

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Best Front Garden Competition



2025

For further information please visit
the Parish Council News page

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Council meeting dates
 - 14th October
 - 11th November
 - 9th December
- Pop Up Cafe
 - 16th October
 - 13th November
 - 9th December

LATEST ON:

- Changes at the Parish Council
- What's Been Happening
- Upcoming Events
- Singleton Community Fridge is Changing
- Our Biodiversity Work
- Group Reports
- Useful Information

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Keep In Touch



www.greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



greatchartwithsingletonparishcouncil



gcwspc



theclerk@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk



01233 616923

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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.

The views of any contributor to this publication may not be those of the editor and team, nor can the Parish Council accept any responsibility in connection with any companies or organisations mentioned or advertising within the newsletter.

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 2024



The Parish Council usually 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, Great Chart Village Hall and the new Chilmington Cabin within the Hodsons part of the development. The remaining dates and venues for 2024 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

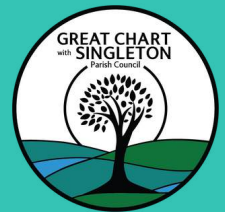
The remaining dates for 2024 meetings are:

14th October 2024 - Chilmington Cabin

11th November 2024 - Great Chart Village Hall

9th December - Singleton Village Hall

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Being Chair of the parish council brings with it the opportunity to write a piece for the parish magazine. Most of these are relatively parochial, but occasionally, I get to write about something that transcends the mundane, and carries a little more weight than the 'run of the mill', like the death of Her Majesty the Queen in 2022.

Far away from Balmoral, Great Chart saw the passing last month of Marjorie Brissenden who had lived in the village for longer than anyone else. I knew Marjorie because she was one of the few members of the public that regularly came to parish council meetings. Always happy to join in and give us the benefit of her experience, Marjorie still attended in her later years, even though her mobility had begun to decline. Always lively and as bright as a button, she had many a tale to tell, about her involvement with the Great Chart Cricket Club or 'that Maurice Swaffer'.

Marjorie was a regular at the council's Pop-up-Cafés, and it was at one of these that she was presented with a scroll conferring on her the freedom of the village. With her wealth of knowledge and stories about the village, I had been trying to get Marjorie to write a few lines about the history of Great Chart for our magazine. Sadly, she wasn't able to finish anything before she died.

Marjorie was 94. She will be greatly missed.



Parish Council News, Projects & Events



As we put this newsletter together we are making the most of the last of the Summer, but as you receive it, we will be heading into Autumn and the countdown to the end of the year. This issue is a round up of all that has happened over the last few months, as well as information on upcoming plans and events.

Firstly, let's introduce you to Rhys, our new full time Steward. Rhys joined the Parish Council in April and has been busy settling in, training, and catching up with all that has needed doing over the summer such as installing new goals on the small playing field in Great Chart, painting the table and seating in Cuckoo Park, tidying up our raised flowerbed and tidying up hedgerows amongst other things. He will be ably assisted by Rob who has been with the Parish Council for over seven years and works on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



It's been over a year now since Peter, our previous Steward, had his accident and had to give up his work. In May, he was awarded the KALC Community Award for his work both as the Parish Steward, and for his voluntary work with the Green Gym.

After an amazing recovery, he has also started doing a few hours work, as and when needed, both around the parish and at Singleton Environment Centre.



As we welcomed in a new steward, we also welcomed in two new councillors. Barry Mercer is the new councillor for Singleton West Ward and Ashley Heathcote is the new councillor for Washford Ward. They have been attending Parish Council meetings since May and will be answering the Meet Your Councillor questions in future editions to tell you more about themselves.

In the meantime, if you live in their ward and need to contact them, their contact details have been added to the last page of this newsletter and are also on our website.



Kent Fire & Rescue recently came along to one of our Pop Up Cafe's. Whilst with us, they asked us to fill out a survey on using rechargeable, lithium-ion batteries. Telling them what you know about these batteries and how you use and dispose of them, will help to improve safety messaging and keep everyone safe. Use the link or the QR code in the picture to access the survey. We certainly learnt some new information!

Scan the QR code or visit

<https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/kfrs-battery-survey>
to find out more and take part



Parish Council News, Projects & Events

The Parish Council has a planning committee who meet regularly to discuss planning applications within the parish boundary. At the moment, and for the foreseeable future, this includes all applications relating to the Chilmington development. For years the parish councillors have worked with Ashford Borough Council to ensure that the development is built in the way it was originally envisaged. There are currently two planning applications that have been appealed as far as the Planning Inspectorate, relating to a Waste Water Treatment Works, and a plot of 655 houses additional to the 5,750 already agreed for the area. The Parish Council objects to both of these applications and will be present at their inquiries when they occur later in the year. The reasons for objecting can be found within the minutes for the committee on the website for the months of September 2023 and May 2022 respectively.



A recent addition to Great Chart has been a new bookstop. Situated outside the village hall, this one takes the form of the mill that used to be situated behind what is now the hairdressers next to the Swan & Dog.

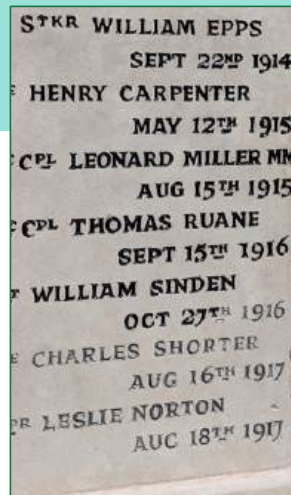
The much loved rocket bookstop has also been repaired and repainted and has now landed back in it's spot next to the pond on Kirk View and we know from the comments on our social media how much it has been missed.



So if you have any books that you have read and think others should too, please drop them into one of the bookstops in our area.

Also in Great Chart, the Parish Council has officially taken responsibility for the War Memorial situated there. The War Memorial Trust that was previously responsible has been wound up and its duties have been transferred to the more permanent Parish Council. Before the Trust was closed, the remaining monies were used to fund a clean up of the memorial, and repainting of the names engraved into it.

The Parish Steward will tidy up the hedges surrounding the area in due course.



We were out on Cuckoo Park over the summer holidays applying bike marking kits to residents bikes. These kits allow you to register your bike on a database so should it ever be stolen and then recovered, you can be contacted and reunited with it.

We try to host regular sessions but often receive comments that people have missed us, so if you would like to get your bike marked then please contact us to arrange a time to come along to the Parish Office to pick up a kit.

Singleton Walk and Talk - Every Friday a walk starts from Singleton Environment Centre and takes a route through the surrounding area before returning about an hour and a half later. It's a pace designed for talking to each other and is set by the needs of participants. Enjoy the fresh air and experience the changing seasons in the local streets, footpaths and open spaces. You might be surprised in exploring the immediate neighbourhoods and finding both the variety and interest in our community. Everyone is Welcome!



For more info, contact singletonwalkandtalk@gmail.com or join www.facebook.com/groups/singletonwalkandtalk

Colour Run & Big Lunch 2024



Over the summer the Parish Council hosted our two most popular events, the Colour Run and the Big Lunch.

We had the Great Chart Playing Fields to ourselves for both events and we made the most of it!

The colour run had more obstacles, more colours, more space and more participants than last year and once again the weather was absolutely on our side.

The foam machine was a big hit, so we plan to get another one next year!

The Big Lunch also attracted more stall holders and more visitors than in previous years, again helped by being one of the few dry days in the wet start we had to summer this year.

We had a visit from the Ashford firefighters in one of their engines, the bouncy castles were never empty and the facepainter was in high demand. Entertainment came from Ashford Concert Band, Rock Choir and the Drum&Ink crew, and the BBQ was run by our two of the parish councillors.

Dates for next year will be announced online soon.



Parish Council News, Projects & Events

D-Day 80th Anniversary

On the evening of Thursday 6th June, we gathered at Kestrel Park with residents of this parish and Kingsnorth parish to mark the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings.

The weather was kind, and the poppies that had been created during previous craft sessions brought a colourful touch to the evening.

Local resident Ian Wolverson raised the flags

at the RAF War Memorial in the morning, and the beacon was lit at 9:15pm along with many others throughout the country, after a brief tribute to those who fought for our freedoms.

In 2025, we will mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. More details will follow in the next newsletter.



Pop Up Cafe

and Information Hub

Upcoming 2024 Dates



16th October

Singleton Village Hall 10-12pm
Great Chart Village Hall 2-4pm

13th November

Singleton Village Hall 10-12pm

11th December

Singleton Village Hall 10-12pm
Great Chart Village Hall 2-4pm



There will be much more information to come about our biggest annual event, but The Big Lunch will be back on the Great Chart Playing Fields on Saturday 12th July - save the date! Feel free to contact us if you would like to have a stall, perform or volunteer on the day.

Our Pop Up Cafe and Information Hub currently runs every month from Lily's Cafe in Singleton Village Hall from 10am to 12pm, and then in Great Chart on alternate months between 2pm & 4pm.

Next year we will be doing one slightly longer session per month but alternating between Singleton, Great Chart and Chilmington. Check out our social media, website or the next newsletter for more information.

Each session will have the same warm welcome, free hot drinks, cake and chat, but we also bring along some craft activities, board games and our new kiosk portal to Kent Advice Hub where you can get on screen, face to face, advice on benefits, housing

money issues and more.

Halloween Craft In The Cafe

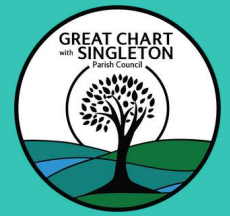
Come along to Singleton Village Hall on 31st October to make some last minute Halloween decorations. No charge, but kits

will be first come, first served. Our usual selection of general craft materials will also be on offer if you would rather not make Halloween creations.





COMMUNITY SUPPORT



SINGLETON COMMUNITY FRIDGE

IS CHANGING THE WAY IT WORKS

We are making some changes to the way Singleton Community Fridge works to better support our residents. The Fridge will be moving to 'manned hours' which will be staffed by one of our dedicated volunteers and we will publicise timings as we settle into the new routine. The 4-item rule will continue to apply and outside of the manned hours the fridge and pantry area will remain open for donations and for anything that would spoil before the end of the day.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we trial these new arrangements. Our main goal is to reduce food waste whilst ensuring a fair distribution of the food we purchase or receive.

If you wish to see the fridge open more often, we ask you to think about volunteering with us and to contact the Parish Council with your details.

Whilst we are changing the way we run the fridge slightly, we are still looking for local food businesses to donate surplus food to us rather than throw it away. Although we can't take food past it's USE BY date, we can take food past it's best before. And if you are a registered food preparation business, we can even take entire meals off you if you can label it with the ingredients.

The Coop store in Brookfield Road uses their national database to link up with food sharing groups, and once we contacted them, were very supportive of the fridge and donate food to it weekly. Store Manager Marc can explain more:

"Here at Coop we know that none of us can afford to throw away good food. That's why our stores give products that are going out of date to local community groups at the end of each day to prevent food waste, so far we've given away over 3m meals and counting.

We share our surplus food with not-for-profit groups like food banks and homeless shelters. We use the platform Caboodle to help us link up with these groups.

At the end of the day my colleagues collect and bag up the items ready for collection. They range from fruit and veg to bakery items, and also include damaged items that would be thrown away but are perfectly good.

It's really important to me and my team to be able to share this food and help the local community in Ashford and surrounding areas."

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council hosted another Eat Well Spend Less roadshow in Singleton Village Hall on 7th August. Organised by Ashford Borough Council, these events bring together a number of helpful organisations to give advice and information to local residents.



Food Friends is a small charity, based in Kent, working to combat loneliness and isolation in communities through food and friendship. Their meal-sharing initiative connects volunteers - who are looking to share extra portions of home cooked food - with a neighbour - who would benefit from a nutritious meal delivered with company and conversation. Encouraging the community to support one another with every delicious bite! Find out more at www.food-friends.co.uk.



SINGLETON ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

It has been another wonderfully busy summer at Singleton Environment Centre with lots of families and children joining us for events. Our sincere thanks goes to Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council who continue to support the education work at the centre allowing us to run a range of activities to engage and encourage positive involvement in nature and the local environment in particular. In total over 400 participants have taken part in one of the Parish sponsored Summer 2024 events.



Wild Wednesdays ran on each Wednesday throughout the school holidays. The children attending these drop and leave sessions enjoyed a full day of outdoor fun. There was pond dipping, den building, team games, scavenger hunts and nature craft for the children to choose from. The firepit cooking was incredibly popular with popcorn, pizzas, toasted muffins and s'mores being made and eaten!

Our term time Buggin' About sessions for pre-schoolers are so popular that we couldn't wait six weeks to run another session so Laura ran two family special sessions where the pre-schoolers could bring along their siblings to join in the fun. 46 children took part in nature craft, exploratory play, toasting marshmallows, mud kitchen play and water play.

The popular series of Nature Stories events continued with two sessions this summer. The first was Superworm with immersive storytelling of this popular tale. Everyone made a superhero cape, dug for hidden treasure, made a spider web dreamcatcher, painted a wooden insect fridge magnet, played superworm games and helped to make the longest paperchain superworm. The second session was another immersive telling of Zog after the May half term session was a sellout. The children made dragon wings, created potions to soothe Zog's sore throat, toasted marshmallows over the fire, hunted for princesses in the centre grounds, made stick swords and fought the knights.

We were delighted to welcome back Phil from Jaws n Claws with his fascinating reptiles. These animal handling sessions continue to be incredibly popular and this summer 150 participants attended to learn about the animals. The SEND friendly session allowed those requiring a quieter and calmer session to fully participate.

50 participants spent time searching for pond creatures during our Pond Dipping event. They were lucky enough to find newts, water scorpions, water beetles, ramshorn snails, pond snails, water boatman, pond skaters, caddisfly larvae and bloodworms. It was wonderful to see the enjoyment and fascination on all faces, young and old!

There was plenty of creativity taking place this summer on our Make It Day with children designing their own hats, bags, pencil cases and make up bags. We loved the nature themed designs and positive messages so many of you included in your designs. Attendees of the Clay Critters event made their own model insect out of clay to take home and paint.

For the remainder of 2024, we will be celebrating Halloween with our Brilliant Bats sessions on 30th & 31st October, and a Halloween themed Nature Stories session of Room on the Broom on the 29th.

The festive period will be celebrated with Elf School events on the 8th & 14th December, and a Reindeer event on 10th December.

Footprints Café will be running a Lunch with Santa and an after school Tea with Santa event on Tuesday 3rd December. Join us for food, activities and games with Father Christmas.

Please visit our website www.singletonenvironmentcentre.org.uk for booking details.

Thank you for your support.

Helen, Education Officer



COUNCIL EFFORTS TO ENHANCE BIODIVERSITY



The perilous state of biodiversity in the UK is well-documented. The State of Nature reports published in 2013, 2016 and 2019 highlighted this alarming decline. The latest report from September 2023 makes grim reading.

- 16% (or one in six) of 10,000 species assessed are at risk of being lost from the UK.
- This figure is much higher for some groups such as birds (43%), amphibians and reptiles (31%), fungi and lichen (28%) and terrestrial mammals (26%).
- The distribution of pollinators, including bees, hoverflies and moths, has decreased by 18% on average, while species providing pest control, such as the 2-spot ladybird, have declined by 34%.
- The abundance of all UK species studied has declined on average by 19% since 1970.
- Out of the habitats that are important for wildlife, only 14% were found to be in a good ecological state, including just 7% of woodlands.

The causes of this biodiversity decline are many and complex: changes in land use, pollution, the use of insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, fungicides and other harmful chemicals, climate change, invasive alien species and direct exploitation of species and habitats. The scale and complexity of the challenges before us are daunting and, as Natural England explain, "It will take sustained and increasingly ambitious action from all of us ... to make change on the scale we need."

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council and Ashford Borough Council are determined to take action to reverse this biodiversity decline in both rural and urban areas. We have:

- Invited experts from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to walk around Singleton East and Singleton West wards with us and produce action plans for improving biodiversity.
- Left areas dotted around Singleton unmown as a first step to introducing areas of wildflowers and pollinator-supporting plants.
- Identified areas where we can introduce wetlands and ponds to provide essential water and water habitats for a variety of species of small mammals, birds and insects.
- Encouraged the installation of hedgehog highways.
- Designed a 'tree trail' through Singleton West as a fun activity to do outdoors while learning about the crucial role that different species of tree play in supporting ecosystems.
- Stopped using herbicides wherever possible, using natural weedkillers instead.
- Extended the community orchard in the Millennium Wood.
- Planted additional trees and hedges.
- Installed planters, made by the Repair Café at the Singleton Environment Centre, and planted lavender and other pollinator-supporting plants.
- Encouraged residents to participate in 'no mow May'.
- Shared information about dangerous invasive species such as the yellow-legged Asian hornet that kills our native bees.
- Supported the local allotment group, encouraging them to grow organically as much as possible.

Protecting and supporting biodiversity is essential for our food security and ecosystems but it also benefits human health. Research collated by the BMJ in January 2024 shows how engagement with nature boosts physical and mental health, lowers blood pressure and reduces stress. Separate research shows that nearness to, and use of, green spaces by children improves their emotional wellbeing, decreases their stress, lowers behavioural problems and enhances attention. The educational benefits of engagement with nature are huge.

Changing the way we manage our green spaces means changing the way we see and engage with nature. We need open areas of mown grass for recreation but we also need to recognise that many areas that have traditionally been mown, so as to look 'tidy', need to be managed differently if we are to reverse the decline in our insect and wildlife. Areas that might look 'untidy' are often being deliberately left to create better habitats. We appreciate that some residents find this change challenging but we assure you it is vitally necessary for insects, animals and for us – for our health, our food security and our future.



Cllr Sally Gathern, Ashford Borough Council

Food Friends is a local charity bringing the community together through food and friendship



We run a meal sharing initiative that connects volunteers - who are looking to share extra portions of home cooked food - with a neighbour - who would benefit from a nutritious meal delivered with company and conversation

Our meal sharing is free of charge
Our volunteers are DBS and reference checked

To find out more contact our friendly team

01227 250 410 **hello@food-friends.co.uk**

Fancy volunteering with us?
Contact us today to find out more about joining us to COOK, SHARE and CARE for your community
www.food-friends.co.uk



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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

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

I am very grateful for the space and opportunity to contribute to this vital communications platform with the residents of Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council area, and I thank the editors for their work in bringing this publication together. It is especially important as this may reach many residents who have none of the modern communications systems. We must not leave them behind. The areas that residents may be vulnerable to and crime trends to be alert and vigilant for are set out below. Please, remember criminals will look for vulnerable residents in the community, especially our elderly and those who live alone. Remember I am also working to help develop NHW in Chilmington and to help build community cohesion.

ONE OF OUR BIGGEST THREATS is SCAMS. These come on our mobile phones, our landline phones, our computers, our laptops, by letter and on occasions by face to face on our doorsteps. They can come from 3, 30, 300 and 3000 miles away.

NEVER EVER ACT IN A RUSH. CHECK, CHECK AGAIN and if in doubt DO NOTHING!!

My methods of communicating to residents are: Email messages (if urgent and crimes are nearby, I do not bombard you.); Facebook Groups across Ashford District especially Singleton and Great Chart; Newsletters like this publication; Public engagement events; Local and even National Media.

Please join Neighbourhood Watch it is completely free my contact details are below. Please report all crimes and attempted crimes, we must know what is happening to be able to offer help and advice and importantly further crime prevention.

"Crime cannot flourish or succeed in communities that care and are alert and vigilant".

Thank you for your support as always. Peter



Peter New
peternew1@aol.com
07768437422

SINGLETON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Singleton Community Church continues to grow as a family friendly church in the heart of Singleton. Meeting in Singleton Village Hall at 10.30am every Sunday all ages and all stages are sure to find a very warm welcome. Our core community initiative is the 'Singleton Friendship' group, meeting at Lily's Café 10-12 every Tuesday. Singleton Friendship celebrated our first birthday early September and it continues to be a popular place to meet new people for company and friendship. We like to chat about all sorts of topics ranging from hobbies, to current affairs, to music. We have board games and activities to play together if games are your thing. Not all of us are originally from Ashford, so we share our stories of growing up in different places around the UK.

We enjoy refreshments together, and the Lily's café staff do a great job of keeping us well supplied with delicious sausage rolls and cake! On the first Tuesday of the month we have a piano in the café, anyone who can play is very welcome to share their talents with us. The third Tuesday of the month is 'Quiz Week', testing our general knowledge skills.

The group is hosted by Singleton Community Church and Imago Wellbeing Matters Plus. We meet throughout the year, with no obligation to attend every week, we all just dip in and out as our schedule allows. We are a group for all ages and stages of life. All are very welcome, come along and we'll buy you a cuppa!

Singleton Community Church is an Anglican church part of Ashford Town Parish.

www.ashfordtownparish.co.uk/singleton or Facebook: @singletoncommunitychurch



GROUP REPORTS



DREAMDRAGONS

Singleton Dreamdragons Community Theatre Group has been at the heart of the community in Ashford since 1993. Dreamdragons are known for their yearly pantomimes but they have staged a variety of productions including, farce, variety shows and drama. Run by members of the community; Dreamdragons have grown and advanced over the years not only in performance, but in areas such as scenery, construction, props, sound and lighting. Dreamdragons are a member of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) which was founded in 1899. NODA is the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK and has a membership of some 2400 amateur community theatre groups. 2023 marked the 30th Anniversary of Dreamdragons. Our next performance will be The Snow Queen pantomime on Friday 13th December, Saturday 14th December and Sunday 15th December, to find out more details or book tickets for our next show, or to learn more about the group and how you can get involved please visit dreamdragons.co.uk We usually meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. Please come along and meet us, no auditions required to join our group and if being on stage is not for you, we are always looking for those to help with making props, set construction and working back stage or front of house.



ALLOTMENTS

EXPANDING INTO MARESTAIL - Local residents may have noticed that there has been a lot of activity in the new expansion area at parish-supported Hillcrest Allotments, in Great Chart. While the additional space has been welcomed, it has come at a price: over half of the plots established in this area are covered by marestail (strictly speaking horsestail), a pernicious weed that dates back to the dinosaurs. This is not just true of the allotment. Many of the municipal flower beds, as well as local gardens, in and around Singleton, suffer from colonies of the same weed. Marestail is naturally covered in silicon, meaning that traditional weedkillers simply trickle off the plant and are not absorbed. In some cases, if you crush the leaves prior to spraying, some plants do die, but there is no guarantee. On grass paths, regular mowing effectively makes it impossible for it to retain a presence, but on allotment plots eradication is much trickier. The three worst affected plots at Hillcrest have yet to be offered to new plot holders. Instead, they have been covered in plastic for almost a year, which will weaken the marestail, but not kill it. To do that, you have to undertake "strip composting", which involves spraying the weed in situ with compost activator. The live plants readily absorb this, misidentifying it as food, only to realise that what they have ingested is killing them. The dead plant and the activator are then broken down by soil bacteria into harmless nitrogen. Easy, right? Sadly, not. While ground can be cleared rapidly, it can take several years to eradicate marestail altogether. This is because as marestail breaks the surface, it emits spores, which in turn generate more plants, so the onus at the allotment has been on breaking this cycle to prevent the weed colonising adjacent plots. And, slowly but surely, this is proving a success.



GROUP REPORTS



1ST GREAT CHART CUBS

We had another very busy term last summer with lots of outdoor activities (despite the almost perpetual rain!) including several hikes, a football session, athletics and wide games.

Cubs worked towards many badges including Athletics, Hikes, Naturalist, Communicator, Navigator, Emergency Aid and Backwoods Cooking. We are very grateful to Woodchurch Scouts for allowing us to use their facilities for fire lighting and backwoods cooking and to a fabulous parent for leading our football session.

We ended the term with a picnic and wide games.

Our pack is currently full but we do operate a waiting list so, if you have a child interested in joining us, please contact Sally Gatherern (Akela) at gretchartcubs@gmail.com.

Equally, if you are interested in volunteering with us, do please get in touch.

1ST SINGLETON SCOUTING GROUP

Our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have enjoyed a fantastic summer term with plenty of activities, trips and events taking place.

Beavers had a sleepover at Great Chart village hall, visited Canterbury Cathedral and completed the Explorer badge. We have been on scavenger hunts and had a family picnic in the park.

Cubs have continued working on several badges including the Fire Safety which culminated in a visit from Kent Fire & Rescue Service, which was amazing to find out the wide range of equipment they have. Our trip to Pets At Home helped our Cubs towards their Animal Carer badge, learning about how to look after animals. In May we enjoyed a sleepover at Willesborough Scout Hut and our leaders have just about recovered! We enjoyed a chip-shop hike across Ashford to crown their favourite chips, which saw Marinos crowned our favourite chips. And we're looking forward to going back in September to present their certificate.

Scouts have enjoyed a survival camp in the woods. They have continued working on the adventure challenge, cooking and pioneering badges.

We finished the term with all our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts joining together for an Olympics evening, with teams representing other countries competing against each other to win their gold medals.

We supported numerous community events including the D-Day celebrations, Colour Run and Big Lunch.

WE NEED YOU: Would you like to make a difference to our children? Whether you can spare a couple of hours each week, help run a session about something close to you or can join our Trustee Board to help shape the future of our group - we really need your support. Please fill in our form via this link or QR code: <https://forms.gle/bqr4SgofovMGZJCM6>



REPAIR CAFE

The Repair Cafe Ashford continues to go from strength to strength. They have been taking part in a number of events organised by Ashford Borough Council to encourage residents to recycle old electricals rather than throw them away. This has seen them featured in a BBC news article about keeping electrical components out of landfill.

In May they visited a recycling centre in Sittingbourne to see how the various parts of electrical items can be broken down and reused.

And on top of all that, due to increased demand, they are now open for extra hours as well! You can now find them open from 10am to 4pm every Tuesday and Wednesday in the Singleton Environment Centre workshops.



GROUP REPORTS



SINGLETON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

As the days grow shorter and the year draws to a close, Singleton Women's Institute (WI) has a fantastic lineup of events to keep our community engaged and entertained. We warmly invite all our members, and anyone interested in joining, to mark their calendars for the following activities:

October: Quiz Night

Our October meeting will feature a lively Quiz Night, perfect for testing your general knowledge and enjoying a bit of friendly competition. Whether you're a trivia enthusiast or just looking for a fun evening out, this event is sure to be a hit.

November: Family History Workshop

November's meeting will take a more reflective turn with a Family History Workshop. This session offers a wonderful opportunity to delve into your ancestry and learn about the tools and techniques for uncovering your family's past. Whether you're a seasoned genealogist or a complete beginner, you'll find valuable insights to help you trace your roots.

December: Christmas Party

We'll be closing the year on a festive note with our annual Christmas Party in December. This is always a joyful occasion, filled with holiday cheer, delicious treats, and the chance to celebrate the season with friends old and new. Come along to enjoy the festivities and perhaps even a surprise or two!

****Meeting Details:****

Singleton WI meets on the first Thursday of every month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Environment Centre. Our gatherings are a great way to connect with others in the community, learn something new, and have fun. We hope to see you there!

For more information or to get involved, please feel free to contact us or attend one of our meetings. Everyone is welcome! <https://www.facebook.com/SingletonWI>

GREAT CHART & GODINTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We continue to enjoy our Great Chart & Godinton Women's Institute sustaining a steady membership and meeting at Godinton Village Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm – new members are always very welcome.

As we move into the last quarter of the year with the signs of Autumn around the corner and Christmas looming fast, we look forward to our cosy Knit and Natter afternoons held on the fourth Monday of the month, 2pm to 4pm at the New Chimneys pub on Godinton Park, where the landlord & staff always make us very welcome.

We have a full schedule of monthly meetings for the rest of the year including a talk by a representative of the Air Ambulance service and also the Stroke Association. We celebrate our birthday meeting in November followed in December by some very enjoyable festive fun and food.

We also have a bi-monthly activity evening enjoying games, crafts and other various pastimes, these are held on the first Wednesday of the month at Godinton Village Hall, 7.30pm and the next one will be in October followed by a festive evening in December. We also have a thriving darts evening every Thursday at Godinton Village hall at 7.30pm.

Saturday November 2nd, there will be an open day at Godinton Village Hall when all the user groups of the hall will be holding many stalls of interest and we will be there too.

Other WI events in the area will be the group meeting taking place at SWAN WI in South Willesborough on 4th October; a Federation craft day at Chartham in November and the group carol service at Kingsnorth church on Friday 13th December.

We look forward to continuing the remainder of 2024 and into 2025 as a thriving local organisation.

Find us on Facebook – Great Chart & Godinton Women's Institute, or email:-
secretary@greatchartgodintonwi.uk or president@greatchartgodintonwi.uk



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

There has been a lot going on at the playing fields over recent months. We hosted a jam packed summer of Parish Council and Pilgrims FC summer events, along with the annual Gurkha Peace Walk and a couple of private events. These summer hires bring in much needed funding to keep the playing fields neat, tidy and accessible for those who run, walk, play football or walk their dog on the fields when they aren't in use. We have a summer full of weekend bookings already for 2025, but if you are looking for a mid week event in July or August please contact bookings@greatchartplayingfields.org.uk, or visit our website www.greatchartplayingfields.org.uk for more information.

Inside the pavilion the kitchenette has been refurbished to a fully fitted kitchen, and new security access features have made getting in for those who have access easier, whilst keeping those who don't, out.

Our next big project is a car park upgrade and income from next year's bookings and Pilgrims FC rent will go towards funding part of that.



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 07540 299919.



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



USEFUL INFORMATION



VENUE CONTACT DETAILS

Singleton Village Hall	Tel: 07887 575647 Email: bookings@singletonvh.co.uk
Great Chart Village Hall	Tel: 07540 299919 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 Power Networks 0800 029 4285	National Gas (for gas and carbon monoxide emergencies) 0800 111 999
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 Meridian Court: Friday 15:45-16:15 Coronation Drive: Saturday: 10:55-11:25



CLUBS AND GROUPS



1st Great Chart Scouts Group - Contact Dave or Sally Gathern 07815 803862
Beavers (6-8.yo) - Friday 5-6:30pm
Cubs - (8-10.5yo) - Friday 6:30-8pm

1st Singleton Scouts Group - Contact Jill Lane 01233 641773/ 07799 886549
Beavers (6-8yo) Wednesday 5:15-6:30pm
Cubs (8-10.5yo) Wednesday 6:30-8pm
Scouts (10.5-14yo) Friday 7-8:30pm

Great Chart & Godinton WI

Secretary Janet Goodwin: 01233 332510
Committee Member Pam Grigg: 01233 878013
19:30 on 3rd Wednesday of the month at Godinton Village Hall

Singleton WI

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

Ashford Community Woodland

ashfordcommunitywoodland@hotmail.co.uk
www.ashfordcommunitywoodland.org
Meeting on 1st Saturday each month in the (usually locked) car park off Singleton Hill.

Repair Cafe Ashford

Email: ashfordrepaircafe@outlook.com
Every Wednesday 1pm- 4pm at Singleton Environment Centre

Ashford Volunteer Centre

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

Young At Heart Club

Telephone: 07563 254182
Meet in the community room at Askes Court, 1pm on the first Monday of each month.

Paek Ma Taekwondo - contact Grand Master Geoff 7th Dan 07836 621060 at SVH.
Tuesday 5:30-6:30pm /6:30-8 Juniors and Seniors
Thursday 6:30-8pm Juniors

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

Stardust Studios - Children's dance classes at SVH. Contact Natalie Kitts 01233 625786/07899 844956 or info@starduststudios.co.uk

Flora the Singleton Giant.

Contact Peter 01233 610241
peter@singletongiant.org.uk

Great Chart Cricket Club

www.greatchartcc.co.uk

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

Grace Fellowship at Singleton Road

www.gracefellowship.org.uk

Friends of Singleton Lake

Website: www.friendsofingletonlake.co.uk

Pilgrims Football Club - Contact Anthony 07734 648896 www.pilgrimsfc.co.uk

Local church Sunday services:

St Mary's Great Chart

Great Chart Church 10am

Singleton Community Church

Singleton Village Hall 11am.

Contact: 01233 620433

info@ashfordchurches.co.uk

www.ashfordchurches.co.uk

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON 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 - Rhys Lebeau
Parish Steward - Robert Heath

Email: caretaker@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON PARISH COUNCILLORS

CHILMINGTON GREEN WARD

Cllr Ian McClintock

Tel: 07919 278828 Email: ian.mcclintock@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

GREAT CHART WITH SINGLETON NORTH WARD

Cllr Paul Tate

Tel: 07850 082023 Email: paul.tate@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

SINGLETON EAST WARD

Cllr Steve Herring

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

Cllr Janet Sullivan

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

Cllr Malcolm Wiffen

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

Cllr Dave Gathern

Tel: 01233 633966 Email: dave.gathern@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

SINGLETON WEST WARD

Cllr Peter Barker

Tel: 01233 610241 Email: peter.barker@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Yolanda Barker

Tel: 01233 610241 Email: yolanda.barker@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Geoffrey Darvill

Tel: 01233 642357 Email: geoffrey.darvill@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Barry Mercer

Tel: 07851 071248 Email: barry.mercer@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

WASHFORD WARD

Cllr Ashley Heathcote

Tel: 07846 831199 Email: ashley.heathcote@greatchartsingleton-pc.gov.uk

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCILLORS 01233 331111 www.ashford.gov.uk

Weald Central Ward - Jessamy Blanford
01233 840050 jessamy.blanford@ashford.gov.uk

Singleton East Ward - Bill Barrett
07449 454044 bill.barrett@ashford.gov.uk

Singleton West Ward - Sally Gathern
01233 633966 sally.gathern@ashford.gov.uk

Washford Ward - Clive Hallett
07952 311440 clive.hallett@ashford.gov.uk

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLORS 03000 414141 www.kent.gov.uk

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

Ashford South - Dirk Ross
07776 270416 dirk.ross@kent.gov.uk

