Great Chart with Singleton Parish Newsletter Autumn 2019





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Great Chart with Singleton Parish Newsletter is	nublished by th

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Newsletter is published by the Parish Council and is distributed to every house within the parish. We are pleased to accept submissions for articles, events and group details.

Please contact the Clerk by telephone on 01233 616923 on <u>TheClerk@greatchartsingletoon-pc.gov.uk</u> Any views or opinions in this newsletter are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council.

Newsletter advertising

We are able to offer advertising and sponsorship opportunities for local businesses. If you are interested please contact the Clerk on 01233 616923 or email to <u>TheClerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</u>

Chair's Report



Welcome to the Parish Council Autumn Newsletter, so fast our Summer seems to have gone, but as I am writing this the forecast says the next week we will have temperatures in the low 20's so that is good for me!

Despite the PC generally not meeting in August, we have had more meetings than in a normal month, we

Clir McClintock had two Extra-ordinary meetings to deal with a couple of issues that were important, the main issue is a planning application for change of use for the Beult Barn, this site being at the entrance to the village near the Mote, this was met with some local concerns and for all the right reasons the PC agreed to object to the application, a building 6m tall is not right for this position, not to mention the extra traffic and other planning issues. I am pleased to say this application has been withdrawn by the applicant. We also dealt with a raft of Chilmington applications, most of which were returned with the same objections, not enough parking, no electric charging points, no PV panels or any energy saving methods.

On Chilmington, I am not looking forward to the wet weather as we will be yet again have the issue of mud on the A28, possible flooding along the A28 – despite the PC and all of the nearby neighbours, Borough and KCC members trying to see an end to these simple issues – but we can do no more than wait and see!

Also on Chilmington, I recently had a tour of both ends of the development Hodsons & Barretts. The Group were greeted by Alan & Tom Hodson who surprised me by the amount of passion they were showing for the community they are building, their hopes for the next years and the desire to produce quality houses for the development. Then we were shown around the 2 show homes on Chilmington Gate (the entrance) and again I was surprised at the quality of both levels of fittings that come with the properties – it seems it is just a case of turn up with your furniture and move in! The houses at the entrance on 3 levels do not look very good from the road as you drive by, but Chilmington

Crescent looks much better when walking in front of the houses.

The Barretts houses on the newest part of the parish near Brisley also show some great ideas for layout and design and I am pleased to say the very first resident in Chilmington has moved in, more are expected over the next few weeks. I think I will be asking the sales team if we can have a few of our Parish Newsletters for the prospective buyers to take away with them.

Many of you will have read that our three new Members joined in May, they have reduced the average age on the Parish Council to 49.5, this is a great thing as now we add some very new ideas for the Parish. I am pleased to say they have all settled in well and the next 4 years will prove to be great for our Parish.

Autumn sees the PC looking ahead at the budget for the next year; this is a very important issue for the PC. Our Clerk is eager to get some ideas from Parishioners about issues or projects they would like to see in the parish, and linking into the Ambition Plan/5 year plan we have and thinking about what we can undertake from this list – it is important for parishioners to take part in any consultation that Ani has planned, so that more ideas for the parish can be considered, than just those that come from the 11 councillors. But an important issue around this is to consider that Parish Councils are only able to undertake projects/issues that Legislation enables them to so – but no idea is a daft one and all will be considered.

Lastly, eight of our PC members gave up their Saturday morning recently to attend a training session called the Dynamic Parish Councillor, I have never known so many from one PC attend a training session before, I am sure we made our presence felt and it was good to be recognised as such a progressive and well run PC by Clive Powell, the KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) Adviser & Trainer – so well done to all and it is our Clerks request (well orders really) that every PC member will undertake this training before the end of the year!



Cllr Bill Barrett

Singleton East Ward Councillor's Report

Dear Singleton East residents,

It has been a relatively quiet summer period in Singleton East this year, particularly the area around Singleton Lake which has been much improved this year thanks to the effective operation of the PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) and the combined efforts of ABC and the Ashford Angling Society. The PSPO was initiated in Spring 2017, and in Spring

2020 its 3 year cycle will expire. There will be in the coming months a process of consultations with the public, Parish Council and obviously myself, as to whether this PSPO should continue for another three years. This consultation will be run by ABC and will allow people the opportunity to either post their opinions on the ABC website, or simply write in to the Civic Centre with their feelings.

I personally feel it is VITALLY important that it continues, for the simple alternative is a return to the lawless and really somewhat chaotic scenario that was reality before its inception. The Angling Society would lose their main ability to enforce controlled fishing, Anti Social Behaviour would likely increase, as would the associated drinking and littering. In short things would descend back to the situation I found when I was elected in 2015. As I worked so hard to have the PSPO around the lake in the first place, this would be a personal tragedy as I am unsure of how to deal with these problems with it. Thus can I ask all residents keep an eye on the ABC website from early October onwards (and/or write in to: Crime Support Unit, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL) to enable you to post your opinions and comments, once it begins.

In other news I have been working with KCC Highways to improve the potholes in and around Singleton, particularly Brookfield Road, and you may have seen in July that many areas of this road were filled, which can only be good news. That's not to say there aren't others that need attention, and please do use the KCC Report a Fault website when you see them on our roads.

Aside from that I wish you all a pleasant Autumn,



Cllr Jessamy Blanford

Weald Central Councillor's Report

It's been a good summer, plenty of sunshine, some rain, masses of fruit and some rather special Painted Lady butterflies.

The saga of the Great Chart Motor Cottages continues with a refusal of the retrospective planning application for changes to the design of the three cottages in particular the absence of the chimney on

No 1. It is really bad when detailed planning consent is given to a developer only for him to totally ignore it and, in fact, not even recognise that the three cottages fall into Great Chart's conservation area.

There is an application for improving and enlarging the light commercial site near the Black Barn on the Ashford Road. The plan is to build six commercial units and parking for 32 cars. The problem with this is that the owner wants to enlarge the business area to include part of the field thus making it a bigger business and unsuitable for its rural location. Since the site has been badly run there is the danger of oil and other materials getting into the water system and seeping into the Moat next door. This has happened in the past. The Moat is a listed building and the moat around the house is an ancient monument and so it is important to protect this feature, which is the head water for the river Beult, and the fish and plants around and in it.

With regard to water systems, there has been a noticeable growth in the number of planning applications for ponds in the area. This is largely due to the fact that Natural England no longer expects developers to remove Great Crested Newts from the sites of their developments.



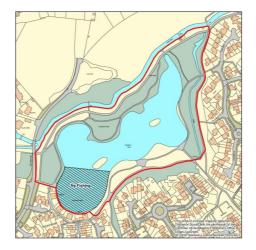
Hence organisations like the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership are providing additional habitats for water based species so that they won't diminish due to building works.

There have been an extra 60 ponds planned for the Weald in general and 20 extra ponds in the Ashford Borough – two in Great Chart.

Shortly I will be handing out the cheques to the two charities I supported while I was Mayor from May 2018-19. The firs to the Kent Wildlife Trust which has already bought a new mower to help them in their various projects. The other is to The Paula Carr Trust and in particular the Hypo Hounds who are trained to detect changes in blood sugar level of patients so that action can be taken promptly.

Jessamy Blanford—Central Ward

Singleton Lake Public Spaces Protection Order



As mentioned by Cllr Bill Barrett on page 5, please do comment on the consultation currently running to extend the PSPO around Singleton Lake. If residents can submit comments to say what a difference it has made to the area, then it is much more likely to be extended. Please visit <u>http://socsi.in/B1jPT</u> or write to Crime Support Unit, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL

Great Chart & Godinton WI

The Institute has had a varied; interesting and entertaining program this year from talks on Madagascar & Uganda by Dr Clive Nuttman who is a Conservation Education Biologist, games and crafts evening have also been popular. In July the Institute celebrated the East Kent Federation's 100th year with a delicious evening cream tea. Members also attended the Federations ACM at Folkestone Lee's Cliff Hall the speaker was all round entertainer and publisher Prue Leith.



Meetings are on 3rd Wednesday of every month, Activity Group meet on 1st Wednesday of every month

These meetings take place at Godinton Village Hall at 7.30pm

Knit & Natter every 4th Monday at Grapevine Cafe in Singleton Village Hall 10-11.30am

For further information please contact:- Secretary Janet 01233332510 or Committee member Pam 01233 878013

Find us on Facebook:- GrtChartandGodintonWI

Contacts Secretary Janet 01233 332510

Committee member Pam 01233 878013

GREAT CHART ALLOTMENTS CELEBRATE FIVE YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL CULTIVATION

Hillcrest Allotments, which first opened for business in the spring of 2015, is now in its fifth growing season, which in itself is an astonishing achievement.

Many people are unaware that the allotments owe their existence to an official petition lodged by local residents under the Smallholdings and Allotments Act 1908, which enshrines in law the right of every local resident to have access to land that they can cultivate.

The Parish Council worked with Kent County Council to identify a suitable plot of land, which turned out to be a long abandoned field at the very end of Hillcrest, the road opposite St Mary's in Great Chart. In the days of yore, this formed part of a much larger field complex, which became uneconomic to work following the construction of the bypass in 1985, since this cut the field in half. On the Singleton side, the isolated section was turned into housing, while the rump in Great Chart was allowed to revert to nature.

Many older residents remember this area as a place where they went blackberrying and are often stunned by the current transformation. There are now more than 30 plots under cultivation, ranging in size from 15m x 6m to 7m x 6m, ensuring that everybody who wants to can try growing their own fruit and vegetables on a piece of land that they view as manageable.

Management of the allotment is undertaken by the plot holders themselves, whose association is the wonderfully named "Barrow & Spade Brigade". Fortunately, the parish clerk and both the borough and parish councillors have been highly supportive of the project throughout.

Although the legislation suggests that rates charged for land should be "reasonable", it doesn't specify how exactly that should be interpreted. However, for the smallest of plots, rates at Hillcrest have been pegged at £22.50 per annum and for the largest £32.50. All money raised is used to cover operational costs and make small improvements to the site. By far the biggest challenge has been to convert an abandoned field into cultivated land, especially given the prevalence of perennial weeds such as docks, thistles, nettles and bindweed, as well as horrors such as twitch/couch grass and horsestail/marestail. Nowadays, most casual observers cannot quite believe the transformation that has taken place, since the site is now dominated by fruit trees, strawberry plants and raspberry canes, growing alongside crops of potatoes, tomatoes, cabbages, radish, cucumbers, courgettes and runner beans.

The soil is heavy clay, which can become as hard as concrete in summer or a soggy as a bog in winter when left to its own devices. However, covered in compost and with lots of organic matter incorporated, it produces the most fantastic crops, making all the allotment gardeners' efforts more than worth it.

Every resident in Great Chart with Singleton can request a plot and even if you are put on a waiting list, you probably won't have to wait more than six months before the opportunity will arise to allow you to grow your own. Even if you know nothing about growing your own food but would like to give it a try, there are dozens of videos on YouTube and lots of advice to be had on site. So, no excuses!

Contact: TheClerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

SID is the Parish Council's Speed Indicator Device.

Following a number of complaints from residents, the Parish Council decided to invest in a SID to monitor the number and speed of cars using roads at agreed locations around the Parish.

The data we collected from Tithe Barn Lane has supported a pelican crossing being installed at the crossing between the Singleton Barn and Homestead before the end of 2019.



For more information, please take a look at SID's dedicated webpage:

www.greatchartwithsingletonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/speed-indicator-device-sid-2

TOKE AND STREETER ALMSHOUSE TRUST

A vacancy exists at the Almshouses in The Street, Great Chart.

The property is suitable for single occupancy and consists of Living Room, Kitchen, Bedroom, Shower room and small Annexe at the rear.

Central heating throughout.

The property is in a central village location and has been recently redecorated.

There is a small front garden and garden area at the rear overlooking meadow.

Applicants should be reasonably active and have a housing need

Reasonable Rent. No pets

Names and addresses of two references will be required.

Applications to Mrs. L Briscall

Tel: 01233 634936 (please leave message on the answerphone giving contact details)



Have you got old furniture that needs a new lease of life? Or an old radio that doesn't work anymore? Don't bin it, bring it to Singleton Environment Centre where the Repair Café can fix it for you. The Café operates in the afternoon between one and four, on the first and third Wednesday of each month.

Repair # Recycle # Reuse

Reporting made easy

In the complex web of local authorities and different agencies it is often difficult to know who to report a problem to. We devised a simple guide below to help you. It is paramount that any issues you see is reported to the relevant agency so the problem can be dealt with efficiently.

Kent County Council

- Street light faults
- Drainage
- Traffic Signal Faults
- Soft landscaping (trees, hedges, grass)
- Roads (roadworks, road projects, road resurfacing)
- Pavements

Report it online: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-andtravel/report-a-problem or call

Parish Council

- Cuckoo Park (opposite John Wesley School)
- Great Chart Playing Fields (play area, outdoor gym)
- The Viewing Point and the path running along Singleton Village Hall
- Dog poo bag dispensers
- Flowerbed at the bottom of Singleton Hill

Report it to: TheClerk@greatchartsingletonpc.gov.uk

Ashford Borough Council

- bin emptying
- bulky waste collections
- Council Tax
- disabled parking bays
- environmental health
- health and safety
- littering
- parking fines
- pest control
- reporting abandoned vehicles
- reporting flytipping
- Soft landscaping

Report it online at

www.ashford.gov. uk or Tel: 01233 331111

Parish Council news

Parish Council Meeting: Did you know the parish council meets on the second Monday of the month to discuss issues and to make decisions? The meeting venue alternates between Singleton Village Hall and Great Chart Village Hall. Why not come along to one of the meeting and find out more about the parish council's activities. For more information regarding venue and for meeting dates please visit www.greatchartwithsingletonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Assistant Parish Clerk: Hi, I'm Paula Cowperthwaite and I'm the new Assistant Clerk for the Parish. I've been helping Ani for the last couple of months and learning all about the legislation and procedures involved in being a Parish Clerk. I've lived in Singleton for the last 14 years, so you may have seen me around. I'm often found on one of the parks watching my boys perform deathdefying stunts on various equipment! Ani has



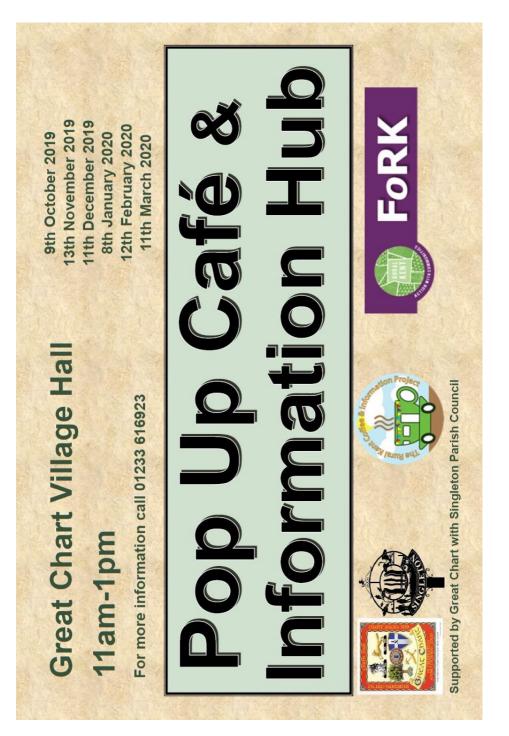
let me loose on the social media accounts so keep an eye out for my posts/tweets/pictures and I'm looking forward to getting some new projects underway once the next round of Ambition Planning and budgets are up and running. If you've got any ideas, please do get in touch.

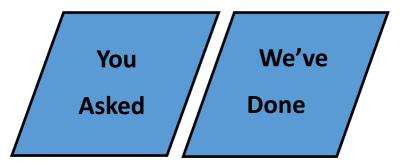
Singleton Environment Centre

Up-coming events at the Singleton Environment Centre:

- Wood 'n' Words Talk, Thursday 24th October 19:00 20:30
- Small Gardens Talk, Saturday 16th November 10:30 12:30
- Story Sacks, Saturday 23rd November 10:00 11:30
- Grand Christmas Fair, Saturday 7th December 11:00 -15:00

And don't forget to book a Christmas Lunch at the Footprints Café Bistro during December Full details will be on our website





The Parish Caretakers, Peter and Rob, have been out and about tidying up the area with their litter picking and general maintenance. They've also been responding to residents who let us know if something is getting a little overgrown. If you've seen something getting a little untidy in the Parish, please do let us know as we can't see everything ourselves, but if we are made aware of it, we will do what we can to put it right.



Keeping you and our area safe



Please remember, homes with no security measures in place are five times more likely to be burgled than those with simple security measures. Good window locks and strong deadlocks can make a big difference. Taking just a few steps can make a big difference in keeping your home safe from burglary.

• Lock your doors and windows every time you leave the

house, even when you're just out in the garden.

- Hide all keys, including car keys, out of sight and away from the letterbox (remember a device could be used to hook keys through the letterbox.)
- Install a visual burglar alarm.
- Install good outside lighting.
- Get a trusted neighbour to keep an eye on your property.
- Leave radios or lights in your house on a timer to make the property appear occupied.
- Make sure the fences around your garden are in good condition.
- Secure bikes at home by locking them to an immoveable object inside a locked shed or garage.
- Keep ladders and tools stored away; don't leave them outside where they could be used to break into your home.
- Ensure side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear of the property.
- Improve natural surveillance at the front of your property i.e. trim high hedges.
- Consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme www.ourwatch.org.uk
- Remove valuables from view of ground floor windows.
- Store any high value items (i.e. jewellery, passports) in a properly secured safe or bank vault.

Clubs and Groups		
Beavers—Thursdays 5:30-7 pm at GCVH, boys and girls aged 6-8 Contact Shelley Bowman shelley bowman@yahoo.co.uk	Singleton Rainbows Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 pm at SVH Fridays 4:15-5.15 pm SVH	
Cubs —Fridays 6:30-8 pm at GCVH boys and girls aged 8-10 ½, Contact Jill Lane 01233 641773/ 07799 886549 jillmlane@msn.com	1st Great Chart and Singleton Guides Mondays; 6:30 - 8:30 pm at SVH- Contact Terry Lockwood – 07704 359434	
Scouts— Mondays 7-9 pm at GCVH boys and girls aged 10 ½ -14 – contact Dave Gathern 01233 633966/ 07961202097 Over 14? We also run an Explorer Group	Dream Dragons Theatre Wednesdays 7-10 pm at SVH contact 01233 668767 or www.dreamdragons.co.uk	
Paek Ma TaekwondoTuesday5.30pm-6.30pm Beginners 6.30pm-8pm AdvancedThursday6.30pm-8pm Juniors 8pm-9.30pm SeniorsSVH-Master Geoff 6th Dan - 07836621060	St Mary's Great Chart & Singleton Sunday services 9:30am at St Marys in Great Chart;11am at St Mary's in Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close E mail <u>rector@stmarysgreatchart.org</u> Website <u>www.stmarysgreatchart.org</u> Pastoral Care: 07756 805507	
Youth Club (Coming back soon) Fridays 7-9 pm SVH Ian McClintock email: ian.mcclintock59@yahoo.co.uk	Speed Watch-Gary Parry Great chart with Singleton Speedwatch Coordinator 01233 640110 gary@wthp.co.uk	
Great Chart Cricket Club www.greatchartcc.co.uk	The Grapevine Community Café at Singleton Village Hall Mon & Thu am	
Singleton Giant Email: <u>peter@singletongiant.org.uk</u> Phone: 01233 610241	Stardust Studios – Children's Dance Classes— Classes held at SVH, Contact Natalie Kitts 01233 625786/07899 844956 info@starduststudios.co.uk	
Pilgrims FC (Football Club) Contact Name: Kyran Wilford Contact Number: 07984352008 Email: kyran@pilgrimsfc.co.uk Friends of Singleton Lake Email:	Grace Fellowship at Singleton Road http://www.gracefellowship.org.uk/ Ashford Community Woodland Email: ashfordcommunitywoodland@hotmail.co. uk	
friendsofsingletonlake@outlook.com Pilates (SVH) Tuesday evenings 7pm- 8pm., £7 per person more info Janet 07402 222 195	Website: www.asfhrodcommunitywoodland.org Barrow & Spade Brigade Email: <u>theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com</u>	
Abbreviations:		

SVH-Singleton Village Hall—GCVH-Great Chart Village Hall

Useful Information

Allotments	Dog Warden
Parish Clerk – 01233 616923-	Colin Leek – 01233 330340 –
TheClerk@greatchartsingleton	colin.leek@ashford.gov.uk
<u>-pc.gov.uk</u>	
Litter/Overflowing bins/ fly-	Mobile Library
Litter/Overflowing bins/ fly- tipping:	Mobile Library Knoll Lane: Thursdays 15:50-16:05
• •	-
tipping:	Knoll Lane: Thursdays 15:50-16:05

Emergency Contacts

Emergency Services 999 For non-emergencies police 101 or email csu.ashford@kent.pnn.police.uk

Environment Agency, General Enquiries: 03708 506 506

KCC Warden Janice Henry Email: Janice.henry@kcc.gov.uk Tel: 07773396646

Floodline 0345 988 1188 Incident Reporting 0800 80 70 60

UK Powernet General Enquirers

0845 601 4516

Power cut 0800 31 63 105 and the new number 105

Gas Leaks 0800 111 999 South East Water 03330 001122 (during weekdays and working hours only)

Kent County Council/ Enquiries/ Social Services 03000 414141

Booking Venues

Great Chart Village Hall— Tel: 01233 610173 Email greatchartvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk.

Singleton Village Hall—Tel:07887 575647,

Email: <u>bookings@singletonvh.co.uk</u>

Great Chart Playing Fields—Buxford Pavilion— Tel: 01233 427407 Email: <u>gcpfa@barkercomputersolutions.co.uk</u>

Chilmington Ward	
Cllr Ian McClintock	Tel: 07919 278828 Email: ian.mcclintock@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk

Great Chart with Singleton North Ward		
Cllr Paul Tate	Tel: 07850 082023 Email: paul.tate@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk	
Singleton East Ward		
Cllr Katrina Alexander	Tel: 07791 632493 Email: Katri- na.alexander@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Janet Sullivan	Tel: 01233 645400 Email: janet. Sullivan@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Malcolm Wiffen	Tel: 01233 635016 Email: malcolm.wiffen@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Kyran Wilford	Tel: 07984 352008 Email: kyran.wilford@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk	
Singleton West Ward		
Cllr Peter Barker	Tel: 01233 610241 Email: peter.barker@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Yolanda Barker	Tel: 01233 610241 Email: yolanda.barker@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Geoffrey Darvill	Tel: 01233 642357 Email: geoffrey.darvill@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk	
Cllr Sally Gathern	Tel: 07815 803862 Email: sally.gathern@greatchartsingleton- pc.gov.uk	
Washford Ward		

Washford Ward	
Cllr Tom Ackrill	Tel: 07780 470 668 and Email: thom-
	as.ackrill@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Borough and County Councillors Contact Details

Ashford Borough Councillors	Kent County Councillors
Weald Central Ward Councillor: Jessamy Blanford—01233 840050 email: jessamy.blanford@tiscali.co.uk	Charlie Simkins—01233 756705 Email: Charlie.simkins@kent.gov.uk
Singleton East Ward Councillor Bill Barrett—07449 454044 email: Bill.Barrett@ashford.gov.uk	Dara Farrell– email: Dara.Farrell@kent.gov.uk
Singleton West Ward Councillor Kalysha Howard-Smith email: Kalysha.HowardSmith@ashford.gov.uk	Parish Clerk - Aniko Szocs—01233 616923 or <u>TheClerk@greatchartsingleton</u> -pc.gov.uk
Washford Ward Councillor Neil Shorter email: Neil.Shorter@ashford.gov.uk	Parish Office Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close, Ashford TN23 5LB Office opening hours 9 am -1pm other times by arrangement.

Thinking of selling or letting your property in Great Chart?

I can give you straightforward advice regarding the value of your house. Please call me on 01233 506260



www.hobbsparker.co.uk



Sarah Holgate Specialist Rural and Village Agent

