

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL

In This Newsletter

- Meeting Dates and venues for 2021
- Latest News
- Meet Your Councillor
- Pop Up Cafe is back!

Updates on

- Our new logo
- Community Heroes
- Re-opening of local amenities
- Updates from Clubs and Groups
- Useful Contact Info

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Council meeting dates
 - 11th October
 - 12 July
- Pop Up Cafe
 - 8th November
 - 10th November
 - 15th December



GREAT CHART
with **SINGLETON**
Parish Council



INSIDE THIS EDITION



Parish Council News	Page 3
Parish Council Meeting Dates	Page 4
Thoughts From Your Chairman	Pages 5-6
Meet Your Councillor	Pages 7
You've Asked, We've Done	Page 8
Parish Council Logo	Page 9
Pop Up Cafe and Repair Cafe	Page 10
Singleton Environment Centre	Page 11
Local Environment	Pages 12-13
Colemans Kitchen Woods	Pages 14-15
Local Amenities	Pages 16-17
Group Reports	Pages 18-19
Hillcrest Allotments	Page 20
Clubs, Groups, Information and Contacts	Pages 21-24

Keep In Touch



www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



greatchartwithsingletonparishcouncil



Gcwspc



GCwSPC



theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



01233 616923

Photo Credits

Page 1 - Spiders web - Steve Hodges

Page 14 - Aerial view of trees - Aspire

Page 17 - Kyran Wilford

All other photos are either council's own or provided with the relevant article

Newsletter Advertising and Articles

This newsletter is produced by Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council and is distributed to every house within the Parish and also included on our website and social media pages.

We welcome submissions for articles and events from local clubs, groups and businesses that benefit those living within our parish.

Any views or opinions included in this newsletter are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Parish Council.

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

Please contact the Clerk using the contact details above for more information.





Over the summer holidays the Parish Council organised a trail using the What3Words app. The completed entries went into a prize draw for a copy of Charlie Mackesy's book. We are now looking forward to our October scarecrow trail - keep your eye on our social media and noticeboards for more information.



The monthly Pop Up Cafe and Information Hub finally returned in August, and we were able to belatedly celebrate the birthday of a resident who has lived in Great Chart for 90 years. The September Cafe will be hosted at Singleton Village Hall whilst this magazine is being printed, but we will be back at Great Chart Village Hall on 13th October and then at Singleton again on 10th November. We look forward to seeing our regulars, and hopefully meeting some new faces in our new venue.

The final stage of the implementation of the 20mph zone between Hoxton Close and Wesley School Road is now complete, and the new speed limit came into effect on 1st September. Hopefully you will have seen the banners near to the schools, they featured artwork designed by the pupils at each school, and other posters are being showcased on our social media over the next few weeks to remind road users of the new speed limit.



Now that the COVID restrictions are starting to lift, and with fingers crossed that we don't end up back in another lockdown, we can fully re-open some of our wider facilities. Singleton Environment Centre, the Buxford Pavilion at Great Chart Playing Fields, and Great Chart Village Hall and Singleton Village Hall are all back in business. See pages 16 to 17 for more detailed updates.

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council is keen to support the local residents who want to do more to keep their local environment clean and pleasant for all to enjoy. The Parish Council would like to help residents by funding a Community Heroes scheme. As part of this scheme, residents will receive support and will be provided with all the equipment they need to carry out litter picks. Please see our website for all the details and a registration form, and our advert on page 9. This photo is of Madeleine who was our first registered hero, she was so keen she signed up within 24 hours of our launch!



After being an ongoing agenda item for a good few months, and after generating much discussion between the councillors, the council have finally agreed on the new logo! We hope we have represented all three parts of this parish (Great Chart, Singleton and, for now, Chilmington) and that you like it. For more details on the different elements that make up the logo, please see page 9.

As a final note, we would just like to shout about the fact that our Clerk, Aniko is a finalist at the NALC Star Council Awards, in the Clerk of the Year category. The nomination mentions her volunteer coordination efforts during the COVID pandemic, and also her hard work as a proactive Clerk in general, as well as her many volunteer roles across the local area.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2021



The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of the month to discuss local issues and to make decisions. The meeting venue alternates between Singleton Village Hall and Great Chart Village Hall. The dates and venues for the rest of 2021 are confirmed below, why not come along to one of the meetings to find out more about the Parish Council's activities. For more information on agendas and minutes please visit our website www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk and click on The Council tab

The remaining dates for 2021 meetings are:

13 September 2021 - Singleton Village Hall

11 October 2021 - Great Chart Village Hall

8 November 2021 - Singleton Village Hall

13 December 2021 - Great Chart Village Hall

If between planned meetings an urgent issue arises, an Extraordinary Meeting can be called. These are announced at least three days in advance and are publicised on our website and social media.

Remote Meetings

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, emergency legislation was passed to allow Parish Councils to meet remotely. This legislation expired on 6th May 2021 and was not extended. This means that to comply with current law, the council must meet face-to-face for all future meetings. We are aware that some residents will continue to social distance for the foreseeable future, so we look forward to seeing you at a meeting as soon as you feel comfortable to attend.



THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



My thoughts while writing this report are about the many school teachers that I know and of course their pupils as they prepare to go back to start a new school year, the changes that they have made due to the pandemic and the still very unknown future that we see for the next 12 months as the numbers in the UK start to rise again.

As usual the PC took a break from their monthly meeting in August, but this doesn't mean that nothing is happening – our team on the ground have still been working hard! Like both ABC & KCC we are suffering from the strange weather since May and are playing catch up on our grass cutting – I may even take a turn with the sit on mower over the next 2 weeks, having done all the training how hard can it be? We just need some dry weather.



We had a great opening of the new Brisley Extension at the Environment Centre, we had many from Ashford Borough Council attend including Heather Hayward, Brisley Ward Member (who cut the ribbon) and Matthew Forrest from Cultural Services portfolio holder – the speeches were short and the weather great to allow us to show off the new building at it's best. So I must add my thanks to the staff & volunteers at the centre that made the whole day go smoothly and seem effortless! I am also very pleased with the results of 6 hours of pond dipping with so many young people taking part, that we have a very healthy pond full of newts of all sizes and types – the point of making a special note of this is that there were concerns that digging the foundations and the disruption of the new build might have scared them off, so I am very pleased that this didn't happen.

I was very pleased to hear in July that our Clerk, Aniko, has been shortlisted among the five finalists for the NALC (National Association of Local Councils) Clerk of the Year award – we will find out how she gets on in October, so I may have more news in the next issue. A recent email to me also said that although Ani is the finalist this also reflects on the whole team she works with and also the support given from the whole Parish Council too. To be a finalist is fantastic, I must congratulate Ani on this, but to be the only Parish Clerk amongst 4 Town Clerks is a real accolade – it really shows how lucky our Parish is.

The team has been busy providing PC activities for everyone to take part in, the first being the Annual Picnic event at the SEC and on the first Saturday in September is a litter pick at Singleton Lake – but this issue will be delivered after these so keep your eye on social media for the next events. We also have, (after much deliberation and discussion) a new logo, and this is explained further over the page.

Many of you will have noticed that each Village Hall has a defibrillator outside and the Playing Fields pavilion will get another one soon in a secure box outside available for anyone to use that needs it – I am hoping that by next Spring our Parish will have a few more to help keep our community safer, I know the Cricket Club have offered to part fund one in a secure box at the Cricket Club for all to have access to – which means we will hopefully have 5 or 6 covering all of our Parish.

I was very pleased to attend the first Community event held by the new residents from Chilmington, held on the Playing Field near the play park - it was good to see so many families enjoying the sunshine and getting together as a community.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Conversely, I was deeply saddened in July that some youths with catapults had damaged 17 window panes in the fabulous Church that overlooks the whole parish – even one of the valuable stained glass windows was broken - this grade 1* historic building belongs to us all, so if you see ANYONE causing damage or doing anything they shouldn't be doing within the Church Yard, please please report it to the Police and continue to report ANY anti social issues to the police as reporting them is the only way we can get our understaffed police force to put us at the top of the list and attend an issue when it is reported.

I hope you all enjoy what is left of our Summer, there is a rumour that we will get some more sunshine before the Autumn really gets here and as soon as you blink we will be thinking about Chr... (no I refuse to write it in August).

Ian McClintock
Chair – Great Chart with Singleton PC

CHILMINGTON MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION



CHILMINGTON MANAGEMENT
ORGANISATION

A charity dedicated to the residents of Chilmington Green; to own, manage and maintain excellent shared spaces and buildings for the benefit of the community in present and future generations.

Contact Us
cmo.org.uk
hello@cmo.org.uk
07771 838740



Charity No. 1194013
Company House No. 12134646

MEET YOUR COUNCILLOR



Each newsletter we introduce you to one of the councillors that make up your Parish Council—you may well recognise their faces already. In this issue Katrina Alexander is answering your questions. She is councillor for the Singleton East Ward.

1) What is your name and what roles do you hold in the Parish?

My name is Katrina. I am the parish councillor for Singleton East and I also sit on the staffing committee.

2) Tell us a bit about yourself.

I live in Singleton and have 4 children between the ages of 9 and 19, who are all still living at home. I also work as a project coordinator for Ashford Together which is a charity working with different groups of people across Ashford, helping them to access services that may benefit them. I'm also an active member of the church when COVID allows.



3) Why did you become a Councillor and what skills have you brought to the table?

I felt strongly about certain issues that were happening in the parish, and thought that the best way to change things was to join the council and make my voice heard. I was unsure about what I would bring to the table but the parish is full of young families and I am one of those families. I feel I can listen to residents' opinions, needs and wants and represent them during votes at meetings.

4) What do you enjoy most about being a Councillor?

I enjoy the social side of the council - meeting residents, meeting with the other councillors. I also like to think I bring lively debate to the meetings! At the end of the day, we may not always agree on things, but we are a friendly bunch who can get our opinions across respectfully and work towards agreement on issues that affect our residents.

5) What do you personally think is the most important part of the Council's work?

I think this council is good at listening to the community and trying to provide what is needed. We might not always succeed, but we do always try.

6) What do you feel is the Council's biggest achievement to date?

I was really pleased when the council voted to provide the budget for a youth worker in the parish. As a mum of four, seeing the youth provided for in a suitable way is very important to me, and I look forward to watching the plans progress over the next year or two.

7) What do you like to do in your spare time?

Outside of kids and work I like to chase Pokémon, I'm working on being an aerial silks pro, and I do like to spend a reasonable amount of time winding up the parish council chairman.



YOU'VE ASKED WE'VE DONE



The stewards have been out and about as usual over the last few months, clearing paths and walkways, and cutting back overhanging branches. Here are just a couple of the areas they have worked on since the last newsletter.



They have also been out repairing and repainting a few benches around the parish. The ones by Singleton Lake needed staining, and the ones in the Great Chart play park needed the ends repainting and the slats were repainted a slightly different colour to brighten them up a bit.



The stewards have also installed two new dog poo bag dispensers over the last few months, one is on the pathway between Singleton Lake and Buxford Meadow, and the other is between Hillcrest and the allotments up in Great Chart.



Since the last newsletter, 40 tonnes of sand has been added to Cuckoo Park. As you can see from the pictures, it's certainly filled it back up a bit! Work has also recently been completed on the youth shelter. The start of rot had been identified so the wood has been treated and protected from any further deterioration.



We are aware that over recent months, some grassy areas started to look a little too wild. The council took part in 'No Mow May', then in June our ride on mower broke and had to be repaired. We then experienced a period of unseasonable weather which saw many areas 'go crazy' and we've been playing catch up since then. We are aware our standards were not as high as you have come to expect, but we sincerely hope that by the time you read this newsletter, we've caught up. We even roped in the Chairman to give the stewards a hand!



As the council staff and councillors all live locally, we keep our eyes open for faults in the same way that any resident can. Damage to a path off Swaffer Way, more on Little Hempen, and broken covers on Swaffer Way and Lodge Close are all examples of faults that have been reported to ABC or KCC in personal time and rectified within 28 days. If you see something broken or missing, then feel free to report it directly to the correct authority. If you are unsure which council would be responsible, there is a comprehensive guide on our website www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Reporting_30646.aspx



PARISH COUNCIL LOGO AND COMMUNITY HEROES

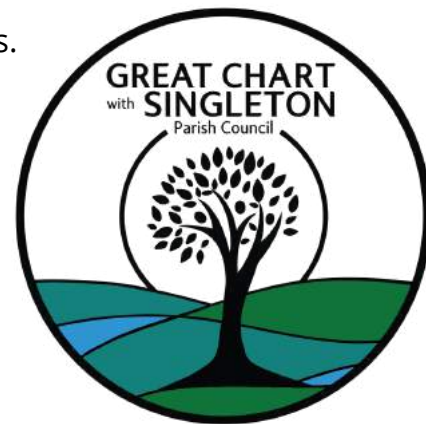


For a while now, it has been the desire of the parish council to have a logo. The council was established as just Great Chart council way back in 1894, as Singleton was just an area consisting of the Manor, the oast house and fields. As Singleton grew in residential size, it was added to the council in 1987 and it became Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council. Each part of the parish has its own village sign, but these have very different styles as they represent the two very different areas. The new development at Chilmington currently falls under this parish council, and will do for a few years yet - until there are enough residents to require a parish council of their own.

And so, the council wanted to have one single image that would represent ALL of the parish, its assets and residents. As we have 11 councillors, each with their own viewpoints and experiences of life in the parish, agreeing on one image has taken a little while....BUT at the July 2021 meeting the councillors all finally agreed that the image you see on this page represents life in the parish.

The central tree represents the leafy villages in which we all live, and is also made up of three 'tree people' one person each for Great Chart, Singleton and Chilmington. The greens and blues behind the tree represent the many fields and hills surrounding us, with a blue nod to Singleton Lake and the new smaller lake that will establish itself in Chilmington.

We really hope you like it as we intend to use it on most of our communications going forward, and also to feature it on new clothing for our stewards, staff and councillors to wear when they are out and about in the area.



GREAT CHART
with **SINGLETON**
Parish Council

COMMUNITY HEROES

WE ARE LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY HEROES



Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council is keen to support the local residents who want to do more to keep their local environment clean and pleasant for all to enjoy. The past year has shown us all how important a role open spaces play in our lives and spurred many into action. The Parish Council would like to help residents by funding a Community Heroes scheme. As part of this scheme, residents will receive support and will be provided with all the equipment they need to carry out litter picks. This will allow Community Heroes to litter pick at their own leisure in their chosen area.

Anyone who is interested in participating in the scheme will be asked to complete a registration form and risk assessment form available on our website. Our first community hero is Madeleine, who was so keen she signed up within 24 hours of our scheme launching. She was presented with her hero pack by Cllr McClintock at a recent litter pick around Singleton Lake. She said *"Litter is bad for the environment and animals. Animals could eat the rubbish and then get sick, suffocate and eventually die. Please bring a binbag when you go for a walk. Any rubbish you find will be a big help. Make sure you check bushes. Do your bit. Don't be a litter bug be a litter hero! Keep England clean! Please get involved."*

For more information please go to our website.



WHAT'S ON



POP UP CAFE

Pop Up Cafe and Information Hub



Hosted By
Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council
www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

- **13th October GCVH**
- **10th November SVH**
- **15th December GCVH**

The Pop Up Cafe and Information Hub is finally back!!

We had to put the Cafe on hold through the COVID pandemic but we were able to get back up and running at Great Chart Village Hall in August, and whilst this newsletter is being printed and delivered we will have hosted our first Cafe at Singleton Village Hall in conjunction with their new venture - Coffee Curiosity (see page 16).

The Pop Up Cafe is not just about the coffee and cake, it's a chance to meet fellow residents, find out information on local events and facilities, along with signposting to various organisations who may be able to help with specific issues you are experiencing. We also invite various speakers to the Cafe to talk about their specialist subjects - we have had talks from Neighbourhood Watch, Kent Fire and Rescue, Action Fraud and more.

We are very much looking forward to the 10th November Cafe as Matthew Scott, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner will be in attendance along with the Ashford Chief Inspector and local PCSO's. We hope to see you there.

REPAIR CAFE - WEDNESDAYS 1PM TO 4PM SINGLETON ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Tinker, Tailor, Solder, Try (to boycott landfill)

You know that program on TV where they fix stuff in that barn? Well our Ashford Repair Cafe is a bit like that - but with less glamour and more hammer.

Kettle up the spout? Blunt tools that just don't cut it? Clothes gaping at the seams? Records only playing the sound of silence? Garden fork, well....seen better days? We've received all these over the past few months and much more. Why not bring your busted items to our kingdom of repair? With a range of skills and more than a cup-full of banter, our determined crew will discuss the problem and possible solutions with you - the only charge is for any parts you choose to have replaced. Donations of funds and unwanted tools or wood (in fair condition) are always needed and welcome. All proceeds fund our repair cafe's ongoing work.

Woodwork Workshop

Inspired by the work of our repair cafe, a small but keen band of aspiring carpenters have come out of the woodwork, to work reclaimed wood into useful items for the Singleton Environment Centre to sell to our wider community, to raise funds for our workshop and the centre. We are now open to orders for bespoke bird nest boxes and feeders, bat boxes, bug hotels, hedgehog huts, beetle bungalows..... and we welcome more suggestions for our wildlife friendly range. So why not drop by our workshop on wednesdays, for a chat, and even to bag yourself a biodiversity - boosting bargain?

We also welcome woodworkers of any skill level to try out volunteering as part of our cheery crew. We find inspiration from our natural surroundings, share skills and learn from each other, on our mission to positively impact our local ecology. Look out for some of our woodwork handywork in the display cabinet, opposite the reception desk, in the Singleton Environment Centres main building. The bird bath and stand in the centre grounds were carved by our workshop leader, and many of the signs around our grounds were customised by our pyrographer.

The woodwork workshop is open Wednesday mornings, 9am - 12 noon



ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Although our recently completed extension was already being used, with the welcome return to something approaching normality, we were finally able to organise a formal opening and this took place on Saturday 31st July, to coincide with several community activities being run at the Centre.

The majority of the finance for the project came from some S106 monies originally destined to fund a community building for the residents of Brisley Farm. As the sum was modest and was also soon to be returned to the developers as it hadn't been used, we approached Heather Hayward, the Ashford Borough Councillor for Roman Ward (which includes Brisley Farm) to see if, working together, we could deliver a community facility that would go a significant way towards meeting both the needs of the Brisley community and the Environment Centre.



As Heather's input had been instrumental in securing the funding, the trustees thought it appropriate to invite her to cut the ribbon and declare what we decided to call the "Brisley Room", open.

The event was very well attended with many representatives from the both the borough council and Kent County Council joining the celebration. Sadly, due to other commitments, the current Mayor of Ashford, Cllr Callum Knowles was not able to join us, but we were fortunate that Cllr Matthew Forest, portfolio holder for Culture, Tourism and Leisure was able to attend in his place.

There is a "buzz" about the Centre again and we are seeing a slow return of room bookings. We now provide many activities (see website for latest details) and don't forget, the Centre also hosts the local franchise for Kumon which provides tutoring in maths and English, and not forgetting Footprints, our widely praised, in-house bistro with a well deserved reputation for locally sourced, freshly prepared, tasty food, especially our Sunday Carvery! And we also host the Ashford Repair Café, somewhere to bring your "not working" items to see if they can be fixed.

The Centre is there for you. We are always open to new ideas (we recently hosted the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Singleton W.I.) and are happy to discuss new ideas and suggestions for activities.

Kind regards,
Malcolm



The focus for the Amenities, Open Spaces and Environment Committee has continued to be improving our local environment. You may remember we have been working closely with the Kent Wildlife Trust and they are drawing up plans for areas in the parish to become wildflower meadows, along with a pond area on the North Field next to Singleton Lake, designed to provide ecological connectivity and a habitat for insects and wildlife.

We have also been investigating the use and environmental impact of glyphosate-based weedkillers in our parish. As a result of our research, our parish stewards no longer use these weedkillers, using vinegar instead. We have been in negotiations with Aspire to do the same when working in this parish. Aspire have been very open to this idea and keen to work positively with us, and we are very grateful for their support.



You may have seen some anti-litter posters on some of our parish noticeboards. These were made by 1st Great Chart Cubs as part of their Environmental Conservation badge. We are very glad to see local children engaging in the discussion about how to improve the local environment. Well done to the Cubs!



On that note, thank you to all those who have submitted tree competition entries, the winners will be showcased in the next newsletter. The importance of trees for our very survival is becoming ever clearer and we are proud of the Parish Council's track record of tree-planting and maintenance. On that note, if you know of a tree that needs attention, please do report it. We are aware that some trees on Running Foxes Lane have died and are due to be removed and that KCC have no plans to replace them. We are in negotiations with them about that decision.

Finally, please do keep your comments and suggestions coming. We very much welcome community engagement and your ideas and expertise help shape our decisions. This is our community and together we can make it an environmentally friendly place that enhances everyone's experience of living here.

Councillor Sally Gatherern.



Tales from Mother Earth - working together with John and the wonderful team at Singleton Environment Centre

From a conversation with John at a local school sports day back in 2019, I knew we had found an ally, one who believed in our concept, and one who understood the value in what we were setting out to achieve. He was new to his post at Singleton Environment Centre at the time, but I knew that our synergies were strong, and the more we spoke about our plans, the more he expressed an interest to support - which was fabulous.

Tales from Mother Earth has since become a local publisher of storybooks that tell a tale of an animal or insect in need of our help, who is trying to cope in today's environment. Told from the point of view of Mother Earth, all our stories link in a strong message of conservation to preserve and protect - teaching children to understand how their actions, no matter how small, can make an impact for good. We are delighted to mention that our second book Spike the Hedgehog is due out in September!

Phoebe the Bee - is the first story in the Tales from the Countryside series. It's an educational tale about a worker bee who through her courage and determination manages to save the hive and her family when her natural environment is threatened. As you may know, bees are in decline across the globe and have been given the status of the world's most important species on the planet by EarthWatch and National Geographical Society in London 2019. I refer to them as being the Key Workers of the World, as their importance to our existence is paramount. Our book teaches children a fictional tale about a very real fact and threads a conservation message through the story detailing how valuable bees are and what we can do to help them.

Every step of the way we have been incredibly grateful for the support that Singleton Environment Centre has given us. Together we have shared packets of wildflower seeds with children far and wide, and that gift alone, has allowed many children the wonderful experience of taking action for the protection of bees and other pollinators by growing their very own wildflower patch in their garden or flower pot. Seeing a bee come to a flower you've tended as a child or adult can have an amazing effect on the individual. Added to this the fact that you know bees are in decline and by your actions you've made things better for them can be a moment of happiness and one that imprints something special in your psyche. That feeling is one we are wanting to perpetuate as many times as possible for children and collectively with the support of SEC providing us their wonderful packets of wildflower seeds, we gratefully continue to do so to this day.

We're delighted to have received more super support from The British Wildlife Centre and Chris Packham has provided a quote which is displayed on the back cover of the Phoebe the Bee book. We believe collaboration is the key to getting these important messages of nature conservation and preservation embedded in our society and we are delighted to work with many other fabulous organisations with the same mission including, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, The Kent Wildlife Trust, Green Jumper Day, Children's University, Classroom Partnership etc. and also have some wonderful book stockists throughout Kent and Hampshire. We sell our books online through our website and have been thrilled to see orders arriving from many parts of the world.

Our huge thanks to John and the fabulous team at SEC as we look forward to continuing such a positive and wonderful relationship where we can combine our efforts to make a difference.

www.talesfrommotherearth.co.uk



COLEMANS KITCHEN WOODS



This is Coleman's Kitchen Woods - It sits between Singleton, Chilmington & Chartfields
You may have walked through the area recently and wondered what it is called.

Amazing Facts about Coleman's Kitchen Woods

- It is an Ancient Woodland and is a piece of history that is protected from planned destruction. Only 2.5% of UK land is classed as an Ancient Woodland/Monument so we are incredibly lucky to have this treasure in our Parish.
- Important protected Species live in the woods, not just birds and mammals but fungi, plants, insects and micro-organisms.
- It is believed that this area has had settlements for many thousands of years with archaeological studies showing evidence from the Bronze Age 3000BC to 1300BC, Iron Age 100BC– 120AD and of course Roman Britain and beyond.
- A tragic event occurred on 22nd May 1944 when a war time bomb was dropped at RAF Ashford camp at Coleman's Kitchen Woods which saw the very sad demise of 15 RAF Personnel of the 5003 Squadron. A memorial to these brave men stands at the War Memorial in Great Chart and at Kestral Park.
- Due to the building of the large developments at Singleton and Kingsnorth there have been a number of archaeological surveys carried out and if you are internet savvy why not search for some and have a read up.
- One study showed that charred remains of wood found gave an insight into fuel usage and type of trees that would have been around.
- In Coleman's Kitchen's case it is believed the predominant Tree was Oak. But Oak is a long term investment and as it was used up and areas felled for farming needs so faster growing species of trees overtook.

What amazing history our land provides us and what an opportunity to protect something so important.

COLEMANS KITCHEN WOODS



It is our responsibility as 21st Century occupiers to give back to the land that provided for us for so many years.

As a coppiced wood with hazel, hornbeam you can expect a rotation where trees are cut to a low level and they quickly grow again without the need to replant.

6666 Trees have been planted and the photo on the previous page shows the saplings in place. This will help protect the existing woodland and also create future extended wooded area.

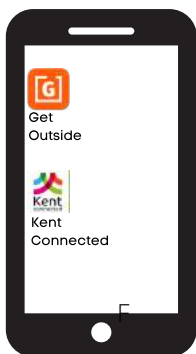
Studies tell us we need to plant trees. But the right kind of Trees. The trees planted under the Ashford Borough Council Scheme are a great start but we as a community need to do more.

We as a Parish Council are passionate that this woodland needs to be managed well.

Currently there are signs that recently the area has been abused somewhat and this is why we are hoping to collaborate with Ashford Borough Council (ABC) and with Hodson Developments who currently own the Woods but at the correct time will be passed to the ownership of the Chilmington Management Organisation. A Tree Survey has been requested so that there is a starting point and we all know what work is needed.

We would like to set up a Friends of Coleman's Kitchen Woods to help protect the new woodland as it grows and work towards making the whole area a better place.

If you are interested in helping set one up or volunteering in general, please contact the parish office.



Why not try out **Get Outside**—a very useful App from Ordinance Survey to help you explore our beautiful parish on foot.

Kent Connected - is designed to help you make smarter travel choices around Kent. Check out the walking and cycle section too.



If you see any issues such as motorbikes or vandalism please call 999
If it is a crime in progress who will attend on a priority basis

Report

There is a Rural Task Force to assist in areas such as Coleman's Kitchen Wood

Otherwise please report via kent police website or call 101

by Cllr Yolanda Barker



LOCAL AMENITIES



The Great Chart with Singleton Parish is well provisioned with local halls, post COVID they are all now back up and running to groups and events.

SINGLETON VILLAGE HALL

Singleton Village Hall has been the most active hall during the lockdowns, mainly because it is the biggest hall in the parish and most able to accommodate social distancing measures. It hosts the office for the Parish Council on the second floor, and Great Chart with Singleton Pre-School in the original part of the building. And by the time you read this newsletter it will also be hosting the new community cafe run by Coffee Curiosity. The cafe will be open 8am-5pm Monday to Friday on the ground floor.



During the lockdowns, the hall also revamped its website. This can still be found at www.singletonvillagehall.co.uk but it has a fresh new look, improved navigation and under the Facilities tab you will find a number of tour videos that show off the facilities that each room has.

SINGLETON Village Hall

A COMMUNITY VILLAGE

bookings@singletonvh.co.uk

Bookings: 07887 575647

[Home](#) [Facilities](#) [Hire Costs](#) [Regular Activities](#) [What's Going On](#) [Contact](#)



Singleton Village Hall is located in the lovely village of Singleton on the outskirts of Great Chart. With easy access for Pedestrians, Cars, and Buses it makes an ideal venue for all functions.

The Hall consists of the existing building which has 1 large Main Hall (approx. 140 people) and 1 small Hall/Committee Room (approx. 30). There are kitchen and WC facilities including disabled facilities.

Within the new building, we have the Extension Hall downstairs (approx. 60 people) with a fully fitted kitchen and WC facilities including disabled.

In the same building on the first floor is the Extension Hall upstairs which is of a similar size (approx. 60 people) but this can be divided off into two halls (approx. 30 people each) with a soundproof partition wall. This is accessed via a wide staircase or for disabled people including wheelchair users a lift to the first floor.

There are WC facilities and a small tea/coffee making room with a sink.

GREAT CHART VILLAGE HALL

Great Chart Village Hall, which has looked over the village of Great Chart since 1908, has now also fully reopened to its regular user groups and event hires. It is the venue for the parish councils Pop Up Cafe on the second Wednesday of the month, and every other month it also hosts the Parish Council meeting, but is also a favourite with a number of other clubs and groups. The hall has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Great-Chart-Village-Hall-134684416590425> and bookings can be made on 01233 610173.



GREAT CHART PLAYING FIELDS & BUXFORD PAVILION



In June 2020 there were a number of changes to the committee running the Great Chart Playing Fields Association. This all happened during the COVID restrictions and whilst there were periods where Pilgrims FC, the resident football club, were able to use the fields and pavilion as they were classed as outdoor exercise for younger people, there were also extended periods where the whole facility remained closed to everyone except the public out on their daily walk. Fortunately the charity was able to access grant funding from Ashford Borough Council which helped to pay the bills needed to keep the place maintained and insured, with a little left over to help get some much needed redecoration work done.

New gates have now been fitted to the main car park entrance. These can only be opened with the correct key and we ask dog walkers and other visitors to the fields to please refrain from parking across the gates when closed as hirers or groundsmen may need access at any time.

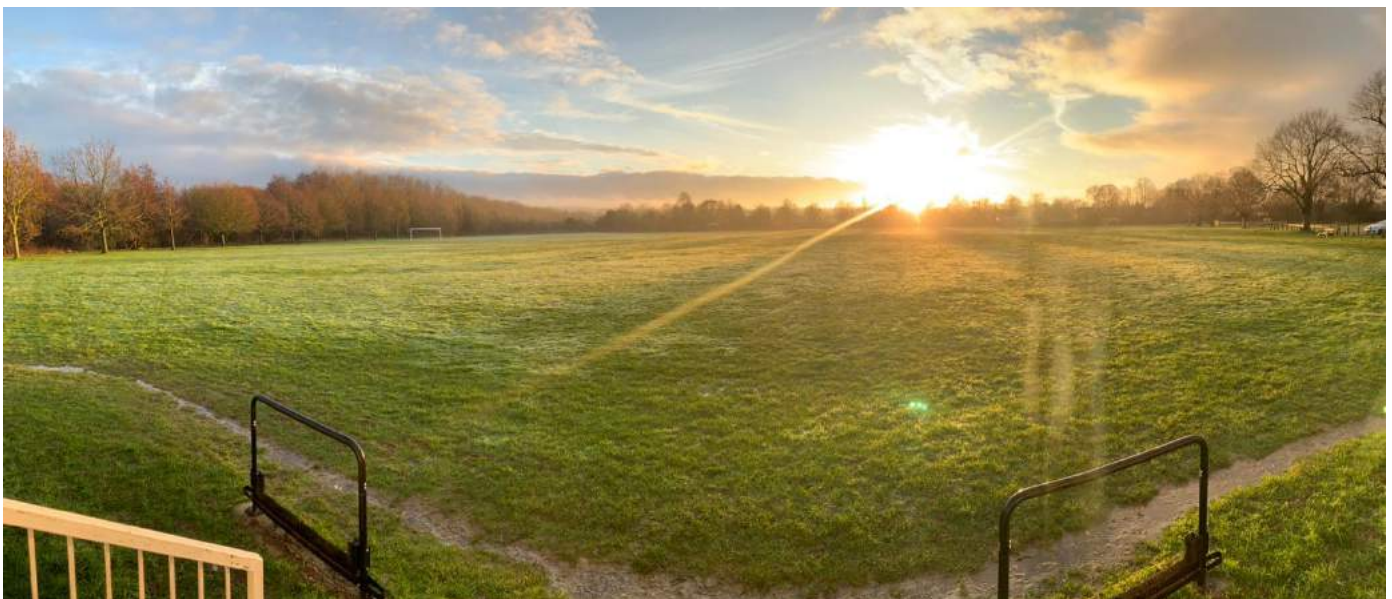
Pilgrims FC use the fields and pavilion every weekend from August to May, and on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings whilst the evenings are lighter. But outside of those times the pavilion is up and running and ready to be hired out once more, as it already has been a couple of times over the summer.

If you would be interested in hiring the pavilion or the playing fields, please give us a ring on 01233 427407 or email bookings@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk



For those not aware of the facilities within the pavilion, there is

- the main Buxford room with adjacent kitchen and access to a small outside area to the rear of the building - ideal for meetings or birthday parties
- two lots of changing rooms with showers in each - ideal if you want to host a sporting event or exercise class
- the playing fields themselves - although activities are restricted in the larger field to preserve the pitches for Pilgrims FC, please contact us if you want to enquire about your events suitability.



Please be aware that due to the ongoing work to improve the quality of the football pitches for Pilgrims FC, there will no longer be any car boots held on the playing fields.



GROUP REPORTS

Due to coronavirus restrictions only just lifting, many of our groups have not been running. We are looking forward to more reports in future issues, in the hope that they are full of activities that have been allowed to go ahead.

1ST SINGLETON SCOUTS GROUP

Singleton Scout Group meet on Wednesday evenings and both beavers and cubs sections enjoy a varied program. 20 Beavers and Cubs had an amazing day at a local Forest School where they made dens, learnt how to use knives safely making a wand and used a bow and arrows in the archery range.

This half term the Beavers have hiked at the Warren, joined in a Community litter pick with Keep Ashford Clean and practised their road safety skills. They have learnt how to put up a tent, to tie a reef knot, made s'mores and experimented with science activities. Three Beavers gained their bronze award - the highest award a Beaver can achieve, and 2 have now moved up to Cubs to continue their scouting adventure.

Cubs spent an evening canoeing and paddleboarding at Seapoint in Hythe. They have practised using a compass when out on a hike.

An evening was spent learning camp skills – putting up tents, knot tying and caring for personal camp equipment. Many activity and challenge badges have been awarded and one cub has now transferred to a nearby scout troop.



GREAT CHART CRICKET CLUB



Great Chart Cricket Club has been taking a break over lockdown, but we are now recruiting for the forthcoming season. We are looking for players of any standard to join our friendly club, along with anyone wanting to get back in to cricket or who has always wanted to play. We have a Saturday friendly team and a Sunday league (KVCL) team. Also new for this year we have entered a side in the Sunday 20/20 league.



Adult training is on Wednesdays from 18.00 until dark

We are also looking for children of any standard from the ages of 6 to 16

Training is on Sundays mornings 10.00 until 12.00

For additional details please contact :-

Adults: Darren McGoldrick 07758

781954 / James Ainsley 07867 780679

Kids: Tony Cadd 07796 378312

Secretary: Paul Arnup 07905 869027

ASHFORD INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

Ashford Indoor Bowls Club

Victoria Park
Jemmett Road
TN23 4QD

GIVE US A TRY



Guidance and Equipment Available for Beginners

Make New Friends

Good Fun for 8 to 100 Year Olds

Good Food Available

Gentle Exercise

Good company

**Tel: The Club
For
a**

TASTER SESSION

Monday - Friday

9.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

Tel: 01233 650760



Qualified club coaches available
to teach newcomers to the sport
the basics of how to bowl

Facilities for disabled including electric wheel chairs

SINGLETON WI GROUP

We have started a new community group for Singleton women, a brand new Singleton WI. Our monthly meetings will take place on the first Thursday of the month from 7pm until 9pm at our very lovely Singleton Environment Centre.

In the springtime there were a few posts trending on Facebook about Women's Institute groups in and around Ashford. There was a lot of interest. When Hannah Morris asked in the local Singleton and Great Chart Facebook group, it became clear quite quickly that there was a real need for a WI group in Singleton itself. We started a Facebook group to gauge how many people would be interested and the number of group members grew very quickly. After a phone call with the East Kent Federation WI Adviser, we decided to go ahead and form a new WI. We held our Formation meeting on the 1st July outside at the Environment Centre. As we were still restricted by the government in the amount of people being able to attend meetings, we were able to start our new group with 27 new members.

We are hoping to have a positive impact in the social and mental wellbeing of the women in the local area. During the last year women of all ages have suffered silently during Covid, just muddling through every day. By having a social group that meets monthly we are hoping to create strong friendship bonds that will help women. There are people keen on starting a book club, a craft evening and even dog walking groups, so lots of opportunities to get together. At our next meeting in September we are hoping to find out what the women of Singleton WI would be interested in and what hidden gems they hold that they can share, anyone wanting to join can have a say in what activities we will be putting together. Our members range over a variety of ages with lots of different interests, so there will hopefully something for everyone. As new areas such as Chilmington join us, we offer our invite out and welcome suggestions.

You can contact us via our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SingletonWI>
or email: singletonWlekf@gmail.com

GREAT CHART & GODINTON WI

It has certainly been a challenging 15 months since the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak. As a WI we have missed the monthly meetings and activities.

We have kept in touch with our members via a monthly newsletter aptly named "Not just jam & Jerusalem". Articles include member's news; a quiz; competition and mouth-watering recipes. The newsletter was distributed by post to all members. Finally, our 1st meeting after lockdown took place on Wednesday 28th July at Godinton Village Hall. Social distancing and masks were requested; though not mandatory; we still spaced ourselves being mindful of keeping all members safe. This meeting was well attended everyone enjoyed a Cream Team and catching up with one another. We are all looking forward to the future varied monthly meetings and activities. This WI will be celebrating the 100th year in which Great Chart WI started by planting a tree near the Great Chart Village Hall.

Meetings take place at Godinton Village Hall the third Wednesday of each month time 7.30pm.

For further information please contact Secretary Janet 01233 322510
Or committee member Pam 01233 878013

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

HILLCREST ALLOTMENTS



ENVIRONMENTAL HELP WANTED AT HILLCREST ALLOTMENTS

Many people who pass the parish allotments in Great Chart comment on how good they look. Most are astonished to find that the site has only been up and running for six years and that the mature aspect is down to good old fashioned hard work on the part of the plot holders.

However, the most unknown part of the site is the Environmental Area, which is to be found in the far south east corner. Unfortunately, when the allotment land was initially cleared, much of the unwanted vegetation was dumped there because it was thought that this area was unsuitable for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, given that it is liable to flooding in winter. This is entirely correct; instead it is now being developed for other purposes.

Initially, we did find an environmental expert who was willing to help us convert this waste land into a wild flower meadow and pond. Unfortunately, he has had to move away from Ashford, leaving us with a really nice large pond, lots of weeds and not much else.

In recent weeks, however, a local resident has placed a bee hive here. He is fully qualified member of the British Beekeepers' Association and the bees will help promote pollination of many of the plot holders' plants.

Nevertheless, we are continually looking for help from anybody that knows anything at all about setting up a thriving pond environment (and our pond is several metres across, so we are talking big!) and also seeking somebody with knowledge on how to create a British wildflower area.

If that's you and you want to volunteer your services, do please contact the parish clerk on theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



CLUBS AND GROUPS



**Please be aware that times and dates may
change due to coronavirus**

1st Great Chart Scouts Group - Contact Dave or Sally Gathern 01233 633966

Beavers (6-8.yo) - Friday 5-6:30pm

Cubs - (8-10.5yo) - Friday 6:30-8pm

1st Singleton Scouts Group - Contact Jill Lane 01233 641773/ 07799 886549

Beavers (6-8yo) Wednesday 5:15-6:30pm

Cubs (8-10.5yo) Wednesday 6:30-8pm

Singleton Rainbows - Fridays 4:15-5:15 at SVH. Contact Izzy Hammond singleton2ndrainbows@outlook.com

1st Great Chart & Singleton Guides - Mondays 6:30-8:30pm at SVH. Contact Laura Bowtell 07534 404445 gcsingletonguides@gmail.com

Speed Watch. Contact area co-ordinator Garry Parry 01233 640110 garry@whp.co.uk

Pilgrims Football Club - Contact Kyran Wilford 07984 352008 kyran@pilgrimsfc.co.uk

Ashford Community Woodland

ashfordcommunitywoodland@hotmail.co.uk

www.ashfordcommunitywoodland.org

Repair Cafe Ashford

Email: lenchitt@yahoo.co.uk

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at SEC

Great Chart & Godinton WI

Secretary Janet Goodwin: 01233 332510

Committee Member Pam Grigg: 01233 878013

19:30 on 3rd Wednesday of the month at Godinton Village Hall

Paek Ma Taekwondo - contact Master Geoff 6th Dan 07836 621060 at SVH.

Tuesday 5:30-6:30pm /6:30-8 Juniors and Seniors

Thursday 6:30-8pm Juniors

Dream Dragons Theatre - Wednesdays 7-10pm at SVH. Contact 01233 668767 or www.dreamdragons.co.uk

Stardust Studios - Children's dance classes at SVH. Contact Natalie Kitts 01233 625786/ 0984956 or info@starduststudios.co.uk

St Mary's Great Chart & Singleton. Sunday services - 9:30am at St Mary's Great Chart and 11am at St Mary's in SVH. Contact Libby Varley 01233 620371. office@stmarysgreatchart.org www.stmarysgreatchart.org

Flora the Singleton Giant. Contact Peter 01233 610241 peter@singletongiant.org.uk

Great Chart Cricket Club
www.greatchartcc.co.uk

Ashford Concert Band. Thursdays 7-8:30pm at John Wesley School
www.ashfordconcertband.co.uk
info@ashfordconcertband.co.uk

Grace Fellowship at Singleton Road
www.gracefellowship.org.uk

Friends of Singleton Lake
Website: www.friendsofsingletonlake.co.uk

Ashford Volunteer Centre
Telephone: 01233 665535
Email: contact@ashfordvc.org.uk
Website: <https://ashfordvc.org.uk>

USEFUL INFORMATION



VENUE CONTACT DETAILS

Singleton Village Hall

Tel: 07887 575647

Email: bookings@singletonvh.co.uk

Great Chart Village Hall

Tel: 01233 610173

Email: greatchartvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk

Great Chart Playing Fields Buxford Pavilion

Tel: 01233 427407

Email: bookings@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk

Singleton Environment Centre

Tel: 01233 343885

Email: centremanager@singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

William Harvey Hospital
01233 633331

Kent Highways Service
03000 418181

Environment Agency
03708 506 506

Environment Incident Reporting
0800 80 70 60

South East Water
0333 000 0001

Floodline
0345 988 1188

UK Powernet
0800 029 4285

Power Cut
0800 31 63 105

Samaritans
116 123 email jo@samaritans.org

Kent County Council - Enquiries - Social Services
03000 41 41 41

Emergency Services **999**
Press **55** on a mobile if unsafe to speak
Text **60066** if deaf/hard of hearing

Kent Police - non emergency numbers
Call **101** or use **Live Chat** at www.kent.police.uk
Call **111** for medical non-emergencies

OTHER INFO

Allotments

Contact the Parish Clerk on 01233 616923
theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Dog Warden Colin Leek

Tel: 01233 330340

Email: 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 14:55-15:25



BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION



ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Weald Central Ward Councillor:
Jessamy Blanford

Tel: 01233 840050
Email: jessamy.blanford@ashford.gov.uk

Singleton East Ward Councillor:
Bill Barrett

Tel: 07449 454044
Email: bill.barrett@ashford.gov.uk

Singleton West Ward Councillor:
Kalysha Howard-Smith

Tel: 07586 332504
Email: kalysha.howardsmith@ashford.gov.uk

Washford Ward Councillor:
Neil Shorter

Tel: 07827 253400
Email: neil.shorter@ashford.gov.uk

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor
Charlie Simkins

Tel: 01233 756705
Email: charlie.simkins@kent.gov.uk

Councillor
Dirk Ross

Tel: 07776 270416
Email: dirk.ross@kent.gov.uk

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Ashford Borough Council

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

Kent County Council

Tel: 03000 414141
Web: www.kent.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Parish Clerk
Aniko Szocs

Tel: 01233 616923
Email: theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Assistant to the Clerk
Paula Cowperthwaite

Tel: 01233 616923
Email: paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Parish Steward
Peter Walkden

Email: theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Assistant Parish Steward
Robert Heath

Email: theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



PARISH COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION



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: katrina.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

Cllr Tom
Ackrill

Tel: 07780 470668
Email: thomas.ackrill@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

