraud** with **Sharon Hall,** fraud protection officer with Lincs Police.

Loneliness is a major problem in society – especially among the elderly & recently bereaved. Luckily we have two weekly groups that help alleviate this problem - ***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. If you'd like to go but are restricted by your mobility, transport can be arranged by contacting **Trevor** on **01529 241325. Village Pals** which meets every Tuesday in The Fortescue Arms from **12 noon** & Wednesday from **7pm.** Both groups offer a warm welcome & a space where everyone can feel at ease. You'll be met with a smile & will most probably leave having made new friends.

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.**

Library van dates **-** ***Vine St*** **– no van** in May, **22nd June** at 15.30 to 16.15, ***Village Hall*** **– 20th May** and **17th June**, 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.**

Us ducks go a little 'quackers' – when it's the mating season and often don't look where we are going or realise that we are sitting in the middle of a busy road! So we politely ask ***that you drive with caution so as not to mow us down – quack quack - thank you!!***

Our Memorial Stability Testing – will take place week commencing the **6th July.** Public notice will be given a month in advance of the event.

Temporary road closure – in Burton Lane between properties no 18a & no 20 from **13th to 15th May**, for work by Anglian Water.

Please have pride in your village – by keeping the gutters outside your property weed & debris free. It not only looks nicer but doing so helps water flow. ***Thank you.***

Small changes, big difference – looking after the environment doesn't mean making huge lifestyle changes, small everyday choices can add up to make a big difference. Simple steps like using a reusable bag when shopping, turning lights off when you leave a room, or choosing to walk on short journeys rather than using the car, all add up. Being environmentally friendly isn't about being perfect, it's about being mindful. Every effort counts & when we act together as community, those small actions quickly grow into something powerful. So why not challenge yourself over the next few weeks to try one new eco- friendly habit? Together we can create a cleaner, greener future – one step at a time.

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