

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL



In This Edition

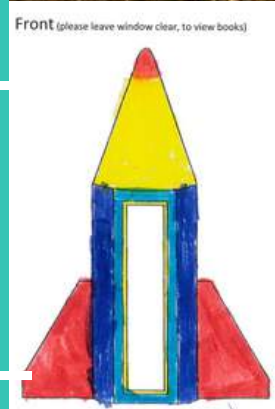
Latest on

- Community Fridge
- Events: Past and Future
- Singleton Lake PSPO
- Latest campaigns and competitions
- Meeting dates and venues for the rest of 2023

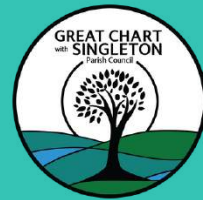
- Updates from Clubs and Groups
- Useful Contact Info
- Reporting information

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Council meeting dates
 - 9th October
 - 13th November
 - 11th December
- Pop Up Cafe
 - 11th October
 - 15th November
 - 13th December



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Keep In Touch



www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



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[gcwspc](https://www.instagram.com/gcwspc)



theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

01233 616923

Photo Credits

Page 1 - Fields in Great Chart by Rick Walton. Great Chart Cricket Club by Trevor Ottoway.

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.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023



The Parish Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30pm 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 2023 are confirmed below, why not come along to a meeting to find out more about the Parish Council's activities, and have your say. 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 2023 meetings are:
9th October 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall
13th November 2023 - Singleton Village Hall
11th December 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall

We also have a number of committee meetings

The details, agendas and minutes for these meetings, can be found at www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Meetings_and_Agendas_30592.aspx

Finance Committee

Cllrs Darvill, Tate, P Barker, McClintock, Wiffen, D Gathern and Herring

Staffing Committee

Cllrs Wiffen, McClintock, Y Barker, Sullivan, Alexander and D Gathern

Environment Committee

Cllrs D Gathern, P Barker, Peach and Wiffen

Complaints Committee

Cllrs Darvill, Y Barker, McClintock and Tate

Planning Committee

Cllrs Y Barker, Sullivan, Tate, P Barker, McClintock, D Gathern, Peach

Stronger Communities Committee

Cllrs Sullivan, Y Barker, Alexander, Wiffen, D Gathern

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the committee meetings, unless there is a closed session. A closed session would be clearly noted on the agenda so please check the website beforehand. If you would like to attend a committee meeting, it is always helpful to let us know in advance so we can make sure there is a spare seat for you.

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.



Parish Council News &

Projects & Events

New Term, New Councillors

Although the local elections took place in May, this is the first newsletter that has gone to print since we added two new councillors to our parish. Tom Ackrill stood down at the end of his term for personal reasons, and Sally Gathern stood down as she was elected as the Ashford Borough Councillor for Singleton West. All the remaining councillors were elected uncontested, and then at the May Parish Council meeting Cllr Matthew Peach was elected to the Washford Farm Ward and Steve Herring was elected to the Singleton East Ward. You can find out more about Cllr Herring on page 9 as he is answering the Meet Your Councillor questions, and Cllr Peach will be answering them in the next edition. If you need to contact them their contact details have been added to page 24.

We also had a change at the Ashford Borough Councillor level. As previously mentioned, Cllr Sally Gathern was elected in place of Kalysha Howard-Smith, and Cllr Clive Hallett was elected in place of Neil Shorter. Again, their contact details have been added to the Contact Information pages at the end of this newsletter. Our Kent County Councillors remain unchanged.



Spring



Photo Winners

Our Spring and Summer photo competition winners were Trevor Ottoway and Rick Walton respectively.

Both winners received vouchers for the cafe at Singleton Environment Centre, and the winning photos were displayed at the centre - as well as on the front cover of this newsletter.



Summer

New Parish Steward

Due to the retirement of our Parish Steward (see page 8 for more info) we are in the process of recruiting his replacement. Whilst this is ongoing please bear in mind that we are short staffed, and requests that would normally be carried out within a couple of days may take us much longer. We will endeavour to do what we can, as soon as we can, but we appreciate your patience and understanding in the meantime.

Residents Survey

Throughout October the Parish Council is running a survey to find out what residents would like to see done to improve the area in which they live. Survey results will help the council set budgets for the 2024/25 financial year. Please complete the survey, and spread the word amongst your neighbours.

<https://ha9kc35kfqw.typeform.com/to/rSOu4uPz>



Parish Council News, Projects & Events

Eat Well Spend Less

On 9th July the Parish Council hosted an Ashford Borough Council Eat Well Spend Less roadshow in Singleton Village Hall. There were many different organisations present who could help with any issues or questions around housing, health checks, immunisations, finances, social care, mental health, digital skills, volunteering opportunities, social groups, energy saving, cost saving, eating well whilst spending less, and a table full of information from Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council and what we do for local residents. It was lovely to speak to so many of you, and there was a lot of love for the photo winner photos!



Pop Up Cafe

11th October	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm Lily's @ Singleton VH 2 - 4pm
15th November	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm
13th December	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm Lily's @ Singleton VH 2 - 4pm

Our Pop Up Cafe continues to run monthly in Great Chart Village Hall and bi-monthly in Singleton Village Hall, within Lily's Cafe. There will be free cake and hot drinks at each session, with any additional activities announced on our social media before the relevant session - although the October details are over there ---> The dates and venues above are for the rest of 2023, and these will be reviewed for 2024.



Craft in the Cafe

During our October afternoon session of the Pop Up Cafe, we will be hosting a Halloween version of our Craft In the Cafe sessions. Come along between 2pm and 4pm to scratch art a vampire, sew a Day Of The Dead skull, or cross stitch a pumpkin. Available until the kits run out, but we will also have Autumn themed colouring and all the sticking and cutting activities that we usually have on offer. And as it is part of the Pop Up Cafe, we will have drinks, cakes, chat and information available also. Our December session will be similar but with Christmas themed crafts.

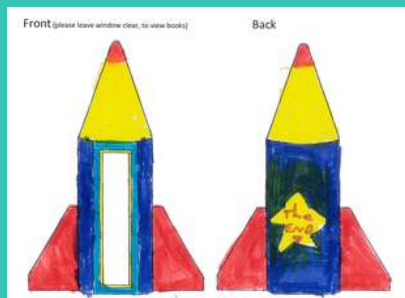


Parish Council News, Projects & Events



You may remember that at the start of the year we ran a competition to design a new bookstop for the parish. The competition was judged by local author LJ Glasgow and the winning design was created by 7 year old Elspeth Wallace.

At the end of May we held a little opening ceremony where Elspeth cut the ribbon. Gabriella, who created the quote that is on the front door, also came along and both girls were presented with a copy of LJ Glasgow's latest book, and another copy was added to the bookstop.



Pedestrian Access to Chilmington

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council is also responsible for the area on which the Chilmington housing development is being built. We have been aware for a number of months that pedestrian access from Great Chart and Singleton to the Chilmington Primary School is inadequate and hazardous. There are a number of reasons for this, the biggest one being that the house building schedule is falling behind, whilst the Kent County Council (KCC) Education schedule is still running to plan. We have been in dialogue with the KCC Active Travel team to find ways around this short term problem, but also to find solutions ahead of the secondary school opening which, by it's nature, will attract unsupervised young people from outside of the area. We have a page of our website dedicated to this issue where you can check on any progress we have made <https://tinyurl.com/4t3xte6d>

If you are having problems safely accessing the Chilmington Development for any reason, please contact the parish council so we can build a more powerful case to action change.



Dog Poo

Dog fouling is one of the most complained about issues in Great Chart and Singleton - both loose, or bagged up and dumped.

A dog poo bag can take between 10 and 1,000 years to decompose. If put in a litter bin, it will be incinerated within days. The dog poo fairy isn't going to come and throw it away. You can dispose of your dog waste in ANY council litter bin, some of the older bins just don't have the dog waste signs on them.

A dog's digestive system can handle just about anything, and often does, making it's poo very toxic. In fact, a single dog will produce more bacteria in one day than a person, a horse and a cow combined. If left uncleared, this bacteria can transfer to shoes and be walked into homes, transferring the bacteria to vulnerable people such as young children, the long term sick or the elderly.

#thereisnodogpoo fairy



PARISH EVENTS



Our Big Lunch 2023 was a big success, take a look at page 10 for more information, and our Eat Well Spend Less roadshow update is covered in the parish news pages.

For the rest of 2023, we still have a number of events planned.

Our Autumn photo competition is open until 13th October, so get your Hibernation themed photos in before then.

In October we will be running a handful of relaxation sessions to mark World Mental Health day. The exact details are still being finalised but the sessions will run between 9th and 11th October. In November, we are going to be kind, but we will need your help... Please keep an eye on our social media channels for more information on both these events.





And we plan to round off the year with a Christmas themed family movie during the morning of Tuesday 19th December. Again, the finer details are still being worked on so keep an eye on our social media and our noticeboards for more information, and to help decide which film we should be showing!

As always, we have our monthly Council meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month, followed by our Pop Up Cafe sessions on the Wednesday after the Council meeting. Our October and December sessions will be double sessions. The afternoon session in Singleton Village Hall will have a Halloween themed craft session in October and a Christmas themed craft session in December.

Singleton Environment Centre have also had a busy summer of events - see page 11 for more information. They also have Halloween and Christmas events planned, details below!

Get ready to celebrate Halloween at Singleton Environment Centre on our Sensational Spiders sessions. We'll be having lots of fun at our family friendly event with things to amaze you and make you go urgh rather than ahh!! Nothing scary, just good fun for children of all ages. £7 per child, accompanying adults free. Ticket price includes a trick or treat gift. Wednesday 25th October and Friday 27th October 10am - 11.30am or 12.30pm - 2pm.

Come and celebrate this festive season in style at the North Pole School taking place this December at Singleton Environment Centre. You'll get to learn about life in the North Pole and carry out snow experiments; make an environmentally friendly Christmas decoration; decorate a yummy festive treat; complete a festive scavenger hunt; and enjoy storytime with an extra special guest. £10 per child, price includes a small gift. Sessions available on Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd, Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th December. Please visit www.singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk/explore/events/ when booking opens.

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Council Meeting: 11th Pop Up Cafe: 13th	Council Meeting: 9th Pop Up Cafe: 11th	Council Meeting: 13th Pop Up Cafe: 15th	Council Meeting: 11th Pop Up Cafe: 13th
Photo Competition Colours	Marking World Mental Health Day	#BE KIND	A family Christmas movie & crafts - details TBC
 opens Monday 18th September	 10th October	 Marking World Kindness Day 13th November	

If you have any ideas that you would like to see happen in the parish, let us know. Or if you wanted to help out at an event, we are always happy to welcome volunteers.

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



As we come towards the start of Autumn, I'm pleased to report that the Parish has had a busy Summer, with lots of events either run directly by, or sponsored by your parish council.

In June was the 'Big Lunch', held at Great Chart Playing Fields. We had an inflatable 'pub', serving drinks and snacks. Unfortunately, the burger van that had been arranged let us down on the day, but we were fortunate that a few councillors, aided by the Clerk's husband volunteered to collect barbeques and buy food, which meant parishioners could still get hot-dogs and burgers.

August saw us host Ashford Borough Council's 'Eat Well, Spend Less' roadshow at Singleton Village Hall. This proved very popular and was attended by many organisations giving helpful tips and information and free 'recipe bags' handed out to residents. The NHS 'Health Bus' also attended, offering free health checks and advice for a healthier lifestyle.

The Community Fridge has proved very popular, although we have run into some supply issues as the Fareshare charity has had less food to supply. Donations from the public are welcome, providing they comply with guidelines shown where the fridge is located. We could do with some more volunteers to help run it, so if you have some free time and would like to help out, please contact our Deputy Clerk via e-mail at paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk.

I'm sad to announce that one of our Parish Stewards has decided to retire. Peter has worked for the parish for several years, and he will be greatly missed. His ability to turn his hand to the work required of him was impressive, and he has fixed a lot of things across the parish at some point in the last few years. You will probably have seen him driving around in our van at some point, if not in the grounds of Singleton Environment Centre which was possibly his second home! His retirement has come sooner than anyone planned so recruitment for his replacement is underway as we go to print and we hope to find someone to fill the steel toe capped boots as soon as possible. I'd like to take this opportunity to say what an absolute delight Peter has been to work with and wish him a long and happy retirement!

As I always say, your parish council is here to support you, our parishioners. If there is something you would like to see done, drop us a line - contact details on the website www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk and in the pages of this magazine. Or why not come to a parish council meeting, where members of the public can raise issues that concern them or are just of interest.

Malcolm Wiffen
September 2023



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 Steve Herring, one of our two new councillors, is answering your questions. He is a councillor for the Singleton East Ward.

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

Steve Herring Councillor – Singleton East

Tell be a bit about yourself?

I am 60 years old, married to Nicki with a son (Sam). In my working life, I manage a service in the NHS at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust. Since COVID I have worked at home. It has been a challenge but is working well. I am Past President of the Trade Union and Professional Body. I am a Pension Trustee for the SOR (Society of Radiographers). I have also been appointed recently as a Trustee for my Church. I enjoy spending time with my wife at weekends and enjoying a Coffee.



Why did you want to become a Parish Councillor?

I have been thinking of what I wanted to do as I start to retire – I wanted to give back to my community where I live.

What skills have you brought to the table?

I have been member of a number of boards across my professional life, I wanted to give a voice to those who feel they do not have one. I have been a rep for the trade union for many years and have HR and IR experience which may be useful.

I appreciate you are new to being a councillor but what do you enjoy about being a councillor?

I am new, but it has been interesting learning what can be done... but its important to note what is not in our power.

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

Giving those who have elected us a voice.

Again appreciate it is hard to answer but What do you feel is the Councils biggest achievement to date? Or What is there that the Parish Council have done that you are not happy with?

I do not have a clear answer but it is clear that my fellow councillors are passionate in what they believe and that goes a long way...

What do you personally want to achieve as a councillor over your term?

To give a little bit back, that hopefully will make a difference to someone.

How do you enjoy your spare time?

Spending time with family...

Who do you admire?

My wife... she's been through a lot over the years but she is still going!

Where in the Parish do you enjoy spending time? And Why?

... not sure but it's a great place to live!



BIG LUNCH 2023



On Saturday 17th June the Great Chart Playing Fields once again played host to the Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council Big Lunch.

With more bouncy castles, more stalls, more music and an inflatable pub, the crowds were bigger and there was more of an atmosphere than last year which was brilliant to be a part of.

Despite an early hiccup with the last minute cancellation of the burger van, your local councillors pulled together to find some burgers, hot dogs, rolls, a BBQ, some gas and finally a match to serve the hungry crowds (rest assured they were already hygiene trained).

The inflatable pub quickly became a popular gathering place, as a shelter from both the morning rain and the afternoon sun. And I don't think there was a single part of the day in which Waynes Whippys didn't have a queue for his ice creams.

Ashford Concert Band provided the musical entertainment, with Caribou Dance encouraging everyone to get up and have a go at some Zumba in the afternoon. Candytan Events provided the bounce all day for free bouncy castles which are one of the things we get the most positive comments about.

Thank you to the numerous stall holders who came along to sell their products or share information from their organisations, we hope to see you again next year and we will ask you to Save The Date before the end of this year.

The parish council craft table was well used and Flora the Singleton Giant floated around the fields in between the rain showers.

We also thank the Singleton WI for being the contact point for lost children, lost property and first aid - none of which were well used thankfully!



SINGLETON ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

What a busy summer it has been at Singleton Environment Centre. It has been a pleasure to welcome so many families to the centre over the school holiday period. Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council have kindly supported the education work at the Environment Centre which has allowed us to put on a huge range of activities to keep the children busy and entertained. In total, over 580 participants have taken part in one of our Summer 2023 events.

We have held three Nature School Family Fun Events - Magnificent Moths, Rad Reptiles and It's A Pond Life. On these events families have had the chance to learn some fascinating facts, complete identification sheets, explore the centre grounds on scavenger hunts, create a themed craft item and made a themed treat to eat. Most importantly they have had some fun family time together sharing in their learning and enjoyment of nature.

Our first Nature Stories session was an interactive telling of We're Going On A Bear Hunt. Our younger visitors completed activities linked to the story as they walked through the centre grounds. The children made grass heads, went pond dipping, created clay bears, made bear stick puppets, danced in snow bubbles and found mini bears to take home. They hunted high and low and we are pleased to report that the centre grounds are now free of all bears!



Wednesdays were extra fun with our drop and leave Wild Wednesday sessions. Every Wednesday a group of children from age 6 years + spent the day at the centre taking part in a range of outdoor activities. There was pond dipping, den building, scavenger hunts, team games, minibeast hunts and nature craft. The firepit cooking was very popular and the children cooked toast, popcorn, pitta pizzas, hot chocolate, s'mores and roasted marshmallows. It was a pleasure to spend time with such delightful children and to see new friendships form.



We had some special guests this summer. Phil from Jaws n Claws spent two full busy days with us along with a range of his fascinating reptiles. We were also pleased to be able to run two SEND friendly animal handling sessions. Mark and his team brought the magnificent Owls from Leeds Castle along for a visit. As well as meeting the owls the children made a wooden owl decoration to take home.

There was lots of recycling fun on our Junk Creators and Break Then Create sessions. Children aged 8 years + got to break apart a range of household items, including laptops and game consoles, to explore their inner workings and then using the parts to create art pieces. There was also lots of imagination used by the Junk Creators to turn our huge pile of recycled items into some wonderful models.

Our Make It Days showed just how creative our participants are. They made some wonderful unique t-shirts, hats, bags, pencil cases and make up bags. Lots of children enjoyed making a wooden medal using the Hapa Zome technique to hammer colour from plants on our free event. We were very impressed by the talents of the participants on our Nature Pics session. The children, aged 8 years+, learnt about angles, composition and lighting to take beautiful nature photographs on their camera phones.



It wasn't just the children having fun! Our first session in our adult programme 'Prosecco with ...' saw a group of adults learning how to use cyanotypes (sun printing) to design and make a beautiful cushion cover. The results were fantastic. The first Words With Brunch session was run by Sita where a group of adults used the centre grounds as inspiration for their creative writing.

Thank you all for supporting Singleton Environment Centre and making this summer so much fun. We hope to see you all enjoying the centre grounds very soon.
Helen, Education Officer





COMMUNITY FRIDGE



The community fridge project continues to grow steadily within Singleton Village Hall. Since the last edition of the newsletter we have added a pantry cupboard to the project which allows us to take more non-refrigerated items as these often have longer best before dates on them so can be displayed for longer without us having to worry about them spoiling. Ambient (as it's known in the retail world) food is also the sort of food that lurks in the back of your cupboard in case you ever get round to using it. Or because you don't want to throw it away as it is a waste. But if you put it in our cupboard, it isn't going to waste, it is going to someone who likes it, wants it, and is going to eat it. So why not have an autumn clearout of your pantry and see if there is some tinned soup, tinned chickpeas, a curry powder sachet or a bottle of balsamic vinegar you never got round to opening and bring it down to the cupboard. Provided it isn't wildly past it's Best Before date, and it has any allergens listed on the packaging, then we can accept it.



📣 Volunteer Call 📣

Our Community Fridge has been well received and is currently running smoothly. But only because we have a small team of dedicated volunteers who help to keep it clean, stocked and working. We desperately need more volunteers to join our group to allow the burden on each volunteer to be less, and to help cover each other when someone is ill or has other commitments.

The different volunteer roles are:

- Collecting orders - you will need a car for this but mileage can be claimed
- Rotating stock - rather than putting everything from one delivery into the fridge, we put a smaller amount out each day to allow more people to have access to it. The person doing this also gives the place a spot clean. But the more people we have doing this, the less times each volunteer is need to come in.
- Deep cleaners - every couple of weeks we like to empty everything and give all the storage boxes and equipment a good clean. If you can't visit on a regular basis, maybe this is a job you could do?

If you are interested in volunteering, either regularly or for a short period of time, then please contact paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk for more information.

Appropriate training will be given where needed.



SINGLETON LAKE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

What is a Public Space Protection Order?

A public spaces protection order (PSPO) is intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are designed to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

A PSPO has been in place at Singleton Lake since 2020. The PSPO was put in place to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and night fishing occurring round the lake. They are reviewed every 3 years, with the latest renewal being put in place earlier this year.

Any person found guilty of breaching an order will be liable to a fine not exceeding £1,000.

Depending on the breach, the enforcing officer could decide that a fixed penalty notice of £100 would be the most appropriate sanction.

PSPOs may be enforced by Police Officers, and any officers designated by Ashford Borough Council.

If you spot a crime in progress, or any other emergency please ring 999. If you see a breach of the PSPO, please contact the Community Support Unit on csu.ashford@kent.police.uk

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER



NO NIGHT FISHING



NO LIGHTING
OF FIRES



NO ERECTING OF
TENTS OR BIVVIES



NO PERSON SHALL
USE FOUL AND/OR
ABUSIVE LANGUAGE



NO AMPLIFIED
MUSIC



NO ANTI-SOCIAL
ACTIVITY RELATING
TO ALCOHOL



VALID DAY TICKET OR
MEMBERSHIP OF
ASHFORD ANGLING
SOCIETY REQUIRED
TO FISH AT THIS LAKE

For the full list of restrictions
please visit [www.ashford.gov.uk/
public-spaces-protection-order](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/public-spaces-protection-order)

Public Spaces Protection Order - Part 4, Section 59
Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

**IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY THEN YOU MAY RECEIVE £100 FIXED PENALTY
NOTICE OR FACE PROSECUTION AND A FINE OF UP TO £1,000.**



LILY'S AT SINGLETON



BASED IN
SINGLETON
VILLAGE HALL
OFFERING
EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES
TO THOSE WITH
AUTISM &
LEARNING
DISABILITIES

CAKE, HOT DRINKS &
SANDWICHES
TAKEAWAY AVAILABLE
FREE WIFI

Lily's SOCIAL KITCHEN



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REPORTING



In the complex web of local authorities and different agencies, it is often difficult to know who to report a problem to. We have put together the list below, which may look long, but covers the vast majority of issues. It is important that any issues you see are reported to the correct organisation so the problem can be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Kent County Council

To report any emergency issues call **03000 414141** (Monday – Friday, 9am to 5pm), and **03000 419191** outside office hours, or go to www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

- Street light faults
- Potholes
- Traffic signal faults
- Overgrown vegetation (including hedges and grass)
- Drainage
- Flooding

Contacting Kent Police

Report a non-urgent crime online

www.kent.police.uk/report

Talk to the Police on LiveChat-available 24/7

www.kent.police.uk/contact

In an emergency, if the crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**

If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to **60066**

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

For issues relating to any of the areas below, please email the Parish Office at TheClerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

- Cuckoo Park (opposite John Wesley School)
- Great Chart Playing Fields (the area with the park and outdoor gym)
- The Viewing Point and the path running alongside Singleton Village Hall
- Dog poo bag dispensers
- The raised flowerbed at the bottom of Singleton Hill

Ashford Borough Council

For issues relating to any of the following, please go to www.ashford.gov.uk and click on Report, or call **01233 331111**

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Abandoned trolleys
- Abandoned Vehicles
- Allotment issue
- Bonfires
- Fly-tipping
- Light Nuisance
- Noise Nuisance
- Odour
- Overgrown Borders/Shrubs/Hedges or Grass Trees

HOUSING

- Squatters and unauthorised occupants
- Repairs
- Tenancy Fraud

COMMUNITY

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Public Toilets and community toilet scheme issue

ANIMAL ISSUES

- Dog fouling
- Lost or stolen dogs
- Stray dogs
- Dead animals

STREETS

- Illegal street trading
- Street cleansing, graffiti, vandalism or litter
- Overgrown Borders/Shrubs/Hedges or grass
- Overflowing/damaged litter bin

BINS

- Assisted collections
- Missed collections
- Replace, lost or broken bin
- Discarded syringes
- Litter/dog bin issue

FOOD AND HYGIENE ISSUES

- Suspected food poisoning
- Poor hygiene practices
- Problem with a food product

PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

- Dangerous structure
- Fly-posting
- Planning breach



LOCAL AMENITIES



The Great Chart with Singleton Parish is well provisioned with local halls, all open for booking for local groups and events.

SINGLETON VILLAGE HALL



The Hall consists of the existing building which has 1 large Main Hall (approx. 140 people seated) and 1 small side room. There are kitchen & WC facilities including disabled.

The new building has the Extension Hall downstairs (approx. 60 people seated) with a fully fitted kitchen & WC facilities including disabled.

On the first floor is the Extension Hall upstairs is of a similar size (approx. 60 people seated) but can be divided off into two halls (approx. 30 people each) with a soundproof partition wall. This is accessed via a wide staircase or a lift for those with mobility issues. There are WC facilities and a small tea/coffee making room with a sink.

To book at Singleton Village Hall please contact the Bookings Secretary on bookings@singletonvh.co.uk 07887 575647 or visit www.singletonvillagehall.co.uk

GREAT CHART PLAYING FIELDS AND BUXFORD PAVILION

As mentioned previously in this issue, the Great Chart Playing Fields hosted the parish council's Big Lunch in June, it was also host to a number of non-football sporting events during the Pilgrims FC close season. There are currently talks to encourage new long term hirers to the pavilion, and Pilgrims FC are back for their 2023/24 season.

For those not aware, the facilities at Great Chart Playing Fields are:

- 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 chair@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk if you wish to enquire about your events suitability.



GREAT CHART VILLAGE HALL

Great Chart Village Hall, which has looked over the village of Great Chart since 1908, is now 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.



GROUP REPORTS



If you run a not-for-profit community group within the parish and would like to contribute an article for the newsletter, please email paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

HILLCREST ALLOTMENTS

IT'S CHEAP AND EASY TO GET A PLOT AT HILLCREST ALLOTMENTS

Many of the current plot holders at Hillcrest Allotments in Great Chart were persuaded to take up growing their own fruit and vegetables after reading an article in the parish magazine, just like you are now. For many of them, it was the first time in their lives that they'd considered getting an allotment. Some started in their twenties, others in their sixties. Nowadays, there are as many young people as there are retired ones, as many women as there are men. All have successes. All have failures too. That's quite normal. Nobody minds because we've all been there ourselves. After all, it's only when things go wrong that we learn the lessons we need to get it right the next time around.

Honestly, though, growing your own isn't that hard. There are books, magazines and YouTube videos aplenty all offering advice and guidance, while if you get stuck, the more experienced plot holders can often show you how to resolve almost any issue. It needn't be too labour intensive, either. You can buy a bag of seed potatoes very cheaply from the likes of Wilkinson's. All you then have to do is dig a small hole in the ground, drop in a tuber and come back three months later and you'll still get a reasonable crop. And, believe me, until you've tasted your own, you'll never know how delicious a simply grown allotment potato is. And that applies to all fruit and veg.

Of course, the more effort you put in, the better the crop you'll get. But there are techniques that allow you to grow as much or as little as you like. The trick, though, is not to take on too large a plot. If it's too big, you'll quickly become overwhelmed. Start modestly and, if you find you like it, ask for a bigger plot. A recent parish council-financed expansion of the allotment has meant that a further eight plots have become available. If you walk past the site, you'll see that some of them are now under successful cultivation, while others are having to be prepared over a longer period of time due to the presence of obnoxious perennial weeds.

Recently, out of the kindness of their hearts, members of the Barrow & Spade Brigade, the plot holders' association that runs the allotments on behalf of the parish, undertook a clean up of the new area, cutting down overhanging trees and laying out large sheets of black plastic on some of the new plots, which will remain in situ over the winter, effectively ensuring that the soil underneath will be workable come the spring. One of those plots could be yours. Don't worry, the annual ground rent you'll pay is negligible. Large plots cost just £32.50 for 12 months and small ones £22.50. All you then have to do is take good care of the land, chopping down weeds and planting as many vegetables as you can. Honestly, it isn't that difficult.

At the time of writing, Hillcrest Allotment does still have a short waiting list for plots, but if you would like to be considered for a plot in the next year or so, email Ani, the parish clerk, at theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk and she'll put you in touch with a member of the Barrow & Spade Brigade. By this time next year, you could have a crop of, say, one million courgettes. Yes, I know you don't want one million courgettes, but that's the biggest mistake beginners make: they plant too many courgette plants! See, you've learned something already :-)



GROUP REPORTS



1ST SINGLETON SCOUTS GROUP

Since Easter our group have been busy with many activities including litter picks around the local area, kindly supported with the use of the council's equipment. We've learnt new games, worked on many activity badges which have seen our Beavers growing plants, Cubs learning map reading and Scouts using radios to communicate.

We've been out and about too, with several hikes, campfires and a glorious day over at Conningbrook canoeing. We marked the King's coronation with games and a mini-picnic.

A leader from Willesborough Scouts joined our Cubs to talk about the jamboree in South Korea. Our Scouts had a fascinating talk from a member of Ashford Museum about the history across Ashford.

We held our AGM in July, with many badges awarded. We were joined by our District Commissioner who presented Silver Awards to five of our Cubs as well as Wood Beads to two of our leaders.

As we look ahead to another term, we've got many activities planned starting with the Great Chart Colour Run and joining many other Scout sections to support LionAid in October. We'll be visiting the Singleton Community Woodland several times to see how it changes over the seasons and out for hikes too.

We're always keen for more help, either joining us as volunteers or visiting for an evening to talk about something special to you that can help our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts earn their badges.



1ST GREAT CHART SCOUTS GROUP

We started the summer term with a visit from Lisa Thorne who runs the hedgehog hospital out at Pluckley. Following on from this, the Cubs completed their Animal Carer badge, designing posters about saving hedgehogs, making birdfeeders and taking part in initiatives such as 'no-mow May' to support and care for wildlife in their gardens. Still on the theme of supporting and protecting local wildlife and learning about the environment, the Cubs did a hike through the Millennium Woods with a local volunteer and learnt about the wildlife and habitats there.

Taking advantage of the sunnier weather, we ran several meets outside, covering badges such as Athletics, Athletics Plus, Hikes, Road Safety and Navigator Stages 1 and 2. The favourite outdoor activity was, however, the chance to try a wide variety of water sports at Conningbrook Lakes.

We also visited Woodchurch Scout hut to do the Backwoods Cooking badge where the Cubs learnt to safely light and extinguish campfires and cook simple foods over them.

Other nights we had a coronation party, a board games night and a team games evening.

We were asked by 8th Ashford to run a joint stall with them at the Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council's Big Lunch event. We agreed and we shared the profits 50-50. 1st Great Chart donated their half to the Hedgehog Hospital.

Our pack is currently full but we do operate a waiting list. Anyone interested in joining our pack should contact Sally Gatherern at sallygatherern@aol.com. Equally, if anyone is interested in volunteering with us, please do get in touch.



GROUP REPORTS



SINGLETON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Singleton Community Church (SCC) are delighted to announce our new community partnership - '**Singleton Friendship**', a drop-in friendship group held weekly at Lily's Café in Singleton Village Hall commencing on Tuesday 5th September 10-12 during term times.

A warm welcome awaits anyone looking for some company, table-top activities and board games, or maybe simply a natter over a cuppa with a friendly listener. A new initiative in partnership between Singleton Community Church, Lily's café and Imago, a local social enterprise charity. Spread the word, all welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!

Are you curious about the Christian faith? Do you have questions about the meaning of life?

Alpha is a free and fascinating short course that creates space for us to explore the purpose of life and faith. Alpha is for anyone to think more about Christianity in a welcoming and informal environment from Sunday 3rd September – Sunday 22nd October, every Sunday at 11am in Singleton Village Hall.

Everyone is very welcome. Please contact Rev Jo Purle (jo.purle@ashfordchurches.co.uk for further details)

GREAT CHART WI

Our WI has enjoyed another few months of interesting meetings with many talks on various subjects, crafting activities, games evenings and the popular knit and natter afternoons that we hold in the New Chimneys pub on Godinton Park on the 4th Monday afternoon of the month.

Unfortunately we were unable to take part in the "Big Lunch" in June in the playing fields as we had limited resources and members unavailable to be involved. We are sure that the event was a huge success as previously.

Our two main events so far this year were a most enjoyable evening with a speaker, Mark Francis one of the previous contestants on the "Great British Sewing Bee". Mark enthralled us all with his account of his experiences on the programme, also brought along samples of the items he made to achieve his place in the semi-final – along with his husband, who is also a great cross-stitcher and patchworker, the evening was considered a huge success by all those who attended from not only our WI but others in the local area.

The second event more recently was again a wonderful evening supported immensely by members of the local Nepalese community including an informative talk regarding the Ghurka soldiers and the Nepalese way of life, a display of their dance styles by some young Nepalese ladies in beautiful costumes and some tasty Nepalese snacks that we all enjoyed. Again, we invited members and their partners from other local WI's and Godinton Village hall was full of fun and laughter during the whole evening.

If you are interested in joining us to enjoy these type of activities, we meet in Godinton Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday evening of the month at 7.30pm – we always welcome visitors and new members.

Find us on Facebook – Great Chart & Godinton Women's Institute

Or for more information email: secretary@greatchartgodintonwi.uk or president@greatchartgodintonwi.uk



GROUP REPORTS



SINGLETON WI

Singleton WI commissioned the Repair Café with the making of a bench with planters to install on Imperial Way green (top of Singleton hill). What an amazing job they did! The planters have been filled with beautiful perennials and have been attracting lots of bees already! A gift from us to the community to enjoy!



We have some fantastic activities planned for the next few months, booking not required, but everyone welcome:
<https://tinyurl.com/SingletonWI2023>
Come and join in the fun!

DREAMDRAGONS

Singleton Dreamdragons Community Theatre Group has been at the heart of the community in Ashford since 1993. Dreamdragons are known for their yearly pantomimes but they have staged a variety of productions including, farce, variety shows and drama. Run by members of the community; Dreamdragons have grown and advanced over the years not only in performance, but in areas such as scenery, construction, props, sound and lighting. Dreamdragons are a member of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) which was founded in 1899. NODA is the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK and has a membership of some 2400 amateur community theatre groups. 2023 has marked the 30th Anniversary of Dreamdragons. Our next performance will be Camelot the Panto on 1st, 2nd and 3rd December 2023, to find out more details or book tickets for our next show, to learn more about the group or how you can get involved please visit dreamdragons.co.uk We usually meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm, our first evening back will be on 6th September 2023. Please come along and meet us.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The need to issue crime prevention to battle the problem of "scams " is highlighted by the poster below.

Less than 12 hours after the official announcement was made that the WILKO chain of stores was in trouble facing maybe store closures, criminals had scams into the community.

There is a scam for anything and everything and we must all be constantly alert and vigilant especially if we help support the elderly and vulnerable.

Criminals see anything as a business opportunity.

Stay safe, secure, alert and vigilant.

Remember do nothing in a rush. Check and check again and if still in doubt do absolutely nothing.

Peter New
peternew1@aol.com
07768437422



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	Aske's Court: Friday 14:55-15:25 Knoll Lane: Friday 15:45-16:15 Coronation Drive: Saturday: 10:55-11:25



CLUBS AND GROUPS



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
Scouts (10.5-14yo) Friday 7-8:30pm

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

Singleton WI

Meeting at Singleton Environment Centre on the first Thursday of the month. Contact Hannah on 07542 436522, singletonwiekf@gmail.com or @SingletonWI

Ashford Community Woodland

ashfordcommunitywoodland@hotmail.co.uk
www.ashfordcommunitywoodland.org

Repair Cafe Ashford

Email: ashfordrepaircafe@outlook.com
1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at SEC

Ashford Volunteer Centre

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

Speed Watch. Contact area co-ordinator Garry Perry 01233 640110 info@whp.co.uk

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

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

Flora the Singleton Giant.

Contact Peter 01233 610241
peter@singleongiant.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

Local church Sunday services:

St Mary's Great Chart

Great Chart Church 10am

Singleton Community Church

Singleton Village Hall 11am.

Contact: 01233 620433

info@ashfordchurches.co.uk

www.ashfordchurches.co.uk

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:
Sally Gatherern

Tel: 01233 633966
Email: sally.gatherern@ashford.gov.uk

Washford Ward Councillor:
Clive Hallett

Tel: 07952 311440
Email: clive.hallett@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 Mobile: 07354 472314
Email: theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Deputy Clerk
Paula Cowperthwaite

Tel: 01233 616923 Mobile: 07354 472313 Email:
paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Parish Steward
TBC

Email: theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Assistant Parish Steward
Robert Heath

Email: theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



PARISH COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION



CHILMINGTON GREEN 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 Steve
Herring

Tel: 01233 616923
Email: steve.herring@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 Dave
Gathern

Tel: 01233 633966
Email: dave.gathern@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 Katrina
Alexander

Tel: 07791 632493
Email: katrina.alexander@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

WASHFORD WARD

Cllr Matthew
Peach

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

