



## Warden Monthly Report February 2025 – Billingshurst Parish

### **Hello From New Wardens Louisa Hull & Maria Colenso**

We would both like to introduce ourselves as the new Neighbourhood Wardens for Billingshurst Parish and say a warm hello to the whole community.

Louisa was previously a warden in neighbouring Pulborough Parish and brings a wealth of experience of being a warden in rural communities. Maria has come from the busy area of Horsham Town Centre and the unparished areas of Horsham’s Forest, Trafalgar and Denne and has a great deal of knowledge about other agencies who can help and support residents.

Please do say hello when you see us out and about in the parish.



**NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS**

## **YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS**

Billingshurst Parish



**Louisa Hull**  
07795 051529



**Maria Colenso**  
07795 051516

If you wish to speak to us in confidence, please give us a call or email [billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk)

[@HDWardens](#) [@HorshamWardens](#)




**NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS**

## **THE WORK WE DO IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

Based within the community, your Neighbourhood Wardens work alongside partner agencies to improve the quality of life for everyone and promote community cohesion and resilience. The Wardens undertake a number of activities, ranging from enforcement to community development.

Neighbourhood Wardens can help the community in the following ways:

- Meet the needs of the community and improve the quality of life for the residents, through engagement, promotion and support.
- Develop projects that benefit the local residents, to tackle community safety issues and promote inclusivity.
- Promote community cohesion, resilience and solidarity to encourage and empower communities to resolve issues.
- Support vulnerable members of the community with activities, advice, welfare checks and signposting.
- Engage with residents daily to get to know their local community and become a trusted friend to offer advice and guidance.
- Offer education and advice when required, before taking enforcement action.
- Contribute to the delivery of the Community Safety Partnership plan by working with other agencies.
- Provide a highly visible and reassuring uniformed patrolling presence.
- Provide an effective eyes and ears service aimed at reducing the fear of crime and improving quality of life.
- Work alongside the Police and submit reports regarding drug use, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

**In an emergency always dial 999**



## Project Work

### Journey Support Group – The Depot, 83a High Street



Along with other warden schemes within the Horsham District we have been running support groups for parents and carers of children with Autism and Special Educational Needs. The group allows attendees to come along for a cuppa and a chat and to share their journey if they feel comfortable to. We were delighted to welcome two parents to this month's session. We hope the conversations, company, and coffee were enjoyable and look forward to seeing more people join us in the future.

Here are the dates and locations for all the Journey sessions being held in the district in March.

# Journey

A support group for  
Parents and Carers of  
Autistic and SEN Children

Come along this month to any of our sessions and meet with other parents on a similar journey to you.

No diagnosis required, no pressure, just a free cuppa and a chat.

	<p><b>Ashington</b> ashington.wardens@horsham.gov.uk</p> <p><b>Friday 14 Feb   10am - 11am</b> <b>Friday 14 Mar   10am - 11am</b> Ashington Church, Church Lane, RH20 3JX</p>
	<p><b>Pulborough</b> Pulborough.wardens@horsham.gov.uk</p> <p><b>Thursday 13 Feb   10:00 am - 11:00am</b> <b>Thursday 13 Mar   10:00 am - 11:00am</b> Pulborough Library, Brooks Way, off Lower Street, RH20 2BP</p>
	<p><b>Storrington &amp; Sullington</b> Storrington-Sullingtonwardens@horsham.gov.uk</p> <p><b>Tuesday 18 Feb   10am - 11am</b> <b>Tuesday 18 Mar   10am - 11am</b> Storrington Library, (North Street) Car Park, 6 North Street Storrington, RH20 4NZ</p>
	<p><b>Southwater</b> Southwater.wardens@horsham.gov.uk</p> <p><b>Thursday 20 Feb   10:30am - 11:30am</b> <b>Thursday 20 Mar   10:30am - 11:30am</b> Beeson House, 26 Lintot Square, Fairbank Road Southwater, RH13 9LA</p>
	<p><b>Billingshurst</b> billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk</p> <p><b>Tuesday 25 Feb   10.00am - 11.00am</b> <b>Tuesday 25 Mar   10.00am - 11.00am</b> The Depot, 83a High Street, Billingshurst</p>



NEIGHBOURHOOD  
WARDENS



## Friday Coffee Morning

Billingshurst Centre along with the Neighbourhood Wardens are hosting a coffee morning every Friday in the centre's Stanley Room, between 10am – 12noon, so why don't you pop along and join us for a cuppa and a chat! All are welcome.



During February Austens Home Hardware <https://localhomehardware.co.uk/austens-billingshurst/> kindly donated a Mary Berry Cast Aluminium Casserole dish for our monthly raffle. So far, our raffles have raised a total of £31 towards community projects in Billingshurst.

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February, we welcomed Billingshurst Fire Crew to the coffee morning who arrived in their Fire Engine. [https://www.facebook.com/BillingshurstFireStation/?locale=en\\_GB](https://www.facebook.com/BillingshurstFireStation/?locale=en_GB)

The crew discussed Safe and Well visits, enjoyed tea and cake! A Safe and Well Visit is a free service offered by West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. It involved a pre-arranged visit to your home to offer advice on how to make it safer and, where appropriate, fit smoke alarms or other specialist fire detection equipment free of charge, for further information please use this link:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/west-sussex-fire-and-rescue-service/home-fire-safety/safe-and-well-visit/>



## Youth Provision

As part of our project work we are starting to look at youth provision locally and where there may be gaps that we can assist to fill to help and support young people in the parish.

### Youth Boxing Programme

We are keen to continue to promote and support the Youth Boxing programme started by our predecessor Julie Green and since starting in the parish we have made this our priority on Wednesday afternoons.

The free Boxing Sessions are run weekly during term time at The Weald for school years 7 – 12 and all are welcome even those young people who do not attend The Weald.

Super Trainers Alfie and Khumo provide high-quality and safe boxing training. This project is fully funded by Billingshurst Parish Council and Billingshurst Lions funds T-shirts for every young person who attends. WBC Cares <https://www.wbccaresuk.org/>



### **The Depot – What's it all about? Who is it for? Where is it?**

The Depot, as it had been named, reflecting a previous use as a booking office for a coach garage that stood alongside, it's aims were to offer a chill room for kids, alongside other social and educational activities. The council purchased the empty building in the autumn of 2018, and has undertaken renovations, largely met by Section 106 funds released by [Horsham District Council](#). Unfortunately the youth provision ceased.

Plans for youth activities at The Depot – Maria and Louisa would like to hear from young people and their thoughts on what provisions should be available to them. The Wardens have established a professional relationship with the Headteacher, Mrs Edwards at The Weald school, they endeavour to visit during the school day, support staff and young people.

### **Young Persons Modern Board Games Club**

When based in Pulborough Parish Louisa saw a post on a local Facebook Group asking if there was a provision locally for young people to attend to play modern board games like Dungeons & Dragons without the need to travel to larger towns such as Horsham or Worthing. Sadly, there wasn't such a group, but Louisa spoke with colleagues Storrington Wardens Chris Poore and John Sampson and a new group was formed, running fortnightly at the Sullington Hall, with the help of two volunteers Oscar and Henry who have become expert Dungeon Masters. The number of young people attending has far exceeded our expectations and it has been amazing to hear the children laughing and enjoying themselves.

So, we will be spending time chatting to young people when we are out on patrol and during our visits to The Weald School to see if this is a provision that they would like to have in Billingshurst. Other modern games such as Pokémon, Catan and Pandemic could also be played.

If you are a parent or carer of a secondary school age child, please do let us know your thoughts.

## Events & Meetings

### **Joint patrol with PCSO Fontyn**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February Maria met with PCSO Tom Fontyn who covers the Billingshurst area, and they conducted a joint patrol together as part of our partnership working with Sussex Police.

### **Community Services Team Meeting – Albery House**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February we attended the Community Services Team meeting at the new Horsham District Council Offices at Albery House in Horsham. During the meeting we benefitted from hearing updates from other members of the Community Safety Team and also colleagues in Community Development. We were able to discuss our ideas for future projects in Billingshurst.

### **West Sussex Fire & Rescue – Multi Agency Meeting**

During the afternoon of the 17<sup>th</sup> February, we attended a multi-agency meeting via Teams with Steve Bridle Watch Manager at Horsham Fire Station, Horsham Warden Oscar, Southwater Wardens Dom and Bettina, Sean from the Properties Team at Horsham District Council and PCSO De Barros to talk about safety issues and anti-social behaviour that may affect our services. We hope to be able to attend similar such meetings with the crew at Billingshurst Fire Station soon.

### **Dementia Cafe – Trinity United Reformed Church**

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February we visited the Dementia Cafe at the Trinity United Reformed Church. We wanted to introduce ourselves and chat to those attending. From the moment we walked through the doors we were met by smiling faces and the atmosphere in the hall was buzzing. We will make sure to signpost residents affected by Dementia to this welcoming group.

The Cafe operates on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month in the hall at Trinity URC from 10.00am-12.00pm and more information can be found at their website below:

<https://billingshursturc.co.uk/dementia%20cafe.html>

### **Billingshurst Wellbeing Walk**

Where our shifts allow, we have been attending the Wellbeing Walks on a Thursday morning, which our predecessors Julie & Barry also did. Attending the walks has helped us to familiarise ourselves with the footpaths and walking routes around the village and has also enabled us to get to know some of the participants. More information about the Wellbeing Walks can be found at the link below:

<https://horsham.westsussexwellbeing.org.uk/events/3981/horsham-park-stroll-horsham/2025-04-10>

## Parish Specific/Other

### Damage to bench in Coombe Hill



Whilst out on our foot patrols this month we have spotted damage to the bench on Coombe Hill opposite the entrance to Manor Fields. Through enquiries carried out we have established the area of land it is situated on is maintained by Saxon Weald Housing Association. We have been in contact with the Housing Manager for the area and he has escalated it to their repairs team – watch this space!

### Damage to fence and grass at Jubilee Fields



Whilst out on patrol at Jubilee Fields on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February we noticed damage caused to the fence adjacent to the lake and tyre tracks in the grass. We photographed the damage and reported it to the Parish Clerk.

### Whilst out on patrol ...

During a routine vehicle patrol, Maria came across a puppy who had been sadly hit by a vehicle. Thank you to the driver for stopping and Farthings' Veterinary Surgery <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089672093144> for supporting everyone involved. Our deepest sympathy goes to the owner of the dog involved.

Our uniformed presence provides reassurance to members of the public. Recently, one such brave person was able to disclose that they were having a difficult time in their personal life, which was causing them to have negative thoughts, we spent time talking with them and ensured that the relevant agencies were alerted to support them. Our thanks go to Billingshurst Family Church <https://www.facebook.com/BillingshurstFamilyChurch> for providing emergency food.

### Fly tipping in New Road



Whilst out on vehicle patrol on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February we noticed a dumped bag of rubbish that had split and some of the contents was strewn along the road and verge. We stopped and got out our trusty litter pickers and cleared away the mess.

Whilst doing this we also noticed a discarded "Fast Gas" cannister. Fast Gas cylinders are manufactured for the catering trade as they are an easy to use cream charger often used to make the perfect whipped cream or foams for beverages. However, these cannisters contain Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), also known as laughing gas. Sadly, we now find them discarded after users have inhaled the gas inside. The gas is used recreationally to produce a feeling of euphoria and relaxation. However, it can also cause dissociation and hallucinogenic states of mind. All sizes of nitrous oxide canisters are now illegal if the supplier or owner does not have a legitimate use.

What should you do if you see someone inhaling nitrous oxide? Call 101 to contact the police and report a crime that is not an emergency.

The Nitrous Oxide cannister was reported to our litter and street cleaning team for removal and disposal.



## Useful links for reporting litter, fly tipping or graffiti:

You can report litter issues to HDC at the following link:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/litter>

You can report a damaged or overflowing litter bin here:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/report-a-damaged-or-overflowing-litter-bin>

If you witness fly tipping in action, please call Sussex Police and if possible, provide them with the registration of the offending vehicle and subsequently any relevant dash cam footage you may have.

You can also report it direct to HDC at: <https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/fly-tipping>

Abandoned shopping trolleys can be reported on the “Trolleywise” website at:

[https://www.wanzl.com/en\\_GB/360-degree-service/TrolleyWise](https://www.wanzl.com/en_GB/360-degree-service/TrolleyWise)

You can report incidents of graffiti direct to Horsham District Council via their website:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning>

Dog Related Issues

Dog fouling can be reported via the HDC website:

<https://www.horsham.gov.uk/waste-recycling-and-bins/litter-and-street-cleaning/dog-fouling>

Any attacks by dogs need to be reported immediately to Sussex Police. Their advice is that if there is an immediate threat to human or animal life to call 999. Otherwise report to the police on 101 or via the Sussex Police website reporting form.

<https://www.sussex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

## Dogs Roaming Free

If you find a dog roaming free and not being supervised, you may wish to consider reporting it to Horsham District Council’s approved contractor on 07512 089777 and they will come and collect. ***This is a 24/7 service, but the dog does need to be contained for them to collect.***

**\*\*\* Please note Horsham District Council does not have dog wardens \*\*\***

## Social Media

Please do follow us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HDWardens>

<https://twitter.com/HorshamWardens>

### Reporting crime and anti-social behaviour

999	101	CrimeStoppers.	British Transport Police	Horsham District Council
<p>☎ 999</p>	<p>☎ 101</p> <p>or report online <a href="http://www.sussex.police.uk">www.sussex.police.uk</a></p>	<p>☎ 0800 555 111</p> <p><a href="http://crime-stoppers-uk.org">crime-stoppers-uk.org</a></p>	<p>☎ 0800 40 50 40</p> <p>Text 61056</p>	<p><a href="mailto:communitysafety@horsham.gov.uk">communitysafety@horsham.gov.uk</a></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A crime is happening now.</li><li>• Someone is in immediate danger or at risk of harm.</li><li>• Property is in danger of being seriously damaged.</li><li>• A serious disruption to the public is likely.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All non-emergency incidents where the crime has already happened or there is no immediate risk of harm.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To report crime 100% anonymously.</li><li>• Crimestoppers is not the police – it is an independent charity working to help communities.</li><li>• Information given will be shared anonymously with the police.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-emergency incidents on a train or at a station can be reported direct to the British Transport Police online: <a href="http://www.btp.police.uk/reportcrime">www.btp.police.uk/reportcrime</a>.</li><li>• There is also a Railway Guardian app.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report general anti-social behaviour and repeated public nuisance to the ASB team at Horsham District Council.</li><li>• You can also report litter, fly-tipping, graffiti, dogs and dog fouling online: <a href="http://www.horsham.gov.uk/report">www.horsham.gov.uk/report</a>.</li></ul>

**See it. Report it.**  
Reporting crime and ASB means we can work together to reduce it.

 Horsham District Community Safety Partnership

 Horsham District Council