

The Billingham Times & Advertiser



Issue No 01/22

January / February 2022

Billingham Parish Office 01526 861845 or 07483 346143

info@billinghampc.co.uk

Ringmoor House, Ringmoor Close, Billingham 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**

CHRISTMAS TREE ILLUMINATION

Once again, the Christmas Illumination ceremony took place and was adjudged a great success despite the various ramifications of Covid precautions. The tree looked beautiful against the dark sky as can be seen below. Unfortunately the picture is monochrome but a coloured version of the Newsletter can be found on the Council website.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Where: Ringmoor House **When:** 1st Monday of month
Time: 7.00pm (except Bank Holidays)
See Parish Notice Boards for Committee Meetings



PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Parish Office will be open on Thursdays from 9.15am to 3.00pm subject to any changes in Covid restrictions and:

- **Face masks being worn in the Office**
- **Only one person or family allowed in the office at any one time**
- **Social distancing rules being observed**

Mondays and Tuesdays, Office staff will still be working from home.

Contact details are shown on the front page of this Newsletter

BILLINGHAY PARISH COUNCIL TEAM

Chairman: Kathryn Locke **Vice Chairman:** Andy Catlett

Clerk: Carol Willingham

Parish Councillors: Les Ball, Alice Walters, Wendy Liles & Mark Willingham

District Council Members: Gill Ogden, Amanda Sanderson

County Council Member: Andrew Key

Office Assistant & Newsletter Co-Ordinator: Lou Hird

Editor: Billingham Parish Council

Website: <https://billinghay.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk>



Billingham Parish Council

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE

Once again we were able to have a proper Remembrance Day Parade. This was organised by the Parish Council but could only have been achieved with the significant help of the Billingham Branch of the Royal British Legion. Many thanks to them and all of the other volunteers who ensured that the Parade ran smoothly.



COUNCIL NEWS

Hello and Happy New Year to you all.

Billingham Parish Council hopes everyone enjoyed their very best Christmas and New Year.

To start the year with reflection and gratitude, BPC would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us at the Christmas Tree Lighting & Blessing ceremony.

Thank you to

- those who helped the Clerk behind the scenes - Roger Miller, Ben Secker, Tom Stainsby, Steve Harper & Pete Marshall (apologies if we have missed anyone)
- Rev Steve Holt for the blessing,
- Trevor and Glynn from The Ruffs for their songs and musical accompaniment,
- Inga and Lee and their team at The Ship for their hospitality, mulled wine and hot turkey rolls,
- and everyone who turned out on a cold night to enjoy the simple celebration, especially our younger residents who, with lovely singing voices and impeccable manners, enjoyed the hot chocolate bar and saved the Chairman from consuming too many excessive calories!

The date for this year's Tree Lighting Ceremony is Wednesday 7 December 2022.

Thank you also to everyone who decorated their windows for the most festive window competition. The People's Favourite will be announced after the next Council meeting. Originally organised as a Living Advent Calendar, only 6 residents / organisations agreed to take part, hence the change to a festive window competition.

In other news, Council welcomes three new members - Cllr Wendy Liles, a former chairman of council and the creator of the Parish Plan, Cllr Mark Willingham who was elected unopposed in November, and Cllr Steven Harper, a former councillor who still does much behind the scenes to support the village.

There are still vacancies for co-option, so please do contact the clerk if this rewarding and interesting role is something you would like to consider.

Finally, please remember that in these continued unsettled times, the past is history, the future is a mystery and today is a gift. That is why it's called "the present". Enjoy every moment and take care.

With all good wishes

Billingham Parish Council

BILLINGHAY NEEDS MORE COUNCILLORS

If you care about our community, wish to make a positive difference, or would like to represent our residents, Billingham Parish Council would love to hear from you!

What is a Parish Council?

Created by the Local Government Act 1894, a parish council is a democratically elected corporate body, the grass-root level of government, responsible for representing its electorate and delivering local services to improve the quality of life and wellbeing within its community. Billingham Parish Council consists of 11 councillors, employs 3 members of staff, and is responsible for a cemetery and closed churchyard and closed graveyard, 60 acres (approx.) of farming allotments and a Pinfold.

Who are Parish Councillors?

Parish Councillors are community champions, who give up their time to represent their community and improve the lives of those in their area.

What do Parish Councillors do?

As part of the council, councillors:

- 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
- consult to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents
- work to bring about improvements through local projects
- lobby other service providers and work in partnership with other parishes and agencies
- and, most importantly, work with the community and residents the Council serves.

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

Who can stand for co-option as a Parish Councillor?

- Anyone aged 18 years or over,
- Is a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union **and**,
- Meets at least one of the four qualifications below

Other qualifications required for standing for election as a Parish Councillor

As well as meeting the criteria above, to be able to stand as a candidate at a parish council election in England or a community council election in Wales: -

(a) You are, and will continue to be, registered as a local government elector for the parish/ community in which you wish to stand from the day of your nomination onwards;

(b) You have occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish/ community area during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election;

(c) Your main or only place of work during the 12 months prior to the day of your nomination and the day of election has been in the parish/community area;

(d) You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it during the whole of the 12 months before the day of your nomination and the day of election.

Councillors are expected to comply with Code of Conduct, the 7 (Nolan) Principles for Life in Public Office, which includes openness, honesty, integrity, selflessness, objectivity, and leadership, and Council Policies, such as the social media policy.

What will I gain from being a Councillor?

Satisfaction of making a difference in your local community. Councillors have the opportunity to develop a range of skills including: PR, marketing, project managing, IT, analytical, and fundraising skills, and will build a strong networking with a wide range of individuals and groups

Did you know that you can nominate yourself for co-option?

Meetings

Billingham Parish Council usually holds 12 ordinary meetings a year to which you are summoned to attend. Meetings usually last two hours - but this can vary. In addition to this, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is held annually in May, a Finance Meeting is held in November, and the Chairman hosts an Annual Parish Meeting.

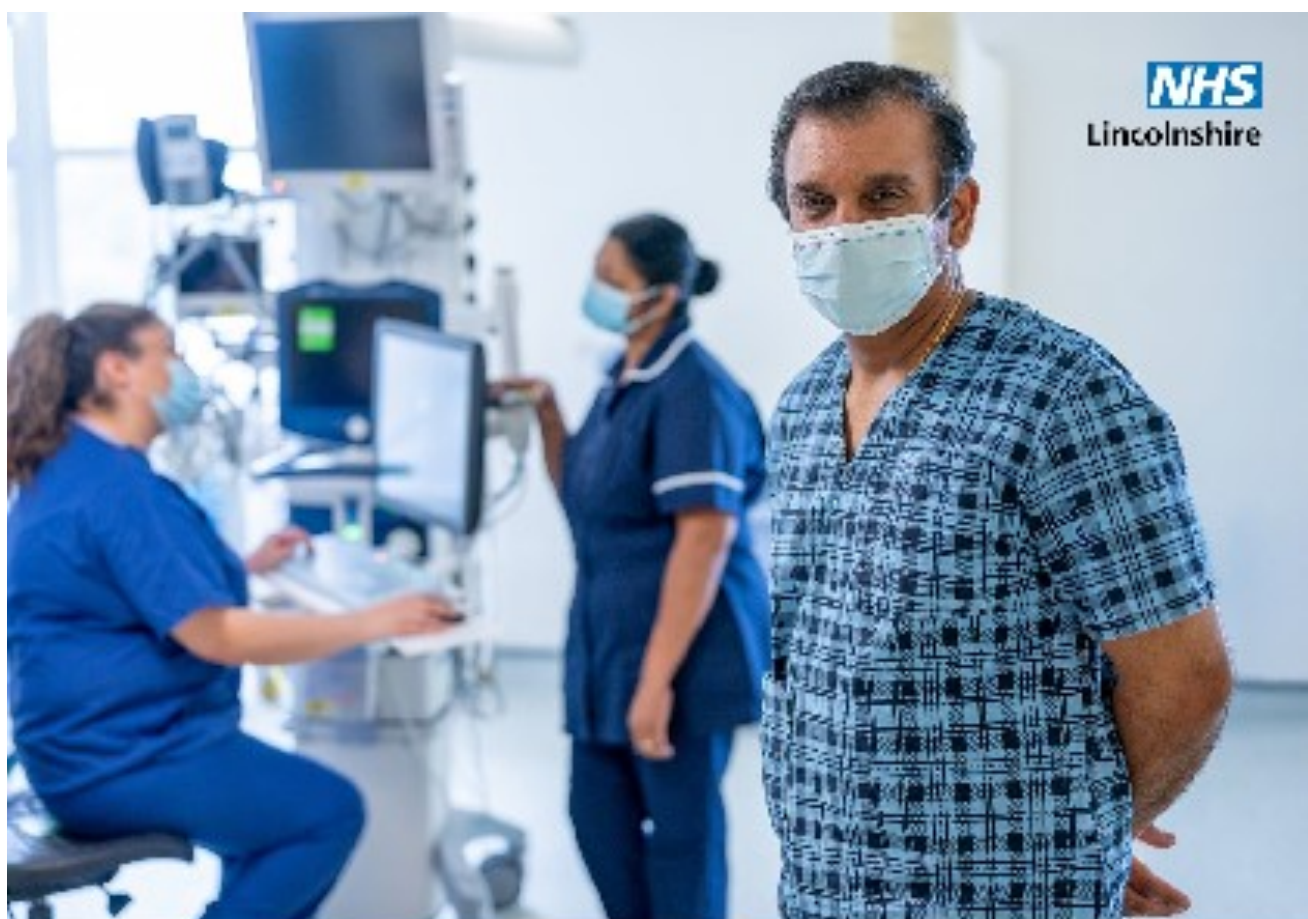
The Council has several committees to research in detail, policies, planning, finances, environmental and recreational matters, staffing matters, and make recommendations to the full Council. Council and committee meetings are held face to face, unless legislation from government allows otherwise (for example, during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns).

The Council may organise other events throughout the year, most notably the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on the first Wednesday in December.

Length of service

Once elected, parish councillors sit on the council for a maximum of four years. If they then want to stay in the post, they can stand for re-election. The next election is in May 2023. This does not mean that you must stay in post for four years; if you find being a councillor is not for you, or you can no longer meet the commitment, then you can stand down.

If you would like to find out more about this exciting and rewarding role, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk, Mrs Carol Willingham, on **07483 346143**



HAVE YOUR SAY

We are consulting on four of Lincolnshire's NHS services

- Orthopaedic surgery
- Urgent and emergency care at Grantham and District Hospital
- Acute medical beds at Grantham and District Hospital
- Stroke services

Find out more and complete our questionnaire at www.lincolnshire.nhs.uk



Our vision is to deliver the very best in health and care for people across Lincolnshire, and we seek to continuously improve services wherever we can.

We are asking for your views on these four NHS services because we believe they require significant and permanent change. The benefits of these changes will include:

- Improved quality of care
- Reduced waiting times
- Better outcomes for patients
- Increased availability of staff to care for patients
- Better use of NHS funds, reducing spend on temporary staff

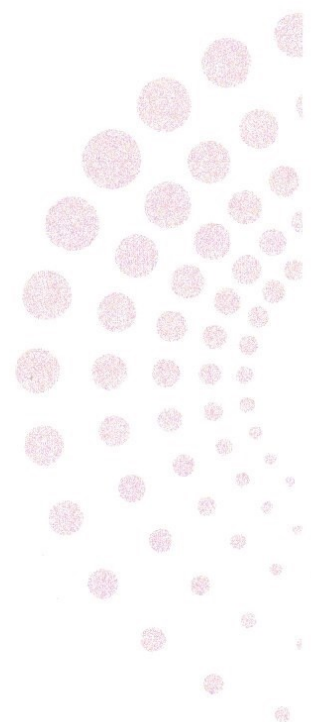
We need your views

Please help us make the right choices to improve these services by completing our questionnaire and telling us what you think.

To do this and for more information on how we have reviewed these four Lincolnshire NHS services, the challenges they face and how they might change in the future, please visit our website www.lincolnshire.nhs.uk or contact us **01522 421860**.

You can also watch videos of our clinicians describing these changes and find details of our events across Lincolnshire.

We are committed to gathering views from across the county in many different ways, including this leaflet which is being delivered to every household. Information can be provided in different languages and formats if required.



**I've committed to the
five acts for our NHS.
Have you?**

#LincsTogether | Lincolnshire.nhs.uk/5acts



NHS
Lincolnshire | **Let's do this
together.**
atLincsTogether



Thank You

The Billingham branch would like to express their thanks and gratitude to all the organisations and individuals collecting on behalf of the 2021 Poppy Appeal.



St Michael's Church, Blair House, York House, Willow House, Billingham Garage, Golden Hay, Plough Inn (N Kyme), Old Coach House Tandoori, Walcott Primary School, Billingham C of E Primary School, Billingham Post Office, Billingham Co-op, Ship Inn, Coach and Horses, Barry's, Twells of Billingham, Joe's Garden Patch, Billingham Medical Practice, Chip off the Old Block, Shapes, Number Seven, Boston College, Lincolnshire Police and Fire HQ, Karen Frith, Ann and Glen Hadgraft, Val Thompson, Val Fortune, Terry Richards, Mike and Karen Smith, Glenn and Dawn Studd, Tina Toulson, Sue and John Whiting, Ruth and Zoe Catlett.

And immense thanks to the residents of Billingham, Walcott and North Kyme, as well as those from outside our area, for their generosity and support of the appeal. Together we raised a fabulous total of £3033.90.

we will remember them



RENEW CLASS

Tai Chi, Yoga & Pilates based exercises

Mondays from 7-8pm at Billingham Village Hall

This gentle class works on improving posture, core strength and aids relaxation and well-being

£5 per class

Booking essential

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www.wellnesslincs.com

(Also available: Mobile personal training and sports massage)



EMMA'S VIRTUAL CONSULTANTS

Welcome to my page! I am very excited to announce that I am launching my own Virtual Assistant Consultancy.

I specialise in social media management, Wordpress web design as well as general administration.

I can help free up your time to focus on what you do best.

Feel free to contact me on 07568 318462 for more information.



We're working in partnership with Anglian Water to help make sure our community are aware of the support they can receive if they're customers of Anglian Water.

The **Priority Services Register (PSR)** offers additional practical support such as providing extra help in the event of a water incident, adding a password to your account to provide an extra layer of protection against bogus and knock & wait, which gives you a little more time to get to the door.



Like many people at the moment, if you're finding paying bills a challenge, Anglian Water offer a wide range of **financial assistance** that may be able to help you. This includes discounted tariffs, assistance schemes if you've fallen behind with your payments, as well as flexible and affordable payment plans to suit you.

You can find out more about the support available by visiting anglianwater.co.uk/WaterCare, scanning the QR code or calling their specially trained Priority Services team on 0800 232 1951.

FIX MY STREET



Fed up with problems such as potholes, broken paving slabs, street lighting and overgrown hedges?

If everyone who is affected also reported the problem direct to Lincolnshire County Council, the seriousness of the problem would be emphasised. The identity of the person reporting the problem can remain anonymous unless they choose to show their name.

Residents without computer access can still report problems via the Parish Council who will pass on details to Lincolnshire County Council. We will continue to do this but we can only register the complaint once. Numerous residents reporting the same problem will have a greater impact on prioritising problems.

Therefore, we would recommend that you use the system provided by the County Council and report the problems directly to them using the Fix My Street system on the LCC website.

This is straightforward to use and can be accessed using:

<https://fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk>



Lee, Inga & The Team

*Look forward to welcoming you back to
"The Ship Inn"
Pub & Restaurant*

With a warm welcome and friendly atmosphere serving freshly cooked Homemade meals

*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

@theshipinnbillingham

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

We look forward to Welcoming you!!



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®

10-12 QUEEN STREET, BILLINGHAY
LN4 4AX

OPENING TIMES

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8am-11am

Every evening 5:30pm-9:30pm

Weekends 8am-3pm

(Except bank holidays and when classes are on)

PRICES

Gym pass: £5

Class pass: £5

Gym only membership: £12

Full membership (Gym and Classes): £22

Legs, bums, tums

HIIT

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Book via the website;
www.hudson.fit

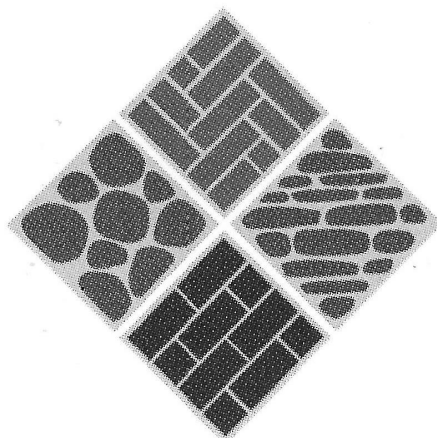
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LOCAL NEWS

**DO YOU WANT TO PLACE AN
ANNOUNCEMENT IN YOUR
LOCAL NEWSLETTER TO LET
EVERYONE KNOW WHAT IS
HAPPENING OR HAS HAP-
PENED.**

**ANYONE WISHING TO INCLUDE
AN ITEM RELATING TO:**

- **A NEW BABY**
- **A BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION**
- **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
OR**
- **AN OBITUARY**

**SHOULD CONTACT THE
PARISH CLERK GIVING FULL
DETAILS.**

**WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO
ACCOMMODATE ALL**

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- **Shed & Fence Painting**

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or

Email: oddjobtodd@hotmail.co.uk



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@billinghamypc.co.uk
Address: Mrs C Willingham (Parish Clerk)
Ringmoor House, Ringmoor Close, Billingham, Lincs
LN4 4EY

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Parish Council monthly meetings are currently being held in the Village Hall. 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 meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the Council.

PLANNING

New Applications

21/1808/HOUS 21 Park Avenue, Billingham
Single storey extension

Approved Applications

21/1131/FUL 14 Walcott Road Billingham
Demolition of existing bungalow and garage and erection of a
replacement two storey building

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 Billingham 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.

Welcome to your Mobile Library Service

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

April 2021 – March 2022

Monday Route 2 & 4 (Rural North)

April	May	June	July	August	September
12th 26th	10th 24th	7th 21st	5th 19th	2nd 16th	13th 27th
October	November	December	January	February	March
11th 25th	8th 22nd	6th	17th 31st	14th 28th	14th 28th

*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

Please comply with Covid restrictions at all times



LOCAL POLICE NEWS

SLEAFORD RURAL NORTH

Top reported crimes in October 2021

◆	Anti-social behaviour	9
◆	Violence & Sexual Offences	15
◆	Criminal Damage & Arson	5
◆	Burglary	5

Policing Priorities in the area

Priority

Speeding in rural villages has been highlighted from a resident poll

Action Taken:

Sleaford Neighbourhood Policing Team have been carrying out several speed checks in the local rural villages. We recently engaged in Project EDWARD (Every Day Without A Road Death) which saw several officers deployed across Lincolnshire's roads enforcing Fatal Four offences throughout the week of action. We continue to be in areas most affected and encourage the community to take part in Community Speed Watch.

PCSOs have the power to stop a mechanically propelled vehicle on a road and issue traffic offence reports under section 89 Road traffic regulations Act 1984.

Speeding in rural villages has been highlighted from a resident poll on the Nextdoor App and speeding was the main concern. PCSOs will be out at various times and days of the week carrying out speed checks and dealing with any offences.

Police must be overt when carrying out the checks and wear high visibility uniform.

Crime levels overview over the 12 months ending August 2021

MONTH	NUMBER	% OF TOTAL
Nov 2020	66	9.4%
Dec 2020	54	7.7%
Jan 2021	62	8.8%
Feb 2021	53	7.6%
Mar 2021	96	13.7%
Apr 2021	53	11.1%
May 2021	54	7.7%
Jun 2021	42	6.0%
Jul 2021	60	8.6%
Aug 2021	48	6.8%
Sep 2021	41	5.8%
Oct 2021	47	6.7%

WILLS & POWERS OF ATTORNEY

I am a retired solicitor and offer a professional and sympathetic service to those living in a rural community, where getting into town during 'office hours' is painful and frustrating.

Known for my relaxed style, I can offer advice that will bring peace of mind.

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"James makes things easy to understand and puts you completely at ease" Mr & Mrs S.

"Extremely helpful and friendly. Made a difficult task very easy and less stressful." Mrs B.

"I would consider James an "old style solicitor". I enjoyed his visits and he did an excellent job." Mr M.

If my approach looks right for you, please get in touch to see if I can help.

Tel 01529 701404

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Reiki Master-Teacher, UKRFTM, CMT, CIBTAC, ISA, CNHC

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REIKI

The Subliminal way to relax

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Patient

Participation

“Representing patients and putting them at the heart of all we do”

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.

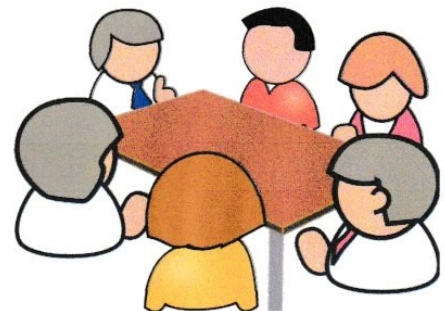


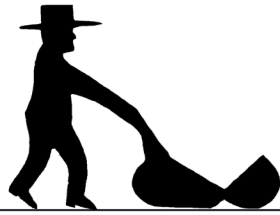
Please note that meetings for 2022 have not yet been arranged. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Practice for details.

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).





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or

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YPF ↙

Ages 5-11

6.00 - 7.30pm
Every Friday

THE LIGHT HOUSE

7.45-9.00pm



Age 12+



@ the Chapel, Church Street

www.billinghaybaptistchapel.co.uk

Tel: 07717392628

PICKS BUTCHERS LTD
89 MAIN STREET, DORRINGTON



NEW OPENING TIMES

OPEN	CLOSED
Monday to Friday	Saturday
8.00am to 4.00pm	Sunday

(Wednesday Close at 1.00pm)

VISIT THE SHOP OR CALL AND COLLECT

NEW DELIVERY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY	Billingham/Scopwick area
THURSDAY	Sleaford area
FRIDAY	AM Navenby & Branston area
	PM Sleaford area

Local deliveries daily i.e. Ruskington or Digby

A Minimum Spend of £20 within a 10 mile radius of the shop with a delivery charge of £3.00

We do ask for 24 hour notice please

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Email markhamplastering@sky.com
www.plastererservices.co.uk

KEEP FIT

**BILLINGHAY VILLAGE HALL
Tuesday 6.30pm to 7.30pm**

Get fit and keep fit in a relaxed fun class

Cardio and toning exercises for a good workout

Lower impact options available making this class suitable for a wide range of fitness levels.

GO ON GIVE IT A TRY

COST £5 per session

**Just turn up or contact Dean for more information on
01526 860893 or 07857 846841**

Lincolnshire Glass & Locks



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 Email: thejonnyglass@gmail.com
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*“Our objective is to promote
Independence, choice, dignity and
Respect in every service provided”*

LJ Home Care is a Lincolnshire based home care service.

Our aim is to provide a range of services, individually tailored to the client’s needs, whilst maintaining a high standard of care and companionship.

All our staff are fully trained and DBS checked, offering clients peace of mind that they will be cared for expertly.

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.

LJ Home Care is registered and regulated by the Care Quality Commission.

Services

- Personal Care
- Washing, Bathing
- Dressing, Undressing
- Physical disabilities
- Post hospital discharge
- Medication Reminders / Administration
- Meal Preparation
- Dementia Care
- Cognitive Impairment



We provide everything from personal care, dementia care, companionship, shopping, cleaning, meals and even walking your dog. Everything you need to help you stay independent in the comfort of your own home.



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Activities in Billingham

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) Bethel Baptist Chapel	Thursdays at the Village Hall or Ship - please call 07799617674 for info. New members always welcome
Billinghay CEP School Billinghay Tuesday Club Bowls Club British Legion	Sundays 10.30am & 6pm Tuesdays 7pm Pastor James Mansfield 861439 Breakfast Club 8 to 9am Every School day in School Hall 1 st 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
Brownies (2nd Billingham) Children's Centre Coffee Morning	Wednesdays 5.30 to 7.00pm Dawn Tulley 834324 Fen Road 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday 869248 or 869271 3 rd Monday of month 10-12 Baptist Chapel, Ann Hall 01205 365689
Community Rooms Daisy Chain	Bookings Pre-school Mon-Fri 9.00am to 3.00pm Billingham CofE School 07799 091281
Darby & Joan Girl Guides	Tuesdays (every 4 weeks) 2-5pm Shirley 860732 Wednesdays 6.45pm Contact Emma 07557354981
Lighthouse Youth Club	Every Friday at 7.45 to 9.00pm Contact Richard on 07717392628 or email richard@billinghambaptistchapel.co.uk
Line Dancing Methodist Church	Thursdays 6.00pm to 8.00pm Walcott Village Hall Bookings Sally Robinson 860930 Caretaker 860682 Schoolroom available with kitchen facilities £15 for 3 hours
Methodist Church Night Owls Book Club Past Times	Sundays 10am Val 860614, 3 rd Thursday of month 7.30pm at the Ship Kylie Cozens History Group The Ship Inn as advertised Lou Hird 869086
Rainbows (Girls 5 to 7)	Tuesdays (Term Time) 5.30pm to 6.30pm Karen 01526 860715 Mobile 07812207929
St Michael's and All Angels Church	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 steve.carrydyke@gmail.com Sandra Tomley 01526 861797
Tennis Club Tuesday Club Twinning Association	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) .
Village Hall Voluntary Car Service	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	Every Friday at 6.00 to 7.30pm Contact Richard on 07717392628 or email richard@billinghambaptistchapel.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 Billingham and served as a hard working Councillor for Billingham Parish Council.

Over a period of many years, Mick gave a lot of time to research the lives of Billingham 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 Billingham 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 is detailed below:

1918 Part One

At the end of 1917 there was still stalemate on the Western Front, but the situation was beginning to change. On the Allied side there were some plusses. The submarine war had been won and supplies were pouring across the Atlantic, but there was still an even greater need for troops. When America entered the war, they had a relatively small army of about 100,000. It was planned to increase this to about 1,000,000 by the middle of 1918 but there was some concern as to whether the Allies could hold out that long, although it was obvious that if they could, they would have an enormous superiority in men and materials. The situation in Russia had increased their anxieties, as Germany no longer had the problem of fighting on two fronts and Turkey no longer had to defend the Caucasian frontiers.

In Germany the situation was not much better. While it was true that the Russian threat had been dealt with, they were experiencing serious trouble on the Home Front. The population was enduring great hardship; there had been a naval mutiny at Wilhelmshaven in August 1917, there were major strikes in Berlin and Kiel and martial law had been declared in Hamburg and Brandenburg. Hindenburg and Ludendorff thought that the only way to deal with this was to obtain a major victory to force the Allies to sue for peace and in November 1917 they began to plan accordingly. By March 1918 Germany had 199 divisions available against 100 French of doubtful ability and 58 British. There were no Americans in France at this time.

The attack began on 21st March 1918 against the southern part of the British line, to the east of Amiens. The object was to draw reserves from the north where their second blow would fall. Haig had always held the view that the decisive front would always be around Ypres and consequently had weakened his right wing. When the Germans attacked, they had a superiority of two to one.

They were also employing new tactics. A short, but intense bombardment which concentrated on lines of communication as much as on the front line, was followed by

“storm troops” who destroyed strong points where they could, but if not bypassed them. The initial attack was helped by a thick fog and ill prepared defences and within four days and within the German army had advanced forty miles.

Ludendorff was hoping to drive a wedge between the French and British armies and it was vital that this did not happen. Both Haig and Petain had resisted attempts to impose a joint command on them and had argued for mutual co-operation which they thought would solve any difficulties that might arise. However, on this occasion when Haig asked for help, Petain refused because of his desire to cover Paris. In desperation Haig appealed to Lloyd George and after a conference at Doullens, Foch was given the authority to co-ordinate the Allied armies.

By this time the German attack was running out of steam, their communications were extended and the German troops who had captured enormous amounts of supplies, luxuries they had not seen for years, stopped to enjoy the spoils of war. Ludendorff called a halt to this attack on 4th April and four days later switched his attention to the north around Ypres. It was not long before the Germans had regained all the ground they had lost the previous autumn. Haig called on his troops to fight to the last man, the line held and at the end of the month Ludendorff called off the attack.

His next attack was on the French and using the same tactics which had already proved successful forced them back thirty miles. He was then in a position to bombard Paris but by now his worst fears had been realised. The Americans were in France and went into action for the first time on 28th May at Cantigny and at Chateau – Thierry on 3rd June. Their losses were heavy, but they learned quickly, and it became increasingly obvious that the Germans were fighting a losing battle.

Ludendorff persisted with his offensive plans and in the middle of July launched an attack at Rheims, but this time it would not be so easy. The French had given up using a static defence and had adopted a more flexible system. In addition, they had been warned of the impending attack by German deserters who were coming over to them in increasing numbers.

On 26th July, encouraged by this, Foch gave the order for a general advance. Haig still had not lost his offensive spirit and a great deal of lessons had been learned over the last four years, especially how to use their tanks and in aircraft co-operation. On the first day they took 30,000 prisoners and advanced seven miles. It was a major defeat for the Germans and although they were not broken, they were forced to retreat to the Hindenburg Line.

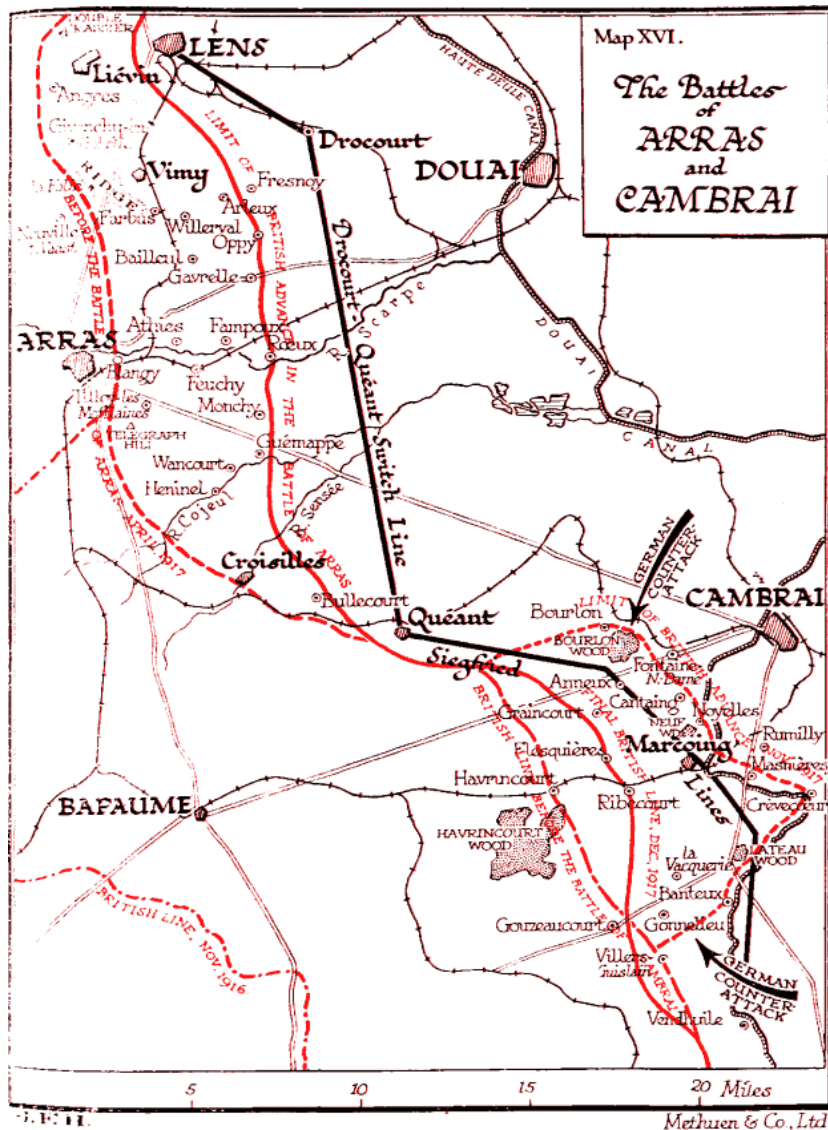
Foch continued to order an advance along the line and on 27th September British and French forces assaulted the Hindenburg Line. This was the final straw and on 29th September Hindenburg informed the Kaiser that an armistice must be concluded as soon as possible. And so, at 11am on 11th November 1918, the war which was going to be over by Christmas 1914 finally came to an end. Unfortunately, this last year would see the greatest loss of life for Billingham.

Harold Bee, Private 201356 2nd/4th Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment died on Sunday 24th March 1918 aged 20 years. He was born on 5th February 1898 and baptised in March 1898 in Billingham. He was the second son of William Bee, a bricklayer (1856-1909) and Fanny (nee Pearson, 1865-1932) He was one of a family of twelve, four boys and eight girls. All the boys served in the armed forces during the war. Harold, like his elder brother, Tom, was six feet tall although the rest of the family were a lot shorter. Len Bee, who is Harold's nephew, told me that that Harold had started his army career by serving in Ireland and also remembers seeing a photograph of Harold standing outside a tent with a bicycle.

Unfortunately, the photo has been lost.

Although Harold is listed as serving with the 2nd/4th Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment, by January it had been absorbed by the 4th Battalion.

On 24th March 1918 the 4th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment was midway between Arras and Bapaume to the east of Bullecourt. At 12 noon the 5th Lincolns were ordered to occupy the second system trenches and the 4th were to remain in reserve. However, the 5th found that the enemy were already in occupation of the second system, so they took position in the third system with the 4th Lincolns on the left and the 4th Leicesters to the left of the Lincolns. The three Battalions dug in and the night of 21st/22nd was quiet.



Dawn came on the 22nd and there was still little action until the afternoon, when at 4pm large numbers of Germans turned the left flank of the 4th Lincolns who retired to the Army line in front of Mory. At 8pm they were fired on both front and behind and so they withdrew again. Early on the morning of 23rd a withdrawal was ordered to the high ground southeast of Ervillers and east of the Ervillers-Behagnies road. The Battalion retired five to six hundred yards over open country under very heavy machine gun fire. They were then relieved.

After two days of continuous fighting the 4th Battalion had lost 3 officers and 27 other ranks killed, 3 officers and 14 other ranks wounded and 58 other ranks missing. Harold was one of the missing. He has no known grave and is commemorated together with other members of his comrades on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais.

Ludendorff's last attack in the north was to see the death of Richard Williamson Private 242177, 10th Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment, who died on 17th April 1918 aged 38 years. Richard Lanes Williamson was the son of the late Mr and Mrs Williamson of Tattershall Road, Billinghay; the husband of Mrs E Williamson of Haily's Row, West Street, Billinghay, Lincoln.

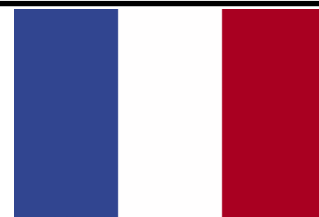
The information above is taken from The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records. However, it is possible that Richard Lanes Williamson Was the illegitimate son of William Lanes and Catherine Williamson (nee Roberts 1847/48?) Catherine was the wife of James Williamson who seems to have disappeared from the area after 1895 and by 1891 she was William Lanes' housekeeper of Twelve Foot Bank, North Kyme but still enumerated as married rather than a widow. Catherine was sister to the Grandmother of Thomas Towl. It is thought that Richard's wife was Esther Ann Williamson and that they had two daughters, Doris May (b 14th June 1915, baptised 10th July 1915) and Winnifred Mary (b.28th December 1916, baptised 23rd February 1917) At the baptisms he was described as a Private Soldier, 2nd/5th Lincolns of West Street Billinghay. I have been unable to trace the family in the 1901 census.

As nightfall on 15th April 1918 the 10th Battalion was dug in at Haegdoorme near Wytschaete on the forward slopes of a hill. The of 16th was uneventful but, in the afternoon, there was a heavy increase in machine and artillery fire. At 4pm there was a heavy barrage and an attack developed against the Lincolns along the line of hedge and road southeast of the village. Three posts on the left came under enfiladed fire from the left and there was no covering fire for these troops. Two of the posts received direct hits from 4.2inch shells and the survivors retreated on the Battalion. At 7.30pm a counter attack was launched on the posts which were retaken. On 17th at 8am there was a heavy bombardment on the front and rear positions which preceded several enemy attacks, but the front line held firm. At 4am the survivors were withdrawn to the Croix du Poperinghe line. Richard Williamson was not with them. His body was never recovered, and he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.





BILLINGHAY & DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION



The Twinning Association is still very badly affected by the travel restrictions due to Covid19 precautions. Whilst these are understandable, they do mean that our plans for 2022 have had to be reconsidered.

Our visit in May 2022 is still provisionally going ahead but is expected to be a much reduced number of members travelling in their own cars rather than the more usual bus and ferry journey.

Restrictions in France and our own member's views mean that our Hosts will only be arranging smaller events mainly in the open air with Covid restrictions being strictly observed. As a group we feel that we need to make an effort to keep the long standing association between the two locations going hence the trip still going ahead.

We will be keeping the news updated and hopefully, we will be able to give a full report on a successful trip.



BILLINGHAY HISTORY GROUP

AT LONG LAST, THE HISTORY GROUP HAS STARTED TO ARRANGE A PROGRAMME OF PRESENTATIONS FOR 2022.

THERE IS STILL A RELUCTANCE OF PEOPLE WANTING TO GIVE PRESENTATIONS OR ATTEND TALKS BUT THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE ARRANGED THE UNDERNOTED PRESENTATION :

**WEDNESDAY 2ND FEBRUARY "THE TALE OF MR POPKIN'S TELESCOPE"
MICK SKIPWORTH**

FULL DETAILS WILL BE CIRCULATED NEARER THE DATE.

**A warm welcome awaits you at
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22nd March In aid of Westerley Christian Care Home
24th May In aid of the Salvation Army
26th July In aid of the Chapel
25th October In aid of the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance
all from 10.00am to 11.30am

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NOTICE FROM THE LINCOLNSHIRE TRANSPORT GROUP REGARDING BUS TIMETABLES

Over the last few months there have been a number of registration changes from bus operators throughout Lincolnshire which impact on bus services and timetables. Did you know you can find all information regarding these timetable changes at <https://lincsbus.info/lincs-bus-updates/>

For the very latest bus updates and operational news and information follow our twitter feed @LincsBus <https://twitter.com/LincsBus> where we share information from operators across the county. Also available is the Lincolnshire Transport Helpline where you can speak to one of our advisors for help and advice on your transport options. They are available Monday – Friday 9am - 6pm and Saturdays 9.30am – 4pm on 0345 456 4474.

Many thanks for your patience and continued understanding throughout these difficult times.

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B.A.D.A.S.S



Being a B.A.D.Ass – Act XI

Hello ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls and welcome to another exciting update from the Billinghay Amateur Dramatics Association, your local theatrical and musical entertainers.

Well, the nights are drawing in and the weather is most definitely getting chilly but BADAss members are striving ahead to get ready for our February Panto. We are now getting to the wobbly knee stage of thinking “Have I learned my lines? where do I stand? and what are the words of the next tongue twisting song? Roz, our slave driving Director, is keeping everyone hard at it in rehearsals and our aim is always to have “scripts down” by the New Year. Indeed, in January we will be practicing twice a week because the time for production is getting closer and closer.

We were pleased at our last 2 meetings to welcome new members to our group and they have quickly been co-opted to play parts in the Panto. So, don't feel shy if you fancy trying your talents, please come along to the Village Hall on Thursday evening from 18.30 and introduce yourselves. We are always happy to see new faces.

On top of our rehearsals, Big Dave our stage manager, has been working hard to gather or create props and scenery for the show. This time he needs to build a tower for Rapunzel to look down from and to lower her hair from the window – not sure how this is all going to work just yet. At the same time, Stephen has been working on the audio and lighting systems to give an even better sound and light show than before. You may see him and Dave climbing ladders in the Village Hall from time to time getting everything ready.

At this week's rehearsal we were short of a few key players (how they managed to get holidays I don't know) so many of us were filling in for roles that were completely new to us. Never-the-less, it did allow everyone else to continue practicing for the big day. Furthermore, George has decided to take a more active role as our second sound engineer and he is quickly getting involved in the production working with Charlotte on backing tracks and sound effects.

As always, BADAss members are hard at work and striving to make a difference in our community so we hope that you will all come along to help support us at our half-term Panto next year. Overleaf are a few pictures of us at our Thursday rehearsal and of Carla and Ros preparing the scenery for our Panto.

All the best from BADAss

Stephen Taylor

Secretary





UNDERSTANDING PENSIONS

The future has a way of creeping up on you. Rather than being scared of what it might hold, it's best to be prepared. As the old saying goes, "A stitch in time saves nine." With a little bit of foresight, awareness, and strategic retirement planning, you can build the funds necessary to fully enjoy your retirement. **According to Statista**, only 42% of the UK's working population are actively and reliably saving for retirement. While a significant subset (26%) intend to start saving regularly, that still leaves 32% of working age Britons without the proper financial safety net to see them through their golden years. The good news? It's never too late to begin.

Generally speaking, the age of retirement for men and women in the UK is 66 years old. It should be noted that this is increasing to 67 and is likely to continue to increase. It is possible to **access your pension funds** at age 55 (soon to be increased to 57) but the earlier you access the funds the longer it has to last. Once you've reached suitable retirement age for your specific situation, you may begin drawing on your accrued pension. It should be noted that unlike the laws in many other countries, there is no longer a compulsory retirement age in the UK. Except for a few select jobs, those past State Retirement Age may continue working indefinitely if they so desire.

The next key factor for retirement financial planning purposes is understanding the prime investment products available to you. In general, there are **three main pension types**. They are:

- State pensions
- Workplace (employer-run) pensions
- Private pensions

The state pension scheme is available to all UK citizens who have contributed to National Insurance for a minimum of ten years. In order to get the basic, non-prorated amount of £179.60, an employee must contribute for a full 35 years.

A workplace pension scheme, on the other hand, is one that's administered directly via your employer. Typically, you contribute a portion of your salary into the fund while your employer also makes a contribution.

Private pensions schemes also exist for those who don't work or don't have access to employer-run pensions. The terms of those pension schemes vary greatly depending on the pension's provider.

To jump start your savings, there are a number of **different strategies** that an

investor can employ. You can combine disparate pension accounts. You can increase your contributions. You can even change your investment strategy to try and achieve higher returns. The key is remembering the goal, i.e. the lifestyle you and your family want during your retirement years.



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Billinghay Athletic FC Minihays

We will be restarting youth training every Saturday **starting May 1st**.

We are offering training for both girls and boys aged between **4 and 12**.

Training sessions run every Saturday 10:30-11:30am.

We are offering training, skills, exercise and fun!!!!

£2 per session

You will need suitable footwear and a drink.

Contact details:

Nathan (Club secretary) 01526 861144 or
07824600798

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
Bingo	Monday	1.30pm The Whyche
Bowls (Indoor)	Monday	2.00 to 4.00pm Village Hall
British Legion (Men)	1st Wednesday every 2 months	Ship Inn 7.30pm
Brownies	Wednesdays	5.30 to 7.00pm
Car Boot Sale	Sunday am	Coach & Horses Field
Community Connections Cafe	Look for announcements	Methodist Church Hall
Football Club	Saturdays	10.30 to 11.30am Junior Training Sessions
Girl Guides	Wednesday	6.45 to 8.30pm
Keep Fit	Tuesdays	6.30 to 7.30pm Village Hall
Lighthouse Club (Secondary School Children)	Fridays	6.00 to 7.00pm via Zoom
Market & Car Boot Sale	Sunday	From 6.30am Coach & Horses
Methodist Lending Library	2nd Tuesday of each month	2.00 to 3.30pm
Mobile Library	Alternate Mondays	- see Parish Office page for details
Night Owls Book Club	3rd Thursday	7.30pm
Rainbows	Tuesdays	5.30 to 6.30pm
YPF Children's Club	Fridays	6.00 to 7.00pm Via Zoom
Youth Club	Every Monday	Village Hall 6.30 to 8.00pm

Additional Services available at Billinghay Children's Centre
If you would like any further information on the Services available at the Children's Centre, please ask a member of staff.

Billinghay Children's Centre is part of North Kesteven South Children's Centres which also include:

Sleaford: 01529 306888 and Caythorpe: 01400 279285

Skills Development Service: Works with parents who want to make positive changes for themselves and their families. The service offers encouragement and practical support with trying new things and getting more involved, often leading to Learning, Training, Volunteering and Employment.

Quiet Time: Opportunities are available for families to use the Children's Centre resources on a small group or 1:1 basis. Please call the Centre to find out more.

Keepsakes: The opportunity for families to make a variety of 'keepsake' items with their children and to get to know the Children's Centre team and what we can offer. Please speak to a member of staff to find out more.

ESCO Service: A scheme to co-ordinate the care for children and young people from birth to 18 years, who have complex health needs, sensory needs and/or disabilities.

Our Health Services

Health Visitor Clinic: There are many different health professionals within the Centre, delivering services such as midwifery and health visiting clinics. A health visitor clinic includes 6-8 week, 8-12 months and 2-2.5 year's assessments as well as 3-4 month contact.

Breast Start Group: Come and join us in a relaxed, friendly environment, chat and meet other breastfeeding mums and get some support and advice. A member of the health visiting team supports the group along with a parent volunteer. Pregnant ladies also welcome.

Top Tips for Babies: Join the family health worker for discussions on subjects like when to introduce solids, healthy eating, oral health, accident prevention, immunisation, how to access support and more. To book please contact the Health Visiting Team on 01522 843000.

Billinghay Children's Centre WHAT'S ON GUIDE



Timetable

1st November 2021

Billinghay Children's Centre

Fen Road
Billinghay LN4 4HU
Telephone: 01526 869248

E-mail:

Billinghaychildrenscentre@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Opening Times

Mon-Thurs: 8.30-17.00
Friday: 8.30-16.30



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<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/childcare-and-family-support/find-a-childrens-centre/>



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Booking for groups is essential for Learning Together and Baby Massage, these are groups where the commitment of attending weekly for a set of weeks is required.

These groups are shown as **booking required** on the timetable.

Other groups where families can attend without prior booking will not have extra information and therefore you are welcome to arrive on time for the start of the session.

Billinghay Children's Centre Timetable (Free Family Activities)

Tel: 01526 869248 Email: billinghaychildrenscentre@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Mondays		Tuesdays		Wednesdays		Thursdays		Fridays	
<p>Health Visitor Assessment Clinic Appointment only call 01522 843000</p> <p>10:00am – 10:45 am Family Rhyme Time A music and rhyme themed session where children can develop their language and communication skills by signing along to their favourite songs and nursery rhymes.</p> 	<p>Health Visitor Assessment Clinic Appointment only call 01522 843000</p> <p>10:15am – 10:45am Virtual Skills Development Service – How Can We Help? To register Click Here</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Baby Massage 6 week programme Hedgington Children's Centre Starting Tuesday 2nd November A 6 week course for you and your baby to spend precious time bonding through Baby Massage Contact the centre for more information Booking required. Please email: sleafordcc@lincolnshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Learning Together Toddler (Confident walkers) Learning together offers a variety of activities as well as a Talk Time, songs and stories to support children's development, by building their confidence as they learn to explore. Booking required. Please email: billinghaychildrenscentre@lincolnshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Let's Get Active (For children 0-5 years) This is a fun active session offering a variety of activities to support children's physical development and promote a healthy life style. During the session a variety of fun learning opportunities will be offered to support the development of children's gross motor skills, co-ordination and teach them that being active is fun.</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Learning Together Babies (Babies to confident movers) 6 week programme This session aims to support developing babies to grow and learn. Activities will encourage babies to reach their unique developmental milestones, following their interests and curiosities Booking required. Please email: billinghaychildrenscentre@lincolnshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Opening Doors to Employment Description: This four-week employability course is for parents who are ready to look for a job but could do with a helping hand. By the end of the course, you will have an up-to-date CV, know how and where to effectively job search and feel confident about communicating your skills and experience during interviews. To find out more email beststart@eyalliance.org.uk</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Breastfeeding Support Group@ SleafordCC You do not need to book onto a Breastfeeding Session and can just attend on the day/time. Please make sure you are familiar with building safety guidance</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Learning Through Play (For children 0 - 5 years) This session provides a variety of activities for children to explore supporting children's changing needs and interests, the session offers an opportunity for parents, carers and children to discover and explore a wide range of play activities together, encouraging children's independence, confidence and social skills.</p>	<p>10:15am – 10:45am Virtual - The Early Days (For babies born during Covid-19) To register Click here Delivered by the NKSK Team</p>
<p>Let's Get Crafty Workshop Monday 8th November - 1pm-2pm. Come along and make some simple, crafts together -without making too much mess!! Enrol your place on the lincsglobal.net Look for Let's Get Crafty EY Workshop at Billinghay Children's Centre</p> 	<p>1:00pm – 2:30pm Virtual - The Early Days (For babies born during Covid-19) To register Click here Delivered by the NKSK Team</p>	<p>1:00pm – 1:45pm Growing Talk Family 6 week programme Bookable Session for children aged 0 - 5 years Have fun together at Growing Talk, where your child will meet Mikey, our Growing Talk puppet, play with sounds, sprinkle magic and go flying on a carpet. This fun session focuses on enhancing children's communication and language development and growing children's 'talk'. Booking required. Please email: billinghaychildrenscentre@lincolnshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>10:30am – 11:00am Virtual Chat and Chill Volunteer-led Group (Term Time Only) Delivered by Parent Volunteers To register Click Here</p>	<p>12:30pm – 1:30pm Virtual GROW Your Own Confidence 4-week Course Please email beststart@eyalliance.org.uk to find out more or when the next course begins</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Virtual - The Early Days (For babies born during Covid-19) To register Click here Delivered by the NKSK Team</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Learning Through Play (For children 0 - 5 years) This session provides a variety of activities for children to explore supporting children's changing needs and interests, the session offers an opportunity for parents, carers and children to discover and explore a wide range of play activities together, encouraging children's independence, confidence and social skills.</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Learning Through Play (For children 0 - 5 years) This session provides a variety of activities for children to explore supporting children's changing needs and interests, the session offers an opportunity for parents, carers and children to discover and explore a wide range of play activities together, encouraging children's independence, confidence and social skills.</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Learning Through Play (For children 0 - 5 years) This session provides a variety of activities for children to explore supporting children's changing needs and interests, the session offers an opportunity for parents, carers and children to discover and explore a wide range of play activities together, encouraging children's independence, confidence and social skills.</p>	<p>10:00am – 11:00am Learning Through Play (For children 0 - 5 years) This session provides a variety of activities for children to explore supporting children's changing needs and interests, the session offers an opportunity for parents, carers and children to discover and explore a wide range of play activities together, encouraging children's independence, confidence and social skills.</p>

Please book on using the web link on our virtual session timetable or contact your local centre for more information by email
Please note that the use of mobile phones and cameras are NOT permitted in the centre. Thank you

THE LATEST QUIZ



For this issue's quiz, the answers are Brand Names of Alcoholic beverages.

NO	QUESTION	ANSWER
1.	Brendan, Jodie & swimmer Mark	
2.	A powerful bend from the waist	
3.	He guards the Crown Jewels	
4.	Frozen water follows from fins mix up	
5.	It's strange seeing young sheep on a fleet of ships	
6.	Chris from Coldplay and I combine	
7.	Camberwick Green's Windy has lost weight	
8.	Sir Paul's designer daughter	
9.	Cleverer flower part	
10.	The campanologist's drink?	

Answers to last issue's quiz

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Uttoxeter | 2. Ugliness |
| 3. Ukraine | 4. Ursula |
| 5. Unicorn | 6. Unipod |
| 7. Uganda | 8. Ursine |
| 9. Unilever | 10. Ukulele |

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BYGONES

WE ARE INDEBTED TO TINA BEDDALL FOR OUR ARTICLE THIS ISSUE. TINA MADE A DETAILED STUDY OF BILLINGHAY IN THE EARLY EIGHTIES AND PRODUCED A WONDERFUL PIECE OF WORK TO WHICH WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE ACCESS. ONE OF THE ITEMS THAT SHE INCLUDED WAS A REPORT ON THE PLANE CRASH BETWEEN WALCOTT AND BILLINGHAY IN 1982. HER ARTICLES IS SHOWN BELOW:

Plane crash – April 1982

An Official Board of Enquiry has been set up to investigate the plane crash that shattered the morning peace of the Fen villages of Walcott and Billingham last week.

The three senior officers who make up the Board arrived at Coningsby on a Wednesday in April and immediately began their investigation. As well as speaking to RAF personnel, the officers were expected to visit the crash site and speak to eye witnesses.

A spokesman said, "They are expected to produce a detailed report with fully informed conclusions within a relatively short time."

A Phantom jet from RAF Coningsby smashed into a cornfield next to the main Walcott to Billingham around 10.30. am. Twisted and smoking metal debris was hurled across the road and over fields and ended up as far as half a mile away.

No-one was hurt, though two local pensioners had lucky escapes. Miss Sarah Pinion, 87, of West end, Walcott, had her garden path torn up by a cannister shaped piece of metal from the plane which had been blown half a mile by the force of the explosion.

The path was ripped up and concrete, earth and plants thrown across the road. The cannister was half buried in a hole about two feet deep. Miss Pinion said "I was making pastry in the pantry when I heard it." She took the excitement calmly and added "every cloud has a silver lining. They didn't repair the path when the sewage was seen to, so now it will get done.

Mr Arthur Franks, also of West End, usually walks from Walcott to Billingham every morning. His route takes him past the spot where the plane came down and his life would have been in great danger from the pieces of hot metal which were hurled from it at the moment of impact. But last Wednesday Mr Franks changed his routine and was coming home along the Thorpe Tilney Road when he heard the explosion.

The jet that crashed was on a routine training flight with another Phantom. It is thought that the two planes may have had a mid – air collision. The pilot and navigator, Squadron Leader Guy Slocombe, 35, and Flight Lieutenant Richard George, 34, ejected before the crash and parachuted to safety, landing near the Lafford School. Both sprained their backs and were taken to the RAF Hospital at Nocton, where they were later said to be "fine".

First on the scene was Mr Dave Wooderson of Walcott who was driving through Billingham when he heard a bang, which was probably the sound of the crew ejecting. Mr Wooderson said "I looked up and could see two Phantoms. One went up as normal and the other went down. I could see it was going to hit the ground. There was an explosion, and it became a terrible ball of fire. I have never seen anything like it, and I have seen planes going over here all my life.

Mr Hillary Fletcher was in his home in Grange Street, Walcott, having a cup of coffee with his friend, Mr Fred Fisher from Lincoln, when the House was shaken by the explosion. Mr Fletcher said "The house is a good four fields away, but the whole building vibrated just as if something had hit the side of the house. I looked out of the window and I saw a great big red ball of fire."

They say that pieces of debris had made deep furrows in the earth of the surrounding fields.

Mrs Alison Wood, of Mill Close, Billingham, said she had heard two explosions “Like bombs dropping. I looked out of the window and saw black smoke belching up.” Young Darren Paddison, 12, of Mill Lane, Billingham said he saw the two men eject:

“I saw the parachutes coming towards Billingham” he said.

Unfortunately the photograph below has deteriorated with age but does illustrate how fortunate it was that the plane came down in open countryside.



Miss Sarah Pinion, 87, looks on as an RAF Officer and a Policeman examine the hole ripped in her garden path by a piece of flying debris from the exploding Phantom jet.

Miss Pinion’s house is half a mile away from the scene of the crash.

A 1982 Incident Log showed the following entry:

DATE	TYPE	SERIAL	UNIT	LOCATION	NOTES
14 TH April	Phantom FRG2	XT912	228 OCU	Walcott	The aircraft collided with the underside of Phantom FRG2 XT903. Both Sqn Ldr George and Sqn Ldr Slocum ejected safely but sustained major injuries.

CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

HIGH STREET BILLINGHAY

01526 860419



Opening Times:

Wednesday		4.30 - 7.00pm
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 TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY SPECIAL OFFERS

NEXT ISSUE March/April 2022 – DEADLINE DATE – 10 February 2022