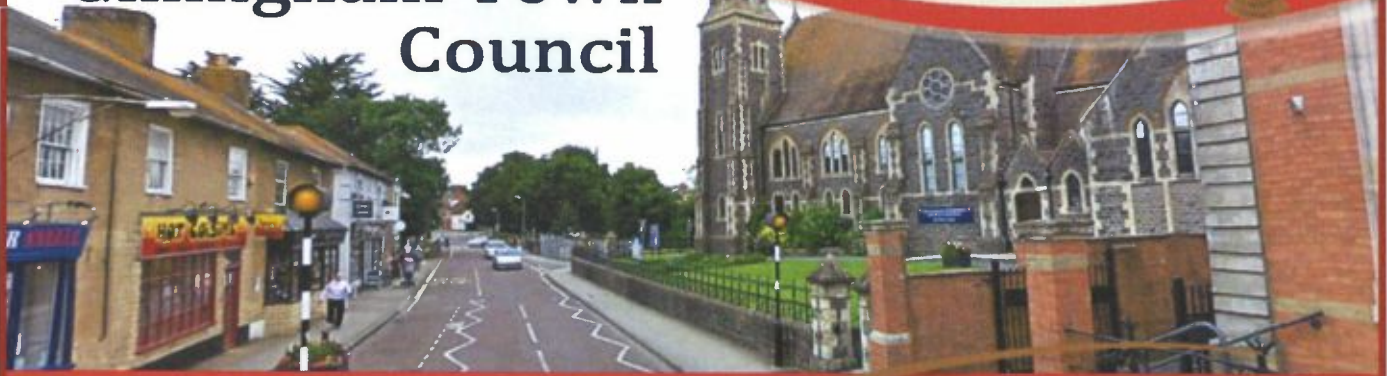


# Gillingham Town Council

Issue 19



March 2018

## Quarterly News

### Gillingham Town Council

**Address:** Town Hall, School Rd, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4QR

**Telephone:** 01747 823588

**Email:** [GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](mailto:GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](http://www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk)

**Town Clerk:** Mrs Sylvia Dobie

**Deputy Clerk:** Mrs Clare Ratcliffe

**Customer Service Officer:** Mrs Julie Hawkins

**Customer Service Officer:** Mrs Jill Ezzard

### Meetings

**General Purposes:** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month

**Planning Committee:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month

**Policy and Resources:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month

**Full Council:** 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month

Please visit the Town Council website

[www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](http://www.gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk)

If you have an event you would like to publicize in Gillingham we can add it to our Events Calendar. Email your details to us at the address above.



### 3 New Automated External Defibrillators in Gillingham

Funding received from Southern Electric Power Distribution's (SEPD) Resilient Communities Fund has enabled Gillingham Town Council to purchase 3 Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for Gillingham.



Steve McKenzie SWAST, Cllr Paul Harris, Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout, Mayor of Gillingham, Trina Paterson SWAST, Richard Francis and John Westbrook from Gillingham Fire Station.

Until now, Gillingham has only had one 24-hour accessible defibrillator in the Town, outside the Freemasons Hall in Station Road. The 3 new heated storage units will be located at the following locations:

**Town Hall, School Road Gillingham  
SP8 4QR**

**The Electric Centre, Unit 6-8 Kingsmead  
Business Park, Gillingham SP8 5JG**

**Gillingham Fire Station, Peacemarsh,  
Gillingham, SP8 4HB.**

Continued from page 1

An agreement has been signed with South Western Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST) to provide Gillingham with 3 AED's. The ambulance service will be responsible for servicing the equipment, updating the software and replacing defibrillator electrodes, batteries and any other disposables provided. The SWAS Trust's Community Responder Department will also provide support on any welfare issues that may arise, through the incidents where an AED has been used.

Gillingham Town Council and the South Western Ambulance Service Trust will host a Defibrillator Awareness Session on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in Gillingham Bowling Club, School Lane, Gillingham. The Session will last an hour and will cover how to use a defibrillator, how to do CPR and what the difference is between a heart attack and a cardiac arrest. If you would like to attend please contact the Town Hall, via telephone 01747 823588 or email [GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](mailto:GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk).



AED located at the side entrance to Gillingham Town Hall, next to the car park.

The Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout said "Three additional 24 hour accessible defibrillators is great news for Gillingham and their location at the north, south and middle of the town will give good coverage, in the event of an emergency. The Town Council is grateful to The Electric Centre and Gillingham Fire Station for allowing the use of their buildings. Defibrillators are not so scary to use as you might think and can make the difference between life and death. I urge anyone interested in how defibrillators work to book a place at the Defibrillator Awareness Session in April and in the meantime, familiarise yourselves with the defibrillator location closest to you.'

This is the second grant Gillingham Town Council has been awarded from SEPD, who set up the fund to support communities, to improve local resilience for future emergencies. The 2016 SEPD grant, resulted in the provision of a significant amount of equipment to be used in support of a natural disaster and other events within the town boundary.

AED located at the Electric Centre Kingsmead Business Park.



## Defibrillator Awareness Session

On **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018**, Gillingham Town Council and South West Ambulance Service are hosting a Defibrillator Awareness Session at **Gillingham Bowling Club**, School Road, Gillingham SP8 4QR.

**Commencing at 7.00pm**

This hour-long session will cover:  
How to use the defibrillator, how to do CPR  
The difference between a heart attack and a cardiac arrest

If you would like to attend please contact:  
Mrs Jill Ezzard at Gillingham Town Council  
Telephone: 01747 823588 or  
Email: [GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk](mailto:GTC@gillinghamdorset-tc.gov.uk)

**NHS**  
South Western  
Ambulance Service  
NHS Foundation Trust



## Cemetery Chapel

Repairs to the Cemetery Chapel roof have recently taken place.

Gillingham cemetery was opened in 1890 and approximately 4000 people are buried there.



The cemetery and it's chapel are owned and managed by Gillingham Town Council.

## Christmas Story Competition



Following the Mayor of Gillingham's Christmas Story Competition in December, Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout invited the entrants to a fun afternoon in Gillingham Library. Local actress Pippa Hayward, beautifully read all their stories to everyone present, after which the children received a certificate and book token, followed by an afternoon tea. Those children who couldn't make the event received their award in school.

### Tribute to David Wathen



Mr David Wathen became Akala of the local Cub Pack in the 1970s and was well known as 'Hiawatha' by all the local Cubs. With the help of his wife, Brenda (known as Many Moons), they set up Gillingham's first Beaver Colony.

Dave, as he was affectionately known, first pledged allegiance to Crown and Town as Gillingham's Town Crier over thirty years ago. Mayors have come and gone and the town has trebled in size since he cried his first event. In that time, Dave, became the best known citizen of Gillingham – and, deservedly, the best-loved.

He turned out, top-hatted and resplendent in scarlet and black, whenever a local event needed a boost, which his presence always guaranteed. The Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers could not have asked for a more faithful member. Dave cried in competitions across England and Europe, and forged warm links with Canada.

He led MPs, Freemen and Councillors in Remembrance parades and civic occasions. At every Carnival he made the children smile, and raised spirits when the October weather threatened to dampen them. Dave was an outstanding Ambassador for our town and was delighted to be presented to HRH Queen Elizabeth during her visit to Gillingham in 1991.

Dave was appointed a Freeman of Gillingham in 2001. Dave supported the Gillingham Imperial Silver Band and was delighted to receive the accolade of President in 2016.

Dave touched the lives of so many and will fondly be remembered for his warmth, humanity, sense of humour, but most importantly his civic pride and dedication to our town.



### Bereavement

Gillingham Town Council are sorry to report the death of Mr Brian Nicholson, former Gillingham Town Councillor and Mayor of Gillingham in 1988—1989 and 2001—2002.

### Annual Town Litter Pick

Twenty volunteers from the community braved the cold, wind and snow showers to help litter-pick the town on St Patrick's Day, 17<sup>th</sup> March. A wide area was covered and many sacks of rubbish collected.

A regular volunteer litter-picking group called 'Gillingham Pickers' has been set up and will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, starting on 4<sup>th</sup> April outside the library at 2pm. If you would like to join them or would like further information contact Shirley Ball at email:

[gillinghampickers@lavalake.co.uk](mailto:gillinghampickers@lavalake.co.uk).

### Elm Tree Planting

In 2017 Gillingham Town Council launched its five-year Pollinator Action Plan and a commitment to raise awareness of the importance of all pollinators which are essential for food production and consequently our lives. On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018, 24 Elm trees were planted at Hardings Park with the assistance of Year 1 pupils from Gillingham Primary School.

Native Elms are prone to disease, especially as they reach maturity, but the new varieties that have been developed on the continent have proved disease resistant and are



now being planted in the UK alongside native elms to improve the biodiversity of hedges and woodlands.

Wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation (BC) is highly supportive of this project and their Conservation Officer, Patrick Cook said:

*"It's brilliant that Gillingham Town Council are making positive steps towards helping pollinators. Planting a mixture of native, naturalised and disease resistant elm should benefit the White-letter Hairstreak butterfly, whose sole foodplant is Elm."*

The tree planting is part of the Town Council's commitment to plant more trees and, where possible, in conjunction with primary school aged children under the 'global initiative - One Tree Per Child.'

The Mayor of Gillingham, Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout said:

*"It is always a pleasure to plant a tree knowing that it will provide a valuable resource for generations to come. When a child volunteers to plant a tree it is even more special because this provides an opportunity for a child to measure their own development with that of the tree".*

### Let's Celebrate Town Pride

The General Purposes Committee is very keen to get residents involved in keeping the town looking clean and tidy. Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout has been busy encouraging organisations in the town to enter the South West in Bloom – It's Your Neighbourhood 2018 competition. A competition judged on community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement. Seven organisations have entered and judging will take place in July. This is a small start to what we hope will be a bigger entry next year. We wish all the entries good luck.

Gillingham Action for Nature Group have been working on the public open spaces at Shreen Meadow and Withy Woods and pupils from Gillingham Primary School planted 24 Elm trees.

Volunteers have been very busy with litter picks and bulb planting and can be easily spotted wearing hi-viz jackets with a colourful logo emblazoned on the back - Gillingham – 'Love Where You Live'. Where you see this logo it means that local people are busy working on a project that will benefit our town.



### Volunteer Bulb Planting

March arrived with Storm Emma in tow and the volunteer bulb planting day planned for 1<sup>st</sup> March at the public open space at Hawthorne Avenue was cancelled. As the bad weather continued, this hampered rescheduling another volunteer day and members of the GTC grounds team will plant 250 common snowdrops, 150 native bluebells and 150 Greater Stitchwort in amongst the trees.

Wild cyclamen and Lily of the Valley will be planted at the cemetery and snowdrops will be planted in the Garden of Remembrance.

Cowslips, Ox-eyed Daisy and Yarrow have already been planted on the public open space at Fern Brook on a very wet and windy day. It will be interesting to see how many these plug plants survive the cold and wet winter weather.

### Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 7.30pm** in the Jubilee Room at The Town Hall, School Road, Gillingham, SP8 4QR

Members of the public are invited to attend and hear about the Town Council's achievements over the last year, and to ask your councillors any questions.

### Contact Your Councillor

#### Town Ward

Cllr Mrs Anne Beckley .....01747 823821  
abeckley007@btinternet.com  
Cllr Mrs Sharon Cullingford.....07426 499813  
cllrcullingford@gmail.com  
Cllr Paul Harris .....01747 826991  
Cllr.paul.harris@btinternet.com  
Cllr Mick Hill.....07437 301007  
punkpaint101@gmail.com  
Cllr Stephen Joyce .....01747 822411  
s.joyce101@btinternet.com  
Cllr Roger Monksummers .....01747 822202  
Roger.monksummers@sky.com  
Cllr Mrs Val Pothecary .....01747 826089  
vpothecary@tiscali.co.uk  
Cllr John Robinson.....01747 822928  
jnr@jnrobinson.plus.com  
Cllr Barry Von Clemens .....07835 271287  
vonclemensbarry@gmail.com

#### Wyke Ward

Cllr Rupert Evill.....01747 822886  
rupertevill@live.co.uk  
Cllr Alan Frith .....01747 826394  
alan.frith@talk21.com  
Cllr Mrs Belinda Ridout .....07496 413114  
cllr.belindaridout@gmail.com  
Cllr David Walsh .....07973 228620  
cllr.davidwalsh@outlook.com

#### Ham Ward

Cllr Mike Gould .....01747 826204  
mgould@emf-ltd.co.uk  
Cllr Mrs Donna Toye.....01747 590805  
donna@treeonthehill.com

#### Milton Ward

Cllr Mrs Su Hunt .....01747 840333  
su.hunt@outlook.com

#### Rural Ward

Cllr Miss Nicky Purkis .....07832 068170  
Cllr.nicky.purkis@outlook.com