

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL

LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY



In This Edition

Updates on

- Cuckoo Park & Gym
- Singleton Community Fridge
- Planters & Community Gardens
- Cafes, Crafts & Rockets
- Big Lunch 2023

- Meeting Dates and venues for 2023
- Reporting Guide

- Updates from Clubs and Groups
- Useful Contact Info

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Council meeting dates
 - 15 May - GCVH
 - 22 May - Electors Meeting GCVH
 - 12 June - SVH
- Pop Up Cafe
 - 17 May
 - 14 June
 - 12 July



the big lunch

an eden project THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

17 June 2023
11-2:30



INSIDE THIS EDITION



Parish Council Meeting Dates 2023	Page 3
Parish Council News, Projects & Events	Pages 4 - 7
Singleton Environment Centre	Pages 8 - 9
Thoughts from the Chairman	Page 10
Advertisements	Page 11
Reporting - what? who to? and how?	Page 12
Local Amenities	Page 13
Group Reports	Pages 14 - 16
Useful Information	Page 17
Councillor Contact Details	Pages 18 - 20

Keep In Touch



www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



greatchartwithsingletonparishcouncil



Gcwspc



theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



01233 616923

Photo Credits

Page 1 - Ashford Community Woodlands by Kimberley Smith
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:

15th May 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall

22nd May 2023 - Great Chart Village Hall

This is the Annual Meeting of Electors, a chance for all residents to hear updates from the Council and local groups working with the Parish Council

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 &

Projects & Events



Cuckoo Park

Heron Walk Community Garden

As part of the council's objective to improve biodiversity and to promote health and well-being, residents living on Heron Walk were approached to find out if they were interested in setting up a Community Garden in one of the raised beds. The overwhelming response was positive, and residents welcomed the idea. After obtaining permission from Ashford Borough Council who also supported the idea, the parish stewards prepared the area ready for planting.

Whilst we welcome residents from Heron Walk to help, residents from across the parish are also welcome to volunteer. We would love to hear what residents would like to see growing there, so please do get in touch and let us know. The parish council can arrange a supply of any seeds or bulbs.



A year after the outdoor gym on Cuckoo Park was initially installed, work to finish the surfacing was finally carried out.

Concerns were raised about the quality of the flooring initially laid, and after a number of discussions, an alternative surface was agreed on and the work was commissioned.

Whilst the work was taking place, a new bike rack and scooter pod were installed to help visitors to keep their possessions secure whilst they enjoy their time on the park - please bring your own bike lock though.

Parish Planters

Planters have been placed around the parish to bring a little colour. The dahlias that have been planted will come back every year provided they are left to grow in peace.



Photo Winner

Our Winter Photo competition winner was Kimberley Smith who took this stunning picture of Ashford Community Woodlands, and has pride of place on our front cover.



Parish Council News, Projects & Events

Community Fridge

Our new Community Fridge project is now up and running in the entrance hall of Singleton Village Hall. We have been heartened to see the number of donations made to the fridge by residents, as well as the number of people taking food to feed their families - if you have taken some of the lesser used ingredients such as celeriac or purple kale, we would love to see what you have done with them so please tag our [Singleton Community Fridge](#) Facebook page if you are able to.

We have plans to slowly expand the project in the coming months so please take a look through your cupboards to see if there is anything in there that you are unlikely to use. It must be sealed, have a list of allergens on it, and not be past its USE BY date. We can accept food that is past its BEST BEFORE date, provided it is only months past the Best Before date, and not years.

And as always, we strongly recommend that users look, feel and smell any food they take before they decide to eat it, and users with allergies are not recommended to use the fridge as we cannot guarantee there has been no cross-contamination.



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

Our first Singleton Pop Up Cafe within Lily's Cafe at Singleton was a great success thanks to our chocolate bingo session. A packed cafe saw winners of all ages due to it being the school holidays, and we plan to run a similar session in the future.



The Cafe will 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.



Parish Council News, Projects & Events

At the start of the year we ran a competition to design our next Book Stop. A book stop is like a mini library where you can take a book to read, or donate one you have read. There is already one next to Singleton Village Hall in the shape of Singleton Manor, and as it is so well used, we went bigger for the second one. The Repair Cafe used their expertise to design and make a rocket shaped book stop and we opened the design up to



competition. Local author LJ Glasgow had the tough job of deciding the winner, which was this pencil rocket designed by Elspeth Wallace from Great Chart. The rocket is being painted to match Elspeth's design at the moment and we hope to be unveiling the finished product very soon.



Meeting of Electors

On May 22nd, the Parish Council will host it's Annual Meeting of Electors in Great Chart Village Hall. This is a chance for local residents to come and find out what has been happening within the Parish Council over the previous 12 months, and also across the parish as local clubs and groups also report what they have been up to.

Craft in the Cafe

After receiving a large donation of craft materials recently, Helen (see Education section below) ran our first Craft in the Cafe session. Aniko and Paula, the council clerks, ran the second.

Based within Lily's Cafe, these will become drop in sessions where you can come along, make a themed craft or just do some colouring in, and take away whatever you have made. Lily's will be open operating their Pay As You Feel payment system if you fancied a drink or cake. Keep your eye on our social media for future craft dates.



Education Team

Helen King is the Education Officer for Singleton Spaces. She heads up a small education team at Singleton Environment Centre funded, and working alongside Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council to provide children's activities and family events.

Helen is a qualified teacher and has experience working in primary schools and nursery settings. She is passionate about protecting the environment through education and enjoys running fun events with a positive environmental message.

You can find a summary of everything happening at Singleton Environment Centre on pages 8 and 9.



If you part of the growing Chilmington community, you may be interested in the Kitchen Table recipe book project being led by Emergency Exit Arts. Please get in touch with hannah.rushforth@eea.org.uk if you are able to contribute. Take a look at the information poster on page 11.



PARISH EVENTS



As we rapidly head into the second half of 2023, our next big event will be the Big Lunch 2023 on Saturday 17th June at the Great Chart Playing Fields. For the most up to date information, including a list of stallholders, performers and timings, please visit the event page on our website <https://tinyurl.com/386je2hv>



The free bouncy castles were a great hit last year so they were the first thing we booked for this year. You will also be able to order yourself a drink or two at our inflatable pub! There will be food and drink available to buy, but there will also be plenty of space for you to put down a blanket and eat your own packed lunch.

The pavilion will be open to access the toilets or water. There will be limited car parking so we encourage visitors to walk or bike from the local area where possible. As well as the bouncy castles we will have a number of information and selling stalls for you to wander around, with various games, crafts and activities scheduled throughout the day. And if you wanted to start your day even earlier, Singleton Environment Centre are hosting a Bio Blitz event from 9:30-12pm, with a short family friendly trail from the Centre to the Playing Fields through the Ashford Community Woodlands and the Hillcrest Allotment Area - only one road crossing involved!

If you are interested in having a stall at the fete, would like to showcase your group's talents, or would like to offer a spare pair of hands on the day (volunteers will be given refreshment vouchers), please get in touch with paula.cowperthwaite@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk for more information.

Otherwise, we hope to see as many residents there as possible. Your support means a lot to us.

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



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.



SINGLETON ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Singleton Environment Centre hosts bespoke educational visits to schools, clubs and groups. With such beautiful grounds hosting a pond, wildflower banks and a variety of trees, plenty of wildlife is attracted to the site. Children's learning is enriched by taking part in hands on activities, positive emotional well-being is fostered by being immersed in nature and our environment is protected by equipping our future generations with powerful knowledge. Each educational visit is planned to cater for the school or group's individual learning intentions. If you would like to find out more about our education program please email the centre's Education Officer, Helen King, on education@singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk

As well as offering bespoke educational visits, the Education Team at Singleton Environment Centre have several fun and engaging environmental events coming up for all the family to join in. In the May half term there are some extra special guests coming to the centre which gives you a chance to meet and learn about a host of fascinating animals. Look out for the booking details on the Singleton Environment social media pages and website.

In addition to the fun events on offer in the school holidays, there are lots of opportunities to get involved and enjoy the beautiful centre grounds at the weekend.

Coming up in May ...

Sunday 14th May – Moth Identification talk by the Butterfly Conservation organisation. *Learn about the local species and how you can get involved in identifying moths.*

Saturday 20th May – Big Bee Day. *Craft activities, bee treasure hunt and identifying bee species on site.*

Saturday 20th May – The Mayor's Buffet and Bat Walk. *The Mayor of Ashford, Cllr Jenny Webb, invites you to join in a guided bat walk with a buffet tea in aid of the Mayor's chosen charity – Singleton Spaces.*

Coming up in June ...

Saturday 3rd June – Bug Activities. *Join in with a bug hunt and a bug treasure trail as well as bug related craft activities.*

Saturday 10th June – Wildflower Morning. *Flower related craft activities for children and adults.*

Saturday 24th June – Summer Quiz. *Form a team of 4 – 6 people and join us for a fun evening with a slightly competitive edge!*

Coming up in July ...

Saturday 15th July – Open Day. *Come and enjoy a day of activities and demonstrations all with a positive environmental twist. How to go plastic-free, why vegan food is now so popular, learn more about bees and their products. Lots of free tasters and samples for the adults and exciting things to do all day for the children. Best of all it's FREE!*

Singleton Environment Centre

HALF TERM FUN AT SEC

We've got lots of special guests for you to meet!

Wednesday 31st May

Jaws n Claws

There will be a mixture of various snakes, lizards, treefrogs, hissing cockroaches, giant snails and redfoot tortoises. Everything can be held and is super friendly. Five x 45 minute sessions throughout the day. Booking is essential. Suitable for all ages.

Leeds Castle Birds

Thursday 1st June

Come and meet the beautiful birds from Leeds Castle and then make bird themed craft to take home. Three x 75 minute sessions throughout the day. Booking is essential. Suitable for all ages.



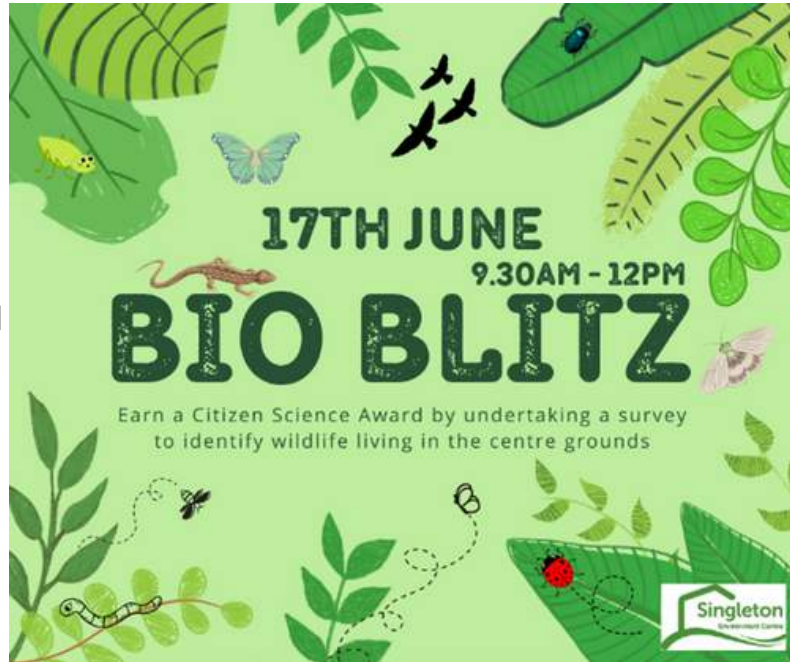
SINGLETON ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Saturday 22nd July – Big Butterfly Count. *Come and help us survey the beautiful butterflies found within our centre grounds.*

Saturday 29th July – Greeting Cards Upcycling Workshop. *Have you ever wondered what to do with all those old birthday and greetings cards? Come and learn how to upcycle them into new, high-quality cards to send again this year. All materials supplied.*

Bio Blitz

Join us on Saturday 17th June to take part in Singleton Environment Centre's 2023 Bio Blitz. Learn how to conduct a scientific survey and take part in this year's huge wildlife sweep in the centre grounds and surrounding areas. There will be experts on hand to help you identify which species you find and all results will be recorded onto an international database. So whether you want to share your knowledge, hunt for wildlife or help to enter data there's a place for you at our Bio Blitz event. Once the scientific work is complete there will be a family trail from Singleton Environment Centre to the Parish Council's Big Lunch event on Great Chart Playing Fields.



Buggin' About

Our weekly pre-school nature group for children aged 2.5 years and above. Buggin' About is where nature and adventure combine.

Does your little one like to explore? Are they fascinated by nature? Do they love nothing more than being outdoors?

The pre-school nature sessions running at Singleton Environment Centre give you and your little one time to explore and learn all about nature. With a mud kitchen for messy fun, firepit for group fun, themed craft activities for imaginative fun there is so much to do at Buggin' About. Each term we have an overarching theme and each week is a new weekly topic to help your little one build on their understanding.

Our current term's topic is Amazing Allotments and children are enjoying planting and growing plants in our dedicated raised bed within our onsite allotment. The new term, starting on 9th June, will be Pondlife and the children will take part in pond dipping, identify newts and learn about other creatures who live in water.

Follow Singleton Environment Centre on Facebook and Instagram for information about upcoming events or visit our website www.singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk



THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I am delighted to welcome you to the Spring issue of your parish magazine. When you get this the voting for the local elections will be over and we will all know what has happened, and whether or not Ashford Borough Council has 'changed hands'.

As too few candidates stood for election to the parish council, I am pleased to report that all of those that did stand have been re-elected 'uncontested', so we will retain nine of the eleven existing parish councillors for the next four years.

We thank Tom Ackrill for the four years that he has served on the parish council, bringing a keen eye for detail to all the meeting papers and for his time as a trustee at Singleton Environment Centre.

Sally Gatherern will also step down from the parish council to run as a candidate in the Ashford Borough Council elections.

All councillors officially retire from their post on Tuesday 9th May, and are accepted back into the parish council once they have signed their declaration of acceptance of office at the Annual Meeting of the Council on Monday 15th May.

This means, of course, that we will have two vacancies. The normal way to fill these is by co-option, which means the council can vote to add members (who will not need to face a public election process) and they become members of the council until the next local elections. This was the route by which I originally came to the council, being co-opted in 2014. If you are interested in filling one of the two available vacancies, and live or work in or around the parish, then please take a look at www.nalc.gov.uk/makeachange for more information on what it takes to be a councillor, and the changes you can influence in your local area. You can also contact the parish clerk, either by e-mail theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.go.uk or call 01233 616923 to find out what you need to do.

The parish council staff will not change. They are employees of the council and the local elections do not affect their status. Aniko the Clerk, Paula the Deputy Clerk, and Peter and Rob our Parish Stewards will continue to work hard on behalf of the council, bringing improvements to the parish wherever possible.

Our monthly meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to come along and have your say! The dates and venues are listed on page 3 of this magazine. Our Annual Meeting of Electors is on Monday 22nd May and will be held at Great Chart Village Hall, if the monthly parish council isn't your thing, then the Electors meeting is a summary showcase of what has happened in the parish over the last 12 months.

As always, we are here to serve you. If you have any ideas or suggestions about things you think your parish should be doing, please let us know.



MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR



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



THE CHILMINGTON GREEN KITCHEN TABLE

WE NEED YOUR RECIPES!

Emergency Exit Arts are really happy to be working in Chilmington Green again this summer. We want you to create your very own Chilmington Green family recipe book. Please share with us your family recipes, your favourite 'go to' recipes and the stories behind them. We are reaching out to collect the very best recipes from you.

Over the summer we hope to collect and compile these recipes into the **Chilmington Green Kitchen Table Recipe Book**.

The book will be a collection of many things: memories, quotes, history and of course recipes all combined into one journal. We will print out these recipe books for you and your community to take away with you. A finale event will be held in the summer, date to be confirmed ASAP (you will receive an email about when and where it will be held).

What we need from you;

- Name of the recipe/dish
- List of all ingredients with quantities
- Time needed to prepare the dish
- Preparation and cooking procedures
- Equipment required for the dish
- Serving procedures if applicable

Please fill out the recipe form on the reverse of this leaflet and send it either by post to:

Hannah Rushforth, Emergency Exit Arts, Rothbury Hall, Azof St, SE10 OEF
OR via email on hannah.rushforth@eea.org.uk

If you would rather talk over the phone, please email and Hannah will arrange a time to call you back.

This project has been funded by Ashford Borough Council.

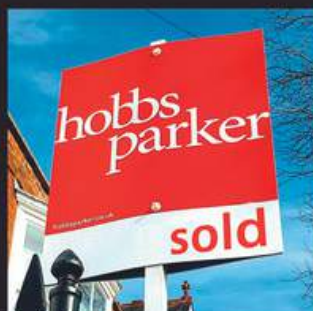
EEA | EMERGENCY
EXIT ARTS

Thank
you!



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



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

The new committee of the GCPFA Trustees met recently, and welcomed two new Trustees from Pilgrims Football Club, Gavin & Anthony. An update was given concerning the transfer of the land ownership over to the Parish Council, since they were made a Trustee last year - this will enable the ownership of the playing fields to remain a constant going forward.

Pilgrims outlined their hopes and the way forward as their Management Committee is fairly new too - they wish to enhance their 'home' at Great Chart and steps will be taken to enable them to seek future grant funding.



Two new sets of goals will be installed on the small playing field shortly, and the outside security lights on the Pavilion itself will be reviewed as to how they can be improved. The meeting ended with a general discussion about the possible improvements to the Fields, including updating and enlarging the car park area and possibly adding a second entrance - but everyone realised this is 'not a quick fix' - however, a new enthusiasm was evident at this meeting.



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

*"THE OLD ORDER CHANGETH, YIELDING PLACE TO NEW"**

As the weather warms up, more and more residents of Great Chart with Singleton will be taking advantage of the parish's many green ways to get out and about after what has been an extremely cold and miserable winter. Those of you passing by Hillcrest Allotments will immediately be aware that some really quite major changes have taken place in that period. Indeed, the original downhill path that skirted the edge of the allotments' perimeter fence is no longer accessible, since it has become part of a new fenced in extension area, incorporating eight new plots. The main path now follows a line slightly further to the north before rejoining the original path close to the beginning of the wood. Some residents objected to the slightly longer alignment that the new path takes.

However, all that has happened is the path has returned to its original position. As many of you might recall, what is now the allotment was, prior to the opening of the A28 bypass in 1985, a farmer's field, which went all the way down to what was to become the new road and up onto the hill beyond. When the field was in use, the public right of way followed the line of the gardens of the houses that backed onto it. And it is now to that position that it has returned.

The allotment expansion was desperately needed given an ever-growing waiting list, which has now shrunk dramatically thanks to the new land incorporated into the site, meaning that if you want to start growing your own fruit and veg, or even cut flowers, your waiting time won't be too onerous if you apply for a plot. In keeping with the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, prices for plots remain extremely accessible, with large ones being £32.50 per annum and smaller ones just £22.50.

To celebrate the new opening, Thomson & Morgan presented the Barrow & Spade Brigade, the plot holders' association that runs the site on behalf of the parish council, with 75 packets of free vegetable seeds! Our new chairman, Dan, actually approached various seed companies to see whether they would like to contribute some seeds to the allotment, given the number of new plot holders we would have, but only T&M responded positively. Good on them for supporting local endeavours!

They weren't the only ones to support the allotment project, with Ani Szocs, the parish clerk, persuading a number of funding agencies to stump up cash to enable the old, life-expired fence to be replaced by a brand, spanking new one that is perhaps better suited to keeping out unwanted intruders.

For those of you unaware of the history of the Hillcrest site, it was converted into allotments following a petition to the parish council using legislation in the 1908 Act that makes it mandatory for a local authority to provide such facilities if six local residents want them. In those early stages, the Barrow & Spade Brigade's first committee was headed by up by Alisa Yingling and a group of people who have long since faded into history. In 2015, a new three-person committee took over, variously comprised of Barry, Vikki, Gavin, Sam, Sharon and Tony. They oversaw operations for the allotments' first seven years of operation. However, for this brand new era, an entirely new five-person committee is now in charge and has ambitious plans for the future.

On a sad note, our site manager and plot holder, Barry Mercer, has reluctantly decided to call it a day. Barry's contribution to the success of the allotment cannot be overstated. He didn't just cut and trim the grass paths, but also maintained all our infrastructure. Most importantly, he had the DIY abilities to solve any problem irrespective of how difficult it was. His absence will be sadly missed.

*Quotation from Alfred, Lord Tennyson



GROUP REPORTS



1ST SINGLETON SCOUTS GROUP

Beavers and Cubs took part in a rail safety day in Thanet at the start of the year. Beavers attended the County adventure day at Brockhill Park, and District event Mediaeval Mayhem. The Beavers and Cubs have been visited this term by two members of the Guide Dog Association with their dog who slept through the evening. A Traffic officer came to talk to the group about road safety and brought his car which the Beavers loved investigating whilst the cubs learnt about his kit and dressed up in safety uniform.

Everyone has worked hard gaining a wide variety of badges that go towards their Bronze and Silver Awards.



Our scout troop which meets on Fridays has continued to practice basic skills like map reading and knot tying so that they can use them in outdoors tasks such as orienteering and pioneering. They have completed many team building tasks and planned their program for the summer term.

Now the lighter nights are with us much of the program will take place outside including camp fire cooking. We have a water sports day and a farm visit already booked in.

We are always looking for help so if you are interested in joining our team then please contact jill.singletonscouts@gmail.com



1ST GREAT CHART SCOUTS GROUP

We have had another very busy term. The Cubs have earned several activity badges including Chef, Personal Safety and DIY. For the DIY badge the Cubs made four bird boxes which you will see in trees around the parish. You can recognise them by their colours as the Cubs painted them in the colours of their sixes: red, blue, green and yellow. We are very grateful to the parish stewards for agreeing to put these up for us. Hopefully the birds will like them and use them!

The Cubs also earned their Entertainer and Community Impact badges by performing a play about the Fairtrade Foundation to their parents and other local residents, followed by a cake sale. They raised £40.10 for the foundation. Well done, Cubs!

With the better weather the Cubs were able to earn their Hikes and Navigator badges, learning to use maps and understanding map symbols, and using a compass to find their way. Some of the older Cubs also attended the District Hike where they followed a tracking trail left by local Scouts and then played wide games with other Cub packs.

Towards the end of the term we went to Lower Grange Farm to do climbing and, as last year, our final week we celebrated Easter with an Easter egg hunt and party.

Our pack is currently full but we do operate a waiting list so, if you have a child aged 8-10 who would like to join us, please contact me, Sally Gather, and I will add your child's name to it.

None of the above activities would be possible without our wonderful team of leaders who give up so much time to our pack. I am very grateful to them all for the time, effort and commitment they give to 1st Great Chart Cubs. Thank you.

Sally Gather - Akela, 1st Great Chart Cubs



GROUP REPORTS



GREAT CHART & GODINTON WI

As we progress well into 2023, Great Chart & Godinton WI continue to enjoy many and varied activities including our regular monthly meetings, knit & natter afternoons, craft and games activity evenings, an active darts group along with outings, meetings, etc., organised by the East Kent WI Federation and other local WI groups.

We enjoy a very happy connection with Singleton WI working together at various local events which by the time this goes to print will have included a group meeting with a special guest speaker, Mark Francis who was one of the competitors on the TV programme "The Great British Sewing Bee".

We are also planning to take part in the "Big Lunch" in June at the Great Chart Playing Fields with Singleton WI and hope that like last year we will be able to provide a stall of interest for both adults and children. I understand that once again we are being given the responsibility for lost property and lost children – fortunately last year we only had to deal with a couple of lost property items and no lost children !!

Our membership numbers fluctuate a little and sadly one of our dearest members passed away in the last few months whilst another has had to leave us to live in care nearer her family. We look to hopefully recruiting some new members this year and we welcome any ladies, 18 years of age and over to come along and give us a try. We are a friendly, light hearted and happy group sometimes described as "not a normal WI" – we would love to see you 😊

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Godinton Village Hall, Loudon Way, Godinton Park (next to the Co-op & Chimneys pub) with ample parking.

Find us on Facebook – Great Chart & Godinton Women's Institute
Or for more information email: secretary@greatchartgodintonwi.uk or president@greatchartgodintonwi.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Sadly, in recent weeks across the East of Kent there have been numerous incidents of rogue traders calling on communities especially trying to target the elderly and vulnerable. One case was referred to me by your clerk. These criminals will work to seek out and find our vulnerable and our elderly persons in the community. They often call back if they "strike lucky".

Rural areas are attractive to them and recently there have been incidents across East Kent, thankfully, as yet not in SINGLETON & GREAT CHART but they are active in the area. Importantly I intercepted a rogue trader in Kennington and saved a family £800. I have also provided considerable intelligence of CCTV and vehicle/person photographs and I am in touch with the Lead officer for East Kent on this problem.



The fuel costs issue has presented a golden opportunity for approaches to households to reduce energy costs with upgraded roof insulation. Two people call at a property and one will enter the loft. The occupier is then called upstairs to answer a few questions and the other criminal downstairs, filling out bogus paperwork, will look to gather up any valuable items. I have sat with people who have been conned. It is absolutely stomach turning. Some elderly people are so embarrassed they do not tell family or friends so we are completely unaware and cannot push out alerts, warnings, or crime prevention advice. Sadly, some victims never ever regain their confidence! The other great concern now is rogue traders calling looking to carry out unsolicited work. A job quoted as £100 suddenly becomes £1000 and threats and intimidation occur to obtain the monies. Our advice must be.....

NEVER EVER AGREE TO UNSOLICITED WORK ON YOUR DOORSTEP NO MATTER HOW CHEAP AND ATTRACTIVE THE PRICE IS IF IN DOUBT DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR. IF PERSONS REFUSE TO WITHDRAW AND LEAVE CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY GIVING AS MUCH OF A DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSONS AS POSSIBLE AND ANY VEHICLE DETAILS.

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



BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION*

* please be aware that this information was correct at the time of going to print, the recent elections may have caused changes

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Weald Central Ward Councillor:
Jessamy Blanford

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

Singleton East Ward Councillor:
Bill Barrett

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

Singleton West Ward Councillor:
Kalysha Howard-Smith

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

Washford Ward Councillor:
Neil Shorter

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

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor
Charlie Simkins

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

Councillor
Dirk Ross

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

COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Ashford Borough Council

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

Kent County Council

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

PARISH COUNCIL STAFF

Parish Clerk
Aniko Szocs

Tel: 01233 616923 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
Peter Walkden

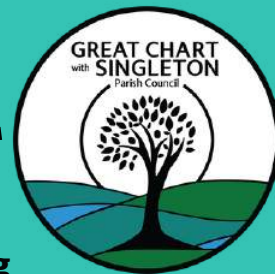
Email: theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Assistant Parish Steward
Robert Heath

Email: theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



PARISH COUNCILLOR CONTACT INFORMATION*



* please be aware that this information was correct at the time of going to print, the recent elections may have caused changes

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 Katrina
Alexander

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

Cllr Janet
Sullivan

Tel: 01233 645400
Email: janet.sullivan@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Malcolm
Wiffen

Tel: 01233 635016
Email: malcolm.wiffen@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Cllr 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

VACANT

WASHFORD WARD

VACANT



the big lunch

an eden project

 THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

17 June 2023
11-2:30

JOIN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
ON GREAT CHART PLAYING FIELDS
TO CELEBRATE THIS YEARS BIG LUNCH.

Come along on the day to enjoy:

- FREE bouncy castles
- Air of the Dog inflatable pub providing drinks, snacks & food
- Face painting
- Ice Creams
- Performances from local groups
- Stalls from local businesses
- Information stalls from local clubs & groups
- The WI ladies will be helping with lost property, children & first aid at their stall
- Craft table for the young (& young at heart)
- Games & activities organised throughout the day.

SCAN ME

