The Billinghay Times & Advertiser



Issue No 03/21 May/June 2021
Billinghay Parish Office 01526 861845 or 07483 346143
info@billinghaypc.co.uk
Ringmoor House, Ringmoor Close, Billinghay LN4 4EY





Serious Incidents CALL 999 Samaritans 08457 909090 Power Cut 105 In an Emergency
Lincs Police 01522 532222
Local Police 101
Emergency Information 24/7 0800 6783 105

CAN WE MAKE BILLINGHAY MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Throughout the Country, Local Authorities are being encouraged to step in and give Nature a helping hand and your Councillors feel that we should be doing something towards this. Particularly on land owned or controlled by the Council.

The first concern is the need for the local residents to get involved and help in local initiatives. Before this can be done, we need to know what residents feel are good ideas for environmental projects. We would like to hear your views on what you would like to see being done. Can you let the Council know if you have a viable sustainable project in mind that you would like to see implemented - get in touch with the Parish Clerk if you have.

Ideas put forward at a recent Council Meeting included:

- Installation of Bat and Bird boxes
- Planting of wildflower areas and sedum beds on buildings
- Involvement of children's groups such as the School, Rainbows, Brownies & Guides
- Involvement of any residents who volunteer
- Purchase of kits to build bat and bird boxes to pass to voluntary groups so they could assemble and erect.

Let us know what you think.

In addition to the above, we would remind residents of the Great British Spring Clean-up planned for 28 May to 13 June. If there are any Groups being set up in the village taking part in this initiative, let the Council know. We would be happy to offer support.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Where: Ringmoor House When: 1st Monday of month (except Bank Holidays)



See Parish Notice Boards for Committee Meetings

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Currently closed due to the present pandemic. See page 12 for contact details.

BILLINGHAY PARISH COUNCIL TEAM

Chairman: Tom Cassidy **Vice Chairman**: To be appointed

Clerk: Carol Willingham

Parish Councillors: Kathryn Locke, Andy Catlett, Antony Bell, Terry Waters,

Frankie Harvey & Alice Walters

District Council Members: Gill Ogden, Amanda Sanderson

County Council Member: Barry Young

Office Assistant & Newsletter Co-Ordinator: Lou Hird

Editor: Billinghay Parish Council

BILLINGHAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Since taking over as Chair of the Council, the country went back into lockdown. The council have still been at work behind-the-scenes meeting via teams each month.

The good thing was that we were able to get the Christmas tree up for the village, this was only made possible with the help from a group of volunteers. An enormous vote of thanks is due to all of them for their efforts. The sight of the tree in lights did help lift spirits within the community.

As we are now hopefully getting ready to come out of lockdown, the council will start getting back to a normal routine and eventually have the office opened again by the end of June if things go to plan.

We have a busy year ahead with reviewing the Neighbourhood plan.

We are also looking at updating all the policies and procedures and this has started with earnest thanks to one of our new councillors, Andy Catlett.

Lou Hird has been working tirelessly updating the new website and getting all the policies and procedures put into the new format. We hope the new website will be a good place for our residents to find out things more easily, any suggestions to improve it will be welcome.

Throughout this period of difficulty, Penny Gilbert has continued to do a great job clearing up litter throughout the village – and the newly increased population of dogs seems to have produced an increase in dog fouling which she continues to deal with.

Thanks are also due to:

- All those residents who litter pick in various areas of the village
- The volunteers who keep the War Memorial Flowers looking so good
- The Community Speed Watch team turning out in all weathers to help keep the village safe

The council will continue to support the Community in any way we can, we would really like to have more councillors so if you want to make a difference, please come and join the team. If you have lived in the village for 12 months anyone is welcome.

Thanks

Tom Cassidy

Parish Council Chair



MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

We are pleased to announce that one of our volunteer residents, Carol Sloan, is taking over co-ordination of the group. Many thanks Carol. We still need more volunteers.

Training sessions can be arranged for new volunteers. With increased numbers we would be able to be out more frequently or for longer. Contact the Parish Office if you can help.

The purpose of the group is re-educating motorists to take care when driving through the village. Speedwatch activity is not about interfering with neighbours' behaviour; it is a proactive solution to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in the community.

Thank You

In our last issue, we asked residents for the identity of the couple pictured in the photograph below.



We were amazed and gratified by the response. Numerous people identified the couple and provided the location for Kergil House. One of our residents was well able to identify them as they had attended her wedding many years ago. She even supplied us with a photograph of them at the wedding.

Full details have now been forwarded to Mr Lamyman who was researching his family history

The couple are a Mr & Mrs Thomas Gilbert and Kergil House still exists on Skirth Road.

Such was the response to our request, we would ask other people who are researching Billinghay to let us have other photographs for publication in the hope of providing missing information.

INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS

PLANNING

We know from talking to residents that they are interested in any building development within the village and, it is our intention, to keep you informed. Currently there is very little activity on Planning in the way of new applications but in the past two months, the Council have looked at the following ongoing applications:

19/1761/RESM. Planning application for 128 dwellings on the land off West Street.

Latest update is to show that there are sufficient facilities in place to take away storm water, wastewater, and dirty water. There will be a meadow is to one side with a gravel path layout.

The revised site plan now shows all properties.

20/1403/OUT. Planning application for 29 dwellings on the land off the top of Park Lane.

The latest update on this application is to show a revised site plan by removing a couple of properties and adding some green areas for recreation and wildlife. Also, to confirm that there are sufficient facilities in place for all the water types.

21/0162/OUT. To erect 1 new house by demolishing an old barn off Spring Lane. This is up a long track and is not seen as a problem.

21/0277/HOUS. 12. Mill Close. Addition of a single storey extension to the side of the house.

21/0348/HOUS. 50, St Michaels Close Addition of a single storey extension to the back of the property.

BUS SERVICES - LINCOLNSHIRE

We have received the following note from the Co-ordinating group for bus services in Lincolnshire.

Our team is now very busy assisting with the effort to get people to their Vaccination Hubs and offering the extended CallConnect services and Transport Helpline.

During these challenging days, changes to bus services can happen at a very rapid speed. Operators need only give two day notices of an intention to change/ suspend/ reinstate services.

We are trying hard to keep up to speed with these changes and keep communities informed via our social media channels and our website Lincsbus.info.

We would ask that if you have the facility to do so, you should check https://lincsbus.info/bus-services/lincs-bus-updates/ this is where we publish all changes.

We will obviously do our best to alert the public to any specific changes but as these can literally happen overnight – it is really worth keeping a check on this information page.



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Lee, Inga & The Team

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Pub & Restaurant

With a warm welcome and friendly atmosphere serving freshly cooked Homemade meals in our New Beer Garden and Marquee Until the 17th May When we can hopefully open indoors.

We Have Covid Secure Measures in place and ALL Customers will have to check in for Track & Trace.

Main Menu, Light lunches, Senior Citizen Lunchtime specials, Pizzas & Traditional Sunday Lunches

Take Away will also be available during our food opening hours so you can enjoy the same quality food from your own home.

To Book Your Table or Takeaway Slot Call 01526 268 118

Or Via Facebook Messenger

@theshipinnbillinghay

Tues - Fri	12 - 3	5 - 11
Food served	12 - 2	5 - 8
Sat	3 – 11	
Food served	4 - 8	
Sun	12 - 10:30	
Traditional Sunday lunch	12 - 3	

We look forward to Welcoming you!!

Help us keep Lincolnshire safe



Follow Government guidelines:



Wash hands



Cover face



Make space



Get a test if you have:



High temperature



New continuous cough



Change in sense of smell or taste



Book a test via:



www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119



If you have symptoms or test positive:



Stay home for 10 days



Other members of your household should stay home for 14 days

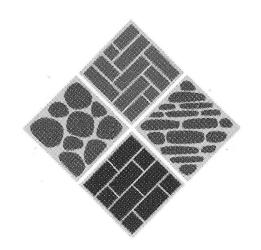
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BILLINGHAY PARISH OFFICE NEWS



As you are aware, the Parish Office has to deal with a wide range of issues and the staff try their very best to be helpful. Varying topics are raised and we intend publishing information where we can offer help, point you in the right direction or where we need your help.

PARISH OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS:

Telephone: 01526 861845 or 07483 346143

Email: info@billinghaypc.co.uk

Address: Mrs C Willingham (Parish Clerk)

Ringmoor House, Ringmoor Close, Billinghay, Lincs

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

Full details of the dates for the Mobile Library visiting Billinghay can be seen on Page 10. The dates will only be relevant when the service fully resumes. We hope to bring news on that in later issues.

BILLINGHAY MEDICAL PRACTICE:

CONTACT NO 01526 860490

CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Please note that the defibrillator located at the Children's Centre on Fen Road is maintained by the Billinghay Parish Council. If you notice any issues with the defibrillator, please contact the Parish Clerk. Access to the equipment is obtained by dialling 999 and you will then be given a code to open the case.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Office remains closed with staff working from home, and all training and meetings being held remotely. If you are aware of any issues around the village, have any suggestions for ways to improve village life, or would like to attend a remote meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the Council.

WALCOTT ROAD CEMETERY

OPENING TIMES Summer 8.00am to 8.00pm

Winter 9.00am to 5.00pm

Welcome to your Mobile Library Service

The timetable below shows when the mobile library will be in your area from

April 2020 - March 2021

Monday Route 2 & 4 (Rural North)

April	May	June	July	August	September
27 th	11 th *	8 th 22 nd	6 th 20 th	3 rd 17 th 31 st	14 th 28 th
October	November	December	January	February	March
12 th	9 th	7 th	4 th	1 st	1 st
26 th	23 rd	21 st	18 th	15 th	15 th 29 th

*Sorry no service on Bank Holidays

The mobile library stops at the following places:

Community	Stop	Arrive	Depart
Billinghay	Library Site	13.15	14.45
Billinghay	Spa Shop	15.00	16.00

Every effort is made to ensure the mobile library arrives at each stop on time. For the latest news on this route, enquiries or renewals please contact the Customer Service Centre on 01522 782010







BILLINGHAY HISTORY GROUP

DUE TO THE CURRENT CORONAVIRUS CRISIS, ALL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED TILL A LATER DATE. HOPEFULLY IT WILL NOT BE TOO LONG BEFORE NORMAL SERVICE IS RESUMED. ADVANCE DETAILS WILL BE GIVEN OF THE NEXT PRESENTATION BY NOTE, EMAIL OR FACEBOOK AND ON THE PARISH NOTICE BOARDS.

LOCAL POLICE NEWS



SLEAFORD RURAL NORTH

Top reported crimes in February 2021

•	Anti-social behaviour	24
♦	Violence & Sexual Offences	12
♦	Other Theft	5
♦	Public Order	5

Policing Priorities in the area

Priority

Hare Coursing - Operation Galileo

Action Taken:

High visibility patrols are being carried out in the rural hot spot areas in the north and south of Sleaford. PCSOs are engaging with farmers and landowners giving support and advice.

The Neighbourhood policing teams are working with the wildlife officers and response officers, and with geographical knowledge of the area are able to disperse potential hare coursers. If caught on land coursing then the necessary action will be taken. This can vary from, arresting or reporting the offence, traffic offences, seizure of dogs, vehicles and phones, dispersal orders, and more residency breach of COVID regulations.

MONTH	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
Apr 2020	59	7.3%
May 2020	78	9.6%
Jun 2020	61	7.5%
Jul 2020	79	9.8%
Aug 2020	66	8.1%
Sep 2020	80	9.9%
Oct 2020	80	9.9%
Nov 2020	66	8.1%
Dec 2020	54	6.7%
Jan 2021	62	7.7%
Feb 2021	53	6.5%

Crime levels overview over the 12 months ending February 2021

WILLS & POWERS OF ATTORNEY

A sudden or unexpected event like Coronavirus may have brought the need to have a Will and or a Lasting Power of Attorney in place to greater prominence in your mind.

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BILLINGHAY MEDICAL PRACTICE

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Patient

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Group

Billinghay Medical Practice is keen to hear patients' views on the healthcare provided by this Practice and the South West Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

We would like to have more input from our patients, and look forward to welcoming new members to our friendly meetings. We meet here on the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December from 18.00–19.30.

Meetings in 2021

2 March

1 June

7 September

7 December



Providing feedback on patients' needs, concerns and interests, and giving them a voice in the organisation of their care.

Influencing the provision of secondary healthcare and social care locally.

(From: Terms of Reference on Noticeboard).





Hello from the Billinghay Branch of the Royal British Legion!

Many of you will be familiar with the Legion, indeed some of you may be members, particularly as we have a high number of serving and retired members of HM Forces in this area. The Legion is probably best known for their Poppy Appeal, but there's a lot more to us than that!

The Royal British Legion was established in 1921 to care for those who had suffered as a result of service during the First World War. Today we're at the heart of a national network looking after our Armed Forces community. The Legion is here to help members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Air Force, veterans and their families.

If you live in the local area, and think you could benefit from our help, we want to hear from you. Whilst certain criteria would need to be met every request would be assessed for suitability and assistance may be offered where appropriate.

Applications can be made by contacting the Chairperson, Andy Catlett at catandyruth@aol.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

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sashajez7@gmail.com



© the Chapel, Church Street Every Friday during term-time

6 - 7.30pm

Craft Quizzes

YPF is now meeting on Zoom every Friday from 6 – 7pm. We hopefully will have a similar arrangement for Light House soon.

For more information contact Richard Hilliard

M: 07717392628

E: richard@billinghaybaptistchapel.co.uk

SPORTS

QUIZZES

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Billinghay Baptist Chapel

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BILLINGHAY CHILDRENS CENTRE - LATEST

As many people are aware the Children's Centre is still not fully operational but things are beginning to move. We have started by offering the odd session to for a limited number of families but are not fully open by any means. We hope to be able to offer more through May & June.

For all of the latest information, please check with our Facebook page (details below) or the notice board outside the centre.

At the moment we have a Waddle Toddle on a Tuesday morning at 10am and a Spring into Spring Toddler Outdoor Play session at the Playing Field at 10am on a Thursday morning. Places for each are limited and only available on a first come first served basis by emailing the centres inbox (below) after the post advertising the session has appeared on Facebook.

Tel: 01526 869248

Email: billinghaychildren'scentre@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk



https://www.facebook.com/Billinghay.Caythorpe.Heckington.Sleaford





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Care packages are individual and flexible, with the main focus being to assist our clients to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

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- Meal Preparation
- Dementia Care
- Cognitive Impairment

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Companionship Service

- Social Outings
- Appointments
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- Dog Walking
- Sitting Service

Activities in Billinghay

Please check with the organisation to see if the activities have been cancelled and when they will re-commence

B.A.D.ASS

(Billinghay Amateur Dramatics Association) Beavers/Cubs/Scouts Bethel Baptist Chapel

Billinghay CEP School Billinghay Tuesday Club

Bowls Club British Legion

Brownies (2nd Billinghay)

Children's Centre
Coffee Morning

Community Rooms

Daisy Chain

Darby & Joan

Girl **Guides**

Lighthouse Youth Club

Line Dancing Methodist Church

Methodist Church Night Owls Book Club

Past Times

Rainbows (Girls 5 to 7)

Scout Group

Tennis Club

Village Hall

Tuesday Club

Twinning Association

Voluntary Car Service

St Michael's and All Angels

Church

Thursdays at the Village Hall or Ship - please call 07799617674 for info. New members always welcome

Tuesdays 5.30-9.15pm Scout Hut Roger Miller 860539 **Sundays** 10.30am & 6pm **Tuesdays** 7pm Pastor James

Mansfield 861439

Breakfast Club 8 to 9am Every School day in School Hall 1st **Tuesday** of the month 7.30pm Pam Lupton 860106

Indoor Bowls start September every Monday

Contact Dawn Studd, Branch Secretary for details of

membership and meetings on 01526 268671

Wednesdays 5.30 to 7.00pm Dawn Tulley 834324

Fen Road 9am to 5pm **Monday to Friday** 869248 or 869271 **3rd Monday** of month 10-12 Baptist Chapel, Ann Hall 01205

365689

Bookings Jayne Pannell 01526 861382

Pre-school Mon-Fri 9.00am to 3.00pm Billinghay CofE

School 07799 091281

Tuesdays (every 4 weeks) 2-5pm Shirley 860732

Wednesdays 6.45pm

Contact Emma 07557354981

Now meeting via Zoom - every Friday at 6.00 to 7.00pm

Contact Richard on 07717392628 or email richard@billinghaybaptistchapel.co.uk

Thursdays 6.00pm to 8.00pm Walcott Village Hall Bookings Sally Robinson 860930 Caretaker 860682

Schoolroom available with kitchen facilities £15 for 3 hours

Sundays 10am Val 860614,

4th Tuesday of month Kylie Cozens

History Group The Ship Inn as advertised

Lou Hird 869086

Tuesdays (Term Time) 5.30pm to 6.30pm

Karen 01526 860715 Mobile 07812207929

1st Billinghay Roger Miller (Scout Leader) 860539

1st/2nd Sundays 9.30am Morning Prayer

3rd Sunday 9.30am Communion

4th Sunday 11.00am Said Communion

5th Sunday United Service - please ring to check place of

worship.

Church open from 9.00am to 3.00pm weekdays Contact: Reverend Steve Holt 01526 580654

Gwen Tonge 01526 860330

Contact Tina or Mick on 860069 or brommell@hotmail.com First Tuesday every month 7.30pm Community Rooms

Chairman John Toulson 01526 860262 Secretary Megan Clark (meganclark@hotmail.co.uk) Website www.bdta.eu.

Bookings June Davies 861652

Office Hours 10.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Thursday and 10.00am to

1.00pm Friday Tel 01507 609535 (also 24hr Emergency)

YPF Children's Club Now meeting via Zoom - every Friday at 6.00 to 7.00pm

Contact Richard on 07717392628 or email richard@billinghaybaptistchapel.co.uk



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PRICE ON APPLICATION FOR OTHER SIZES

WILL THE BILLINGHAY BOYS PLEASE STAY BEHIND

Mick Wright or "Wrighty" as he was known was a well known character in Billinghay and served as a hard working Councillor for Billinghay Parish Council.

Over a period of many years, Mick gave a lot of time to research the lives of Billinghay people who served in both World Wars It was a project that was very dear to him and provides an insight of interest to many local families. During this time he made trips to the battlefields to visit as many graves of the fallen as he could.

He had hoped to put his research into a book for publication but never felt it was fully complete. Unfortunately, Mick passed away before his work came to fruition. He did, however, pass copies of his research to the Parish Council and it is split into two volumes:

- A volume detailing the involvement of Billinghay people during the conflicts
- A volume giving details of individuals and the role they played

We felt that the years of hard work that had gone into production of this research were worthy of publication and we commenced this process in the January/February 2021 issue of the Newsletter. Specific individual details can be given to relations who may request them via the Parish Office. The next chapter of the book is below:

1915

The Allies felt that they were beginning to gain the upper hand, but the Germans, having taken a large part of the industrial area of northern France, felt that they could take more in the coming year, or at least impose favourable peace terms. The French in particular were determined to regain their lost territories and as a result a stalemate existed. So, although by the end of 1914 the German advance had been stopped, in the process both the British and French armies had been decimated and to all intents and purposes the British professional army had ceased to exist. A letter written about this time by **William Sawyer** (of whom more later) demonstrates this. The letter is undated but refers to November, which must be November 1914 and reads as follows:-

M.G. Section. 2 Lincoln Regt. B.E.F. Dear Sis.

Just a line hoping to find you in the best of health as it leaves me at present. I received parcel containing watch and chain quite safe and so far, the watch seems to be a reliable one. We are having fairly good times out here just now. We came out of the trenches last night and arrived in billets at about 9.10 p.m. and I expect we shall have a few days good rest before going in again, for I assure you we can do with it. They talk about the Germans teaching their men that a war on intellect (sic) is better than our way of going about things and I assure you that my nerves are far different than what they were when I came out here and it is the same with the greater part of the men who are still here that came out with the Regt on the 5th November.

I should say that of the original Batt. that came out here there are about 90 men left who have not been wounded or sick. Yes, you can send your parcel (of grub) as soon as you like, but please don't send any cocoa as we get heaps of tins issued, but if you happen to have a ham in the house you can cut about enough to last me six days in the trenches because I am always peckish when I wake up. Well, remember me to all at home. I remain your loving Brother Will.

A battalion has a strength of about 750 to 1,000 men, so with only 90 not killed, wounded

or sick, decimated is not too strong a word. In fact, by Christmas 1914, 90,000 of the 100,000 men of the original Expeditionary Force only about one or two officers and between twenty or thirty men remained. As Kitchener had predicted. The war was going to be long and expensive in both men and materials.

In August 1914, the total army strength at mobilisation was in the region of 725,000 men, including the territorial battalions. Furthermore, as the British Government were against conscription, they had to rely on voluntary recruiting. The plan was to raise new armies of about 100,000 men in each and parliamentary authority was obtained in August 1914 to increase the army by 500,00 men. Perhaps the best known poster in the world is the picture of Kitchener pointing his finger, "Your Country Needs You".

It was expected that about 100,000 men would volunteer in the first six months and about half a million altogether. They were quite unprepared when half a million men volunteered in the first month and about one hundred thousand a month for the next year and a half. There were few camps to receive the men and very little equipment for them. They lived in tents, had no uniforms and drilled with walking sticks. These were the men who would be pushed into the front line with inadequate training and completely unprepared for what was to lie ahead.

The start of 1915 was marked by a request from the Russians for some action against Constantinople to try and relieve the Turkish pressure in the Caucasus. here were already factions in Whitehall who were questioning the wisdom of fighting on the Western Front, and the failure of the Army to gain a quick victory gave them their opportunity to propose their ideas of a Naval blockade against Germany and to open communications with Russia via the back door. The main proponent was Winston Churchill, who was First Lord of the Admiralty at the time, and he was supported by Kitchener who was Minister of War.

In the middle of February, the Navy tried to force the Dardanelles Straits but were unable to silence the shore batteries and it became obvious that a land invasion would be necessary. The troops landed on 25th April 1915, but by October it had become clear that the operation was a failure, and they were withdrawn. No one from Billinghay was killed during the operation, but **Joe Vickers**, the brother of **Walter** (see below) who I believe served in the 6th Battalion the Lincolnshire Regiment went to the Dardanelles.

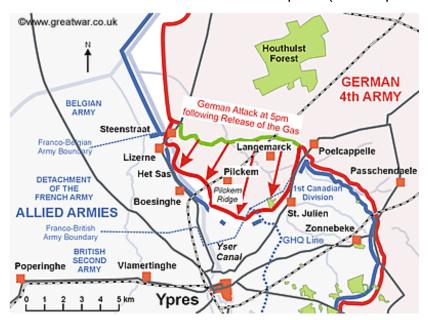
During the fighting Joe went to the aid of a wounded corporal and, while bending over him, was himself wounded by a rifle bullet which entered his body on the back of his right shoulder and exited on his left side just above his waist. Joe survived and worked until well into his eighties as a saddler at Robinsons in the village.

After the failure of the Dardanelles expedition, it became clear that the outcome of the war would depend on what happened on the Western Front. The Germans began to perfect their defences, and this was invariably on ground of their own choosing. The British army, like the French, was imbued with the offensive spirit and little attention had been given to preparing a defensive strategy. The Allies thought it necessary to maintain pressure on the Germans to help the Russians, who were having a bad time on the Eastern Front. In addition, the French were determined to regain their lost territory.

The troops settled into trench warfare, but in March the British attacked at Neuve Chappelle in an attempt to capture the heights of the Aubers Ridge. Due to a shortage of shells, there was no preliminary bombardment, and the Germans were taken by surprise. The British broke through with ease but had no reinforcements and could not follow up their advantage. By the time the British had sufficient troops, so had the Germans and the choice of a major breakthrough was lost.

The next significant offensive was by the Germans on 22nd April 1915 on the northern

sector of the Ypres salient which was notable for the use of chlorine gas. The attack was repulsed by the 1st Canadians and the 28th Northumberland divisions, but at a heavy cost. This was known as the Second Battle of Ypres. (see map below)



On the Allied side the Artois offensive took place in May, with very few gains and with huge losses for the French (100,000) and about 26,000 for the BEF. This was followed by another offensive, also in the Artois area and is also known as the Battle of Loos, Aubers Ridge. This was to see the deaths of the next two Billinghay men to die. Private 16959, **John Harvey**, 2^{nd,} Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment died on Saturday 25th September 1915. John was born on 4th February 1896 and baptised on 23rd February at Billinghay. He was the son of James Harvey, a farm labourer (born 1860/61 in Yorkshire, died 1923) and Harriet Ann (nee Toulson) 1860 – 1914.

After the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, the second the 2nd Lincs spent some time in the Laventie area, either in trenches or billets. They had a very hard time as there was continuous shelling, sniping and trench mortaring. In the latter part of August, they were relieved and spent time in rest in Sailly, moving back into trenches at Bois Grenier in September, about four kilometres south of Armentieres where they received orders to attack the village. The attack was designed to attract the enemy's attention away from the major attack at Loos.

The Second Lincolns were engaged opposite the village of Bridoux which lay in the German lines. At 6.35 pm on 24th September the Battalion left their billets in Bac St Maur for assembly positions on the left of the Brigade sector. Their frontage covered approximately 275 yards. At 4.25 am on the 25th the artillery opened fire. A mine was exploded at 4.29am, which was the signal for the Lincolns to attack. D Company on the left rushed Bridoux Fort and took it. They lost touch with the Berkshire on the right for some time, but by 8am contact had been regained. Eighty prisoners had been captured and the German front line trench had been taken. The enemy counter attacked and at 2pm when the supply of bombs ran out the fort was evacuated. Casualties were seven officers killed and three wounded, sixty other ranks, including **John Harvey** were killed, two hundred and twenty- nine men were wounded and thirty- six missing. John was buried in the White City Cemetery, Bois Grenier, close to where he was killed.

The following day saw the death of **John Knott**, private 12216, 8th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, who died on Sunday 26th September 1915, aged 20 years. John is recorded

by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as being the son of Ada Knott (nee Watson) of High Street, Billinghay and the late Charles Knott. He was the cousin of William Watson (see below). Charles Knott was the licensee of the Cross Keys where **Charles South** was said to have spent his last night in Billinghay. He was born c. 1868/9, possibly at Duxford in Cambridgeshire. His father was James, a 48 year old publican of Duxford (buried 6.2.1920). Two children are recorded as being born in Billinghay, Charles in 1899 and Phyllis Victoria Mary in 1900. John was born to the couple before they came to Billinghay, in Frizzinghall, Yorkshire. His brother, Charles, also served in the army during the war. John was remembered as being about six feet six inches tall and as being a good footballer and cricketer.

The 8th battalion of the Lincoln Regiment, part of Kitchener's New Army, embarked at Southampton on the night of 10th/11th September 1915 landed in France on 11th and entrained for Watten at 4pm. On the night of 20th/21st September, just eleven days after landing in France they received orders to move into the front line. By 22nd they had reached Cauchy and on 24th were 2 miles west of Noeux les Mines. All this time they were moving in the direction of Loos. They received orders to move at 8 pm to a point east of the Loos - La Bassee road (D947) and from there to the main Hulluch – la Bassee road (N47), their final objective being Annay. The road was so badly congested that it was 8.45 pm before they could start, and they were finally forced to move across open country with the Somerset light Infantry in echelon advancing with difficulty over old British and German trenches. By 11pm they had cleared the last line of German trenches where they waited until midnight, then moved to Chalk Pit Wood, which was cleared by A Company with considerable loss. At dawn on 26th September the Battalion was deployed as follows: A, B and C companies were holding an east-west line east of the Lens – Hulluch road and B company was on the south edge of Bois Hugo facing hill 70.

The Lincolns attacked at 6.30 am and advanced about 600 yards but were soon pushed back a quarter of a mile. There was heavy shelling from 7.30 am to 10 am and at 10.15 am the Germans attacked through the eastern ridge of Bois Hugo. All the Lincolnshire companies were attacked simultaneously. They were quickly overwhelmed but the survivors fell back in perfect order. Losses were heavy because of shelling from both sides. There was fierce hand to hand fighting and the Lincolns advanced again but at about 4.30 pm the Germans counter attacked once more and took Bois Hugo. Only the support companies resisted capture though they were practically surrounded. At 5pm the Germans attacked from the south and the survivors retired 1000 yards to the Old German front line. A Company had only two NCOs and twenty men left. The total casualties in the 8th Battalion's first battle were:- twenty Officers killed wounded or taken prisoner, four hundred and seventy-one other ranks killed, wounded, or missing, of which one hundred and forty-eight were killed. John Knott was one of the missing. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Loos Memorial. Pas de Calais. There is also a commemorative plate In St Michael and All Angels Church, Billinghay which reads as follows:-

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JOHN

THE DEARLY BELOVED SON OF

C AND A KNOTT

KILLED IN ACTION AT THE

BATTLE OF LOOS

SEPT 26TH 1915 AGED 20 YEARS

NOT MY WILL O LORD BUT THINE BE DONE

The Artois-Loos offensive lasted until October, when bad weather brought the battle to an end. Incidentally, this battle was the first to be experienced by the poet Robert Graves, who was with the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Welch Fusiliers, who were in trenches at the northern end of the Loos battlefield near Givenchy on the northern bank of the La Bassee Canal.

The next casualty was **William S Sawyer**, Sergeant 8793, 2nd Battalion the Lincolnshire Regiment who died on 7th October 1915 aged 22 years. William Samuel Sawyer was born on 12th January 1893 and was baptised on 12th February 1893 at Billinghay. He was the son of William Richardson Sawyer, baker of Billinghay and Annie Sawyer (nee Rear). William was a regular soldier and served in the same battalion as John Harvey (see above). The Sawyers' bakehouse was on the corner of Skirth Road and Church Street in the House where Henry Chamberlain lived for many years. Henry remembers "Tiny2 Wells telling him that when he was an apprentice saddler he was walking past and William's father was leaning on the gate. He said to Tiny "We have had some bad news. The boy is dead."

While visiting Mrs Houseman to interview her about her Uncle, Dennis Wells, Derek Sawyer, who lives next door called me in and showed me the letter reproduced above and a newspaper cutting which was an obituary notice from the Lincolnshire Chronicle which was dated December 4th (year unknown, but probably 1915). It reads as follows:-

ROLL OF HONOUR. – Great sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs W.R. Sawyer, who have just received intimation from Headquarters that their son Sergt Wm Sawyer of the 2nd Batt. Lincs Regiment died in a German hospital on October 7th the cause of death being tranmatic (sic) tetanus. Sergt was reported missing some time ago and afterwards wrote to his parents stating that he was wounded and a prisoner of war. Deceased who was 22 years of age, was serving with his battalion in the Bermudas at the outbreak of the war and arrived in France about a year ago, being put in charge of a machine section. He proved himself a most efficient non-commissioned officer and was extremely popular with both officers and men. In his letters home he had a kindly remembrance for his many pals. An affectionate son and brother, Sergeant Sawyer's priceless service rendered to King and country will not soon be forgotten. Before joining the Army, he was a member of the parish church choir.

It is not known when William was wounded and taken prisoner, but it could well have been either after the first battle of Aubers Ridge on 9th May 1915, when seventy other ranks were missing or in the action in which John Harvey was killed and which was described earlier. He is buried in the Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.

When I first examined the Record of Service and Roll of Honour in the Church, I noticed that the name of **Robert Forth**, which is on both lists, did not appear on the War Memorial and subsequently was difficult to trace. No Robert Forth was found in the records of the CWGC and no one locally knew of a family of that name. However, after diligent research by Sue Pittendreigh, a J R Forth was found. He served in the Lincolnshire Regiment, which agrees with the Roll of Honour. She also found a census reference to a Robert Forth of Dunston in 1881. The 1901 census records show a John Forth aged 3 years, whose father, Robert Forth, originated from Crowland in Lincolnshire. Robert married Sarah Camm in 1896 in the East Retford District. They seemed to have moved around the country a great deal and it is not certain that this is the correct family, but we are reasonably sure that we have found the right man.

Robert served with the 8th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, the same battalion as John Knott. On 28th September, after the battle for Bois Hugo described above, the battalion came out of the trenches to Vermelles, moving from there to Linghem, west of Bethune, on 1st October to Steenbecque and finally on 2nd October to Bore, where they remained until 13th October when they moved to Strazeele and were used by the Royal Engineers to work on trench defences. On 13th November they took over the frontline trenches near Armentieres, being withdrawn to Armentieres itself on 31st December. Robert Forth died on 9th December 1915, possibly whilst on a working party at the front and is buried in Chapelle-d'Armentieres New Military Cemetery. Robert's name has since been added to the memorial



BILLINGHAY & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



The plans for future trips are, of course, dependent on the situation both here and in France. The current position is that our next visit is now planned for 28 May to the 2 June 2022.

Lets hope that this can go ahead but, by then, we may still be confined a la maison.

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ANOTHER NEW BUSINESS FOR BILLINGHAY

With the current trend for businesses closing due to the ravages of COVID 19, it is pleasing to note that a new one has opened in Billinghay. Set out below is a note from the proprietors, giving details of their intentions. Further details can be seen on their advertisement on the next page.

Following an extensive refurbishment and modernisation program our local pub the Coach and Horses reopened in April for outside eating and drinking. The pub has been supported by the locals and Landlord John and partner Livia would like to thank you the people of Billinghay for the massive support they have received.

John took over the pub in October 2020 with the hope to return it to the busy venue it once was. With an extensive beer garden with covered seating for over 100 people, live music stage and the field at the back, the aim is to offer people regular live music covering 80's. 90's 00's, Jive, Rock n Roll, rock and more. Utilising the field for weekend events including music, beer and food festivals along with classic cars, American cars, motorcycles, 1940's re-enactment and steam punk, there will be something for everybody.

The Coach and Horses provides quality food with ingredients sourced locally and a good selection of beers and ales from Batemans Brewery. Coach and Horses also managed to source top quality real ales including the multi award winning 'Barn Ale' from Will Neaverson, at Tydd Steam Brewery in Tydd St Giles, and 'Astrazeneca Ale', the perfect cure for those Covid Blues from Charlie Rawlings at Austendyke Ales in Weston Hills near Spalding, the only pub in the area to do so.

Keep an eye on the pubs Facebook page as more quality real ales are announced throughout the summer.

Live music can finally be enjoyed and the Coach and Horses has live music planned most weekends leading up to the Summer holiday period and every weekend during the holiday period, with stars such as Pagan Gould, Anthony Macandrew, Matty Haynes and Billinghay's own The Ruffs, along with tribute acts and bands covering Tom Jones, David Bowie and ACDC, there should be something for everybody to enjoy.

To become a true part of the local scene and economy as well as using local suppliers the Coach and Horses will employ local people, rising to as many as 30 staff that will be needed for the bigger events. It is also hoped that a charity weekend can be arranged for local causes.

BILLINGHAY DIARY OF EVENTS

Due to the current coronavirus crisis we are not publicising any events as we cannot be sure whether they will take place. As soon as the situation returns to normal, we will be resuming the publication of dates for current and future events.



Tattershall Road, Billinghay, Lincoln, LN4 4DD

Under new management

Following an extensive refurbishment and modernisation, this family run pub recently reopened for outside eating and drinking and will be open for people to eat and drink inside from 17th May.

With live music most weekends and events throughout the summer, quality food and a selection of beers & ales, there's something for everyone to enjoy!

✓ Live Music

√ Real Ales

✓ Excellent Food ✓ Sunday Roast

√ Family Friendly

√ Themed Events

Opening Times:

Monday-Thursday 12:00 - 21:00

Friday and Saturday 12:00 - 23:00

Sunday 12:00 - 21:00

Book a table now to avoid disappointment on 01522 700651

Keep an eye on our social media for upcoming events! Coach and Horses Billinghay

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Billinghay has **4** parish councillor vacancies. Therefore, if you:

- are looking to do something rewarding
- care about our community
- want to make a difference
- wish to represent our residents

then we would like to hear from you!

Parish Councillors are volunteers who give up their time to represent their community; manage buildings and community spaces; decide finances to deliver services; influence and shape development policies for the parish; comment on Parish planning applications; improve the quality of life and the environment in their local area; work to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents; work to bring about improvements through local projects; lobby other service providers; work in partnership with other parishes and agencies, and, most importantly, work with the community and residents they serve.

Although unpaid, training is provided, and expenses can be claimed in certain circumstances.

For further information, eligibility criteria, and an application form, please contact Mrs Carol Willingham, Clerk to Billinghay Parish Council by email:

billinghaypc@gmail.com

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B.A.D.ASS



BADASS Act IX

Hello folks and welcome to another BADAss article to tell you what is happening in our corner of the village. First of all, we are very pleased to see the light at the end of the COVID tunnel and it looks like we may soon be able to meet in person. Let's hope that it is daylight we see and not just some cheeky devil with a torch bringing us more problems.

The past year has been a trial for everyone and it has been particularly hard for BADAss members who wanted to get together to rehearse and produce new shows for you to see. Thankfully, we have managed to keep up spirits and practice by conducting our meetings over the internet. Indeed, these new meeting applications arrived just in the nick of time to help people get through lockdown and the isolation it has enforced. As you know we had first planned to produce a Panto for last November, but this soon hit the dust with the second lockdown. We then revised our thinking with plans to provide a Variety show in Jul this year followed by our panto in December.

We were most fortunate to be offered the use of the outdoor facilities at the Coach and Horses so our Variety show can go ahead for 10 July 2021. There will be under cover seating for up to 100 people to attend and still be socially distanced so there should be no fears about coming along. Please keep this date in your diaries and look out for our tickets that will be on sale in the Coach and Horses and from any BADAss member.

During the past year, we acknowledged our increased responsibilities, both to our members and our audiences, to provide a safe environment in which to rehearse and perform. So, we formed a COVID 19 Working Group in order to study government guidance and to complete a detailed risk assessment to develop safe rules and practices. The results of this experience were highly successful and so we decided to expand the remit of the group to cover all aspects of safety. We also decided to elect a Health and Safety Representative to work with the Safety Group and to provide safety advice direct to the Committee. The safety group and our H&S Rep have continued to keep us up to date with developments so that we will be ready and able to start our performances following the end of lockdown.

During April we held our "on-line" annual general meeting to report on the year's events and to elect committee positions. We were very pleased to welcome one of our junior members "George" to the committee, who volunteered to take on the post of Promotions and Advertising member. Let's wish him luck in his new role. Here is our rogue's gallery for the 2021 committee positions so when you

see us around the Village, do stop and say hello.







Rosaleen King Chairperson

Katie Harlow Treasurer

Stephen Taylor Secretary



Carla Casement Vice Chairman



George Casson Promotions and Advertising



Rose Brown H&S Rep

We are now working hard to prepare our Variety Show for 10 July at the Coach and Horses and we hope to see you all there – just to prove that lockdown is really over. In the meantime, if anyone wants to come along to join our group in whatever capacity they are comfortable with, we are always looking to welcome new members. So until then, stay safe, follow the rules and join us for a great show in July.

Stephen Taylor

BADAss Secretary 07766186615







In 2012 the Government introduced Workplace Pensions, compelling employers to make pension contributions for their staff. Many of you will have been automatically opted into a Scheme but may not necessarily understand what it is, what you can do with it and why you should continue to contribute.

Put simply these Schemes are just a group of personal pensions where contributions are made by both you and your Employer. The pension is in your name and your Employer has no control over it, other than making contributions.

When they set up the policy the Employer (or Pension Provider) will have chosen a default investment option, i.e., where your money will be invested if you do not tell them otherwise. This is often a managed fund, with a 'medium' risk profile that will go up and down over time. It may also have 'lifestyling' where the older you get the less risk the investments take. If you are not happy with the options selected, you do have the opportunity to change the investment choice.

Over time the payments going into the plan will build up and hopefully there will also be investment growth as the economy recovers from the pandemic. You can increase the amount you add to the policy, in regular amounts or as a one-off lump sum. From age 55 you can begin to use the fund to generate income or take a lump sum payment. The ways to extract the monies are varied and complex and may well involve taking professional advice but that is an article for another day.

The most important decision you can make is whether to remain part of the Scheme or to Opt Out. Whilst you will be automatically opted in (as long as you are over 21 and earning more than £10,000) you do have the option to Opt Out. While times are challenging you may feel inclined to Opt Out so that your contributions are not deducted from your wages BUT by doing so you are missing out on the Employer contributions and effectively taking a pay cut.

We are continuing to offer a free telephone guidance service during this challenging time so if you would like to discuss your Workplace Pension in more detail, please give me a call.



THE STREET LAMP, 8-12 SOUTH STREET,
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REGULAR MEETINGS

The dates and start times for each such Group are given below:

Please check with the organisation to see if the activities have been cancelled and when they will re-commence

B.A.D.ASS Thursdays 7.00pm Ship or Village Hall

Phone Kate 07799617674 for info

Beavers/Cubs & Scouts Tuesdays 5.30 to 9.15pm

Monday 1.30pm Bingo

The Whyche

2.00 to 4.00pm Village Hall **Bowls (Indoor)** Monday

British Legion (Men) 1st Wednesday Ship Inn 7.30pm every 2 months

Wednesdays **Brownies** 5.30 to 7.00pm

Coach & Horses Field Car Boot Sale Sunday am

Thursday 10.00 to 12.00 **Coffee Morning** Community Rooms

7.00pm **Community Plan** 3rd Wednesday

Coach & Horses of month

I ook for Methodist Church Hall **Community Connections**

Cafe announcements

Football Club 10.30 to 11.30am Junior Training Saturdays

Sessions

Girl Guides Wednesday 6.45 to 8.30pm **Keep Fit** Tuesdays 6.30 to 7.30pm

Village Hall

Lighthouse Club (Secondary Fridays 6.00 to 7.00pm

School Children) via Zoom Market & Car Boot Sale From 6.30am Sunday

Coach & Horses

2nd Tuesday of **Methodist Lending Library** 2.00 to 3.30pm

each month

Alternate Mondays - see Parish Office page **Mobile Library**

for details

3rd Tuesday **Night Owls Book Club**

of each month Tuesdays

Rainbows 5.30 to 6.30pm Saturday Community Hall Saturday Market

9.30 to Noon

14 Mar, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 15 August, 19 September, 17 October, 14 November, December t.b.a

YPF Children's Club Fridays 6.00 to 7.00pm

Via Zoom

Youth Club **Every Monday** Village Hall



BILLINGHAY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

I am writing with an update regarding our PE shed and begin with a massive thank you to everyone who has offered support including making donations to the PayPal Gofund page which was set up by Laura Davies.

The PayPal Gofund page raised a massive £2,476. This is an unbelievable amount of money and we are so grateful and humbled by the generosity of everyone who made a donation. Thank you all so much.

I have just heard back from Lincolnshire County Council regarding our insurance claim. The total cost of the PE equipment alone was £12,500. School will receive £10,000 back from the insurance claim (as they do not replace new for old) and with the Gofund donations we will have enough to purchase all the equipment that was lost. This is amazing as our children will benefit from new equipment ready for the summer term.

T Balfe Construction have laid a concrete foundation and donated a new metal shed which is being erected as I write. I would like to say a massive thank you to them for their generosity as without this we would not have been able to purchase a shed to house all the new equipment.

Next week Willmot Dixon will be on site as they have so kindly donated the storage to go inside the new shed. They have purchased metal storage units which they are putting together at school next week. Thank you to them for this and for putting the flat pack units together. This would have been a job I would not have looked forward to doing!

Jewsons have then donated some paving slabs to pave over the grass to provide a path to the shed and from the shed to the tennis court area at the front of school. Thank you to them for this kind offer.

Green Barn Timbers have kindly donated a new wooden shed which they will erect and we can use for further storage. Again thank you to them for this.

There have been many other extremely kind offers of help and we will be contacting these people in due course including Tarrys Landscape Gardening and Maintenance, Paul Rowson Building and Apex Roofing. Money donated by The Ship Inn, Twells of Billinghay and Nationwide School Uniforms will be used to purchase new classroom tables which were stored in the shed and destroyed in the fire.

Again, thank you to everyone in and around the local community for your generosity which means that our children will not lose out on a lack of PE equipment.

With best wishes, Mr R Allen, Headteacher

BYGONES

WE HAVE RUN SHORT OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF RESIDENTS AND WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE SOME MORE FOR PUBLICATION. AS WE DO HAVE AN ARCHIVE OF OLD PHOTOS OF DIFFERENT LOCATIONS, WE WILL BE PUBLISHING A COPIES OF THESE WITH A PHOTO OF THE SAME LOCATION AS IT LOOKS NOW.







THE LATEST QUIZ



For this issue's quiz, you have to name the country in which these movies were set.

Country

- 1. Mad Max
- 2. The Sound of Music
- 3. Spartacus
- 4. Slumdog Millionaire
- 5. The Seventh Seal
- 6. Rambo: First Blood Part II
- 7. Enemy at the Gates
- 8. Angela's Ashes
- 9. The Beach
- 10. Invictus

Answers to last issue's quiz

- 1. Starr
- 3. King
- 5. Young
- 7. Collins
- 9. Lewis

- 2. Williams
- 4. Davis
- 6. Martin
- 8. Lee
- 10. Morrison



CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

HIGH STREET BILLINGHAY 01526 860419



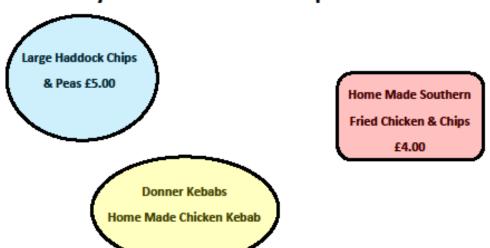
Opening Times:

Wednesday	4.30 - 7.00pm
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Thursday 11.30am - 1.30pm 4.30 - 7.30pm

Friday 11.30am - 1.30pm 4.30 - 8.00pm

Saturday 11.30am - 1.30pm 4.30 - 7.30pm



LOOK OUT FOR OUR SPECIAL OFFERS