

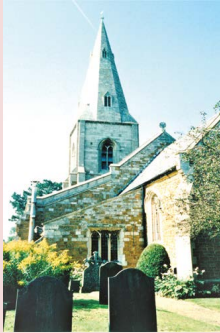
Billesdon & District Parish News & Views

November 2024



The Churches of Billesdon cum Goadby and Rolleston; Skeffington; with Hungarton and Keyham

For ZOOM services, contact the Administrator – Area Dean & Coplew Benefice: [Linda Jones L.jones2k@btinternet.com](mailto:Linda.Jones2k@btinternet.com)



BILLEDON ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Please see the notice in the Church Porch for the more regular “in person” services in addition to the regular Zoom services. The Church is now open on Thursday morning for private prayer.

1st Sunday Choral Evensong at 4pm. **2nd & 4th Sunday:** Holy Communion. **3rd Sunday:** Songs of Praise. If there is a **5th Sunday:** a service will take place at different churches within the Deanery.

There is an additional ZOOM service at 11am each Sunday.

Churchwarden:	Mr K Evans, 6 High Acres	(0116) 259 6438
Secretary:	Mr J Williamson	(0116) 259 6448
Treasurer:	Mr D Mills 6 High Acres	(0116) 259 6975
Organist & Director of Music	Dr Simon Ainge	07971 833110
Children's Groups:	Mr & Mrs Ratcliffe	(0116) 259 6246

GOADBY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday Services: See Church noticeboard

Churchwarden: Keith Evans See contacts above

Hon Secretary &

Churchwarden: Charles Stewart, Hillcroft, Goadby (0116) 259 8310

Hon Treasurer: Hugh Stevenson, The Dower House, Goadby (0116) 259 8294

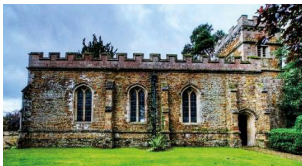


SKEFFINGTON ST. THOMAS BECKET

Sunday Services: see church porch and printed notice.

Churchwardens:	Mrs B Preston	(0116) 259 9147
	Mr W G Ginns, White Lodge	(0116) 259 6301
Secretary:	Mr D Holland	(0116) 259 6550
Treasurer:	Mrs Valerie Chouler	(0116) 259 9477
Organ:	Mr D Holland & Mr M Griffiths	(0116) 259 9254

ROLLESTON ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



HUNGARTON ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday services: 1st Sunday see church porch

Churchwardens: Cynthia McLaughlan (0116) 259 5680

KEYHAM ALL SAINTS

Sunday Services: 2nd Sunday see church porch

Churchwardens:	Richard Windle	(0116) 259 5281
	Hugh Henderson	(0116) 259 5214

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Please let the Vicar or Churchwardens know of anyone who is sick, or who would appreciate a visit. Holy Communion may be brought to anyone who is unable to get to Church.

Welcome

We welcome November this month. As the weather cools and the days shorten, our calendars seem to fill up faster than ever!

Indeed, there is a lot happening this month – the Billesdon Drama Society is celebrating its 90th year (see page 22) by offering **five** performances of *Neighbourhood Watch* (see page 15).



Drama Members Rehearsing for Neighbourhood Watch

I am amazed at the dedication of our local actors. They work so hard individually to memorise their lines and collectively to put it all together to come up with the most amazing performances – all for us!

This month we can also be entertained by the actors involved in the annual P@TCH Billesdon pantomime. This year it is an original fun family pantomime that all are sure to enjoy (see page 17).

These performances are only some of what is happening in November. Be sure to see the calendar and articles on pages 16-18 to see all that is on.

In addition to current and future events, this issue looks back at past events – the Skeffington Olympics (see page 19, which also shows upcoming Skeffington events) and the Post Office celebrations (pages 12 and 13).

This month's cover features the current crop of young choristers, several of whom started singing with the church choir whilst pupils at Billesdon School. They will share some of their musical motivation in a future edition, but all seem to love turning up on Fridays and Sundays to sing through a huge volume of the repertoire and have fun together, aided by our most experienced choir members, and Simon our organist. In an age of diminishing musical funding or subsidy, music in the parish church thrives, and the rich inheritance being passed on is there for all to experience and share in. New members always welcome! See pages 20 and 21 to find out more about Billesdon's choir.

Thanks to all who make this magazine possible, including the dedicated volunteers who distribute it (see page 18 if you can help).

I hope you enjoy this issue!

Lynn Milburn

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed by contributors to the *Billesdon & District Parish News & Views* are not necessarily those of the editor nor the Billesdon cum Goadby PCC.

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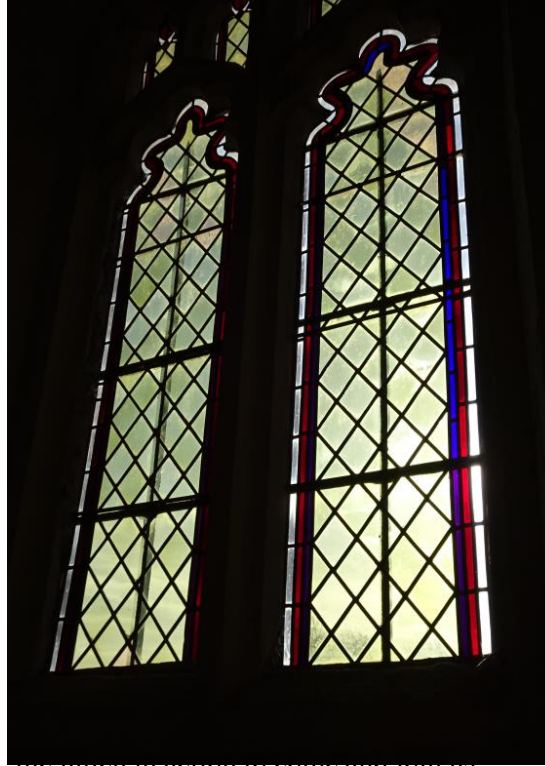
## Church News

I want to begin by welcoming all newcomers to Billesdon. May you enjoy village life here – a very active place to be!

The clocks have gone back one hour, so nights are dark earlier, but the joy of autumn is amongst us. The trees will be shedding their leaves of red and burnished browns, revealing their stark shapes. Apple trees are laden with fruit, ready for picking and turning into culinary delights. (*See page 21 for one such recipe! – Ed*) Don't forget toffee apples and conkers! It is as the poet John Keats wrote, "Autumn, the seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness."

Sadly, we are at the present time troubled by the ongoing war in the Middle East. It is, of course the land where Our Lord Jesus Christ was born, and lived his life spreading The Gospel and died by crucifixion. Already so many lives lost, that I wonder what Jesus would have thought about it all. It seems that history has taught people very little of the preservation of humanity at all costs.

It is at this time we remember, especially, all those who fought and lost their lives in WWI and WWII, to maintain our freedom and democracy. It is a mark of respect to



the church in action to come and join us in church Sunday 10 November at 10.45am for the Service of Remembrance followed by then gathering on the Market Place green around the war memorials.

The names of all those locals who died during the wars will be read out in remembrance, followed by prayers, a short silence and a bugler playing "The Last Post" – a time for us all to reflect and give thanks – "For our tomorrow, they gave their today".

Blessings to you all,

*Jane Andrews*



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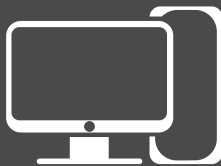
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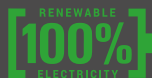
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Unleashed': <https://bit.ly/3VrRhts> and tell me what you have noticed.

*Brian Boley*

## **November Diary Dates**

### **Sunday Gatherings** 10.30 am

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper during the service on 3 November. Come and join us in a relaxed, informal environment to explore the important things in life in a safe place. There will be singing, praying and reading the Bible. Relax with a cuppa before, during and afterwards if you want to! Wowzers and Wows (children's groups) will be meeting too.

\*No Chapel Centre meeting 10 Nov. as we will meet for community observance with St John's Parish Church, Billesdon.

### **Sunny Days** *Fridays 1, 8, 15, 22* *November 10-11.15 am*



\*No session 29 Nov. (set up for P@tch)

A friendly group for parents and carers of young children (0-5 years). Children can play, adults chat and refreshments provided with snacks for the younger ones. For more information and updates see

[www.facebook.com/chapelsunnydays](http://www.facebook.com/chapelsunnydays).

### **Cuppa and Chat** *Thursday 14* *November 10am-noon*

Please come and meet with friends for a relaxing cuppa, chat and cake. Everyone welcome.

For information on any of these activities please contact Brian Boley on 07968 346127 or email [pastor@thechapelcentre.org.uk](mailto:pastor@thechapelcentre.org.uk).

Do you love listening to stories? Hearing about how things pan out and what the stories mean? Perhaps that is why Jesus used stories to teach people about the Kingdom of God. His stories were well crafted and designed to provoke a response from the listeners. They were used by Jesus to invite his listeners to reflect and think through what they mean.

In 'The Word Unleashed' we have just read one of these stories of Jesus, and he finishes it by saying, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

He is saying that the secret to the story is not in the telling but in the listening, and if we want to get the most from the story we need to listen well, reflect and maybe make conclusions. This is what we are trying to do in-person at The Chapel and online. We are noticing things about Jesus and people that we hadn't noticed before.

If you want to catch up with some of this, please have a look at 'The Word



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# Clubs, Institutes, Societies & Schemes

## Billesdon WI

At our meeting on 16 October our speaker was Dave Andrews of Radio Leicester who spoke to us about 'The Bones in the Car Park', finding Richard III here in Leicester.

Quite a few of us met up for lunch at The Ashby Arms during October and enjoyed a very tasty meal.

November's meeting on the 20th will be our AGM, and we hope to make a small craft item too.

We'd love to have some new friends join us. Ring Sylvia on 259 6260 or Lois on 259 6312.

## Billesdon Good Neighbour Scheme

The Billesdon Good Neighbour Scheme (BGNS) provides short-term help (shopping, transportation, IT issues mentoring and more) that complements help already available in the village which is not provided by statutory services.

If you would like assistance or would like to become a Good Neighbour, please ring **07548 621777**.

## The Anthony Cade Billesdon Trust

We are here to help with contributions towards the cost of educational needs, employment expenses or any other unexpected bills. All Billesdon residents, and those attending our primary school, are eligible, so please apply in confidence by email to [anthonycadebillesdontrust@gmail.com](mailto:anthonycadebillesdontrust@gmail.com) or in writing to 8 High Acres, Billesdon LE7 9FB.

## Billesdon Drama Society

Tickets are still available for our upcoming show *Neighbourhood Watch*, a comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. Come along and support your local drama society! See page 15 for full details.

We will also be holding **OPEN AUDITIONS** for our spring play on 28 November at 7.30pm at The Coplow Centre. Why not come along and have a go?

We are always looking for people to help backstage as well, so come along if you are interested. Our spring production will be the female version of *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon. It's a hilarious comedy and will be lots of fun to bring to life!

## Billesdon Badminton

Enjoy a fun and friendly game of badminton on Thursday mornings at The Coplow Centre. We meet between 10.30 and noon. For more details call Toni on 0116 2719467 or Brian on 07546 446249.

## Wednesday Book Club

Billesdon's new book club started December 2023. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in joining us, contact Jane on 07375 930978 or email

[landie\\_lover@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:landie_lover@hotmail.co.uk).



## Billesdon Golf Society

After a horrendous week of rainfall, we were fortunate to have a nice sunny Saturday at Brampton Heath Golf Centre.



The results are as follows:

- Carol Turner Bowl winner of the year with a total of 68 points was Antony Squire
- Senior winner with 26 points: Jo Brown
- Men's winner with 36 points: Antony Squire
- Ladies winner on countback with 26 points: Henrietta Geddes
- Men's nearest the pin: Mick Leonard
- Ladies nearest the pin: Henrietta Geddes
- Men's longest drive: Antony Squire
- Ladies longest drive: Jennifer Recordon
- The team event was won by Terry Edwards, David Tams, David Mitchell and Liz Mitchell with a total of 73 points.

A big thanks to everyone who turned out, to Jo Spence for her help in organising the event and to Mark and Jill at the Queen's Head for the buffet afterwards.

Hope to see you in May for the next one.

*Michael Geddes*, Chairman –

Billesdon Golf Society, 07866 854078  
[michael.geddes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michael.geddes@yahoo.co.uk)

## Billesdon Cricket Club

Billesdon 1st XI played The Langtons in the last match of the 2024 season. Langtons batted first and scored 231-9 in 45 overs. Billesdon started their reply well with Nav Rajput (38) and Tom Miles (37) in good form.



Unfortunately, due to a combination of bad luck and poor shot selection, wickets began to fall and with the score on 159-7 Billesdon were in trouble. However Dharmesh Patel (71 not out) and Tim Harrison (26 not out) batted superbly, sharing an unbroken stand of 70 runs to take Billesdon to the brink of an unlikely victory. In an exciting finish Billesdon lost by just 2 runs and in doing so ended the team's chance of promotion, which would have capped off an excellent season.

A well-attended Family Fun Day was held on a sunny day – 1 September. The main event was teams from the village playing a Kwik Cricket tournament. There was also a barbecue, bouncy castle and a cake sale. This was a very enjoyable day, and plans are already being made for next year's event.

Winners of Billesdon's 100 Club draw for September are as follows:

|     | No: | Name:          |
|-----|-----|----------------|
| £75 | 35  | Melody Elliott |
| £50 | 42  | Gail Mason     |
| £25 | 48  | Sam Blackwell  |

Congratulations to all the winners. The final draw for 2024 will be made at Billesdon's annual dinner and presentation night on Friday 8 November at Scraftoft Golf Club.

Thanks are due to the volunteers, players, sponsors and everyone else who contributed towards Billesdon having another successful year both on and off the field.

*Paul Miles*, 07749 422547  
[billesdoncc@gmail.com](mailto:billesdoncc@gmail.com)



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## Double Celebrations at the Post Office

On Saturday 21 September, people (and a furry friend or two) came together on Church Street for a double celebration of Joan Partridge's wonderful 30 years of service as village post mistress and the 21st anniversary of the establishment of Billesdon Community Postal Service.

As the storm clouds gathered, people enjoyed refreshments



*Storm clouds gather!*

and had fun catching up with Joan, Andy, Jeanette, the posties and the BCPS trustees.

Thunder, lightning and torrential rain didn't dampen the spirits of the hardy party goers, and people came together under the marquee to hear how the founding trustees took over the running of the post office in 2003. The current trustees were delighted to welcome some of the founding trustees, close family members of trustees who sadly are no longer with us, and some of the original donors to



the celebrations. A prize draw that had been open to all post office customers ensured that five lucky people went home especially happy.

The trustees would like to thank everyone who attended on the day and made it such a joyous occasion despite the weather!

*Lucy McCarthy* on behalf of the BCPS trustees





*Our Chairperson - Lucy McCarthy - who was one of the original trustees - giving her speech about the history of the village takeover of the Post Office.*

David Mills



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BILLEDSON DRAMA SOCIETY PRESENTS

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# NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



*By Alan Ayckbourn*

## Coplow Centre Billesdon

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 7:30pm

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Matinee : 2.30pm

Tickets : £10.00. Saturday Gala evening performance £15.00

[www.billesdondrama.co.uk](http://www.billesdondrama.co.uk)

Box office : 0754 381 4558 or find us on Ticket Source at Billesdon Drama Society [www.ticketsource.co.uk/billesdon-drama-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/billesdon-drama-society)

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| 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  |
| 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  |
| 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |

## What's On

So much is happening in November, as shown on these pages.

Upcoming events are on page 18, and page 6 features the full Chapel Centre calendar.

| Day      | Event                                     | Where                      | When          |
|----------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 3        | Choral Evensong                           | St John the Baptist        | 4pm           |
| 9        | Coffee Morning to aid charities           | the Old School             | 10.30-noon    |
| 10       | Remembrance Sunday                        | St John the Baptist        | 10.45am       |
| 10       | December magazine submission deadline     | lynnm19230@gmail.com       | --            |
| 13       | BGNS AGM                                  | The Coplow Centre          | 6.30pm        |
| 13       | BGNS Coffee Morning                       | the Old School             | 10.30-noon    |
| 14       | Houghton on the Hill Foodbank             | Methodist Church, Main St. | 11.30-12.30pm |
| 17       | Songs of Praise                           | St John the Baptist        | 11am          |
| 20       | WI meeting                                | The Chapel Centre          | 2.30pm        |
| 20-23    | <i>Neighbourhood Watch</i>                | The Coplow Centre          | See page 15   |
| 23       | Christmas Coffee Morning                  | Illston Village Hall       | 10am-1pm      |
| 24       | Holy Communion                            | St John the Baptist        | 11am          |
| 27       | BGNS Coffee Morning                       | the Old School             | 10.30-noon    |
| 28       | Houghton on the Hill Foodbank             | Methodist Church, Main St. | 11.30-12.30pm |
| 29-1 Dec | <i>Jingle all the way – The Pantomime</i> | The Chapel Centre          | See page 17   |
| 30       | Christmas Fayre                           | Billesdon Primary School   | noon-4pm      |

### Houghton on the Hill Foodbank

Sessions for Nov. are shown above. Parking is available at the Old Black Horse Inn opposite.

### Remembrance Sunday 10 November

This year, the Remembrance Service will take place in Billesdon Parish Church on Sunday 10 November commencing at 10.45am. Afterwards, the congregation will be invited to gather at the War Memorial for prayers, the laying of wreaths and the reading of the names of the local fallen.

The collection will be donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

With all good wishes,  
*Jim Williamson*, Secretary,  
 Billesdon Parish Church

### BGNS AGM

6.30pm on Wed 13 Nov. in The Coplow Centre lounge. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### Billesdon Drama Society

Alan Ayckbourn's *Neighbourhood Watch* will be performed 20-23 Nov., with a matinee on 23 Nov. Tickets by telephone 0754 381 4558 or online at [ticketsource.co.uk/billesdon-drama-society](http://ticketsource.co.uk/billesdon-drama-society).

### Christmas Coffee Morning

10am-1pm Sat 23 Nov., Illston Village Hall. *Gifts, Plants, Cakes, Crafts, Master Beekeeper, Tombola, Raffle, Bacon Butties and Coffee.*

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\*\*In aid of Alzheimer's Society\*\*

# COFFEE MORNING

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# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 30th November 2024

12pm-4pm

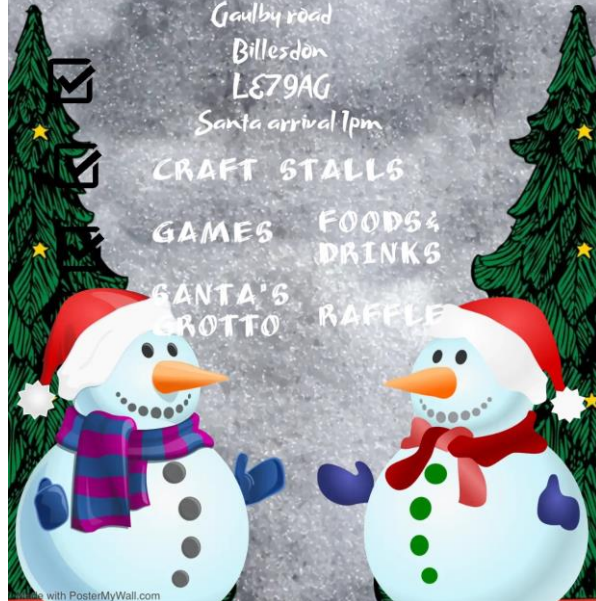
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Santa arrival 1pm

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P@TCH Billesdon present an original fun family pantomime for all – ‘Jingle all the way – the Pantomime’.

With only a few weeks to go until Christmas day, two rival toy shops, Sprouts Toys, run by Dame Fanny Sprout, and MegaToy, led by the evil (B)Russell Sprout, go head-to-head in the battle to sell the latest Christmas toy. With dodgy dealings, magic elves, fairies and a keen-eyed trading standards officer to look out for, who will win the day?

Four performances: Friday 29 Nov. 7pm, Saturday 30 Nov. 2pm & 7pm and Sunday 1 Dec. 2pm – all at The Chapel Centre in Billesdon.

Tickets at [ticketsource.co.uk/patch](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/patch) or give Brian a call/text on 07968 346127.



RATTYPAK HUMOUR

R.K.G

## Save the Date!

### Christmas Lunch

Thursday 12  
December, Christmas  
lunch at The Chapel  
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For information,  
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Boley on 07968  
346127 or  
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## Carols and Cake



**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

**2.00-4.00**

**Billesdon Church**

*Tea, mince pies and cakes.*

*Christmas carols with the church choir from 3.00.*

*Selection of stalls selling Christmas gifts and wreaths.*

*Donations to the charity Toys on the Table, Leicester.*

## Can you help?

We need someone (or two) to deliver this magazine to Vicarage Close and Glebe Close starting the end of January.

If you live nearby, and/or enjoy walking for exercise and are able to help, please contact Hazel Hirst on 07766 662287 or

[hazelhirst@gmail.com](mailto:hazelhirst@gmail.com).

All volunteer deliverers are much appreciated!

Thank you!



# Skeffington Olympics

Skeffington held its very own Olympic games to coincide with the games in Paris. Over 50 locals took part in a number of activities ranging from egg and spoon racing (not yet an official Olympic sport) to Jenga, Croquet and Petanque, a game that the village excels in. The games were held at The



Grange overseen by Bob, Amy and two rescue dogs. Skeffington has formed a small social group to help organise events over the year to get people together for some fun activities and to raise funds for the local church, which also serves as the village hall. Future activities will include



quizzes, Halloween parties, theatre trips and a Christmas party.

Anyone in Skeffington is welcome to attend.

*Bob Thomson*

*This article was meant to go in last month's issue but somehow fell through the cracks! Apologies – Ed*

## SKEFFINGTON

### What's on 2024



*Some fun and games to which the good people of Skeffington are cordially invited*

- **NOV 15 PUB NIGHT : 6 – 10.30PM**  
**AT THE GRANGE**
- **NOV 22 THEATRE TRIP : 8.00PM**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (COPLOW CENTRE)**
- **DEC 1 CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON**
- **DEC 18 CHRISTMAS CAROLS**  
**AT THE CHURCH**

## Billesdon Church Choir

The choir has had a really good year, with good numbers of regulars, a few new members and a wider circle of singers who enjoy joining us for our monthly Choral Evensong, a 45-minute, music-loaded, cathedral-style afternoon service. It's such a joy to



*Matthew at Tewkesbury Abbey*

introduce young people to the choral repertoire, with the response often being, “Wow, this is just what I’ve been looking for.” The music we sing is satisfying, educational and spiritually uplifting. In the words of Lily, who left us for university at the end of September, “I just wanted to say thank you for everything. These past



three years have truly helped me develop as a singer and a person; I’m confident I’ll carry this with me throughout my life. I’ll be back to sing as often as I can!”

Some of our singers, Lily included, have been learning the organ with me, and others are beginning their music theory – to understand the meaning behind the dots – and learning this new language of musical notation comes easily to bright, young minds.

I’m always on the lookout for new singers, and in an age of ever-rising costs, if you know someone who would benefit from the musical education we offer, all for free, please suggest they get in touch. Equally, if you are a competent singer and would enjoy some music-making at the slightly more serious end of things, I’d

love to hear from you. We don't take ourselves too seriously though, but achieve life-enhancing moments musicales, helping to keep our grey matter functioning and feeding our souls with beauty in sound. We practise on Friday evenings 7-8.15 pm in church and sing on a Sunday morning (at 11) or afternoon (at 4). Most services last 45 minutes to an hour.

You, or someone you know, would be very welcome to come and try us out. The Christmas season is the best time of year to start!

*Simon Ainge,*  
Organist and Director of Music,  
Billesdon Church  
[drswaing@gmail.com](mailto:drswaing@gmail.com)

## Fidget Pie (*eat hot or cold*)

Here is a recipe that uses apples in a savoury way and is quite economical.

I have included imperial and metric weights for ingredients (I still use imperial!)



- ½ lb (225 gms) shortcrust pastry
- 1 lb (454 gms) potatoes
- ¾ lb (340 gms) sausage meat
- 4 ozs (113 gms) chopped onions
- 2 large cooking apples
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 beaten egg
- Salt and pepper

1. Line a pie dish with some of the pastry (leave some for the top).
2. Peel and slice the potatoes thinly, and slice the apples.
3. Divide the sausage meat into small pieces.
4. Put all the ingredients, layered, into pastry case. Season well and sprinkle with water. Cover top with pastry.
5. Brush top with beaten egg.
6. Bake at 200°C (400°F) for 50 minutes.

*Jane Andrews*

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# Happy 90th Anniversary Billesdon Drama Society!

Billesdon Drama Society was started 90 years ago (1934) by ladies from the WI. King George V was on the throne, television was in its infancy and a West End theatre seat cost about 2 shillings! No original founder is around today, but I had the pleasure of chatting to two of the Society's Grande Dames, Liz



Deacon (right) and Jo Brown (left). Both joined in the 1960s as teenagers and have been members ever since, making regular appearances on stage. Jo's favourite role was in *Breezblock Park* and Liz enjoyed acting in *Calendar Girls*.

When they joined the Society, it was run by the three Aunties: Phylis (Toon), Grace (Grewcock) and Vi (Day). This formidable trio directed, stage managed and did just about everything else!

Jo and Liz later became involved in directing plays. Jo has fond memories of directing *Calendar Girls* and *'Allo 'Allo* and Liz enjoyed being the director for *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime*.

Until The Coplow Centre opened in 1996, plays were performed in the bijoux village hall. This was a different age when audiences packed the hall

regardless of the play, and a large membership made casting easier.

Cigarette smoking on stage was the norm, as was nervous performers stubbing out in the wings just before making their entrance!

It was not unknown for an actor to slip out to The Greyhound for a swift half before returning just in time for their next scene.

Liz and Jo recalled extravagant costume dramas and lavish sets that drew gasps from the audience.

They remembered the time a 'dead body' on stage was unable to get up and leave at the end of the scene as the curtains had jammed! The unfortunate actor had to lie still until someone backstage wrestled the curtains shut!

Liz and Jo recognise that the Society faces new challenges. We must work harder to persuade people to leave the comfort of their sofa and Netflix box sets to come and watch us. Increasing membership is a priority to ensure we have enough actors and backstage crew to perform high quality plays – no wobbly sets or missed lines for us!

At Billesdon Drama Society we are proud that the Society has flourished for 90 years, and we aim to continue bringing live theatre to our little corner of Leicestershire.

Interested in joining? You would be most welcome, whether you want to act or get involved backstage. Contact me on 07900 52227.

*Sally Cook*



# Thanks, from Iris Youngwood

Thank you so much for supporting me and contributing towards my expedition to Malaysia.

It was an incredible trip and a once in a lifetime opportunity where I saw amazing sights and experienced a different culture.

I visited the Petronas Towers and Batu Caves in the capital Kuala

Lumpur and saw a variety of wildlife in Taman Negara.

However, the highlight was the turtle conservation where I released baby turtles into the sea and patrolled

the beaches to keep the endangered species safe.

I am very grateful to all of you who donated and attended my bake sale.

*Iris*





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# Goadby Gleanings

We are not alone in Goadby having roads disrupted by the very heavy rain at the end of September and into



October. There has been a regular torrent of water flowing, off one field in particular, during heavy rain. On this last occasion, the effect has been very noticeable with

much topsoil carried down and across the road. The response of Leicestershire roads department has been less than helpful! Their comment to this being reported was “such flooding is the responsibility of the landowner or farm contractor”. They

did send out an operative who placed “skid warning signs” at the worst affected road junction! It was, however, left to the initiative of one resident, Clare Shaw, who, womanly, dug gulleys at several points into the verge in an attempt to divert the muddy water into the adjoining ditches: thank you Clare.



Having had little activity in the church during the past nine months suddenly we experienced two events, with a third in October. The Ride and Stride fundraising activity, taking place throughout Leicestershire and Rutland, was on Saturday 14 September. Paula and Uel Sandford nobly stepped in to host the function. The church was open all day and refreshments were offered to all participants who called at their home: The Old School House. Apart from those following the trail of churches, a large contingent of horse riders went through the village on their quite separate journey. They added to the countryside atmosphere.

The following day was the last walk in the series organised by Rev Jonathan Dowman taking in the small parishes in the Launde Benefice. The walk followed the footpath from Goadby, through Rolleston, alongside Cranhill farm and round the rear of Ashlands to cross the fields joining the Illston to Gaulby road finishing in Gaulby Church where we were welcomed with tea and cake.

*Charles Stewart*

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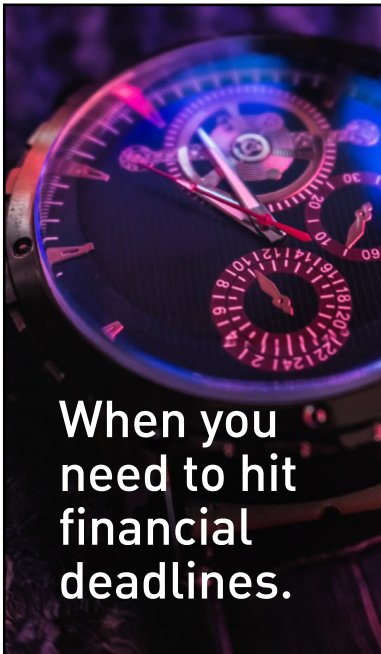


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## Woodland Pool

There was a touch of frost around as I left the house and headed out to the pool. With the meadows recently cut there was little point in scrutinising the grassland, so I headed through the trees along the depot path. I'm not sure who was more surprised, the deer or me, when I looked up to find a Muntjac standing on the path ahead, but by the time I'd retrieved the camera it had melted away into the vegetation.

The log stump where I normally find fungi was bereft of anything except a bit of moss, but elsewhere I discovered a log pile covered in *Coprinellus*



*Micaceus*, or Glistening Inkcap (photo above). Much of it had been eaten, presumably by a Grey Squirrel, an animal that boosts its diet of nuts and seeds with fungi, a nutrient rich food. In the same area I also found a few Dead Man's Fingers, *Xylaria polymorpha*, a dark coloured finger-shaped fungi, poking up through the moss on a dead tree stump. Nearby was another piece of dead wood covered in *Stereum Rugosa*, a crust-like fungus occurring on hardwoods.

Normally first to turn, the maple leaves are beginning to change colour and their seeds can be seen hanging in small clusters between the yellowing leaves. Rosehips, Sloes and Hawthorn berries are a bit thin on the ground but some Black Bryony, twining round hawthorn, was heavily berried. I read that birds supposedly eat the berries but I've never witnessed it.

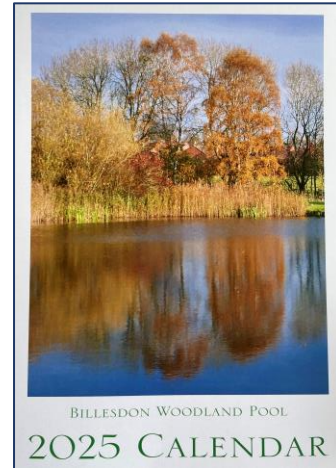
The sun was now out and with it the appearance of insects, mainly flies. Amongst them was a *Myathropa florea* or Common Batman Fly, a yellow and black hoverfly that, according to NatureSpot, "...gets its common name from the dark outline on the thorax which resembles the famous batman symbol". A nice sighting to end a productive hour or two.

Jo Edwards

## A Great Christmas Present

The Billesdon 2025 Calendar is now for sale in the Billesdon Post Office. This year features views of the Woodland Pool as it changes throughout the year.

The price is only £5, and all proceeds are being donated to the Leicestershire and Rutland Woodland Trust.





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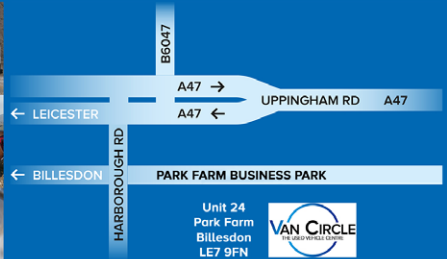
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# Village People #171

## How Are You?

Village People is going off piste this month. The subject this time is – all of us. I'll explain.

Being slightly under time pressure to come up with the goods here this month, I was eyeing the editorial deadline of 10 October when I spotted on the calendar that this was World Mental Health Day.

Of course we are all a lot more aware of mental health issues these days, aren't we? Or are we? I remember years ago when I was a probation officer having to visit people in those forbidding Carlton Hayes and Towers hospitals. On one of those visits I spotted my former sports teacher from primary school days, something of a boyhood hero, who was now sadly a psychiatric in-patient. It seemed he had been shut away from the world, in his own private agony. He looked smaller than I remembered. And sad. So was I.

Thankfully neither of those institutions remains open and mental health issues are dealt with more openly these days, with less stigma attached, but does it go far enough? When we routinely acknowledge someone with 'Hello, how are you?' – do we really want to know? And when they say, 'Fine thank you, how are you?' are we all just playing a superficial game of avoidance? Do we, for instance, know if there is anyone living around us who is not OK? Lonely? Depressed? Bereaved? Prone to anxiety or panic



attacks? And if we're presuming we're talking about just adults here, then it's worth remembering that a recent research project exploring the major concerns of parents identified two very clear problem areas, which were the effects of social media on youngsters and mental health issues. Maybe two things that are connected.

The World Health Organisation is using this October 10th to promote mental health awareness at work. Maybe we should all take their lead and apply that same awareness to life in rural Leicestershire.

And here ends my rant for this month. If you are my next potential subject for Village People, then look out. And look out for others, too.

*Peter Francis*



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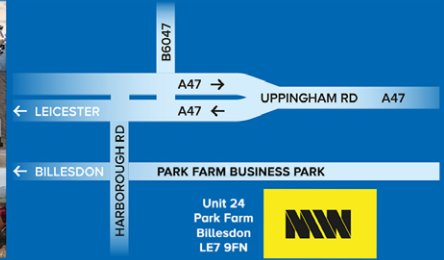
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