

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Newsletter

January 2019

Where we lead others will follow!



The parish council would like to hear your feedback on traffic issues in the parish and the proposed village confines for Great Chart. More information inside.

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.

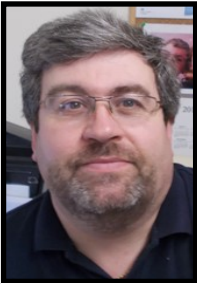
Please contact the Clerk on 01233 616923 or email

theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com. 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 theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com

Chair's Report



Ian McClintock

Welcome to the winter edition of the newsletter, I hope you all had a great Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Many of you will know that we are approaching the time for the Parish Council to face an election on 2nd May 2019, I must admit I do find this time quite unsettling as I have to make up my mind if I will stand again, by the time of the election I will have served 20 years as a Parish Councillor. Not only is it a decision for myself but also for the other members of the PC as we all have to face an election. It is made even more complicated this time round as the Boundary Commission have made a few adjustments to the Ward & Parish Boundaries in Ashford (this happens about every 12 years), and because of this change we will be adding an extra member to our PC, that will make 12 members, this difficulty about this is that with an even number the Chair has to use his casting vote more often to break a draw when voting. Hopefully, later in this issue we will explain the boundary changes and what they mean for our Parishioners.

Now is the time to get involved in making our Community better for everyone, as this is the main aim of the PC. If you have some free time to spare, then contact the Clerk and she will be able to tell you more about our PC and the process to put your name forward for election. If we get more than 12 then we will have an actual election, if we get 12 people then they are automatically elected, less than 12 and we will have to co-opt after the election to make up the numbers, but it is always good to have the people choose who will stand for the next four years.

You cannot have missed the recent Snow Dog trail that occurred in the Town centre and the subsequent auction for the Pilgrims Hospice that raised over £142,000 for that worthy cause. I was lucky to have been invited to the auction by the Mayoress and Ward Member Cllr Jessamy Blanford and the PC had the idea that perhaps we might purchase one of these brilliant pieces of art for the parish, to continue the fine work and keep raising funds for the Hospice and the Singleton Environment Centre. I was lucky enough to place a winning bid on Snowy the Snow Pup, this was delivered to the SEC on 21st December and we will be having a grand reveal early in January, we hope to have the artists, two young art students from Ashford College present and lots of other people, so look out for the date for this. We plan to create a crowd funding page and promote a 'Friends of our Snow Pup' group who will be invited to various events Snowy attends, this way he will be truly a Community Snow Pup for some time to come – if you can afford a few pounds to join the group, details are posted here https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/snowythesnowpup?utm_id=1&utm_term=yKD5Gp3KR

In March 2019 we will have reached the first anniversary of the PC taking over the Singleton Environment Centre, but to date we have not yet signed the lease as ABC have not even started the list of refurbishments needed to have been done after the previous tenants vacated earlier in the year, but these will hopefully be completed before the anniversary (hopefully). The SEC continues to get busier and the staff is growing into the extra business and John is now filling up the diary for bookings in 2019 already. Our thanks must go to the Staff and Trustees for doing such a great job at the SEC as it is become a real Community asset and there is still a lot of good work to do.

The PC is dealing with the many planning applications coming from Chilmington, and we can now see some slow progress with the building, and more recently before Christmas we saw some major flooding issues from the site, resulting in some localised flooding of houses – but the good thing to come out of this is that a totally new assessment of the water situation over the whole site will take place in the new year. I hope that any further flooding can be avoided as I don't like to be up to my knees in water whilst reporting it and getting help for those affected.

I hope that we are able to get another issue out in April to be able to remind you about the elections in May, but again if you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the Clerk.

Ian

Ian McClintock
Chair- Great Chart with Singleton PC

Great Chart and Singleton South Ward Councillor's Report



Cllr Bill Barrett

I can report that this year has been both productive and a pleasure to serve you as Ward Councillor for Singleton South. Rather than waxing lyrical about each individual event/achievement I will simply bullet point them.

- Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in full working order around Singleton Lake, making a huge difference to ASB and littering. Additional signs placed around the top end of the lake to protect the privacy of the Lakeside residents from rouge fishermen casting towards them

(paid for from my members grant).

- The second TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) went live outside the John Wesley Primary School and has made entering and exiting the school much easier for residents. This order has led to some collateral parking up and down the adjacent roads, but this has been addressed by the Parish Council working in conjunction with Kent Police and local PCSO's.

- Vegetation alongside Great Chart Primary School, originally cut back by Persimmon Homes, now to be maintained to a sensible and tidy level by ABC's Aspire. Indeed the middle entrance to the school has been planted by Aspire with hardy plants and landscaped making the area look so much better.

- The Singleton Environment Centre (SEC) is now managed by a new charity called Singleton Spaces, and has so far done a wonderful job of continuing the use of the centre as both a hub for the local community and also as a centre for enhancing environmental understanding. Indeed in the last month I donated £1000 of my ward members grant towards the purchase of a new commercial dishwasher to help the kitchen continue its good work. And I have liaised with the new trust at every opportunity to aid their work and I intend to continue this partnership moving forward.

The above is really only a snap shot of the work I have done over the last year, but serves to highlight my activities succinctly. I must add that I wish to thank the Parish Clerk Aniko as I did last year for both keeping me informed of issues that otherwise I may miss, and most importantly in helping me to solve problems.

I hope by the time you read this you are enjoying the New Year and please be in touch if there is anything I can do to be of service.

Cllr Bill Barrett.

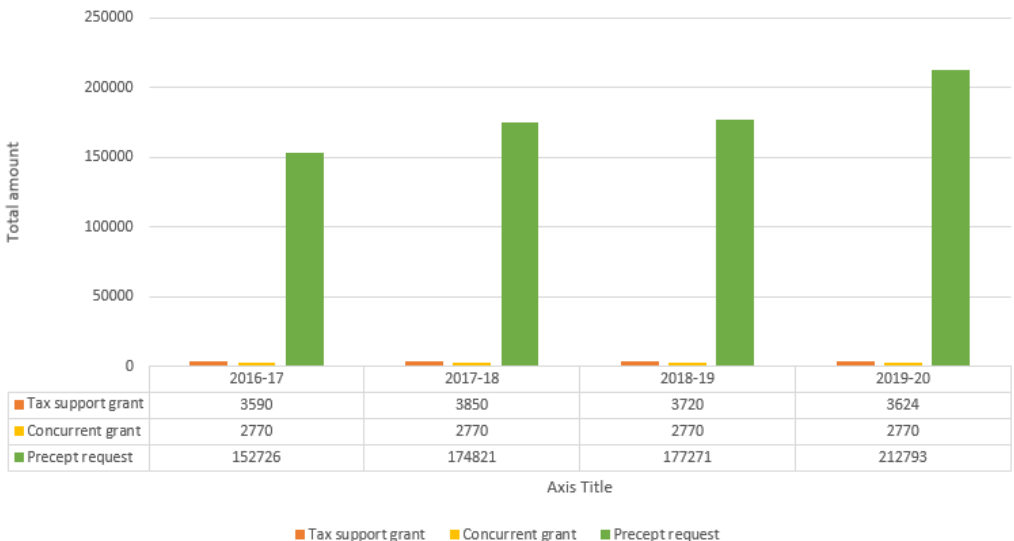
Budget 2019-20

This time of the year all local authorities are preparing their budget for the financial year 2019-20. Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council is no exception and discussed the budget in detail at their last meeting in December. The budget sets the framework for the services the parish council can provide for the community. It also enables the parish council to plan new projects and to conclude old ones. Precept is an order to the billing authority in this instance Ashford Borough Council to pay a named sum. This sum is then paid to the Parish Council/Local authority in the form of instalments, the first half by 1st May and the second half by 1st October. This money allows the Parish Council to provide local services that the Borough or County Council don't or won't. As well as new projects the following is taken into account when setting the precept:

- * Next year's expenditure, outstanding expenses, payments to financial services and salaries.

The graph below shows past years precept requests. The gradual increase of the precept is the reflection of more ground maintenance services. Further details of the precept available on the Parish Council website under the Financial Information tab.

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council
Precept 2019-20



Great Chart—Village Confines

Planning officers at Ashford Borough Council have drawn the confines around a number of rural settlements including Great Chart. This exercise is intended to be for clarification only and it does not change the meaning of the Council's planning policies or their application. It is to visually represent the confines of Great Chart. The proposed map-based confines will help to guide and inform decision-making for planning applications where development is proposed on land adjacent to or within settlements listed in policies HOU5 and HOU3. This will mean that residents and developers have a great degree of clarity and certainty. Further information regarding the above policies can be found on the parish council website here:

<http://www.greatchartwithsingletonpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/news/>

What are the village confines?

The mapped lines show the village confines which are the limits of continuous and contiguous development forming the existing built-up area of the settlement, excluding any curtilage beyond the built footprint of the buildings on the site (e.g. garden areas).

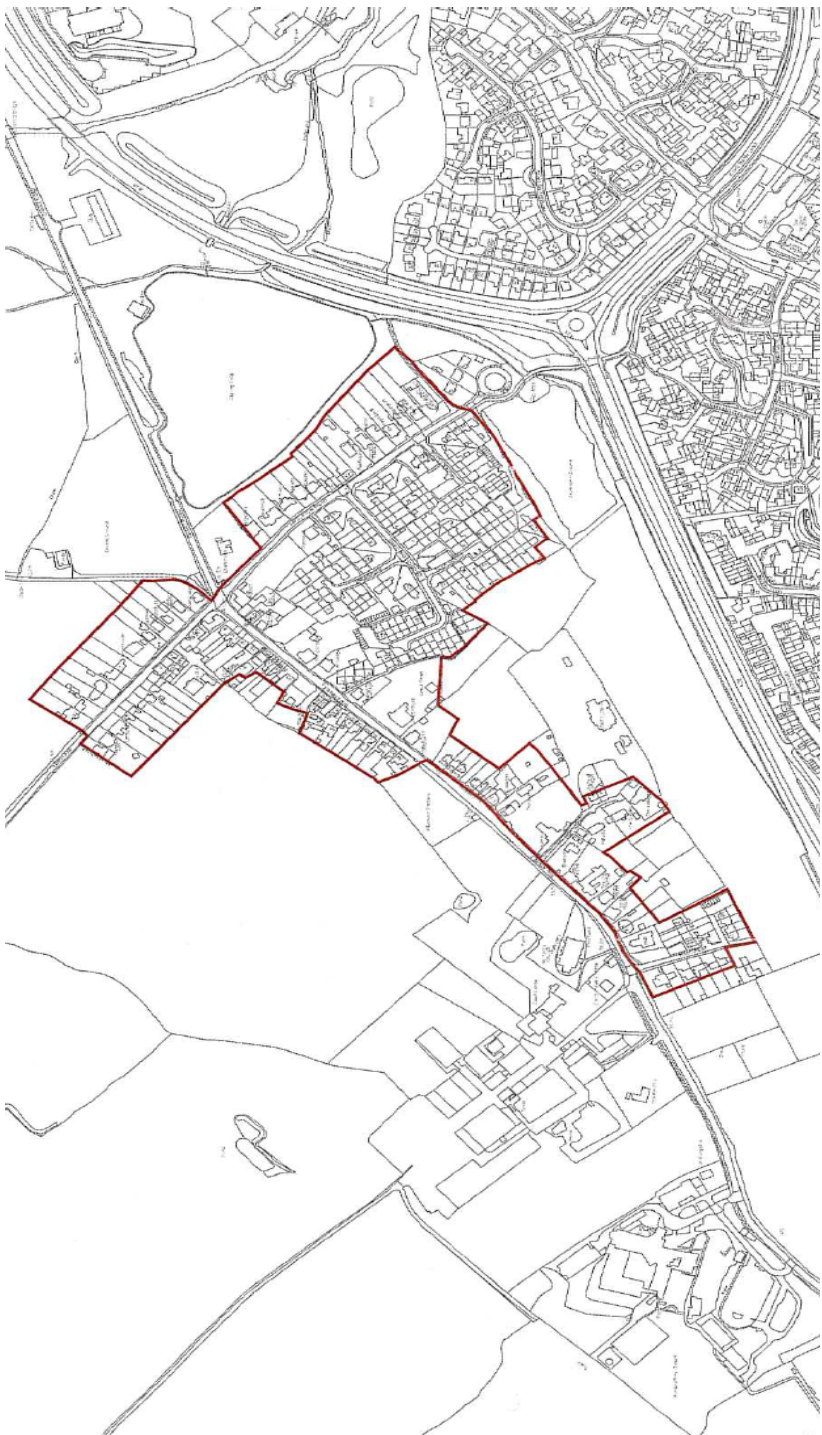
Next step

The parish council on behalf of Ashford Borough Council is consulting the residents regarding the proposed village confines and would love to hear your feedback. The map can be found on the next page as well as on the parish council's website. If you have any comments please submit them to the parish Clerk via email

theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com by 8th February 2019.



Proposed village confine



Traffic Calming Schemes– The Street

Our Parish continues to experience high volumes of traffic and vehicles failing to observe speed limits and this is a frequent topic of discussion at Parish Council meetings. The recently purchased Speed Indicating Device (SID), which you may have seen in operation on Knoll Lane, The Street and Tithe Barn Lane will enable the council to produce quantitative data which will highlight where this is having the greatest effect on the community and provide a focus for action. One area, which has been of concern for some time, is The Street in Great Chart. A scheme to slow traffic through the village was instigated as long ago as 2004. Over time, with increasing volumes of traffic failing to use the bypass, the expansion of Friars School and the commencement of the development at Chilmington Green the original scheme is no longer achieving the desired result and there is a need to revisit the problem with the possibility of putting something in place which is more effective. The parish council has approached Kent County Council (KCC) to discuss options to permanently reduce both the volume of traffic and speeding on The Street. In order for KCC design a bespoke "highway improvement scheme" there is an estimated initial cost of £6,500.00 which would include the following:

- * The appointment of a Project Manager
- * A principal designer being assigned to the project
- * The preparation of plans
- * Two meetings with the Parish Council to agree outline and detail designs
- * Advice and draft literature for local consultation
- * Road safety audits

However, it will not include the following:

- * A Traffic Regulation Order
- * The costs involved in the implementation of any scheme
- * The costs associated with the construction phase (traffic management, materials, installation and labour).

These will run into the tens of thousands of pounds which would have to come from the parish precept as KCC has no budget for improvements to The Street. The parish council is seeking resident's views on the above and would welcome your feedback.

Please respond by e-mail to:

theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com with "Traffic Scheme" in the subject line, or in writing to:

Traffic Scheme

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council
Singleton Village Hall
Hoxton Close
Ashford
TN23 5LB

The parish council recognises that traffic related issues are not isolated to The Street and would like to hear from residents with any concerns they may have about traffic related matters. Our new SID will enable us to record traffic data around the parish and feed this into the discussion to highlight other areas of concern.

Your Chance to Become a Parish Councillor

Have you ever wanted to become a Parish Councillor but were unsure about what the role entails? Here is some information to help you:

Could you be a councillor?

Are you 18 years of age or over? Do you live or work within the parish or live within three miles of the parish? If the answer to those question is yes, than you can be a parish councillor.

What will you do if elected?

You will attend parish council meetings, where you can raise matters that the council can consider and formally decide to take action. Make contributions and influence debate at meetings. Receive training and represent the Council externally.

What parish councils do?

Parish Councils were established by legislation in 1894, and are the first tier of local government in England. Parish Councils provide services to meet local needs, improve quality of life and well-being in the community. Parish Councils also give the local community a more powerful voice.

What services does a parish council provide?

The parish council exists to directly support the local community. Maintenance of parks and open spaces, the provision of allotments, litter bins, some street lighting and street cleaning, Community Safety Schemes, crime reduction schemes (CCTV), help in reducing anti-social behaviour and grants to help local groups to mention but a few.

If you want to be the voice for the community why not become a parish councillor. For further details please contact the Clerk on 01233 616923 or via email theclergcwspc@gmail.com

Singleton Environment Centre

I'm sure most of you will, by now, be familiar with the saga of the Singleton Environment Centre since it was vacated by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) in March of 2018. Ian McClintock has mentioned some of it in the second page of his Chair's Report at the beginning of this magazine. I don't propose to detail the story again!

It is enough to say that we have had a successful ten months and the Centre seems now to be on a sound financial footing. Singleton Spaces, the trust set up to run Centre became a registered charity in October and this helps by reducing our liability for business rates.

The stated purposes of the Centre are:

1) The preservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment for the public benefit, in particular by promoting and supporting the creation and maintenance of green spaces within the area.

2) Advancing education for the public benefit in conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

In addition, the Centre is home to the Footprints Café Bistro and also hosts Kumon (Maths/English tuition) and the Soothing Pod (Massage therapy) as well as providing such community activities as Knit & Natter and R & R (Repair and Reuse).

To discover other activities and events at the Centre, please visit our website:

<https://www.singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk/>

Malcolm Wiffen

Chair, Singleton Spaces

Ashford Community Woodland

The woodland and open spaces are managed and maintained by volunteers from the community. To increase biodiversity and conservation we undertake meadow mowing, coppicing, scrub clearance and glade creation.

Our task this Autumn has been to improve the surface of some paths which had become sunken and muddy. We have resurfaced part of Robin Path and High View Path. During the Winter months we plan to continue to lay hedge along Mock Lane.

Hedge laying is the best technique for renewing old hedges, increasing vigour and density. This provides huge benefits for nesting birds and other wildlife, and is also aesthetically pleasing.



If you would like to help out with this traditional craft we meet on the 1st Saturday of the month in the small car park, Mock Lane.

It would be great to see you!

Barrow and Spade Brigade—allotments at Great Chart

There used to be a time when typical allotment holders were retired menfolk, somewhat like Arthur Fowler in “Eastenders” (remember him?!), who used going to his plot as a means of escaping from his nagging wife Pauline.

How times have changed!

At Hillcrest Allotments, in Great Chart, we do still have a handful of retired men among our membership, but today we tend to attract more families and younger women, with fewer than a third of our 34 plots worked almost exclusively by men.

Each of our female members has different reasons for wanting to grow their own.

Take Chika, for example.

A trainee GP with two young sons, she’s the first to admit that life is extremely hectic and free time at a premium.

“It is sometimes difficult to find time to escape to the allotment for a couple of hours, but you can find time if you absolutely want to,” she says.

Prior to having a plot at

Hillcrest, Chika used to try and grow fruit and veg at home, but just didn’t have enough room.

“I wasn’t that experienced, either, when I took a plot at Great Chart, but there are always people there to ask and the advice other plot holders give is always useful.”

But while cultivating crops is Chika’s main reason for joining the Barrow & Spade Brigade - which is the association set up by plot holders to manage the site on behalf of the parish council - she’s adamant that just being outside in the fresh air and looking after plants definitely benefits your health.

“If you have a lot of stress in your life, escaping to the allotment and growing fruit and veg is a great way to relax. When I qualify as a GP, I’ll definitely be prescribing my hobby to those patients who want non-medicated ways of coping with stress or depression,” she says.



Chika at the allotment



Another young female plot holder, Tracey, an Occupational Therapist, has three small children. One of the main drivers behind her decision to get an allotment was to get them involved, too.

“I thought if they could help with growing fruit and vegetables, they would be more likely to eat them,” says Tracey, but concedes that, to date, results have been “mixed”.

When she first arrived at Hillcrest, Tracey also specifically asked for one where no weed killer had been used by the previous occupant.

“I’m an organic gardener,” she explains. “That means growing fruit and vegetables as naturally as possible, and not using chemicals.”

She’s not alone in her thinking.

Most of the plot holders at Hillcrest are either organic or pragmatically organic growers and this is a trend that is gaining hold right across the UK.

Tracey, like Chika, was also something of a novice when she joined the

Barrow & Spade Brigade, but has learned a lot from reading books, researching on line and asking questions while on the site.

For Tracey, too, finding available time to go to the plot is not easy, and she often must dash off to deal with a family matter. Despite this, she still very much enjoys her hobby.



Tracey gets help from her children

If either Tracey or Chika has inspired you to grow your own, why not apply to the parish clerk for an allotment? The most you’ll ever pay is £32.50 a year for a 15m x 6m plot, or just £22.50 if you take a smaller, starter plot.

And you won’t normally have to wait more than six months before a plot becomes available.

Contact the parish clerk at: theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com

Great Chart & Godinton WI

Several months ago Great Chart & Godinton WI decided to expand their activities by holding a monthly Knit & Natter day time meeting. They already have a well supported monthly evening Activity session where members can participate in activities such as Darts; Ten Pin Bowling; or a walk by the sea plus various Craft sessions.

We wanted the Knit & Natter to be a daytime activity in convivial surroundings where not only WI members would attend but hopefully also the general public. The local Grapevine Cafe; held at Singleton village and run by volunteers; was approached and they kindly agreed for us to hold our sessions at the Cafe. The Knit & Natter group now meet there regularly on the 4th Monday of each month. It has been a successful venture and the WI has attracted new members by holding these meetings at a public venue.

The photo shows WI member Pearl who kindly donated her menagerie of animals to our Afternoon Tea Party in aid of the Charity "Mind" which raised in total £225.



Great Chart & Godinton WI meet on 3rd Wednesday of each month at Godinton Village Hall start time 7.30pm. The Institute has interesting speakers at these meetings plus reminders of other activities organised by the WI Committee. Please come along as a visitor and see for yourself how the WI is welcoming and all inclusive.

General Meetings take place 3rd Wednesday of each month at Godinton Village Hall start time 7.30pm

Activity Sessions " " 1st Wednesday of the month at Godinton Village Hall start time 8pm

Knit & Natter " " 4th Monday of the month 10-11.30am at Grapevine Cafe Singleton Village Hall

For further information please contact the Secretary Janet telephone 01233 332510

Committee Member Pamela 01233 878013 pamgrigg@hotmail.co.uk

Clubs and Groups

<p>Beavers—Thursdays 5:30-7 pm at GCVH, boys and girls aged 6-8 Contact Shelley Bowman shelley_bowman@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Singleton Rainbows Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 pm at SVH Fridays 4:15-5.15 pm SVH</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>1st Great Chart and Singleton Guides Mondays; 6:30 - 8:30 pm at SVH- Contact Terry Lockwood – 07704 359434</p>
<p>Scouts—Mondays 7-9 pm at GCVH boys and girls aged 10 ½ -14 – contact Dave Gathern 01233 633966/ 07961202097</p>	<p>Dream Dragons Theatre Wednesdays 7-10 pm at SVH contact 01233 668767 or www.dreamdragons.co.uk</p>
<p>Paek Ma Taekwondo Tuesday 5.30pm-6.30pm Beginners 6.30pm-8pm Advanced Thursday 6.30pm-8pm Juniors 8pm-9.30pm Seniors SVH– Master Geoff 6th Dan - 07836621060</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Youth Club Fridays 7-9 pm SVH Ian McClintock email: ian.mcclintock59@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Speed Watch-Gary Parry Great chart with Singleton Speedwatch Coordinator 01233 640110 gary@wthp.co.uk</p>
<p>Great Chart Cricket Club www.greatchartcc.co.uk</p>	<p>The Grapevine Community Café at Singleton Village Hall Mon & Thu am</p>
<p>Singleton Giant Email:peter@singletongiant.org.uk Phone: 01233 610241</p>	<p>Stardust Studios – Children's Dance Classes— Classes held at SVH, Contact Natalie Kitts 01233 625786/07899 844956 info@starduststudios.co.uk</p>
<p>Pilgrims FC (Football Club) Contact Name: Kyran Wilford Contact Number: 07984352008 Email: kyran@pilgrimsfc.co.uk</p> <p>Friends of Singleton Lake Email: friendsofsingletonlake@outlook.com</p>	<p>Grace Fellowship at Singleton Road http://www.gracefellowship.org.uk/</p> <p>Ashford Community Woodland Email: ashfordcommunitywoodland@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p>Barrow & Spade Brigade Email: theclerkgcwspc@gmail.com</p>

Abbreviations:

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

Useful Information

Allotments

Parish Clerk – 01233 616923-
theclerkqcwspc@gmail.com

Litter/Overflowing bins/ fly-tipping:
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
csu.ashford@kent.pnn.police.uk

KCC Community Support Warden – Joanna Watts

Joanna.Watts@kent.gov.uk 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 Parish Councillors

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angus.willson@btinternet.com

Janet Sullivan
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janetsullivan36@msn.com

Great Chart and Singleton North Ward Councillor

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jessamy.blanford@tiscali.co.uk

Singleton South Ward Councillor

Bill Barrett—07449 454044
barrettwbarrett@aol.com

Kent County Councillor

Charlie Simkins -01233 756705
charlie.simkins@kent.gov.uk

Kent County Councillor

Dara Farrell
Dara.Farrell@kent.gov.uk

Parish Clerk - Aniko Szocs—01233 616923 or theclerkqcwspc@gmail.com

Parish Office Singleton Village Hall, Hoxton Close, Ashford TN23 5LB
Office opening hours 9 am -1pm other times by arrangement.

Monthly Parish Council meeting Dates

Date	Venue
Monday 14 th January 2019	Singleton Village Hall at 7.30 pm
Monday 11 th February 2019	Great Chart Village Hall at 7.30 pm
Monday 11 th March 2019	Singleton Village Hall at 7.30 pm
Monday 08 th April 2019	Great Chart Village Hall at 7.30 pm

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.

01233 506260

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