

# GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL



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- Parish Council News
- Meeting Dates and venues for 2023
- Reporting Guide

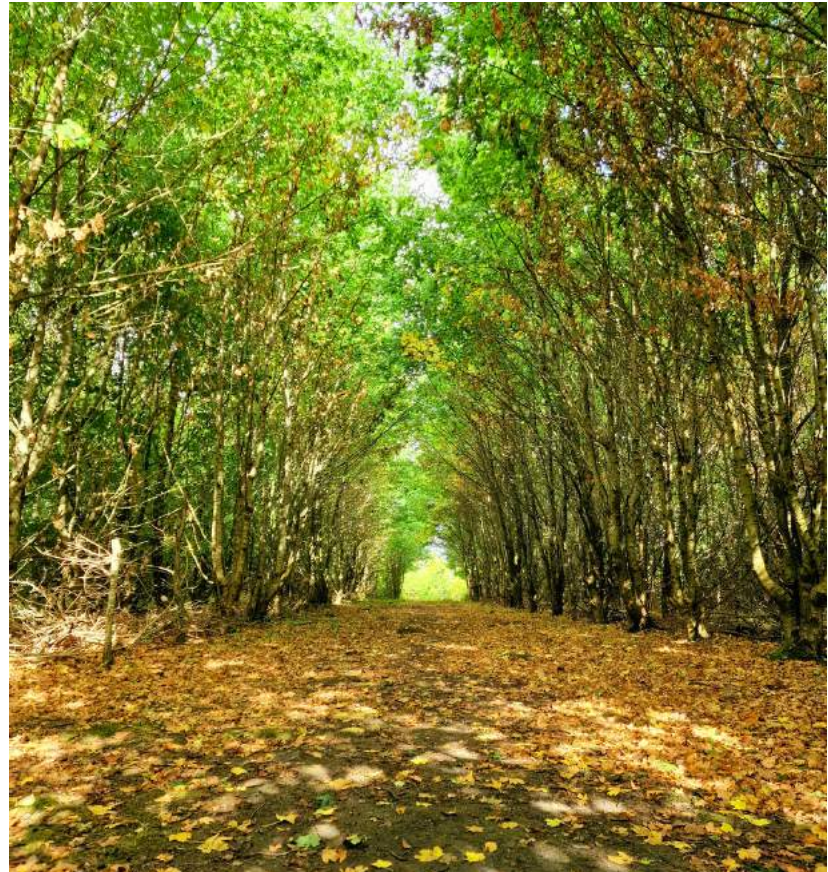
### Updates on

- 2023-24 Budget
- 2023 Events
- Parish Council led projects

- Updates from Clubs and Groups
- Useful Contact Info

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Council meeting dates
  - 13th February - SVH
  - 13th March - GCVH
  - 17th April - SVH
- Pop Up Cafe
  - 15th February
  - 15th March
  - 19th April



**GREAT CHART**  
with **SINGLETON**  
Parish Council



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## Keep In Touch



[www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk)



greatchartwithsingletonparishcouncil



Gcwspc



theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



01233 616923

## Photo Credits

Page 1 - Ashford Community Woodlands by Samantha Ireland  
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](http://www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk) and click on The Council tab

**The dates for 2023 meetings are:**

- 16th January 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall**
- 13th February 2023 - Singleton Village Hall**
- 13th March 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall**
- 17th April 2023 - Singleton Village Hall**
- 15th May 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall**
- 22nd May 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall**
- 12th June 2023 - Singleton Village Hall**
- 10th July 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall**
- 11th September 2023 - Singleton Village Hall**
- 9th October 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall**
- 13th November 2023 - Singleton Village Hall**
- 11th December 2023 - 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.



# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



# 2023

Happy New Year readers and welcome to 2023. By the time you read this newsletter you will probably be a couple of weeks into 2023, but there is plenty to look forward to in the parish this year. Our events calendar is on page 9 showing what we already have planned. There will be other events to come, keep an eye on future issues or our social channels to find out more.



One of the council's big new projects for 2023 is the introduction of the Stronger Communities Committee. We want to build on the sense of community that already exists within the parish by setting up a number of projects run by residents for residents. The committee has a new budget line to get these projects going, but with the help of councillors and volunteers we hope that they will grow organically into community supported initiatives to benefit those that may want or need to access them. Find out more on page 7.

Speaking of budgets, the council has now submitted its precept (annual budget) request to Ashford Borough Council as we do every January. The headline amounts can be seen on page 10, and the total amount requested is £326,412, up £29.4K on last year. We have tried to keep the increase as low as possible, but rising costs across the board meant some form of increase was inevitable.



As 2022 came to an end, we had our Scarecrow Trail. Once again, the entry standards were high and it was lovely to see visitors walking the trail looking at all the different characters. The three winners from each area are shown here.

The front cover of this newsletter also showcases our Autumn photo competition winner, well done Samantha - a very clear winner this time!



Our Community Heroes membership continues to steadily grow. One enterprising member of our community is logging his litter picking hours for his Duke of Edinburgh award. If you are interested in becoming a Community Hero, please visit our website for more information [www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Community\\_Heroes\\_40352.aspx](http://www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Community_Heroes_40352.aspx)



In December the parish council approved the purchase of a scooter pod and bike rack for use at Cuckoo Park and these will be installed early in the new year. We hope to give residents the tools that enable them to keep the bikes and scooters they own secure whilst out and about in the area. We also run regular bike security marking sessions so that, if they are stolen, the police can at least reunite them with owners if they are recovered.

The parish council partnered with the Playing Fields Association to purchase two new sets of goals for the small playing field, to replace the tired old set that are definitely past their best. The new sets will mean more people can have a kick about at the same time. It will also give the original goal areas time to recover and level back out again. Along with the outdoor gym, the wooden climbing area and enclosed play area, the whole family should be able to find something to amuse themselves with, all in the same field.

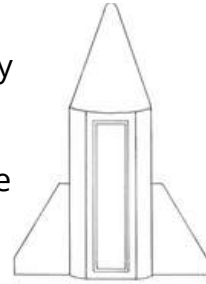


# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



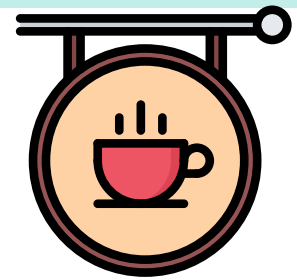
## Rocket Book Stop Colouring Competition

Volunteers of the Ashford Repair Café have designed and built a rocket-shaped community library, for our Parish. Could you design the front and back of the rocket, to show us your ideas of how to paint it? The winning design will be painted (as near as possible to your idea) onto the rocket for all to admire, by our Resident Artist. There will be print outs of the designs available at Singleton Environment Centre and Village Hall, or the PDF is available to download from our website [www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk) under News



Back in February some local residents made a request to name the footpath that runs between Harvest Way and Butt Field Road. It has never had an official name, and the time seemed right to name it Platinum Jubilee Walk. After liaising with Ashford Borough Council, this was agreed, a sign was ordered and installed, and an official unveiling took place on a cold and frosty 16th December 2022.

For our pop-up cafes in 2023 we will be at Great Chart every month as we have been for the last four years. But our Singleton sessions will be located within Lily's Community Cafe at Singleton Village Hall. We kick off in February with a free bingo session to welcome everyone into the Warm Space that Lily's are running throughout the Winter, see page 8 for more information.



## A Civility & Respect Pledge Council

In September the parish council took the Civility & Respect Pledge. By signing the Pledge, the council is agreeing that the council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles.

**Grant Funding** - The Parish Council values the contribution that community groups make to the quality and life of the residents of the Parish. The council has a budget to provide support for the provision of these services to our growing population. If you are a community group with a need to develop or improve your facilities or the service you offer, you may be eligible to apply for a grant to help meet the costs of your project. Visit our website to apply [www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Parish\\_Grants\\_30757.aspx](http://www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Parish_Grants_30757.aspx)



Helped fund set up costs for the 1st Singleton Cubs and Beavers  
**What would your group ask for?**



Helped makeover the outside play area for Great Chart Pre School

And finally, we enjoyed hosting our 2022 Big Jubilee Lunch so much, and based on feedback, so did those who attended. So we are planning another one on **Saturday 17th June 2023**. We've listened to the constructive feedback and hope to build on last year's event to make this one even bigger and better. We will be looking for entertainers, stall holders and volunteers in the coming months, so if you are a business owner, or you think you may be able to volunteer for a few hours before, during or after the event, then please get in touch with [paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk) and let us know.



# PARISH PROJECTS



As the parish council continues to grow, the number of projects being run also expands. These pages will give updates on new and current projects and how you can get involved.

## LILY'S SINGLETON WARM ROOM



One of the projects the parish council has been supporting this winter is the Warm Room being hosted by Lily's Community Cafe. A Warm Room is a registered area where people can come if they can't, or don't want, to heat their own homes. The Cost of Living crisis is affecting everyone, and being cold and lonely can make everything feel worse. Warm Rooms are a national initiative aimed at giving people a heated space in which to spend time during the day.

Although the cafe is responsible for running the space, the parish council grant funded the cafe's rent for 10 months to ensure this big cost was covered whilst the cafe turned up the heating, provided the space and also trialled their Pay As You Feel system - where those with a few extra pennies could pay for someone else's food or drink, and those feeling the pinch can pay only what they can afford for theirs.

Lily's Community Cafe is open 8am-4pm, Monday to Friday and provides heating, company, WiFi, warm food and drinks, toys for the children to play with and books to read from the bookstop outside. The parish council also aim to place a public access laptop into the warm space for people to access online information if they cannot access it at home. There are also plans in place to run sessions to help improve residents digital skills if there is a requirement for them - let us know if this is something you would be interested in.

Lily's also take part in the TooGoodToGo food sharing app which works to combat food waste, and will also be supporting the parish council in their Community Fridge project - see next page.



# PARISH PROJECTS



The Parish Council would like to introduce our Community Fridge project. One of our councillors works with Fareshare and was keen to set up a fridge for local residents to tackle both food waste and food poverty. The parish council will make regular orders with FareShare, but will also take regular donations from other food traders, and encourage local residents to drop off any good quality, unopened food that would otherwise go to waste. So if you've grown one too many runner beans, or you are off on holiday and your milk will be out of date by the time you get back, just drop it off. There will be clear signage onsite regarding what can and can't be donated, how to label food and deal with allergens. This information can also be found on our website and any changes to opening times or donations will be updated on our dedicated Facebook page [www.facebook.com/singletoncommunityfridge](https://www.facebook.com/singletoncommunityfridge). The council thanks the Village Hall trustees for allowing us space to host the fridge. It will be placed in the entrance hall in the left hand side of the building - the same side as the parish council office and Lily's Community Cafe.



## COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Councillors will be keeping an eye on the fridge and we ask you to report any damage or unsuitable food to us if you see it, either via the cafe or using the contact details on the fridge. The staff within Lily's Cafe have kindly volunteered to help keep food rotated and the fridge clean and tidy. However, if you are interested in volunteering to help keep the fridge running, please contact [paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk) who will advise you on the next steps.

We plan to have the fridge up and running by February, and we hope that it can be kept open for as many hours as possible. There will be times that the hall has to be closed but we will use our communication channels to get those messages out when necessary. We would like to make it clear that there is no criteria for using the fridge, if there is something in there that you would like to use, you have as much right as anyone else to take it, but please don't abuse the system, and only take what you intend to use.



Don't forget that you can also join our Community Heroes project. By signing up to do litter picking in your own time you will be provided with the equipment needed to safely pick up litter such as a hi-viz jacket, gloves and a litter picker, and advice on how to keep yourself safe whilst out being a Hero.

If litter picking isn't your thing, but you want to help out in other ways, please get in touch. We will aim to support you where we can.

**If you would like to volunteer your time for *any* of the projects that the parish council run, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us as many hands make light work, and we are always happy to sign off volunteer hours if you are working towards some form of qualification.**

**[www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Community\\_Heroes\\_40352.aspx](https://www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Community_Heroes_40352.aspx)**



# PARISH PROJECTS



18th January	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm
15th February	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm Lily's @ Singleton VH 2 - 4pm
15th March	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm
19th April	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm Lily's @ Singleton VH 2 - 4pm
17th May	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm
14th June	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm Lily's @ Singleton VH 2 - 4pm
12th July	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm
16th August	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm Lily's @ Singleton VH 2 - 4pm
13th September	Great Chart Village Hall 11 - 1pm
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



## Pop Up Cafe and Information Hub

The Parish Council Pop Up Cafe runs every month in Great Chart and bi-monthly in Singleton, on the Wednesday following the Parish Council meeting. At every session you will find free tea, coffee and soft drinks alongside cakes from Singleton Environment Centre and biscuits (with donations to SEC). Whilst enjoying the refreshments you can also access useful information relating to organisations and initiatives that may be relevant to you, and of course it is a chance to meet with your neighbours and make your own connections if company is what you are seeking.

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Allotments** - You may have noticed that the fencing around these has been replaced to both extend the site and to improve security there. This will enable us to create 8 new allotments for local residents, helping us to tackle our long waiting list. Following their AGM, the Barrow and Spade Brigade have formed a new committee (of which I am a member) and are drawing up plans to improve the site, including expanding the water storage there.

**North Field Project** - We are working closely with Aspire and the Kent Wildlife Trust to progress this project. Work started earlier in the year to begin turning part of it into wildflower meadow and we are still hoping to use H20 funding to create a pond. Trees, including cherry trees, will also be planted. We are very grateful to Aspire for their support for this project.

**Tree Trail** - We did an exploratory walkabout in the parish to investigate what types of trees we have, and which would be suitable for inclusion in the trail. Having identified several possible trees, we have drafted signs for each species we aim to include and investigated prices for their manufacture and installation. We have arranged a final site walk, combined with a litter-pick, for January, to decide the precise route. We will then buy and install the signs.

**Heron Walk Community Garden** - Clearing the flowerbeds ready for planting was a more difficult job than anticipated but the beds are now ready. In the spring we will add topsoil and compost and, once that is done, we will consult the residents about what they would like to plant there.

**Buxford Meadow** - We've requested a copy of the management plan, but are still waiting to receive it.

**Community Orchard** - In my last article I wrote about my ambition to create a community orchard. I was delighted to then learn that we already have one in the Millennium Community Wood! Several councillors met with Jenny Tippen, a local volunteer, who showed us around the millennium community woodland and the community orchard. We are very grateful to Jenny for giving up her time to show us what the community woodland volunteers have been doing and to all the volunteers for the invaluable work they do. We are keen to support the community woodland volunteers and help them to plant more fruit trees in the orchard.





# PARISH EVENTS



As this is the first newsletter of 2023 we thought we would give you an idea of the events we have planned for this year. Some of our plans are outline at this stage, and we do have plans for other events throughout the year but at this stage we don't have dates and times to share with you - this information will be shared in future newsletters or on social media as it becomes available. 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.

## EVENTS 2023



[www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Events\\_31368.aspx](http://www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk/Events_31368.aspx)

### JANUARY

Council Meeting: 16th  
Pop Up Cafe: 18th

LILY'S SINGLETON  
**WARM ROOM**



Running throughout winter

### FEBRUARY

Council Meeting: 13th  
Pop Up Cafe: 15th



Free bingo  
games

2-4pm @  
Singleton Village Hall

### MARCH

Council Meeting: 13th  
Pop Up Cafe: 15th

Photo Competition  
Emerging



closes Sunday  
16th April

### APRIL

Council Meeting: 17th  
Pop Up Cafe: 19th

Easter Activity Day at  
Singleton  
Environment Centre



Saturday  
8th April

### MAY

Council Meeting: 15th  
Pop Up Cafe: 17th

Annual Meeting of  
Electors  
Monday 22nd May



### JUNE

Council Meeting: 12th  
Pop Up Cafe: 14th



Bigger and better than 2022  
Saturday 17th June

### JULY

Council Meeting: 10th  
Pop Up Cafe: 12th

An opportunity to try out  
different sports during July



### AUGUST

Council Meeting:  
No Meeting  
Pop Up Cafe: 16th



Saturday 26th  
August  
Activity Day at  
Singleton  
Environment  
Centre

### SEPTEMBER

Council Meeting: 11th  
Pop Up Cafe: 13th

Photo Competition  
Colours



opens Monday  
18th September

### OCTOBER

Council Meeting: 9th  
Pop Up Cafe: 11th

Marking  
World Mental Health Day



10th October

### NOVEMBER

Council Meeting: 13th  
Pop Up Cafe: 15th



**#BE KIND**

Marking  
World Kindness Day  
13th November

### DECEMBER

Council Meeting: 11th  
Pop Up Cafe: 13th

A family  
Christmas movie  
& crafts - details TBC



# THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



By the time you read this we will be a couple of weeks into 2023, so first, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a belated happy New Year. The turn of the year is always a chance to look back on the previous year and look ahead to what might be coming.

Our biggest project over the last year has been the upgrade to Cuckoo Park (opposite John Wesley School) where the ageing outdoor gym equipment was replaced, and an all-weather playing surface on the muddy patch between the 5-a-side goals and basketball hoops was created to allow much greater use. Over the coming weeks we will be replacing the rather messy looking surface that sits under the new equipment.

With the current cost of living crisis, particularly in relation to food and energy, the parish council has supported the creation, in partnership with Lily's Social Kitchen CIC, of a Warm Room facility in Singleton Village Hall. We will be adding a Community Fridge shortly, which will also be in Singleton Village Hall.

As always, the parish council tries to do it's best to serve the needs of parishioners. Don't forget that every penny of the money we receive in the parish precept has to be spent for the benefit of the residents of Great



Chart with Singleton, unlike the money you pay to ABC or KCC which maybe spent, respectively, anywhere in the borough, or in the county, so may not directly benefit local residents. If there is something you would like to see done, drop us a line (contact details on the website [www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk](http://www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk) and in the parish magazine) or come to a parish council meeting, where we have a section for members of the public to come and speak about things that interest them.

Malcolm Wiffen  
January 2023

*A larger version of the budget image is available on our website and social media*

## Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

### BUDGET 2023-24

The precept is the total amount requested each year from Ashford Borough Council for the parish council budget covering the 6801 residents counted in the Parish at the 2011 census.

#### Precept

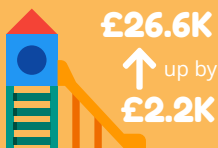


Covers the salaries for the Clerk, and Deputy Clerk, both Parish Stewards and educational work happening within the parish, some of which will be in partnership with Singleton Environment Centre.

#### Staff Salaries



#### Play Park Reserves



This amount is 'reserved' each year to fund park improvements without increasing the precept. Last year the Cuckoo Park gym was completely replaced and basketball court upgraded using this budget line.

#### Events



Our recent events have continued to attract more residents and positive feedback, so we plan to host bigger & better activities next year. Some events will also generate income for future activities.

#### Environment Projects



The council continues to work on various environment projects. This includes the North Field, local planters, community gardens and meadow areas, and supporting the work of the Green Gym

The council's new project for 2023 is to help build a Stronger Community. The first project is to set up a Community Fridge for those needing food help and to combat food waste. A Warm Space and public laptops are also projects being funded.

#### Stronger Community Projects



#### Supporting Amenities



The council recognises the importance of local amenities so is supporting the community halls in the parish. £5K will be given to both Singleton and Great Chart Village Halls and the Pavilion at Great Chart Playing Fields.

#### Grants



The council holds a grant pot. This is available to local charities & non-profit organisations. We've not had many applications recently so it won't be topped up in 2023, but there is over £25K in the pot ready to be awarded.



# 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 Dave Gathern, our newest councillor, is answering your questions. He is a councillor for the Singleton East Ward.

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

My name is Dave Gathern and I am a councillor for Singleton East Ward. No roles as yet as I was only co-opted on relatively recently, but likely to be the Environment Committee, Stronger Communities and Staffing Committee.

## 2) Tell us a bit about yourself.

I live in Singleton and I am married to another councillor, We have 7 children aged between 30 and 11. The 3 older ones have moved out with partners, the middle child is at university, and the youngest 3 are all still living at home. I work at Highworth Grammar school, but most of my working life was in retail working for Currys, PCWorld and Our Price Records. To be fair, working in a record shop could not be called working! I am a keen pike angler, and fortunately one of my children also seems to be happy spending a cold winter's day sitting beside a river wrapped up warm with fingers crossed. I have been a leader for Great Chart Scouts for over 20 years, with cubs, scouts and explorers, and I am currently Group Scout Leader. Every school holiday I cook for Ashfords Make Lunch Project, and if you ever go to one of the Singleton Environment Centres open days hosted by the Parish Council, it's likely I cooked your burger or hotdog.



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

I became a councillor because I am interested in what happens in my local community. Over the years, through scouting, through the local church in Singleton, through having a family that has grown up in Singleton, I would occasionally see things that I had an opinion on, and like most people I would talk about those things with friends over a beer or a coffee or a burger, but I did not do anything about it. When a vacancy for a councillor appeared I asked to be considered and found myself co-opted onto the parish council. I am still finding my feet, and still finding my voice. I bring to the table over 20 years work with young people through scouts and schools, and 50 odd years as a fisherman of river and lakes has made me think a lot about what we do to our waterways, fields and byways.

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

It's too early to say.

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

Being open to the community, a place where people can bring their issues with their local area, and , if it is in our power, we can help them resolve them.

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

Where do you start, Cuckoo Park, Great Chart Park, a revitalised Singleton Environment Centre, the number of local projects and clubs supported financially through grants.

## 7) What do you personally want to achieve as a Councillor in the future?

To be be as good as Yolanda Barker who seems to devote 36 hours a day to benefiting her local community.

## 8) What do you like to do in your spare time?

Bank of dad. Taxi of dad. Even after your children have left home, it's still you or your wife who gets the call when things have taken a tumble. Being a dad, and now a grandad, takes up a chunk of time, but you wouldn't have it any other way.

And did I mention that I occasionally go pike fishing!!

# 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



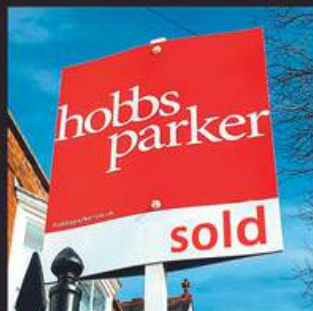
# Sam's Ironmongery

- ✓ All kinds of Locks, UPVC, wooden & metal
- ✓ Door Specialist Locks
- ✓ Precision key cutting mortice and cylinder keys
- ✓ Door Handles
- ✓ Door Furniture
- ✓ Bathroom fittings
- ✓ Lock re-pinning and re-levering
- ✓ Ironmongery
- ✓ Hinges, Brackets, Field Gate Furniture, Equestrian &, Barn Furniture,
- ✓ Competitive prices
- ✓ Trade and Bulk Discount Available

Unit 5a Ellingham Industrial Centre, Ellingham Way, Ashford TN23 6NF  
01233 647559 | [www.samsironmongery.co.uk](http://www.samsironmongery.co.uk)

# If you are thinking of selling or letting your property...

## Call the experts!



Sarah Holgate (Ashford)

# 01233 506260

Simon Godfrey (Tenterden)

# 01580 766766

[www.hobbsparker.co.uk](http://www.hobbsparker.co.uk)



# 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](http://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](http://www.kent.police.uk/report)

Talk to the Police on LiveChat-available 24/7

[www.kent.police.uk/contact](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:bookings@singletonvh.co.uk) 07887 575647 or visit [www.singletonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.singletonvillagehall.co.uk)

## GREAT CHART PLAYING FIELDS AND BUXFORD PAVILION

Whilst Pilgrims FC are well into their 22/23 season now, focus has moved to the smaller field (where the park and outdoor gym are) where two new sets of goalposts are due to be installed in the early spring. This will allow more space for kickabouts with friends and family.

The Great Chart Playing Fields Association is also looking for a new treasurer and bookings officer. The former role is voluntary, the latter is a self employed paid role. If you are interested in either of these roles, please email [chair@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk](mailto:chair@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk) for more information.



If you are interested in hiring the pavilion for a fitness activity, meeting, party or event, please call 01233 427407 or email [bookings@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk](mailto:bookings@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk) [www.greatchartplayingfields.org.uk](http://www.greatchartplayingfields.org.uk)



**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.**

## 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](mailto:paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I have been reporting to the council at meetings over the last few months, and am pleased to report that the evidence provided by local residents helped to arrest two men in relation to the spate of high end car thefts in the area. This is a great result from a collective effort. Matters I report on are Crimes, Crime Trends and most important Crime Prevention that can help to keep residents crime free and importantly free from the fear of being a victim of crime also. The council are very proactive and supportive of my work with Neighbourhood Watch especially in the area of the new build development at Chilmington which sees growth in the area. So many crimes that blight our District are avoidable and preventable. Our Crime Prevention work must match those trends.

It was uplifting and really very welcome that at the conclusion of the November meeting the council presented me with a supply of signs for Neighbourhood Watch including house badges that they had purchased in support of my work and our partnership to help keep residents as safe and



secure as we possibly can.

I am so grateful for those supplies and the support I receive not just for NHW but for me personally. I realise the downward pressure on council budgets and I don't underestimate the commitment this shows.

"CRIME CANNOT FLOURISH IN COMMUNITIES THAT CARE"

In November 2022 the Parish Council showed they care.

Peter New ([peternew1@aol.com](mailto:peternew1@aol.com) 07768437422

Kent Police Volunteer & Community Neighbourhood Watch



## ASHFORD COMMUNITY WOODLAND

The Ashford Community Woodland volunteers have been very busy this autumn. Following the hot summer and the heavy rains the vegetation has grown out of control so needed to be cut back. The view from the crossing at the top of Singleton Hill has always been poor due to the bend in the road. We have installed numerous road mirrors to help to address this problem which were all damaged. The mirror which was installed in March was damaged beyond repair in May and was removed.

New "Pedestrians Ahead" signs were installed by KCC and "Slow " was written on the road. Unfortunately a child was hit by a car soon after but was apparently uninjured. To improve the sight line at the crossing we spent one of our task days cutting back the vegetation as far as we could without damaging the laid hedge which is an important wildlife habitat. Whilst we were admiring our hard work, we noticed that at the sight of us in Hi Vis vests, all of the cars slowed down. I suggested that some of the parents might like to wear Hi Vis jackets whilst taking their children to school to see if this would help to slow the traffic. This has apparently been implemented and is working well.

We continue to maintain the woodland area as far as possible but we urgently need more volunteers. Our core group of around eight people is not enough to maintain 14 hectares! We meet on the first

Saturday of every month at 10am at the car park at the top of Singleton Hill and usually work until around 1pm. If you would like to join us just come along wearing appropriate clothing and footwear. Bring gloves if you have them and a drink. We will provide the tools and knowhow! For further details please ring Jenny Tippen on 01233 622070



# GROUP REPORTS



## 1ST SINGLETON SCOUTS GROUP

Beavers and Cubs started the term with a walk and talk session from 'Tales from the tracks' They visited Ashford's Newtown area and discovered what Victorian life was like. The Pluckley hedgehog sanctuary visited both sections bringing a couple of baby hoglets so the young people could learn how to care for them if found in their own garden.

For Remembrance Day the group, along with Repton Scouts, paraded to the RAF memorial in Kestrel Park, held a short service and laid wreaths to pay tribute to all those that lost their lives serving our country.

Our one night September sixers and seconders camp enabled our older cubs to gain their outdoor challenge badge, chef and backwoods cooking badges. In October Cubs and Scouts joined forces with Willesborough Scouts for the Cardboard Sleepout to raise funds for Porchlight.

Beavers took part in a District football tournament and the County Coastal Chaos Event at Samphire Hoe. They visited Great Chart Church for the Faith badge and learnt how to Morris dance with a local group. Over the term cubs have completed many experiments for the scientist badge, made diva lamps and rangoli patterns for Diwali and learnt how to sign their names with BSL. They made pizzas on the campfire and with beavers completed a chip shop hike.



In late September a small scout troop started on Friday nights and it is gradually growing in numbers. The focus this term is teaching basic scouting skills. Scouts have learnt to light fires safely in Kelly kettles boiling water to make hot chocolate, how to administer first aid, using maps and compasses for navigation and some common knots.

The term will end with a group visit to Folkestone snow rings with section Christmas parties happening the following week. If you are interested in joining our team of fantastic leaders or helpers then please contact us.

## 1ST GREAT CHART SCOUTS GROUP

We have had another very busy term. The Cubs have worked towards several activity badges – astronomer, artist and navigator – as well as completing requirements for their Silver Scout Award.

We visited Lower Grange Farm where the Cubs had a session in the cave bus and a session on the pedal karts. We also did a torch-lit 'dark walk' in which the Cubs explored the woodlands, thinking about the differences between the woodlands at night in late autumn, compared to the woodlands in the light in the summer when they did their

Naturalist badge. We also played wide games in the dark and sang around a glow-ball campfire!

Other sessions have included a challenge night, a board games night, apple bobbing, making and firing ballistas, a building night, Christmas crafts and a Christmas party.

We took part in the annual Remembrance Day parade and church service at Great Chart Church. I was delighted to receive a phone call after the event, from the Reverend Cathie Aldis-Saunders, to tell me that she had received highly complimentary feedback from people who attended the service, saying how impressed they were with the Cubs' sensible and respectful behaviour throughout. Well done those Cubs! One of the highlights of our term was our sleepout at the Environment Centre in aid of the Porchlight charity tackling homelessness. The Cubs spent the night sleeping in cardboard shelters that they had made. It was cold, and it even rained a little, but we managed to keep going. Well done to those Cubs who did this and raised so much money for such a worthy charity. Thanks also go to the leaders who gave up their time to organise and attend this, as well as to the Environment Centre who allowed us to use their premises and cooked us breakfast. Our pack is currently full but we do keep a waiting list so, if your child wishes to join us, please do contact me. Sally Gatheran.





# GROUP REPORTS



## CHILMINGTON GREEN SECONDARY SCHOOL

With just over seven months to go until Chilmington Green School opens, the team behind the school are making sure everything is in place to welcome its first Year 7 students this September. Applications have now closed and families will be informed if they have secured a place on 1 March 2023.

The school will open with just a Year 7 and will grow gradually a year at a time. Once full, the school will educate 1,140 students aged 11-18. Planning permission for the school's new building was granted last summer and construction is due to begin very shortly. Once complete, by the end of 2024, the school will boast the latest facilities to support all areas of the curriculum and will provide students with an ideal place to learn and participate in a range of sporting, arts and leadership activities. Until the new building is complete, the school will be housed at Ashford South Building on Jemmett Road, formerly home to Chilmington Green Primary School.

It is hoped that the school will be at the heart of the Chilmington Green community – playing an active role in the new and thriving community which is being created. To help the school achieve this, members of the local community are invited to apply to become members of the founding governing body. Anyone interested should email [info@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk](mailto:info@chilmingtongreenschool.org.uk).

## GREAT CHART & GODINTON WI

We continue to enjoy a happy, healthy and growing Women's Institute, meeting at Godinton Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm – new members are always very welcome.

We have continued to enjoy our Knit & Natter afternoons at Chimney pub; sharing craft activities evenings with Singleton WI; darts practice evenings with our team successfully competing in the WI league alongside our regular monthly meetings with many interesting subject matters. In the Autumn of 2022 we have enjoyed a Health & Wellbeing evening including personal memories of Royal events involving our dear departed Queen Elizabeth – we rounded off the evening with a hearty rendition of the National Anthem, God Save The King !!

Other meetings have included Mandala painting; making wax lanterns for Halloween and learning how to construct corn dollies.

One of our members has organised an afternoon tea outing every couple of months which has greatly been appreciated by those who live alone or unable to get out and about much, thereby proving a great success.

Several of our members have attended the local WI Group meeting and we were excited to win the creative craft competition for the second time in a row. We also took part in a community Halloween event at Godinton Village Hall, organising a chocolate tombola which was extremely popular with the local children and selling our handmade craft items. The profit we made from this event we have invested in the purchase of a microphone speaker system to enhance the presentation of our meetings. As the year draws to an end, we look forward to the Group carol service and our own Christmas party in December.



No doubt 2023 will continue to challenge us all but we are confident that Great Chart & Godinton WI will flourish and grow stronger.

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

Or email:-

[secretary@greatchartgodintonwi.uk](mailto:secretary@greatchartgodintonwi.uk)

[president@greatchartgodintonwi.uk](mailto:president@greatchartgodintonwi.uk)



# USEFUL INFORMATION



## VENUE CONTACT DETAILS

<b>Singleton Village Hall</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 07887 575647 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bookings@singletonvh.co.uk">bookings@singletonvh.co.uk</a>
<b>Great Chart Village Hall</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01233 610173 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:greatchartvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk">greatchartvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Great Chart Playing Fields Buxford Pavilion</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01233 427407 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:bookings@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk">bookings@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk</a>
<b>Singleton Environment Centre</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 01233 343885 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:centremanager@singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk">centremanager@singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk</a>

## EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

<b>William Harvey Hospital</b> <b>01233 633331</b>	<b>Kent Highways Service</b> <b>03000 418181</b>
<b>Environment Agency</b> <b>03708 506 506</b>	<b>Environment Incident Reporting</b> <b>0800 80 70 60</b>
<b>South East Water</b> <b>0333 000 0001</b>	<b>Floodline</b> <b>0345 988 1188</b>
<b>UK Powernet</b> <b>0800 029 4285</b>	<b>Power Cut</b> <b>0800 31 63 105</b>
<b>Samaritans</b> <b>116 123</b> email <a href="mailto:jo@samaritans.org">jo@samaritans.org</a>	<b>Kent County Council - Enquiries - Social Services</b> <b>03000 41 41 41</b>
<b>Emergency Services 999</b> Press <b>55</b> on a mobile if unsafe to speak Text <b>60066</b> if deaf/hard of hearing	<b>Kent Police - non emergency numbers</b> Call <b>101</b> or use <b>Live Chat</b> at <a href="http://www.kent.police.uk">www.kent.police.uk</a> Call <b>111</b> for medical non-emergencies

## OTHER INFO

<b>Allotments</b>	Contact the Parish Clerk on 01233 616923 <a href="mailto:theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk">theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk</a>
<b>Dog Warden</b> <b>Colin Leek</b>	Tel: 01233 330340 Email: <a href="mailto:colin.leek@ashford.gov.uk">colin.leek@ashford.gov.uk</a>
<b>Mobile Library</b>	Aske's Court: Friday 14:55-15:25 Knoll Lane: Friday 15:45-16:15 Coronation Drive: Saturday: 10:55-11:25



# BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION

## ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Weald Central Ward Councillor:  
Jessamy Blanford

Tel: 01233 840050  
Email: [jessamy.blanford@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:jessamy.blanford@ashford.gov.uk)

Singleton East Ward Councillor:  
Bill Barrett

Tel: 07449 454044  
Email: [bill.barrett@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:bill.barrett@ashford.gov.uk)

Singleton West Ward Councillor:  
Kalysha Howard-Smith

Tel: 07586 332504  
Email: [kalysha.howardsmith@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:kalysha.howardsmith@ashford.gov.uk)

Washford Ward Councillor:  
Neil Shorter

Tel: 07827 253400  
Email: [neil.shorter@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:neil.shorter@ashford.gov.uk)

## KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor  
Charlie Simkins

Tel: 01233 756705  
Email: [charlie.simkins@kent.gov.uk](mailto:charlie.simkins@kent.gov.uk)

Councillor  
Dirk Ross

Tel: 07776 270416  
Email: [dirk.ross@kent.gov.uk](mailto:dirk.ross@kent.gov.uk)

## COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Ashford Borough Council

Tel: 01233 331111  
Web: [www.ashford.gov.uk](http://www.ashford.gov.uk)

Kent County Council

Tel: 03000 414141  
Web: [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

## PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Parish Clerk  
Aniko Szocs

Tel: 01233 616923 Mobile: 07354 472314  
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Deputy Clerk  
Paula Cowperthwaite

Tel: 01233 616923 Mobile: 07354 472313 Email:  
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Parish Steward  
Peter Walkden

Email: [theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk)

Assistant Parish Steward  
Robert Heath

Email: [theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk)



# PARISH COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION



## CHILMINGTON WARD

Cllr Ian  
McClintock

Tel: 07919 278828  
Email: [ian.mcclintock@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:paul.tate@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk)

## SINGLETON EAST WARD

Cllr Katrina  
Alexander

Tel: 07791 632493  
Email: [katrina.alexander@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:katrina.alexander@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk)

Cllr Janet  
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Cllr Malcolm  
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Cllr Dave  
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## SINGLETON WEST WARD

Cllr Peter  
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Tel: 01233 610241  
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Cllr Sally  
Gathern

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## WASHFORD WARD

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Ackrill

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