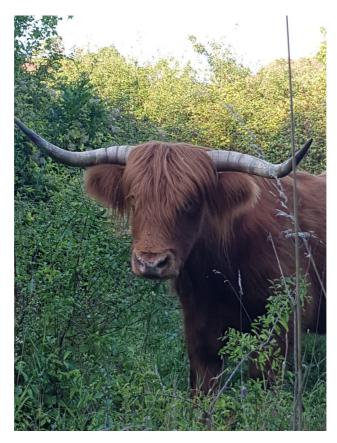


# Great Chart with Singleton Parish Newsletter

Autumn 2018





#### **Keep in Touch**

Website:

www.greatchartwithsingletonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Twitter: twitter.com/GCwSPC

Facebook:

facebook.com/greatchartwithsingletonparishcouncil

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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. We are also able to offer advertising and sponsorship opportunities for local businesses.

Please contact the Clerk on 01233 616923 or email <a href="mailto:theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com">theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com</a>. 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.

Front page photo by Susie Spoon-Highland Cattle in Singleton

#### **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 theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com

#### Chair's Report



Ian McClintock

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. I hope you have all managed to soak up some of the great sun we had over the summer; I know some of the allotmenteers had a few issues with the dry weather, due to the lack of water.

I am pleased to say that we have purchased our own van for our Caretaker, Peter, who is quite chuffed with it, and I hope you will see him working

hard for the parish—I recently tasked him with doing the job of tidying the car park adjacent to the Allotments at Hillcrest and adding a litter bin, and now the area looks totally different, and it seems to stay rubbish free at the moment.

To coincide with the new van we have decided to take on an assistant for Peter as some of the tasks he has to do are a two man job, so very shortly we ill have a two man team tidying up our Parish— watch this space as we will introduce our new employee in the next edition

In June I was very honoured to be asked to escort the Mayor of Ashford to an event which had a great significance to our parish and I have written an article later in this edition about the event.

I had a great day on the reopening of the Singleton Environment Centre. The Parish Council have been responsible for the centre since 11th March, the Singleton Spaces Trust, which has been set up by the Parish Council, have been doing a brilliant job working very hard to rejuvenate the Centre. The open day was very busy, I was building nest boxes and bird feeders with young people and they loved painting them too.

The Centre was opened by the Mayor of Ashford, our own Ward Member Jessamy Blanford (photo), who welcomed everyone to the revitalised Centre— we also had visit from our MP, Damian Green, in the morning who praised the Trust for the work they have put into the Centre.

I would like to publicly thank all of the Trustees for the intense workload they have shared in order to keep the centre open and improving every day. When I floated the idea to the Parish Council over 18 months ago, I noticed there were quite a few negative faces, but would like to thank our Vice-Chair, Cllr Angus Willson, who took the lead on the creation of the new Trust and Cllr Malcolm Wiffen who has taken on the role of Chair of the Trust. The Trust is made up of a great group of people with a wide variety of talents and they have all been working hard to make the Centre a great asset and attraction for our Parish and the whole Borough of Ashford.

It may seem a long way off but our term as Parish Councillors draws to an end next April 2019 and there are elections for both Parish and Borough Councillors. I know we will have a few changes to our line-up next May, not least as due to some boundary changes we are going to have and extra Councillor, taking us up to 12 from May.

I will get together with our Clerk to put together an article about the new boundary and Ward changes for the next newsletter, as yet I have to really get to understand the changes and we want everyone to be aware of them before the election in May.

Ian McClintock

Chair- Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

#### Ward Member—Great Chart with Singleton North



Cllr Jessamy Blanford

Firstly, I want to pay tribute to Brigadier Brian Parritt. I am so pleased he has received the Korean Order of Civil Merit from the South Korean government for his contribution during the Korean War. The return visit to Seoul must have been fascinating.

My programme as Mayor for the summer has been very busy, also rewarding and sometimes amusing. It has covered carnivals, garden parties, fetes, concerts, vineyards, the opening of the new Aldi in Victoria Way, attending the Create Festival. I welcomed VIP guests to the laying of a paving stone in Charing in memory of Corp Fred Coppins, the only person in the Borough to have received a Victoria Cross during the first or second world wars. I helped at the MakeLunch recently where the Ashford churches join together to provide lunch for children who during term time would receive free school lunches but might miss out in the holidays. I was happy to open the revamped Singleton Environment Centre. The Teddy Bears' Tea Party in Bybrook Nature Reserve was also fun. Starting the Walk All Over Cancer from Victoria Park was also important.

Recently a planning application came up before the ABC Planning Committee for a wedding venue site on the border between Great Chart and Bethersden. Sadly, I felt I had to oppose it. The venue was in the middle of Etchden Woods, an ancient woodland with protected status. A car park was proposed for 56 cars (may be more) and the thought of what the late night music, general noise, diesel and petrol fumes, taxis on standby would do to the wildlife, owls, foxes, badgers, birds and the general trampling around on the flora and fauna was too much. Etchden Road is a single track road without passing places and unsuitable to accommodate delivery vehicles and an increase in traffic. With the amount of development going on in the Borough, we have a duty to protect our unspoilt green and tranquil places.

Ian Wolverson is making good progress on his Heritage Centre project. I am happy to provide funding from my Members' Grant to go towards installing an AV system in St Mary's. Also, congratulations to Peter and Yolanda Barker on completing the refurbishment of the playground off Singleton Road. This is a great benefit for the children in the area and I was pleased to provide funding for this as well.

Sadly, we have to say farewell to Tim and Catherine Wilson. I know it was a shock to many of us to hear that, because Catherine had been given an appointment in Luton, the family would be leaving Great Chart after 15 years. Many people in the parish have known Tim much longer than me but I have been very grateful for the support he has given me as Ward Member for the last 11 years, his measured views on Chilmington Green and for acting as my Chaplain while I have been Mayor. We will miss you, Tim!

Please note I am planning a Race Night at Great Chart village hall on Friday, 16th November in aid of the Paula Carr Diabetes Trust. I do hope you will come: it should be fun.

Jessamy Blanford (Cllr) Great Chart with Singleton North

#### **Great Chart and Singleton South Ward Councillor's Report**



Dear Residents, a few achievements in my ward of Singleton South to report to you which will make a difference. Firstly the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) outside the John Wesley School has now gone live and the zig zag lines are in place as are the signs. This TRO will make a huge difference to the parking problems outside the school and it will be patrolled and over seen by ABC's traffic wardens to make sure the rules are being abided by.

The second item to report is the general calm at Singleton Lake brought about by the PSPO. There have been incidents, and rogue fisherman have been using the lake sporadically, but due to the threat of fines (and the issuing of tickets for such infringements over the last few months) it has been a huge improvement over previous years. Indeed the number of contacts to myself from residents has dropped hugely, which indicates the PSPO

No stopping
Mon - Fri
8 am - 5 pm
on entrance
markings

is doing its job.

Third and finally is the work
Aspire will do in the near
future to improve the strip of
land next to Great Chart
Primary School. This strip of
land next to the fence was
cleared by Persimmon Homes

earlier this year due to the over growth affecting the schools border fence, but has since re-grown. Aspire intends to remove the vegetation back off the walkway, trim back any tree branches from the path, and then bark and mulch a section five metres either side of the middle pedestrian gate into the school and plant formal shrubs.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and lets hope we have a warm Autumn!

Cllr Bill Barrett.

## BOROUGH COUNCIL CIVIC AWARDS 2018

On 5<sup>th</sup> July, I was honoured to be asked to escort the Mayor of Ashford, Cllr. Jessamy Blanford (who is also the Ward Member for Great Chart), to the second Borough Civic Awards. I was very pleased to be asked as we had two people from our Parish that had been nominated for the award and were going to be presented with the

award during the evening.

The award, pictured right, is meant to represent the beacon that will be lit on 11<sup>th</sup> November this year to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1, again very special as we too will be having a similar beacon on the top of the church tower at the same time.

Joanna Watts, our Community Warden, was nominated by Cllr Bill Barrett for her work generally within the Parish, but specifically for her hard work around Singleton Lake enforcing the Public Space Protection Order that helps to reduce the amount of anti-social behaviour around the lake. We share Joanna as Community Warden with Lydd and she manages to have a huge affect on our community in only 2 days per week.

Aniko Szocs, our parish Clerk, was nominated by Cllr Jenny Webb (currently deputy Mayor) from Norman Ward, Jenny nominated Aniko for all of her volunteer work with the Keep Ashford Clean group, Aniko regularly gives up her Saturdays to organise a litter pick in various parts of the Borough and sometimes our parish too.

All the nominees were allowed to take 3 others to the awards ceremony, Joanna took her husband Ed and their family. Aniko took her Partner, Darren and his Mum and also Angus Willson our Vice-chair of the Parish Council. Also attending were those who had nominated each candidate and also their partners, so it all meant for a very convivial evening in the warm sunshine of Chart Hills Golf Course.

I was congratulated by Gerry Clarkson, Leader of ABC, for having such a vibrant and community minded parish and for having two nominees for the parish too. I must add my own congratulations to both Joanna & Aniko as these awards and richly earned and we are lucky to have them both working hard for our Parish.



This photo shows both recipients either side of the Mayor and the other members of their party.

Ian McClintock

Chair - Great Chart with Singleton PC

#### Report a Fault/ View planned KCC Works

If you see broken signs, overgrown vegetation, potholes, faulty street lights or traffic sign faults you can report it to Kent County Council following these three simple steps:

**Step 1:** Locate the fault on the interactive map. On the map you can also check and view faults that already have been reported.

**Step 2:** Describe the fault in detail. If possible, take a photograph of the fault and attach it to the report when prompted.

**Step 3:** Provide your contact details, phone number and email address and any other information relating to the fault you are reporting.

Kent County Council aims to repair most problems within 28 days, although some problems may take longer.

For more information please check their website:

http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/ KCC.KHSFaultsGIS.Web.Sites.Public/Default.aspx

#### Report it!

Ashford Borough council has improved its online reporting system, making it easier for residents to report issues such as fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, vandalism, anti-social behaviour or planning enforcement issues.

The new system replaces some of their online forms and allows residents to report incidents and then track their progress via a unique reference number.

This is part of the council's tough but fair approach to enforcement and compliance. For more information please visit

http://www.ashford.gov.uk/report

#### Singleton Environment Centre and Footprints Café Bistro

Despite some difficulties (more later) the Centre has made a successful transition from being run by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to being overseen by the Singleton Spaces Trust, formed at the request of the parish council specifically to run the Centre. "Reopened" (we never closed!) on 14th June the Centre has been transformed with new signs to replace the old TCV branding.

We have been able to retain the former TCV Centre Manager, John Alexander, who now works for the Trust, as well as Candy Gibbs in the café who was working for a third party. In addition we have been able to employ a second chef and some serving staff for the café.

As previous tenants of the Environment Centre, TCV were required to give a minimum of one year's notice if they wished to end the lease early. The terms of their lease held them responsible for what is known in the "trade" as dilapidations, which means the building should be in good order at the end of the lease when they return the keys to the landlord. Despite having twelve months to come to an arrangement with the landlord (ABC) on the dilapidation works, as I write this the terms of the lease have not been met. Negotiations continue between ABC and TCV to bring this matter to a conclusion. However, it is frustrating this matter has not yet been resolved as TCV have employed a dilapidations specialist to protect their interests We continue to increase our range of green and environmental educational activities and you can always find out what's going on by visiting our website:

#### www.singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk

Malcolm Wiffen

Chair, Singleton Spaces

#### Why should we Love Urban Trees

The parish council often receives complaints about trees.

Through this short article we would like to highlight the benefits

and the importance of urban trees.

#### es. Air Quality



Urban trees absorb air

pollution from

atmosphere. The major air pollutants are sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and ozone.

Trees help reduce global warming by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.



#### Wildlife habitat

Due to deforestation to make way

for farmland many species lost their habitat and are now in declining numbers. City trees and improved urban ecosystems can help bring some life back by providing wildlife habitat for birds, mammals, insects, amphibians and reptiles.

#### **Water Quality**

Tree leaves and roots naturally filter water and remove pollutants. Trees help water soak into the ground and recharge water tables.

#### **Community benefits**

By planting and caring for trees community members work in a positive way. A greener environment draws residents to interact with nature, for adults to socialise and for children to play outside. Active participation in caring for the trees provides pride for the

community, and improved health (both



mental and physical). Planting trees improves the environment and helps to develop skills.

#### **Urban Heat Island Effect**

Trees can help to reduce urban heat islands because they have the potential to cool the climate locally.

#### **Parish Council News**

#### Pop-up Café

The parish council in collaboration with The Rural Kent Coffee & Information Project held a pop-up café at the Great Chart village hall car park. Residents were invited to come along for a chat and coffee while finding out useful information. Each event was a great success and the Godinton and Great Chart WI ladies contributed home made cakes! Spurred on with the success the parish council is hoping to continue the café.



#### Village Sign

Pamela Grigg - Godinton and Great Chart WI

We are pleased to inform everyone that the parish council finally received permission to erect a village sign in Singleton. Subject to permission for installation it is hoped the sign will be in place before winter.

#### Caretaker

As mentioned already in the introduction by the chair, the parish council is pleased to announce the successful recruitment of an assistant to the caretaker. The extra pair of hands means that more work can be now undertaken in the parish. This is also further helped by the new vehicle the parish council purchased in July. The van allows transportation of equipment, green cuttings and rubbish. If you see a public path that is covered in foliage, please contact the clerk via email theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com or phone 01233 616923.

#### **Parish Grants**

Every year the parish allocates funds to support local clubs and groups. The fund is available to all local groups whose activities benefit the parishioners. For more information visit the parish council website www.greatchartwithsingletonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk.

### Vegetable-growing newbies make significant impact at Hillcrest Allotments

In spring 2015, Hillcrest Allotments in Great Chart opened for business. One of the most interesting features of the membership has been the large number of people who have made a success of their plots despite never having grown fruit or vegetables before.

Barry Mercer is a case in point.

Barry admits that he hadn't taken particularly well to retirement, after having had a very active working life as a highly qualified electrical engineer. Having seen an article in the Parish Newsletter, he applied to become a member of the Barrow & Spade Brigade, which manages Hillcrest Allotments, and hasn't looked back since.

"I paid £22.50 for a 10 metres x 6 metres plot, bought a book on how to grow fruit and vegetables and got stuck in," he recalls.

With lots of time on his hands, Barry then began to contribute to the upkeep of the Hillcrest site and was subsequently asked to become Site Manager, which he was only too pleased to do. He is now one of the allotments' most important members, using skills learnt throughout his working life to find ingenious solutions to seemingly intractable problems.



When somebody used bolt cutters to break into the site's storage container, Barry found a way to stop that happening again.

"Instead of securing the doors with a lock and chain, I thought it would be better to put in three flush locks, which are virtually impossible for anybody to easily open without a key," recalls Barry, who also used his electrician background to fit multiple screech alarms - just in case! Among his regular tasks are mowing the paths and strimming the non-cultivated areas of the plot.

"Before I had an allotment, I was sitting at home, bored, putting on weight. Now, I'm slimmer, healthier and get to spend lots of time doing some really interesting stuff," he says.

Barry has a young assistant, Dan Jenner, who amazingly started growing vegetables at Hillcrest when he wasn't yet sixteen. However, he took to growing fruit and vegetables like a duck to water, citing his grandparents as his biggest influence.

A year after he arrived, he'd dug over his plot and took on a second, smaller one, but still wanted more work, so agreed to become Assistant Site Manager. In this role, he has acted as Barry's understudy, learning a lot of new skills. Being a bright lad, he's also used this experience to further advance his own horticultural career.

"I'm dyslexic," reveals Dan, "and not particularly academic, either. However, I love plants, so rather than keeping on at normal school, I went to Brogdale horticultural college in Sellinge and got

some RHS qualifications. I then used that to apply for posts as a trainee gardener. I recently had an interview with English Heritage and am now going to work for them as a gardening trainee."

Dan, like Barry, had never grown vegetables before becoming a plot holder, but now uses knowledge he's picked up at



horticultural college not only to benefit his fellow plot holders but also the allotment as a whole.

Demand for plots is such that the Barrow & Spade Brigade now has a waiting list for plots, although currently only one person is on that list. There is also an annual turnover of around 15%, so nobody waits more than six months for a plot.

If you would like to follow Barry and Dan and try fruit and vegetable gardening for yourselves, contact the parish clerk: <a href="mailto:theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com">theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com</a>.

The current cost of a plot is less that a pound-a-week which, these days, is fantastic value for money!

#### **Great Chart & Godinton WI**

We are a friendly active group of ladies who meet at Godinton Village Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month starting time 7.30pm. There is also an Activity Group meeting again at Godinton Village Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8pm.

If you would like to know more about this WI please do come along and meet us at the Knit & Natter on 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month 10-11.30am at the Grapevine Cafe in Singleton Village Hall everyone is welcome. This takes place during the Cafe's opening times of 8.30-12am they have great coffee & delicious home made cakes.

#### Program for next 3 months:

- ♦ October 3<sup>rd</sup> Have a go evening
- ♦ October 17<sup>th</sup> Givaudan Flavours & Fragrances
- ♦ October 22<sup>nd</sup> Knit & Natter
- ♦ November 7<sup>th</sup> Darts & Digestives (Chocolate)
- ♦ Novemebr 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting
- November 26<sup>th</sup> Knit & Natter
- ♦ December 5<sup>th</sup> Decoupage
- ♦ December 8<sup>th</sup> Visit to Santa Special on KESRailway
- ♦ December 19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Party

For further information contact – Secretary Janet 01233 332510 or committee member - Pamela 01233 878013

nd Groups
Singleton Rainbows Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 pm at SVH Fridays 4:15-5.15 pm SVH
1st Great Chart and Singleton Guides Mondays; 6:30 - 8:30 pm at SVH- Contact Terry Lockwood – 07704 359434
Dream Dragons Theatre Wednesdays 7-10 pm at SVH contact 01233 668767 or www.dreamdragons.co.uk
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 Contact Rev Tim Wilson 01233 620371 E mail rector@stmarysgreatchart.org Website www.stmarysgreatchart.org Pastoral Care: 07756 805507
Speed Watch-Gary Parry Great chart with Singleton Speedwatch Coordinator 01233 640110 gary@wthp.co.uk
The Grapevine Community Café at Singleton Village Hall Mon & Thu am
Stardust Studios – Children's Dance Classes — Classes held at SVH, Contact Natalie Kitts 01233 625786/07899 844956 info@starduststudios.co.uk
Grace Fellowship at Singleton Road http://www.gracefellowship.org.uk/  Ashford Community Woodland Email: ashfordcommunitywoodland@hotmail.co. uk  Barrow & Spade Brigade

#### **Useful Information**

**Allotments** 

Parish Clerk - 01233 616923-

theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com

Litter/Overflowing bins/ flytipping:

streetscene@ashford.gov.uk

Dog Warden

Colin Leek - 01233 330340 -

colin.leek@ashford.gov.uk

**Mobile Library** 

Knoll Lane: Thursdays 15:50-16:05

Coronation Drive: Saturday (fortnightly) 10:55-11:25

Aske's Court Friday 15:45-16:15

#### **Emergency Contacts**

Emergency Services **999** Non-emergency police **101** or email to <a href="mailto:csu.ashford@kent.pnn.police.uk">csu.ashford@kent.pnn.police.uk</a>

KCC Community Support Warden – Joanna Watts

<u>Joanna.Watts@kent.gov.uk</u> or **07969583917** 

Environment Agency, General Enquiries: 03708 506 506

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** 

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: singletonvh@btinternet.com

Great Chart Playing Fields—Buxford Pavilion— Tel: 01233 427407

Email: gcpfa@barkercomputersolutions.co.uk

Parish Contact Details		
Great Chart with Singleton North	Singleton South	
Parish Councillors	Parish Councillors	
lan McClintock	Geoff Darvill	
07919 278828	01233 642357	
ian.mcclintock59@yahoo.co.uk	geoffsvhpc@gmail.com	
Yolanda Barker	Malcolm Eke	
01233 610241	01233 638062	
<u>y.barker@barkermanor.co.uk</u>	malcolmeke@aol.com	
Peter Barker	Sally Gathern	
01233 610 241	07815 803862	
p.barker@barkercomputersolutions.co.uk	<u>sallygathern@aol.com</u>	
Paul Tate	Amanda Hodgkinson	
07850 082023	01233 633843	
paultatepc@gmail.com	amanda4single-	
	ton@btinternet.com	
Malcolm Wiffen	Angus Willson	
01233 635016	07976 239295	
malcwiffen@btinternet.com	angus.willson@btinternet.com	
	Janet Sullivan	
	01233 645400	
	janetsullivan36@msn.com	
Great Chart and Singleton North Ward	Singleton South	
Councillor	Ward Councillor	
Jessamy Blanford—01233 840050	Bill Barrett—07449 454044	
jessamy.blanford@tiscali.co.uk	<u>barrettwbarrett@aol.com</u>	
Kent County Councillor	Kent County Councillor	
Charlie Simkins -01233 756705	Dara Farrell	
charlie.simkins@kent.gov.uk	<u>Dara.Farrell@kent.gov.uk</u>	
Parish Clark - Anika Szocs - 01233 616023 or theclarkgowenc@gmail.com		

Parish Clerk - Aniko Szocs—01233 616923 or <a href="mailto:theckground-com/theckground-com/">theckground-com/theckground-com/theckground-com/</a> Parish Office Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close, Ashford TN23 5LB Office opening hours 9 am -1pm other times by arrangement.

T. 01227 392676

pa@youronlinepa.net

www.youronlinepa.net

What are the benefits of using a virtual assistant?

- It's cost effective, as you don't have to provide office space or pay employee costs because I work remotely from my home office in Ashford.
- It's flexible, as you only pay for what you need, in handy 15 minute increments; 1 hour minimum.
- Your productivity is enhanced as I can take of all the non-core tasks and that eat away at your time.
- You get the advantage of more than 25 years' experience working for senior execs. I also speak a couple of foreign languages, if you'd like to improve communication with partners abroad.

Run your own business? Need help with any of the following?

- · Document formatting
- Creating Word and PowerPoint documents/presentations
- · Copy editing / proof reading documents
- · Audio transcription from digital files/CD
- · Data entry
- Mail shots
- Looking after your content management system (CMS)
- · Project management
- Event coordination

I am here to help busy businesses that need administrative support, but can't afford a full-time employee.

2 for 1 offer on your first 10 hours! Please mention Parish Newsletter.

# Thinking of selling or letting your property in or close to Great Chart?

For straightforward sale or letting advice regarding the value of your house please contact us. 01580 766766

www.hobbsparker.co.uk

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