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**August 2021**

*By St John the Baptist Church Billesdon*

# **BILLESDON & DISTRICT PARISH NEWS & VIEWS**



**The Churches of Billesdon cum Goadby and Rolleston; Skeffington; with Hungarton and Keyham**  
**For ZOOM services, contact the Administrator – Area Dean & Coplow Benefice: [Julia.unna@leicestercofe.org](mailto:Julia.unna@leicestercofe.org)**  
**Parish Priest:** Rev'd Alison Booker, The Vicarage, Gaulby Road, Billesdon Tel: 0116 259 6321  
**Curate:** Rev'd Rosie Homer, 20a Weare Close, Billesdon LE7 9DY Tel: 0116 259 9517



**BILLEDSON ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

The following services are held by **ZOOM** except Thursday when the church is open 10.30 - 11.30 for private prayer.

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: All Age Worship. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: All Age Holy Communion.

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Launde Deanery

**Churchwardens:** Mr K Evans, 6 High Acres (0116) 259 6438

Mrs A Grindley, 3 Forge Court (0116) 259 6741

**Secretary:** Mr J Williamson (0116) 259 6448

**Treasurer:** Mr D Mills 6 High Acres (0116) 259 6975

07971 833110

(0116) 259 6246

**Until further notice, there will be a ZOOM service at 10.00 am each Sunday and occasional "in person" services which will be advertised in the Church Porch**

**GOADBY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**Sunday Services:** See Church noticeboard

**Churchwardens:** Keith Evans & Andrea Grindley 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday see church porch

**Churchwardens:** Cynthia McLaughlan (0116) 259 5680

**KEYHAM ALL SAINTS**

**Sunday Services:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday see church porch

**Churchwardens:** Richard Windle (0116) 259 5281

Hugh Henderson (0116) 259 5214



**NOSELEY ST. MARY**

**BILLEDSON BAPTIST CHAPEL**

**Sunday Service:** 10.30 Sunday Worship & Wowzers (on ZOOM)

**Contact:** Brian Boley Tel 07485 046000 [billesdonpastor@gmail.com](mailto:billesdonpastor@gmail.com)



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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.

## Ramblings

To “belong” is defined as to be linked to a particular person, group, place, or time by a relationship such as birth, affection, or membership. Likewise to belong to this community is a state of mind where we anticipate certain things in return for certain things and making our existence comfortable. At a community level this is mostly paying council tax but some of us also give of our time, volunteering and in return we feel a certain ownership and belonging to the community.

I constantly discover people within our community who quietly go about voluntary work and it makes me wonder how we went about things before this began? When did it begin...? Does anyone recall the “Big Society” concept introduced in 2010, where a volunteer element of society would take up previously paid roles and in exchange gain influence in decision making.

The think tank Civil Exchange who have been formed to link community and government have concluded that the concept of Big Society has failed.

Firstly because society feels alienation and disenchantment with the political system and the Public Services offer less and are less accountable than ever.

Then, the state has not transferred powers as promised, thus volunteers who expected influence are left managing Paper Tigers with no resources, liability for the failure of the organisation and little influence.

This results in difficulty recruiting volunteers resulting in more pressure on remaining volunteers to manage with less and who in turn resign citing the pressure of the role.

Thirdly, communities in most need of Public Services, gain the least least from the



‘Big Society’ with fewer volunteers. Next, the government has failed to make a strong partnership with the voluntary sector, the very essence of the concept and essential for Big Society to have any meaning. Finally the concept of Big Society required Corporate funding to fill the place of state funding and it hasn't done so.

Its not all bad news. The report adds that the voluntary sector remains robust and that younger people are becoming increasingly involved.

It begs the question of you? What can you do? Please consider volunteering in some capacity within your community if you haven't already done so. Arguably it will provide you with a greater sense of belonging. If you have, I would like to add my thanks for your efforts.

Changing the subject... recent events have made me aware of the role gossip plays in our community. Gossip is deemed to be sharing unconfirmed information about people not present. It isn't by definition negative but the negative gossip is what I speak of.....

Gossip is the domain of those whose lives are boring and need titillation. For the gossip-er, who gains momentary status within the group as reward, shares potentially hurtful information about a victim.

The information is often preceded with “Don't tell anyone..” allowing the gossip-er an exemption from blame, the information is seldom accurate or bound by the conventions of truth because unless gossip is titillating it doesn't excite the lives of the boring listener. However the down side for the gossip-er is that the audience become less trusting of them.

Before you gossip, think first of the harm you might do yourself and the victim.

**Richard Walkden**

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

As you read this the events of the Olympics will be well underway and the Paralympics still to come, there will be much preparation for the ceremonies as well as the sport itself – although of course this year it will be very different with no spectators.



As I write this it is still July and I don't know what exactly the 19th will bring for us as Churches, we have done all we can in unique circumstances but it is hard to plan ahead with any level of certainty.

Still I am grateful that I serve village communities where people 'pull together' and where there has been so much support and generosity and for me as Vicar. I want to do all that I can to provide a place for Worship and Celebration as well as the marking of sorrowful events.

We are hoping that from September we might be able to find a new way forward with our new group of churches, 9 village churches, which will mean regular communion services but also other chances to gather such as Compline or Songs of Praise services... as soon as we are allowed to sing! I am looking forward to Weddings and Christenings both beginning to be booked in now, some weddings delayed others just booked recently – it will be a delight to celebrate with people again.

I am glad our athletes for the Olympic and Paralympics will be able to compete in Tokyo and fulfil their potential,

we hope, after all the preparation. We as a church have a less demanding task but we continue to prepare and be ready when the restrictions lift.

I will also be having a little time away at some point when Revd Rosie returns from her secondment as a Hospital Chaplain – something we are all excited to hear about and no doubt it has been challenging as well as fulfilling I hope.

So enjoy whatever you are doing over the summer whether it is your own challenge and adventure, a little time away, some well deserved rest and relaxation or work it all makes for a life well lived.

### **Rev'd Alison**

Services to attend in person...

**1<sup>st</sup> August:**  
9am Hungarton,  
11am Billesdon

**8<sup>th</sup> August:**  
11am Billesdon

**15<sup>th</sup> August:**  
9am Skeffington

**22<sup>nd</sup> August:**  
11am Keyham,  
6pm Gaulby

### **Goadby Gleanings**

Have some sympathy for your correspondents this month! What with golf, rugby and cricket on television all day, not to mention football and tennis, we have had very little free time to be out and about collecting gems of wisdom for the B & D, P N & V!

It is with some pride that we note the achievement of two tennis players with a connection to Leicestershire as well as the contribution of Leicester City's goalkeeper in the Danish team.



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There is no doubt that the sporting achievements of all has raised the spirits of all communities that have been suppressed by the coronavirus pandemic.

While we have celebrated with the sports men and women, on the football field, there has been an element of triumphalism. This has been seen as a lack of respect for the defeated team which is sad. It is to be hoped that the younger generations will be encouraged to show more concern for their opponents particularly in major team events.

Have you noticed how prolific the growth has been in gardens and hedgerows? Despite the cold spring when many hardy shrubs and plants were frosted, they have all come away.



The roses, which had early growth damaged by the frost and snow in March and April have burst into bloom and are better than ever. The roadside hedges have bushed out and many road signs are now obscured, as are sharp corners creating dangerous blind spots. Our attempts to create a wild-flower meadow in the churchyard has partly succeeded. However, the grasses are smothering many wild flowers reducing the overall affect. Still, we are making progress.



**Charles Stewart.**

## Chair of Billesdon Parish Council

This month the emphasis is on the area along the Gaulby Road, around the School and onwards past the Woodland Pool area.



Firstly, the longstanding traffic issues caused outside the school, particularly at the start of the day, and when the children leave.

There have been issues highlighted of motorists speeding, and more recently, mounting the pavement to squeeze by. Both issues involving potential risk to children attending or leaving.

The 20mph flashing lights installed a few years ago give advancing motorists plenty of notice of the school, and is about all that can be done, (except for sleeping policeman speed bumps, which the Village voted against during the Neighbourhood Plan process) so we all need to be aware of the risks when driving into the village, or out of it.

Secondly, the problem with the occasional person driving on the pavement to save time by squeezing past is more difficult. We have contacted Harborough District Council roads department (they actually came and measured the pavement) to see if some form of bollards could be installed on the pavement outside the school to discourage this. Unfortunately, the pavement is not wide enough to accommodate any sort of bollard, while allowing enough space for a push chair to pass on the pavement that is left. That seems to be the end of an attempt to minimise this problem. Cont....

Thirdly, a more disturbing report of pornographic material (A4 size pages) being found on the roadside, along the Gaulby Road. (there are also incidents reported in Loddington of similar material.) The theory is that it has been thrown out of a passing vehicle and as such constitutes an offence (the littering from vehicles) and carries a penalty notice for the vehicle owner.

The material has been reported to the Police and Harborough District Council. Any such material should be reported to the Police via the 101 telephone service and the online reporting service for the Police. The School remain concerned about the material entering the hands of the children as they have a safeguarding duty to all the pupils. Please report any incident to the Police as they are trying to build up enough evidence to determine who is responsible.

### **Simon Ford**

#### **Billesdon Baptist Chapel**

As many of you would have noticed – work has started on the Chapel building!

After years of praying, thinking and planning, the development work started on Monday 21 June. The first couple of weeks are the most difficult for me as we see more destruction than construction. On our regular video logs (have a look at them on Instagram and Facebook)

I've mentioned Solomon, a master builder from the bible, a couple times. He had lots of wisdom to share and he wrote about the seasons of life in a well-known piece (which became a 60s hit for The Byrds!) which included: "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven...A time to tear down and a time to build up".

As I am writing this we are moving from the destruction to the construction stage



at the Chapel, but we can't have the building up unless we have had the tearing down, development work demands both. But Solomon wasn't just writing about construction projects, I think he was really focussing on life - and what does this mean for us? If we want to develop as individuals, to be the best version of ourselves, what can we do? Consider what needs to be torn down in our lives and what needs to be built up - especially as we move out of lockdown. Makes you think, doesn't it?

### Sunday Worship

Coplow Centre, Billesdon at 10.30 a.m. whilst the Chapel building is redeveloped. These will be all age worship services throughout August and everyone is most welcome. It is the intention to run Zoom alongside so you can join in using that too.

### Sunny Days

We are on a summer break during August but 'save the date' for our September restart of Sunny Days on Friday 3 September at the Coplow Centre, Billesdon 10.00 – 11.15 a.m. Please note the change of day until we return to the Chapel. Parents/carers and pre-school age children welcomed for a friendly get together with play and craft for the children and refreshments for everyone.

Keep in touch via Facebook page Sunny Days and email billesdon-sunnydays@gmail.com

### Home Group

Our online group meeting via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. This a great opportunity to encourage one another and pray. If you want the details of how to join us via phone or internet let us know. Contact Brian Boley, 07845 046000, billesdonpastor@gmail.com

### **Brian Boley**



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## **Billesdon Church of England Primary School**

We are delighted to announce that Mrs. Lisa Willcocks has been appointed to the position of Head Teacher at our school, having been a member of the Senior Leadership Team for the last three years and having steered the school through the unprecedented challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic during the last 16 months. Mrs Willcocks joined Billesdon school in 2011 following 12 years at Church Langton Church of England (VA) school having undertaken a variety of roles and which culminated in a first class degree in Learning and Teaching and a teaching role. She also has extensive managerial experience acquired outside of education.

Many of you will already know Mrs Willcocks either as a parent, through involvement with community activities, the church or local charities and will wish to join with the Governing Body in wishing her every success in her new role.

## **Woodland Pool**

This month I decided to concentrate on exploring the wood to the left of the main path, explore being the operative word as I fought my way through the nettles, brambles, goosegrass and other foliage which hung over and concealed the path.



From the corner of my eye I caught sight of a tiny flutter which, when it landed on a flowerhead, turned out to be a micro- moth, less than 10mm in size. 1,850 species of micro-moths have been recorded in the UK, but although I looked online as well as through my ID guides, it was impossible to tell which species this was.

The umbellifers were generally proving popular to insects, and by the time I exited the wood back on to the main path, I'd spotted several species of yellow and black hover-flies along with a Greenbottle fly.

There was also a beetle that I didn't recognise, but after putting it forward on the Insect F.B page I use I was told it was the *Grypocorus stysi* bug and not a beetle at all. So another new species for me, albeit one with a Latin name. (Photos on Woodland Pool F.B page)

Damsel and dragonflies were still actively hunting and mating over and around the pool, but this year I found harder to get near enough for closeup



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Continued from Page 11

What I was able to photograph however was a stem of Flowering-rush, a perennial with pink flowers that grows in the margins of fresh water.

I also spotted a small number of butterflies, mainly Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, and possibly one of the Skippers, amongst the grasses and flowers in both meadows, but I felt that overall numbers were down compared with what I'd been seeing this last couple of years.

It will be interesting to see the results of the up and coming Big Butterfly Count, which this year runs from 16th July - 8th August.

**Jo Edwards**



### **Billesdon WI**

Early in June, two of our Members, Chris and Lois, joined the NFWI Annual Meeting, which was of course on Zoom, from The Royal Society of Arts in London.

There were several very good Speakers, including the Countess of Wessex, Cressida Dick and Baroness Hale.

Not quite as good as actually going to our Annual Meeting, as both Chris and Lois have done in the past, but well worth spending several hours in front of a computer screen.

At our Billesdon meeting in June, PC

Robert Cross spoke to us, on Zoom, about rural policing. The most important message he left with us, was that all crimes should be reported to the Police, even the most minor ones.

If we don't let them know what is happening in our village, they will not be able to help us.

We will not be having a Members Meeting in July, so our next get together will be for afternoon tea at Buttercups on August 18th.

This will be our first "face to face" for a very long time! Then in September we re-start our Meetings at the Coplow, third Wednesday, in the afternoon. All new Members very welcome.



**Lois Parker**

# LEICESTERSHIRE

## FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

Hello everyone, welcome back to Billesdon Fire stations monthly update. We've had a steady month this month with calls.

We have attended a farm accident, where a staff member had a broom handle which had penetrated their thigh. We assisted the ambulance crew by packaging the foreign object so it could be safely removed at the hospital.

Also while conducting home safety checks in the Illston area, we came across a pickup with its engine compartment giving off smoke. On closer inspection we found a bird's nest which was near the engine on fire.

Luckily it was extinguished before it set the truck on fire!

Following our last recruitment campaign, we have two who are going through the process.

We are still actively recruiting and the portal to apply will be opening again very soon.

Over to CM Hurst,

Hi my name is David Hurst and I'm the Crew Manager at Billesdon station, I joined the Fire Service in 2006 at Syston fire station which was on call. I then transferred over to full time, where I am currently at Eastern station as a temporary crew manager. I help run Billesdon station along with the watch manager



which involves a wide range of duties, for example, Training, Risk within the Billesdon area, home safety checks. I love my job, it's very rewarding and I work with a lot of great people and we also socialise outside of work.

In my spare time I like to play golf which I do for the fire service golf section, go on walks, go to watch my son play rugby and look after my granddaughter.

Water Safety:

Around 320 people drown in the UK every year and thousands more suffer injury, some life changing, through near-drowning experiences. Evidence shows that 44% of drowning fatalities happen to people who had no intention of entering the water. This is a stark reminder that it isn't just traditional water users who get into danger.

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5. Only then, call for help or swim to safety

Next month I will talk to you about Road safety and I will introduce you to Firefighter Brewer.

Stay Safe!

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## Allan Partridge's Memorial Service



*On: Friday 13th August , 2pm*  
*At: Billesdon St John the Baptist Church*

Please join Joan & family in celebrating Allan's life & sharing our special memories.

## Billesdon Bin Request

Dear Sindy,

I wonder if you could chase this up as it has now been nearly 3 months and we have had no response from you so we can only assume you have not heard from John.

As you know the community signed a petition to request the council look into the situation .It was promoted in the local district magazine and I'm sure they would welcome a reply and follow up.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Regards

Sarah, Simon and Skyler Hoare

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The advertisement features a dark red background with a white dashed border at the top. On the left is a circular logo for 'WOOD FIRED PIZZA SHACK' with 'QUALITY & SERVICE' written in a semi-circle below it. The logo contains icons of various pizza toppings. In the center is a photograph of the pizza shack's service counter, where two staff members are working. The counter has a blue cloth and a 'PIZZA SHACK' sign above it. On the right side, the word 'HIRE' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, 'Us' is written in a white cursive font, followed by a white telephone handset icon. At the bottom right, the phone number '07946537305' is displayed in white.



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We offer advice on how to prevent fires and what to do in the event of a fire, and in some cases we may fit free smoke alarms if required.

If you would like to request a Home Safety Check or to find out more, make contact through Facebook or pop into the station

We have just finished our latest recruitment campaign for retained firefighters for the station.

My own basic firefighter training is still fresh in my mind and I loved every minute of it.

The skills that I learnt and can also apply to my everyday life are invaluable: first aid, fire safety at home and at work, even knots and lines that come in useful when I'm camping!

We will be recruiting again later this year and possibly next year as well. Keep an eye out for the adverts around the village and in the Parish Newsletter.

If you live within 6 minutes of the station and are interested in a challenging but rewarding career then On Call Firefighting could be for you! If you see me around the village please do feel free to say hello.

I'm always happy to stop and chat and answer any questions that you may have about the Fire Station or joining the Fire Service.

Next month I will talk to you about our



open water inspections and water safety and I will introduce you to Crew Manager Hurst. Stay Safe!

### People coming and going

My husband Joseph and I and our little Welsh terrier, Olive have just moved into the village. We both grew up in Leicestershire but have been living in London for the past 9 years.

We felt a pull to come 'back home' earlier this year, to be closer to family and to enjoy a lot more space and greenery. Knowing absolutely nothing about Billesdon though, we found our new home and instantly fell in love with it!





We are, in our Parish fur friendly! Our four legged friends bring so much enjoyment and comfort to our lives.

A lot of us are also keen walkers appreciating the beautiful countryside that surrounds us.

For these reasons, please bear in mind that the Dogs Trust has warned that up to 40,000 dogs could be abandoned and dumped due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bags, suitcases and cardboard boxes are being used to disguise this appalling behaviour. Please when out keep an eye on our rural area in hedges, ditches, gateways and fields.

We are the victims of persistent fly tipping, however, the animals are the innocent victims in dog tipping.

### Rachel Kind B&PN&V Cartoonist

Dear Editor,

I wanted to tell you about my summer so far. Summer holidays are here and I have had lots of fun.

We have lots of flowers in our garden and we love to watch the bees go in and out to collect their nectar.. In my

own time I have painted a bee on a piece of recycled wood.

I have been at an art class at the Coplow centre and done some exciting drawing and am looking forward to doing street art with brain art.



I have had the best week with Miss Jazz at 'Move it Shake it' summer camp.

We have done lots of dancing and drama. We had a bouncy castle and made build a bears.

Friday we are doing some acrobatics and dancing a show about Peter Pan. Thank you to Miss Jazz and Big G.

Here are some pictures.

Love Skyler



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## **Billesdon Cricket Club**

Market Harborough 1st XI were the visitors to Coplow Lane on 5th June and batted first. Billesdon restricted the visitors to 150 all out in 34 overs with Luke Mitchell (4-40) and James Hunt the (4-50) the pick of the bowlers. In reply

Billesdon started well but as in several other games suffered a middle order collapse and ended a very close game just 13 runs short of victory.

The following week at Shepshed saw a much improved batting performance with Billesdon scoring 230 for 9 in 45 overs. This was a good total and Shepshed were never in contention being bowled out for 137 runs. This was again a good bowling display helped by some excellent fielding as Billesdon recorded a superb win.

The inconsistent batting returned a week at home to Ibstock with Billesdon posting just 125-9 in 45 overs. However tremendous bowling from James Hunt, who took 4 wickets for just 14 runs in 12 overs, helped bring Billesdon back into the game but the visitors eventually won another close game with just 3 wickets in hand.

The final game of the month was at Earl Shilton with the home side posting 202 for 9 in 45 overs. In contrast to some of the other games so far this season



Billesdon batted very well to score the runs required and came away with a well deserved 5 wicket win.

The platform for this win was a 127 run partnership between brothers Ben and Tom Miles. Ben eventually scored 64 runs, his first half century for the 1st XI, and Tom a very quick 83.

The 2nd XI had a difficult month beating Market Harborough 2nd XI but then failing to win any of the remaining games during the month although were involved in a very close game at home to Illston Abbey who won by just 1 wicket in the final over.

Billesdon Under 13 team had some great games during June beating Soar Valley by 4 wickets and Melton Mowbray.

The only setback was at Sileby where the team played very well with the home winning the game with 3 wickets remaining in an excellent game of cricket.

The Billesdon Under 10 kwik cricket team have also been playing games winning one of the three games played at Frisby and Rotherby.

Thursday night junior coaching sessions (6pm at Coplow Lane) continue

throughout the summer and new players of all ages and ability are always welcome.

Paul Miles Mob: 07749 422547

## **John Parsons... from the Nurseries!**

On the nurseries the busiest time of year is behind us now and preparations are well under way for our autumn & winter crops. We take note of how all the different varieties we grow have performed to work out which ones to grow more of and which ones to cut back on.



The big growth area (excuse the pun!) has been perennials which gain in popularity all the time, years ago we would only have them available in the spring and autumn where as now we are potting pretty much year round to keep a good display of interesting varieties on the sales benches.

Our cyclamen, hellebores and early pansie/viola crops have all been potted up and are growing on well now.

It's a little early to be thinking about Christmas I know but if you you'd like a bowl of heavily scented hyacinths for the festive period now is the time to plant your "prepared" bulbs. Prepared means the bulbs have been placed in a cold store to trick them into thinking they have had a winter already and will bloom much earlier given the right temperatures.

Plant them up in a bowl or pot so the top part of the bulb is above the compost usually three in a 15cm bowl and place outside water and cover with a layer of fine grit or compost.

In November they will be ready to bring inside, if they grow too fast and look like they will flower too soon place them outside to slow their progress and you can bring them back in as required. Also when they have finished flowering don't throw them away, cut back the flower stems and plant them outside.

Out in the garden, Continue to dead head and liquid feed flowering plants. Keep camellias/rhododendrons well watered to help the buds form for next year's flowering. Avoid using weed treatments on lawns, they will work better in the autumn when it's cooler and damper.

## **John.**

Just a thought



## **My Kitchen Window**

I am on Leicester Road and my first vision is the bank it is delightful with flowers (don't ask what) and high greenery,

Ah here are two friends going for their walk, nearby is a dog + owner who knows exactly where he is going, every morning, same time, same place he goes and has a pee, satisfaction shows.

Now a lovely grey dog + owner, both go very slowly but talk to each other, not like one owner who I have never seen without talking on his phone, he must be busy but I don't think the dog is happy.

Now here is a dog which wants to go everywhere, jumping, running, peeing and nosing around, going round and round the owner, hope they make it..

Next an owner with 2/3 dogs one of which runs free, straight across the road, hope a car does not come quick..

Lastly a lovely running dog with owner who I think wanted to make the dog out of breath as he had the instrument which throws the ball, great for both.

Well I've finished the washing up so the day begins.

**Daphne Bates**



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Tiddlywinks is an OFSTED registered pre-school that provides care for children aged 2 to 5 years. The group is run by Nicola Merry-Taylor and Hannah Williamson which both hold a NVO level 3 in Childcare and Education and is continuously attended different training sessions to increase her knowledge and qualifications in child care.

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## Article 10: Door Security

After last month's article on keeping the windows on your house safer, it is only fair that we also offer some advice on maintaining the security of doors too! As previously mentioned, the doors and windows are the weak points to any property, so it is important that they are kept secure.

Believe it or not, the front door to your home could tell any potential burglar a lot about you and the security of your home, so it is important to put across a good first impression! We have found, the most secure type of door you can currently get is a composite door, but other types of doors can also be really effective against breaking and entering. Wooden doors are really sturdy, but can also shrink and warp with the weather conditions. PVC doors are good, as they have multi-point locking systems on, making them more secure, but are less sturdy than their wooden counterparts. Composite doors combine the best of both in the door security world. But wait! Whilst we recognise these types of doors are the most secure, there are additions to all doors which can be made, to increase their security and to keep you and your properties safe, without the huge pay-out.

It is worth keeping your doors locked at all times and something that sounds so small, can honestly make all of the difference! Having a door chain or door bar on your door is also beneficial, meaning you can open the door without opening it fully, which could give any potential intruder the opportunity to barge past you into the house. It also might be worth looking into a door viewer, so you can see who is at your door, without actually having to open it. If you have a doorbell camera, as mentioned in Article 8, this may be another alternative to viewing who is at your door safely, if you have a smartphone and a internet connection.

You may also consider a letterbox diverter, or letterbox catches, which will help prevent attempts to open the door- for example, it may not be the best idea to leave your keys in the door, or that very conveniently placed pot close to your door, which holds all of your keys, (I admit it, I used to have one too!), where a hand or implement could be reached through to retrieve these, to gain access to your home.

We also have a variety of door alarms which can be used to that can be attached to the door handle or the door itself, which sets off an alarm, if someone attempts to open or force the door- if you would like any of these, please get in touch!

**Georgie Greensmith and Al Cook**

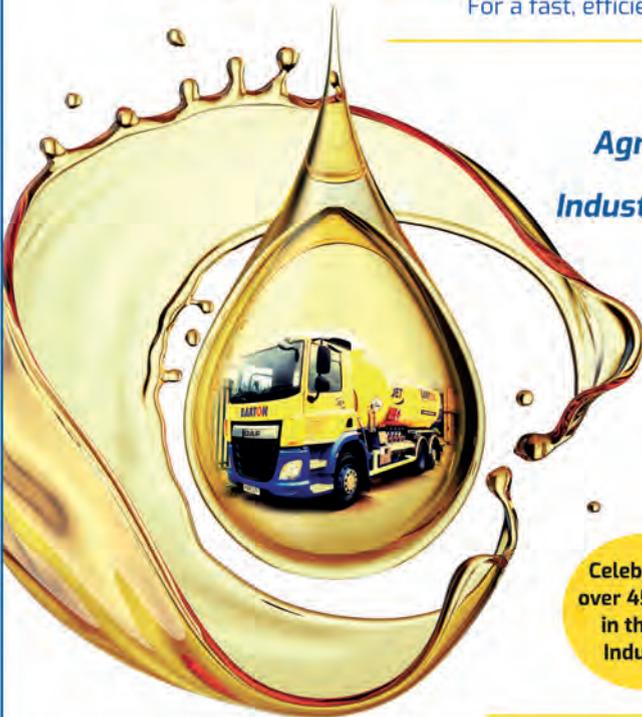
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## Village People no. 131

Charles Bowers

So - the Phantom Carpenter of Billesdon. For those of you who don't know, Charles is the mystery helper who under the cloak of anonymity is known to have repaired a seat in the Woodland Pool area, taken down and replaced the odd direction sign in Billesdon and relocated church pews in Skeffington. His cover is blown. You might say I've thrown a spanner in the works. (See what I did there?)

Let's stick with that for starters. The spanner I mean. Charles worked for many years as a woodwork teacher at Linwood School and then Soar Valley College. It was during a one year secondment to Lanchester College that he was given a project to recreate a familiar object in wood. Charles chose a spanner, and as you can see it was no mere wrench but an adjustable spanner. He took it off display on his wall to show me. It is not only a beautifully crafted and accurate work of art in mahogany but it is in full mechanical working order, wooden spindle and all. It's quite something.

Charles' dad was a joiner / builder whom Charles would help out in his spare time, and so got the woodworking bug there. He left school near Newcastle under Lyme with his three A levels and took a teacher training course at Shoreditch College in Surrey with woodwork / metalwork as a component part. He returned to Staffordshire (and his beloved Stoke City – Stanley Matthews et al) looking for jobs and then moved to the Linwood post in Leicester. He was one of those teachers who gave up their Saturday mornings to run a school football team and he was at a school with a fine football heritage under head teacher

Jack Curtis. Charles remembers one game with a first year team who played City of Leicester School with Gary Lineker leading their line. 1-1 draw. Lineker got theirs.

He bought his first house jointly with a friend as it was cheaper than renting and this was to prove the start of a sequence of renovating and extending properties. He tells me he opted for a career in teaching rather than building on the advice of his dad who warned him off a lifetime of digging out footings. It did become his spare time preoccupation though, blending design ideas with his own prodigious joinery skills.

The Billesdon house was bought from the County Council in 1987 in a practically derelict state. It took four years work, including living upstairs while it progressed. It now has all the ambience of a traditional country cottage abounding in impressive wooden detail.

He started bell-ringing ten years ago and has completed several woodwork projects in the bell chamber and has refurbished the church sign. He married Carol in 1994 and became her daughter's nominated handyman, where he tells me he is on his seventh tree stump at the moment. Wood again! He started playing golf at the age of twenty eight. So does he find time for that now, with so many other calls on his time? Oh yes. Twice a week at Market Harborough. Clearly a priority.

Peter Francis



## Planning Applications

**Works to trees (fell)** 4 Gaulby Road Billesdon Leicestershire LE7 9AF Ref. No: 21/01297/TCA | Received: Wed 14 Jul 2021 | Validated: Wed 14 Jul 2021 | Status: Pending Consideration

**Substitution of house-type plot 8 of 20/00307/VAC in relation to single storey side extension** Cheviot House 16 Rolleston Road Billesdon Leicestershire LE7 9AA Ref. No: 21/01184/FUL | Received: Mon 28 Jun 2021 | Validated: Mon 28 Jun 2021 | Status: Pending Consideration

**Works to trees** 50 Church Street Billesdon Leicestershire LE7 9AE Ref. No: 21/01110/TCA | Received: Wed 16 Jun 2021 | Validated: Wed 16 Jun 2021 | Status: Pending Decision

Change of use of land to residential and erection of a domestic annexe and a four bay garage building with first floor

The Cottage 1A Brook Lane Billesdon Leicestershire LE7 9AB Ref. No: 21/01111/FUL | Received: Wed 16 Jun 2021 | Validated: Wed 16 Jun 2021 | Status: Pending Consideration

**Work to trees (fell)** 1 Uppingham Road Billesdon Leicestershire LE7 9AR Ref. No: 21/01011/TCA | Received: Fri 28 May 2021 | Validated: Fri 28 May 2021 | Status: Application Permitted

## STOP PRESS

### **Cancellation of Legends of Swing event at the Coplow Centre**

The above event was originally scheduled for May 2020 but was deferred to this year because of Covid-19 concerns. We had hoped to have re-arranged it for September/October but given current high infection case numbers we have decided to cancel the event (hopefully we can arrange for 2022!!). Although naturally disappointed, we hope that those who had bought tickets in advance will understand our decision.

We will be in touch with all ticket holders to refund their money as soon as possible.

The Coplow committee looks forward to a time when we can realistically begin again to put on these kind of events, hopefully in the not too distant future.

**Paul Collins (Chairman) On Behalf of The Coplow Centre Committee**

## Letters

**Spirit at Play** (Illston on the Hill) has a place for one horse to come and stay as a boarder. We are offering the boarding as a fund raising project to help the organisation get back to working with the people who so badly need us to help them. All the money paid for boarding goes to Spirit at Play which is a charity dedicated to helping autistic and troubled children through equine therapy. We have a yard where the horses live naturally as a herd, with open shelters and fields. For more information please call Judith Edwards on 07904 053899.

Thank you and regards,  
Ruth Kirk.

Dear Ed, do we have any Community Police Officers 'attached' to our village, or do the Crime Reduction Officers double up as the same ? Whichever the case do we have a contact name and telephone number?

Dear Contributor

I have done a little research into the issue raised. I think I have some info but I am happy to be corrected by anyone who knows better or more.. We are in the Police district of Harborough North. This is an incredibly large area (See Map)

Our local Policing Team consists of the following;

PCSO Steve Adams, PCSO Tim Harwood, PCSO Matt Kiff, Inspector Jim Purdie, Police Sergeant Pete Jelbert, Police Constable Andy Cooper and Police Constable Steve Winn.

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